



May 10th, 2021

Introductory Letter, Referrals Coordinator to Wet'suwet'en House Groups

Hadih, my name is, Leanne Helkenberg and I am the new Referrals Coordinator for the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

As the Referrals Coordinator, I am the point person for all incoming Referrals on the Wet'suwet'en Yintah. I also meet with development clients, Forest Licensees, Mineral Exploration Groups and members of the general public who are seeking information on the Wet'suwet'en Traditional Governance practices.

For all land-based decisions, the Provincial Government (BC) is required to consult with all First Nations whose Traditional Territories are being impacted prior to a decision being made. Currently, this is done by sending all relevant information to the Nation for review and comment. The Nation is given a timeframe in which to provide comment, this is, usually, a 30–60-day timeframe. Land-based decisions are mostly natural resource based and can range from Forestry, Mineral, Recreation, General Use (exclusive and non-exclusive), Range (Livestock), Agricultural and so forth. This process is referred to as a Referral or Referral Process.

Moving forward, I see my role as the person who, a) tracks these referrals; b) summarizes the referrals for the Clans/House Groups for review and decision; c) facilitates conversations between Clans/House Groups and proponents and; d) provide technical comments to the Provincial Government, Industry and/or Proponents based on known values/cultural features and/or discussions.

My intentions for this initial meeting are mostly for introductory purposes and on Page 2 I have listed the things I'd like to discuss and get a better understanding of, then we can maybe make a plan moving forward.



- a) Formally introduce myself and share how I see my role;
- b) Gain an understanding of how this relationship (Referrals Coordinator/House Groups) worked/didn't work in the past;
 - a. Leanne to share current process as discussed with David de Wit, Mike Ridsdale
- c) Discuss how we see this relationship working from here forward;
 - a. How do House Groups want to see information, or how it should be shared with you;
 - b. Discuss meeting schedule/timing;
 - i. Bi-weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, adhoc, etc
- d) Leave space for questions/thoughts

Missyh,

Leanne Helkenberg
Referrals Coordinator, Office of the Wet'suwet'en