

## Fwd: Written commitment document

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From: Maartman, William PSSG:EX  
To: Farnworth, Mike PSSG:EX <Mike.Farnworth@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 10, 2021 3:44:23 PM PDT  
Attachments: draft letter v5\_BC comments with final addition.docx  
Final letter for approval. Once you are good I will apply electronic signature and send back

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** July 10, 2021 at 3:11:56 PM PDT  
**To:** "Maartman, William PSSG:EX" <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, "Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX" <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Written commitment document

Final letter

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**From:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX  
**Sent:** July 10, 2021 3:10 PM  
**To:** 'Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC)' <chad.westmacott@canada.ca>; Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <christiane.fox@canada.ca>  
**Cc:** Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>; Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>; Roumeliotis, Eugenia (AADNC/AANDC) <eugenia.roumeliotis@canada.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Written commitment document

Hi Chad, I alerted Christine that there is an addition. We understand Minister Miller's office is waiting for this. This is the final from BC. Apologies and appreciate your patience

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**From:** Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <chad.westmacott@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** July 10, 2021 2:54 PM  
**To:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>; Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <christiane.fox@canada.ca>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>; Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>; Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>; Roumeliotis, Eugenia (AADNC/AANDC) <eugenia.roumeliotis@canada.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Written commitment document

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

Tara and Dave,

Can you confirm that Minister Farnworth is aware and fine that we send the letter on his behalf?  
Thanks

Chad

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

----- Original message -----

From: "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>  
Date: 2021-07-10 4:53 p.m. (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC)" <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>, "Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC)" <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
Cc: "Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX" <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>, "Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX" <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>, "Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX" <[Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca)>, "Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX" <[Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca)>  
Subject: RE: Written commitment document

One minor edit to add missing word in bullet five, filled in BC Ministers and Minister Farnworth signature block. That's all from our side

Thanks Chris

Tara

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**From:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 10, 2021 1:19 PM  
**To:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>; Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>; Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <[Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Written commitment document

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

Yes, we will CC Ministers Blair, Alghabra, McKenna, Bennett and LeBlanc (IGA).

Here is the latest (and hopefully final) version.

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**From:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 10, 2021 4:18 PM  
**To:** Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>; Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>; Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <[Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Written commitment document

Are you cc'ing your Ministers? If so we could include

Minister Katrine Conroy  
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Minister Murray Rankin  
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Minister Farnworth's signature block is:

Minister Mike Farnworth  
Public Safety and Solicitor General

---

**From:** Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 10, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>; Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Written commitment document

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

Tara,

Do you have any Ministers that you want CC'd? and do we have the signature block correct for Minister Farnworth?

Thanks!

Chad

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**From:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 10, 2021 4:08 PM  
**To:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>; Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Written commitment document

OK, we will add these changes to what our Minister's changes were + include a few TC edits. New version to come.

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**From:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 10, 2021 4:04 PM  
**To:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>; Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Written commitment document

Here are out hopefully final edits (disregard green highlight)

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**From:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 10, 2021 12:51 PM  
**To:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>; Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Written commitment document

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

Minister Miller has made some revisions so new version to come ASAP.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2021, at 3:20 PM, Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)> wrote:

Hi,  
Here is the NEW version, including EMBC's additions.  
Let me know if this works.  
Chris

---

**From:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <[Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 10, 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>  
**Cc:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>; Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Written commitment document  
**Importance:** High

Hi Chris

Comments back from BC officials on the draft commitment doc provided this morning. If you hopefully incorporate any revisions back and the pending updates from Public Safety Canada that weren't in the first draft provided this morning

Please call if you wish to discuss<sup>s.17</sup>

Thanks.

Tara

---

**From:** Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 10, 2021 7:25 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Written commitment document

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

Hi Dave,

Following up on our discussion yesterday, attached you will find a draft of the letter of written commitments for EMBC review. This draft has been reviewed by our DM and she is comfortable with it, but note that changes could come from other DMs as it is circulated federally.

Please note that there is one confirmation for you specifically in the document in regards to First Nation involvement in the investigation. I understand that the federal agencies involved (RCMP, TSB) are independent so we can't commit to anything on their behalf – but is that the same for BC agencies involved? There is wording in the letter that says that it is, but please confirm.

Happy to take any comments you may have and will integrate them in. We are under lots of pressure on timing, so anything that you can provide promptly would be appreciated!

Happy to chat as well if easier. My number is below.

Password to follow.

Thanks!

Chad

Merci, Thank you, Miigwetch, Marsi, Nakumik,

Chad Westmacott (he/him | il/lui)

Sous-ministre adjoint par intérim | Acting Assistant Deputy Minister

Opérations Régionales | Regional Operations

Services aux Autochtones | Indigenous Services

mobile/cell : 613-291-3964

<draft letter v4.docx>

Dear Chiefs [for NNTC and NN Coalition]/First Nations Leadership Council,

We are writing on behalf of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, following recent discussions in regards to the wildfires in British Columbia that have been devastating for your communities and families. At this critical moment, it is imperative that we listen to the voices of Indigenous leaders, such as that of the [Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council/First Nation Leadership Council/ Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition], and engage meaningfully on a path forward that respects Indigenous peoples needs and priorities.

Over the past few days, government representatives and officials from Canada and British Columbia have met with you and other First Nation leaders impacted by the fires. Discussions have been about the concerns around the emergency response, cause of this fire, and how we can work together to improve the response and preparedness process. We are committed to working with you and other First Nation leaders to improve the experience in the short term, and working over the longer term for better outcomes.

In those discussions we heard clear concerns regarding safe rail operations, which are especially important in the context of extreme weather conditions, and the Government of Canada is taking immediate actions to address the concerns of communities that live and work near rail lines.

Transport Canada has issued a Ministerial Order to cease movement of trains between Kamloops and Boston Bar, British Columbia for 48 hours ending midnight local time Saturday July 10. This was done in the interest of safe railway operations and to protect public safety for the temporary return of residents to inspect their homes in Lytton.

To address the concerns regarding risks to community safety from rail operations in extreme weather conditions, Transport Canada will be issuing a new Ministerial Order requiring railways take additional measures to further protect against wildfires in the context of extreme weather conditions. Key provisions of this order will take effect at midnight local time Saturday (at the same moment the order to cease train operations expires). It will require railways to take additional actions to reduce fire risk and increase their capacity to immediately respond to any fire in the context of extreme weather conditions and fire risk. It will include targeted speed restrictions, increased equipment inspections and staging and deployment of additional fire prevention equipment for more rapid response to any fire along the right of way.

Transport Canada is committed to build on recent discussions with Indigenous leadership and local communities to develop a sustained structured process for engagement and consultations on issues related to rail safety and the impacts of rail operations on communities. As a first step, Transport Canada has invited First Nations representatives to participate in a live demonstration of the department's inspections of track and rail equipment in the area with Transport Canada rail safety experts. In the coming days we will follow up with sustained consultations on these issues, including a focused engagement with Indigenous groups, and local communities, along with CN and CP, on additional actions that can be taken to ensure safe rail operations in the context of the extreme weather conditions being seen in the region.

There are a number of investigations ongoing into the tragic Lytton area fire, led by the following agencies: BC Wildfire Services, BC Coroner's Office, the RCMP, and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. We recognize the importance of trust and confidence in these investigations. Given the independence of these agencies from the governments of Canada and British Columbia, we will encourage these agencies to include processes where First Nation and local government voices are able to be heard.

To address other concerns raised by you and other First Nation leaders, the governments of Canada and British Columbia commit to the following:

- To continue to work with First Nation leaders on concrete steps in the short term to improve the emergency response

process, especially around increasing communication and coordinating communication during emergencies.

- To immediately fund initial supports directly to affected households to help them get through this challenging time. We also acknowledge the importance of mental health supports and will work with you to identify how best to meet these needs.
- Recognizing the expertise of the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS), we will provide support to the Society for immediate surge capacity to deliver greater emergency response and preparedness, such as FireSmart programming, which is especially important since the risk of wildfires remains. Specifically, through its Emergency Management Assistance Program, Indigenous Services Canada will also provide a requested \$1.8 million in additional funding to FNESS to increase the ability of this experienced emergency management partner to respond to this wildfire season. Indigenous Services Canada will also provide requested funding of \$248,000 to the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to be divided equally among the organizations (the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs) to address immediate response needs for the 2021 wildfire season.
- To supporting affected First Nations to identify and address the infrastructure needs resulting from damages sustained during the wildfires. We are committed to working closely and in partnership with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to not only build back the infrastructure destroyed by the wildfires, but to build back better.
- To develop a longer-term approach in partnership that recognizes the benefits and expertise of First Nation leadership in Emergency Management by continuing the work identified in the MOU with the First Nations Leadership Council to develop a tripartite agreement on emergency management in British Columbia. Where local communities wish to undertake work to develop Emergency management capacity and partnerships, we stand ready to undertake this work together. We recognize the need to work together as equal partners in order for no community to be left behind.
- To work with the First Nation Emergency Services Society to examine the core funding necessary for the Society and First Nations to be able to deliver emergency preparedness and response as identified in that tripartite agreement.
- To support these commitments above, Public Safety Canada is committed to working with First Nations to determine how it can best provide supports to federal, provincial and First Nation partners. Given the unprecedented risks that exist in British Columbia, these efforts will require a focus toward proactive prevention and mitigation efforts and forward-looking recovery measures. Public Safety Canada stands ready to support efforts to move forward on emergency preparedness, especially for First Nations that are at risk in the immediate fire season. Public Safety Canada is also ready to support building back better – with a view on how to better prepare for the kinds of wildfire risks seen already, so as to be better protected in the future.

We also want to be clear that we heard you when you discussed with officials about being directly contacted and communicated with. We are strongly committed to on-going discussions and engagements directly with you – the members of the [Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council/First Nation Leadership Council/ Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition] – on the items above. Our governments are aligned to work with First Nation communities to specifically ensure that there are no jurisdictional issues that hinder progress on the commitments noted in this letter.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are committed to strengthening the important relationship with Indigenous peoples and moving forward together along the shared path of reconciliation. We are committed to working to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship with Indigenous peoples based on affirmation of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. It is important that we find new ways of working together so we can build a path forward together.

In closing, we want to thank First Nations Leadership and organizations for the care and dedication they are focusing

on communities. We look forward to continuing to work with you and other First Nation Leadership to address the commitments outlined in this letter to ensure that we advance together toward a better emergency preparedness and response.

Sincerely,

Minister Marc Miller Minister Mike Farnworth

Indigenous Services of Canada Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government of Canada Government of British Columbia

Cc:

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport

Relevant Ministers (tbc) British Columbia

The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

## FW: Signature needed: Written commitment document

---

From: Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 10, 2021 5:58:15 PM PDT  
Attachments: Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition.pdf, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council.pdf, First Nations Summit Society.pdf, Union of BC Indian Chiefs.pdf, BC Assembly of First Nations.pdf

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**From:** Roumeliotis, Eugenia (AADNC/AANDC) <[eugenia.roumeliotis@canada.ca](mailto:eugenia.roumeliotis@canada.ca)>

**Sent:** July 10, 2021 5:50 PM

**To:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <[christiane.fox@canada.ca](mailto:christiane.fox@canada.ca)>; Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>; Westmacott, Chad (AADNC/AANDC) <[chad.westmacott@canada.ca](mailto:chad.westmacott@canada.ca)>

**Cc:** Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <[Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca)>; Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <[Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca)>; Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <[Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca)>; Bisson, Melissa (AADNC/AANDC) <[melissa.bisson@canada.ca](mailto:melissa.bisson@canada.ca)>; Wielinga, Anne (AADNC/AANDC) <[anne.wielinga@canada.ca](mailto:anne.wielinga@canada.ca)>; Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <[Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca)>; Thomas, Lana (AADNC/AANDC) <[lane.thomas@canada.ca](mailto:lane.thomas@canada.ca)>; De Sa, Caroline (AADNC/AANDC) <[caroline.desa@canada.ca](mailto:caroline.desa@canada.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Signature needed: Written commitment document

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

Hi Tara,

Attached are the letters for signature - please let me know if there are any issues

Geni  
613-769-4176

July 10, 2021

Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition

Dear Chiefs:

We are writing on behalf of the governments of Canada and British Columbia, following recent discussions in regards to the wildfires in British Columbia that have been devastating for your communities and families. At this critical moment, it is imperative that we listen to the voices of Indigenous leaders, such as that of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition, and engage meaningfully on a path forward that respects Indigenous peoples needs and priorities.

Over the past few days, government representatives and officials from Canada and British Columbia have met with you and other First Nation leaders impacted by the fires. Discussions have been about the concerns around the emergency response, cause of this fire, and how we can work together to improve the response and preparedness process. We are committed to working with you and other First Nation leaders to improve the experience in the short term, and working over the longer term for better outcomes.

In those discussions we heard clear concerns regarding safe rail operations, which are especially important in the context of extreme weather conditions, and the Government of Canada is taking immediate actions to address the concerns of communities that live and work near rail lines.

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To address the concerns regarding risks to community safety from rail operations in extreme weather conditions, Transport Canada will be issuing a new Ministerial Order requiring railways take add additional measures to further protect against wildfires in the

context of extreme weather conditions. Key provisions of this order will take effect at midnight local time Saturday (at the same moment the order to cease train operations expires). It will require railways to take additional actions to reduce fire risk and increase their capacity to immediately respond to any fire in the context of extreme weather conditions and fire risk. It will include targeted speed restrictions, increased equipment inspections and staging and deployment of additional fire prevention equipment for more rapid response to any fire along the right of way.

Transport Canada is committed to build on recent discussions with Indigenous leadership and local communities to develop a sustained structured process for engagement and consultations on issues related to rail safety and the impacts of rail operations on communities. As a first step, Transport Canada has invited First Nations representatives to participate in a live demonstration of the department's inspections of track and rail equipment in the area with Transport Canada rail safety experts. In the coming days we will follow up with sustained consultations on these issues, including a focused engagement with Indigenous groups, and local communities, along with CN and CP, on additional actions that can be taken to ensure safe rail operations in the context of the extreme weather conditions being seen in the region.

There are a number of investigations ongoing into the tragic Lytton area fire, led by the following agencies: BC Wildfire Services, BC Coroner's Office, the RCMP, and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. We recognize the importance of trust and confidence in these investigations. Given the independence of these agencies from the governments of Canada and British Columbia, we will encourage these agencies to include processes where First Nation and local government voices are able to be heard.

To address other concerns raised by you and other First Nation leaders, the governments of Canada and British Columbia commit to the following:

To continue to work with First Nation leaders on concrete steps in the short term to improve the emergency response process, especially around increasing communication and coordinating communication during emergencies.

To immediately fund initial supports directly to affected households to help them get through this challenging time. We also acknowledge the importance of mental health supports and will work with you to identify how best to meet these needs.

Recognizing the expertise of the First Nations' Emergency Services Society

(FNESS), we will provide support to the Society for immediate surge capacity to deliver greater emergency response and preparedness, such as FireSmart programming, which is especially important since the risk of wildfires remains. Specifically, through its Emergency Management Assistance Program, Indigenous Services Canada will also provide a requested \$1.8 million in additional funding to FNESS to increase the ability of this experienced emergency management partner to respond to this wildfire season. Indigenous Services Canada will also provide requested funding of \$248,000 to the First

Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to be divided equally among the organizations (the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs) to address immediate response needs for the 2021 wildfire season.

To supporting affected First Nations to identify and address the infrastructure needs resulting from damages sustained during the wildfires. We are committed to working closely and in partnership with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to not only build back the infrastructure destroyed by the wildfires, but to build back better.

To develop a longer-term approach in partnership that recognizes the benefits and expertise of First Nation leadership in Emergency Management by continuing the work identified in the MOU with the First Nations Leadership Council to develop a tripartite agreement on emergency management in British Columbia. Where local communities wish to undertake work to develop emergency management capacity and partnerships, we stand ready to undertake this work together. We recognize the need to work together as equal partners in order for no community to be left behind.

To work with the First Nation Emergency Services Society to examine the core funding necessary for the Society and First Nations to be able to deliver emergency preparedness and response as identified in that tripartite agreement.

To support these commitments above, Public Safety Canada is committed to working with First Nations to determine how it can best provide supports to federal, provincial and First Nation partners. Given the unprecedented risks that exist in British Columbia, these efforts will require a focus toward proactive prevention and mitigation efforts and forward-looking recovery measures. Public Safety Canada stands ready to support efforts to move forward on emergency preparedness, especially for First Nations that are at risk in the immediate fire season. Public Safety Canada is also ready to support building back better – with a view on how to better prepare for the kinds of wildfire risks seen already, so as to be better protected in the future.

We also want to be clear that we heard you when you discussed with officials about being directly contacted and communicated with. We are strongly committed to ongoing discussions and engagements directly with you – the members of the

Nlaka'pamux Nation Bands Coalition – on the items above. Our governments are

aligned to work with First Nation communities to specifically ensure that there are no jurisdictional issues that hinder progress on the commitments noted in this letter.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are committed to strengthening the important relationship with Indigenous peoples and moving forward together along the shared path of reconciliation. We are committed to working to advance reconciliation and renew the relationship with Indigenous peoples based on affirmation of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. It is important that we find new ways of working together so we can build a path forward together.

In closing, we want to thank First Nations Leadership and organizations for the care and dedication they are focusing on communities. We look forward to continuing to work with you and other First Nation Leadership to address the commitments outlined in this letter to ensure that we advance together toward a better emergency preparedness and response.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP Minister Mike Farnworth

Indigenous Services of Canada Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government of Canada Government of British Columbia

Cc:

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada  
and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport

The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource

Operations and Rural Development

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure



Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

July 10, 2021

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Office  
1632 St. Georges Road  
Box 430  
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

[nlakapamux@nntc.ca](mailto:nlakapamux@nntc.ca)

Dear Chiefs:

We are writing on behalf of the governments of Canada and British Columbia, following recent discussions in regards to the wildfires in British Columbia that have been devastating for your communities and families. At this critical moment, it is imperative that we listen to the voices of Indigenous leaders, such as that of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council and engage meaningfully on a path forward that respects Indigenous peoples needs and priorities.

Over the past few days, government representatives and officials from Canada and British Columbia have met with you and other First Nation leaders impacted by the fires. Discussions have been about the concerns around the emergency response, cause of this fire, and how we can work together to improve the response and preparedness process. We are committed to working with you and other First Nation leaders to improve the experience in the short term, and working over the longer term for better outcomes.

In those discussions we heard clear concerns regarding safe rail operations, which are especially important in the context of extreme weather conditions, and the Government of Canada is taking immediate actions to address the concerns of communities that live and work near rail lines.

Transport Canada has issued a Ministerial Order to cease movement of trains between Kamloops and Boston Bar, British Columbia for 48 hours ending midnight local time Saturday July 10. This was done in the interest of safe railway operations and to protect public safety for the temporary return of residents to inspect their homes in Lytton.

To address the concerns regarding risks to community safety from rail operations in extreme weather conditions, Transport Canada will be issuing a new Ministerial Order requiring railways take additional measures to further protect against wildfires in the context of extreme weather conditions. Key provisions of this order will take effect at midnight local time Saturday (at the same moment the order to cease train operations expires). It will require railways to take additional actions to reduce fire risk and increase their capacity to immediately respond to any fire in the context of extreme weather conditions and fire risk. It will include targeted speed restrictions, increased equipment inspections and staging and deployment of additional fire prevention equipment for more rapid response to any fire along the right of way.

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There are a number of investigations ongoing into the tragic Lytton area fire, led by the following agencies: BC Wildfire Services, BC Coroner's Office, the RCMP, and the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. We recognize the importance of trust and confidence in these investigations. Given the independence of these agencies from the governments of Canada and British Columbia, we will encourage these agencies to include processes where First Nation and local government voices are able to be heard.

To address other concerns raised by you and other First Nation leaders, the governments of Canada and British Columbia commit to the following:

- To continue to work with First Nation leaders on concrete steps in the short term to improve the emergency response process, especially around increasing communication and coordinating communication during emergencies.
- To immediately fund initial supports directly to affected households to help them get through this challenging time. We also acknowledge the importance of mental health supports and will work with you to identify how best to meet these needs.
- Recognizing the expertise of the First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS), we will provide support to the Society for immediate surge capacity to deliver greater emergency response and preparedness, such as FireSmart programming, which is especially important since the risk of wildfires remains. Specifically, through its Emergency Management Assistance Program,

Indigenous Services Canada will also provide a requested \$1.8 million in additional funding to FNESS to increase the ability of this experienced emergency management partner to respond to this wildfire season. Indigenous Services Canada will also provide requested funding of \$248,000 to the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to be divided equally among the organizations (the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs) to address immediate response needs for the 2021 wildfire season.

- To supporting affected First Nations to identify and address the infrastructure needs resulting from damages sustained during the wildfires. We are committed to working closely and in partnership with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to not only build back the infrastructure destroyed by the wildfires, but to build back better.
- To develop a longer-term approach in partnership that recognizes the benefits and expertise of First Nation leadership in Emergency Management by continuing the work identified in the MOU with the First Nations Leadership Council to develop a tripartite agreement on emergency management in British Columbia. Where local communities wish to undertake work to develop emergency management capacity and partnerships, we stand ready to undertake this work together. We recognize the need to work together as equal partners in order for no community to be left behind.
- To work with the First Nation Emergency Services Society to examine the core funding necessary for the Society and First Nations to be able to deliver emergency preparedness and response as identified in that tripartite agreement.
- To support these commitments above, Public Safety Canada is committed to working with First Nations to determine how it can best provide supports to federal, provincial and First Nation partners. Given the unprecedented risks that exist in British Columbia, these efforts will require a focus toward proactive prevention and mitigation efforts and forward-looking recovery measures. Public Safety Canada stands ready to support efforts to move forward on emergency preparedness, especially for First Nations that are at risk in the immediate fire season. Public Safety Canada is also ready to support building back better – with a view on how to better prepare for the kinds of wildfire risks seen already, so as to be better protected in the future.

We also want to be clear that we heard you when you discussed with officials about being directly contacted and communicated with. We are strongly committed to on-going discussions and engagements directly with you – the members of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council – on the items above. Our governments are aligned to work with First Nation communities to specifically ensure that there are no jurisdictional issues that hinder progress on the commitments noted in this letter.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are committed to strengthening the important relationship with Indigenous peoples and moving forward together along the shared path of reconciliation. We are committed to working to advance reconciliation

and renew the relationship with Indigenous peoples based on affirmation of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. It is important that we find new ways of working together so we can build a path forward together.

In closing, we want to thank First Nations Leadership and organizations for the care and dedication they are focusing on communities. We look forward to continuing to work with you and other First Nation Leadership to address the commitments outlined in this letter to ensure that we advance together toward a better emergency preparedness and response.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP  
Indigenous Services of Canada  
Government of Canada

Minister Mike Farnworth  
Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Government of British Columbia

Cc:

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport

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The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure



Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

July 10, 2021

First Nations Summit Society  
First Nation Leadership Council

[ccasimer@fns.bc.ca](mailto:ccasimer@fns.bc.ca)  
[rphillips@fns.bc.ca](mailto:rphillips@fns.bc.ca)  
[lhwitsum@fns.bc.ca](mailto:lhwitsum@fns.bc.ca)

Dear Cheryl Casimer, Robert Phillips and Lydia Hwitsum:

We are writing on behalf of the governments of Canada and British Columbia, following recent discussions in regards to the wildfires in British Columbia that have been devastating for your communities and families. At this critical moment, it is imperative that we listen to the voices of Indigenous leaders, such as that of the First Nation Leadership Council, and engage meaningfully on a path forward that respects Indigenous peoples needs and priorities.

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COLUMBIA

July 10, 2021

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

First Nation Leadership Council  
Union of BC Indian Chiefs

[president@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:president@ubcic.bc.ca)

[vp@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:vp@ubcic.bc.ca)

[judy@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:judy@ubcic.bc.ca)

Dear Grand Chief Phillip, Chief Tom and Kukpi7 Wilson:

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BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

July 10, 2021

BC Assembly of First Nations

First Nation Leadership Council  
BC Assembly of First Nations

[regionalchief@bcfn.ca](mailto:regionalchief@bcfn.ca)

Dear Regional Chief Terry Teegee:

We are writing on behalf of the governments of Canada and British Columbia, following recent discussions in regards to the wildfires in British Columbia that have been devastating for your communities and families. At this critical moment, it is imperative that we listen to the voices of Indigenous leaders, such as that of the First Nation Leadership Council, and engage meaningfully on a path forward that respects Indigenous peoples needs and priorities.

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The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

## **Fwd: Ref. 52992 - Letter from Ministers Rankin and Farnworth**

---

From: Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Farnworth, Mike PSSG:EX <Mike.Farnworth@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 11, 2021 7:42:35 PM PDT  
Attachments: 52992 - SIGNED.pdf  
Hello Minister

Letter to NNTC from yourself and Minister Rankin has been sent

Tara

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Caul, Doug D IRR:EX" <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** July 11, 2021 at 7:40:27 PM PDT  
**To:** "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, "Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX" <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>, "Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX" <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>, "Bain, Don PREM:EX" <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>, "Hockin, Amber PREM:EX" <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>, "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>, "Maranda, Pierrette IGRS:EX" <Pierrette.Maranda@gov.bc.ca>, "Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX" <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, "Fyfe, Richard J AG:EX" <Richard.Fyfe@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ref. 52992 - Letter from Ministers Rankin and Farnworth

Doug Caul  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Minister, IRR IRR:EX" <IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** July 11, 2021 at 7:32:48 PM PDT  
**To:** Matthew Pasco s.22, nlakapamux@nntc.ca, chief@lfn.band, executive@lfn.band, Boothroydband@gmail.com, Dougmc707@yahoo.com, s.22  
**Cc:** carolyn.bennett@canada.ca, Marc.Miller@canada.ca, "Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX" <PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>, "Caul, Doug D IRR:EX" <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>, "Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX" <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, "Massey, Christine MMHA:EX" <Christine.Massey@gov.bc.ca>, "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Ref. 52992 - Letter from Ministers Rankin and Farnworth

Good evening,

Please find attached a letter from Minister Murray Rankin and Minister Mike Farnworth. A physical letter will not follow.

Thank you,

Office of the Honourable Minister Rankin  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Ph: 250.953.4844 | E: [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)



Ref. 52992

July 11, 2021

Matthew Pasco  
Tribal Chair  
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Dear Chief Matthew Pasco:

This is a follow up to the July 10, 2021, letter from British Columbia and Canada outlining commitments to, and next steps with, Indigenous leadership regarding wildfire recovery and rail safety. As we have discussed and in acknowledgement of the specific impacts of the Lytton fire on the Lytton First Nation, we offer this letter to guide the next steps with the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) and the Lytton First Nation regarding recovery from the devastating fire.

We agree that our 2017 Political Accord on Advancing Recognition, Reconciliation, and Implementation of Title and Rights provides us with the appropriate framework for the next steps outlined below. As per the 2017 Accord, the foundation of the government-to-government relationship between British Columbia and NNTC is the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. All relations between British Columbia and NNTC, including the implementation of the actions in this letter, will be based on this foundation.

In addition, as per the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between British Columbia and NNTC including the implementation of the actions outline in this letter.

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Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
email: [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
website: [www.gov.bc.ca/irr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr)

Telephone: 250 953-4844  
Facsimile: 250 953-4856

Together through this letter we confirm the following:

1. British Columbia and NNTC will form a leadership implementation table that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of this letter and ensuring progress is being made for the Lytton First Nation on recovery from the Lytton fire. The table will consist of Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Janet Webster, Minister Farnworth, and Minister Rankin. The table will be established upon confirmation of this letter and will meet on a mutually agreeable frequency.
2. British Columbia and NNTC will form an implementation coordination task force consisting of three representatives of the NNTC and three representatives of British Columbia. The task force will be responsible for developing and implementing workplans for each of the commitments in the July 10, 2021 letter and this letter and tracking the completion of immediate, near, medium, and long-term deliverables. The task force will begin work by July 13, 2021 and will provide regular updates to the leadership implementation table.
3. British Columbia will provide NNTC initial funding \$100,000 to begin implementation of the actions in this letter. British Columbia acknowledges that substantially more funding will be needed to "build back better" the damage NNTC communities, and in particular the Lytton First Nation. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada regarding funding of these needs.
4. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that enhanced health supports, including mental health supports, are amongst the urgent needs for those members of NNTC affected by the fires. British Columbia and the NNTC will work with the First Nations Health Authority to develop a plan, including funding, that builds on the current and ongoing supports. The parties will develop the plan by July 20, 2021.
5. British Columbia and NNTC recommit to the full implementation of their Political Accord, and specifically all the commitments in section 6. The Parties mutually appoint Dr. Roshan Danesh, QC to facilitate the full implementation of section 6, including making recommendations to the leadership implementation table by September 30, 2021 on recommendations that include clear structures and processes between the parties for dealing with future emergencies.
6. British Columbia and NNTC recognize that addressing the emergency situation that has occurred will require structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of co-operation that have not previously been in place between them, and that they will work together in new ways to address all disputes and disagreements that may arise in the implementation of this letter.

.../3

7. British Columbia and NNTC will coordinate with Canada in the implementation of this letter.

In addition to the commitments of the July 10, 2021 letter, we confirm our mutual understandings of the actions outlined above by signing below.



---

Murray Rankin, QC  
Minister of Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation



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Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor  
General

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Chief Matthew Pasco  
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Chair

---

Chief Janet Webster  
Lytton First Nation

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Chief Douglas McIntyre  
Skuppah First Nation

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Chief Mike Campbell  
Boothroyd First Nation

CC: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Indigenous Services

Doug Caul, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

.../4

Christine Massey, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Tara Richards, Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

## **Fwd: Correspondence from the Honourable Marc Miller and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett**

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From: Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Farnworth, Mike PSSG:EX <Mike.Farnworth@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 11, 2021 7:44:01 PM PDT  
Attachments: Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council - signed.pdf

And here is the federal government's letter to NNTC

Tara

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Caul, Doug D IRR:EX" <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** July 11, 2021 at 7:39:44 PM PDT  
**To:** "Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX" <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>, "Hockin, Amber PREM:EX" <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>, "Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX" <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>, "Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX" <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, "Bain, Don PREM:EX" <Don.Bain@gov.bc.ca>, "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>, "Maranda, Pierrette IGRS:EX" <Pierrette.Maranda@gov.bc.ca>, "Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX" <Rick.G.Manwaring@gov.bc.ca>, "Fyfe, Richard J AG:EX" <Richard.Fyfe@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** **Fwd: Correspondence from the Honourable Marc Miller and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett**

Apologies if I missed anyone.

Tara will leave it to you to send you your minister.  
Dc

Doug Caul  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC)" <christiane.fox@canada.ca>  
**Date:** July 11, 2021 at 7:34:18 PM PDT  
**To:** "Caul, Doug D IRR:EX" <Doug.Caul@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** **FW: Correspondence from the Honourable Marc Miller and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett**

Hi,  
It was just sent.  
Chris

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**From:** Minister, IS (AADNC/AANDC) <is.minister@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 10:31 PM  
**To:** nlakapamux@nntc.ca; 'mpasco@nntc.ca' <mpasco@nntc.ca>; 'chief@lfn.band' <chief@lfn.band>; 'dougmc707@yahoo.com' <dougmc707@yahoo.com>; 'boothroydband@gmail.com' <boothroydband@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC) <christiane.fox@canada.ca>; Quan-Watson, Daniel (AADNC/AANDC) <daniel.watson@canada.ca>; Isaak, Paula (CANNOR) <paula.isaak@canada.ca>  
**Subject:** Correspondence from the Honourable Marc Miller and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett

Please find attached a correspondence from the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.

Regards,

Sent on behalf of the Honourable Marc Miller and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett.



July 11, 2021

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Office  
1632 St. Georges Road  
Box 430  
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

[nlakapamux@nntc.ca](mailto:nlakapamux@nntc.ca)

Dear Chiefs:

We are writing on behalf of the Government of Canada, following the letter sent to the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) on July 10, 2021 (the Letter) and subsequent discussions held between Chief Pasco, on behalf of the NNTC, and Minister Miller.

We have reviewed the nine proposed commitments that you have sent for the Government of Canada and the NNTC, following the commitments in the Letter. We agree with the nature and direction of these proposed commitments, and, for some, have some further refinement that we are proposing. If you agree with these refinements, we can consider these commitments of the Government of Canada and the NNTC.

1. The foundation of the Nation-to-Nation relationship between Canada and NNTC is the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. All relations between Canada and NNTC, including the implementation of the Letter, will be based on this foundation.
2. The standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between Canada and NNTC including the implementation of the Letter.

.../2

The Government of Canada agrees and shares these first two commitments.

3. Canada and NNTC will form a leadership implementation table that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of the Letter. The table will consist of Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Janet Webster, and Minister Marc Miller. The table will be established on July 11, 2021 and will touch base daily until decided otherwise by the table.

4. Canada and NNTC will form an implementation coordination task force consisting of three representatives of the NNTC and three representatives of Canada. The task force will be responsible for developing and implementing work plans for each of the commitments in the Letter and tracking the completion of immediate, near, medium, and long-term deliverables. The task force will begin work on July 11, 2021 and meet on a daily basis until directed otherwise by the leadership implementation table.

For the proposed third and fourth commitments, the Government of Canada agrees with setting up a leadership implementation table, led by either Minister Miller or Minister Bennett. The Government of Canada will appoint three representatives to be members of the task force to develop work plans for each commitment, as well as looking into the various MOUs or agreements with the goal of streamlining and ensuring progress and action. The work of the task force will be watched closely by the Minister to ensure progress and regular check-in. The first meeting with the NNTC and the Minister will be held the week of July 12, 2021, followed by the meeting of the task force.

5. Canada will provide NNTC initial funding of \$2,000,000 to begin implementation of the letter and support Lytton First Nation in immediate preliminary recovery needs. Canada acknowledges that substantially more funding will be needed to "build back better" the damage NNTC communities, and in particular the Lytton First Nation.

For the proposed fifth commitment, the Government of Canada agrees to provide initial funding of \$2,000,000 to begin implementation of the letter and support Lytton First Nation and other affected NNTC member First Nations in preliminary recovery needs and Canada recognizes that more will be required to build back better.

6. Canada and NNTC recognize that the damage resulting from the fires is creating a deepening humanitarian crisis for communities of the NNTC, including in particular interim housing needs, and will develop a plan and funding for interim housing for all affected individuals and families by Friday July 16, 2021.

In regards to the sixth proposed commitment, the Government of Canada is committed to supporting those who have lost their homes following the devastating fires, by funding interim housing as a temporary measure. The Government of Canada proposes to meet with the NNTC and community representatives on July 12, 2021 to discuss needs, details and the process to develop a plan. Canada will work with the First Nation's Recovery Manager or other designated representative(s) to support a damage assessment, which needs to be undertaken to develop the plan and needed funding for interim housing. The Government of Canada commits to work closely with the affected First Nations and the NNTC to develop the process by Wednesday July 14, 2021, with the plan to follow the damage assessment, respecting the lead of the First Nation.

7. Canada and NNTC will work to complete a comprehensive framework agreement by October 15, 2021 to guide the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux title, rights, jurisdiction, and laws in their relationship.

For the seventh proposed commitment, the Government of Canada welcomes the opportunity to work with the NNTC on the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux title, rights, jurisdiction, and laws. Canada, lead by CIRNAC in support of Minister Bennett, will work collaboratively with NNTC to develop a comprehensive framework agreement by October 15, 2021. To launch the work, an introductory meeting can be set up as soon as possible to discuss NNTC's vision, develop a work plan in order to determine the amount of support funding required, and to discuss the scheduling of future meetings.

8. Canada and NNTC recognize that addressing the emergency situation that has occurred will require structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of co-operation that have not previously been in place between them, and that they will work together in new ways to address all disputes and disagreements that may arise in the implementation of the Letter.

The Government of Canada agrees with the proposed eighth commitment. The Leadership table and task force referenced above, as well as the investments we have committed to are important demonstrations of how we will work together to implement the Letter.

9. Canada and NNTC will coordinate with British Columbia in the implementation of this side letter.

The Government of Canada agrees with the ninth proposed commitment. The coordination on the implementation of these commitments will include the Government of Canada, NNTC and British Columbia.

As noted in the Letter, the Government of Canada is committed to strengthening the important relationship with the NNTC and moving forward together along the shared path to reconciliation. The commitments above, with Canada's responses, are important steps in building a path forward together.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, and would be available to discuss the next steps on these commitments.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP  
Indigenous Services Canada

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP  
Crown-Indigenous Relations

Cc:

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada  
and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General,  
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

## **Key Messages – Grant to support Lytton’s economic recovery**

Nov. 18, 2021

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To support the Village of Lytton in its economic recovery from the wildfire this summer, the Province is providing \$1 million in grant funding. From this funding, \$500,000 will support the community in their efforts to restart their local economy and \$500,000 is short term funding for municipal wildfire recovery operations while its tax revenue is disrupted. This means the Village can continue to pay the staff who are leading the wildfire recovery.

### **Key Messages**

- Our government is immediately providing \$1 million in grant funding to help the Village of Lytton in its wildfire recovery efforts.
- With this funding, municipal workers in the Village of Lytton can continue their critical work to get the community back up and running.
- \$500,000 will be for economic recovery, work led by Lytton’s Mayor and council, to re-start their economy and welcome businesses back as soon as possible.
- And \$500,000 is for operational activities at the Village of Lytton while tax revenue is disrupted. This means the Village can continue to pay their staff, who are leading its recovery.
- With homes and businesses shuttered or lost, the Village is financially challenged to keep its operations ongoing.
- We are supporting the local government, businesses, and people of Lytton as they rebuild their community.

### **Response to 2021 wildfire**

- We recognize the devastation in Lytton continues to be incredibly difficult for residents of the village.
- Right now, the Province is coordinating with all insurance providers, NGOs, the Regional District, and the Village to coordinate the community clean-up and debris removal.

- The Province is focused on ensuring the debris removal in the village takes place in a timely manner. Preparation work to clear access for the debris removal is already underway.
- Emergency Management BC is continuing to provide emergency supports until Nov 30, 2021, to households who have experienced the loss of their primary residence or who are on evacuation order.
- At the same time, we are also working across ministries and with our partners to ensure we can help those who need it over the long term.
- We know that rebuilding Lytton will take time, and we're here to offer our support as we tackle this together.

### **Federal supports**

- We're exploring all options to help those impacted.
- We submitted this request to the federal government for assistance through Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) on July 29, 2021 and are awaiting the federal government's response.

### **Accommodation for evacuees**

- It's important that people have safe places to stay over the winter.
- The Province is actively supporting the Village of Lytton and Lytton First Nation in their recovery planning. This includes supporting the development of interim housing solutions to ensure people are supported and safe through the winter.
- We're working with the Canadian Red Cross to provide eligible residents with financial assistance to support their interim housing needs.
- Beginning in December, eligible households will receive \$1,300 per month to support them in the transition to long-term housing.
- The planning of these housing solutions takes time, and a process is followed to ensure all needs are considered and funding is available for those impacted.

## Lytton Grant and recover

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From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>, Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>, Godfrey, Samuel PSSG:EX <Samuel.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 26, 2021 9:59:03 AM PST  
Attachments: KM - Lytton recovery support - Nov 18 2021.docx, Lytton\_GrantLetter .docx  
Hi all,

As discussed, attached is the grant letter and KMs

**Jordan Turner**

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

**Phone:** (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928



Agreement #: WFR2122001

The Corporation of the Village of Lytton  
Leslie Groulx  
Chief Administrative Officer  
380 Main St PO Box 100  
Lytton BC V0K1Z0

November 25, 2021

Dear Leslie Groulx:

The purpose of this grant is to provide economic recovery support to communities that have been significantly impacted by the 2021 wildfire season.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the "Province", "we", "us", or "our" as applicable) is pleased to provide the Corporation of the Village of Lytton (the "Recipient", "you", or "your" as applicable) a grant for \$1,000,000 payable to you on or before December 1, 2021 in order to support the Village of Lytton Economic Wildfire Recovery (the "Project") as outlined in Appendix A – Project Details and subject to the Marketing, Publicity and Communications requirements of Appendix B.

Under this Agreement any funds that have not been expended, or which cannot be committed to the achievement of the Project as outlined in Appendix A:

- (a) Must be returned by the Recipient to the Province; or
- (b) May be retained by the Recipient as supplemental funding upon written confirmation from the Province.

This Agreement starts upon its execution and ends March 31, 2024.

Further to this, the Province requires reporting on the status of achievements in relation to this funding, and financial information, with timing and content of reporting as agreed between the Province and the Recipient. All reporting templates will be provided by the Province. The Recipient will submit an annual report on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January of each year of the Project duration and a final project report upon Project completion but prior to the agreement end date identified in this agreement.

Funds can be allocated to provide immediate capacity needs and economic support as detailed in Appendix A.

We wish you success in achieving the objectives of this Agreement. Please contact the Rural Policy and Programs branch at 250-356-7950 if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Sarah Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Rural Opportunities, Tenures and Engineering Division  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## APPENDIX A – PROJECT DETAILS

### 1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will provide the Village of Lytton with immediate capacity and economic and infrastructure that is critical and foundational to enable the business community to re-establish itself within the Village of Lytton. Funds will be allocated to support the following:

- Operational Needs (\$500,000)
- Economic Recovery Infrastructure and Economic Development Officer Funding Support (\$500,000)

### 2. PROJECT COMPONENTS

Project Component	Activities
Operational Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocate funds for operational activities at the Village of Lytton due to acute needs related to recovery efforts.</li> </ul>
Economic Recovery Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocate funds to economic and infrastructure recovery activities to support the re-establishment of the business community.</li> </ul>
Economic Development Officer Funding Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocate funds, in combination with funding from the Northern Development Initiative Trust, to hire an Economic Development Officer to support economic recovery efforts in the Village.</li> </ul>

### 3. Funding Allocation

It is understood that there is a critical need to fund operational and immediate recovery expenses. Should any of the expenses covered under this Agreement, later be funded through other Provincial or Federal sources, the funds will be re-allocated to the Project Components outlined above.

## **APPENDIX B – MARKETING, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Media events and promotional materials regarding the Project shall not occur without the prior knowledge and agreement of the Province. The Recipient will provide at least 15 working days' notice to the Province's Community Support Grant Program contact of media events. Media events include, but are not limited to, news conferences, public announcements, official events or ceremonies, news releases, or release of documents.

2. Notice of a media event shall be provided by the Recipient to the Province's contact. Current contact is:

Rural Policy and Programs Branch at [ruraldevelopment@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ruraldevelopment@gov.bc.ca).

Notification of a new contact may be provided from time to time.

3. Any media event shall take place at a mutually agreed date and location. The Recipient will acknowledge the Financial Contribution made by the Province on any signage, posters, exhibits, pamphlets, brochures, advertising, websites, forms, or other publications produced by the Recipient and related to the Project, in terms satisfactory to the Province.
4. The Recipient will use the Province's logo in acknowledging the financial contribution of the Province. Any and all use by the Recipient of the Provincial logo and statement will be in the form provided by the Province, and will comply with the graphic standards and any conditions communicated, by the Province to the Recipient from time to time. The Province's logo and graphic standards document is incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

The statement to accompany acknowledgement is as follows: "We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia"