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OCT 14 2011

Chief Robert Louie
Chairman, Lands Advisory Board
106 - 350 Terry Fox Drive
KANATA ON K2K 2W5

Dear Chief Louie:

I appreciate the time you took to meet with my officials and me regarding the First Nations Land Management Regime.

In response to your letter dated September 20, 2011, I am happy to inform you that the individual agreements for the Songhees First Nation and the Big Island First Nation were signed on September 19 and 30, 2011, respectively. I am pleased that the Nanoose First Nation has ratified their individual agreement; however, subsequent to the recent community vote, I have become aware of several outstanding litigation issues. I have instructed my officials to work closely with the Department of Justice Canada to resolve these issues as quickly as possible so that the First Nation can become operational. I am looking forward to signing this agreement in the near future.

I am excited about the future of First Nations Land Management, and as we move forward with re-opening of the Regime, it is still my intention to announce the new entrants by January 2012. I believe that it is important to partner and invest in those First Nations who have the greatest potential for economic success within the First Nations Land Management Regime. Thus, this announcement will be contingent upon the successful completion of the operational funding formula and the self-assessment and prioritization tool for new entrants. I am confident that the ongoing work between departmental officials and the Lands Advisory Board Resources Center will position us to successfully complete these important activities.

The Lands Advisory Board Annual General Meeting to be held from October 19 to 21, 2011, is also an important milestone; I understand that there will be a ratification vote on the operational funding formula and that the self-assessment prioritization tool is also on the agenda. I have received your invitation and I will provide you with a decision regarding my participation as soon as possible. Currently, it appears that the best chance of my joining you may be Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

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Finally, with regard to the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Conference Tradeshow 2011, I am happy to report that I am one of the co-chairs of the conference. In addition, my department is a proud supporter of the event and I encourage you to refer to the following link to obtain information on how the Lands Advisory Board Resources Center can participate in the tradeshow:
<https://secure.brentmoore.com/ei/cm.esp?id=100&pageid=3AH0Y7XQG>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Andrew Beynon at 819-953-0517 or by email at Andrew.Beynon@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



John Duncan, PC, MP

c.c.: Chief Robert Sam, Songhees First Nation
Chief David Bob, Nanoose First Nation
Chief Wesley Big George, Anishnaabeg of Naongashiing (Big Island)
Chief Austin Bear, Chairman, LABRC
Dr. Graham Powell, Executive Director, LABRC