



Hupacasath  
First Nation

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MEDIA ADVISORY

May 6, 2008

NOTICE TO EDITORS

**Hupacasath First Nation to release new information  
regarding province's unlawful removal of private lands from  
Tree Farm Licence 44**

*News conference to highlight renewed legal action to force  
consultation regarding forest lands now being logged for export, real estate*

Chief Judith Sayers of the Hupacasath First Nation will hold a news conference Thursday, March 8, at 10 a.m. in the Gazebo 2 at the Pan Pacific Hotel to release new information concerning potential conflicts of interest in the BC government's 2004 decision to remove more than 70,000 hectares of private land from Tree Farm Licence 44 on Vancouver Island. Chief Sayers will be joined by the Hupacasath legal counsel and community leaders

***News conference - photo opportunity  
Thursday, May 8, 10 a.m.  
Gazebo 2  
Pan Pacific Hotel,  
999 Canada Place,  
Vancouver***

***B-roll available (aerial views) of affected area***

For more information: Geoff Meggs 604-786-1837



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(advisory - conference call - Vancouver Island)

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NOTICE TO EDITORS

CONFERENCE CALL FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND REPORTERS

**Hupacasath First Nation to release new information  
regarding province's unlawful removal of private lands from  
Tree Farm Licence 44**

*News conference to highlight renewed court action to force  
consultation on lands now being logged for export, real estate*

Chief Judith Sayers of the Hupacasath First Nation will hold a conference call for Vancouver Island news outlets on Thursday, March 8, at 11.30 a.m. as a follow up to a Vancouver news conference where she will release new information concerning potential conflicts of interest in the 2004 removal of more than 70,000 hectares of private land from Tree Farm Licence 44.

***You must pre-book if possible for this media availability. RSVP to  
geoff\_meggs@telus.net***

***MEDIA CONFERENCE CALL FOR ISLAND REPORTERS***

***Thursday, May 8, 11.30 a.m.***

***[Call in Number- 1-877-385-4099 pass code- 7920030 # ]***

***Photographs available of affected area; all materials available at  
[www.hupacasath.ca](http://www.hupacasath.ca) at 10 a.m. May 8.***

For more information: Geoff Meggs 604-786-1837



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 8, 2008

**BC pension plans benefiting from exploitation of land  
unlawfully removed from Vancouver Island tree farm licence,  
charges Hupacasath First Nation**

*Despite court order to consult and accommodate First Nation's interests,  
log exports, environmental damage, real estate development continue*

The Province of BC has been enriching its public pension plans through investments in a company engaged in environmentally-destructive development of land unlawfully removed from Tree Farm Licence 44, says Judith Sayers, chief of the Hupacasath First Nation in Port Alberni.

Sayers says the investments, made in 2005 through numbered companies controlled by the BC Investment Management Corp., only came to the Hupacasath's attention in January of this year.

She released information today showing that the BC Investment Management Corp., which manages BC's public pension plan holdings, is an investor in Island Timberlands, which is developing the 77,000-hectares with Brookfield Asset Management, formerly Brascan.

The Hupacasath protested the removal of the lands from Tree Farm Licence 44 when it was approved by then Forest Minister Mike De Jong in 2004. The lands were then sold by Weyerhaeuser to Brascan, which in turn sold an interest in the private timberlands to institutional investors, including BCIMC, which controls 25 percent.

"The BC Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that the Hupacasath First Nation has a strong *prima facie* case for aboriginal title to these lands," Sayers said. "The court ordered the private owners to consult with us.

"Not only has consultation and accommodation not occurred, as ordered by the court, but environmental destruction has accelerated on these lands, which the owners are using for log exports and real estate development."

Sayers said the Hupacasath will ask the BC Supreme Court to supervise negotiations to achieve a settlement of the matter later this month.

"We believe the actions of the provincial government not only violate our rights," she said, "but constitute a conflict of interest because an arm of the government is investing in this development.

“We have written to BCIMC and the employer and employee trustees of the plans and appealed for their support. We need them to put pressure on the provincial government and Island Timberlands to live up to their legal responsibilities.”

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*For more information: Geoff Meggs 604-786-1837*

*Backgrounder, timeline, photos available at [www.hupucasath.ca](http://www.hupucasath.ca)*