



Valley Community Resources Board, BVCRB

Resources Board

Website: bvcrb.ca E-mail: info@bvcrb.ca

Mail: Treasurer Ron Vanderstar, 11565 Old Babine Lake Road, Smithers, BC. V0J2N7

6 June 2021

The Honourable Nathan Cullen,
Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations,
M.L.A for Stikine
1175 Main St. Smithers
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

Re: Role of the Kalum LRMP Plan Implementation Committee and the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board

Dear Mr. Cullen,

We write to you on behalf of both the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board and the Kalum LRMP plan implementation committee in the hopes we can meet with you to discuss our continuing role with land use planning in our respective areas. With the creation of your new ministry, the BC governments change intention paper for the forest sector, and reconciliation objectives with indigenous people, we would like have a conversation with you about these topics. We have crafted three broad questions to form the basis for the conversation below:

1. What is the plan for meaningful public engagement at the local level? The Kalum Plan Implementation Committee(PIC), and the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board(BVCRB) are two bodies that formed during the drafting Kalum and Bulkley LRMPs and have persisted to this day. We feel there is a great opportunity to support grass roots committees like ours with dedicated staff and support to help with understanding of resource management decisions that are made. Does Government really support this type of community involvement? How will that be demonstrated in the new Ministry for Lands and Natural Resources Operations?
2. The promise of modernizing land use plans seems to have been interpreted to mean that this applies to just a very few spots in the province. There is no plan to modernize the Kalum LRMP or Bulkley LRMP. The Kalum PIC feels there are many areas that could use updating, the Bulkley CRB feels that effectiveness monitoring of the Bulkley LRMP is lacking and without monitoring it is very difficult to know where change may be needed. Government response has been that there are no resources to focus on any of these issues in our areas. At the same time the Government has announced a new broad initiative called "Forest Landscape Planning". How will this fit into the existing framework of Landscape plans?
3. Government and First Nations relations are ever changing. In this region there are two significant Treaties (Kitselas and Kitsumkalum Nations) in the final stages of negotiations (Stage

5); the MOU with the Wet'suwet'en; the Foundation agreement with Lake Babine Nation; and several others. How will Treaty Settlement Lands account for any of the LRMP management strategies or how First Nations will want to interact with groups like the PIC/CRB in the future? We have had very limited response from Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) staff and feel we are in the dark as to the future. Aside from these agreements, there are other government programs like the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) and Forest Landscape Planning, what is the role for community groups like ours that have been integral to the current landscape plans?

We are hoping you could meet with us via an online format. The next and last scheduled BVCRB meeting before the summer break is June 21st, 2021 at 7:00 PM – Alternatively we could try and find another date and time that fits with your schedule. You can contact us at info@bvcrb.ca.

Sincerely,

Matt Sear, Chair BVCRB