

**Takla Lake First Nation
Interim Agreement on Forest & Range Opportunities
(the "Agreement")**

**Between:
The Takla Lake First Nation**

As Represented by
Chief and Council
(the "Takla Lake First Nation")

And

Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia
As represented by the Minister of Forests and Range
("British Columbia")

(Collectively the "Parties")

WHEREAS:

- A. British Columbia and First Nations Leadership Council, representing the Assembly of First Nations-BC Region, First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs ("Leadership Council") have entered into a New Relationship in which they are committed to reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdiction, and have agreed to implement a government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights.
- B. This Agreement is in the spirit and vision of the "New Relationship".
- C. Work is underway regarding the implementation of the New Relationship and that this Agreement may need to be amended in the future to reflect the outcomes of that work.
- D. The Takla Lake First Nation has a relationship to the land that is important to its culture and the maintenance of its community, governance and economy.
- E. The Takla Lake First Nation has Aboriginal Interests within its Traditional Territory.
- F. The Parties wish to enter into an interim measures agreement in relation to forest and/or range resource development within the Traditional Territory.

- G. References in this Agreement to Crown Lands are without prejudice to the Takla Lake First Nation's Aboriginal title and/or rights claims over those lands.
- H. British Columbia intends to consult and to seek an Interim Accommodation with the Takla Lake First Nation on forest and/or range resource development activities proposed within the Takla Lake First Nation Traditional Territory that may lead to an infringement of the Takla Lake First Nation's Aboriginal Interests.
- I. The Takla Lake First Nation intends to participate in any consultation with British Columbia or a Licensee, in relation to forest and/or range resource development activities proposed within the Takla Lake First Nation's Traditional Territory that may lead to an infringement of the Takla Lake First Nation's Aboriginal Interests.
- J. British Columbia and the Takla Lake First Nation wish to resolve issues relating to forest and/or range resource development where possible through negotiation as opposed to litigation.

THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

- 1.1. "Operational Decision" means a decision that is made by a person with respect to the statutory approval of an Operational Plan that has potential effect in the Takla Lake First Nation's Traditional Territory.
- 1.2. "Operational Plan" means a Forest Development Plan, Forest Stewardship Plan, Woodlot Licence Plan, a Range Use Plan, or Range Stewardship Plan that has a potential effect in the Takla Lake First Nation's Traditional Territory.
- 1.3. "Aboriginal Interests" means aboriginal rights and/or aboriginal title.
- 1.4. "Administrative Decision" means one or more of the following decisions made by a person under forestry legislation.
 - The making, varying, or postponing of Allowable Annual Cut determinations (AAC) for a Timber Supply Area or a Forest Tenure;

- The issuance, consolidation, subdivision, amendment or boundary adjustment of a Forest Tenure or a Range Tenure;
 - The adjustment of Animal Unit Months in a Range Tenure;
 - The extension of the term of, or replacement of a Forest and/or Range Tenure;
 - The disposition of volumes of timber arising from undercut decisions on Forest Tenure;
 - The conversion of a Forest Tenure to a different form of Forest Tenure;
 - The reallocation of harvesting rights as a result of the implementation of the *Forestry Revitalization Act*;
 - The issuance of a Special Use Permit;
 - The decision regarding approval or extension of a Tree Farm Licence Management Plan, Community Forest Management Plan and/or Woodlot Licence Management Plan;
 - The deletion or addition of provincial forest;
 - The transfer of AAC between Timber Supply Areas;
 - The removal of private land from a Woodlot Licence or a Tree Farm Licence; and
 - The establishment of an interpretive forest site, recreation site, and recreation trail.
- 1.5. “Forest Tenure” means an agreement granting rights to harvest Crown timber as defined in the *Forest Act* as per 12 (1).
- 1.6. “Range Tenure” means an agreement granting rights over Crown range as described in provincial legislation.
- 1.7. “Traditional Territory” means the Takla Lake First Nation’s Traditional Territory as shown on bold black on the map attached in Appendix A.
- 1.8. “Licensee” means a holder of a Forest Tenure or a Range Tenure.
- 1.9. “Interim Accommodation” means an accommodation provided in this Agreement, of the potential infringements of the economic component of the Takla Lake First Nation’s Aboriginal Interests arising from or as a result of forest and range development, prior to the full reconciliation of these Interests. The revenue component reflects the present budget limitations of the Minister of Forests and Range. It is acknowledged that other accommodations, including economic accommodations, may be jointly developed by the Parties during the term of this Agreement.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The purposes and objectives of this Agreement are to:

- 2.1. Create viable economic opportunities and to assist in the improvement of social conditions of the Takla Lake First Nation through economic diversification.
- 2.2. Provide interim payment and other economic benefits to the Takla Lake First Nation through a forest tenure opportunity and/ or economic benefits related to forestry received by British Columbia from forest resource development.
- 2.3. Address consultation and provide Interim Accommodation, as set out in this Agreement.
- 2.4. Provide a period of stability to forest and/ or range resource development on Crown lands within the Traditional Territory of the Takla Lake First Nation during the term of this Agreement, while longer term interests are addressed through other agreements or processes.

3. Economic Benefits to the Takla Lake First Nation

During the term of this Agreement, British Columbia will provide one or more of the following economic benefits to the Takla Lake First Nation:

3.1. Forest Tenure

- 3.1.1. British Columbia has offered Takla Lake First Nation an invitation to apply for a volume of non-replaceable timber. Takla Lake First Nation has determined that the timber likely cannot be harvested in a profitable manner.
- 3.1.2. After the execution of this Agreement, the Parties will continue to explore additional economic opportunities for the Takla Lake First Nation to gain access to timber volumes, and upon determining that additional economic opportunities exist in that regard, the Minister may invite the Takla Lake First Nation to apply under Section 47.3 of the Forest Act.

3.2. Interim Payment

- 3.2.1. During the term of this Agreement, British Columbia will make an annual interim payment to the Takla Lake First Nation of approximately \$303,246. For greater certainty, the

maximum amount that will be paid out over the 5 year term of this agreement is \$1,516,230.

3.2.2. ~~The funding commitment set out in section 3.2.1 is subject to the availability of annual appropriations for that purpose by British Columbia.~~ ^{DA} The funding commitment in section 3.2.1 is subject to the Financial Administration Act, which makes that obligation subject to an appropriation being available in the fiscal year of the Province during which payment becomes due.

3.2.3. For the purposes of determining amounts for partial years, one-fourth (i.e. 1/4) of the amount will be used for each fiscal quarter or part thereof that the Agreement is in effect.

3.2.4. Upon signing of this Agreement, the Takla Lake First Nation will be paid the full revenues for the quarter in which the Agreement is signed, with subsequent payments being made at the end of each quarter.

3.2.5. British Columbia will not seek to direct or influence the expenditure of the funds provided to the First Nation.

3.2.6. The Parties acknowledge that this payment is based upon a per capita formula and that the payment is based upon population numbers that were provided by Canada in 2002.

4. Consultation and Accommodation Regarding Operational and Administrative Decisions and Plans

4.1. The Takla Lake First Nation is entitled to full consultation with respect to all potential infringements of their Aboriginal Interests arising from any Operational or Administrative Decisions or Plans affecting the Takla Lake First Nation's Aboriginal Interests, regardless of benefits provided under this Agreement.

4.2. During the term of this Agreement, and subject to the terms and the intent of this Agreement being met and adherence by British Columbia, the Takla Lake First Nation agrees that British Columbia will have provided an Interim Accommodation with respect to the economic component of potential infringements of the Takla Lake First nation's Aboriginal Interests as an interim measure as a result of forest and range activities occurring within their Traditional Territory.

4.3. The interim payment set out in this Agreement reflects an amount that British Columbia, through the Minister of Forests and Range, is

able to pay as an interim measure, which the Takla Lake First Nation has agreed to accept.

- 4.4. The Province acknowledges that the timber opportunities and funding provided through this Agreement are an interim accommodation only and that broader processes are underway that will assist in determining the appropriate accommodation in respect of impacts on the Takla Lake First Nation's Aboriginal Interests as a result of forest and range activities occurring within their Traditional Territory.
- 4.5. Nothing in this Agreement restricts the ability of Takla Lake First Nation to seek additional accommodation for impacts on its Aboriginal Interests from forest resources development within its Traditional Territory.
- 4.6. The Parties agree to develop consultation processes to address both Operational and Administrative Decisions and Operational Plans, which may affect the Takla Lake First Nation's Aboriginal Interests within their Traditional Territory.
- 4.7. In developing such consultation processes, the Parties further agree to address consultation on Administration Decisions, Operational Decisions and Operational Plans through participation of the Takla Lake First Nation in strategic level planning and policy development processes.
- 4.8. Unless agreed to otherwise, the Parties will use every reasonable effort to agree upon a consultation process within 3 months of signing this Agreement and, in helping to achieve this, will endeavour to develop draft processes to govern consultation under this Agreement within 45 days after signing this Agreement.
- 4.9. Where Takla Lake First Nation is a member of a larger Tribal Nation, this Agreement does not limit the obligation of British Columbia to fulfill its consultation obligations with the Tribal Nation.

5. Dispute Resolution

- 5.1. If a dispute arises between British Columbia and the Takla Lake First Nation regarding the interpretation of a provision of this Agreement, the Parties or their duly appointed representatives will meet as soon as is practicable to attempt to resolve the dispute.

- 5.2. If the Parties are unable to resolve differences at the appropriate level, the interpretation issue will be raised to more senior levels of British Columbia and the Takla Lake First Nation.
- 5.3. If the interpretation dispute cannot be resolved by the Parties directly, they may appoint an independent and mutually agreeable mediator to resolve that dispute within 60 days, or such period as agreed upon, or the Parties may choose other appropriate approaches to assist in reaching resolution of the interpretation issue.

6. Term and Termination

- 6.1. The term of this Agreement is 5 years.
- 6.2. This Agreement will take effect on the date on which the last Party has executed it.
- 6.3. This Agreement will terminate on the occurrence of the earliest of any of the following events: expiry of its term; 90 days notice; or mutual agreement of the parties.
- 6.4. Neither Party shall terminate this Agreement on the grounds that the other Party has challenged an Administrative or Operational Decision by way of legal proceedings.
- 6.5. Prior to the expiry of the 90 days when 90 day notice of termination has been given under Section 6.3, the Parties agree to meet and endeavour to resolve the issue that has given rise to the 90 day notice of termination.

7. Renewal of the Agreement

- 7.1. Prior to the expiry of the term of this Agreement, if the terms and conditions of this Agreement are being met, British Columbia and the Takla Lake First Nation will seek the necessary authorities and approvals to enter into negotiations to discuss future forestry Agreements consistent with the New Relationship and the new direction the Ministry of Forests and Range is currently developing.
- 7.2. Any subsequent forestry agreement between British Columbia and the Takla Lake First Nation may provide for an opportunity to a develop consultation protocol, acquire a licence, other forest tenures, and/or other economic benefits, as well as other terms and conditions that are agreed to by the Parties.

8. Amendment of Agreement

- 8.1. Any alteration or amendment to the terms and conditions of the Agreement must be in writing and duly executed by the Parties.
- 8.2. Either Party may request the participation of the other Party to review the effectiveness of this Agreement annually and consider amendments to this Agreement.
- 8.3. The Parties agree that new approaches for consultation and accommodation, including benefit and revenue sharing, will be developed as a priority under the New Relationship by British Columbia and the Leadership Council. The Takla Lake First Nation may choose to opt into such approaches as they become available, through amendment of this Agreement or other mutually agreeable methods.

9. Entire Agreement

- 9.1. This Agreement and any amendment to it constitutes the entire Agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement.

10. Notice

- 10.1. Any notice or other communication that is required to be given or that a Party wishes to give to the other Party with respect to this Agreement, will be in writing and will be effective if delivered, sent by registered mail, or transmitted by facsimile to the address of the other Party as in this section of the Agreement.
- 10.2. Any notice or other communications will be deemed to have been given on the date it is actually received, if received before 4:00 p.m. If received after 4:00 p.m., it will be deemed to have been received on the next business day.
- 10.3. The address of either Party may be changed by notice in the manner set out in this section of the Agreement.

British Columbia

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests and Range
P.O. Box 9525 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria B.C. V8W 9C3
Telephone: (250) 356-5012
Facsimile: (250) 953-3687

Takla Lake First Nation

Chief and Council
Takla Lake First Nation
#345-1460 6th Avenue
Prince George, British Columbia
V2L 3N2

Telephone: 1(250) 564-9321
Facsimile: 1(250) 564-9521

11. Miscellaneous

- 11.1. This Agreement shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with provincial, federal and constitutional law.
- 11.2. This Agreement is not a treaty or a lands claims agreement within the meaning of sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and does not define or amend aboriginal rights, or limit any priorities afforded to aboriginal rights, including aboriginal title.
- 11.3. This Agreement does not address or prejudice conflicting interests or competing claims between First Nations.
- 11.4. This Agreement will not limit the positions that a Party may take in future negotiations or court actions.
- 11.5. The Province acknowledges and enters into this Agreement on the basis that the Takla Lake First Nation has Aboriginal Interests within their Traditional Territory and further that the specific nature, scope or geographic extent of Aboriginal Interests of the Takla Lake

First Nation have not yet been determined. Broader processes engaged in to bring about reconciliation will result in a common understanding of the nature, scope and geographic extent of Aboriginal Interests or treaty interests of the Takla Lake First Nation.

- 11.6. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to authorize any infringement that may occur following the termination of this Agreement, even if that infringement is caused by a decision that was made during the term of this Agreement.
- 11.7. This Agreement does not address or affect any claims by the Takla Lake First Nation regarding infringement of its Aboriginal Interests arising from past Operational or Administrative Decisions made previous to the signing of this Agreement.
- 11.8. This Agreement and any decisions and or Licenses issued during the term of this Agreement do not change or affect the positions either Party has, or may have, regarding jurisdiction and authorities.
- 11.9. Any reference to a statute in this Agreement includes all regulations made under that statute and any amendments or replacement of that statute and its regulations.
- 11.10. There will be no presumption that any ambiguity in any of the terms of this Agreement should be interpreted in favour of either Party.
- 11.11. The applicable laws of British Columbia and Canada shall govern this Agreement.
- 11.12. British Columbia encourages Licensees to enter into mutually-beneficial arrangements with the Takla Lake First Nation.
- 11.13. This Agreement is not intended to limit any obligation of forest Licensees or other third parties to the Takla Lake First Nation.
- 11.14. This Agreement may be entered into by each Party signing a separate copy of this Agreement, including a photocopy or faxed copy, and delivering it to the other Party by fax. Each facsimile will be deemed to be an original for all purposes and all counterparts taken together will be deemed to constitute one document.
- 11.15. This Agreement does not exclude the Takla Lake First Nation from accessing forestry economic opportunities and benefits, which may be available, other than those expressly set out in this Agreement.

11.16. British Columbia agrees to work with Takla Lake First Nation to address forest road access issues for Takla Lake First Nation communities. Where possible, district staff will make reasonable efforts to secure sufficient funding and to negotiate contracts with Takla for road maintenance.

12. Giving Effect to the New Relationship

12.1. Notwithstanding this agreement, the Parties will, at the request of the Takla Lake First Nation, enter into discussions, and may negotiate interim agreements in relation to forestry, range and related planning that give effect to the New Relationship, which may include, but are not limited to the following components:

- (a) a process for shared decision making about the land and resources;
- (b) new mechanisms for land and resource protection;
- (c) a process for the Takla Lake First Nation's land use planning at all spatial scales and for reconciliation of Crown and the Takla Lake First Nation's plans;
- (d) dispute resolution processes which are mutually determined for resolving conflicts rather than adversarial approaches to resolving conflicts;
- (e) financial capacity for the Takla Lake First Nation and resourcing for British Columbia to develop and implement new frameworks for shared land and resource decision making and other components listed above;
- (f) on a priority basis, interim protection for landscapes, watersheds and/or sites identified by the Takla Lake First Nation to be reserved from resource development pending the outcome of negotiation of agreements referred to in a-e above; and
- (g) Mountain Pine Beetle infestation in Takla Lake First Nation's Traditional Territory

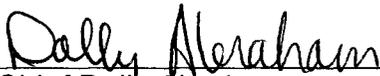
12.2. The Ministry of Forests is committed to working with Takla Lake First Nation and other Ministries to establish a sustainable land-use

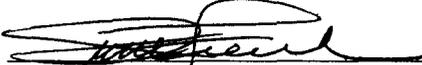
planning process based on the New Relationship commitments and to make every reasonable effort to secure funding for this initiative.

- 12.3. The Parties acknowledge that there are broader processes underway with respect to the New Relationship which will benefit and, at times assist, the Parties in negotiating with respect to the issues set out in section 12.1.

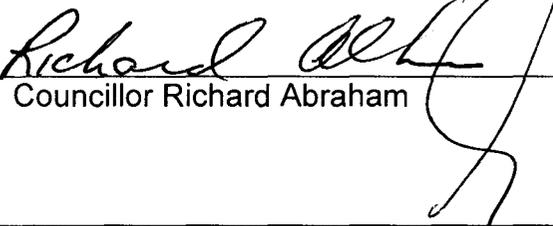
Signed on behalf of Takla Lake First Nation:

Date: MARCH 17, 2009


Chief Dolly Abraham


Councillor Irene French


Councillor Kathaleigh George


Councillor Richard Abraham


Councillor Victor West

Witness of Takla Lake First Nation signatures

Signed on behalf of Government of British Columbia:

Date: Apr 9/09


ON BEHALF OF
Pat Bell
Minister of Forests and Range


Witness of Minister signature

APPENDIX A

