

ASSEMBLY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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July 20, 2018

Premier John Horgan

Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC

Dear Mr. Premier,

The Cariboo Chilcotin has tremendous potential for tourism, mining and many other business adventures. Unfortunately the uncertainty created from a lack of clarity regarding First Nation rights and title is driving away investment, dividing our communities and damaging our economy.

This uncertainty requires the Province of BC to take the lead in finding a resolution. Negotiations have taken too long and leave too many questions unanswered.

I request that the Province file a reference case in the BC Supreme Court asking for direction and clarity on the following topics:

- Rights of indigenous people where an area has been determined to be Rights only (not title) under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.
- Whether indigenous rights as defined under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution include any right to subsurface resources
- Clarity regarding road access to private land surrounded by Aboriginal Title. This includes
  access, maintenance and road ownership.

The Cariboo Chilcotin area has been devastated by the 2017 Wildfires. This clarity and certainty is required in order for our economy to recover and grow. Our communities are blessed with the close proximity of resources but without access I fear our future is in jeopardy.

BC Liberal Official Opposition Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 Cariboo Regional District File No. 400 - 20

JUL 2 5 2018 Referred To <u>CAO/Chair</u> I look forward to your response so that I can provide information to my constituents on your government's direction and intentions.

Sincerely

Donna Barnett, MLA Cariboo Chilcotin

CC: Andrew Wilkinson, Leader Official Opposition

Cariboo Regional District, Attn: Chair, Margo Wagner  $\checkmark$ 

City of Williams Lake

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