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**DECISION STATEMENT OF TAHLTAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
ON RED CHRIS MINE BLOCK CAVE AMENDMENT**

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**MAY 22, 2026**

**Issued pursuant to Tahltan Nation's inherent jurisdiction and decision-making authority in Tahltan Territory and in accordance with the *Declaration Act Consent Decision-Making Agreement for Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine Project***

The Tahltan Central Government (**TCG**) Board of Directors (**TCG Board**) consents to the Red Chris Block Cave Project – Production Phase for the Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold mine (**Block Cave Amendment**) proceeding as it is described in Attachment A (Certified Project Description) of the draft Amendment #6 to Environmental Assessment Certificate #M05-02 (**Draft Amendment Order**) provided by the Environmental Assessment Office on April 29, 2026, provided that:

- (a) all conditions and definitions currently within Attachment B (Table of Conditions) of the Draft Amendment Order be included in the same form in any amended Environmental Assessment Certificate issued for the Block Cave Amendment; and
- (b) an addendum to the existing Impact Benefit Co-Management Agreement between Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited (**NRCML**), TCG, Tahltan Band, and Iskut First Nation regarding the Block Cave Amendment (**IBCA Addendum**) be finalized and duly executed.

The reasons for TCG's provision of consent for the Block Cave Amendment proceeding on the conditions specified above are set out below.

**Tahltan Nation**

1. Tahltan people have stewarded the lands, waters and resources in Tahltan Territory since time immemorial.

2. The Tahltan Nation has jurisdiction and decision-making authority within Tahltan Territory as part of their inherent and sovereign rights.

### **Block Cave Amendment**

3. The Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold mine is an existing and operating open-pit copper and gold mine located in Tahltan Territory approximately 18 kilometres southeast of Iskut (**Red Chris Mine**).
4. A number of Tahltan members currently work at the Red Chris Mine.
5. NRCML operates the Red Chris Mine under Environmental Assessment Certificate #M05-02 issued in August of 2005 (**EA Certificate**).
6. The EA Certificate has been amended five times between 2012 and 2023 as described in the Draft Amendment Order.
7. NRCML has applied for a sixth amendment to the EA Certificate to authorize a transition in mining method from the open pit mining operation to an underground block cave mining operation and associated activities as described in the Draft Amendment Order.

### **Requirement for TCG Consent and the Declaration Act Agreement**

8. On November 1, 2023, TCG and the Province of British Columbia (**BC**) signed a consent-based decision-making agreement under section 7 of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, SBC 2018 c 51 (**EA Act**) and section 7(1)(b) of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SBC 2019, c 44 (**Declaration Act Agreement**).
9. On November 1, 2023, BC passed Order in Council No. 601 ordering that amendments to the EA Certificate under section 32 of the EA Act are to be considered reviewable projects for the purposes of the EA Act.
10. The Declaration Act Agreement provides that Substantial Changes to the Red Chris Mine, as that term is defined in the Declaration Act Agreement, cannot proceed without TCG's consent.
11. On March 28, 2024, the TCG Lands and Regulatory Affairs Director and the Environmental Assessment Office (**EAO**) Project Lead reached consensus on their respective determinations that the Block Cave Amendment constitutes a Substantial Change to the Red Chris Mine for the purposes of the Declaration Act Agreement. As a result, the Block Cave Amendment cannot proceed without TCG's consent.
12. The Declaration Act Agreement sets out the processes to be followed by both TCG and the EAO in assessing the Block Cave Amendment and deciding whether

it can proceed. These processes include a number of collaborative processes aimed at coordinating TCG's assessment and decision-making process with BC's assessment and decision-making process. They also include opportunities for TCG and the EAO to engage with NRCML and Tahltan members about the Block Cave Amendment and the assessments.

13. Pursuant to the processes set out in the Declaration Act Agreement, the EAO conducted a provincial assessment of the Block Cave Amendment, culminating in the preparation of a draft assessment report for the Block Cave Amendment (**Draft Assessment Report**) and the Draft Amendment Order (collectively, the **BC Assessment Materials**).
14. The Draft Amendment Order includes the following attachments:
  - (a) Attachment A – Certified Project Description for Amendment #6 for the Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine Project Environmental Assessment Certificate #M05-02 (**Certified Project Description**); and
  - (b) Attachment B – Table of Conditions for Amendment #6 for the Red Chris Porphyry Copper-Gold Mine Project Environmental Assessment Certificate #M05-02 (**Table of Conditions**).
15. On April 29, 2026 the EAO provided TCG with a copy of the BC Assessment Materials.

### **The Tahltan Risk Assessment**

16. Pursuant to the processes set out in the Declaration Act Agreement, TCG conducted a Tahltan Risk Assessment of the Block Cave Amendment, culminating in the Tahltan Risk Assessment Report.
17. The Tahltan Risk Assessment considered Tahltan values, knowledge, and guiding documents, including:
  - (a) the 1910 Declaration of the Tahltan Tribe signed on October 18, 1910 and reaffirmed by Tahltan on October 18, 2010;
  - (b) the Tahltan Resource Development Policy;
  - (c) the Tahltan Impact Assessment Policy; and
  - (d) *Keep Our Trails Open: The Tahltan Stewardship Plan* (**Tahltan Stewardship Plan**).
18. The Tahltan Risk Assessment Report summarized the results of engagement with Tahltan members about the Block Cave Amendment, including opportunities

provided for Tahltan member engagement, the results of this engagement, and how this engagement informed the Tahltan Risk Assessment Report.

19. The Tahltan Risk Assessment Report identified potential negative and positive effects of the Block Cave Amendment which were either directly from the Block Cave Amendment, as additive to effects from the existing open pit operations at the Red Chris Mine, or in combination with other existing or proposed development activities in Tahltan Territory.
20. The Tahltan Risk Assessment Report identified that potential adverse effects from the Block Cave Amendment:
  - (a) are focused underground and would largely occur within areas that are already disturbed; and
  - (b) are predicted to be most severe when considered as additive to the existing effects from the open pit operations at the Red Chris Mine.
21. The Tahltan Risk Assessment Report considered the management direction for the Red Chris Mine area set out in the Tahltan Stewardship Plan. The Tahltan Stewardship Plan is intended to be faithful to Tahltan's relationship to Keyeh and establishes the basis for future Tahltan land use decisions. In the Tahltan Stewardship Plan, the Red Chris Mine falls within the Łuwechōn Deferral Area, for which the management direction defers decisions relating to further mineral exploration and mining to future generations of Tahltans but recognizes the continuation of current operations at the Red Chris Mine.
22. The Tahltan Risk Assessment Report also identified that the Block Cave Amendment would lessen several predicted negative effects associated with continuing open pit operations at the Red Chris Mine as currently permitted.
23. The Tahltan Risk Assessment Report identified potential measures and conditions for addressing the potential adverse effects of the Block Cave Amendment, including:
  - (a) NRCML's existing and proposed mitigation measures;
  - (b) recommended conditions for inclusion in any amendment to the EA Certificate for the Block Cave Amendment, which were subject to collaboration between TCG and the EAO; and
  - (c) measures that could be included in an addendum to the existing Impact, Benefit, and Co-Management Agreement between NRCML, TCG, the Tahltan Band, and the Iskut First Nation (**the IBCA Addendum**).

**(Measures and Conditions)**

24. The conclusions in the Tahltan Risk Assessment Report were that:
- (a) the Block Cave Amendment is aligned with many Tahltan Risk Assessment Factors, including those related to ongoing collaborative management of the Red Chris Mine, employment, training and economic benefits of the Red Chris Mine, regional and community commitments by NRCML, and continued commitments to environmental and adaptive management, monitoring, and research;
  - (b) after the application of the Measures and Conditions, alignment with the Tahltan Risk Assessment Factors and Tahltan Sustainability Requirements improves, but potential residual adverse cumulative effects from the Block Cave Amendment to Tahltan rights and title and ability to reclaim and restore remain; and
  - (c) additional measures are considered necessary by the TCG Lands and Regulatory Affairs Director to address the residual adverse cumulative effects from the Block Cave Amendment.
25. In response to the findings in the Tahltan Risk Assessment, BC affirmed a number of provincial commitments and processes between BC and TCG in relation to the Red Chris Mine, including:
- (a) broader reconciliation measures being negotiated by BC and the Tahltan Nation in a proposed Foundation Agreement;
  - (b) negotiations to reinvigorate and update the existing Tahltan-BC Government-to-Government Red Chris Mine Management Agreement that guides TCG and BC's shared processes for permitting and post-authorization oversight for the Red Chris Mine;
  - (c) potential conditions for amendments to the Mines Act Permit (M-240) and Environmental Management Act Permit (PE-105017) for the Block Cave Amendment, should it proceed, including the determination of reclamation liability and security for the Red Chris Mine; and
  - (d) negotiation of a government-to-government agreement relating to compliance and enforcement activities for the Block Cave Amendment, should it proceed.

**(Provincial Commitments)**

26. Taking into account the Provincial Commitments, the TCG Lands and Regulatory Affairs Director concluded that if the Block Cave Amendment is subject to the potential mitigation measures, conditions, and provincial commitments as identified in the Tahltan Risk Assessment, including any additional measures

considered necessary by the TCG Board, the potential adverse effects of the Block Cave Amendment could be adequately addressed.

27. Pursuant to section 8.1 of the Declaration Act Agreement, on April 29, 2026, the TCG Lands and Regulatory Affairs Director provided the TCG Board with the following materials documenting the outcomes of the EAO's and TCG's assessments of the Block Cave Amendment:
  - (a) the BC Assessment Materials; and
  - (b) the Tahltan Risk Assessment Report.
28. Following the provision of the materials described in paragraph 27 to the TCG Board, BC affirmed to TCG BC's commitment to advancing the Foundation Agreement negotiations, including a fiscal component (**Foundation Agreement Commitment**). The Tahltan Lands and Regulatory Affairs Director subsequently provided the TCG Board with the Foundation Agreement Commitment.
29. On May 6, 2026, NRCML wrote to TCG to confirm their readiness to sign the IBCA Addendum in the form attached to their letter (**NRCML Letter of Commitment**). The TCG Lands and Regulatory Affairs Director subsequently provided the Board with the NRCML Letter of Commitment.
30. On May 11, 2026, the Iskut Band Council and the Tahltan Band Council both wrote to TCG to confirm their support for the Block Cave Amendment proceeding, subject to any conditions considered necessary by the TCG Board.
31. On May 22, 2026, the TCG Board met at a duly convened meeting to decide whether to consent to the Block Cave Amendment proceeding.
32. In deciding whether to consent to the Block Cave Amendment proceeding, the TCG Board considered:
  - (a) the Tahltan Risk Assessment Report;
  - (b) the BC Assessment Materials;
  - (c) the views of Tahltan members;
  - (d) that the Tahltan Band Council supports the Block Cave Amendment proceeding;
  - (e) that the Iskut Band Council supports the Block Cave Amendment proceeding;

- (f) the results of engagement with NRCML in relation to the Block Cave Amendment;
- (g) the Foundation Agreement Commitment; and
- (h) the NRCML Letter of Commitment.

### **TCG Board's Conclusions**

33. By considering the information listed above, the TCG Board has concluded that:
- (a) the Red Chris Mine has been operating in Tahltan Territory since 2015 and is a significant contributor to the Tahltan economy and major employer of Tahltan members;
  - (b) aspects of the existing operations at the Red Chris Mine, including in relation to water management and closure planning, are of ongoing concern for Tahltan leadership and members;
  - (c) the changes proposed to the Red Chris Mine through the Block Cave Amendment will be focused underground and could extend the life of the Red Chris Mine beyond that contemplated for current open pit mining operations;
  - (d) the Measures and Conditions have been identified for the Block Cave Amendment to help address potential adverse effects at the Red Chris Mine;
  - (e) the Block Cave Amendment proceeding would provide NRCML, TCG, and BC with additional opportunities and resources to collaboratively improve environmental performance and closure planning for the Red Chris Mine;
  - (f) the Block Cave Amendment is aligned with many, but not all of the Tahltan Risk Assessment Factors and Tahltan Sustainability Requirements;
  - (g) the Block Cave Amendment is not inconsistent with the Tahltan Stewardship Plan;
  - (h) potential residual adverse impacts to Tahltan rights and title and ability to reclaim and restore remain following the application of the Measures and Conditions;
  - (i) through the Provincial Commitments, BC has committed to negotiate and engage in processes in relation to further measures to address the potential adverse effects of the Block Cave Amendment;

- (j) the Foundation Agreement Commitment affirms BC's commitment to advancing Foundation Agreement negotiations with Tahltan, including a fiscal component; and
- (k) the proposed IBCA Addendum as set out in the NRCML Letter of Commitment would provide benefits for Tahltan members and communities and result in stronger collaboration between TCG and NRCML in relation to NRCML's management of the Red Chris Mine.

### Consent

34. On the basis of the above, and in weighing the potential adverse effects from the Block Cave Amendment, the measures intended to address them, and the potential benefits of the Block Cave Amendment to the Tahltan Nation and its members, the TCG Board has decided to consent to the Block Cave Amendment proceeding as it is described in the Certified Project Description on the conditions that:
- (a) all conditions and definitions currently within the Table of Conditions be included in the same form in any amended Environmental Assessment Certificate issued for the Block Cave Amendment; and
  - (b) the IBCA Addendum be finalized and duly executed.



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President Kerry Carlick  
Tahltan Central Government

Dated this 22 day of May, 2026