



# UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

## News Release

September 3, 2025

### UBCIC Stands with Xatśúll First Nation in their Appeal to Overturn BCSC on Mount Polley Mine Dam Raise

(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tseil Waututh)/ Vancouver, B.C. – September 3, 2025) Today, the Xatśúll First Nation filed an appeal with the B.C. Court of Appeal to overturn an August 6, 2025, decision of the B.C. Supreme Court. That decision upheld Provincial authorizations allowing Mount Polley Mining Corporation to raise the height of its tailings storage facility dam at the Mount Polley Mine without first conducting an environmental assessment. The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) supports the Xatśúll First Nation in exercising their inherent jurisdiction and right of self-determination over their territories and in launching this critical appeal.

“The Xatśúll First Nation has been crystal clear that they did not provide their free, prior, and informed consent for B.C. to bypass an environmental assessment and approve raising the height of the tailings pond dam at Mount Polley Mine,” said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC President. “UBCIC is deeply concerned that the Province has dismissed Xatśúll First Nation’s concerns, circumvented its jurisdiction, and ignored their basic inherent and human rights, all of which is in opposition to their legislative commitments to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

“The August 6<sup>th</sup> decision set an extremely dangerous precedent of ignoring Indigenous rights and jurisdiction and fast-tracking resource projects—exactly what First Nations have been alarmed about with the recent passage of Bill 14 *Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act* and Bill 15 *Infrastructure Projects Act*. We are honoured to be standing with the Xatśúll First Nation, who are at the front lines of defending title and rights, with this appeal.”

For further information, please read Xatśúll First Nation’s release [here](#), and read UBCIC’s release regarding the August 6 decision [here](#).

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*UBCIC is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.*

For more information, please visit [www.ubcic.bc.ca](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)



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