



Lake Babine Nation

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Update to Lake Babine Nation members on Foundation Agreement Negotiations

December 6, 2016: Lake Babine Nation was recently forced to suspend its negotiations with British Columbia on the LBN-BC Foundation Agreement. The Foundation Agreement is intended to establish a 25-year road map for significantly improving our Nation's relationship with BC. It would implement our Aboriginal title, provide us with the opportunity to become a major participant in forestry and pursue other economic development opportunities in our Territory, support the development of our communities with better infrastructure and programs, and enable us to take care of key social issues and the well-being of our members.

Our Nation broke off the Foundation Agreement negotiations because BC is failing to offer adequate Immediate Benefits.

Lake Babine has made it clear to BC for months now that the Foundation Agreement must include significant Immediate Benefits for the Nation in the form of transfers, new forestry tenures, and increased revenue sharing by BC on revenues for forestry in Lake Babine Territory. Significant Immediate Benefits are essential because our Nation has already been deprived of economic opportunities in its own Territory for too long, and because the Foundation Agreement must confirm, from the day it takes effect, BC's commitment to significantly shift and improve its relationship with our Nation.

Our Nation will not settle for a Foundation Agreement that fails to deliver significant Immediate Benefits. We will not tolerate delays in the urgent work of implementing our Aboriginal title and rights. I have written to the Premier calling for a meeting this week to try to get the Foundation Agreement negotiations back on track as soon as possible. Lake Babine Nation is also beginning to identify its legal options should the Foundation Agreement negotiations not resume.

We will continue to keep members up to date on this situation.

Chief Wilf Adam