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Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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May 15, 2012

Paul Richards  
Superintendent  
A/OIC Core Policing, E Division  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Dear Mr. Richards:

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and in response to your request received late yesterday, we would like to provide the following clarification.

Further to meetings attended by the Assembly of First Nations and Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs on May 13, 2012 in Hazelton, we reiterate, for a community-based solution to be possible, the importance of all Gitxsan Chiefs becoming fully engaged in solutions to move forward collectively led by the Gitxsan Chiefs. The "Mother's Day Accord", discussed through the course of May 13, 2012 may serve as a basis for this dialogue. As was made clear, the engagement of all would still be a requirement to effectively pursue next steps.

The role of the Assembly of First Nations is to facilitate and support community dialogue with a view to supporting community safety and security. Our presence was requested as a neutral party and we remain neutral. As such, the involvement of the Assembly of First Nations should not and does not have any *direct* bearing on legal proceedings nor their outcomes. Our interest and principal concern in this matter remains focused on the safety and security of all parties to the dispute.

The Assembly of First Nations, and Ms. Charlene Belleau in particular, will remain available in terms of supporting communication and liaison as appropriate to support peaceful resolution. Finally, should all parties agree and are prepared to engage in developing community based solutions, the Assembly of First Nations may assist in providing a list of potential mediators for consideration of all parties.

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn A-in-chut Atleo". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo  
National Chief

cc: Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs

Encl. AFN statement of May 13, 2012