

**A Political Accord  
Concerning Land and Resources**

**Between:**

**The Office of the Wet'suwet'en**

**and**

**The Province of British Columbia,  
as represented by the Premier,  
the Minister of Forests and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs**

**and**

**Canada,  
as represented by  
the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development**

## **1. General Intent**

The parties to this accord (the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, the Province of British Columbia and Canada) are committed to work together cooperatively and collaboratively in a mutually beneficial way with regard to land and resources, economic initiatives and associated Wet'suwet'en capacity and training needs, and to assuring that this work is linked and closely coordinated with treaty negotiations within the British Columbia Treaty Commission process.

## **2. Principles**

2.1 Each of the parties seeks to work with the other parties in the spirit of mutual recognition, respect and reconciliation.

2.2 The parties are committed to an open and inclusive process.

## **3. Goals**

With regard to land and resources, the parties seek to foster:

3.1 The identification of key Wet'suwet'en economic initiatives.

3.2 Wet'suwet'en involvement in lands and resources planning and management.

3.3 The exploration of means for the protection of key areas of environmental, cultural, spiritual, historical and other values.

3.4 Wet'suwet'en capacity—human, financial, organizational, technical and otherwise.

3.5 Cooperative and collaborative working relationships with industry, local governments and others which are mutually beneficial.

3.6 Initiatives and measures which will contribute to the successful conclusion of a treaty within the British Columbia Treaty Process and under s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

3.7 Other measures as agreed upon.

## 4. Process Priorities

4.1 The initial priority will be to engage in cooperative and collaborative activity in relation to Wet'suwet'en initiatives in the forest industry.

4.2 The parties will engage in other activities in the near future which will implement the goal of fostering Wet'suwet'en economic initiatives with reference to economic sectors other than forestry.

4.3 Within timelines to be determined upon the agreement of the parties, a variety of strategies will be developed and implemented in relation to the goals of (a) fostering Wet'suwet'en involvement in lands and resources, planning and management and (b) the exploration of means for the protection of key areas of environmental, cultural, spiritual, historical and other values.

4.4 As the parties address each of the goals cited in section 3, they will do so with special attention to the support of Wet'suwet'en capacity and the need to successfully conclude a treaty within the BCTC process and under s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

4.5 As the parties proceed with each of the tasks outlined in items 4.1 to 4.4, they will make every effort to do so in collaboration and cooperation with industry, local governments and other interests.

## **5. Implementation**

5.1 The parties are committed to pursuing a cooperative working relationship to carry out the goals of this accord, including seeking financial or other resources.

5.2 Any federal or provincial financial resource provided pursuant to this accord will be subject to necessary Treasury Board approvals.

5.3 As the parties implement this accord, it will be critical for each to proceed with as much speed as possible and to exercise policy and program flexibility and creativity.

5.4 In implementing this accord, the participation of Canada will concentrate primarily on measures to assist Wet'suwet'en economic initiatives and Wet'suwet'en training and capacity needs.


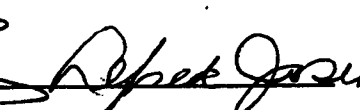

## **6. The Nature of the Accord**

For greater certainty, this accord is a statement of political intent by the parties and is not intended to define, create, recognize, deny or amend any of the rights of the parties, including Aboriginal or treaty rights within the meaning of sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. For greater certainty, this accord is not intended to alter or affect the legal status of the lands and resources or the existing authorities of the parties with respect to lands and resources. This accord, the negotiations leading up to its creation and its implementation are without prejudice to any legal positions which have been or may be taken by any party in any court proceeding or process and should not be construed as admissions of fact or liability in any such proceeding or process.

## 7. The Term of the Accord

This accord will remain in existence until one of the parties determines that it does not wish to continue with the commitments outlined therein. In such an instance that party will provide ninety (90) days notice of expiration to the other parties.

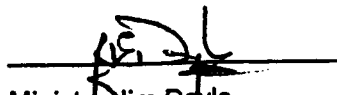
In witness whereof the Parties have executed this Agreement the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2000.



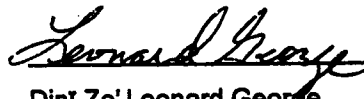
Premier Ujjal Dosanjh

Dint Ze' Alfred Joseph  
Gitumden Clan

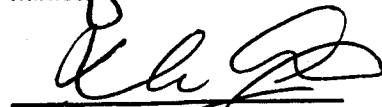
The Honorable Robert D. Nault  
Minister of Indian Affairs  
and Northern Development



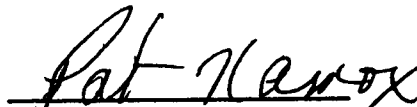
Minister Jim Doyle  
Minister of Forests



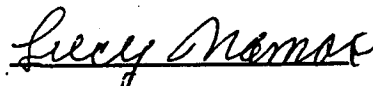
Dint Ze' Leonard George  
Laksamishu Clan



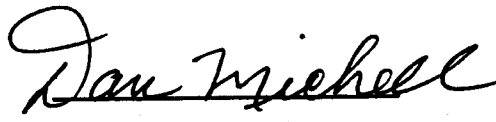
Minister Dale Lovick  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



Dint Ze' Pat Namox  
Luksilyu Clan



Tsakiy Ze' Lucy Namox  
Gilseyhu Clan



Dint Ze' Dan Michell  
Tsayu Clan