

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
AND RECONCILIATION
BRIEFING NOTE

Date: October 30, 2014
Ref. No. 35641

File: 280-20

- I Prepared for the **INFORMATION** of Honourable John Rustad, Minister
- II ISSUE: Wet'suwet'en First Nation Healing Discussion Final Report update
- III BACKGROUND:

At meetings between Honourable John Rustad, Honourable Rich Coleman, Chief Karen Ogen and other representatives of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation (WFN), commitments were made regarding exploring a healing process for the mill workers and the families of the workers who were lost in the Babine Forest Products Mill fire where 19 men were injured and 2 First Nations men lost their lives.



The WFN submitted a proposal and a shared-cost arrangement was signed supporting a one-day, facilitated session in Burns Lake.

Kim Baird was retained, by the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, to organize and facilitate the session. Ms. Baird worked closely with Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) staff on the design and delivery of the session. A number of the workers of the Babine Forest Products, families who were impacted by the 2012 explosion and fire, Chief Karen Ogen of Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Chief Wilf Adam of Lake Babine First Nation, and His Worship, Luke Strimbold, Mayor of the Village of Burns Lake attended the session on August 8, 2014.

IV DISCUSSION:

The meeting was well attended over the course of the day. People shared their personal experiences on the issues and challenges that they had faced and were continuing to face.

The Wet'suwet'en Healing Discussion Report (Report) has been provided to the First Nation's leadership, the Mayor and the Minister, as well as everyone who attended the session. The Report includes an overview of the discussion and six recommendations for the parties to consider. The expectation is that the leadership will consider the recommendations and move forward where it is possible and within their respective mandates.

CN/ED	_____
ADM	
DM	

From a provincial perspective, the following are the recommendations, status, and areas that MARR or the Province may be able to provide support:

s.16; s.13

V CONCLUSION:

MARR staff will work on bringing together line ministries and government agencies to better support the people who were impacted by the Babine Forest Products tragedy. Funding will be sought to support the convening of the leadership and affected community members to continue this important work.

s.16

Susan Kelly, Director, 250-387-2536

s.15

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s.16

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s.16 ; s.22

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s.13 ; s.16