

Barnett.MLA, Donna

From: Brian McCutcheon <brian@iroamtheworld.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Vanderburgh, Ken FLNR:EX
Cc: Barnett.MLA, Donna; Doug Konkin; John Lerner; West, Paul (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: Message from Brian M at ROAM

Ken

I hope this email finds you and your family healthy in these challenging times. Ashley and I escaped Chile in the nick of time as flights cancelled and borders closed. Since returning home, we have refunded more than \$600,000 US in bookings but are still trying to salvage whatever we can for summer 2020...

I understand that you are still the contact for the Province with respect to Title Lands transition. In this regard here's an update and some questions for you:

1. It's mid April and no one has tenure. The Xeni gave us a May 1st deadline but refuse to meet with us as they say the Province has not given them a meaningful response. What should we do? We don't want to see another bridging agreement as that simply adds more layers and delays to the uncertainty.
2. The tenure proposal concepts the Xeni sent out include a reduction of 40% of the tenures (based on what criteria?) and 50-300% increase in fees for those remaining. Two of the three proposals that the Chiefs are considering include "indigenizing" the tenures. What does that mean?
3. Hausi has been denied a right away for his driveway that now crosses TNG Title Lands. What does that mean for his access? The TNG has offered him (among others) low-ball purchase price for his property and now control his access. I think we can all see that this is not fair and is a recipe for disaster. Why has the province not stepped in to relocate commercial businesses that same way you are for Site C?
4. The last tenure proposal outlined finances to sue people for trespassing. Is that with respect to the general public or just commercial outfitters? Since 2014 the Xeni have allowed the public to hike Mt Tullin or go to the campground for example. Has this changed?
5. The WCTA is launching an aggressive PR Campaign in about a month. I am not privy to the contents and the COA is not involved directly as we'd prefer to negotiate a buy out and not get mired in lawsuits. However, we will be doing our own PR and discussing our personal situations with the media.

FYI - I have reached out to Chief Jimmy and Chief Joe saying this might be the best time to have real conversations to acquire businesses. The offers put forward in 2019 were not reflective of values and arguably made things worse. Chief Jimmy has told me the Xeni do not have funds to buyout lodges and that the money would have to come from the feds or province. That's no surprise to anyone, but if funding was there it could be a real win-win solution. What happened to the acquisition fund outlined in Deni Accord agreement?

With the COVID-19 crisis practically wiping everyone's seasons, I am sensing that this is going to be a critical summer in the Chilcotin. In the past, there was concern about PR impacting visitors but folks out here are desperate.

Please advise

Sincerely,
Brian

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