



April 14, 2021

First Nations Leadership Council:

On behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations:

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

On behalf of the First Nations Summit:

Cheryl Casimer, Lydia Hwitsum and Robert Phillips

On behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs:

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Chief Don Tom and Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

Dear First Nations Leadership Council:

I hope this letter finds you and your communities well and safe. I am seeking an opportunity to engage with the First Nations Leadership Council regarding an important proposal I have been asked to accomplish on behalf of the Province.

In November 2020, I was honoured to be named by Premier John Horgan as the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations. In this role, one of my top priorities is to look at restructuring options within the natural resource sector, including the development of a plan for a new Ministry for Lands and Natural Resource Operations. To support this work, a Lands and Natural Resource Operations Secretariat (Secretariat) has been established, led by Deputy Minister Lori Halls. The attached background document provides more information about this work and the process the Secretariat is following to develop restructuring options for the natural resource sector.

Secretariat staff have worked your staff in the development of our approach to engaging Indigenous people on this important initiative. Based on this input, I am meeting with elected chiefs from across the province through late April and early May and separately with hereditary chiefs to better understand what is working well and where improvements can be made in relation to the natural resource sector. Following these meetings, I would like to meet with the First Nations Leadership Council to build on the input received from elected and hereditary chiefs. This session will be facilitated by Dan George of Four Directions Management Services and based on input from your staff, will take place on May 14th, 2021 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Secretariat staff will work with your staff to confirm attendance and provide meeting details (virtual invite, agenda, backgrounder, etc.).

Page 1 of 2

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Office of the Minister
Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 9049 Stn Prov
Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Tel: 250-387-6240
Fax: 250-387-1040
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/for

Following this meeting I will also be meeting with the three natural resource councils under the First Nations Leadership Council and separately with Indigenous members of government partnered Indigenous forums (the Collaborative Stewardship Forum, Environmental Sustainability Initiative, Marine Area Planning Process, and Great Bear Rainforest).

Implementation of any restructuring decision by government may result in legislative changes. The work to make any legislative changes would not likely begin until spring 2022 and the appropriate engagement will be undertaken as part of the Province's commitments under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Given the importance of this initiative, your feedback is extremely valuable, and I hope that you will be able to join me in a discussion about the future of land stewardship in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Cullen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Honourable Nathan Cullen
Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Pc: Lori Halls, Deputy Minister, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Dan George, Four Directions Management Services