

Barnett.MLA, Donna

From: Brian McCutcheon <brian@iroamtheworld.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:24 PM
To: carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca
Cc: Doug Konkin; West, Paul (AADNC/AANDC); Barnett.MLA, Donna; Hausi; Phil Huston
Subject: TNG Title Area issues, Year Six

Dear Minister Bennett,

While I applaud the Liberal government's efforts to communicate and handle the recent COVID-19 crisis, I am saddened to report that little has changed in the resolution of the issues of non-indigenous land holders in the heart of the TNG Title Lands. If the COVID-19 situation was not enough of a challenge for tourism businesses, it's mid-April and none of us have operating agreements or tenure in place for what little bit of summer revenue we may be able to salvage.

To compound things, the Gwetsen Nilti Pathway Agreement that was signed without stakeholder input, has effectively expropriated our ability to operate without Xeni Gwet'in (TNG) consent even though we are commercial land owners in the region. Despite many efforts to engage, the Xeni Gwet'in refuse to meet with us because the Province is non-responsive to them.

What are we supposed to?

For us it's not just week six of COVID-19 isolation, it's year six with this Title Land drama and once again we are being used as pawns in the battle for control between the TNG, Province and Federal governments. Throwing money at another bridging agreement, is like a band aid on a femoral artery, it covers it up while the hemorrhaging continues. Why won't the federal and provincial governments step in and relocate the non-indigenous operators?

It seems to be the prudent, fair and smart thing to do. Move us and let the TNG have the lands back. It will be the most ethical and cheapest solution in the end.

Sincerely
Brian

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