

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2010

Historic Provincial Park Management Plan Released

TSLEIL-WAUTUTH TERRITORY (NORTH VANCOUVER) –



The Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the B.C. Government gathered today to celebrate the release of an innovative park management plan. The Say Nuth Khaw Yum / Indian Arm Provincial Park Plan, developed by Tsleil-Waututh in collaboration with BC Parks and Port Metro Vancouver, provides management direction for over 6,500 hectares of shoreline, forest and mountain terrain that surround the serene waters of Indian Arm just outside of Vancouver.

“Together with our partners at BC Parks and the Port, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation is extremely proud to present the Say Nuth Khaw Yum / Indian Arm Park Management Plan,” Chief Justin George announced today. Say Nuth Khaw Yum, meaning “Serpent’s Land”, is located within the core of Tsleil-Waututh territory, and from time out of mind has been an area of great cultural significance to Tsleil-Waututh people.

“This management plan will allow for effective management of this spectacular park that lies on the doorstep of Metro Vancouver,” said Environment Minister Barry Penner. “It will also enable British Columbia and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to protect the natural resources of this area, while preserving its link to First Nations’ heritage and culture.”

Leah George-Wilson, Director of the Tsleil-Waututh’s Treaty, Lands and Resources Department added, “The completion of this plan is the culmination of over a decade of effort and is an important example of what can be achieved through collaboration. Our experience has shown us that great things can happen when we work together toward a common goal.”

Say Nuth Khaw Yum / Indian Arm Park has been governed by a collaborative management agreement between the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and BC Parks since the Park’s creation in 1998. The agreement is supported by a management board with equal representation by Tsleil-Waututh and the Province, and which oversees operations and management of the park.

“The preparation of this plan has been a long journey”, said Tsleil-Waututh Elder and management board member Ernest George. “A journey not just about forging a new approach to protected areas management, but also a journey of reconciliation and cooperation” added George.

Highlights of the management plan include a comprehensive bioregional atlas, land use designations that include Tsleil-Waututh management areas, and recommendations for marine area designations.

Media Welcome

Event Details: February 17, 2010 – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm by invitation only
Aboriginal 2010 Pavilion, Vancouver, BC

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