



Canim Lake Band

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May 31, 2023

Mayor Maureen Pinkney
PO Box 340,
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Kukpi7 (Chief) Helen Henderson
Canim Lake Band
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RE: Annual Recreational Pass Fees for Tsq'escen (Canim Lake Band) Members in 100 Mile House

Weyt-k Mayor Pinkney,

I write on behalf of Tsq'escen (Canim Lake Band). Tsq'escen's traditional territory, Tsq'escencul'ecw, generally stretches from the North Thompson River to the north and east, south of Bonaparte and west of 100 Mile House. Tsq'escenemc have occupied and have been the stewards of Tsq'escencul'ecw since time immemorial. Tsq'escen have never ceded, surrendered or in any way relinquished its title to or rights in relation to Tsq'escencul'ecw, and accordingly, we retain title to Tsq'escencul'ecw, in its entirety. Canadian law acknowledges certain ownership rights held by Tsq'escen as a result of our holding Aboriginal title to Tsq'escencul'ecw, including: the right to decide how the land will be used, the right of enjoyment and occupancy of land, and the right to use and manage the land.

As you are hopefully aware, 100 Mile House (Cpulmetkwa) sits within Tsq'escen's traditional territory, Tsq'escencul'ecw. As a result of its location within our territory, many of our citizens live in or near 100 Mile House and use facilities there. We understand the Cariboo Regional District offers the use of recreational facilities to residents of 100 Mile House, without charge. Tsq'escen members and families are charged a household recreation pass fee of \$200 per year when they sign up for community sports programs in 100 Mile House on top of the fees for the individual sports. We understand those who live in 100 Mile House are not charged for a Rec Pass because the fees are included in their property taxes. We understand these fees are used by Cariboo Regional District for operations and maintenance of their sports arenas, curling rinks, and fields.

All those who live and participate in recreation on land is within Tsq'escencul'ecw, including in what is known as 100 Mile House, do so as Tsq'escen's visitors and with Tsq'escen's permission. This is a significant benefit everyone within Cariboo Regional District enjoys. However, our exclusive use and occupation of our lands are interfered with by the village of 100 Mile House and the CRD, without any form of compensation to us, or accommodation for traditional activities.

Under the circumstances, we do not view the \$200 fee imposed on our citizens for use of 100 Mile House recreational facilities as appropriate, in that the imposition of the fee fails to recognize the enormous price already paid by Tsq'escen in order to accommodate 100 Mile House's presence within our territories. This fee is cost inhibiting to those who would like to engage in recreational and sporting activities for their health and wellness in the area of 100 Mile House. Together, we can work on increased participation while improving the socio-economic status of our people. Accordingly, and in the spirit of reconciliation, taking into consideration 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2012; specifically Calls to Action 43 and 89, respectively;

"We call upon federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the framework for reconciliation" and "...by ensuring policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and wellbeing, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal Peoples"

As well as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) was passed in British Columbia in November 2019;

"Article 28 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair, and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent. 2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories, and resources


And finally, Cariboo Regional District's own four year strategic plan for 2022-2026, Goal #4;

"To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation"

Therefore, we request that Cariboo Regional District waive household recreation pass fees for all Tsq'escen (Canim Lake Band) members and consider reimbursing the Tsq'escen families whom have contributed to this fee in the past five years at minimum.

Our Council will continue to stand up and uphold our laws which govern our Tsq'escen territory and as good neighbors, want to include you. Like you, we seek to improve the relationship between our respective communities. Please let us know how we can work together using the guidance of the TRC, DRIPA and your own strategic plan within 100 Mile House and surrounding areas. Please contact me and/or our Chief Administrative Officer, Laurelee Bennett (cao@canimlakeband.com) to arrange such a meeting.

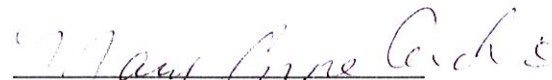
Mete Xyemstes (with respect),




Kukpi7 Helen Henderson




Councillor Delores Archie



Councillor Maryanne Archie



Councillor Pamela Theodore



Councillor Joseph Archie



Councillor Edward Dixon

CC: Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer of Cariboo Regional District
Margo Wagner, CRD Chair of Electoral Area H
Lorne Doerkson, MLA Cariboo-Chilcotin