



PRESS RELEASE

Notice of Kaska Nation Hunting Closure due to Wildfire Impacts

LOWER POST, BC – September 5th, 2018

The Kaska communities of Daylu Dena Council, Dease River First Nation, and Kwadacha Nation, as well as their representative entity, the Kaska Dena Council have provided notice to the Province of British Columbia to request an immediate hunting closure in the Kaska Territory in British Columbia recently impacted by wildfires.

Since August 21st, the Kaska have been under a state of emergency where evacuees from Lower Post were forced to relocate. The fires have destroyed 3 homes and buildings in the community of Lower Post, where grave-yard and cultural areas continue to be threatened. It will be well into September before community members can return.

Currently, there still are a number of active large wildfires between Good Hope Lake to Lower Post and over 2,600 sq. km of forests burnt. In addition, the fire risk is too high where Kaska fear hunters could easily cause additional wildfires this fall or weather may put hunters at peril.

The Kaska communities in BC are concerned about the safety of their citizens, hunters and recreates during this time and respectfully have asked resident and non-resident hunters to refrain from hunting in Wildlife Management Units 6-23, 6-24, 6-25, 7-40, 7-41, 7-51, 7-52, 7-53 and 7-54.

Kaska Leadership has asked in the letter to the Province: “Based on your Government’s strong commitment to respect Indigenous Title and Rights, and fully implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, we respectfully request the Province of British Columbia’s assistance in prohibiting all hunting activities by way of a temporary hunting closure”.

The community of Lower Post is grateful to all those across the Kaska Territory and beyond who have helped them during this difficult and trying time. The Daylu Dena Council would like to thank everyone helping with the firefighting efforts and those who have aided evacuated community members.

Financial assistance can be provided to Daylu Dena Council members by email for e transfers:

dayludonations2018@gmail.com

Password: ddcfire2018

For more information, please contact:

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