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Honorable Carole James
Minister of Finance
Email: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister James,

Thank you for the invitation, in estimates, to write to you looking for financial assistance for my constituents who have been displaced due to the Williams Title case. As you are well aware the Supreme Court of Canada awarded the Xenigwet'in, whom are part of the Tsilqo'tin nation this land in 2014. What was not included in the Supreme Court was consideration nor compensation for those making a living in the Land Title Area. There are guide outfitters, ranchers, resort operators and other fee simple landowners who now are on the brink of bankruptcy, losing their homes and experiencing mental stress beyond belief. Our past Liberal Government signed the Deni Accord with Xenigwet'in First Nations, working on long term solutions, so businesses, stakeholders, could carry on with their livelihood and way of life. In 2018 the Provincial Government, Federal Government and First Nations signed a new agreement.

In 2016 the past government contracted with two independent individuals, one First Nation, to work with Xenigwet'in, business, and stakeholders on a permanent solution. Part that was a buyout for Tourism Facilities, which when the NDP government took over a copy was given to Minister Fraser. Since 2018 there have been no solutions. BC Government has given funds to the Xenigwet'in to purchase an Eco Tourism resort and a guide outfitter. No help for the others.



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I have heard there is a new three-year Bridging agreement with FN, and the Province with no input from stakeholders. A three-year bridging agreement helps no one in business, ranching or other.

There is only one solution Minister, that is a fair buyout for those effected.

The tension is rising, everyone was pleased when the Supreme Court decision was made. Everyone believed life would change for the better, it has been the opposite. Funding is available from the Province for everything the First Nations request. Minister we all believe in fairness, reconciliation and equality.

I thank you for the opportunity to plea the case of those who are about to lose everything.

I am available, as are my constituents, who have been trying for years, along with my many letters to Government seeking compensation, that have fallen on deaf ears for meaningful solutions.

Yours truly,

MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo Chilcotin

DB/bm

CC MLA John Rustad, Critic FLNR Official Opposition

Mr. Brian McCutcheon

Mr. Hausi Wittwer

Mr. Phil Huston

West Chilcotin Tourism Association