BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Nadina District

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January 23, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Final area transition for First Nation Woodland Licences in the Lakes & Morice TSA:

1. Wet'suwet'en First Nation, and Lake Babine Nation in the Morice TSA.

2. Skin Tyee Nation, and Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation in the Lakes TSA.

Please reference the Aug 9th/13 letter 'Final area transition for First Nation Woodland Licences in the Lakes & Morice TSA' for previous area transition.

The process for landing First Nations Woodland Licenses (FNWL) is nearing another significant milestone for the Six Nations residing within the Lakes TSA and Morice TSAs- Nadina District. In addition to the first area transition on August 9, 2013, selection work supporting Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement (FTOA) areas has been completed for all of the First Nations in the Lakes and Morice TSAs- Lake Babine Nation and Wet'suwet'en First Nation in the Morice TSA, Skin Tyee Nation, and Nee Tahi Buhn in the Lakes TSA. These four have completed, necessary field confirmation steps supporting their area interests. Our office remains engaged in area selection discussions with the Lake Babine Nation for the Bulkley TSA.

For those four First Nations who have reached the noted milestone, it is our intention to offer them an FTOA in due course. During the FTOA process, interest area may be further refined pending final analysis. Following FTOA sign off, an FNWL issuance process will move forward with operational opportunity for these tenures as early as 2015/2016. An important component of the overall process for establishment of new, area based tenures is initiation of formal transition discussions between incoming and outgoing licensees. Such discussions pertain to matters outlined within the Nadina District Bill 28 Area Selection guidance (Guidance Document) attached and noted as Ver. 7.0 August 6, 2013.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
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Given my comfort with progress surrounding present area selection in the Nadina District, this letter initiates the *Referral* phase of transition outlined under Appendix C of the Guidance Document - for those shapes outlined upon the attached map. For these shapes, and effective January 23, 2015; this letter implements timeline provisions outlined under Appendix C, "Development in progress/Unapproved applications" of the Guidance Document. As Lake Babine Nation progress toward their Bulkley TSA, area selection milestone, I will provide a further transition letter of this nature.

Please refer to the Proposed Bill 28 Transition Areas map (Version#3, dated Jan23, 2015) and shape files sent via email with this letter. To assist transition discussions, we request shape file submissions of your developments within these mapped shapes, supported by completion of the attached table pertaining to development status. Please make submission to our office by way of email to Garth.omeara@gov.bc.ca and Steve.heppner@gov.bc.ca My staff will work with existing licensees to clarify submission status for applications intended for or within our permitting system(s).

During the transition phase, the incoming proponent shall seek to reach agreement with outgoing licence holder(s) and BCTS as applicable. Consistent with the Guidance Document, we encourage incoming proponents to play a lead role in initiating and maintaining transition discussions on the following general items:

- discussing proposed area selection with major forest licensees, BCTS, First Nation and other forest tenure holders within their area(s) of interest,
- collating responses received from such engagements,
- developing collaborative solutions as applicable, and
- in developing mitigating options addressing concerns regarding the proposed tenure.

To assist area transition, our office stands by to facilitate discussions between incoming and outgoing licensee representatives as required by either party.

Should you have any question regarding this letter, please contact our office for further discussion and through the reference provided.

Yours truly,

Josh Pressey
District Manager
Nadina Resource District

Attachment(s):

Map - Proposed Bill 28 FNWL Transition Areas map (Version#3, dated Jan 23, 2015)
Proposed Bill 28 FNWL Transition Areas Table – Jan 23, 2015
Shape files and copy of this letter (as per accompanying email communication)