

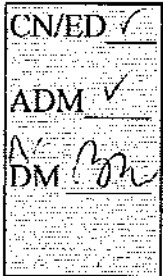
MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
AND RECONCILIATION
BRIEFING NOTE

File: 280-20

Date: August 6, 2013
Ref. No. 32292

- I Prepared for the **INFORMATION** of Minister John Rustad
- II **ISSUE:** Minister John Rustad meeting with Takla Lake First Nation.
- III **BACKGROUND:**

Takla Lake First Nation (Pron: tak-la lake) has 587 band members - the main community residing on North Takla Lake Indian Reserve #7, at Takla Landing on the east shore of Takla Lake, approximately 130 km north of Fort St James.



Elections took place on July 24-26, 2013 and the new Chief of Takla is Anita Williams; Councillors are Elke Lepka, John Allen French, Sandra Teegee and Sylvia Jack.

Takla is affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) and is currently not active in the treaty process.

Status of agreements and negotiations:

Existing agreements with Takla include a Forest and Range Opportunity Agreement and a Reclamation Protocol. MARR will initiate negotiation of a Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) within the next few months.

There is an opportunity for a Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) in partnership with CSTC and its member bands, and CSTC is promoting the development of a SEA, on behalf of Takla. However, MARR has not engaged directly with Takla and it is still unclear as to the level of support from the First Nation on this proposal.

IV **DISCUSSION:**

Minister Rustad can expect to meet with the Chief and Council. Takla may also invite community members and Elders to attend the meeting.

It is anticipated that the following items will be raised during the meeting:

Pipeline: There are two significant initiatives that may result in new pipelines west from Prince George to the north coast area and may cross Takla territory: Enbridge and liquefied natural gas (LNG). Takla are publically opposed to the Enbridge pipeline. Further information on LNG is provided in a separate briefing note, 32287

Mineral exploration, land use and new developments in Takla Traditional Territory: Takla, Kwadacha First Nation, and Tsay Keh Dene have worked together as Tse Keh Nay to address their concerns around mining, exploration, mine closure and land use. Tse Keh Nay was initially formed to provide opposition to the Kemess North project. In 2008 a decision was made by the Federal Government that the project could not proceed as proposed.

Scoping discussions on a mining protocol between the Province and Tse Keh Nay were active in 2011 and 2012. In 2012 the Province received a mandate to negotiate an integrated mining agreement with Tse Keh Nay. However, the three bands have not yet indicated an interest to negotiate the agreement. Northgate Minerals (Kemess Underground) have recently developed a successful relationship with Tse Keh Nay and there is potential for an ECDA to be negotiated for this project.

V KEY MESSAGES:

- The Province would like to see beneficial arrangements with Takla that would facilitate prosperity for their communities from the LNG sector.
- The Province encourages Takla to continue working with MARR regional staff and MARR negotiators to develop strategies to address specific interests and concerns and to discuss an FCRSA that could bring financial benefits to the community.

If pressed on a commitment to develop a SEA:

- The Province encourages Takla First Nation to work with CSTC to engage MARR staff on discussions for a phased approach to a SEA.
- A consultation process to support Takla First Nation engagement on LNG pipeline related authorizations is a priority interest for the Province and could provide a stepping stone to a comprehensive SEA arrangement.

If pressed on the commitment to negotiate an ECDA for the Kemess Underground Project:

- The Province is willing to meet with Takla and the Tse Keh Nay so that the parties can update one another on the status of the issues related to the proposed mining agreement and the proposed Kemess Underground project.
- There is an opportunity to explore revenue sharing and the development of an ECDA for proposed Kemess Underground, should the mine advance. A provincial negotiation mandate is still required.