



Klabona Keepers

NEWS RELEASE

Dec 10, 2007

RE: BC Supreme Court Injunction Granted To Prevent 'Shell' From Destroying Tahltan Cultural Properties.

This afternoon, on the 10th anniversary of the 1997 Delgamuukw landmark decision the Honorable Mr. Justice Hinkson granted Rhoda Quock, a representative of the Klabona Keepers Society, a BC Supreme Court Interim Injunction.

This injunction will prevent Shell from engaging in the road construction on Klabona Territory (Tahltan), in Northern BC, that would have risked destroying ancient trails and would certainly have destroyed other 'significant Cultural Properties'.

"We are treating this injunction as a significant victory and the best way we can celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Landmark Delgamuukw/Gisday'wa Decision that was handed down on December 10, 1997," says Rhoda Quock.

The interim injunction was issued on the basis that the cultural properties may well be protected under the Heritage Conservation Act.

The interim injunction will run until the hearing of a full application for an interlocutory injunction. An interlocutory injunction would run until the final resolution of the lawsuit between Klabona representatives, Shell and the Province of British Columbia.

The interlocutory injunction application is to be heard as soon as possible, but it will likely not be heard until after December 18, 2007.

In the meantime, Shell has contacted Heritage Branch to ascertain whether their road construction activities are consistent with the Heritage Conservation Act. Apparently Heritage Branch has asked Shell's archeologist, Rescan Environmental Consultants, to investigate further.

After those investigations it is expected that the Heritage Branch would make a determination about whether a s.12 permit is needed before construction occurs.

"In light of the destruction of our trails and burial grounds, in the 1970's during the construction of the BC Rail grade, these specific sites are very significant in terms of our cultural heritage and we are only asking that a thorough archaeological impact assessment with our full participation be completed before the company moves forward with their plans" added Peter Jakesta another representative of the Klabona Keepers.

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