



 **LOWER NICOLA**  
 **INDIAN BAND**

January 10, 2025

Delivered via email: Tracey.Janes@gov.bc.ca

Tracey Janes, Project Assessment Director  
Environmental Assessment Office  
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9V1

Dear Ms. Janes,

**Re: Lower Nicola Indian Band (“LNIB”) Consent Notice to the issuance of Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension Project (“Project”)**

Further to our correspondence of December 5, 2024, we write to provide LNIB’s notification of consent to the issuance of the Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Project pursuant to subsection 29(2)(c) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Highland Valley Copper Mine (“HVC Mine”), operated by Teck Resources Limited through the Teck Highland Valley Copper Partnership (“Teck HVC”), lies within the unceded traditional territory of the Nt̓eʔkepmx Nation. The LNIB are Nt̓eʔkepmx people, and LNIB, along with other Nt̓eʔkepmx peoples have exercised sovereignty over their traditional territory and have used and occupied their lands for sustenance, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial purposes for thousands of years and continue to use the area today for traditional activities including hunting, fishing, gathering and for ceremonial and spiritual purposes.

The ethnographic record indicates that since at least 1858 the Highland Valley has exclusively been within the documented traditional territory of the Nt̓eʔkepmx peoples. We would emphasize that the representations made by the SSN regarding their use and occupation of the Highland Valley are erroneous and do not accurately reflect the historical record or the current use and occupation of the Highland Valley.

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181 Nawishaskin Lane, Merritt, BC V1K 0A7  
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Email: [reception@lnib.net](mailto:reception@lnib.net)



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The Lower Nicola Indian Band is the Nation which is the most significantly impacted by the HVC Mine. One of LNIB's reserves, Pipecul IR#3 is the closest of any Nation's reserves to the mine site, and several of LNIB's reserves, including its most populated reserves, are located directly downstream of the mine site and directly in the path of the water and air contaminants produced by the mine. LNIB is also the largest Nation in close proximity to the mine, in terms of population and number and size of reserves, and large numbers of LNIB members have suffered impacts to the exercise of their Indigenous rights and title as a result of the mine's operation.

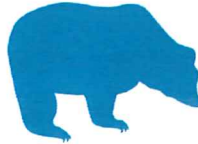
LNIB has been deeply involved in the BCEAO review of the Project. This work has included the preparation of an independent LNIB Nte?kepmx Tmixw Effects Assessment, which examined the impacts of the Project on the Indigenous rights and title of our Nation's members and on the lands and waters of our unceded traditional territory. This Assessment was based in large part on the concept known as Tmixw, which is an understanding that all living things in the land, water and air are connected with a spirit of their own.

Throughout this process LNIB has expressed its dissatisfaction with the BCEAO process, and in particular, the failure of the BCEAO to include a review of the historical and ongoing impacts of the currently operating mine. As a result, LNIB has concluded that the conditions contained in the BCEAO's draft Table of Conditions for the Project's Environmental Assessment Certificate do not in themselves sufficiently address and protect LNIB's Indigenous rights and title or our lands and waters.

However, LNIB has worked closely with Teck HVC to address these concerns, and we continue to engage with Teck HVC to find ways to address and mitigate the impacts of the mine on LNIB's interests. In light of the measures agreed to between LNIB and Teck HVC in combination with the draft Table of Conditions, LNIB hereby provides our notice of consent to the issuance of the Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Project. LNIB's support of the Project is subject to the condition that Teck HVC continues with its good faith engagement with LNIB to explore options for addressing and mitigating impacts of the mine on LNIB's Indigenous rights and title and on LNIB lands and waters.

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Please accept this letter as confirmation of our support for the approval of the Project. We look forward to continuing to work with Teck HVC and the BCEAO to ensure that LNIB's rights and interests are adequately protected now and in the future.

Respectfully,

**k'wúk'wpi? Chief Stuart Jackson**  
Lower Nicola Indian Band

**William Bose (Bill)**  
LNIB Councillor

**Arthur Dick**  
LNIB Councillor

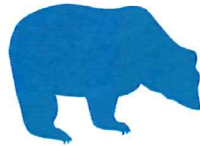
**Robin Humphrey**  
LNIB Councillor

**Connie Joe**  
LNIB Councillor

**Lesley Manuel**  
LNIB Councillor

**William Sandy**  
LNIB Councillor

**Lucinda Seward**  
LNIB Councillor



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cc: Honourable Jagrup Brar, Minister  
Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Parks

Honourable Randene Neill, Minister  
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Glenda Fratton, Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Teck Resources Limited

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Tracy James, Executive Project Director  
Environmental Assessment Office

Ben York, Director, Compliance and Enforcement  
Environmental Assessment Office

Tracy Bush, Senior Project Lead  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

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