

Ponchet, Kim IRR:EX

From: Fraser.MLA, Scott <Scott.Fraser.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 12:28 PM
To: Minister, IRR IRR:EX
Subject: 43615 FW: ?Esdilagh First Nation - MoTI Highway 97 Corridor Development
Attachments: Esdilagh Hwy 97 Corridor Development MoTI Jan 17, 2018.pdf

Categories: FYI/FILE

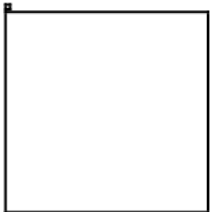
From: Scott Scholefield [<mailto:scott.scholefield@esdilaghdevcorp.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 5:29 PM
To: Trevena.MLA, Claire ; Roy Stump ; Counsitor Baptiste ; Counsitor Johnny ; Counsitor Stump ; Chad Stump ; Crystal Verhaeghe ; Douglas Eyford ; Rod Cook
Cc: Oakes.MLA, Coralee ; Barnett.MLA, Donna ; Fraser.MLA, Scott ; Todd.Doherty.C1@parl.gc.ca ; Kuldip.Gill@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca ; mayor@quesnel.ca ; mayor@williamslake.ca ; tarmstrong@cariboord.ca ; sforseth@cariboord.ca ; Drummond, Dawn B TRAN:EX ; Fennell, Kipp TRAN:EX
Subject: ?Esdilagh First Nation - MoTI Highway 97 Corridor Development

Please find attached a letter from Nitsil'in (Chief) Victor Roy Stump regarding your priority consideration of this project.

Thank you,

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Scott Scholefield MSc, RPF
Board Director, Esdilagh Development Corporation
Ph: (250)267-8428





? ESDILAGH FIRST NATION

423 Elliot Street, Quesnel BC V2J 1Y6

Phone: (250) 991-6000

Chief@esdilagh.ca

January 17, 2017

Honourable Claire Trevena

Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure

PO Box 9055 Prov Stn Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

RE: HWY 97 CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT & WEST FRASER ROAD SECTION 35 TRANSFER

As Chief of ʔEsdilagh First Nation I want to tell you how pleased my Council, Elders , and community members were about the public announcement on March 27, 2017 by MLA Coralee Oakes. \$200 Million was committed towards improving Highway 97 between Cache Creek and Prince George. This announcement included significant highway improvements as part of an overall strategy to four-lane the highway south of Quesnel to Williams Lake and beyond. Highway 97 bisects ʔEsdilagh First Nation Indian Reserve (IR) lands. Historic trespasses of the West Fraser Road and Cuisson Lake Road through other IR lands and our territories remain unresolved.

Also, the decision of the BC Liberal Government to remove the Marguerite Ferry in 2003 has resulted in the severing of our communities which we were forced upon through colonization. With the flow and quality of our mighty river irrevocably altered through settler activities, we are unable to cross safely as we once did. Members have fallen through the ice and continue to cross by small boats. We are exploring joint ventures with bridge companies and hope to engage government moving forwards in reconciliation.

My community is fully engaged and committed to moving forwards with the Province of British Columbia towards a successful Section 35 transfer. On November 30th, 2017 at a Comprehensive Community Planning Meeting we presented the state of negotiations and opportunities to a large gathering of Elders and community members. There is excitement growing in ʔEsdilagh about how Section 35 community benefits could dovetail with plans for several business enterprises and a regional tourism destination benefiting us and our neighbours in Quesnel and Williams Lake.

My vision is to connect our communities and bring my people home to prosper. We will bring the world's attention to our experience and connection to the land since time immemorial by sharing the authentic Indigenous-settler history in the recreation of historic Fort Alexandria. We have already received a grant from the BC Rural Dividend Fund to build our first structure, a 100' diameter cultural and reconciliation arbor. The highway expansion will enable us to realize our



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vision for my people while highlighting the Province's commitment to accept and act on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action.

Up until our meeting in Kamloops on December 13, 2017 we were operating on communication that the project may commence in and around the fall of 2019. As you can imagine, we were quite surprised, disappointed and concerned to learn that your government's commitment is now uncertain and that the decision to proceed with highway construction may not come until after the provincial budget in February of 2018. In the meantime, regional staff have committed to jointly developing a draft work plan towards a Terms of Reference (TOR), including adequate capacity funding for an integrated land use plan and transportation network plan.

As the Chief of my community, I ask you with honor and respect to please consider the Highway 97 corridor development through ?Esdilagh traditional territory a high priority for your government. Secondly, I would also like to have the historic trespasses on West Fraser Road/Cuisson Lake Road through IR 12 and access connecting our communities resolved for my people. We want to get at it.

I look forward to a direct reply from yourself copied to my team.

Sechanalyagh (thank you),

Nitsil'in Victor Roy Stump

Cc: ?Esdilagh First Nation Councilor William Baptiste

Cc: ?Esdilagh First Nation Councilor Howard Johnny

Cc: ?Esdilagh First Nation Councilor Norma Jean Stump

Cc: ?Esdilagh First Nation Band Manager Chad Stump

Cc: Esdilagh Development Corporation Directors Chad Stump, Crystal Verhaeghe, Scott Scholefield

Cc: MLA Coralee Oakes and MLA Donna Barnett

Cc: Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Cc: MP Todd Doherty

Cc: Kuldip Gill, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Cc: Mayors of Quesnel, Bob Simpson and Williams Lake, Walt Cobb

Cc: CRD Directors Ted Armstrong and Steve Forseyth

Cc: Douglas Eyford, Eyford Macaulay Shaw & Padmanabhan LLP

Cc: Rod Cook, Manager Partner Kent-Macpherson