

McLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND

General Delivery
McLeod Lake, B.C.
V0J 2G0
Phone (250) 750-4415
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December 16, 2003

Attention: Mr. Peter Colenbrander
BC Treaty Commission
Ste 203-1155 West Pender St.
Vancouver, BC
V6E 2P4

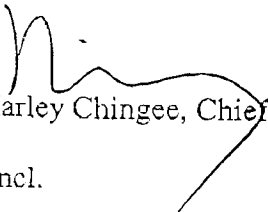
Dear Mr. Colenbrander:

Enclosed is our 'Statement of Intent' for the BC Treaty Commission's review and approval process for the Band to enter into a Self-government negotiation with Canada and British Columbia. Our 'Statement of Intent' is to conform to the guidelines set out under the 6-Step Process.

We have also submitted the appropriate document that provides evidence of the Council's support and the eligible member's approval to enter into a tripartite negotiation with Canada, British Columbia and McLeod Lake Indian Band. We have also included a copy of our Claimed Traditional Territory map as you've requested.

Any correspondence or inquiries may be directed to Adele Chingee, Coordinator for Self-government at 250-750-4415 (835) or Mr. Guy Joly, General Manager at 250-961-4712.

RESPECTFULLY,



Harley Chingee, Chief

Encl.

Cc: McLeod Lake Indian Band Council
Mr. Guy Joly, General Manager
Ms. Adele Chingee, Coordinator, Self-government

MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND

STATEMENT OF INTENT
BC TREATY COMMISSION

The name of our Indian Band is 'McLeod Lake Indian Band'. The provisions of Treaty 8 cover the Band. Although the Hudson Bay trading post of McLeod Lake is one of the oldest settlements in British Columbia, McLeod Lake Band was omitted from the original Treaty 8 ratification last century. In 2000, McLeod Lake Band ratified an agreement with the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia that brought the Band into Treaty 8. The Treaty Adhesion Settlement provided the Band with funds that is held in trust and some 20,000 hectares of forested and settlement lands. The Band, through its Trust Agreement spends the earned interest earned from the Trust investments on administrative, community and economic development projects.

The structure of the governing body is a 'band' as defined in the *Indian Act*. The government consists of an elected Chief and six (6) Councillors. Their authority is limited to the powers granted by that legislation. The eligible members specifically approve the band as the appropriate governing body to conduct self-government negotiations. Chief and Council elections are held every 3-years. Elections are conducted according to the McLeod Lake Indian Band Electoral Code. Currently the Chief and Council are:

- Harley Chingee, Chief
- Verne Solonas, On Reserve Councillor
- Elizabeth Solonas, On Reserve Councillor
- Eureka Carty, Youth Councillor
- Josephine Tylee, Elder Councillor
- Lucy Martin, Off Reserve Councillor
- Tania Solonas, Off Reserve Councillor

The Chief and Council received the overwhelming support of the eligible voters of the membership to pursue the Self Government Initiative through the BC Treaty Commission Process. Chief and Council received the support through a referendum vote, which was held on December 11, 2003. The Chief and Council signed a Band Council Resolution back in September 26, 2003 to give their full support and also to seek a mandate from the majority of eligible voters to pursue a self-government negotiation. **See Appendix I.** Prior to the vote, information and community meetings were held from October 20-27, 2003 in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Prince George, McLeod Lake BC and Edmonton Alberta. The members were informed that in order to enter into self-government negotiation, the band had to proceed through the British Columbia Treaty Commission Process. This process called for a tripartite negotiation between Canada, British Columbia and the First Nation. The ballot question to the members was "Do you support and authorize the McLeod Lake Indian Band

MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND

STATEMENT OF INTENT
BC TREATY COMMISSION

Chief and Council to pursue entering into a self-government process with the goal of being a self-governing band?" The majority of the members voted in favor for authorizing Chief and Council to pursue self-government negotiations. See Appendix II.

McLeod Lake Indian Band is part of the TseK'ehne group of Aboriginal people situated in the Rocky Mountain Trench. The name TseK'ehne means *people of the rocks or people of the mountains*.

The main community of McLeod Lake Indian Band is located on Indian Reserves No.1 and No. 5 near the unincorporated village of McLeod Lake, approximately 150 kilometres north of Prince George on Highway 97. McLeod Lake Indian Band currently has 419 members (as defined under the *Indian Act*). 87 members currently reside on reserve. 72 on-reserve members are adult members. There are 300 members that reside off-reserve. 179 off-reserve members are adults.

There is no other First Nation that claims to represent the TseK'ehne of McLeod Lake Indian Band.

We have attached a map of McLeod Lake Indian Band's claimed traditional territory. See Appendix III. The claimed traditional territory was negotiated and accepted by Canada, British Columbia and McLeod Lake Indian Band in the *McLeod Lake Indian Band Treaty No. 8 Adhesion and Settlement Agreement*.

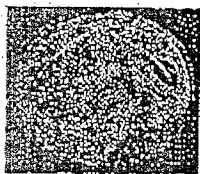
There are other First Nations that may have overlapping or shared territory within McLeod Lake Indian Band's claimed traditional territory. These First Nations are Lhedli t'enneh Indian Band, Necoslie Band, West Moberly First Nation, Saulteaux First Nation and Halfway River Indian Band. There are potentially other First Nations that may overlap or have shared territory with McLeod Lake Indian Band.

The contact person for formal communications is:

Ms. Adele Chingee
Land Manager
McLeod Lake Indian Band
General Delivery
McLeod Lake, BC V0J 2G0
250-750-4415 (835)

Mr. Guy R. Joly
General Manager
McLeod Lake Indian Band
General Delivery
McLeod Lake, BC V0J 2G0
250-750-4415 or 250-961-4712 ©

APPENDIX I


 MCLEOD LAKE INDIAN BAND
 COUNCIL RESOLUTION

COPY

Chronological No.

MLIB 618-092603:104

Filing Reference

Province: British Columbia	Place: McLeod Lake	Current Budget: \$ _____ as of (Date)
Date: September 26, 2003	Reallocate To: _____ Program for (Reason)	

WHEREAS:

The Chief and Council of the McLeod Lake Indian Band is in power to act for and on behalf of the Members of the McLeod Lake Indian Band as provided by and set out under Section 74 of the Indian Act and other such Sections as are applicable.

And Whereas: the Government of Canada recognizes the inherit right of self-government as an existing Aboriginal right under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

And Whereas: self-government is seen as a way to regain control over the management of matters that directly affect McLeod Lake Indian Band and to preserve its cultural identity.

And Whereas: self-government is seen as a democratic, effective, efficient and compatible with other government systems.

And Whereas: self-government will be a system of government that evolves in a gradual manner taking into account our resources and capacities.

And Whereas: self-government will be a system of government, which ensures that the McLeod Lake Indian Band is able to meet community needs in the future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the McLeod Lake Indian Band's Chief and Council is fully supportive in entering into a self-government process with the Province of British Columbia and Canada through the BC Treaty Commission's guidelines.

AND ALSO BE IT RESOLVED: that the McLeod Lake Indian Band's Chief and Council appoints Ms. Adele Chingee to Chair and lead the process of self-government. Supporting Ms. Adele Chingee will be Chief Harley Chingee, General Manager Guy Joly and any other resources as deemed necessary.

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED: that in order to proceed with self-government, "that the governing body is mandated by its constituents to submit a Statement of Intent to negotiate self-government on their behalf with Canada and British Columbia under the treaty process", the Chief and Council directs Ms. Adele Chingee to pursue the mandate to proceed with the self-government process through ratification by the eligible voting members on December 11, 2003.

A quorum for this Band consists of 4 (Four) Council Members.

Josephine Joly
(Councillor)

Gene Dionas
(Councillor)

[Signature]
(Chief)

Elizabeth Solomon
(Councillor)

[Signature]
(Councillor)

[Signature]
(Councillor)

[Signature]
(Councillor)

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APPENDIX II

**REFERENDUM REPORT
PERTAINING TO THE SELF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE
DECEMBER 11, 2003**

There was one question, in total, on the ballot. A summary of voting results is as follows:

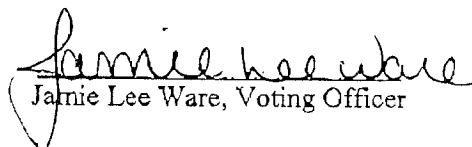
Q. #1 – Do you support and authorize the McLeod Lake Indian Band Chief and Council to pursue entering into a self-government process with the goal of being a self-governing band?

Yes: 106 No: 61

This question was rejected on 1 ballot due to uncertainty of band member's intention.

* Total number of eligible electors:	285
* Total number of eligible elector's constitution an absolute majority:	144
* Total number of electors submitting ballots:	168
* Number of spoiled Mail-in returns:	
(Voter Declaration Incomplete: 5), therefore the number of mail-in ballots envelopes that were left unopened was:	5
* Number of rejected ballots:	1
Due to the uncertainty of band member's intentions	

The Band is seeking clarification as to what constitutes a majority for this vote.


 Jamie Lee Ware, Voting Officer


APPENDIX III

Canada

Schedule 'A'

McLeod Lake Indian Band Claimed Traditional Territory (for the purpose of Article 2, McLeod Lake Indian Band Treaty No. 8 Adhesion and Settlement Agreement)


August 30, 1999



 McLeod Lake Indian Band

 Main Community

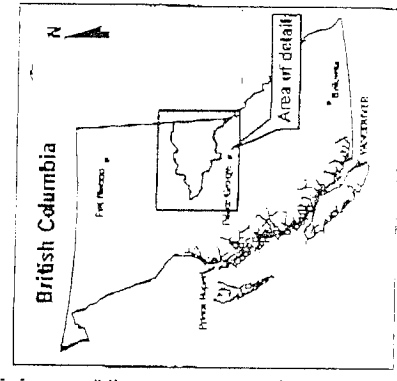
 Reserves



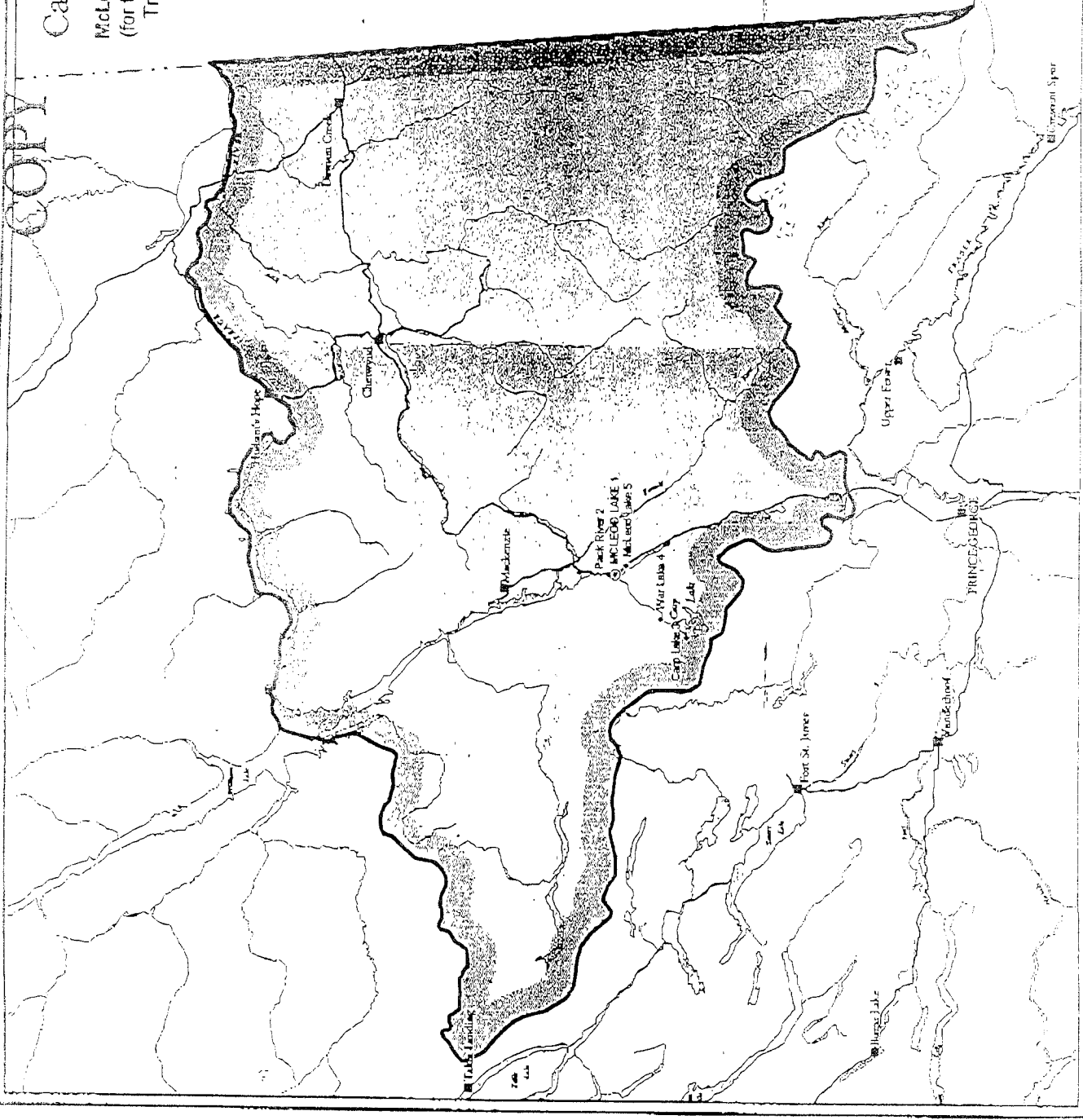
 Roads

 Provincial Boundary

The lines on this map identify approximate boundaries of claimed traditional territories. They are illustrative only and may be subject to change. Publication of this map does not imply that the First Nations, the Province of British Columbia, or the Government of Canada have agreed to the boundaries shown.



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