

Mr Petrus Rykes

President – West Chilcotin Tourism Association.

Oct 12, 2020

Thank you for your letter and request of October 7, 2020. I take this request very seriously as I have had an opportunity to discuss many of these issues with tourism operators, ranchers, guide outfitters and private property owners in your area and through out the Cariboo Chilcotin riding.

I fully understand the frustration and fear around the land use issues in the riding but particularly in the West Chilcotin. I further agree that this frustration, anger and fear should not be aimed at the First Nations but rather our provincial government that has for the past three years - shrouded all of these conversations in secrecy.

I too am frustrated by this secrecy as it is creating divide in our communities. I have always believed in transparency in our provincial government's discussions regarding land use issues and more than ever it needs to come out in the open and be discussed publicly. We must all as stakeholders be involved in these conversations.

I have been quoted in local media, I have stated publicly and posted to my social media pages that transparency is an absolute must when it comes to all issues of our region!

I can promise that I will work hard once elected to bring these conversations and negotiations to the forefront of public conversation. This is the only way to arrive at fair decisions for all the parties involved. We must demand community participation in these talks as we move forward toward real and sincere reconciliation.

I look forward for the opportunity to discuss this further with you and your members.

Best Regards, Lorne Doerkson

BC Liberal Candidate