



**For immediate release
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NEWS RELEASE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONFIRM 2015 PEMBERTON MUSIC FESTIVAL WILL GO ON AS PLANNED

Pemberton, BC – Elected officials and senior staff from the Lil'wat Nation, Village of Pemberton and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District have met and agreed that the 2015 Pemberton Music Festival will proceed as planned. Fire activity in the South Coastal region has led to smoke in the Pemberton Valley and the surrounding areas. While air quality is a concern, the current wildfire situation does not warrant cancellation of the festival.

Conditions are dynamic and can change quickly; the three local governments are monitoring the situation closely. Staff and officials from the three jurisdictions are meeting daily and receiving regular information updates and advice from the BC Wildfire Management Branch, technical experts, regional and First Nations health authorities and senior Ministry staff.

"Safety remains our top priority. The situation is being monitored and evaluated daily. If present conditions continue, the Pemberton Music Festival can proceed safely." says Village of Pemberton Mayor, Mike Richman.

"The Pemberton Music Festival is an important event both for our community and for the entire region," says Chief Lucinda Phillips of the Lil'wat Nation. "Safety for our communities and for festival guests is the priority and we are pleased to see conditions improving in the past 24 hours. We will continue to work closely with our regional government partners and festival organizers to monitor the situation right through the event."

"The safety of the public is our number one concern," says SLRD Board Chair, Jack Crompton. "All three jurisdictions are working together and our Emergency Management Team is assessing the situation daily. At this time, there is no reason for us to contemplate the cancellation of the Pemberton Music Festival."

The 4-day 2015 Pemberton Music Festival is scheduled to take place from July 16 – 19. Daily updates will be provided by the festival organizers, Huka Entertainment, at www.pembertonmusicfestival.com. Festival goers can keep up-to-date on the wildfire status by checking www.bcwildfire.ca and regular air quality updates can be found at www.bcairquality.ca. Personal preparedness resources can be found at www.emergencyinfbc.gov.bc.ca.

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