

Mr./Ms. *(Candidate Name)*
(Riding) (Party) Candidate

October 7, 2020

Dear Mr./Ms. *(Candidate)*,

On Behalf of Canadians for Fairness and Transparency I am writing to you and your party to address a matter of deepest concern for residents, homeowners and business owners living in the Chilcotin region of central British Columbia.

Canadians for Fairness and Transparency is a formal, organized group made up of individuals, community associations and business owners across the entire Chilcotin region who are deeply worried about the fate of their communities, the future of their families and their livelihoods, due to being denied representation at the negotiating table as negotiations proceed between the Provincial and Federal governments and the Tsilhqot'in First Nation.

As you are no doubt aware, a 2014 Supreme Court decision awarded rights and title of approximately 2,000 square kilometres of land ("Title Lands") to the Tsilhqot'in First Nation in central British Columbia, and currently negotiations are being held privately to discuss the ceding of further, much larger tracts of land that are currently home to many non-Indigenous citizens, multi-generational families and local businesses.

It must be made unmistakably clear that our argument is not with the Tsilhqot'in or their rights awarded by the Supreme Court, but rather with the process by which further land title negotiations are being conducted by both the Federal and Provincial governments. While we remain in favour of reconciliation and have long-standing, positive relationships with many First Nations groups, we can not accept the lack of transparency and inclusiveness with respect to ongoing negotiations that directly impact us. These talks are blatantly excluding the region's non-Indigenous stakeholders, Canadian citizens who are being denied input into matters so monumental that they could, and likely will, irreparably harm their livelihoods and their future.

Previous efforts to engage the Provincial and Federal Governments have been fruitless, resulting in a building sense of desperation and disbelief among central British Columbians who are losing faith that their governments will protect and defend their right to fairness and transparency, or consider their legitimate concerns.

We are appealing to you and your party to make a concrete commitment to support the inclusion of a representative of the region's non-Indigenous stakeholders, specifically area residents and business owners, in future negotiations.

As an election is currently underway, we encourage you to confirm your commitment to fairness and transparency by supporting representation for all those who stand to be impacted by the

Chilcotin title land negotiations, so that the electorate is reassured that their Charter rights will be upheld and protected by you and your colleagues.

We request that you respond in writing stating your position on this matter and look forward to working with you in a spirit of cooperation, fairness and good faith as we move forward in these unprecedented times.

Kind regards,

Petrus Rykes

President - West Chilcotin Tourism Association
Founding Member - Canadians for Fairness and Transparency
www.canadiansforfairnessandtransparency.ca