

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
AND RECONCILIATION
BRIEFING NOTE

Date: June 19, 2013
Ref. No. 31883

File: 280-20

I Prepared for the **DECISION** of Honourable Minister John Rustad

II ISSUE: Escalating direct action by Unist'ot'en activists.

III BACKGROUND:

CN/ED____
ADM____
DM____

A group of activists ^{s.16} is blockading the Morice West Forest Service Road where it crosses the Morice River (see Appendix 1). The activists have a camp and a permanent cabin at the bridge and ^{s.16}

At present the activists are focused primarily, but not exclusively, on opposing proposed natural gas pipeline projects, including Apache/Chevron's Pacific Trail Pipeline (PTP) and TransCanada's Coastal GasLink project. ^{s.16}

The First Nations Limited Partnership (FNLPP), made up of 15 of the 16 First Nations on the PTP route, has concluded benefits agreements with the BC Government and Apache/Chevron for the PTP project. The Moricetown Band, ^{s.16} is the only eligible First Nation that has not joined the FNLPP. ^{s.16}

IV DISCUSSION:

^{s.15; s.16}

The BC Government typically has not sought injunctions in response to civil disobedience directed toward specific private interests such as mines or forestry licensees, but has supported proponents who choose to do so. A decision to seek an injunction on behalf of the BC Government rests with the Attorney General and would consider not only the particulars at hand but the broader public interest.

s.16

V OPTIONS:

Option 1: Do not take an active role in addressing the Unist'ot'en situation.
s.16

Option 2: Work with the FNLP to engage the Unist'ot'en and/or the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs^{s.15; s.16}
s.15; s.16

s.15; s.16

Option 3: Prepare information to support a decision by the Attorney General to seek an injunction^{s.16}
s.16

VI RECOMMENDATION:

Option 2: Work with the FNLP to engage the Unist'ot'en and/or the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs.

Honourable John Rustad, Minister
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Date

Approved/Not Approved

Appendices: 1. Map of Unist'ot'en Blockade Area
 2. Summary of Unist'ot'en Activist Activities, 2010-Present

Tony Pesklevits, Regional Negotiator, (250-847-7511)
Tena Gilmore, Negotiator/Manager, Critical Incidents (250-356-9693)
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MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
AND RECONCILIATION
BRIEFING NOTE

September 17, 2013
Ref. No. 32602

File: 280-20

I Prepared for the **INFORMATION** of Honourable John Rustad, Minister

II ISSUE:

Escalating direct action by Unist'ot'en activists.

III BACKGROUND:

CN/ED____
ADM____
DM____

A group of activists ^{s.16}

^{s.16} are blockading the Morice West Forest Service Road where it crosses the Morice River. The activists have a camp and a permanent cabin at the bridge and ^{s.16}

^{s.16} At present the activists are focused primarily, but not exclusively, on opposing proposed natural gas pipeline projects, including Apache/Chevron's Pacific Trail Pipeline (PTP) and TransCanada's Coastal GasLink project.

The First Nations Limited Partnership (FNLP), made up of 15 of the 16 First Nations on the PTP route, has concluded benefits agreements with the BC Government and Apache/Chevron for the PTP project. The Moricetown Band, ^{s.16}

^{s.16} is the only eligible First Nation that has not joined the FNLP. ^{s.16}
^{s.16}

IV DISCUSSION:

^{s.15; s.16}

^{s.16}

s.16

CONCLUSION:

s.16

s.16

Ministry staff have been meeting with proponents to discuss the situation and develop strategies for more effective communication with the Wet'suwet'en community.

The Ministry has also recently engaged an intermediary to work with the Unist'ot'en and/or the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs,^{s.16}

s.16

A series of briefings were held with the intermediary between late August and early September. Following this, contact was made with key individuals who are known to be aligned with the Unist'ot'en, and with other members of the Wet'suwet'en who could provide a broader community perspective. ^{s.16}

and is being assessed with respect to how the Province can more constructively engage with the Wet'suwet'en and how best to address some of their concerns regarding pipelines.

The Province also continues to advance other engagement strategies with the Wet'suwet'en, ^{s.16} and build capacity.

s.15; s.16

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s.16

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s.14 ; s.16

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VI RECOMMENDATION:

Option 2: Work with the FNLP to engage the Unist'ot'en and/or the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs.


Honourable John Rustad, Minister
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

July 16, 2013
Date

Approved/Not Approved

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