Musqueam Declaration

We, the Musqueam people, hereby declare the title to our land, and the aboriginal rights to exercise use of our land, the sea and fresh waters, and all their resources, within the territory occupied and used by our ancestors, namely:

The lands, lakes and streams defined and included by a line commencing at Harvery Creek in Howe Sound and proceeding Eastward to the height of land and continuing on the height of land around the entire watershed draining into English Bay, Harvery Inlet and Indian Arm, South along the height of land between Coquihalla River and Bonnie Creek to the Fraser River, across to the South or left bank of the Fraser River and proceeding downstream taking in the left banks of the main stream and the South Arm to the sea, including all the intervening lands, islands and waters, both along the sea shore to Harvey Creek, 2002, the sea, its reefs, flats, tidal lands and islands adjacent to the above described land and out to the centre of Georgia Strait.

(These lands and waters are described by way accompanying this declaration.)

We, the Musqueam people, are members of the Musqueam Indian Band and/or persons of our quarter Musqueam Indian Ancestry descended from these Musqueam-Speaking people who from time immemorial occupied said and gained their livlihood from these lands, waters and sea as described above.

Our ancestral aboriginal right and our aboriginal riparian right is to live upon and utilize these aboriginal lands, sea and waters without foreign control or restrictions, to utilize, trade and consume all the resources and products of these lands, waters and sea.

It is our right to govern ourselves and our communities, to uphold and determine our own customs, beliefs and laws.

Neither we nor our ancestors have ever given up, extinguished or diminished our aboriginal rights and title by treaty or agreement with any foreign government or power.

We have never consented the loss of lands called Indian Reserve as compensation for our lost rights and cannot consider them as adequate compensation.

We have never accepted or agreed to the rights of governments of Canada or British Columbia, or their agents, to tell us how to run our own affairs or determine how we should live our lives.

We, the Musqueam people, hereby declare our intent to exercise our aboriginal rights, in manner to our own satisfaction, and to be used as traditional resources to enable us and our descendants to live as distinct and independent people in our own land.

We announce our intent to obtain compensation for loss of resources and denial of their use, where these have been destroyed or exploited by others, or where they cannot be restored.

We announce our intent to establish control of our own communities and our own resources in order to control, determine, and guarantee our future.

This is our aboriginal right and a basic, universal human right.

Musqueam Indian Band
United Nations
British Columbia

Dated

[Signature]

[Signature]