



Reference: 31816

September 15, 2023

VIA EMAIL: chief.jdesjarlais@blueberryfn.ca, sdominic@blueberryfn.ca,
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Chief and Council of Blueberry River First Nations

Chief Judy Desjarlais
Councillor Sherry Dominic
Councillor Troy Wolf
Councillor Wayne Yahey
Councillor Shelley Gauthier
Councillor Robin Ewaskow

Dear Chief and Council:

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on our September 1, 2023 letter and provide an update and seek a response from you on the question of a mediator, and on the establishment of a Senior Officials Table.

First, regarding the mediator, the Province followed up with David Loukidelis on the possible engagement. David Loukidelis recently decided to retire, and after some reflection, indicated he did not wish to come out of retirement for this engagement. Subsequently, the Province sought interest from several other individuals who have relevant experience in this area. Four individuals indicated an interest in working with you to address internal governance matters, and have indicated that they are willing to put their names forward for your consideration.

These include:

- 1) Frank Borowicz, K.C.
- 2) Corinn Bell, K.C.
- 3) Dan Johnston
- 4) Bruce McIvor

We would appreciate your confirmation as soon as possible on your preferred and alternate mediator, so we can facilitate retaining the mediator for up to eight weeks, consistent with

earlier views expressed that the discussion could occur reasonably within a handful of weeks. We would then propose making an introduction to your chosen representatives and recuse ourselves from the ongoing engagement unless requested to participate with the consent of all the parties.

Second, further to our recommendation to establish a Senior Officials Table and hold a first meeting by late September 2023, we would like to proceed with confirming a date and facilitator for such a meeting. The Province did receive written support from Chief Desjarlais to establish the formal government-to-government approach, but we have not heard from other Council members. The Province is recommending this first Senior Officials meeting take place on September 29, 2023, in Vancouver. The Province can coordinate and cover costs for the facility and a facilitator.

We would appreciate a response on this second matter of setting up a Senior Officials table at your earliest convenience. The Province seeks to effectively implement our Agreement together, and this step of a Senior Officials table is part of establishing strong governance between our governments.

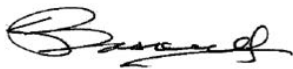
Sincerely,



Lori Halls
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource
Stewardship



Tom McCarthy
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation



Shannon Baskerville
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon
Innovation

pc: Rick Manwaring, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests
Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Michelle Carr, Commissioner and CEO, BC Energy Regulator