

PRESS RELEASE

“HELL NO TO **YELLOW SNOW**”

SECWPEMC PROTEST SUN PEAKS RESORTS USE OF RECYCLED SEWAGE WASTES TO MAKE SNOW ON THEIR SACRED MOUNTAINS

Sun Peaks March Kicks Off the Start of the Cancel 2010 Olympics Campaign

(Skwelkwek'welt / Sun Peaks Resort, Secwepemc Territory) At 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 8, 2006 the Secwepemc and their supporters will be converging at Sun Peaks Resort, near Kamloops, BC for a protest march to oppose Sun Peaks expansion and its snowmaking operations. Thousands of skiers, tourists and spectators will be attending the 2006 Canadian Masters Alpine Championships at Sun Peaks at the same time and will be called to Boycott Sun Peaks Resort and Delta Hotels.

Sun Peaks Resort's expansion plans will include clear-cutting 5 entire mountains and the destruction of invaluable mountain lakes and the draining of underground aquifers. Secwepemc are opposed to all mountain resort development in their territory because of the negative effects on their traditional way of life, including their hunting and food and medicine harvesting areas.

“This area is important to us. We still collect sacred medicines from Skwelkwek'welt (the mountains Sun Peaks is located on). These mountains and surrounding area is sacred to our People. We stand united to protect this area and are adamantly opposed to the use of what Sun Peaks calls “recycled sewage effluent” to make snow for Sun Peaks ski runs.” Kanahus Pellkey, Native Youth Movement, states.

This is Secwepemc Indian Land, the Secwepemc have never signed any treaties or surrendered our land to anyone. Sun Peaks claims our fight is with the provincial and federal government but we will confront anyone who is destroying our land and water, including Sun Peaks Resort and the Vancouver-Whistler 2010 Winter Olympics.

Sun Peaks claims they are not directly involved with the 2010 Winter Olympics, yet the Austrian Olympic ski team will be training at Sun Peaks for every year leading up to the Olympics, and Nancy Greene Raine, former Olympic medallists, owner of Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge at Sun Peaks and Director of skiing at Sun Peaks Resort, also a board member of Vancouver's Olympic Bid Committee. Nancy Green is also the owner of NGR Resort Consultants, the developer of the proposed Cayoosh Resort in unceded St'at'imc Territory. Cayoosh Resort is in opposition by the St'at'imc Peoples who have successfully stopped it's development since May of 2000 when they set up camp and now homes to claim back their traditional lands, mountains and water.

The IOC President Jacques Rogge told the LA Times that his top priority was “the best possible security.” But we will let the world know that this land here in BC is unceded, unsurrendered land and Canada and BC, like Israel, has been occupying land that is not theirs. BC and Sun Peaks has already bulldozed our homes and ceremonial Sweat Lodges, with the 2010 Olympics only years away this “illegal land grab” has just begun. We will tell the world, “Our Land is Not for Sale.”

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