



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Committee of the Whole
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA
Thursday, June 8, 2023

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
2-3	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – Preparations for the Province of BC, Lake Babine Nation and Government of Canada meeting with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako on June 22, 2023	Receive
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

Preparations for the Province of BC, Lake Babine Nation and Government of Canada meeting with the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako on June 22, 2023

Representatives for the Province of British Columbia, Lake Babine Nation (LBN) and the Government of Canada will be meeting with Regional District of Bulkley Nechako (RDBN) Board of Directors on June 22, 2023, at 10:00AM. This memo provides context and background information on the Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement to prepare the RDBN Board of Directors in advance. This memo was prepared by the Province and, due to scheduling and timing constraints, has not been reviewed by Canada or Lake Babine Nation. However, the information in this memo draws on publicly available information and the meeting objectives have been discussed and supported by Canada and LBN.

Purpose

The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

- Give an update regarding tripartite progress on the Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement,
- Provide an overview of the Land Transfer Agreement,
- Provide an update on government-to-government meetings in Burns Lake June 19-22, and
- Discuss goals for public engagement planning.

Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement

On September 18, 2020, the Province of British Columbia, Lake Babine Nation and the Government of Canada (collectively the “Parties”) signed the [Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement](#) (LBNFA). The LBNFA sets out a 20-year, step-by-step vision for LBN to implement their rights and title, so they can build a strong, stable future for their Nation and membership.

The agreement supports both short and long-term goals. The major components of the agreement include: governance; land transfers and Aboriginal title recognition; economic development; natural resource decision-making; forestry; fisheries; wildlife and socio-cultural well-being (including greater control over programs for Lake Babine members in areas including justice, education, health, and child and family services). LBN, the Province and Government of Canada continue to negotiate many of these topic areas to achieve the vision laid out within the LBNFA.

Since signing, the Parties have achieved many milestones under the agreement including:

- Lake Babine Nation and Province of BC Conservation Officer Service “[Communications Memorandum of Understanding](#)” (2023)
- [Lake Babine Nation Land Transfer Agreement](#) (2022) – *more information below*
- [Land Act Section 10.1 Closure](#) (Effective August 24, 2022 – August 31, 2024)
- [Lake Babine Environmental Assessment Collaboration Agreement](#) (2021)
- Lake Babine Nation Labour Market Survey (2022)
- Expansion of LBN Forestry (activities, staff, revenues, relationships with major licensees)
- [Legacy Mine and Compliance Monitoring](#) (ongoing)
- BC Government have advanced and met funding commitments ([Schedule C – Provincial Funding](#)).

Overview of the Land Transfer Agreement

On December 22, 2022, Lake Babine Nation and the Province of BC signed the Lake Babine Nation Land Transfer Agreement. Under the LBNFA, the Province committed to transferring 20,000 hectares of Crown land to LBN in fee simple. The agreement [identifies the proposed land parcels and provisions](#) for transfer to occur. The parcels of Crown land identified to transfer in fee simple was the result of discussions with neighbouring First Nations and stakeholders, including the public, property owners, local government, and tenure holders.

Government-to-Government Meetings in Burns Lake (June 19-22, 2023)

For the week of June 19-22, Lake Babine Nation, Province, and Government of Canada are holding working group meetings in relation to the LBNFA. Our schedule is as follows:

- June 19 – Wildlife and Socio-cultural Technical Working Group Meetings (concurrently)
- June 20 – Lands and Natural Resources Working Group (AM) and Forum (PM) Meetings
- June 21 – Provincial/federal staff to participate in National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations
- June 22 – Presentation to the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Board of Directors

Meetings described on June 19/20 are reoccurring monthly/bi-monthly for the parties to connect regarding ongoing negotiations and progress for the LBNFA. The Parties will meet in-person in Burns Lake for June’s meetings, which coincide with the RDBN Board Meeting.

Local Government & Public Engagement

The Province met with staff from the Village of Burns Lake and the RDBN to discuss cross-government engagement and public engagement goals/opportunities in the Burns Lake area.

The three governments agree that improved communication will increase local government’s awareness of advancements surrounding the LBNFA and improve their ability to communicate this information to their constituents. The parties are interested in working collaboratively to build stronger, interconnected relationships, in alignment with the Province and Union of British Columbia Municipalities [“Engagement and UBCM and Local Governments on First Nations Negotiations and Other Indigenous Initiatives”](#) Memorandum of Understanding. Provincial staff from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will work with the RDBN and the Village of Burns Lake to set up annual meetings. In addition, the RDBN demonstrated interest in attending LBNFA tripartite meetings (as appropriate) and the Lake Babine Nation has expressed support for this idea.

The Province and local governments have also discussed the importance of a shared strategy for public engagement, which may include a plain language pamphlet (for distribution online and at local government offices) and presence at local events or locations within the community. The Province will work with the local governments plan to develop a public engagement plan by fall/winter of 2023.

Given the Land Transfer Agreement that will be signed imminently between the Cheslatta Nation and the BC Government, MIRR staff have also connected Karen MacDowell, BC’s Cheslatta team representative, with the Village of Burns Lake and RDBN to set up briefings as necessary.