



GITXAAŁA NATION

PO Box 149 11 Ocean Drive, Kitkatla, B.C. V0V 1C0

Phone 250-848-2214

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February 10, 2025

Frank Osendarp, Chief Federal Negotiator
c/o Rosie Sill, Federal Negotiator
Rosie.Sill@canada.ca

Mark Lofthouse, Chief Provincial Negotiator
c/o Adrienne Fitzpatrick, Prov. Asst. Negotiator
Adrienne.fitzpatrick@gov.bc.ca

VIA EMAIL

RE: KITSELAS FIRST NATION TREATY – RUSH TO RATIFICATION

Dear Messrs. Osendarp and Lofthouse:

Gitxaała is disappointed that Kitselas First Nation has set April 10th as the date for its members' ratification vote for the proposed Kitselas Treaty without having reached a protocol agreement with Gitxaała.

A protocol agreement is required because the proposed Kitselas Treaty will adversely affect Gitxaała Aboriginal title and rights held by the Smgyigyet (Hereditary chiefs) to N̄uut'iksgm Laxyubm Gitxaała (traditional territory).

- The proposed Kitselas Treaty will grant coastal sites in fee simple and treaty settlement lands in fee simple to Kitselas within N̄uut'iksgm Laxyubm Gitxaała.
- The proposed Kitselas Treaty will confer various treaty rights to Kitselas that can be exercised within N̄uut'iksgm Laxyubm Gitxaała (harvesting fish, wildlife, and forest resources; co-management rights over natural resources, etc.).

Gitxaała has tried over the past 18 months to engage in substantive discussions with Kitselas about these issues and to reach a protocol agreement that to reconcile the exercise of Kitselas' treaty rights in N̄uut'iksgm Laxyubm Gitxaała with Gitxaała Aboriginal title and rights

- The first substantive discussion between Gitxaała and Kitselas only occurred on February 6th 2025, a mere two months before the scheduled ratification vote on April 10th
- Kitselas had been negotiating the proposed treaty for 30 years
- Now, there are only 8 weeks left to attempt to reconcile the exercise of Kitselas' treaty rights in N̄uut'iksgm Laxyubm Gitxaała with Gitxaała Aboriginal title and rights



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Gitxaala cannot understand the rush to ratify before an enduring protocol is reached between the two nations.

We look forward to continuing to meet with the Crown governments on this important process.

Sincerely,

GITXAALA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Innes".

Linda Innes, Chief Councillor |
and Voice of the Nation , Gitxaala Nation
chiefcouncillor@gitxaalanation.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence Innes".

Clarence Innes, Chair
Lu Sa Hax Hoyak Wil'nat'aał
specialprojects@gitxaalanation.com

cc. Michael Uehara, Secretary, Lu Sa Hax Hoyak Wil'nat'aał ceo@gitxaalanation.com
Christopher Devlin, Legal Counsel, Lu Sa Hax Hoyak Wil'nat'aał christopher@sequoialegal.ca