

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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March 17, 2021

Hon. Murray Rankin
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Via Email: IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Rankin,

Thank you for your correspondence dated March 8, 2021 in which you provided some reflections regarding the confidential technical scoping/concept paper shared by our officials for your team's consideration. We are encouraged that you agree that the secretariat must serve in a centralized role, as we continue to experience significant challenges in cross-government awareness, understanding, and alignment with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and firmly believe that a secretariat has the potential to bridge our shared intentions and commitments to demonstrable progress. We look forward to the outcomes of your investigation and research and again emphasize our interest in having this secretariat function established as soon as possible.

In your correspondence you also proposed a regular schedule of meetings with us, in addition to the leadership meetings that include the Premier and, therefore, to convert the existing joint core working group into a technical working group. We are in support of this proposal. Routine and substantive political and strategic meetings directly between us may help to resolve some of the challenges described above regarding cross-government understanding and alignment. We will ask our team to connect with your senior officials to make required changes.

Sincerely,
FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

Cheryl Casimer

Robert Phillips

Lydia Hwitsum

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

Chief Don Tom

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:

Regional Chief Terry Teegee