

Kemano T2 Project: Working in the presence of legends The legend of “tl’ughus”

Long before Rio Tinto and its proposed Kemano T2 Project, the mountains and landscape around the Nechako Reservoir and Kemano area were home to a giant monster snake. The snake, known as “tl’ughus”, was known to travel from lake to lake by boring through the mountains, including Mount Dubose. The openings created by the snake allowed fish to pass from lakes on one side of the mountain to lakes on the other side.

The legend of “tl’ughus” has parallels with the Kemano T2 Project, which will see the boring of a 7.6km portion of the Kemano second tunnel. A tunnel boring machine will complete a 16km tunnel that will carry water from the West Tahtsa intake to the Kemano generating station, that powers Rio Tinto’s aluminium smelter in Kitimat.

The Cheslatta Carrier Nation and the Haisla Nation are participating with Rio Tinto on the Kemano T2 Project, specifically to ensure their cultures and traditions are respected as we embark on the construction of the project.

In preparing for the tunnel boring portion of the project, Rio Tinto reached out to the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and the Haisla Nation to assist in designing the cutterhead for the TBM and providing it with a name that reflects their cultures and beliefs.

Several students participated in a design contest, and the winning design was done by Ali-Anna, a Grade 6 student from the Haisla Community School.

The Cheslatta Nation selected the name for the Tunnel Boring Machine – “tl’ughus” – which is pronounced tahl-ug-us (with accent on ‘ug’).

Variations of the legend of “tl’ughus” is shared with Carrier communities across the region. The Haisla Nation also share a similar belief.

And Rio Tinto, together with our EPCM Hatch and Main Contractor Frontier Kemper-Aecon, and all the men and women that will help build the Kemano T2 Project, shall respect this belief as we work alongside the legendary tl’ughus.



tl’ughus

Project proponent:

RioTinto

EPCM:

HATCH

Main Contractor:

FRONTIER-KEMPER | AECON
A JOINT VENTURE

In participation with:

