

April 5, 2004

Environmental Assessment Office 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 836 Yates Street P.O. Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Attention: Martyn Glassman, Project Assessment Director

Dear Sir,

## Re: Jumbo Glacier Resort Proposal

As North America's largest ski area operator and having two land tenures within British Columbia, one of which is at Panorama Mountain Village - the closest mountain resort to the Proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort Project, we would like to express our views on the project.

First, we are very supportive of ski area development within British Columbia that finds a balance between environmental and economic sustainability for the long term benefit of all British Columbians. Given the tremendous natural resources of our province, we can and should be a leader in recreational tourism. We believe the greater our variety and mix of product for snow sport enthusiasts, the greater market share British Columbia will achieve in both the North American and International market place. Despite a relatively flat North American market for ski and snowboard visitation, B.C.'s market has grown from 3.80 million to 5.49 million over the last ten years with the investment into our resorts

Second, attracting investment to develop and operate a business on Crown land requires security of tenure. To build the infrastructure required in developing a viable mountain resort and the ongoing investment to maintain the resort requires a long term vision. How the provincial government supports their land tenure holders will have a significant impact on both new investment for resort development and the investment required to maintain and grow current B.C. resorts.

Based on the facts of the Jumbo Glacier Resort proposal to date, we recognize it is a unique proposal in the North American ski industry that could work well with Panorama. We would support the proposal subject to the project meeting the environmental review standards as set out by the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office and achieving a satisfactory resolution to the overlapping tenure issue with R.K. Heli-Ski.

Dave Brownlie

Yours trul

Senior Vice President, Finance

Whistler & Blackcomb Mountain Resorts Limited

Panorama Mountain Village

cc: Jimmie Spencer, President & CEO, Canada West Ski Areas Association