

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
AND RECONCILIATION
BRIEFING NOTE

File: 280-20

Date: August 6, 2013
Ref. No. 32290

- I Prepared for the **INFORMATION** of Minister John Rustad
- II **ISSUE:** Minister Rustad meeting with Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
- III **BACKGROUND:**

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (pron: clayt-lee ten-ay) is a Carrier community of approximately 320, located in the vicinity of Prince George.

CN/ED	✓
ADM	✓
DM	<i>[Signature]</i>

The Chief of Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (Lheidli T'enneh) is Dominic Frederick and Councillors are Clarence John, Louella Nome and Jennifer Pighin.

Lheidli T'enneh is not a member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council or other larger tribal grouping. Lheidli T'enneh, whose traditional territory encompasses the Prince George area and east to the Alberta border, was one of the initial First Nations to become involved in the BC Treaty Process. Lheidli T'enneh, the Province, and Canada initialled a Final Agreement in October 2006, but the community ratification vote in March 2007 was not successful.

Status of agreements and negotiations:

There are two existing agreements with Lheidli T'enneh: a Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement and a Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement.

IV **DISCUSSION:**

Minister Rustad can expect to meet with the Chief and Council. Community members and Elders invited by Lheidli T'enneh may also be in attendance.

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

Pipelines: There are two significant initiatives that may result in new pipelines west from Prince George to the north coast area; Enbridge and liquefied natural gas (LNG). Lheidli T'enneh has not clearly stated whether they support or oppose the Enbridge project. Further information is provided in LNG Briefing Note, 32287

Treaty Negotiations: The Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement was initialled October 29, 2006. Both the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George were strong supporters of the Final Agreement. On March 30, 2007, Lheidli T'enneh members voted against the Agreement by a slim majority. Since the failed ratification vote, Chief Dominic Frederick has expressed an interest in holding a second vote. British Columbia has indicated support for a second vote based on the initialled Agreement. Canada met with Lheidli T'enneh last fall, but has yet to announce the results of their review; thus, it is unclear whether they would first seek changes to the initialled Agreement prior to a second vote.

There are currently no formal plans in place for a second ratification vote. There are currently no scheduled tri-partite meetings with Lheidli T'enneh.

Hart North Industrial Site: The City of Prince George has applied for a crown grant of a 585 ha parcel of lands known as the North Hart Industrial Site, north of the city limits. The City proposes to use the property to attract industry to the Prince George area and have proceeded with an application to acquire the land.

The First Nation has recently indicated to the Province that they have been considering those lands as future additions to Treaty Selection Lands (TSL). They have requested that the application by the City be set aside. However, the lands in question are currently not included in the Final Agreement as either TSL of future acquisition lands; nor were they ever part of any offer to Lheidli T'enneh.

Elders Conference: Lheidli T'enneh hosted the 37th Annual Elders Gathering in Prince George in July 2013. Over 2,000 elders from across the province attended and the event was considered very successful.

Revenue Sharing: There is potential for up to six Economic and Community Development Agreements related to major developments in Lheidli T'enneh traditional territory. The proposals are in the very early stages and include wind farms and mineral development.

V KEY MESSAGES:

- I encourage Lheidli T'enneh to develop a strong ongoing relationship with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation regional staff and negotiators. This will provide opportunities to develop strategies to address specific interests and concerns of Lheidli T'enneh.
- The Province would like to see beneficial arrangements with Lheidli T'enneh that would facilitate prosperity for their communities from the LNG sector.
- MARR supports Lheidli T'enneh reconsidering the treaty through a new vote but does not intend to re-open negotiations.

The Province encourages Lheidli T'enneh to continue to work with the City of Prince George to resolve issues on the Hart Industrial Site proposal.