



Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada

July 11, 2021

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Office  
1632 St. Georges Road  
Box 430  
Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0

[nlakapamux@nntc.ca](mailto:nlakapamux@nntc.ca)

Dear Chiefs:

We are writing on behalf of the Government of Canada, following the letter sent to the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) on July 10, 2021 (the Letter) and subsequent discussions held between Chief Pasco, on behalf of the NNTC, and Minister Miller.

We have reviewed the nine proposed commitments that you have sent for the Government of Canada and the NNTC, following the commitments in the Letter. We agree with the nature and direction of these proposed commitments, and, for some, have some further refinement that we are proposing. If you agree with these refinements, we can consider these commitments of the Government of Canada and the NNTC.

1. The foundation of the Nation-to-Nation relationship between Canada and NNTC is the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux Nation title, rights, laws, and jurisdiction. All relations between Canada and NNTC, including the implementation of the Letter, will be based on this foundation.

2. The standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be fully implemented in all aspects of the relationship between Canada and NNTC including the implementation of the Letter.

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The Government of Canada agrees and shares these first two commitments.

3. Canada and NNTC will form a leadership implementation table that will be responsible for overseeing implementation of the Letter. The table will consist of Chief Matt Pasco, Chief Janet Webster, and Minister Marc Miller. The table will be established on July 11, 2021 and will touch base daily until decided otherwise by the table.

4. Canada and NNTC will form an implementation coordination task force consisting of three representatives of the NNTC and three representatives of Canada. The task force will be responsible for developing and implementing work plans for each of the commitments in the Letter and tracking the completion of immediate, near, medium, and long-term deliverables. The task force will begin work on July 11, 2021 and meet on a daily basis until directed otherwise by the leadership implementation table.

For the proposed third and fourth commitments, the Government of Canada agrees with setting up a leadership implementation table, led by either Minister Miller or Minister Bennett. The Government of Canada will appoint three representatives to be members of the task force to develop work plans for each commitment, as well as looking into the various MOUs or agreements with the goal of streamlining and ensuring progress and action. The work of the task force will be watched closely by the Minister to ensure progress and regular check-in. The first meeting with the NNTC and the Minister will be held the week of July 12, 2021, followed by the meeting of the task force.

5. Canada will provide NNTC initial funding of \$2,000,000 to begin implementation of the letter and support Lytton First Nation in immediate preliminary recovery needs. Canada acknowledges that substantially more funding will be needed to "build back better" the damage NNTC communities, and in particular the Lytton First Nation.

For the proposed fifth commitment, the Government of Canada agrees to provide initial funding of \$2,000,000 to begin implementation of the letter and support Lytton First Nation and other affected NNTC member First Nations in preliminary recovery needs and Canada recognizes that more will be required to build back better.

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6. Canada and NNTC recognize that the damage resulting from the fires is creating a deepening humanitarian crisis for communities of the NNTC, including in particular interim housing needs, and will develop a plan and funding for interim housing for all affected individuals and families by Friday July 16, 2021.

In regards to the sixth proposed commitment, the Government of Canada is committed to supporting those who have lost their homes following the devastating fires, by funding interim housing as a temporary measure. The Government of Canada proposes to meet with the NNTC and community representatives on July 12, 2021 to discuss needs, details and the process to develop a plan. Canada will work with the First Nation's Recovery Manager or other designated representative(s) to support a damage assessment, which needs to be undertaken to develop the plan and needed funding for interim housing. The Government of Canada commits to work closely with the affected First Nations and the NNTC to develop the process by Wednesday July 14, 2021, with the plan to follow the damage assessment, respecting the lead of the First Nation.

7. Canada and NNTC will work to complete a comprehensive framework agreement by October 15, 2021 to guide the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux title, rights, jurisdiction, and laws in their relationship.

For the seventh proposed commitment, the Government of Canada welcomes the opportunity to work with the NNTC on the recognition and implementation of Nlaka'pamux title, rights, jurisdiction, and laws. Canada, lead by CIRNAC in support of Minister Bennett, will work collaboratively with NNTC to develop a comprehensive framework agreement by October 15, 2021. To launch the work, an introductory meeting can be set up as soon as possible to discuss NNTC's vision, develop a work plan in order to determine the amount of support funding required, and to discuss the scheduling of future meetings.

8. Canada and NNTC recognize that addressing the emergency situation that has occurred will require structures, processes, actions, investments, and forms of cooperation that have not previously been in place between them, and that they will work together in new ways to address all disputes and disagreements that may arise in the implementation of the Letter.

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The Government of Canada agrees with the proposed eighth commitment. The Leadership table and task force referenced above, as well as the investments we have committed to are important demonstrations of how we will work together to implement the Letter.

9. Canada and NNTC will coordinate with British Columbia in the implementation of this side letter.

The Government of Canada agrees with the ninth proposed commitment. The coordination on the implementation of these commitments will include the Government of Canada, NNTC and British Columbia.

As noted in the Letter, the Government of Canada is committed to strengthening the important relationship with the NNTC and moving forward together along the shared path to reconciliation. The commitments above, with Canada's responses, are important steps in building a path forward together.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, and would be available to discuss the next steps on these commitments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP  
Indigenous Services Canada

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP  
Crown-Indigenous Relations

Cc:

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General,  
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation