



Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada

July 11, 2021

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Office  
1632 St. Georges Road  
Box 430  
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

[nlakapamux@nntc.ca](mailto:nlakapamux@nntc.ca)

Dear Chiefs:

Copyright

.../2

Copyright

Copyright

Copyright

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP  
Indigenous Services Canada

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP  
Crown-Indigenous Relations

Cc:

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada  
and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General,  
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

## **Fwd: Ref. 52992 - Letter from Ministers Rankin and Farnworth**

---

From: Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>  
To: McClintock, Carol EMBC:EX <Carol.McClintock@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Herie, Beth EMBC:EX <Beth.Herie@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 12, 2021 7:19:59 AM PDT  
Attachments: 52992 - SIGNED.pdf  
Good morning Carol I hope you had a break this weekend. Tara will be looking to me to lead the implementation table. Can Kayla, or someone else on your team, support me in that?

Dave Peterson  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction  
Emergency Management BC

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** July 11, 2021 at 7:34:48 PM PDT  
**To:** "Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX" <Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>, "Chandler, Alex EMBC:EX" <Alex.Chandler@gov.bc.ca>, "Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX" <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ref. 52992 - Letter from Ministers Rankin and Farnworth

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Minister, IRR IRR:EX" <IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** July 11, 2021 at 7:32:49 PM PDT  
**To:** Matthew Pasco <sup>s.22</sup>, nlakapamux@nntc.ca, chief@lfn.band, executive@lfn.band, Boothroydband@gmail.com, Dougmc707@yahoo.com, <sup>s.22</sup>  
**Cc:** carolyn.bennett@canada.ca, Marc.Miller@canada.ca, "Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX" <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, "Caul, Doug D IRR:EX" <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>, "Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX" <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, "Massey, Christine MMHA:EX" <Christine.Massey@gov.bc.ca>, "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Ref. 52992 - Letter from Ministers Rankin and Farnworth

Good evening,

Please find attached a letter from Minister Murray Rankin and Minister Mike Farnworth. A physical letter will not follow.

Thank you,

Office of the Honourable Minister Rankin  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Ph: 250.953.4844 | E: [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)



Ref. 52992

July 11, 2021

Matthew Pasco  
Tribal Chair  
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Dear Chief Matthew Pasco:

This is a follow up to the July 10, 2021, letter from British Columbia and Canada outlining commitments to, and next steps with, Indigenous leadership regarding wildfire recovery and rail safety. As we have discussed and in acknowledgement of the specific impacts of the Lytton fire on the Lytton First Nation, we offer this letter to guide the next steps with the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) and the Lytton First Nation regarding recovery from the devastating fire.

We agree that our 2017 Political Accord on Advancing Recognition, Reconciliation, and Implementation of Title and Rights provides us with the appropriate framework for the next steps outlined below. As per the 2017 Accord, the foundation of the government-to-government relationship between British Columbia and NNTC is the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. All relations between British Columbia and NNTC, including the implementation of the actions in this letter, will be based on this foundation.

In addition, as per the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between British Columbia and NNTC including the implementation of the actions outline in this letter.

.../2

---

Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
email: [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
website: [www.gov.bc.ca/irr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr)

Telephone: 250 953-4844  
Facsimile: 250 953-4856

Together through this letter we confirm the following:

1. British Columbia and NNTC will form a leadership implementation table that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of this letter and ensuring progress is being made for the Lytton First Nation on recovery from the Lytton fire. The table will consist of Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Janet Webster, Minister Farnworth, and Minister Rankin. The table will be established upon confirmation of this letter and will meet on a mutually agreeable frequency.
2. British Columbia and NNTC will form an implementation coordination task force consisting of three representatives of the NNTC and three representatives of British Columbia. The task force will be responsible for developing and implementing workplans for each of the commitments in the July 10, 2021 letter and this letter and tracking the completion of immediate, near, medium, and long-term deliverables. The task force will begin work by July 13, 2021 and will provide regular updates to the leadership implementation table.
3. British Columbia will provide NNTC initial funding \$100,000 to begin implementation of the actions in this letter. British Columbia acknowledges that substantially more funding will be needed to "build back better" the damage NNTC communities, and in particular the Lytton First Nation. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada regarding funding of these needs.
4. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that enhanced health supports, including mental health supports, are amongst the urgent needs for those members of NNTC affected by the fires. British Columbia and the NNTC will work with the First Nations Health Authority to develop a plan, including funding, that builds on the current and ongoing supports. The parties will develop the plan by July 20, 2021.
5. British Columbia and NNTC recommit to the full implementation of their Political Accord, and specifically all the commitments in section 6. The Parties mutually appoint Dr. Roshan Danesh, QC to facilitate the full implementation of section 6, including making recommendations to the leadership implementation table by September 30, 2021 on recommendations that include clear structures and processes between the parties for dealing with future emergencies.
6. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that addressing the emergency situation that has occurred will require structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of co-operation that have not previously been in place between them, and that they will work together in new ways to address all disputes and disagreements that may arise in the implementation of this letter.

.../3



7. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada in the implementation of this letter.

In addition to the commitments of the July 10, 2021 letter, we confirm our mutual understandings of the actions outlined above by signing below.



---

Murray Rankin, QC  
Minister of Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation



---

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor  
General

---

Chief Matthew Pasco  
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Chair

---

Chief Janet Webster  
Lytton First Nation

---

Chief Douglas McIntyre  
Skuppah First Nation

---

Chief Mike Campbell  
Boothroyd First Nation

CC: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Indigenous Services

Doug Caul, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

.../4

Christine Massey, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Tara Richards, Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC  
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

**TO:** Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

**ISSUE:**

**Update on the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) – BC-Canada Coordination Task Force on Wildfire Recovery and Rail Safety commitments and provincial supports to community recovery efforts for the September 2, 2021 meeting between Chief Matt Pasco, Minister Rankin and Minister Farnworth.**

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Nlaka'pamux Nation is made up of sixteen Indigenous communities in the Fraser/Thompson Rivers Canyon area. The Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council is a governing entity who represents the interests for four of those Nations: Boothroyd, Lytton, Oregon Jack Creek, and Skuppah.
- On June 30, 2021 wildfires began to overwhelm the Nlaka'pamux homeland with catastrophic impacts in and around Lytton (the "Fire"). The Fire required Lytton to be evacuated and remain evacuated. Many Nlaka'pamux have been directly affected, displaced from their homes, and dispersed throughout the homeland and beyond.
- Many complex inter-jurisdictional issues exist in emergency response. Clear structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of co-operation that have not previously been in place are required for dealing with this and any future emergencies.
- On July 11, 2021, BC and Canada respectively wrote letters of commitment to NNTC outlining Commitments regarding fire recovery and rail safety – including the establishment of an Implementation Coordination Task Force – to develop and implement work plans for these Commitments (the "Letters").

**DISCUSSION**

- The NNTC-BC-Canada Coordination Task Force stood up on August 6th and has been meeting on a weekly basis. The Terms of Reference has been drafted, membership has been confirmed, and the Task Force is now in the process of establishing three working groups to carry out key commitments identified in the Letters. For clarity, these working groups and associated Commitments include:

1. **Build Back Better:** Supporting community recovery and rebuilding including through developing a short, medium, and long-term recovery and rebuilding plan. The plan will include the gathering of required information, identifying additional short, medium, and long-term funding requirements beyond the amounts in the Letters, and confirming timelines associated with the recovery and rebuilding effort.
    - **Interim Housing:** Develop a plan and funding for interim housing for all affected individuals and families
    - **Mental Health Support:** Work with the First Nations Health Authority to identify how best to meet mental health support needs and develop a plan for providing mental health support for the communities
  2. **Comprehensive Framework Agreement:** Led by Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), develop a comprehensive framework agreement with the federal government to guide the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux title, rights, jurisdiction, and laws in their relationship. The federal and NNTC representatives on the Task Force will oversee the creation of a working group that will be responsible for developing the framework by the stipulated date.
  3. **Political Accord:** Led by Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation, support full implementation of the Political Accord between BC and NNTC, including making recommendations to the Leadership Table by September 30, 2021, that include clear structures and processes between the parties for dealing with future emergencies. The BC and NNTC representatives of the Task Force will work with Dr. Roshan Danesh to ensure that this work is completed by September 30, 2021.
- The Province has already flowed \$100K in funding to NNTC as well as \$100K in funding to First Nations Emergency Support Services (FNESS) as part of initial commitments.
  - Through the Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has provided an additional \$1.8M in additional funding to FNESS to increase their ability to support communities impacted by wildfires. Canada has also provided NNTC with initial funding of \$2M to begin implementation of the Letter and support Lytton First Nation in immediate recovery needs.

- The Task Force will be meeting the morning of September 2; a verbal update can be provided prior to the meeting with Chief Pasco.

**Provincial Support to Recovery:**

- In parallel with the Province's work with the NNTC, the Province has been directly working with both the Lytton First Nation and the Village of Lytton in directly supporting those communities in their recovery activity as outlined below.
- The Province recognizes that successful community recovery is driven from within the community, with the key decisions made by the community and its leaders; the provincial and federal role is to provide support to those community decisions as appropriate within their mandates.
- Provincial support is predicated on a coordinated all-of-government approach; Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is responsible for the cross-government coordination of community recovery, within their overall mandate of leading the management of provincial-level emergencies and disasters and supporting other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction.
- A provincial state of emergency was declared on July 20, 2021 and extended on August 3, 2021 in response to the ongoing wildfire situation. The Minister's Deputies Emergency Council (MDEC) activated on July 2, 2021. As per the Interim Disaster Recovery Framework, the Lytton Recovery ADM Committee was stood up on July 20, 2021 and an accompanying Deputy/Executive Director Working Group on August 17, 2021. Due to significant regional impacts beyond only Lytton and Lytton First Nation (LFN), both committees will begin to include a wider wildfire recovery focus in addition to Lytton/LFN.
- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) for First Nations communities and local governments was declared province-wide on July 2, 2021 in response to the wildfires.
- Evacuees were displaced from Kamloops to Abbotsford, with Resilience Centres in Kamloops and Skeetchestn.
- Emergency Support Services (ESS) has been available for evacuees since June 30, 2021 with a revised renewal date of October 1, 2021. If interim recovery supports are not confirmed by October 1, 2021 a decision on further extension of ESS will be required.

- Hazard assessments conducted in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment deem the area around Lytton and LFN hazardous to human health. Emergency Program Act (EPA) funds may be available to support re-entry work and safety provided they are pre-approved by EMBC
- EMBC's Community Recovery Branch continues to increase staff compliment in response to recovery need, including accepting staff supports from the Government of Alberta as of August 23, 2021 and creating dedicated teams for Okanagan Indian Band / Regional District of Central Okanagan (OKIB / RDCO) and Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) impacts
  - The Province is attending weekly recovery planning meetings with other partners [BC Housing, ISC, Urban Systems, FNESS, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)]
  - The Province has assigned a Senior Recovery Specialist to support LFN and provided a re-entry coordinator to LFN at their request
  - EMBC and ISC are meeting weekly to coordinate funding to LFN for recovery needs

**Interim Housing:**

- s.12; s.13; s.17

1. Interim housing planning with the Lytton First Nation and Village of Lytton is underway, with some options targeted for early/mid-October. Lytton First Nation's Request for Proposal for housing closed on August 26, 2021
  2. s.12; s.13; s.16; s.17
  3. The LFN has clearly articulated the desire to return to traditional territory and seeks to have interim housing provided on reserve land. They have identified several potential sites. BC Housing, EMBC, and ISC have been invited to participate in a site-selection visit to LFN reserve land. This was scheduled for August 16, 2021 but due to new evacuation orders was required to be rescheduled. LFN had a Request for Proposals for modular housing that closed on August 27, 2021
- For off-reserve members of LFN and other nations who lived in the townsite of Lytton, costs of interim and permanent housing will not be covered by the federal

## Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP)

1. Funding interim housing will be an immediate pressure that the Province will be asked to address. Unmet needs for long-term housing will be evaluated following insurance information being fully available and after considering significant corporate donations (such as lumber donations for rebuild) s.12; s.13; s.17  
s.12; s.13; s.17

### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- The work undertaken by the Coordination Task Force is part of BC and Canada's commitment to working with NNTC in a government-to-government relationship and premised on the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. The standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between BC, Canada and NNTC including the implementation of the Letters

### OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Environment

### PREPARED BY:

Carol McClintock  
Executive Director  
Strategic Partnerships  
EMBC

s.17

### REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	TR	Sept 1/21
ADM	DP	Sept. 1/21

### Attachment(s):

July 10, 2021 - Joint BC/Canada Commitment letter to NNTC  
July 11, 2021 – Commitment letter to Chief Pasco

Cliff: 623327  
Date Prepared: August 31, 2021





Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

July 10, 2021

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Office  
1632 St. Georges Road  
Box 430  
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

[nlakapamux@nntc.ca](mailto:nlakapamux@nntc.ca)

Dear Chiefs:

Copyright

Copyright

Cliff: 623327  
Date Prepared: August 31, 2021

Copyright

Copyright

Sincerely,



The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP  
Indigenous Services of Canada  
Government of Canada



Minister Mike Farnworth  
Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Government of British Columbia

Cc:

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations  
The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada  
and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities  
The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport  
The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource  
Operations and Rural Development  
The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure



Ref. 52992

July 11, 2021

Matthew Pasco  
Tribal Chair  
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Dear Chief Matthew Pasco:

This is a follow up to the July 10, 2021, letter from British Columbia and Canada outlining commitments to, and next steps with, Indigenous leadership regarding wildfire recovery and rail safety. As we have discussed and in acknowledgement of the specific impacts of the Lytton fire on the Lytton First Nation, we offer this letter to guide the next steps with the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) and the Lytton First Nation regarding recovery from the devastating fire.

We agree that our 2017 Political Accord on Advancing Recognition, Reconciliation, and Implementation of Title and Rights provides us with the appropriate framework for the next steps outlined below. As per the 2017 Accord, the foundation of the government-to-government relationship between British Columbia and NNTC is the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. All relations between British Columbia and NNTC, including the implementation of the actions in this letter, will be based on this foundation.

In addition, as per the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between British Columbia and NNTC including the implementation of the actions outline in this letter.

.../2

Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
email: [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
website: [www.gov.bc.ca/irr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr)

Telephone: 250 953-4844  
Facsimile: 250 953-4856

Ref. 52992

- 2 -

Together through this letter we confirm the following:

1. British Columbia and NNTC will form a leadership implementation table that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of this letter and ensuring progress is being made for the Lytton First Nation on recovery from the Lytton fire. The table will consist of Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Janet Webster, Minister Farnworth, and Minister Rankin. The table will be established upon confirmation of this letter and will meet on a mutually agreeable frequency.
2. British Columbia and NNTC will form an implementation coordination task force consisting of three representatives of the NNTC and three representatives of British Columbia. The task force will be responsible for developing and implementing workplans for each of the commitments in the July 10, 2021 letter and this letter and tracking the completion of immediate, near, medium, and long-term deliverables. The task force will begin work by July 13, 2021 and will provide regular updates to the leadership implementation table.
3. British Columbia will provide NNTC initial funding \$100,000 to begin implementation of the actions in this letter. British Columbia acknowledges that substantially more funding will be needed to "build back better" the damage NNTC communities, and in particular the Lytton First Nation. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada regarding funding of these needs.
4. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that enhanced health supports, including mental health supports, are amongst the urgent needs for those members of NNTC affected by the fires. British Columbia and the NNTC will work with the First Nations Health Authority to develop a plan, including funding, that builds on the current and ongoing supports. The parties will develop the plan by July 20, 2021.
5. British Columbia and NNTC recommit to the full implementation of their Political Accord, and specifically all the commitments in section 6. The Parties mutually appoint Dr. Roshan Danesh, QC to facilitate the full implementation of section 6, including making recommendations to the leadership implementation table by September 30, 2021 on recommendations that include clear structures and processes between the parties for dealing with future emergencies.
6. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that addressing the emergency situation that has occurred will require structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of co-operation that have not previously been in place between them, and that they will work together in new ways to address all disputes and disagreements that may arise in the implementation of this letter.

.../3

Ref. 52992

- 3 -

7. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada in the implementation of this letter.

In addition to the commitments of the July 10, 2021 letter, we confirm our mutual understandings of the actions outlined above by signing below.



---

Murray Rankin, QC  
Minister of Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation



---

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor  
General

---

Chief Matthew Pasco  
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Chair

---

Chief Janet Webster  
Lytton First Nation

---

Chief Douglas McIntyre  
Skuppah First Nation

---

Chief Mike Campbell  
Boothroyd First Nation

CC: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Indigenous Services

Doug Caul, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

.../4

Ref. 52992

- 4 -

Christine Massey, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Tara Richards, Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General