



September 14, 2021

### **Katzie First Nation Statement on Provincial Government Rejection of Maple Ridge Development**

Katzie First Nation has been formally notified that the Provincial government has rejected the City of Maple Ridge's proposed 26-lot subdivision at 12555, 12599 and 12516 240th St. and 12511 241 St. on the Alouette River flood plain.

We have previously raised many significant concerns about this proposed project, including the impacts it would have to rights and title in such areas as flood management, fish habitat. Katzie's rights in this area continue to be severely impacted by the Alouette Dam, and Katzie, BC Hydro, the Provincial Ministry of Mines, Energy and Petroleum Resources, and the Provincial Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation are in a long-standing conversation about the mitigation of these impacts on Katzie rights including a return of conservation flows to the Alouette River and the possibility of removing the Alouette dam entirely.

Development proposals like this also threaten to further impact our rights under the provincial Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, including our rights to conserve and protect the environment within our unceded territory. The Alouette River as a part of our traditional territory was handed down to us from our ancestors, reconciliation requires action and restoring our river flows in the Alouette is a big part of this. With our salmon in a state of crisis, we can not continue to make the same mistakes of past, and must move forward in a good way for the benefit of our fish family, and our future generations

We are therefore pleased to see that that the Provincial Government has rejected the proposal and hope to to work with all parties moving forward in a more respectful and collaborative way to steward and manage of our traditional territory.

Katzie First Nation Chief and Council

Chief Grace George, Councilor Rick Bailey, Councilor David Kenworthy, Councilor Lisa Adams

**For questions, comments or more information:**

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Image: Katzie First Nation community members on the banks of Alouette River