

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX(Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca)
To: Kaitlyn.Engholm@gov.bc.ca, Engholm, Kaitlyn GCPE:EX
Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca, Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EXMike.Allison@gov.bc.ca, Allison,
To: Mike GCPE:EXTara.Saracuse@gov.bc.ca, Saracuse, Tara GCPE:EXRavi.Reetoo@gov.bc.ca,
Reetoo, Ravi GCPE:EX
Subject: IRR Follow-up Media Request: Millstone development Nanaimo
Sent: 07/15/2024 20:42:12

Reporter

Julie Chadwick, Reporter
IndigiNews
julie@thediscourse.ca
s. 22

Deadline **OVERDUE** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 4:30 PM
Responded Tuesday, April 30, 2024 1:35 PM

Request

Hey Leanne, I'm working on this story and had a few questions as it pertains to your response (below). I fully understand the limitations of what can be said about an ongoing process but there's been some developments on this file just prior to, and after, your response. My new questions in response to your statements are in red, with the most important parts emphasized in bold. My questions are numbered.

OG Min Response (March 22, 2024): Since July 2023, the Province has supported a mediation process that has sought solutions to this issue with the City, Snuneymuxw First Nation and Oakwood Park Estates.

Reporter Response: At a city council meeting on March 18, 2024, Jeremy Holm, the city's director of planning and development, told councillors the city had not received notification from the province that the facilitated process has concluded, but that the city were told by the property owner that it had withdrawn from that mitigation process but were nevertheless asking council to consider adoption of the bylaws.

OG Min Response: We understand that Nanaimo City Council has determined that the rezoning be brought back for further public hearing prior to any third reading.

Reporter Response: That hearing happened on April 18, and it passed third reading, despite a strongly worded submission during the hearing from Snuneymuxw Chief Mike Wyse, that indicated the nation continued to be opposed to the development, due to what he described as the applicant's failure to address environmental concerns, a failure to address the site's archaeological significance, and a failure to address the site's pre-colonial history.

OG Min Response: We continue to work towards resolution of these issues.

Reporter Follow-up Qs:

1. Can you confirm whether or not the mediation process has concluded? What was the end result? And can you confirm if Oakwood Park Estates has indeed withdrawn from the process? Under what circumstances?
2. If the mediation process has failed (as it apparently has), what is the province's position on this project moving to third reading?
3. What action is the province planning to take in lieu of the failed mediation process? (ie, is it prepared to step in and intervene?)

Response

Statement from the Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:
We are having very productive discussions with the developer.

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from March 20, 2024.

REQUEST:

Request initially sent directly to Deputy Minister.... sent on to GCPE

I am an editor with The Discourse Nanaimo, a local online news outlet. I'm writing to request an interview regarding the status of mediation with Snuneymyxw, the city and the developer of the Millstone/Howard Johnson site.

Last year we reported on the letter you sent, urging Nanaimo city council to pause any decisions made in the rezoning and development approval of Millstone Riverfront property at 1 Terminal Ave.

The city is now moving the project back to public hearing, and a city staff member said at a Monday meeting: "At this point in time, the City has not received official communication from the province [their process was complete]. What the City has received is a request from the land owner that the bylaws be returned to Council for consideration of adoption. The land owner has indicated they've withdrawn from the facilitated process."

Could you please update us on the status of mediation? Are you available for a phone call this week?

As I am sure you can understand, disputes between local First Nations and municipalities related to development can contribute to polarization when not dealt with openly, we'd like to get the public some clarity on what is underway to avoid speculation.

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

From the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:

- We understand that Nanaimo City Council has determined that the rezoning be brought back for further public hearing prior to any third reading.
- Since July 2023, the Province has supported a mediation process that has sought solutions to this issue with the City, Snuneymuxw First Nation and Oakwood Park Estates.
- We continue to work towards resolution of these issues.
- Some of these discussions involve sensitive business confidence, which you can appreciate must remain confidential.
- While these discussions are confidential, please be assured that the Province will announce any updates as and when appropriate. We will share more information as soon as we have it.

From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX(Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca)
To: Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca, Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX
Shawn.G.Larabee@gov.bc.ca, Larabee, Shawn G GCPE:EXMike.Allison@gov.bc.ca, Allison,
To: Mike GCPE:EXTara.Saracuse@gov.bc.ca, Saracuse, Tara GCPE:EXRavi.Reetoo@gov.bc.ca,
Reetoo, Ravi GCPE:EX
Subject: IRR Media Request: Millstone development Nanaimo
Sent: 07/15/2024 20:49:55

Reporter

Lauren Kaljur, Reporter
Discourse Media
lauren@thediscourse.ca
778-885-4391 c: 778-885-4391

Deadline **OVERDUE** Friday, March 22, 2024 2:00 PM
Responded Friday, March 22, 2024 6:37 PM

Request

Request initially sent directly to Deputy Minister.... sent on to GCPE

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Response

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From: Ritchie, Leanne GCPE:EX(Leanne.Ritchie@gov.bc.ca)
To: Art.Aronson@gov.bc.ca, Aronson, Art GCPE:EX
Subject: IRR Media Request: Snuneymuxw Nanaimo Development
Sent: 07/15/2024 20:42:42

Reporter

Lys Morton, Reporter
Nanaimo Discourse
lys@revelstokemountaineer.com
s. 22

Deadline **OVERDUE** Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:00 PM
Responded Friday, July 14, 2023 8:48 AM

Request

Looking for a statement as soon as possible.

What is the background behind this letter and why was it sent, and how did this issue come to the attention of the B.C. Government?

Response

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation supports a collaborative approach and dialogue between the Snuneymuxw First Nation, City of Nanaimo, and the developer. We believe a multi-party negotiation, particularly led by a skilled and experienced former public servant such as Lorne Brownsey, has the potential to reach a successful resolution that meets the interests of all parties. It's important we allow time for this work to occur. We acknowledge and respect the sensitivity around the historic Sxwayxum village site and hope all parties can come to an understanding.