

Project Recommendation
Issued under Paragraph 8 of Chapter 10 of the *Nisga'a Final Agreement*

for the

Eskay Creek Revitalization Project

Description of the Designated Project

Eskay Creek Mining Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Skeena Gold + Silver (the Proponent), is proposing the construction, operation and closure of an open-pit gold and silver mine located approximately 85 kilometres northwest of Stewart, British Columbia. As proposed, the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project would produce up to 3.6 million tonnes of ore per year (approximately 10,000 tonnes per day) over 13 years of operations. The 18-year mine life would include a two-year construction phase, 13-year operation phase, and three-year reclamation and closure phase. The project is located on the same site as the past-producing underground Eskay Creek mine and the Proponent intends to make use of some of the existing facilities and infrastructure. Project activities will include the transportation of concentrate, personnel, and supplies along Highway 37 to the Nass Area, along Highway 37 within the Nass Area and Nass Wildlife Area, and Highway 37A to port facilities in Stewart, BC to the point at which concentrate is loaded onto vessels at the port facilities.

Conduct of the environmental assessment

On November 28, 2022, the former Minister of Environment and Climate Change approved the substitution of the conduct of the federal impact assessment of the Designated Project to British Columbia. The British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) undertook a substituted assessment of the Designated Project in a manner that met the requirements of British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018), the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Notice of Substitution Approval under the *Impact Assessment Act*, and Chapter 10 – *Environmental Assessment and Protection* of the *Nisga'a Final Agreement* (Nisga'a Treaty). The Chapter 10 assessment under the Nisga'a Treaty specifically considered the activities which are part of the Designated Project, as described above, in addition to the planned use of vessels carrying concentrate in and around the Port of Stewart, which is not part of the Designated Project. As part of the substituted assessment process, the EAO conducted an effects assessment in consideration of the Revised Application which was accepted by the EAO on May 30, 2025. On January 16, 2026, the EAO submitted its final Assessment Report to me in my capacity as

Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, and Nature, as required by the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Assessment of effects under paragraphs 8(e) and 8(f) of Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Treaty

In accordance with paragraph 8(e) of Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Treaty, based on the environmental assessment, I have determined that the Designated Project, and the planned use of vessels carrying concentrate in and around the Port of Stewart, can reasonably be expected to have residual effects on residents of Nisga'a Lands, Nisga'a Lands, and Nisga'a interests under the Nisga'a Treaty, including interests related to cultural and family wellbeing under federal, provincial and the Nisga'a Nation's jurisdictions, as described in the Assessment Report.

In accordance with paragraph 8(f) of Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Treaty, based on the environmental assessment, I have determined that the Designated Project, and the planned use of vessels carrying concentrate in and around the Port of Stewart, will result in both positive and negative effects on the existing and future economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of Nisga'a citizens who may be affected by the Designated Project. This is supported by Nisga'a Lisims Government's conclusions that there will be positive economic effects and that negative effects to the cultural and family wellbeing of Nisga'a citizens will be acceptable given the proposed mitigation measures and their expected effectiveness, as described in the Assessment Report.

Pursuant to Paragraph 7 of Chapter 11 – Nisga'a Government of the Nisga'a Treaty, the Nisga'a Nation acts through Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG). NLG has determined that the residual effects identified in the Assessment Report, considering the identified provincial regulatory mechanisms and federal conditions identified in the Assessment Report, will not unduly adversely impact residents of Nisga'a Lands, Nisga'a Lands, or Nisga'a interests under the Nisga'a Treaty.

My Decision Statement issued under section 65 of the Impact Assessment Act establishes the legally binding conditions I deem necessary to prevent or mitigate adverse effects within federal jurisdiction, when considered in combination with the identified provincial measures. It also identifies follow-up programs that must be implemented by the Proponent to verify the accuracy of the conclusions of the substituted environmental assessment and the effectiveness of the federal mitigation measures that I have established as conditions in the Decision Statement, in combination with the identified provincial measures.

Statement under paragraph 8(h) of Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Treaty

Paragraph 8(h) of Chapter 10 of the Nisga'a Treaty provides that all environmental assessment processes referred to under the Nisga'a Treaty will, in addition to the requirements of applicable environmental assessment legislation, provide for recommendations, based on the assessment, to the Party or Parties with decision-making authority over the project, in respect of whether the project should proceed.

Based on the Revised Application, the Chapter 10 Assessment, the relevant proposed provincial conditions, federal mitigation measures, and follow-up programs that I have established as conditions in the Decision Statement, the letter from the Nisga'a Nation to the British Columbia Minister of Environment & Parks and the Minister of Energy & Climate expressing support for the project, and the letter to the federal Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, and Nature expressing support for the Project, I recommend that the Designated Project should proceed.

This Project Recommendation is made on January 26, 2026, at Ottawa, Ontario by:

<original signed by>

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, and Nature