

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 194283

Date: March 18, 2021

Title: Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) decision regarding Carrier-Sekani First Nations Treatment Centre.

Issue: Options for provincial response to the ALC's decision to decline the application by the Carrier-Sekani First Nations Treatment Centre to construct a 60-bed facility on the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land.

Background:

On February 26, 2021, the ALC released its decision to decline a non-farm use application by the Carrier-Sekani Family Services (CSFS) to build a 60-bed mental health and addiction recovery services facility on the ALR. The 9.3-hectare property is currently the site of Tachick Lake Lodge (the Lodge), located near Vanderhoof, B.C. The resort currently includes a 185-metre-square lodge, 10 cabins and 33 campsites. The Lodge predates the 1972 creation of the ALR and can continue operating on the ALR as long as it remains in its current use. The CSFS's proposal is to construct a 2,733-metre-square facility and a 400-metre-square parking lot.

The ALC reasons for the decision to decline this application focused on: the likely permanent loss of agriculture land should the new buildings be constructed; the potential impact of increasing the value of agricultural properties generally; other site options appear to be available to the applicant; and the construction of 2323 m² facility and 400m² parking lot would further alienate the property from future agriculture, proving it is inconsistent with their mandate. While the ALC's decision declines the construction of new buildings, it does approve the non-farm use of the current infrastructure for a community care facility.

Information provided by CSFS in the ALC application indicate that feasibility reviews of several alternative sites were conducted in 2014 and again in 2020. Criteria included accessibility, connectivity, current land use, potable water and the importance of natural landscapes as part of the healing process, among others. The on-reserve options were ruled out due to the complexity and uncertainty that comes with developing reserve land. Most other options were ruled out for a range of reasons, leaving three viable options, of which the Tachick Lake property was the preferred. The Tachick Lake site is the only site located in the ALR.

The CSFS is a non-profit that provides holistic wellness services to First Nations in north central B.C. The combined population of Carrier-Sekani member First Nations is over 5,000 people with combined territories of approximately 69,600 km². First Nations represent just three percent of the population but 16 percent of the overdose deaths. As part of the provincial overdose response and addictions treatment and recovery, the B.C. Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is working directly with the First Nations Health Authority and has committed \$20M to two new, and six replacement, healing and treatment centres, including the proposal by the CSFS.

The current owner of the Tachick Lake Lodge has agreed to extend the option for the CSFS to purchase this property to May 5, 2021.

First Nations Considerations: The Province has made a commitment to lasting and meaningful reconciliation with First Nations and the implementation of the *B.C. Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA). There is also a provincial commitment to work with First Nations partners to respond to the overdose and addictions crisis that disproportionately impacts First Nations communities.

Discussion:

The ALC is an independent administrative tribunal. The decision-making framework for the ALC is defined in s. 6 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (see Appendix A) and does not include economic and social factors, including First Nations considerations. As such, First Nations considerations are not explicitly part of the ALC mandate.

As defined in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA), an applicant has the option to request a reconsideration of a decision within 90 days of that decision, providing new evidence has become available that was not available at the time of the original decision, or there is evidence demonstrating that either all or part of the original decision was based on evidence that was incorrect or was false. The CSFS has 90 days to request a reconsideration.

The ALC receives many requests for reconsideration. However, less than half are deemed to meet the reconsideration criteria. Of those that are sent for reconsideration, a reversal of the original decision is rare. For example, in 2019/20, there were 87 requests for consideration, of those 33 were sent for reconsideration, only three decisions were reversed, and nine decisions were varied.

The *Environment and Land Use Act* (ELUA) provides government with broad order making powers. It provides that, “on the recommendation of [Environment and Land Use Committee], the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) may make orders the LGIC considers necessary or advisable respecting the environment or land use.” This process involves taking a land use proposal before ELUC. If ELUC agrees with the proposal, it can make a recommendation to the LGIC or make an order regarding how land can be used even if this use is contrary to existing legislation such as the ALCA.

As per changes made by Bill 15, a private landowner is unable to apply to exclude land from the ALR. However, a local government may apply to exclude land, within its jurisdiction, from the ALR. The ALCA and its regulations requires the local government to hold a public hearing, with 10 days’ notice, prior to submitting the exclusion application to the ALC. If the local government passes a resolution to support an exclusion application for land in its jurisdiction and forwards the application to the ALC, the ALC will consider its mandate in deciding on the application.

Options:

s.13

Appendix A:

Purposes of the commission

6 (1) The following are the purposes of the commission:

- (a) to preserve the agricultural land reserve;
- (b) to encourage farming of land within the agricultural land reserve in collaboration with other communities of interest;
- (c) to encourage local governments, first nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of land within the agricultural land reserve and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

(2) The commission, to fulfill its purposes under subsection (1), must give priority to protecting and enhancing all of the following in exercising its powers and performing its duties under this Act:

- (a) the size, integrity and continuity of the land base of the agricultural land reserve;
- (b) the use of the agricultural land reserve for farm use.

**MINISTRY OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS
MEETING MATERIAL**

CLIFF#: 1189289

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): Feb 19, 2021
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): 1189183

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: March 9, 2021

MEETING REQUEST/ISSUE: Meeting with Chief Corrina Leween (Cheslatta Carrier Nation), Sandra Teegee (Takla Lake First Nation), Jasmine Thomas (Saik'uz First Nation), Theresa Nooski (Nadleh Whut'en First Nation) and Chief Maureen Luggi (Wet'suwet'en First Nation) to discuss a new treatment centre being proposed by Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) in Northern BC.

SHOULD MINISTRY STAFF ATTENDING THIS MEETING: Yes, Nick Grant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning and Matthew Kinch, Senior Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Wellness

BACKGROUND:

- Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) is a non-profit society that provides health, social, and children and family services to 11 First Nation communities in northcentral BC with offices in Prince George, Burns Lake, Fort St. James and Vanderhoof.
- CSFS has contracts with Northern Health, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to deliver a continuum of primary care, mental health and substance use services for member communities.
- CSFS currently delivers a 28-day adult in-patient treatment program between the months of May and October at a facility located at Ormond Lake (approximately 25 km northwest of Vanderhoof). The facility is comprised of cabins with 14 treatment beds, pit toilets and naturally fed showers. This is a seasonal program due to the current limitations of the facility and its location. CSFS delivers a mobile outreach program during the winter months.
- The treatment facility operated by CSFS is one of ten First Nation-run treatment facilities funded by FNHA in BC. These treatment services are available to all status First Nations clients in BC (i.e. not available to Metis or non-status First Nation clients).
- CSFS is seeking capital funding from the Province to build a new wellness centre that would replace their existing facility and enable an expanded service model that could include a continuum of treatment services.
- The proposal prepared by CSFS describes a wellness centre with a detox wing (10 beds), an addiction recovery wing (35 beds), renovated cabins for longer-term recovery (8-12 beds), and associated amenities (e.g. dining hall, commercial kitchen, cultural space, nursing station, etc.).
- Based on a feasibility study completed in October 2020, it is estimated that construction costs will total \$16.64 million.

- In 2020/21, FNHA approved CSFS for \$5.75 million. This was a one-time contribution meant to cover a portion of the capital costs for this project. The funding committed for this project is cost shared by FNHA and the Province.

DISCUSSION:

- With the transfer of federal health programs and funding in 2013, FNHA assumed responsibility for the administration of ten First Nation-run treatment facilities in BC.
- In 2018, the Province of BC, the Government of Canada and the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding ('the MOU') to improve mental health and wellness services. The MOU included a commitment to develop a tripartite plan to renovate, replace and build treatment facilities across BC.
- The Province made a one-time capital contribution of \$20 million in 2019/20 in fulfillment of this commitment. FNHA made a matching capital contribution of \$20 million for a total investment of \$40 million. The Government of Canada has not made a capital contribution per its commitments in the MOU. This is likely to limit the proposed scale of some projects.
- The project being proposed by CSFS is one of six existing treatment facilities that FNHA has identified for remediation or full replacement within the \$40 million available. It is on this basis that CSFS was funded by FNHA to complete a feasibility study for a new facility.
- s.13; s.17

- s.13; s.17

- MMHA has recently established a provincial advisory committee for bed-based services. This committee includes MMHA, HLTH, Health Authorities (including FNHA), BC Housing and BCCSU. This committee presents an avenue to advance collaboration across partners and explore opportunities to leverage new and existing resources for this project.
- s.13; s.17

- s.13; s.17

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- s.13

- s.13; s.17

s.13

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Program ADM/Division: Nick Grant, Strategic Policy and Planning
Program Contact (for content): Matthew Kinch, Senior Director
Drafter: Kristin Price, Policy Analyst
Date: March 4, 2021

From: [Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX](#)
To: [Malcolmson, Sheila MMHA:EX](#)
Cc: [Olson, Michael GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: FW: 194283 MDN_ALC_Carrier Sekani Treatment Centre.docx
Date: March 19, 2021 11:45:55 AM
Attachments: [194283 MDN_ALC_Carrier Sekani Treatment Centre.docx](#)
[ATT00001.txt](#)

For your review and consideration.

Kelly

Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Sent: March 15, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Berndt, Eric GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: Additional Key Messages in advance of 2:00 meeting with Chief Corinna Leween
Attachments: RE: Key Messages MSM - CSFS Land Issue; Minister Rankin Popham and Malcomsom.2021.03.04 - Carrier Sekani.pdf

Importance: High

From: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Sent: March 9, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX <Andrew.Barrett@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Additional Key Messages in advance of 2:00 meeting with Chief Corinna Leween
Importance: High

In addition to these key messages – can you be sure MSM sees this letter from the Chief and reviews it before the meeting??

Kelly

From: Turner, Sara J MMHA:EX <Sara.Turner@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 9, 2021 10:40 AM
To: Reid, Nicole MMHA:EX <Nicole.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Turner, Sara J MMHA:EX <Sara.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX <Kayla.Murphy@gov.bc.ca>; Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>; MMHA Documents Coordinator MMHA:EX <MMHA.DocumentsCoordinator@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>; Thomson, Krystal MMHA:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>; Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX <Andrew.Barrett@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Additional Key Messages in advance of 2:00 meeting with Chief Corinna Leween
Importance: High

Hi Nicky,

See attached additional key messages for Minister in advance of this afternoons 2:00 meeting with Chief Corinna Leween.

These were prepared by SPP, and approved by Nick Grant and Christine Massey.

Sara Turner

Senior Executive Assistant
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
250-880-5114

Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Sent: March 15, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Massey, Christine MMHA:EX
Cc: Kinch, Matthew MMHA:EX; MacKenzie, Lori MMHA:EX
Subject: FW: ALC File 61143
Attachments: IN_ALC Tachik Lake community care facility_Feb 21 D2.docx

From: Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 15, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>; Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: ALC File 61143

Hi Amber,

Attached is the IN put together by AFF/MMHA with some further details but will be updated after the meeting DM Ethier has with the Carrier-Sekani leadership tomorrow. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Jason
250-812-8091

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 15, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>; Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: ALC File 61143

Yes. Jason Craik is working on this as well and provided an Issues Note. Our DM is meeting with them tomorrow morning.....

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 15, 2021, at 3:16 PM, Nash, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Nash@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Samuel,

PJH is looking for more information regarding this issue Shirley Bond Raised in QP today.

RE: Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) is seeking approval of a community care facility at the Tachick Lake Resort located within the traditional territory of the Saik'uz First Nation southwest of Vanderhoof.
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako approved, pending approval from ALC.
I understand there would be an agricultural component to the health and wellness centre.

Fill# ALC 61143.

Would you be able to assist in providing more info on this?

A

Amber Nash

*Director of Executive Operations & Scheduling
Office of the Premier | Government of British Columbia
501 Belleville St, Victoria, BC V8V 2L8
Direct: 778-974-6068 | Cell: s.17*

Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Sent: March 8, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Massey, Christine MMHA:EX
Cc: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX
Subject: FW: Carrier Sekani Healing Facility and ALC
Attachments: Sent on Behalf of Chief Corrina Leween RE: Essential Indigenous healing facility; 61143d1 (0713069 BC Ltd).pdf

Please call me when you get a chance. We are scheduled to meet with them tomorrow.

Kelly

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 5, 2021 2:27 PM
To: McNish, James IRR:EX <James.McNish@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Carrier Sekani Healing Facility and ALC

Now the decision is attached.

Sam Godfrey

Senior Ministerial Advisor to the Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. British Columbia
Mobile: [s.17](tel:2503871023) | Office: 250 387 1023
Rm 327, Parliament Buildings,
501 Belleville St., Victoria, BC, CAN, V8W 1X4

This message including any attachments is not to be disclosed outside of the Provincial Government without prior written consent from the sender. If you are not the intended recipient please notify by reply email, and fully delete. Thank you.

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX
Sent: March 5, 2021 2:25 PM
To: McNish, James IRR:EX <James.McNish@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Carrier Sekani Healing Facility and ALC

Hi,

This looks to be a challenging file. I've pulled the ALC decision and it is attached. I see there is a strong request at the end of the letter for a meeting next week. The ALC is an independent decision-maker and the government does not have the authority under the governing legislation to overturn their decisions. Would you like to have a conversation about this? In the meantime I will see what the AFF DM thinks of this predicament.

S.

Sam Godfrey

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Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

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Sent: March 5, 2021 2:27 PM
To: McNish, James IRR:EX <James.McNish@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
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To: McNish, James IRR:EX <James.McNish@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Carrier Sekani Healing Facility and ALC

Hi,

This looks to be a challenging file. I've pulled the ALC decision and it is attached. I see there is a strong request at the end of the letter for a meeting next week. The ALC is an independent decision-maker and the government does not have the authority under the governing legislation to overturn their decisions. Would you like to have a conversation about this? In the meantime I will see what the AFF DM thinks of this predicament.

S.

Sam Godfrey

Senior Ministerial Advisor to the Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. British Columbia
Mobile: s.17 | Office: 250 387 1023
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501 Belleville St., Victoria, BC, CAN, V8W 1X4

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Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Sent: March 22, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Malcolmson, Sheila MMHA:EX
Subject: FW: Carrier Sekani

Please see below – FYI. I am seeking to find out the time of this meeting.

Kelly

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 22, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX <AnneMarie.Sam@gov.bc.ca>; Pinette, Celia IRR:EX <Celia.Pinette@gov.bc.ca>; McNish, James IRR:EX <James.McNish@gov.bc.ca>; Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>; Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>; Bernard, Tabitha PREM:EX <Tabitha.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Carrier Sekani

Hi Don,

Yes – I'll give you a call shortly to discuss. Our Issues Manager Jason Craik is also up-to-speed on this file.

Sam Godfrey

Senior Ministerial Advisor to the Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. British Columbia
Mobile: s.17 | Office: 250 387 1023
Rm 327, Parliament Buildings,
501 Belleville St., Victoria, BC, CAN, V8W 1X4

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From: Bain, Don PREM:EX <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 22, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>; Sam, Anne-Marie IRR:EX <AnneMarie.Sam@gov.bc.ca>; Pinette, Celia IRR:EX <Celia.Pinette@gov.bc.ca>; McNish, James IRR:EX <James.McNish@gov.bc.ca>; Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>; Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>; Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>; Wade, Debbie PREM:EX <Debbie.Wade@gov.bc.ca>; Bernard, Tabitha PREM:EX <Tabitha.Bernard@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Carrier Sekani

Good morning all,

Following up on the note I sent over the weekend.

Sam, will it be your office taking the lead in organizing a call this week between the Ministers and PO?

Don

Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX
Sent: March 15, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Malcolmson, Sheila MMHA:EX
Subject: FW: Tachik Lake IN
Attachments: IN_ALC Tachik Lake community care facility_Feb 21 D2.docx

Here you go – better than never.....

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CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

www.csfs.org
Creating wellness together

March 4, 2021

Via E-mail: IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; MH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Murray Rankin, M.L.A.
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
PO Box 9051 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Lana Popham, M.L.A.
Minister of Agriculture
PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, M.L.A.
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
PO Box 9644 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P1

Dear Ministers:

Re: Essential CSFS Indigenous healing facility – Province stands in the way

I am writing to call to your attention a troubling decision made by the Agricultural Land Commission North Panel on February 26, 2021¹ (the “**Decision**”) to deny a non-farm use exemption application by Carrier Sekani Family Services (“**CSFS**”) to build an Indigenous **Healing/Treatment Facility** at a property near Vanderhoof (the “**Tachick Lake Property**”). The Property is the only suitable property in the region that meets the criteria necessary for the vision for this urgently needed Facility.

The Decision fails to uphold your government’s commitments to address the opioid crisis on an urgent basis, to close the systemic gaps in medical and health services for First Nations people in the north, to implement the TRC Calls to Action, and to honour the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. On behalf of the CSFS Board of Directors, I am urging you to take action to address this matter.

The planned Healing/Treatment Facility

For close to 20 years, CSFS has been calling on governments to address the need for a residential treatment facility for addictions and mental health in our region. As Minister Malcolmson and your cabinet colleague, the Honourable Minister Adrian Dix are aware, CSFS has a comprehensive plan to

¹ Application 61143.

Corporate Head Office
Stellat'en First Nation
PO Box 2092
Fraser Lake, BC
V0J 1S0

□ Reply To:
987 4th Ave
Prince George, BC V2L 3H7
Phone: 250.562.3591
Fax: 250.562.2272
Toll Free: 1.800.889.6855

□ Reply To:
240 W Stewart Ave, P.O. Box 1219
Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
Phone: 250.567.2900
Fax: 250.567.2975
Toll Free: 1.866.567.2333

□ Reply To:
P.O. Box 1475
#8-870 Highway 16 W
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250.692.1800
Fax: 250.692.1877

build and operate a new medically-based and culturally-appropriate 60-bed facility (the “Healing/Treatment Facility”) to fill that gap. Our plan has received support and commitment of resources from First Nations Health Authority and Indigenous Services Canada to ensure that the Facility can be built and begin to operate as soon as possible. We are optimistic that our discussions with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions scheduled for March 9, 2021 will result in additional resources being committed to reinforce the Province’s general support for the Facility.

Why the Tachick Lake Resort was selected

CSFS’s selection of the Tachick Lake Property for the Healing/Treatment Facility was taken after extensive search and due diligence for a suitable location over many years. We summarized the results of that due diligence to the ALC North Panel as part of our application, including summarizing the feasibility assessments of various alternative locations, many of which were outside of the ALR.

The due diligence work supported a conclusion that, despite being within the ALR, the Tachick Lake Property was the best and most suitable location for the Healing/Treatment Facility. The Property meets our needs because:

- The location offers a private rural setting yet is still within relatively short distance to Prince George and its hospital facilities, a major consideration for attracting and retaining medical professionals.
- The high-quality natural setting and direct access to a body of water supports the planned service model that is rooted in Carrier and Sekani cultures and practices. Water is a central feature in Carrier Sekani traditional healing practices and access to a natural water source is fundamental to the Facility’s success in delivering culturally appropriate medical treatment.
- The Property has never been used for agricultural purposes and is currently a recreational resort. Many of the Property’s existing structures and services could be utilized in support of the Facility, minimizing the need for greenfield development.
- The Property being outside of reserve land allows for security of fee simple ownership and a more streamlined development process.

Based on this conclusion, CSFS entered into a contract to purchase the Tachick Lake Property in July of 2020, applied to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to amend its land use zoning bylaw in August, and filed an application for non-farm use with the ALC in October.

Support for an ALC exemption

The ALC Application for approval of a non-farm use was supported by the following facts:

- As noted, to the best of our knowledge, the Property has never been farmed.
- The Property currently houses a resort and campground business, with a sizeable lodge and several outbuildings. The use of the Property as a resort and fishing lodge goes back to at least the 1950s and is a grandfathered use under the ALC Act, which the ALC North Panel acknowledged in the Decision.
- CSFS’s proposal minimizes the impact to the Property. The proposed new 25,000 sq. ft. building and 4,300 sq. ft. parking lot that would be situated on the cleared part of the Property that is

currently used as a resort/campground. The remainder of the Property, most of which is in a natural state, would be undisturbed or minimally impacted.

- CSFS's proposal received a positive recommendation from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The Regional District Council recognized the critical, local need for the Facility to serve the area's residents and has indicated an intention to amend its zoning bylaw to add a community care facility as an approved use of the Property.
- CSFS's proposal was supported by Saik'uz First Nation, whose primary reserve is less than 10km away, and who also recognize the fundamental need for the Facility in the region. Additionally, the CSFS Board, consisting of representatives from Saik'uz and the other 10 members of CSFS (each CSFS member is a Carrier/Sekani First Nation), support the proposal.

The Decision purports to allow CSFS to use the existing resort and campground structures for a treatment centre, but denies CSFS an exemption to construct any new buildings. It is absurd to suggest that a modern medical residential treatment facility could operate in a lodge and cabins designed for recreational use. In effect, the Decision denies CSFS the possibility of building the Healing/Treatment Facility on the Property.

CSFS and our constituents in the region are being denied the ability to utilize a Property that has not been farmed for an essential purpose that maintains most of the property in its natural state while fulfilling an urgent need for Indigenous health services. We are calling on you Ministers to find a mechanism to allow this facility to be built on a site that is well-suited to this purpose.

Urgent action is required

It goes without saying that it is incredibly important for all levels of governments to take urgent and sustained action to address the opioid crisis. This crisis is disproportionately impacting our First Nations communities in the north, with preventable deaths occurring far too frequently. The Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating these impacts, as at-risk Indigenous individuals and families face isolation that makes it even more difficult to heal from and resolve addiction. Indeed, just one week ago, two individuals died of accidental overdose only a few kilometers away from the Tachick Lake Property. We are in the midst of a tragedy for Indigenous health and well-being.

As recently highlighted by Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond in her report "In Plain Sight", this province is in desperate need of medical facilities and services that do not perpetuate the anti-Indigenous racism that is pervasive in our health care system. CSFS's Healing/Treatment Facility is precisely the kind of infrastructure and treatment model that can address this need.

The steps taken by this government to address the opioid crisis are not enough; and, they exclude the power and dignity that comes from First Nations supporting and healing their own people with the support and respect of other levels of government. Your government must also be willing to support the efforts of Indigenous organizations to tackle these issues at the local and regional level.

We urge you to take swift action to authorize and allow the Healing/Treatment Facility to be built and operate. If it is in your power to have the Decision reconsidered, then do so. Otherwise, we want to know how you can assist in making this happen. The Decision currently will have the effect greatly delay

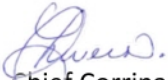
the Healing/Treatment Facility—a delay that would likely result in further loss of Indigenous life. It is unimaginable that this result could be justified by “protecting” a tiny fraction of marginal agricultural land from development on a property that will likely never be farmed.

We are looking to you to fulfil your Ministerial Mandates to advance reconciliation and your government’s commitments to addressing the opioid crisis, responding to the TRC Calls to Action and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Please note that CSFS has spent a lot of time and money following the processes related to the ALC and their decision will have consequences.

As a first step, I would request that your office make time available immediately, and no later than next week (March 8 - 12), to meet with Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of CSFS, to discuss how to resolve this pressing issue.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Regards,



Chief Corrina Leween
President, Carrier Sekani Family Services

cc Warner Adam, CEO, Carrier Sekani Family Services
Chief Priscilla Mueller, Saik’uz First Nation
BC First Nations Leadership Council
Minister of Health, Hon. Adrian Dix, M.L.A. [HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca]
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Hon. Nicholas Simons, M.L.A.
[SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca]
Don Bain, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier [Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca]

Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Massey, Christine MMHA:EX
Sent: March 9, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Grant, Nick MMHA:EX; Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX
Cc: Turner, Sara J MMHA:EX
Subject: RE: Key Messages MSM - CSFS Land Issue

Background:

- Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) has completed three feasibility studies since 2012 to assess available sites for a new treatment centre. An existing recreational resort at Tachick Lake was selected as the preferred location due to its existing site services (i.e. cabins, water, hydro, etc.), condition of existing buildings, proximity to health and social services in the adjacent area, ability to expand and adapt the buildings based on program needs, and its natural character.
- CSFS applied to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to rezone the property. The Regional District has indicated its support for the project as proposed.
- As the site is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), CSFS required approval by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for a non-farm use application in order to redevelop the property.
- The existing property at Tachick Lake was operating as a recreational resort prior to the creation of the ALR. This means that the property can continue to be used as a resort but that no change of use or expansion of the non-farm use is permitted without an application to the ALC.
- CSFS entered into an agreement to purchase the property subject to ALR approval.
- In its decision dated February 26, 2021, the ALC denied the proposal made by CSFS to redevelop the property as the application did not demonstrate that agricultural activity will occur on the site. In its decision, the ALC will allow for an alternate proposal where CSFS use only the existing buildings on the property (i.e. cabins) for a new treatment centre. The ALC will not allow the construction of new buildings.
- Decisions of the ALC are binding and there are limited means to appeal a decision.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) is aware of this situation and has agreed to meet with Carrier Sekani leadership.
- [s.13](#)

Key Messages:

- The ALC is an independent administrative tribunal and government does not interfere in their decision-making process.
- The ALC looks at many factors when carrying out its mandate and each application has its own distinct set of circumstances and is considered on its own merits.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is aware of this situation. We would encourage CSFS to meet with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to discuss this matter in more detail. MMHA can support in the coordination of this meeting as appropriate.

Matthew Kinch
Senior Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Wellness
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
250-889-1477

Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX

From: Lisa Dasilva <lisa@csfs.org>
Sent: March 4, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Minister, IRR IRR:EX; Minister, AFF AFF:EX; Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX
Cc: XT:Warner, Adam CITZ:IN; Priscilla Mueller; 'Colin Braker (cbraker@fns.bc.ca)'; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX; Bain, Don PREM:EX
Subject: Sent on Behalf of Chief Corrina Leween RE: Essential Indigenous healing facility
Attachments: Minister Rankin Popham and Malcomsom.2021.03.04.pdf

Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Please find attached a letter from Chief Corrina Leween, President of Carrier Sekani Family Services regarding _Essential CSFS Indigenous healing facility – Province stands in the way. Please feel free to contact Warner Adam at Warner@csfs.org or Chief Leween at cleween@cheslatta.com.
Thank you in advance

Lisa Da Silva
Executive Assistant to:
Warner Adam, CEO



**CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES**
Creating wellness together.

987-4th Avenue, Prince George, BC V2L 3H7
Phone: 250.562.3591 | Cell: 250.613.5529
Email: Lisa@csfs.org
Web: www.csfs.org



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Agricultural Land Commission
201 – 4940 Canada Way
Burnaby, British Columbia V5G 4K6
Tel: 604 660-7000
Fax: 604 660-7033
www.alc.gov.bc.ca

February 26, 2021

ALC File: 61143

David McWalter
DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Dear David McWalter:

Re: Reasons for Decision - ALC Application 61143

Please find attached the Reasons for Decision of the North Panel for the above noted application (Resolution #68/2020). As agent, it is your responsibility to notify the applicant accordingly.

Please note that the submission of a \$150 administrative fee may be required for the administration, processing, preparation, review, execution, filing or registration of documents required as a condition of the attached Decision in accordance with s. 11(2)(b) of the ALR General Regulation.

Under section 33.1 of the ALCA, the Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission (the "Commission") has 60 days to review this decision and determine if it should be reconsidered by the Executive Committee in accordance with the ALCA. You will be notified in writing if the Chair directs the reconsideration of this decision. The Commission therefore advises that you consider this 60 day review period prior to acting upon this decision.

Under section 33 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA), a person affected by a decision (e.g. the applicant) may submit a request for reconsideration. Please be advised however that on March 12th, 2020 the ALC Amendment Act ([Bill 15 – 2019](#)) was brought into force and effect, changing the reconsideration process.

A request to reconsider must now meet the following criteria:

- No previous request by an affected person has been made, and
- The request provides evidence not available at the time of the original decision that has become available, and that could not have been available at the time of the original decision had the applicant exercised due diligence, or
- The request provides evidence that all or part of the original decision was based on evidence that was in error or was false.

The amendments also propose a change to limit the time period for requesting a reconsideration to 90 days from the date of this decision – this change has not been brought into force and effect yet. As a result, a person affected by this decision will have one year from the date of this decision's release as per [ALC Policy P-08: Request for Reconsideration](#) to request reconsideration of the decision or 90 days from the date the legislative change takes effect (date unknown at this time), whichever comes sooner.

Please refer to the ALC's [Information Bulletin 08 – Request for Reconsideration](#) for more information.

Please direct further correspondence with respect to this application to ALC.North@gov.bc.ca

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M McBurnie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M" being a large, stylized capital letter.

Michael McBurnie, Land Use Planner

Enclosures: Reasons for Decision (Resolution #68/2020)
Schedule A: Decision Map

cc: Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (File 1224 CFCS). Attention: Maria Sandberg

61143d1



AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION FILE 61143
REASONS FOR DECISION OF THE NORTH PANEL

Non-Farm Use Application Submitted Under s.20(2) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act

Applicant: 0713069 BC Ltd.

Agent: David McWalter, McWalter Consulting Limited

Property: Parcel Identifier: 011-699-361
Legal Description: The Fractional Northwest ¼ of
Section 12, Township 4, Range 4, Coast District
Civic: 15112 Tachick Lake Road, 12 km SW of the
District of Vanderhoof, BC
Area: 9.3 ha (entirely within the ALR)

Panel: Janice Tapp, North Panel Chair
Andrew Adams
Karen McKean

OVERVIEW

- [1] The Property is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve ("ALR") as defined in s. 1 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* ("ALCA").
- [2] Pursuant to s. 20(2) of the ALCA, the Applicant is applying to the Agricultural Land Commission (the "Commission" or the "ALC") to construct and operate a 2723 m² Community Care Facility on the Property and convert the existing Tachick Lake Lodge into staff quarters for the facility (the "Proposal").
- [3] The issue the Panel considered is whether the Proposal would impact the agricultural utility of the Property.
- [4] The Proposal was considered in the context of the purposes and priorities of the Commission set out in s. 6 of the ALCA:
 - 6 (1) The following are the purposes of the commission:
 - (a) to preserve the agricultural land reserve;
 - (b) to encourage farming of land within the agricultural land reserve in collaboration with other communities of interest; and,
 - (c) to encourage local governments, first nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of land within the agricultural land reserve and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.
 - (2) The commission, to fulfill its purposes under subsection (1), must give priority to protecting and enhancing all of the following in exercising its powers and performing its duties under this Act:
 - (a) the size, integrity and continuity of the land base of the agricultural land reserve;
 - (b) the use of the agricultural land reserve for farm use.

EVIDENTIARY RECORD

- [5] The Proposal, along with related documentation from the Applicant, Agent, local government, third parties, and Commission is collectively referred to as the “Application”. All documentation in the Application was disclosed to the Agent in advance of this decision.

BACKGROUND

- [6] The existing resort includes a 185 m² main lodge and restaurant, 10 cabins, 33 seasonal campsites, several small outbuildings, and two sewage lagoons.
- [7] The Applicants provided evidence that the Property has operated as a resort since prior to the creation of the ALR. Any land use that predates the creation of the ALR on December 21, 1972, was a legal use on that date, and has not been interrupted for 6 consecutive months is an exception to the ALC Act and ALR regulations and can continue to operate within the ALR, in the same configuration it was in on December 21, 1972. This means that the Property can continue to be used as a resort, but no change of use or expansion of the non-farm use or buildings is permitted without an application to the ALC.

EVIDENCE AND FINDINGS

Issue: Whether the Proposal would impact the agricultural utility of the Property

- [8] To assess agricultural capability on the Property, the Panel referred to agricultural capability ratings. The ratings are identified using the Canada Land Inventory (CLI), ‘Soil Capability Classification for Agriculture’ system. The improved agricultural capability rating applicable to the Property is Class 5X.

Class 5 - land is capable of production of cultivated perennial forage crops and specially adapted crops. Soil and/or climate conditions severely limit capability.

The limiting subclass associated with this parcel of land is X (a combination of soil factors).

- [9] Based on the agricultural capability ratings, the Panel finds that the Property has secondary agricultural capability.

- [10] The proposed Community Care Facility would be a year-round residential treatment centre that would provide mental health and addiction recovery services to up to 60 people. The facility would be run by Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) which has entered into an agreement to purchase the property subject to ALR approval and rezoning.

- [11] The Applicant's plan is to use the existing 185 m² lodge for staff housing and to construct a 2323 m² (25,000 sq. ft.) main facility which will include meeting areas, counselling rooms, offices, kitchen, dining room, and accommodations for residents and staff. An additional 400 m² will also be required for 20 parking stalls. Detailed plans for the proposed facility have not yet been completed, though the preliminary plan is to abandon the cabins and campsites and build the new 2323 m² building on the north-eastern portion of the property

- [12] There is currently no agriculture occurring on the Property. The Applicant submits that the Community Care Facility would include "an agricultural theme which will form part of the rehabilitation process" and a vegetable garden for staff and residents.

- [13] At its meeting of October 8, 2020, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako ("RDBN") Board resolved to support the Proposal and forward it to the ALC. The RDBN noted that given that the long-standing use of the property as a resort, the RDBN anticipates that the overall impact to agriculture would be minimal.

- [14] The Panel received comments from the Saik'uz First Nation, which is located on the east end of Nulki Lake and Tachick Lake and is a member nation to CSFS. The Saik'uz First Nation submitted a letter in support of the Proposal, noting that Northern BC has been

identified as a hot spot for opioids addiction and that the proposed healing centre would represent a significant benefit to the health and well-being of the Saik'uz First Nation and the local community.

- [15] The Ministry of Agriculture staff (AFF Staff) submitted comments to the RDBN, identifying concerns with the location of the Proposal within an active farming area, including
- Potential conflicts between the Proposal and surrounding farming uses (including noise, dust, or odours), which may not always be in accord with the pursuit of a tranquil setting and may become a source of frustration.
 - Non-agricultural uses typically have an option to be located outside of the ALR or an existing farming area, while farms typically don't. Long-term access to land in the ALR for farming is in the interest of agriculture and food security.

AFF Staff also acknowledged the existing site development and the community importance of gaining such an amenity and recommended if the proposal is approved, that any development be limited to areas previously disturbed, and sited and sized to minimize the impact on arable land. The Agent responded to the AFF Staff comments, stating that the Proposal would have a smaller impact on surrounding agricultural operations than the current Tachick Lake Resort, and that the Community Care Facility is envisioned to have an agricultural theme which will form part of the rehabilitation process.

- [16] The Panel considered the Agent's submission that the Community Care Facility would have an agricultural theme but noted that agriculture is not the primary focus of the Proposal. In this case, the Panel finds that there is no guarantee that any substantial agricultural activities would occur in the long term.
- [17] The Panel received comments from a local resident who expressed concern with perceived negative impacts of the Proposal to his safety and quality of life, property value, and the loss of recreational access to Tachick Lake via Tachick Lake Resort. The Agent responded to these comments, stating he had met with the resident to discuss some concerns, and offered an assurance that there will be no hunting or firearms stored on the

property and that the CSFS is interested in working with neighbours regarding an alternative access route and fencing.

- [18] The Panel considered the resident's concerns and the Agent's responses and noted that the ALC is required to consider the Proposal with regards to s. 6 of the ALCA. The Panel considered the potential impacts of the Proposal on the use of the surrounding properties for agriculture, and finds that while expanding the non-farm use on the Property could lead to conflicts with surrounding farming uses, no compelling evidence has been presented that a change in use from a resort to a treatment centre would have a negative impact on agriculture on the neighbouring properties. The Panel further finds that the loss of recreational access to the lake is not germane to its mandate to preserve farmland and encourage farming. While the Panel appreciates that neighbours have non-agricultural concerns, these concerns would be more appropriately directed to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.
- [19] The Panel also received comments from another local resident who expressed support for the project but was concerned with locating it within the ALR.
- [20] The Panel considered the current use of the Property:
- The Property is currently used as a resort and no agriculture occurs on the Property.
 - As the use of the Property as a resort predates the creation of the ALC and is therefore permitted to continue to operate indefinitely. However, if the resort use ceases for 6 consecutive months or the resort is destroyed then a resumption of resort uses would require the ALC's approval.
 - The current resort use is limited to the footprint and configuration that existed on December 21, 1972 and cannot be expanded without ALC approval.
- [21] The Panel noted that the Property has secondary agricultural capability and that neighbouring parcels of similar agricultural capability are farmed. The Panel also notes that the current buildings on the Property have potential to be converted to agricultural uses should the resort use cease. In contrast, the Panel finds that the proposed 2323 m²

building and 400 m² parking lot would be less likely to be converted for agricultural use and therefore represent a more permanent non-farm use than the existing grandfathered use.

- [22] The Applicant submits that two assessments of site locations were carried out, in 2014 and 2020, with 24 siting options receiving preliminary assessment and 10 sites proceeding to a full assessment. The Applicant submits that one of the most important factors in selecting sites for evaluation is the proximity to water and the quality of the natural landscape. The Applicant clarified that water is profoundly significant in Carrier Sekani culture and a strong connection with water, combined by a high-quality natural setting, is vital in implementing their plans for a culturally appropriate, land-based healing model. The Applicant outlined a number of other considerations including access to utilities (such as water, power, sewage), access to medical care, remoteness of the site, and feasibility of acquiring the land.
- [23] The Applicant provided a table listing the nine other sites that received full assessments and summarizing why they are less preferable than the Property. Of these, one is within the ALR, two are outside of the ALR, and six are on First Nations reserve land which is exempt from the restrictions of the ALC Act. Among the issues identified are: remoteness; lack of cellphone coverage; cost and difficulty of construction; rough terrain; lack of water and natural setting; ease of access to potential addiction supplies; and potential issue in securing the land, including difficulties in leasing First Nations reserve land, which cannot be purchased in fee simple.
- [24] The Applicant also summarized reasons why the Proposal site was selected from the 2020 study:
- “Tachick Lake is considered the best option as it provides important long-term flexibility for CSFS with the ability to invest in a long-term asset that they would be able to continually benefit from and grow. ... By owning their own site, [CSFS] reduces long-term costs associated with leasing land as well as ensures that they can continue to utilize the land without the possibility of the lease ending or the cost of the lease increasing. Because there are already structures on the site, it also*

allows for cost savings by incorporating them into the treatment campus plan...

In summary, Tachick Lake Resort was chosen over all other potential sites because of the quality of water access and natural setting, existing infrastructure, certainty and timeliness that comes with developing on private (as opposed to reserve) land, and accessibility for staff."

- [25] The Panel considered the reasons for selecting the Property and the reasons for not selecting the other locations. The Panel noted that many of the reasons for selecting the Property over other locations are economic, including the cost of acquiring the land, and the cost of construction and providing utilities. The Panel noted that the ALC Act does not provide for economic considerations when considering a non-farm use. The Panel confirmed that land values in the ALR tend to be lower than similar land outside of the ALR, because of the restrictions on uses (to agriculture). Permitting this Proposal, and similar non-farm uses, would have the effect of increasing the value of agricultural properties generally and would not encourage the use of the Property for farming should the resort use cease.
- [26] The Panel also finds that although the other sites identified for the proposal are less preferable to the Applicant than the Property, there are opportunities for the Proposal to be located on lands outside of the ALR or lands exempt from the restrictions of the ALC Act.
- [27] While the Panel appreciates the social benefits of the Proposal, the Panel must consider the mandate of the Commission, as set under s. 6 of the ALCA: to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming on agricultural land. The Panel finds that the construction of 2723 m² building and 400 m² parking lot could further alienate the Property from future agricultural endeavours and is therefore inconsistent with the mandate of the Commission.
- [28] However, the Panel recognized that the existing resort is a longstanding non-farm use, and is prepared to permit an alternate proposal to use the existing buildings on the Property for a Community Care Facility, without constructing any further buildings (the

“Alternate Proposal”). The Panel finds that changing the use from a resort to a Community Care Facility within the existing buildings on the Property would not negatively impact the agricultural potential of the property or surrounding properties.

DECISION

[29] For the reasons given above, the Panel refuses the Proposal to construct and operate a new 2723 m² Community Care Facility on the Property and convert the existing Tachick Lake Lodge into staff quarters. However, the Panel approves the Alternate Proposal to use only the existing buildings on the Property for a Community Care Facility, subject to the following conditions:

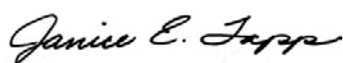
- (a) Siting of the non-farm use in accordance with Schedule A;
- (b) No expansion of the non-farm use beyond the existing buildings; and
- (c) Approval for the non-farm use is granted for the sole benefit of Carrier Sekani Family Services and is non-transferable.

[30] This decision does not relieve the owner or occupier of the responsibility to comply with applicable Acts, regulations, bylaws of the local government, and decisions and orders of any person or body having jurisdiction over the land under an enactment.

[31] These are the unanimous reasons of the Panel.

[32] A decision of the Panel is a decision of the Commission pursuant to s. 11.1(3) of the ALCA.

[33] Resolution #68/2020
Released on February 26, 2021



Janice Tapp, Panel Chair

On behalf of the North Panel



Property



Conditionally Approved Non-Farm Use
 (within existing buildings only)

From: [Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX](#)
To: [Kinch, Matthew MMHA:EX](#)
Cc: [Grant, Nick MMHA:EX](#); [Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX](#); [MMHA Documents Coordinator MMHA:EX](#)
Subject: FYI: 1181839 Sent on behalf of Chief Corrina Leween, CSFS President-Time Sensitive
Date: February 3, 2021 1:56:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
NR

[1181451 - HLTH - Material - Carrier Sekani Family Services.pdf](#)
[1181839 - Appendix A - NHA Letter of Support Carrier Sekani Family Services 2020.10.21.pdf](#)
[1181839 - MMHA - Information Bullets - Carrier Sekani Family Services.pdf](#)

Hi Matthew,

I just wanted to close the loop and let you know that the attached materials were sent up to the MO today.

I took the additional information from you and put it into a formal template.

Any questions please let me know.

Thanks,

Kayla Murphy | Manager | Business Operations | Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions |
778.974.2177

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From: Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX
Sent: February 3, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>; Thomson, Krystal MMHA:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>; Reid, Nicole MMHA:EX <Nicole.Reid@gov.bc.ca>; Marquis, Yvette MMHA:EX <Yvette.Marquis@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>; MMHA Documents Coordinator MMHA:EX <MMHA.DocumentsCoordinator@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: 1181839 Sent on behalf of Chief Corrina Leween, CSFS President-Time Sensitive

Hi Kelly,

As per your below request, please find attached, final approved MoH Information Note & appendix. You will also see additional MMHA bullets which were provided by staff in addition to MoH's materials.

Please note these have been final approved by MoH as well MMHA has reviewed as well.

Page 02 of 50
to/à Page 07
of 50

MEETING MATERIAL

Cliff #:1181839 MMHA
1181451 HLTH

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA); and Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health (HLTH)

TITLE: Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS)

MEETING REQUEST/ISSUE:

Corrina Leween, Chief of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and President of CSFS and Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of the CSFC, have requested a meeting with both the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Minister of Health to explore how they can access the necessary funding to build a comprehensive medical and cultural healing centre in North Central BC. Meeting dates have not yet been scheduled. CSFC has also requested meetings with the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations; federal Minister of Indigenous Services; and federal Minister of Health.

SHOULD MINISTRY STAFF ATTEND THIS MEETING: No

BACKGROUND:

CSFS has been offering holistic wellness services to member nations for the past 25 years and was created to reassert First Nations control of justice, health, social and family services for members in the Carrier and Sekani territory.

According to the CSFS, it has received \$5 million from the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to help the CSFS construct a treatment centre in its territory. The total project costs are estimated to be \$16 million. The CSFS indicates it has submitted a grant request through the Canada Infrastructure Program, but it is also seeking funding from alternate sources. As stated in the accompanying incoming correspondence, the CSFS has requested a meeting to explore whether the Province will provide funding to help support its project.

The Northern Health Authority (NHA) is aware of this initiative and Cathy Ulrich, Chief Executive Officer of the NHA has written a letter (attached as Appendix A) providing general support of the CSFS's initiative. The NHA indicates it has not been approached directly by the CSFS for a request to provide funding support. From the information provided, it is unclear that if the CSFS project is completed, whether there would be ongoing operating cost pressures associated with the project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The CSFS has received the following funding from provincial government sources and the FNHA:

FUNDING TO CARRIER SEKANI FAMILY SERVICES ¹

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
Advanced Education, Skills and Training ²	\$173,494	\$122,346	\$151,241	\$447,081
Children and Family Development ²	8,595,614	9,289,772	10,850,189	\$28,735,575
Forests, Lands and Natural Resources ²			2,500	\$2,500
Health ²	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$90,000
Jobs, Trade and Technology ²	43,685			\$43,685
Public Safety and Solicitor General ²	44,276	17,750	110,575	\$172,601
Northern Health Authority	76,304	250,744	314,684	\$641,732
First Nations Health Authority	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$90,000
Totals	\$8,993,373	\$9,740,612	\$11,489,189	\$30,223,174

NOTES:

1. Carrier Sekani Family Services A Branch Society of The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.
2. Figures are per Public Accounts

ADVICE:

Proceed with the meeting as requested; however, due to the uncertainty regarding the Ministry of Health's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic response and the pressure this is placing on its budget (and government as a whole), the Ministry of Health cannot commit funds at this time. The CSFS should be advised that the Ministry of Health will keep the CSFS's request in mind in the event funds become available at a later date.

JOINT MINISTER MEETING: N**IF SO, CAN THIS MATERIAL BE SHARED: Y**

Program ED/Branch/Division: Gordon Cross, Executive Director, Regional Grants and Decision Support, Ministry of Health

Date: January 28, 2021

October 21, 2020

To: Whom it May Concern

I am writing to indicate Northern Health's support for the work Carrier Sekani Family Services is undertaking to expand the services available to address substance use issues in the North Central sub-region of Northern BC.

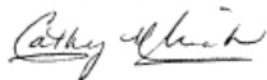
Northern Health is one of five geographically based health authorities in British Columbia. The region consists of 55 First Nations Communities spread across an area of 600,000 sq km. Carrier Sekani Family Services is a health and social services organization serving 11-member First Nations located in the North Central sub-region of the Northern region.

Northern Health has entered into a Partnership Accord with the First Nations Health Authority and the First Nations Health Council: North Region Health Caucus which outlines a commitment to a partnership in the provision of culturally safe health care services in the Northern region. Carrier Sekani Family Services is a critical health serving organization in this partnered work. Over the last number of years, Northern Health and Carrier Sekani Family Services have developed a close working relationship in relation to Primary and Community Care and nursing services.

Through the partnered work described above, the partners have identified the health and wellness priorities for First Nations people in northern British Columbia. There are five priorities identified with mental wellness and substance use being one of the top priorities for partnered action. We understand that Carrier Sekani Family Services is developing a plan for a Healing and Treatment Centre Facility in the North Central sub-region that would be made available to their 11-member nations and that these services would be made available to other northern First Nations.

Northern Health is pleased to provide this letter of support to Carrier Sekani Family Services as they proceed with developing this initiative.

Sincerely,



Cathy Ulrich
President & Chief Executive Officer
Northern Health

cc. Penny Anguish, Chief Operating Officer, Northern Interior, Northern Health
Dr. Margo Greenwood, Vice President Indigenous Health, Northern Health

MO INFORMATION BULLETS

Cliff# 1181839 –*Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister – Carrier Sekani Family Services*

REQUEST

- Corrina Leween, Chief of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and President of CSFS and Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of the CSFC, have requested a meeting with both the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Minister of Health to explore how they can access the necessary funding to build a comprehensive medical and cultural healing centre in North Central BC.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

- The Government of Canada, the Province of BC and the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding ('the MOU') in 2018 to improve mental health and wellness services.
- The MOU included a commitment to develop a tripartite plan to renovate, replace and build First Nation-run treatment centres.
- The Province of BC made a one-time capital contribution of \$20 million in 2019 in fulfillment of this commitment. The FNHA made a matching contribution of \$20 million for a total investment of \$40 million. The Government of Canada has not made a contribution per the MOU and this is limiting the proposed scope of these projects.
- The FNHA has selected the CSFS as one of the proponents to build a new First Nations treatment centre and has committed \$5.75 million in capital funding on this basis. The capital funding committed thus far is cost shared by the FNHA and the Province.
- There may be opportunities for the FNHA, NHA, HLTH, MMHA and other relevant organisations (e.g. BC Housing) to collectively engage with CSFS on their needs for this particular project.

Program area: Matthew Kinch, Sr. Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Wellness

Date: February 2, 2021

If you have any further questions please let me know.

Thanks,

Kayla Murphy | Manager | Business Operations | Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions | 778.974.2177

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From: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 14, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Marquis, Yvette MMHA:EX <Yvette.Marquis@gov.bc.ca>; Thomson, Krystal MMHA:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>; Reid, Nicole MMHA:EX <Nicole.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: 1181839 Sent on behalf of Chief Corrina Leween, CSFS President-Time Sensitive

We will take this meeting. I would like to get some information first though about any actions Northern Health has taken in regards to this proposal. I would also like the meeting to happen after our meeting with FNHA – Yvette is aware of this, but just wanted to let you know the direction here as well.

Thanks!

Kelly

From: Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX <MMHA.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 13, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>; Thomson, Krystal MMHA:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: 1181839 Sent on behalf of Chief Corrina Leween, CSFS President-Time Sensitive

Hello,

Over to you guys for review and direction.

Thanks,

Nicky Reid

Administrative Assistant to The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions | Parliament Buildings | Room 247 | P: 250-952-7623

From: Lisa Dasilva <lisa@csfs.org>

Sent: November 13, 2020 1:07 PM

To: Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX <MMHA.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX <HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; Horgan.MLA, John LASS:EX <John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; DMOFFICE, HLTH HLTH:EX <HLTH.DMOFFICE@gov.bc.ca>; Deputy Minister MMHA:EX <MH.DMOffice@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: 1181839 Sent on behalf of Chief Corrina Leween, CSFS President-Time Sensitive

Importance: High

Please find attached a letter from Chief Corrina Leween, CSS President. Please feel free to contact Warner Adam, CEO at Warner@csfs.org if you have any questions.

Thank you

Lisa Da Silva

Executive Assistant to:

Warner Adam, CEO



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES
Creating wellness together.

987-4th Avenue, Prince George, BC V2L 3H7
Phone: 250.562.3591 | Fax: 250.562.2272 | Cell: [s.17](tel:2505623591)
Email: Lisa@csfs.org
Web: www.csfs.org



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MEETING MATERIAL

Cliff #:1181839 MMHA
1181451 HLTH

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA); and Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health (HLTH)

TITLE: Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS)

MEETING REQUEST/ISSUE:

Corrina Leween, Chief of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and President of CSFS and Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of the CSFC, have requested a meeting with both the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Minister of Health to explore how they can access the necessary funding to build a comprehensive medical and cultural healing centre in North Central BC. Meeting dates have not yet been scheduled. CSFC has also requested meetings with the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations; federal Minister of Indigenous Services; and federal Minister of Health.

SHOULD MINISTRY STAFF ATTEND THIS MEETING: No

BACKGROUND:

CSFS has been offering holistic wellness services to member nations for the past 25 years and was created to reassert First Nations control of justice, health, social and family services for members in the Carrier and Sekani territory.

According to the CSFS, it has received \$5 million from the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to help the CSFS construct a treatment centre in its territory. The total project costs are estimated to be \$16 million. The CSFS indicates it has submitted a grant request through the Canada Infrastructure Program, but it is also seeking funding from alternate sources. As stated in the accompanying incoming correspondence, the CSFS has requested a meeting to explore whether the Province will provide funding to help support its project.

The Northern Health Authority (NHA) is aware of this initiative and Cathy Ulrich, Chief Executive Officer of the NHA has written a letter (attached as Appendix A) providing general support of the CSFS's initiative. The NHA indicates it has not been approached directly by the CSFS for a request to provide funding support. From the information provided, it is unclear that if the CSFS project is completed, whether there would be ongoing operating cost pressures associated with the project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The CSFS has received the following funding from provincial government sources and the FNHA:

FUNDING TO CARRIER SEKANI FAMILY SERVICES ¹

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
Advanced Education, Skills and Training ²	\$173,494	\$122,346	\$151,241	\$447,081
Children and Family Development ²	8,595,614	9,289,772	10,850,189	\$28,735,575
Forests, Lands and Natural Resources ²			2,500	\$2,500
Health ²	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$90,000
Jobs, Trade and Technology ²	43,685			\$43,685
Public Safety and Solicitor General ²	44,276	17,750	110,575	\$172,601
Northern Health Authority	76,304	250,744	314,684	\$641,732
First Nations Health Authority	30,000	30,000	30,000	\$90,000
Totals	\$8,993,373	\$9,740,612	\$11,489,189	\$30,223,174

NOTES:

1. Carrier Sekani Family Services A Branch Society of The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.
2. Figures are per Public Accounts

ADVICE:

Proceed with the meeting as requested; however, due to the uncertainty regarding the Ministry of Health's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic response and the pressure this is placing on its budget (and government as a whole), the Ministry of Health cannot commit funds at this time. The CSFS should be advised that the Ministry of Health will keep the CSFS's request in mind in the event funds become available at a later date.

JOINT MINISTER MEETING: N**IF SO, CAN THIS MATERIAL BE SHARED: Y**

Program ED/Branch/Division: Gordon Cross, Executive Director, Regional Grants and Decision Support, Ministry of Health

Date: January 28, 2021

October 21, 2020

To: Whom it May Concern

I am writing to indicate Northern Health's support for the work Carrier Sekani Family Services is undertaking to expand the services available to address substance use issues in the North Central sub-region of Northern BC.

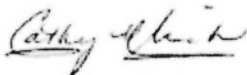
Northern Health is one of five geographically based health authorities in British Columbia. The region consists of 55 First Nations Communities spread across an area of 600,000 sq km. Carrier Sekani Family Services is a health and social services organization serving 11-member First Nations located in the North Central sub-region of the Northern region.

Northern Health has entered into a Partnership Accord with the First Nations Health Authority and the First Nations Health Council: North Region Health Caucus which outlines a commitment to a partnership in the provision of culturally safe health care services in the Northern region. Carrier Sekani Family Services is a critical health serving organization in this partnered work. Over the last number of years, Northern Health and Carrier Sekani Family Services have developed a close working relationship in relation to Primary and Community Care and nursing services.

Through the partnered work described above, the partners have identified the health and wellness priorities for First Nations people in northern British Columbia. There are five priorities identified with mental wellness and substance use being one of the top priorities for partnered action. We understand that Carrier Sekani Family Services is developing a plan for a Healing and Treatment Centre Facility in the North Central sub-region that would be made available to their 11-member nations and that these services would be made available to other northern First Nations.

Northern Health is pleased to provide this letter of support to Carrier Sekani Family Services as they proceed with developing this initiative.

Sincerely,



Cathy Ulrich
President & Chief Executive Officer
Northern Health

cc. Penny Anguish, Chief Operating Officer, Northern Interior, Northern Health
Dr. Margo Greenwood, Vice President Indigenous Health, Northern Health

From: [Turner, Sara J MMHA:EX](#)
To: [Reid, Nicole MMHA:EX](#)
Cc: [Turner, Sara J MMHA:EX](#); [Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX](#); [Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX](#); [MMHA Documents Coordinator MMHA:EX](#); [Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX](#); [Thomson, Krystal MMHA:EX](#); [Barrett, Andrew MMHA:EX](#)
Subject: 1189289 - Material - Carrier Sekani Family Services - March 9
Date: March 5, 2021 8:56:12 AM
Attachments: [1189289 - Ministry Materials - Carrier Sekani Family Services.pdf](#)

Good morning Nicky,

See attached supporting material for the meeting with Carrier Sekani Family Services scheduled for 2:00, March 9 following a 1:45 pre-brief.

These were drafted by SPP, and approved by Nick Grant and Christine Massey.

Attendees as follow:

- Nick Grant
- Matthew Kinch
- Ross Hayward (Ministry of Health)

Ross has been invited, as Ministry of Health received the same incoming, and reached out regarding if we were taking a meeting. MMHA staff have no issue with Ross joining.

If you require any further information, please let me know.

Sara Turner

Senior Executive Assistant
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
250-880-5114

**MINISTRY OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS
MEETING MATERIAL**

CLIFF#: 1189289

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): Feb 19, 2021

PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): 1189183

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: March 9, 2021

MEETING REQUEST/ISSUE: Meeting with Chief Corrina Leween (Cheslatta Carrier Nation), Sandra Teegee (Takla Lake First Nation), Jasmine Thomas (Saik'uz First Nation), Theresa Nooski (Nadleh Whut'en First Nation) and Chief Maureen Luggi (Wet'suwet'en First Nation) to discuss a new treatment centre being proposed by Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) in Northern BC.

SHOULD MINISTRY STAFF ATTENDING THIS MEETING: Yes, Nick Grant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning and Matthew Kinch, Senior Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Wellness

BACKGROUND:

- Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) is a non-profit society that provides health, social, and children and family services to 11 First Nation communities in northcentral BC with offices in Prince George, Burns Lake, Fort St. James and Vanderhoof.
- CSFS has contracts with Northern Health, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to deliver a continuum of primary care, mental health and substance use services for member communities.
- CSFS currently delivers a 28-day adult in-patient treatment program between the months of May and October at a facility located at Ormond Lake (approximately 25 km northwest of Vanderhoof). The facility is comprised of cabins with 14 treatment beds, pit toilets and naturally fed showers. This is a seasonal program due to the current limitations of the facility and its location. CSFS delivers a mobile outreach program during the winter months.
- The treatment facility operated by CSFS is one of ten First Nation-run treatment facilities funded by FNHA in BC. These treatment services are available to all status First Nations clients in BC (i.e. not available to Metis or non-status First Nation clients).
- CSFS is seeking capital funding from the Province to build a new wellness centre that would replace their existing facility and enable an expanded service model that could include a continuum of treatment services.
- The proposal prepared by CSFS describes a wellness centre with a detox wing (10 beds), an addiction recovery wing (35 beds), renovated cabins for longer-term recovery (8-12 beds), and associated amenities (e.g. dining hall, commercial kitchen, cultural space, nursing station, etc.).
- Based on a feasibility study completed in October 2020, it is estimated that construction costs will total \$16.64 million.

- In 2020/21, FNHA approved CSFS for \$5.75 million. This was a one-time contribution meant to cover a portion of the capital costs for this project. The funding committed for this project is cost shared by FNHA and the Province.

DISCUSSION:

- With the transfer of federal health programs and funding in 2013, FNHA assumed responsibility for the administration of ten First Nation-run treatment facilities in BC.
- In 2018, the Province of BC, the Government of Canada and the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding ('the MOU') to improve mental health and wellness services. The MOU included a commitment to develop a tripartite plan to renovate, replace and build treatment facilities across BC.
- The Province made a one-time capital contribution of \$20 million in 2019/20 in fulfillment of this commitment. FNHA made a matching capital contribution of \$20 million for a total investment of \$40 million. The Government of Canada has not made a capital contribution per its commitments in the MOU. This is likely to limit the proposed scale of some projects.
- The project being proposed by CSFS is one of six existing treatment facilities that FNHA has identified for remediation or full replacement within the \$40 million available. It is on this basis that CSFS was funded by FNHA to complete a feasibility study for a new facility.
- Based on the project proposal, FNHA has indicated to MMHA that the capital and ongoing operational costs exceeds funding currently available for these programs. While FNHA receives funding from the federal government for the core operations of the existing treatment facilities, this does not include funding for an expanded scope of services (e.g. pre- and post-treatment) or capital projects (beyond the \$40 million committed by FNHA and the Province for these projects).
- Based on the expanded scope of services contemplated in the project proposal, it is anticipated that CSFS will be seeking funding from federal, provincial and regional partners for the operation of the new treatment facility once completed.
- MMHA has recently established a provincial advisory committee for bed-based services. This committee includes MMHA, HLTH, Health Authorities (including FNHA), BC Housing and BCCSU. This committee presents an avenue to advance collaboration across partners and explore opportunities to leverage new and existing resources for this project.
- CSFS has submitted the same project proposal to Indigenous Services Canada. It will be important to understand how additional funding from the federal government could complement or augment the funding provided by FNHA and the Province for this project.
- CSFS recently submitted a year-end funding request to the Ministry of Health (HLTH). HLTH has indicated to MMHA that it is unable to provide further funding for this project due to the pandemic response and current budgetary constraints.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- MMHA is encouraged by the progress made by CSFS on this project and the desire to explore an expanded service model that can blend the best of western and cultural approaches to healing.
- MMHA is not able to contribute additional capital funding at this time.

- MMHA would encourage continued collaboration between CSFS, FNHA and Northern Health to leverage existing relationships and resources in the advancement of this project.
- MMHA can facilitate discussions on this project with Ministry partners as appropriate.

Program ADM/Division: Nick Grant, Strategic Policy and Planning
Program Contact (for content): Matthew Kinch, Senior Director
Drafter: Kristin Price, Policy Analyst
Date: March 4, 2021

MO INFORMATION BULLETS

Cliff# 1181839 –Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister – Carrier Sekani Family Services

REQUEST

- Corrina Leween, Chief of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and President of CSFS and Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of the CSFC, have requested a meeting with both the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Minister of Health to explore how they can access the necessary funding to build a comprehensive medical and cultural healing centre in North Central BC.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

- The Government of Canada, the Province of BC and the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding ('the MOU') in 2018 to improve mental health and wellness services.
- The MOU included a commitment to develop a tripartite plan to renovate, replace and build First Nation-run treatment centres.
- The Province of BC made a one-time capital contribution of \$20 million in 2019 in fulfillment of this commitment. The FNHA made a matching contribution of \$20 million for a total investment of \$40 million. The Government of Canada has not made a contribution per the MOU and this is limiting the proposed scope of these projects.
- The FNHA has selected the CSFS as one of the proponents to build a new First Nations treatment centre and has committed \$5.75 million in capital funding on this basis. The capital funding committed thus far is cost shared by the FNHA and the Province.
- There may be opportunities for the FNHA, NHA, HLTH, MMHA and other relevant organisations (e.g. BC Housing) to collectively engage with CSFS on their needs for this particular project.

Program area: Matthew Kinch, Sr. Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Wellness

Date: February 2, 2021

From: [Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX](#)
To: [Rainforth, Kelly A AFF:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Carrier Sekani Family Services Email
Date: March 8, 2021 2:58:55 PM
Attachments: [Sent on Behalf of Chief Corrina Leween RE Essential Indigenous healing facility.msg](#)
[1189289 - Ministry Materials - Carrier Sekani Family Services.pdf](#)

Hi Kelly,

Thank you and to you as well.

Yes, we have received a similar request as the attached. I can confirm that Minister Malcolmson is scheduled to meet with Chief Corrina Leween tomorrow afternoon with ministry staff supporting. I've attached our meeting material for your reference – please feel free to share internally as needed.

Please let me know if there are any questions or alternatively Tom can reach out to Christine Massey, DM, at any time.

ps: It's always lovely working with ministries we don't connect with often. Nice to work with you.

With thanks,

Tamara Casanova | Director (*she/her*)
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
Executive Operations | Office of the Deputy Minister
Desk: 250.952.1125 | **Email:** tamara.casanova@gov.bc.ca

From: Rainforth, Kelly A AFF:EX <Kelly.Rainforth@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 8, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Carrier Sekani Family Services Email

Hi Tamara,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to ask whether your Deputy Minister's/Minister's office has received the attached email from Carrier Sekani Family Services. Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, is considering meeting with Chief Corrina Leween on the issue either later this week or early next week. We wanted to first touch base with the other two Ministries cced in the email (your Ministry and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation) to see what action, if any, your Deputies and/or Ministers were considering.

Are you able to help me with this request? I'm happy to follow up via phone, if helpful.

Kind regards, Kelly

Kelly Rainforth

From: Lisa Dasilva
Sent: 4 Mar 2021 23:41:23 +0000
To: Minister, IRR IRR:EX;Minister, AFF AFF:EX;Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX
Cc: XT:Warner, Adam CITZ:IN;Priscilla Mueller;'Colin Braker (cbraker@fns.bc.ca)';Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX;Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX;Bain, Don PREM:EX
Subject: Sent on Behalf of Chief Corrina Leween RE: Essential Indigenous healing facility
Attachments: Minister Rankin Popham and Malcomsom.2021.03.04.pdf
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Please find attached a letter from Chief Corrina Leween, President of Carrier Sekani Family Services regarding _Essential CSFS Indigenous healing facility – Province stands in the way. Please feel free to contact Warner Adam at Warner@csfs.org or Chief Leween at cleween@cheslatta.com.
Thank you in advance

Lisa Da Silva

Executive Assistant to:
Warner Adam, CEO



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES
Creating wellness together.

987-4th Avenue, Prince George, BC V2L 3H7
Phone: 250.562.3591 | Cell: 250.613.5529
Email: Lisa@csfs.org
Web: www.csfs.org



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CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

www.csfs.org
Creating wellness together

March 4, 2021

Via E-mail: IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; MH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Murray Rankin, M.L.A.
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
PO Box 9051 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Lana Popham, M.L.A.
Minister of Agriculture
PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, M.L.A.
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
PO Box 9644 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P1

Dear Ministers:

Re: Essential CSFS Indigenous healing facility – Province stands in the way

I am writing to call to your attention a troubling decision made by the Agricultural Land Commission North Panel on February 26, 2021¹ (the “**Decision**”) to deny a non-farm use exemption application by Carrier Sekani Family Services (“**CSFS**”) to build an Indigenous **Healing/Treatment Facility** at a property near Vanderhoof (the “**Tachick Lake Property**”). The Property is the only suitable property in the region that meets the criteria necessary for the vision for this urgently needed Facility.

The Decision fails to uphold your government’s commitments to address the opioid crisis on an urgent basis, to close the systemic gaps in medical and health services for First Nations people in the north, to implement the TRC Calls to Action, and to honour the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. On behalf of the CSFS Board of Directors, I am urging you to take action to address this matter.

The planned Healing/Treatment Facility

For close to 20 years, CSFS has been calling on governments to address the need for a residential treatment facility for addictions and mental health in our region. As Minister Malcolmson and your cabinet colleague, the Honourable Minister Adrian Dix are aware, CSFS has a comprehensive plan to

¹ Application 61143.

Corporate Head Office
Stellat'en First Nation
PO Box 2092
Fraser Lake, BC
V0J 1S0

□ Reply To:
987 4th Ave
Prince George, BC V2L 3H7
Phone: 250.562.3591
Fax: 250.562.2272
Toll Free: 1.800.889.6855

□ Reply To:
240 W Stewart Ave, P.O. Box 1219
Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
Phone: 250.567.2900
Fax: 250.567.2975
Toll Free: 1.866.567.2333

□ Reply To:
P.O. Box 1475
#8-870 Highway 16 W
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Phone: 250.692.1800
Fax: 250.692.1877

build and operate a new medically-based and culturally-appropriate 60-bed facility (the “Healing/Treatment Facility”) to fill that gap. Our plan has received support and commitment of resources from First Nations Health Authority and Indigenous Services Canada to ensure that the Facility can be built and begin to operate as soon as possible. We are optimistic that our discussions with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions scheduled for March 9, 2021 will result in additional resources being committed to reinforce the Province’s general support for the Facility.

Why the Tachick Lake Resort was selected

CSFS’s selection of the Tachick Lake Property for the Healing/Treatment Facility was taken after extensive search and due diligence for a suitable location over many years. We summarized the results of that due diligence to the ALC North Panel as part of our application, including summarizing the feasibility assessments of various alternative locations, many of which were outside of the ALR.

The due diligence work supported a conclusion that, despite being within the ALR, the Tachick Lake Property was the best and most suitable location for the Healing/Treatment Facility. The Property meets our needs because:

- The location offers a private rural setting yet is still within relatively short distance to Prince George and its hospital facilities, a major consideration for attracting and retaining medical professionals.
- The high-quality natural setting and direct access to a body of water supports the planned service model that is rooted in Carrier and Sekani cultures and practices. Water is a central feature in Carrier Sekani traditional healing practices and access to a natural water source is fundamental to the Facility’s success in delivering culturally appropriate medical treatment.
- The Property has never been used for agricultural purposes and is currently a recreational resort. Many of the Property’s existing structures and services could be utilized in support of the Facility, minimizing the need for greenfield development.
- The Property being outside of reserve land allows for security of fee simple ownership and a more streamlined development process.

Based on this conclusion, CSFS entered into a contract to purchase the Tachick Lake Property in July of 2020, applied to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to amend its land use zoning bylaw in August, and filed an application for non-farm use with the ALC in October.

Support for an ALC exemption

The ALC Application for approval of a non-farm use was supported by the following facts:

- As noted, to the best of our knowledge, the Property has never been farmed.
- The Property currently houses a resort and campground business, with a sizeable lodge and several outbuildings. The use of the Property as a resort and fishing lodge goes back to at least the 1950s and is a grandfathered use under the ALC Act, which the ALC North Panel acknowledged in the Decision.
- CSFS’s proposal minimizes the impact to the Property. The proposed new 25,000 sq. ft. building and 4,300 sq. ft. parking lot that would be situated on the cleared part of the Property that is

currently used as a resort/campground. The remainder of the Property, most of which is in a natural state, would be undisturbed or minimally impacted.

- CSFS's proposal received a positive recommendation from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The Regional District Council recognized the critical, local need for the Facility to serve the area's residents and has indicated an intention to amend its zoning bylaw to add a community care facility as an approved use of the Property.
- CSFS's proposal was supported by Saik'uz First Nation, whose primary reserve is less than 10km away, and who also recognize the fundamental need for the Facility in the region. Additionally, the CSFS Board, consisting of representatives from Saik'uz and the other 10 members of CSFS (each CSFS member is a Carrier/Sekani First Nation), support the proposal.

The Decision purports to allow CSFS to use the existing resort and campground structures for a treatment centre, but denies CSFS an exemption to construct any new buildings. It is absurd to suggest that a modern medical residential treatment facility could operate in a lodge and cabins designed for recreational use. In effect, the Decision denies CSFS the possibility of building the Healing/Treatment Facility on the Property.

CSFS and our constituents in the region are being denied the ability to utilize a Property that has not been farmed for an essential purpose that maintains most of the property in its natural state while fulfilling an urgent need for Indigenous health services. We are calling on you Ministers to find a mechanism to allow this facility to be built on a site that is well-suited to this purpose.

Urgent action is required

It goes without saying that it is incredibly important for all levels of governments to take urgent and sustained action to address the opioid crisis. This crisis is disproportionately impacting our First Nations communities in the north, with preventable deaths occurring far too frequently. The Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating these impacts, as at-risk Indigenous individuals and families face isolation that makes it even more difficult to heal from and resolve addiction. Indeed, just one week ago, two individuals died of accidental overdose only a few kilometers away from the Tachick Lake Property. We are in the midst of a tragedy for Indigenous health and well-being.

As recently highlighted by Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond in her report "In Plain Sight", this province is in desperate need of medical facilities and services that do not perpetuate the anti-Indigenous racism that is pervasive in our health care system. CSFS's Healing/Treatment Facility is precisely the kind of infrastructure and treatment model that can address this need.

The steps taken by this government to address the opioid crisis are not enough; and, they exclude the power and dignity that comes from First Nations supporting and healing their own people with the support and respect of other levels of government. Your government must also be willing to support the efforts of Indigenous organizations to tackle these issues at the local and regional level.

We urge you to take swift action to authorize and allow the Healing/Treatment Facility to be built and operate. If it is in your power to have the Decision reconsidered, then do so. Otherwise, we want to know how you can assist in making this happen. The Decision currently will have the effect greatly delay

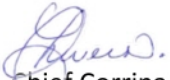
the Healing/Treatment Facility—a delay that would likely result in further loss of Indigenous life. It is unimaginable that this result could be justified by “protecting” a tiny fraction of marginal agricultural land from development on a property that will likely never be farmed.

We are looking to you to fulfil your Ministerial Mandates to advance reconciliation and your government’s commitments to addressing the opioid crisis, responding to the TRC Calls to Action and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Please note that CSFS has spent a lot of time and money following the processes related to the ALC and their decision will have consequences.

As a first step, I would request that your office make time available immediately, and no later than next week (March 8 - 12), to meet with Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of CSFS, to discuss how to resolve this pressing issue.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Regards,



Chief Corrina Leween
President, Carrier Sekani Family Services

cc Warner Adam, CEO, Carrier Sekani Family Services
Chief Priscilla Mueller, Saik’uz First Nation
BC First Nations Leadership Council
Minister of Health, Hon. Adrian Dix, M.L.A. [HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca]
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Hon. Nicholas Simons, M.L.A.
[SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca]
Don Bain, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier [Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca]

**MINISTRY OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS
MEETING MATERIAL**

CLIFF#: 1189289

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): Feb 19, 2021
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): 1189183

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING: March 9, 2021

MEETING REQUEST/ISSUE: Meeting with Chief Corrina Leween (Cheslatta Carrier Nation), Sandra Teegee (Takla Lake First Nation), Jasmine Thomas (Saik'uz First Nation), Theresa Nooski (Nadleh Whut'en First Nation) and Chief Maureen Luggi (Wet'suwet'en First Nation) to discuss a new treatment centre being proposed by Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) in Northern BC.

SHOULD MINISTRY STAFF ATTENDING THIS MEETING: Yes, Nick Grant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning and Matthew Kinch, Senior Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Wellness

BACKGROUND:

- Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) is a non-profit society that provides health, social, and children and family services to 11 First Nation communities in northcentral BC with offices in Prince George, Burns Lake, Fort St. James and Vanderhoof.
- CSFS has contracts with Northern Health, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) to deliver a continuum of primary care, mental health and substance use services for member communities.
- CSFS currently delivers a 28-day adult in-patient treatment program between the months of May and October at a facility located at Ormond Lake (approximately 25 km northwest of Vanderhoof). The facility is comprised of cabins with 14 treatment beds, pit toilets and naturally fed showers. This is a seasonal program due to the current limitations of the facility and its location. CSFS delivers a mobile outreach program during the winter months.
- The treatment facility operated by CSFS is one of ten First Nation-run treatment facilities funded by FNHA in BC. These treatment services are available to all status First Nations clients in BC (i.e. not available to Metis or non-status First Nation clients).
- CSFS is seeking capital funding from the Province to build a new wellness centre that would replace their existing facility and enable an expanded service model that could include a continuum of treatment services.
- The proposal prepared by CSFS describes a wellness centre with a detox wing (10 beds), an addiction recovery wing (35 beds), renovated cabins for longer-term recovery (8-12 beds), and associated amenities (e.g. dining hall, commercial kitchen, cultural space, nursing station, etc.).
- Based on a feasibility study completed in October 2020, it is estimated that construction costs will total \$16.64 million.

- In 2020/21, FNHA approved CSFS for \$5.75 million. This was a one-time contribution meant to cover a portion of the capital costs for this project. The funding committed for this project is cost shared by FNHA and the Province.

DISCUSSION:

- With the transfer of federal health programs and funding in 2013, FNHA assumed responsibility for the administration of ten First Nation-run treatment facilities in BC.
- In 2018, the Province of BC, the Government of Canada and the First Nations Health Council (FNHC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding ('the MOU') to improve mental health and wellness services. The MOU included a commitment to develop a tripartite plan to renovate, replace and build treatment facilities across BC.
- The Province made a one-time capital contribution of \$20 million in 2019/20 in fulfillment of this commitment. FNHA made a matching capital contribution of \$20 million for a total investment of \$40 million. The Government of Canada has not made a capital contribution per its commitments in the MOU. This is likely to limit the proposed scale of some projects.
- The project being proposed by CSFS is one of six existing treatment facilities that FNHA has identified for remediation or full replacement within the \$40 million available. It is on this basis that CSFS was funded by FNHA to complete a feasibility study for a new facility.
- Based on the project proposal, FNHA has indicated to MMHA that the capital and ongoing operational costs exceeds funding currently available for these programs. While FNHA receives funding from the federal government for the core operations of the existing treatment facilities, this does not include funding for an expanded scope of services (e.g. pre- and post-treatment) or capital projects (beyond the \$40 million committed by FNHA and the Province for these projects).
- Based on the expanded scope of services contemplated in the project proposal, it is anticipated that CSFS will be seeking funding from federal, provincial and regional partners for the operation of the new treatment facility once completed.
- MMHA has recently established a provincial advisory committee for bed-based services. This committee includes MMHA, HLTH, Health Authorities (including FNHA), BC Housing and BCCSU. This committee presents an avenue to advance collaboration across partners and explore opportunities to leverage new and existing resources for this project.
- CSFS has submitted the same project proposal to Indigenous Services Canada. It will be important to understand how additional funding from the federal government could complement or augment the funding provided by FNHA and the Province for this project.
- CSFS recently submitted a year-end funding request to the Ministry of Health (HLTH). HLTH has indicated to MMHA that it is unable to provide further funding for this project due to the pandemic response and current budgetary constraints.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- MMHA is encouraged by the progress made by CSFS on this project and the desire to explore an expanded service model that can blend the best of western and cultural approaches to healing.
- MMHA is not able to contribute additional capital funding at this time.

- MMHA would encourage continued collaboration between CSFS, FNHA and Northern Health to leverage existing relationships and resources in the advancement of this project.
- MMHA can facilitate discussions on this project with Ministry partners as appropriate.

Program ADM/Division: Nick Grant, Strategic Policy and Planning
Program Contact (for content): Matthew Kinch, Senior Director
Drafter: Kristin Price, Policy Analyst
Date: March 4, 2021

A/Director of Corporate Planning

Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Program ADM/Division: Nick Grant, Strategic Policy and Planning
Program Contact (for content): Matthew Kinch, Senior Director
Drafter: Kristin Price, Policy Analyst
Date: March 4, 2021



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

www.csfs.org
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March 4, 2021

Via E-mail: IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; MH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Murray Rankin, M.L.A.
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
PO Box 9051 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Lana Popham, M.L.A.
Minister of Agriculture
PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, M.L.A.
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
PO Box 9644 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P1

Dear Ministers:

Re: Essential CSFS Indigenous healing facility – Province stands in the way

I am writing to call to your attention a troubling decision made by the Agricultural Land Commission North Panel on February 26, 2021¹ (the “**Decision**”) to deny a non-farm use exemption application by Carrier Sekani Family Services (“**CSFS**”) to build an Indigenous **Healing/Treatment Facility** at a property near Vanderhoof (the “**Tachick Lake Property**”). The Property is the only suitable property in the region that meets the criteria necessary for the vision for this urgently needed Facility.

The Decision fails to uphold your government’s commitments to address the opioid crisis on an urgent basis, to close the systemic gaps in medical and health services for First Nations people in the north, to implement the TRC Calls to Action, and to honour the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. On behalf of the CSFS Board of Directors, I am urging you to take action to address this matter.

The planned Healing/Treatment Facility

For close to 20 years, CSFS has been calling on governments to address the need for a residential treatment facility for addictions and mental health in our region. As Minister Malcolmson and your cabinet colleague, the Honourable Minister Adrian Dix are aware, CSFS has a comprehensive plan to

¹ Application 61143.

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Fax: 250.562.2272
Toll Free: 1.800.889.6855

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Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0
Phone: 250.567.2900
Fax: 250.567.2975
Toll Free: 1.866.567.2333

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build and operate a new medically-based and culturally-appropriate 60-bed facility (the “Healing/Treatment Facility”) to fill that gap. Our plan has received support and commitment of resources from First Nations Health Authority and Indigenous Services Canada to ensure that the Facility can be built and begin to operate as soon as possible. We are optimistic that our discussions with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions scheduled for March 9, 2021 will result in additional resources being committed to reinforce the Province’s general support for the Facility.

Why the Tachick Lake Resort was selected

CSFS’s selection of the Tachick Lake Property for the Healing/Treatment Facility was taken after extensive search and due diligence for a suitable location over many years. We summarized the results of that due diligence to the ALC North Panel as part of our application, including summarizing the feasibility assessments of various alternative locations, many of which were outside of the ALR.

The due diligence work supported a conclusion that, despite being within the ALR, the Tachick Lake Property was the best and most suitable location for the Healing/Treatment Facility. The Property meets our needs because:

- The location offers a private rural setting yet is still within relatively short distance to Prince George and its hospital facilities, a major consideration for attracting and retaining medical professionals.
- The high-quality natural setting and direct access to a body of water supports the planned service model that is rooted in Carrier and Sekani cultures and practices. Water is a central feature in Carrier Sekani traditional healing practices and access to a natural water source is fundamental to the Facility’s success in delivering culturally appropriate medical treatment.
- The Property has never been used for agricultural purposes and is currently a recreational resort. Many of the Property’s existing structures and services could be utilized in support of the Facility, minimizing the need for greenfield development.
- The Property being outside of reserve land allows for security of fee simple ownership and a more streamlined development process.

Based on this conclusion, CSFS entered into a contract to purchase the Tachick Lake Property in July of 2020, applied to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako to amend its land use zoning bylaw in August, and filed an application for non-farm use with the ALC in October.

Support for an ALC exemption

The ALC Application for approval of a non-farm use was supported by the following facts:

- As noted, to the best of our knowledge, the Property has never been farmed.
- The Property currently houses a resort and campground business, with a sizeable lodge and several outbuildings. The use of the Property as a resort and fishing lodge goes back to at least the 1950s and is a grandfathered use under the ALC Act, which the ALC North Panel acknowledged in the Decision.
- CSFS’s proposal minimizes the impact to the Property. The proposed new 25,000 sq. ft. building and 4,300 sq. ft. parking lot that would be situated on the cleared part of the Property that is

currently used as a resort/campground. The remainder of the Property, most of which is in a natural state, would be undisturbed or minimally impacted.

- CSFS's proposal received a positive recommendation from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The Regional District Council recognized the critical, local need for the Facility to serve the area's residents and has indicated an intention to amend its zoning bylaw to add a community care facility as an approved use of the Property.
- CSFS's proposal was supported by Saik'uz First Nation, whose primary reserve is less than 10km away, and who also recognize the fundamental need for the Facility in the region. Additionally, the CSFS Board, consisting of representatives from Saik'uz and the other 10 members of CSFS (each CSFS member is a Carrier/Sekani First Nation), support the proposal.

The Decision purports to allow CSFS to use the existing resort and campground structures for a treatment centre, but denies CSFS an exemption to construct any new buildings. It is absurd to suggest that a modern medical residential treatment facility could operate in a lodge and cabins designed for recreational use. In effect, the Decision denies CSFS the possibility of building the Healing/Treatment Facility on the Property.

CSFS and our constituents in the region are being denied the ability to utilize a Property that has not been farmed for an essential purpose that maintains most of the property in its natural state while fulfilling an urgent need for Indigenous health services. We are calling on you Ministers to find a mechanism to allow this facility to be built on a site that is well-suited to this purpose.

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We urge you to take swift action to authorize and allow the Healing/Treatment Facility to be built and operate. If it is in your power to have the Decision reconsidered, then do so. Otherwise, we want to know how you can assist in making this happen. The Decision currently will have the effect greatly delay

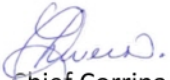
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As a first step, I would request that your office make time available immediately, and no later than next week (March 8 - 12), to meet with Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of CSFS, to discuss how to resolve this pressing issue.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

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From: [Lisa Dasilva](#)
To: [Minister, IRR IRR:EX](#); [Minister, AFF AFF:EX](#); [Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX](#)
Cc: [XT:Warner, Adam CITZ:IN](#); [Priscilla Mueller](#); ["Colin Braker \(cbraker@fns.bc.ca\)"](#); [Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX](#); [Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX](#); [Bain, Don PREM:EX](#)
Subject: Sent on Behalf of Chief Corrina Leween RE: Essential Indigenous healing facility
Date: March 4, 2021 3:45:27 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[Minister Rankin Popham and Malcomsom.2021.03.04.pdf](#)
Importance: High

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Please find attached a letter from Chief Corrina Leween, President of Carrier Sekani Family Services regarding _Essential CSFS Indigenous healing facility – Province stands in the way. Please feel free to contact Warner Adam at Warner@csfs.org or Chief Leween at cleween@cheslatta.com.
Thank you in advance

Lisa Da Silva

Executive Assistant to:
Warner Adam, CEO



CARRIER SEKANI
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32













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March 4, 2021

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The ALC Application for approval of a non-farm use was supported by the following facts:

- As noted, to the best of our knowledge, the Property has never been farmed.
- The Property currently houses a resort and campground business, with a sizeable lodge and several outbuildings. The use of the Property as a resort and fishing lodge goes back to at least the 1950s and is a grandfathered use under the ALC Act, which the ALC North Panel acknowledged in the Decision.
- CSFS’s proposal minimizes the impact to the Property. The proposed new 25,000 sq. ft. building and 4,300 sq. ft. parking lot that would be situated on the cleared part of the Property that is

currently used as a resort/campground. The remainder of the Property, most of which is in a natural state, would be undisturbed or minimally impacted.

- CSFS's proposal received a positive recommendation from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The Regional District Council recognized the critical, local need for the Facility to serve the area's residents and has indicated an intention to amend its zoning bylaw to add a community care facility as an approved use of the Property.
- CSFS's proposal was supported by Saik'uz First Nation, whose primary reserve is less than 10km away, and who also recognize the fundamental need for the Facility in the region. Additionally, the CSFS Board, consisting of representatives from Saik'uz and the other 10 members of CSFS (each CSFS member is a Carrier/Sekani First Nation), support the proposal.

The Decision purports to allow CSFS to use the existing resort and campground structures for a treatment centre, but denies CSFS an exemption to construct any new buildings. It is absurd to suggest that a modern medical residential treatment facility could operate in a lodge and cabins designed for recreational use. In effect, the Decision denies CSFS the possibility of building the Healing/Treatment Facility on the Property.

CSFS and our constituents in the region are being denied the ability to utilize a Property that has not been farmed for an essential purpose that maintains most of the property in its natural state while fulfilling an urgent need for Indigenous health services. We are calling on you Ministers to find a mechanism to allow this facility to be built on a site that is well-suited to this purpose.

Urgent action is required

It goes without saying that it is incredibly important for all levels of governments to take urgent and sustained action to address the opioid crisis. This crisis is disproportionately impacting our First Nations communities in the north, with preventable deaths occurring far too frequently. The Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating these impacts, as at-risk Indigenous individuals and families face isolation that makes it even more difficult to heal from and resolve addiction. Indeed, just one week ago, two individuals died of accidental overdose only a few kilometers away from the Tachick Lake Property. We are in the midst of a tragedy for Indigenous health and well-being.

As recently highlighted by Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond in her report "In Plain Sight", this province is in desperate need of medical facilities and services that do not perpetuate the anti-Indigenous racism that is pervasive in our health care system. CSFS's Healing/Treatment Facility is precisely the kind of infrastructure and treatment model that can address this need.

The steps taken by this government to address the opioid crisis are not enough; and, they exclude the power and dignity that comes from First Nations supporting and healing their own people with the support and respect of other levels of government. Your government must also be willing to support the efforts of Indigenous organizations to tackle these issues at the local and regional level.

We urge you to take swift action to authorize and allow the Healing/Treatment Facility to be built and operate. If it is in your power to have the Decision reconsidered, then do so. Otherwise, we want to know how you can assist in making this happen. The Decision currently will have the effect greatly delay

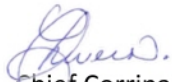
the Healing/Treatment Facility—a delay that would likely result in further loss of Indigenous life. It is unimaginable that this result could be justified by “protecting” a tiny fraction of marginal agricultural land from development on a property that will likely never be farmed.

We are looking to you to fulfil your Ministerial Mandates to advance reconciliation and your government’s commitments to addressing the opioid crisis, responding to the TRC Calls to Action and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Please note that CSFS has spent a lot of time and money following the processes related to the ALC and their decision will have consequences.

As a first step, I would request that your office make time available immediately, and no later than next week (March 8 - 12), to meet with Warner Adam, Chief Executive Officer of CSFS, to discuss how to resolve this pressing issue.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Regards,



Chief Corrina Leween
President, Carrier Sekani Family Services

cc Warner Adam, CEO, Carrier Sekani Family Services
Chief Priscilla Mueller, Saik’uz First Nation
BC First Nations Leadership Council
Minister of Health, Hon. Adrian Dix, M.L.A. [HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca]
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Hon. Nicholas Simons, M.L.A.
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