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Press release

Rio Tinto Alcan reaches a landmark agreement in principle with the Haisla First Nation in British Columbia

12 January 2010

Rio Tinto Alcan has reached a landmark agreement in principle with the Haisla Nation in support of its Primary Metal operations in British Columbia and the Kitimat Modernisation Project. If ratified by an upcoming vote of the Haisla Nation membership, the Haisla Nation–Rio Tinto Alcan Legacy Agreement will establish a formal framework for the two organisations to maximise opportunities and benefits of aluminium operations in Kitimat.

“This agreement establishes a collaborative working arrangement between our two groups, and a new way forward for our strong relationship with the Haisla Nation,” said Paul Henning, vice president, British Columbia Operations and Strategic Projects, Rio Tinto Alcan. “We are proud of this agreement and the sustainable opportunities it represents for both parties, and remain committed to integrating constructive community relations into our project and operational planning.”

Based on principles of confidence, mutual respect, trust, active partnership and long-term commitment, the agreement would provide for education, training, and employment opportunities for the Haisla Nation, as well as establish business protocols for future commercial ventures between the parties such as business contracting and development. Rio Tinto Alcan would provide financial support for community initiatives, environmental stewardship, and social programmes.

“I am pleased that Kitimaat Village Council has endorsed the agreement between Rio Tinto Alcan and the Haisla Nation. This agreement represents a significant milestone in the 55-year relationship between us, one that I sincerely hope other industry proposing to conduct business within Haisla Traditional Territory will replicate,” said Dolores Pollard, Haisla Nation Chief Councillor. “Now it is up to the Haisla voting membership to approve and ratify the agreement. If our people ratify the agreement, we are ready for the productive and harmonious business relationship made possible by the Kitimat Modernisation Project.”

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

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