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Fwd: Lands and Natural Resource Operations Secretariat Engagement

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23 March 2021 at 15:53

Hello Our Water BC members,

I'm passing this along on Coree's behalf:

As was discussed during the last OWBC meeting Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Nathan Cullen, has been tasked with assessing whether land use objectives that support economic activity, environmental sustainability, and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples can be more effectively achieved through restructuring.

To undertake this work, the Lands and Natural Resource Operations Secretariat, led by Deputy Minister Lori Halls has been created. The LNRO secretariat is hosting roundtables with diverse stakeholders over the next couple of months. I believe some of you are already participating in these sessions, which is great! I will be participating in a Roundtable with the Minister of State Nathan Cullen specifically on water on April 6th. In an effort to bring as many ideas, suggestions and feedback from the water community across BC to the restructuring process, we have created a form where you can share your thoughts and experiences working with FLNRORD and the natural resource sector ministries that we will bring to the roundtable conversation on freshwater.

If groups are interested and we receive a lot of responses we could put a formal response together as well on behalf of all the groups who shared feedback.

You can fill out the feedback form [Here](#) by **March 31st**. Any and all thoughts/ideas are welcomed.

Thanks so much,

Coree

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Coree Tull

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Written from the unceded and traditional territory of the x̱w̱məθkʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil Waututh) and s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish) Coast Salish people.

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Danielle Paydli

BC Organizer: Canadian Freshwater Alliance, a project of MakeWay.

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***Please note I generally work Monday to Thursday*

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The Freshwater Alliance builds, connects and supports freshwater constituencies across Canada.

Gratefully acknowledging that I live, work and write from the traditional territories of the Stz'uminus First Nation.



LNROS external stakeholder backgrounder.pdf

161K

Backgrounder: Organizational Review by Lands and Natural Resource Operations Secretariat

94% of the land base in British Columbia is crown land. Land use issues have become more challenging and more complex. There are no easy decisions left to be made. Modernizing land use policies to address current and future complexities is necessary to achieving our economic, social and reconciliation goals. Ensuring effective organizational structures are in place to meet the needs of communities and support an integrated approach across the land base will be key.

The Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development was established in 2010 to foster integrated decision making on the land. Much has changed in the last 10 years and in light of this Premier John Horgan has asked Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Nathan Cullen, to assess whether land use objectives that support economic activity, environmental sustainability, and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples can be more effectively achieved through restructuring.

To undertake this work, the Lands and Natural Resource Operations Secretariat (Secretariat), led by Deputy Minister Lori Halls, was formed in January 2021. The Secretariat will take a thoughtful and inclusive approach to assessing the effectiveness of the current organizational structure, and in developing restructuring options for the Premier's consideration. In doing this work, one of the options that will be considered is the development of a plan to create a new Ministry for Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

The Secretariat will be guided by the following design principles. Each principle refers to the effectiveness of all organizational components – structure, systems and process, tools and technology, and people. In applying the principles, we will consider how they support the Province's three overarching goals of **economic activity, environmental sustainability, and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples**.

- **Accountability** – Organizational structure will be supported by effective governance across the natural resource sector and ensure accountabilities are aligned with appropriate decision makers.
- **Adaptability** – Organizational structure will be agile and responsive to better meet the needs of our partners, stakeholders and British Columbians. We will design with both the present and future needs of the natural resource sector in mind, ensuring we are ready to meet new challenges and make the most of new opportunities.
- **Integration** – We will build on the success of the past to further integrate the work across the sector where needed.
- **Inclusivity** – In both developing and implementing our design we will be transparent and inclusive, ensuring diverse voices, perspectives and priorities are heard and taken into consideration.

- **Innovation** – The design will embrace opportunities to accelerate the creation, development and implementation of ideas that improve outcomes in our evolving natural resource sector. This includes timely and responsive decisions on authorizations and optimizing the full range of values realized on the land base.
- **Regional Presence** – Recognizing how critical relationships on the ground are, we will continue to ensure the natural resource sector’s leadership and diverse regional presence is maintained.
- **Service Orientation** – We will seek options that maintain or improve relationships, business processes and operations both within government and with our partners, clients and stakeholders.

This work will be conducted in three phases:

- 1) **Assessment** of the effectiveness of the current organizational structure and opportunities for improvement through spring and summer 2021.
- 2) **Design** of options by fall 2021 to better achieve the three goals of economic activity, environmental sustainability, and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- 3) **Implementation** through spring 2022 of the final decision of government on organizational structure.



As part of the Assessment phase, Minister Cullen and Secretariat staff will be engaging with representatives from First Nations, Indigenous organizations, industry, non-government organizations, local government, labour, and crown entities to better understand what is working well within the sector, where improvements can be made, and how the natural resource sector could be better structured to achieve the three goals of government.