



March 1, 2020

Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs  
c/o Office of the Wet'suwet'en  
3873 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Smithers, BC V0J 2N1

reception@wetsuweten.com

Dear Hereditary Chiefs

We are pleased that we have agreed on the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding to guide the Wet'suwet'en Nation, British Columbia and Canada in the recognition and implementation of Wet'suwet'en Rights and Title.

Attached to this letter is a true copy of the final version of the Memorandum of Understanding, which we and Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs initialed yesterday.

We confirm that we are prepared to sign this Memorandum of Understanding, as attached, as soon as you have completed your review processes and indicate to us that it has been approved by the Wet'suwet'en Nation. We understand you anticipate this will be completed in the next two weeks and that you will advise us of your response by March 13, 2020.

Respectfully,

Hon. Carolyn Bennett M.D. P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

Hon. Scott Fraser M.L.A.  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
Canada, British Columbia and Wet'suwet'en**

**Immediate**

- a) Canada and BC recognize that Wet'suwet'en rights and title are held by Wet'suwet'en houses under their system of governance
- b) Canada and BC recognize Wet'suwet'en aboriginal rights and title throughout the Yintah
- c) Canada, BC, and the Wet'suwet'en commit to the negotiations described below (commencing immediately)
- d) BC commits to engage in these negotiations consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- e) Canada and BC will provide the necessary resources to Wet'suwet'en for these negotiations
- f) The parties agree these negotiations are to be intensively mediated by an agreed upon mediator

**Agreement to be Negotiated Over the Next Three Months**

- a) Legal recognition that the Wet'suwet'en Houses are the indigenous governing body holding the Wet'suwet'en aboriginal rights and title in accordance with our Inuk Nuatden.
- b) Legal recognition of Wet'suwet'en title as a legal interest in land by Canada and BC
  - i) There will be no impact on existing rights and interests pertaining to land until jurisdiction is transferred to the Wet'suwet'en
  - ii) Jurisdiction that flows from Wet'suwet'en aboriginal rights and title will be transferred to Wet'suwet'en over time based on an agreed upon timetable (with the objective for transition within of some areas within 6 months and a schedule for the remaining areas of jurisdiction thereafter)
  - iii) In some cases the jurisdiction that is transferred to the Wet'suwet'en will be exclusive and in some cases it will be shared with Canada or BC
- c) The areas of jurisdiction that will need to be addressed include the following (without limitation):
  - i) Child and Family Wellness (6 month timeline)
  - ii) Water (6 month timeline)
  - iii) Wet'suwet'en Nation Reunification Strategy (6 month timeline)
  - iv) Wildlife
  - v) Fish
  - vi) Land Use Planning
  - vii) Lands and Resources
  - viii) Revenue Sharing, Fair and Just Compensation, and Economic Component of Aboriginal Title
  - ix) Informed Decision Making
  - x) Such other areas as the Wet'suwet'en propose
- d) Title will be implemented and jurisdiction (exclusive or shared) will be transferred once specifics on how aboriginal and crown titles interface have been addressed – this includes the following:
  - i) Transparency, accountability, and administrative fairness mechanisms including clear process and remedies to address grievances of any person, pertaining to all areas of shared and exclusive jurisdiction
  - ii) Clarity on the Wet'suwet'en governance structures, systems, and laws, that will be ratified by the Wet'suwet'en and will be used to implement their title to the extent required to understand the interface between the Crown and Wet'suwet'en jurisdiction.
- e) This agreement is to be ratified by Canada, BC and Wet'suwet'en under their respective systems of governance



- f) The agreement will be binding on Canada, BC, and the Wet'suwet'en and all of their agencies, departments and officials as they conduct their business together as governments

**Agreement to be Negotiated Over the Next Twelve Months**

- a) The specifics of how aboriginal and crown titles interface
- b) The agreement recognizing Wet'suwet'en rights and title will be protected by Section 35 of the Constitution, 1982

Agreed to as of the 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE  
WET'SUWET'EN NATION by the  
Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Woos

\_\_\_\_\_  
Madeek

\_\_\_\_\_  
Knedebas

\_\_\_\_\_  
T'sek'ot

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hagwilneghl

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kloum Khun

\_\_\_\_\_  
Na'Moks

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gisday'wa

\_\_\_\_\_  
Smogelgem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lay'oh

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED ON BEHALF OF HER  
MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF  
CANADA by the Minister of CROWN INDIGENOUS  
RELATIONS

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED ON BEHALF OF HER  
MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
by the Minister of INDIGENOUS RELATIONS  
AND RECONCILIATION

