

Kúkwpi7 Skalúlmecw

Chief Dean:

- Introduction

The Lil'wat Nation reserve land is located in what is currently called the Pemberton Valley. The history of our people is written on the land. The Lil'wat Nations legends and stories tell of landslides, the great flood and the risks and perils our people have historically faced.

Today, the Nation continues to face significant risks and challenges. These risks are augmented by many of the challenges we face today. The Nation's reserve land base has been impacted by diking of upstream areas through what is now referred to as the Pemberton Meadows. This process to "straighten the river, lower the lake" has had significant negative impact on the Nation, as it has borne the brunt of flooding impacts.

This is an unacceptable transfer of risk.

Further, the Nation is impacted by the 2010 Meager Creek Landslide, the largest landslide in Canadian history. The Lillooet River is being filled with sediment and requires annual dredging and sediment removal. This puts the Nation, downstream of the slide and at the end of river, at significant risk.

Finally, looking at organizational capacity, our ability to respond in a human way to emergencies is extremely limited. The Nation has historically faced an emergency situation every few years. More recently, we have faced flooding risk, heat domes, forest fire risk and smoke causing air quality issues multiple times a year.