



## ST'ÁT'IMC CHIEFS COUNCIL

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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### **St'át'imc Release Nxeckmenlhkálha Iti Tmícwa, Part I: The St'át'imc Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan**

(Lillooet BC/ St'át'imc Territory) At a "notification" forum today, the St'át'imc released the Nxeckmenlhkálha Iti Tmícwa, Part I (the St'át'imc Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan), for the portion of St'át'imc territory that corresponds to the provincial Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) area.

"Developing and releasing Part I of our plan, which is grounded in the knowledge of our elders and cultural resource people, is an exercise of St'át'imc Title," said Chief Garry John, Chairperson of the St'át'imc Chiefs Council. "Today, we have formally put the Crown and third party resource users on notice of our strong evidence of Aboriginal Title, and how it underlies the draft land designations in our plan."

The forum, to which all affected Crown agencies and third party resource users were invited, was designed to provide an opportunity for attendees to gain a better understanding of St'át'imc Title and Rights and St'át'imc expectations about land and resource use, as set out in the Nxeckmenlhkálha Iti Tmícwa. Presentations were made by the St'át'imc Chiefs Council, the St'át'imc Land and Resource Authority and legal counsel.

"The St'át'imc plan provides a clear picture of our traditional and ongoing use and occupation of the lands and resources within our territory," said Chief John. "Decisions about land use and allocation that are not consistent with the draft St'át'imc plan will lead to infringements of our inherent Title and Rights, and are vulnerable to legal challenge if the Crown's duties of consultation and accommodation are not met."

A government-to-government protocol has recently been signed between the provincial Crown and the St'át'imc to, among other things, discuss reconciliation of the Nxeckmenlhkálha Iti Tmícwa and the provincial Lillooet LRMP. However, the process is just beginning.

"There will be no land use certainty until our Title and Rights have been dealt with honourably by the Crown. The legal obligations have been made very clear and the provincial representatives have committed themselves to following these. Now they must prove themselves," stated Chief John. "In the interim, it is our expectation that our land use designations will be respected."

For further information contact:  
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The Nxeckmenlhkálha Iti Tmícwa can be found at: [www.statimc.net](http://www.statimc.net)