



GITKSAN CHIEFS' OFFICE

April 4, 2013

Hon. Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
West Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier,

We are extremely concerned by the potential of the land offers in the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum AIPs to impose a permanent trespass on Gitksan land owned by Tenim Gyet, Saksum Hiigok, and Luulak. The consequences of such an imposition with our people would be most serious, likely worsening relations with our neighboring bands and damaging our confidence in the Treaty process and its direction.

Our strength of claim to these lands is strong and has been endorsed by the Supreme Court of Canada (Delgamuukw, 1997), the BC Supreme Court (Yal, 2002), and by Agreements with BC in 2003 and 2006.

All Gitksan Simgiigyets are watching this process in light of our unfair treatment in the Nisga'a Treaty (1999). Since that experience, the onus is now on BC and Canada to pause as both governments have legal obligations to the Gitksan. To date, Canada and BC are unreasonably refusing to meet with the Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs on the Gitksan treaty table where this issue could be handled more appropriately and more effectively.


The overlap of the lands claimed (questionably) by Kitselas and Kitsumkalum on our territory has not been addressed adequately, and we ask that the Province, through BCTC, delay the Kitsumkalum Treaty vote until we have had an opportunity to, in good faith, resolve the overlap issue.

Canada and BC insist, quite rightly, that any Treaty settlements or any infringements of rights and title be subject to a vote by the affected community. Both these AIPs clearly affect Gitksan territory and rights and title which should bring them into a vote by the Gitksan people.

We ask that you, as Premier, direct provincial officials to delay the Kitsumkalum Treaty vote and provide time for us to work with Canada, BC, and our neighboring bands to resolve the overlap issue.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Skayan (Anita Davis)". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Skayan (Anita Davis)

Copies: Hon. I. Chong, MARR
 S. Munro, MARR
 Tenim Gyet (Art Mathews)
 Sakxum Hiigok (Vernon Smith)
 Luulak (Elva Denomme, alternate)