

Qat'muk: Where Grizzly bear goes to dance

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At this moment there are more people reading this abstract than those who live in the Jumbo valley. But that didn't stop the province of British Columbia from establishing the Jumbo Glacier Mount Resort Municipality, a town without residents in 2013, and allocating more than \$1 million in operation costs over 5 years.

Bizarre? Confounding? It gets worse.

Earlier this year, the province found that the proponent has not substantially started the development and has removed its environmental certificate, leaving the town without residents and project without certification in limbo.

Meanwhile, the Ktunaxa Nation Council, through its Qat'muk Declaration, continues efforts to protect an area so sacred that it is willing to disclose confidential traditional knowledge to the public, and fought the project approval through the BC Supreme Court and the BC Court of Appeal.

Broadly, the central questions are whether Indigenous peoples' sacred areas have any protection within Canadian law or public policy, and whether a project as flawed and perplexing as Jumbo Glacier Resort can sustain government support in the face of mounting opposition.

About the speaker:

Troy Sebastian is aq'amnik and is the Special Projects Coordinator for the Ktunaxa Nation Council, where he has worked since 2002. He is a writer, a radio host, and is based in Lekwungen and WSANEC territories.