



MUSKWA-KECHIKA ADVISORY BOARD

October 10, 2024

Lori Halls,
Deputy Minister,
BC Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
Victoria, BC

Re: M-KAB Advice Letter regarding Prophet River First Nation's Road Permit Upgrade:

Good morning, Lori:

At our last Executive Committee meeting on October 3, 2024, Lori Ackerman, on behalf of Prophet River First Nation, joined our meeting to discuss their road access upgrade to the Sikanni River Ranch. Lori mentioned that this road is severely degraded and impassable for even pickup trucks and ATVs, so the Nation can't transport their Elders, Chief and Council and members into the ranch for cultural activities. We were also informed that the Nation has also ordered log cabins to build on the ranch and need a firm road surface to transport this heavy load, once they're delivered in the next few weeks.

Lori mentioned that the Nation began road upgrades without an authorized permit, based on advice from a district Lands Resource Officer, who said they didn't need a permit because this was their own land. However, Conservation Officers have since issued a Stop Work Order and now there's an open investigation on this road upgrade.

The Nation is now looking for support from the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Advisory Board, to upgrade the existing road to ensure it has a permanent hard surface.

The Executive Committee discussed this situation, and we acknowledge the importance of the Nation's need to provide suitable access for their Elders, Chief and Council and band members into the Sikanni River Ranch for their cultural activities. We also recognize the current road surface condition cannot support the extra weight requirements to transport log cabins they have ordered to be constructed on the Sikanni River Ranch.

However, the Executive Committee is concerned that this request to support a permanent road upgrade conflicts with the M-KMA Act and Regulation, the M-KMA Management Plan and the Advisory Board's M-KMA Vision Statement.

The Executive Committee's advice, based on the M-KMA's legislation, is as follows:

1. Regarding access to conduct cultural activities for Prophet River FNs, the M-KAB Executive supports a narrow permanent road surface right of way upgrade to only allow ATVs access throughout the year.



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2. Regarding the transportation of the log homes, the M-KAB Executive does not support a permanent road surface upgrade, however we recommend Prophet River FNs wait until freeze up, which will then provide access support of the heavy loads.

We look forward to discussing this with you and hope a solution can be arrived at to assist the Prophet River First Nation in their endeavour.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S Killam".

Stephanie Killam, Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

cc: Lori Ackerman, Interim CAO, Prophet River First Nation
cc: David Luff, Board Vice-Chair, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
cc: Craig Sutherland, Executive Director/Secretariat, Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board