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**Date**  
**For Immediate Release**

***Shuswap First Nations affirm traditional interest in  
Columbia, Kootenay valleys***

Invermere, BC. Chiefs representing the 17 Shuswap First Nations today unanimously supported a resolution that confirms the Shuswap Nation's traditional interest in the lands of the Kootenay and Columbia valleys.

The Shuswap Indian Band of Invermere left the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council earlier in September to re-establish its Shuswap origins—and this resolution was an important step in the Band's efforts to gain control of its economic interests in its traditional territory—including the lands associated with the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort.

Shuswap Councilor Paul Sam voiced his support for the \$450 million project.

“Resort developments provide long-term, sustainable economic returns from the land and sustainable employment opportunities,” he says. Councilor Paul Sam points out that the Shuswap Indian Band is the First Nation with lands adjacent to the proposed site of the Jumbo Glacier Resort.

“We participated with the province's Environmental Assessment Office in reviewing the project,” says Councilor Paul Sam. “We liked what we saw and we threw our strong support behind it.”

“The Shuswap Nation has a prehistory interest in the territory and can demonstrate traditional use in the Rocky Mountain corridor from Jasper to Waterton on the US border,” says Dean Martin, chief executive officer of the Shuswap Indian Band's development arm, Kinbasket Development Corporation.

“Securing our traditional interest in the area surrounding our reserve is key to advancing our economic interests and to providing a meaningful future for our people,” says Martin.

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Media Contact:       Dean Martin,  
CEO Kinbasket Development Corporation  
(250) 341 - 3678

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*Invermere Office  
Unit 1A 492 Arrow Road • PO Box 2847  
Invermere • BC • V0A 1K0  
Phone (250) 341-3678 • Fax (250) 341-3683*