



## **25-YEAR FOUNDATION AGREEMENT LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING**

LAKE BABINE NATION  
*and*  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### **History and Background**

In April, 2016, Lake Babine Nation (“Lake Babine”) and the Province of British Columbia (“Province”) agreed to create an innovative approach to reconciliation together through developing an agreement built around, and animated by, a 25-year vision. This approach was adopted to meet the following goals:

- The work of reconciliation is urgent. Lake Babine and the Province, as well as the industry stakeholders we affect, look forward to a substantive path of reconciliation that will be achieved in weeks to months – not years to decades
- A longer term, flexible and dynamic agreement established in the context of a 25-year vision will guide the incremental and transformative steps necessary for Lake Babine and the Province to build and meet our shared aspirations for positive and strong social, economic, and environmental realities
- A longer term agreement allows us to grapple with, and undertake, the work collectively required over a number of years to meet the challenge of recognition, reconciliation and implementation of title and rights for Lake Babine under s. 35, through incremental and transformative steps
- Collaborative action to bring material improvement to our relationship as a result of our efforts

To implement this approach, a high-level and focused three day session was held in early August, 2016, to collaboratively design the 25-year mutual vision and broad strokes of what the agreement would look like and address, and how it would unfold over time. The meeting included leadership and senior staff of the Province and Lake Babine jointly working to identify a vision and pathway for the next 25 years.

---

## **25-Year Foundation Agreement**

Lake Babine and the Province are now developing their 25-Year Foundation Agreement. Key components of the proposed Agreement will be unveiled to the Lake Babine community at their Annual General Meeting in early October. Details and approvals are intended to be finalized by December. This means that Lake Babine and the Province will have achieved agreement on a 25-year path of reconciliation within 7 months.

### **Goals and Themes of 25-Year Foundation Agreement**

- Creating a government-to-government partnership as a key to economic and cultural prosperity, environmental sustainability, and effective governance
- Ensuring a strong and dynamic Lake Babine culture and healthy Lake Babine communities, including collaborative, innovative, and progressive approaches to design, improve and implement appropriate and adequate social and health services, community-based and culturally appropriate education and training opportunities
- Generating partnerships with neighbouring First Nations and stakeholders
- Establish a collective pathway for the work required over a number of years to meet the challenge of recognition, reconciliation and implementation of title and rights for Lake Babine under s. 35
- Establish joint mechanisms and structures to manage and oversee the unfolding and implementation of the agreement, and aspiring to see participation from Canada.

### **25-Year Foundation Agreement Model Framework**

Both Parties have been clear and transparent with each other in their expectation that this Agreement represents an innovative, new model of pursuing reconciliation that has not been tried in British Columbia before. The Agreement will have five main parts:

#### **Joint Vision, Principles, and Goals**

The Vision will be organized around the following topic areas:

- Lands Protection/Title/Decision Making
- Forestry/Revenue Sharing
- Economic Development/Community Infrastructure
- Culture/Language/Education/Health/Child Welfare

#### **Joint Targets**

Each topic area will have short, medium and long term targets that the Parties agree will meet the vision if achieved. These are specific, tangible, and substantive measures that will collectively transform the relationship between Lake Babine and the Province and the industry stakeholders we affect. The targets require each party to be ensured we make

material progress and build a foundation of trust that both parties and local government and industry stakeholders can rely on.

### **Immediate Benefits**

.../3

When completed in December, the Foundation Agreement will outline immediate benefits to Lake Babine that takes the first step in meeting the targets and achieving the vision. The benefits will be set in the context of shared aspiration for positive and strong social, economic, and environmental realities. It is expected that these will be around the following:

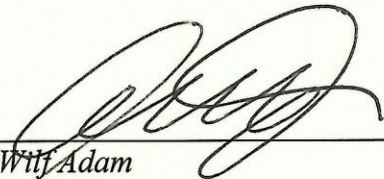
- Land transfers in fee simple
- Forest tenure and access
- Decision-making
- Benefit-sharing
- Funding support for immediate cultural infrastructure improvements

### **Joint Implementation Structure and Work plan**


The Parties are developing a joint implementation structure responsible for meeting the targets, or recommending adjustments based on changes or developments, that will be in place for the duration of the agreement.

### **Neighboring Communities, Industry Stakeholders and Public Involvement**

The Parties are collaboratively developing and will implement a joint industry stakeholder, local government, public information-sharing and engagement strategy prior to the finalization of the Foundation Agreement.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wilf Adam  
Chief Councilor  
Lake Babine Nation

Executed this 7 day of September, 2016

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honourable John Rustad  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Executed this 7 day of September, 2016