

October 26, 2008

**The RCMP Confirm Desecration of Eayem Grave and Memorial Site near Yale, B.C.**

The RCMP confirmed late yesterday afternoon that a Sto:lo ancestral grave located 2.5 miles north of Yale in the Fraser Canyon had being destroyed.

Construction of the CP Rail line through the Fraser Canyon in the 1880's forced the Sto:lo to relocate and rebury the remains of their ancestors at Eayem, the site of the graveyard. And in 1938 the Sto:lo community leaders placed a memorial plaque at the cemetery.

The recent theft of the original plaque from the graveyard prompted the Sto:lo to organize a ceremony at 12:00 noon today to replace the plaque.

The Yale Indian Band Council objects to the ceremony and sent a letter to both the federal government's treaty negotiator and the RCMP voicing their objections. And yesterday afternoon members of the Yale Indian Band were observed taking a backhoe into the Eayem cemetery.

Despite the objections of the Yale Indian Band, the Sto:lo will go ahead with today's ceremony at Eayem.

The RCMP says they are concerned for public safety if the ceremony proceeds.

For more information about today's ceremony, please call Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil of the Sto:lo Tribal Council at: 1 604-798-1509.