



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 23-02

Title: Urging Cessation of Logging of Kwáashk' Héeni

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 35,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida joins the clan and clan leaders whose aboriginal homelands are Kwáashk' Héeni, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Sealaska Corporation, and many others in urging the cessation of logging in an area that is a known and important cultural and historic site; and

WHEREAS, the area, known as Kwáashk' Héeni (Humpback Creek) in Yakutat Bay, is the ancient homeland of the Kwaashk'i kwáan clan and where they obtained the humpy salmon crest; the area is so significant that it is memorialized in clan names, crests, history and identity, as "Kwaashk'ikwáan" literally translates as "people of the Humpback Creek"; and

WHEREAS, this month, Tlingit & Haida received reports that while Yakutat's village corporation, Yak-tat Kwaan, was logging the area through its wholly owned subsidiary, Yak Timber, an equipment operator near Humpback Creek discovered an archaeological site which is reported to consist of several house pits and a series of parallel stone walls laid across a dry creek bed; and

WHEREAS, this controversy has slowly developed over many years, with deep concern expressed throughout that the logging project proposed would inevitably lead to logging of Humpback Creek and harm to the clan properties and cultural sites, and despite repeated attempts to strike a compromise satisfying all parties concerns, the promise of no damage to these lands has not withstood the creeping increase to the project scope; and

WHEREAS, logging of Kwáashk' Héeni without the caution in the area would likely result in a tragic loss of cultural sites and properties;

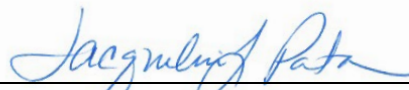
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska urges Yak-tat Kwaan to cease logging operations until a plan to safeguard the cultural and historic sites is developed.

ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 absence.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata