



Statement from Wet'suwet'en Elected Leadership

Regarding Wet'suwet'en Memorandum of Understanding

In response to the joint statement on Memorandum of Understanding on Wet'suwet'en rights and title announced by some Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and Canada and British Columbia late this afternoon, the Elected Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en Nation have issued the following statement:

"The Elected Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en Nations have not agreed to, nor have they given their support to sign, a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on rights and title with Canada or British Columbia.

Discussions must adhere to a process where all clan members, Hereditary Chiefs and Elected Chiefs have an opportunity for full and informed engagement, as well as full consensus. These discussions have not taken place, nor have we voted on the MOU.

This MOU consultation process has lacked any semblance of credibility. The federal government, the provincial government and the Hereditary Chiefs have completely ignored many clan members and Elected Chiefs. These discussions have not included openness and respect for all parties.

All clan members have a voice that must be heard, and they must be included in the process of ratifying any agreement with government officials. Negotiations cannot move forward until all parties agree to discuss governance amongst the Wet'suwet'en people so that we can work together with all levels of government.

As it is not possible at this time to meet safely in large groups, the Elected Chiefs of Wet'suwet'en Nation and our community members are honouring physical distancing measures, to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and we are staying home. We welcome engagement and collaboration with our fellow clan members, the Hereditary Chiefs and all levels of government, once it is safe for our communities to gather. In the interim, we ask that this premature joint statement be withdrawn."

Chief Patricia Prince, Nee Tahí Buhn Indian Band
Chief Rosemarie Skin, Skin Tyee Nation
Chief Dan George, Ts'ilh Kaz Koh First Nation
Chief Maureen Luggi, Wet'suwet'en First Nation
Chief Sandra George, Witset First Nation