



Cariboo Regional District
File No. 40020
FEB 27 2019
Referred To ~~Chair~~
Board

February 6, 2019

Ref. 46396

Margo Wagner
Chair
Cariboo Regional District
Suite D, 180 North 3rd Avenue
Williams Lake BC V2G 2A4

Dear Margo Wagner:

Thank you for your letter of November 20, 2018, regarding my response to your concerns about section 3.4.0 of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw (NStQ) treaty agreement-in-principle (AIP).

In your letter you have asked specifically for a response as to whether the minister understands your view that a change of the drafting in the section from “municipality” to “local government” would have no impact on the intent to the document and would protect the interests of the Cariboo Regional District and other Regional Districts.

I can confirm that Minister Fraser understands your view of this matter. I must also note, however, that the proposed change does substantively change the intent of the section by significantly changing the geographic extent of its application.

Modern treaties envision First Nations as members of local government relationships, including the option to become members of Regional Districts. The change you have proposed is in part a reflection of the current situation where First Nations governments operating under the federal *Indian Act* are separate from provincial local government structures. This has negatively impacted the development of relationships between local governments and First Nation governments. One goal of treaties is to reduce the barriers between communities and to enable the development of stronger local relationships.

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Section 3.4.0 addresses the Province's considerations for requested additions to treaty lands. In practice, the relationships that develop between treaty First Nations and local governments will have a significant influence on the environment in which those requests are made and on how the Province considers those requests. I look forward the time where section 3.4.0 essentially becomes redundant and requests from treaty First Nations for additions to treaty lands come with the full support of their local government partners.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Balcaen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Trish Balcaen
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

bc: Patrick Richmond, Negotiator

File: 400-20
Your Ref: 45711

November 20, 2018

Trish Balcaen, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Box 9100 Stn Provincial Government
Victoria BC V8W 9B1

Dear Ms. Balcaen:

Re: Wording of Item 3.4.0 – Proposed Addition to NStQ AIP

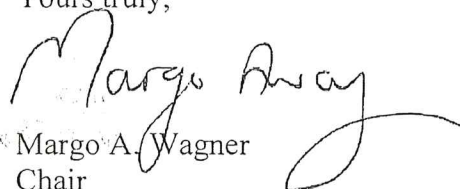
Thank you for your response, dated October 25, 2018, regarding my concern over the wording of item 3.4.0 relating to the addition of NStQ treaty settlement lands.

I do not see any direct reference to my concern in your letter and, once again, I would like to reiterate the Cariboo Regional District's concern over the lack of the inclusion of the wording 'local government' instead of 'municipal'. Our concern stems back to the ability of the NStQ to add fee simple lands to their Treaty Settlement area, through the treaty process. Once these fee simple lands are added to the NStQ Treaty Settlement lands, as per the suggestion in item 3.4.0, the Regional District will lose the ability to collect tax revenue from these properties which, in turn, will negatively affect the only income that the Regional District has to run the services we provide to our residents.

We have talked at length about this with Patrick Richmond, the Provincial Negotiator, and we feel that he now has a good understanding of our concerns.

I would appreciate another letter from you, confirming that Minister Scott Fraser also understands how this simple word change, whilst having no impact on the intent of the document, would protect the interests of the Cariboo Regional District as well as other Regional Districts that might be similarly affected.

Yours truly,



Margo A. Wagner
Chair

cc: Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

