



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

April 17, 2014

Hon. Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
PO BOX 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier:

Re: De-regulating Shale Gas Development

We wish to convey our deepest concerns regarding the Order in Council, approved by Lt. Governor Guichon on April 11, 2014 and deposited by Minister Mary Polak on April 14, 2014, which amends the reviewable projects regulations exempting “sweet gas plants” from the BC environmental assessment process.

Although Minister Rustad was in Fort Nelson on April 13, 2014 he did not attend the BC First Nations Shale Gas-LNG Summit convened April 14 – 16, 2014. Instead, the First Nations Chiefs and Leaders were addressed by Ministers Rustad and Coleman on April 15, 2014 through a video presentation.

There was not any mention of the BC Government’s decision reflected in the Order in Council. The Chiefs and Leaders were deeply insulted and offended. The credibility and trust of the BC government Ministers were seriously questioned by the Chiefs and Leaders.

We have the April 16, 2014 Declaration (attached) from the Fort Nelson First Nation and we completely support it.

We also support the call by Chief Sharleen Gale and the Fort Nelson First Nation Council calling on a “Chief to Chief” meeting directly with you.

We are aware of Minister Polak stating the Order in Council will be rescinded. This should be done at the earliest possible date. As well, it is absolutely important that your government not re-introduce this de-regulation initiative in any form.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to an early response.

Sincerely,

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT POLITICAL EXECUTIVE

Grand Chief Edward John

Cheryl Casimer

Robert Phillips

Attachment (1) Fort Nelson First Nation Declaration dated April 16, 2014 (2 pages)

cc. Hon. John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Environment
Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development
Fort Nelson First Nation
Union of BC Indian Chiefs
BC Assembly of First Nations
National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, Assembly of First Nations



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Declaration

April 16, 2014

In the territory of the Fort Nelson First Nation, industry, government and BC First Nations leadership gathered at “ground zero” of BC’s LNG Strategy. We gathered to see the impacts of the shale gas industry first hand and to discuss a path forward for governing our territories and transforming how the oil and gas industry does business in our lands.

On April 11, 2014, without notice and without consultation, the Province of BC amended the reviewable projects regulations exempting “sweet gas plants” from the BC Environmental Assessment process. This means that many of the largest industrial projects in Canada will no longer be subject to environmental review or scrutiny.

As a Nation we are deeply insulted by this act.

Our Chief and Council met with Minister Rustad on Sunday and Monday for several hours. We welcomed him into our territory and we talked freely and openly about how our Nation can work with government. We talked about how we can be an active and equal partner in BC’s shale gas-LNG opportunity. We told him that we need to be involved in the decision making.

Yesterday we watched Ministers Coleman and Rustad on a video claim that BC wants to work with us. They said that they know that BC’s LNG Strategy cannot be realized without First Nations.

At no point did these Ministers mention this monumental decision had been made.

At a time when BC has said it wants to “re-set” the relationship with First Nations as part of the LNG Strategy, the province has acted in bad faith and violated the honour of the Crown.

This is not acceptable.

We the Fort Nelson First Nation, on behalf of our ancestors, our elders, our youth and those yet to come are putting the BC government and the oil and gas industry on notice that:

BC's LNG Strategy is on hold. No shale gas development will proceed in FNFN territory until our nation and our treaty is respected and our concerns about our land and our waters are addressed.

We will have a say in what happens in our territory.

We have responsibilities that we have inherited from our ancestors that are enshrined in our Treaty to protect our people and our lands for the benefit of our community, now and into the future.

All agreements with the Province are now under review and we are looking all options regarding our relationship with the province and industry.

We are asking all nations to support us in this stand.

We the undersigned Nations support the Fort Nelson First Nation in taking this stand: