



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2020

(WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY - SMITHERS, BC)

The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs have invited Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier John Horgan to Wet'suwet'en Territory to meet. However, both have declined at this time. Therefore, the Hereditary Chiefs have agreed, as a first step, to meet with Ministers Bennett and Fraser from federal and provincial governments on Wet'suwet'en territory this Thursday and Friday.

The Hereditary Chiefs have agreed to this meeting due to the agreement by the RCMP to stop all patrols on the Morice Forest Service Road, the closing of the CISO outpost and that Coastal GasLink (CGL) ceases all work and security patrols on the Upper Morice as demonstrations of good faith to create breathing room for these upcoming conversations.

The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs thank our supporters for their tireless dedication and now the Chiefs need time to have discussions with BC and Canada in an atmosphere of *wiggus* (respect).

The Hereditary Chiefs have committed to keep the road free of obstructions for the passage of Wet'suwet'en people and their guests without interference.

"We believe these conditions provide the space we need to be able to sit down at the table in good faith and a positive path forward. We hope the RCMP and CGL see the wisdom in that and help create the conditions for positive and respectful discussions. We are so close and have called on the Provincial and Federal governments to support this de-escalation of activities so that this issue can be resolved."

The Hereditary Chiefs maintain their commitment of peace and will pursue all avenues available to achieve a peaceful resolution. The Hereditary Chiefs reiterate their mission: "We are proud, progressive Wet'suwet'en dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our culture, traditions and territories; working as one for the betterment of all."

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