

**Open letter of support for the Musqueam people**

May 3, 2012

Today, First Nations across the country join you in expressing full support as you march to protect your vital cultural heritage. We are proud of the leaders, Elders, youth and citizens of Musqueam standing strong in the assertion of your rights and the need for full respect of the 4,000 year old Marpole village and Midden site.

Standing strong is the legacy of our ancestors and we will not forsake their legacy in the face of development which seeks to destroy and disrespect our cultural heritage and our rights.

The Assembly of First Nations supports the efforts of your leadership and will advocate strongly in support of today's and future efforts.

This site has cultural and historical significance for all First Nations and for Canada as a whole. Already designated a National Historic site for almost 75 years, we cannot and will not allow the true history of this land to be further eroded and desecrated.

I understand that you have already expressed openness and willingness to work with all parties to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution. Now is the time for your voices to be heard and this march today and the collective will of the Musqueam, supported by First Nations across the country, will contribute directly to achieving this result.

I commend your courage and commitment to your ancestors and the powerful history of your people that you demonstrate today. I look forward to continued work with and support of your efforts and your leadership.

Kleco, Kleco,

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
National Chief