



Date: 07/08/2020

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: Choose an item.

From: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Aug21_2020

File: Williams Lake First Nation – Addition to Reserve Lands

Short Summary:

Williams Lake First Nation – Addition to Reserve Lands – 150 Mile Ranch

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

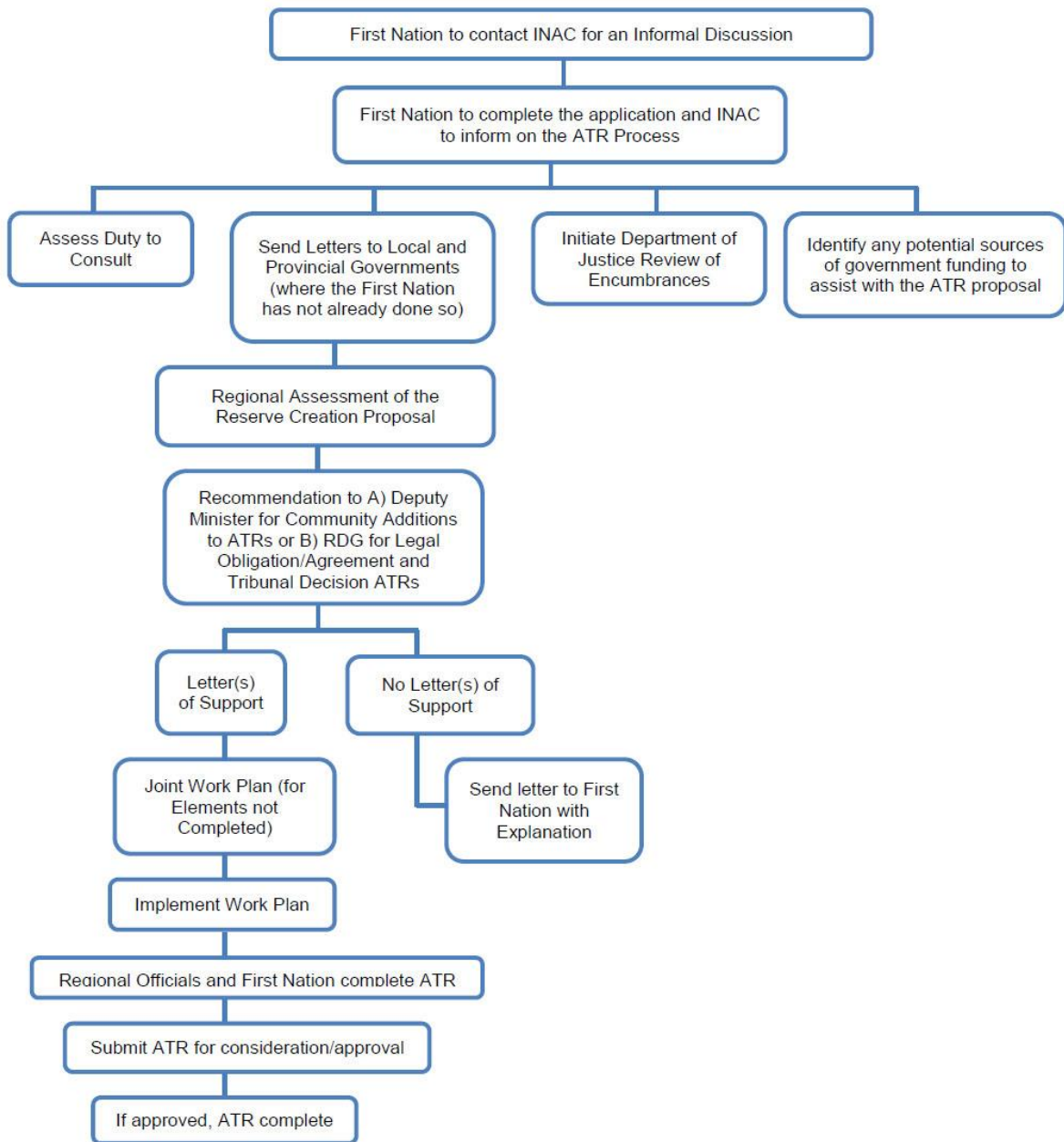
Memorandum:

The Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) has formally initiated discussions on the future of the 150 Mile Ranch and their desire to add it to reserve lands. We have had less formal discussion at the staff level in previous years.

Chair Wagner and I met with WLFN Chief Sellars, CAO Manella and Director of Legal and Corporate Services Dressler to discuss the project and intentions.

For background, the Province of BC (through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure) purchased the 150 Mile Ranch and currently leases it to the Williams Lake First Nation as compensation for reserve lands that were utilized in the Highway 97 improvement project. The WLFN, which has authority over lands (since 2014) wishes to add it to IR 1. The Addition to Reserve Lands process is established and managed by Indigenous and Northern Affairs. The process is as follows:

Flowchart 2: Process for initiating Additions to Reserve/Reserve Creation Proposals



We have looked at the impact of the inclusion of the 150 Mile Ranch into IR 1. The main difference would be that the lands would no longer pay property taxes. In this particular case, the impact is approximately \$3,500 across all of the services that those lands participate in. The largest single impact would be to the 150 Mile Volunteer Fire Department, and in this case the impact would be approximately \$670.

All in all, the impacts to local government services are not material.

We would like to take this opportunity to discuss agreements with the WLFN on the following issues:

1. A revisit to the current fire services agreement with WLFN to ensure that the 150 Mile Ranch lands, which are currently serviced by the 150 Mile VFD continue to have service and that the compensation provided to the 150 Mile VFD Service is fair and reasonable to all parties.
2. A memorandum (or other form of agreement) that discusses how we will go about discussing land use and ensuring that we do not have incompatible land uses in our respective jurisdictions.

We value our relationship with the Williams Lake First Nation. At the staff level we see no issues that would cause us to question the inclusion of these lands. We have prepared the attached letter, and it is our recommendation that the Board endorse and approve it for sending.

Attachments:

- 1) Draft Letter
- 2) Map of the 150 Mile Ranch

Financial Implications:

The taxation impact of the inclusion of the 150 Mile Ranch is less than \$3,500 and is not material to the overall operation of CRD services. If the loss of taxation revenues is mitigated through agreement (such as the Fire Services Agreement) we will have no identifiable impact.

Policy Implications:

n/a

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

- 1) Endorse recommendation
- 2) Receipt only

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from John M. MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer, dated August 7, 2020, regarding the proposed inclusion of the 150 Mile Ranch lands into Williams Lake First Nation IR 1, be received. Further, that the Board indicate that it has no objections with the proposed inclusion of the lands into IR 1 with the understanding that the WLFN and CRD will discuss the fire services agreement and land use planning, and that the attached letter be sent to the Williams Lake First Nation.