

Kitimat Hospital Lands Announcement
Tuesday, June 17, 2014
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The Province, the District of Kitimat and the Haisla Nation celebrate the collaborative relationship and the sale of lands by Province to Haisla Nation.

Audience: who are they?

- Kitimat community and dignitaries
- Haisla Nation chief councillor Ellis Ross, and Haisla Nation community members
- Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad
- Industry officials related to LNG development
- Invited guests and media

KEY MESSAGES:

1. The sale of the former Kitimat hospital lands by the Province to Haisla Nation significantly enhances the relationship between the three governments.
2. The purchase provides the Haisla Nation more opportunities to meaningfully engage in the economy.
3. We are committed to working in partnership with First Nations to ensure First Nations communities can participate and benefit from LNG success.

I am honoured to be here with you today on the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Technology, Innovation, & Citizens' Services

Ron Poole, District of Kitimat Chief Administrative Officer;

Joanne Monaghan, Kitimat Mayor

Chief Ellis Ross, Haisla Nation (*note: today is his birthday*)

From the Haisla, to the first settlers, to everyone here today – British Columbians have always relied on resource development.

And whether it's fishing and forestry, or clean energy, such as liquefied natural gas....

We're working to ensure all British Columbians benefit....and that communities realize the full potential of the opportunities coming their way.

There are over 13 LNG proposals in British Columbia at various stages of development. Any of them reaching a final investment decision means a lot of change.

That's why we announced up to \$1 million in grants to help local governments in the Northwest plan for economic growth.

This will help ensure community and provincial service providers are prepared to meet the infrastructure, health, safety and social service demands.

Since I've become Premier, I've opened my door to labour, industry, First Nations, governments – anyone who wants to work together towards a more prosperous B.C.

Because it's one thing to grasp this opportunity. But it's another to do it right. And that takes honest and open dialogue, better access to information, and co-ordination among everyone involved.

Ellis Ross was one of the first people through my door. He's worked long and hard to make sure his people grasp this opportunity.

I appreciate the work of Ellis and the Haisla First Nation on the trade mission to Asia and our LNG Workforce Strategy to make sure British Columbians are first line for the jobs that will come...

First Nations and non-First Nations.

That's why I'm excited to be here today at the site of the former Kitimat hospital to announce the sale of the lands from the Province to the Haisla Nation.

It's the result of a lot of cooperation and collaboration.

It enables the Haisla to commercially develop the lands — and to provide their community with more opportunities.

It will open up economic and other opportunities to the community of Kitimat and the entire surrounding region.

I want to congratulate Haisla Nation Chief and Council and the District of Kitimat on the leadership and vision it took to get us here

And I want to thank you for the example you continue to set. We're going to keep working with British Columbians from every walk of life to ensure we do development the right way.

There's more work to be done. But if we keep working...

We can look forward to more partnerships with communities, with First Nations, industry experts, and LNG investors.

Because together, we can develop this new industry to benefit all British Columbians, from every part of the province.

(optional)

I also need to speak to something that is probably on your minds, the Federal Government's approval/decision expected today on Northern Gateway.

The Federal Government has a job to do, as the regulator.

So do we.

And we remain unchanged and consistent.

*B.C. will not consider supporting NGP or any expanded or new heavy oil pipelines through our province, unless the project meets our 5 Conditions:
passes environmental review,
meets world leading standards for marine and land spills,
gives First Nations every opportunity to be consulted, to participate and benefit,
and is fair to British Columbians.*

—END—