



Ref: 182687

FEB 14 2012

Ellis Ross, Chief Councillor
Haisla Nation Council
P.O. Box 1101
Kitimaat Village, British Columbia
V0T 2B0

Dear Chief Ross:

I am writing to you with respect to that area of Crown land in the vicinity of Kitimat, British Columbia described in Map Reserve R066034 which was established under section 16 of the *Land Act* on April 24, 2006 (the "2006 Reserve").

The 2006 reserve was established following inquiries from Enbridge Inc. with respect to the possibility of acquiring the right to use this area as a marine terminal for the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline Project (the Project). Crown land officials did not consider it appropriate to consider an application for a Crown land tenure at that time given the uncertainty associated with the proposed land use, including the uncertainty arising from the pending National Energy Board review.

The 2006 Reserve document states that it is for a term of five years but also states that in the absence of review it will continue indefinitely.

It is my understanding that Enbridge remains interested in acquiring this area of Crown land for a marine terminal should the Project receive the necessary approvals.

s.16, s.17, s.21

My current view is that the potential of this area as a site for a marine terminal should be considered and a reserve under the *Land Act* to preserve the possibility of this use would be appropriate. Any decision to dispose of Crown land for any particular use, marine terminal or otherwise, would only be made upon conclusion of appropriate consultation with the Haisla Nation, and other potentially affected First Nations. Accordingly, and in order to remove any uncertainty arising from the provisions of the 2006 Reserve, I have established a

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new map reserve over this site in accordance with section 16 of the *Land Act*. A copy of my letter in that regard is enclosed for your reference. You will note that this reserve is for a period of two years; however, as provided in section 16 this reserve may be cancelled or amended prior to that time.

The map reserve saves and accepts road access and a utility corridor to service the Kitimat LNG Project located in Bish Cove and temporary authorizations required for study or investigative purposes. The map reserve precludes any other *Land Act* applications from being received by the ministry until such time that it is cancelled or amended.

Given your industrial interest in this site, you will be provided with notice and an opportunity to comment before any decision to amend or cancel in accordance with section 16 or if a renewal or extension of the reserve is being considered by me or my staff at the end of the two year term.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this letter please contact Eamon O'Donoghue, Skeena Regional Executive Director, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations at (250) 847-7495.

Sincerely,



Steve Thomson
Minister

pc: Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines
Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Kevin Kriese, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations
Eamon O'Donoghue, Skeena Regional Executive Director, Ministry of Forests, Lands
and Natural Resource Operations