



February 6, 2009

Honorable Ron Cantelon
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Dear Minister Cantelon:

RE: Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board - Strategic Land Use Planning Implementation Framework (SLUPIF)

On behalf of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board we would like to extend our welcome to you as the Minister of Agriculture and Lands.

It was a tremendous shock to us all with the death of Minister Hagen. As we worked with Minister Hagen over the past year and had established a very positive relationship with him, we now look forward to working with you as the Minister responsible for our Advisory Board.

One of the important issues that we want to brief you on in this letter is with the work we did on behalf of former Minister Pat Bell, that being the Strategic Land Use Planning Implementation Framework, known as SLUPIF. With the change over in Ministers last year, Minister Hagen followed up with us on this report in a letter dated December 17, 2008.

SLUPIF had 20 recommendations in the report that we requested the Provincial Government to implement. In ~~the his~~ December 17th letter ~~from~~ Minister Hagen, ~~supplied a several of those recommendations have not been accepted by government. The letter had a~~ detailed response on each recommendation from the SLUPIF report.

We would like to advise you at this time that the covering letter from Minister Hagen implied that SLUPIF was recommending a new governance model for the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-KMA). This is not accurate. ~~Rather, the SLUPIF was recommending~~ that the current governance model remain in place, but that a government to government relationship ~~for the M-KMA be established with be established between northeast BC First Nations and the BC Government.~~ The Advisory Board would then report in an advisory role on the management of the M-KMA area to this G2G body, rather than solely to the BC Government as is the present case. It is also important to note that the authority of such a G2G body would be negotiated between the First Nations and the BC Government, and would likely



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include the management of lands both inside and outside of the M-KMA, still play an advice role to government in the management of the area.

We also acknowledge your Ministry's work in getting the M-KMA regulation updated; this has been an outstanding issue since the Mackenzie addition to the M-KMA in 2001. The M-KAB had a review committee in place to work with government staff on those changes. We understand that this change will be done by way of an Order-in-Council and is to be signed off this month.

We want to advise you that this ~~step~~ has been a positive step in making the changes required and based on the legislative calendar, that the OIC was the best way to authorize ~~have~~ these changes ~~made~~. However, we would like to see these changes ~~done in the M-K legislation in the future so that the future management of this magnificent area is~~ entrenched in an act of the legislature as it was originally done, in order to add certainty to the legislative framework that guides the management of this magnificent area. We ask that your Ministry make this a commitment to work with us over the coming year to determine when this would be appropriate to do.

Again, we want to welcome you to your new portfolio. ~~and o~~ Our Executive would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our Advisory Board's mandate, work and priorities for the coming year. We would appreciate having your office work with our Secretariat to arrange such a meeting ~~Please have your office let our Secretariat know if a meeting can be set up~~ at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Tom Briggs
M-KAB Chair

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