



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **KASKA NATION AND FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

VANCOUVER-- The Kaska Nation and Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd. today announced the signing of a cooperation agreement for the Kaska's potential involvement in the Alaska Highway Pipeline Project (AHPP).

The agreement completes the first phase of a three-phase process between the Kaska Nation and Foothills Pipe Lines. The second and third phases of the process are structured with a view to concluding a participation agreement by March 31, 2002.

"March 31 is significant because concluding our land claims, self-government and trans-boundary agreements is our highest priority," said Peter Stone, CEO of Kayeh Nan Petroleum Inc., who signed on behalf of the Kaska Nation. "The cooperation agreement with Foothills signals the Kaska's optimism about achieving those agreements and paves the way for our potential participation in the Alaska Highway Pipeline Project."

John Ellwood, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Foothills Pipe Lines, said the cooperation agreement is an example of how industry and First Nations can work together to maximize the benefits of a major construction project.

"Foothills is pleased to have reached this important milestone in our relationship with the Kaska people, and we look forward to working closely together on pipeline development in Kaska territory," said Ellwood.

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**Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd.**

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The Kaska Nation is composed of five First Nations: the Liard First Nation and the Ross River Dena Council, both in the southeastern Yukon; and in northern British Columbia the First Nations of Lower Post, Dease River, and Kwadacha. The Kaska traditional territory stretches from the MacMillan Pass at the Yukon/NWT border to Williston Lake in British Columbia.

Foothills Pipe Lines, jointly owned by TransCanada PipeLines Limited and Westcoast Energy Inc., is the Canadian sponsor of the Alaska Highway Pipeline Project (AHPP) and is also a partner in the Alaska Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Company (ANNGTC) in the State of Alaska. Foothills and ANNGTC hold a number of significant certificates, rights of way, and regulatory permits to build and operate the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline, which is designed to transport Alaskan gas from Prudhoe Bay to southern markets.

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