

MLA First Nations Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Draft Terms of Reference:

May 13, 2016

This non-partisan committee is being formed for affected Stakeholders to look at and comment on future land discussions between first nations and government.

1. Background

The Federal government along with Federal courts have recently ruled in favour of first nations gaining access to parts of their traditional territories as land in fee simple terms. It is because of these rulings that the Provincial government is now working with first nations across the Province to identify parcels of land that that could be utilized for future and current land transfers.

In the Northeastern part of British Columbia, we also have Site C that is presently under construction and could also see some lands being transferred to First Nations as a result of some of their traditional territory being lost to flooding of the valley for the project and all other crown tenures, and resident interests.

2. Purpose

- 2.1.** To bring representatives from the Peace River region including the local MLA's, Regional Provincial Ministry managers, former provincial ministry mangers, regional residents, local BCWF reps, local trappers associations reps, local guide and outfitter representatives, local grain growers representatives, local cattlemen representatives, local winter and summer recreational and back country representatives. For the purpose of reviewing properties that have been identified as possible, future First Nations Treaty land entitlement, court rulings, Site C compensation, and future land transfers.
- 2.2.** To facilitate timely information exchange to ensure accurate information regarding the properties, in particular regards of transparency, maintaining access for all, mitigation and compensation for loss of Crown land, court rulings, Site c compensation, and future land transfers.
- 2.3.** To provide a forum for stakeholders and community representatives to discuss and address local interests, enquiries and concerns in a timely and cooperative manner and receive feedback from such input.
- 2.4.** To ensure that all stakeholder and public interests are being identified and acknowledged in these discussions.

3. Meeting Logistics

3.1. Chair: Peace River North MLA will be Chair of the committee and if the MLA is not available then Peace River south MLA will Chair in place of.

3.2. Venue: Venue will be determined by Chair

3.3. Schedule: The schedule will be determined by the committee and call of the chair

3.4. Expenses:

3.5. MLA will arrange for and pay for meeting venue costs and refreshments.

-The MLA will provide an assistant to manage meeting logistics and committee records, as described below.

Committee Records: MLA will provide an assistant to manage the distribution of materials as described below:

3.5.1. **Agendas:** The draft Agenda will be circulated ahead of all meetings via email.

3.5.2. **Meeting materials:** All members will have the opportunity to add items to the agenda prior to the meeting.

3.5.3. **Meeting Notes:** The MLA assistant or an alternate will attend meetings and prepare a draft meeting summary, including recommendations which will be distributed to all members. Members will then have their opportunity to suggest any changes to the notes, via email.

3.5.4. **Reporting:** The MLA assistant will prepare a report of the committee. Members will have the opportunity to add input to the report prior to it being forwarded to the Minister of MARR. The MLA will then review recommendations with the Minister and report back to committee.

3.6. Communications and Confidentiality

3.6.1. **Media communication:** The committee will issue press releases as required and approved by the committee. This is to ensure that our message remains consistent between all members. Once the release is public it will be posted to the MLA website.

3.6.2. **Confidentiality:** The general public and the media will not be permitted to attend meetings except by invitation. To foster open dialogue between representatives, information shared during general discussions of the committee will be kept confidential. Messages must be approved by the committee before being released to media (includes social media and etc.). Representatives will be able to report informally to their memberships.

3.6.3. **Press:** The MLA will deliver the official press releases for the committee. The chair is the official spokesperson of the committee.

4. Membership

4.1. Stakeholder membership will be as follows

- North Peace BCWF rep
- South Peace BCWF rep
- North Peace Guide Outfitter rep
- South peace Guide Outfitter rep
- North Peace Trappers rep
- South Peace trappers rep
- North Peace winter recreation rep
- South peace Winter recreation rep
- North Peace Summer recreation rep
- South Peace Summer recreation rep
- North Peace Grain growers rep
- South Peace Grain growers rep
- North Peace Cattlemen's rep
- South Peace Cattlemen's rep
- North Peace resident
- South Peace resident
- Northern Rockies Winter Recreation member
- Northern Rockies Summer recreation member
- Two (2) community specific residents (specific to affected areas)
- Former Government Manager
- Former Government Manager
- Special invitations as requested by the committee
- Committee representatives may designate an alternate, if they are unable to attend.

4.2. MLA representatives:

- MLA for Peace River North
- MLA for Peace River South

4.3 Ministry Representatives – Will be designated as Observers and will provide expertise and answer all questions of the committee

- MARR (Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation)
- FLNRO (Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations)
- FLNRO Statutory Decision Maker
- MOTI (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)
- BC Hydro rep
- Conservation Officer
- OGC (Oil and Gas Commission)
- Other government officials by invitation of the chair

4.4 Duration of the MLA First Nations Stakeholder Advisory Committee

- The committee will review all existing lands that have been identified for the purpose of possible consideration for future transfer. The committee will also examine future issues at the call of the Chair. The committee will generate a final report on its initial findings, report to MARR and then relay responses back to the committee in a timely manner.

5. Summary of Responsibilities

5.1. Chair will:

- 5.1.1. Facilitate discussion to achieve committee purposes and to promote and communicate a balance of views.
- 5.1.2. Circulate the agenda and necessary materials via email.

5.2. MLA First Nations Stakeholder Advisory Committee will

- 5.2.1. The committee will make recommendations on all presently identified lands that are being considered by MARR for negotiations with First Nations and will also meet and make recommendations on any new lands identified for future discussions between First Nations and Ministries.

5.3. Ministry Staff:

- 5.3.1. Ministry staff will provide expertise and answer all questions of the committee.