BC Cabinet & First Nations Leadership Gathering

**November 30 – December 1, 2021**

This year this will be virtual, Registration Deadline **is November 17.** This needs to be completed by Wednesday.

Coms will be sending out a template for Power Points Presentations. We want to ensure everything is Branded properly. Will need the presentations back to Coms for **November 15** for them to do their thing graphics, spelling and grammar review.

The deck will then be forwarded to the Ministers according to each of the topic areas.

Directors will need to meet with Portfolios or who is assigned to speak to the topic from Council to ensure they have all the information. They may possibly need speaking notes.

The following are the Minister we would like to request a meeting with, addressing the following topics

Ministries

Please select the Ministries with which you would like to meet.

Advanced Education, Skills and Training

1. **Seabird College:**  The College has been in operation for almost 15 years and has provided a large number of trades certificates.  It would benefit the College to be designated an ITA facility, but the College would require the shop that meets the ITA standards in order to qualify.  Our request is thus for the funds to expand our college space such that we can receive ITA core funding dollars to benefit on-reserve training opportunities.
2. Core funding for ECE diploma course/upgrades

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

1. Fisheries Management: The decline in salmon stocks has been a blow to our food supply. We ask for a decrease in sport fishing, First Nations fisheries management, Habitat Restoration and Spawning Enhancements. We also ask for permitting and support for an inland fish farm. We will need support to be able to harvest eggs in order to grow stocks, and ask the ministers to support our initiative in accessing these eggs.

Attorney General / Housing

1. BC Housing Project commitment and contract: In 2018 SIB commenced with the work towards a 64-unit housing development commitment – establishment of a housing society, operating and capital budget, unit design and location, permit and development donation etc. Was completed and submitted. We need the housing and cannot make it happen without solid commitment from BC Housing.

Children and Family Development

1. Seabird is in the process of preparing for Child and Family Jurisdiction. We will require that Ministry be open, honest and receive the same level of program funding as the Ministry. Seabird will require the funds for all programming and operations, including staff levels, legal costs to obtain and maintain jurisdiction, and costs for cultural programs on an ongoing basis.
2. Additional funding for Childcare though SASET (ISC) has never been increase
3. Reduced waiting list for Diagnostic assessments for children with Special Needs- parental funding support for private assessments

Education

1. One-time infrastructure funding needed for the elementary school building.  Seabird requires funding for an air conditioning system in our elementary school.  Given the increasingly unrelenting challenges of Climate Change and the frequency of heat warnings in our area (Fraser Valley East) it is critical that our most vulnerable students have a cool, safe classroom in which to learn.  While everyone is at risk of heat related illness, hot temperatures can be especially dangerous for the young.  Our elementary school has students as young as four years old attending full day.

Environment and Climate Change Strategy

1. Seabird is suffering significant land loss due to the Fraser River – this will only increase as climate change impacts the volume of flow and flood risk. We ask for open dialogue and capital spending on region wide flood controls. Highway 7 and the CPR both impact what controls Seabird can implement as protection from the Fraser, and they detract from our land base.

Finance

1. Economic Development is crucial and is a priority for Seabird. We ask that the Minister provide the opportunity for First Nations to compete in Casino market.
2. Exemption of Property Transfer Tax Exemption for First Nations and FN Entities.

As per the Declaration Act passed by the province in November 2019, Seabird Island would like to be able to be exempt from property transfer tax on acquisition on fee simple land.

1. PST Exemption of goods delivered off reserve.

As currently, FN are entitled to PST exemption for goods delivered on reserve. Given to the expansion of community programming off reserve, Seabird Island would like to have exemption for goods delivered on and off reserve for community programming purposes. This would reduce the logistical cost as well and enhance the efficiency of community program service delivery.

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

1. Seabird Woodlot – The Area of Intent has been identified and the local District of Forestry is aware, Seabird asks the Minister to set a side this area for our Future use.
2. Involvement industry within our territory prior to going to Referral Process.
3. Greater access Provincial government market of products and services, More set-a-sides for provincially funded infrastructure/transportation projects, open the doors to procurement (all government departments and referrals) and in the direct awarding of tenders to First Nations communities/entities

Health

1. Covid Impact- Covid has had a drastic effect on the mental health of our community members, with a high increase of alcoholism, overdoses, spousal and family violence, mental health and children in care.
2. Core Funding for Recovery House which includes cultural component, our recovery homes have been proven to be successful but struggles without core funding we can only offer a minimal level of service and is not at the level of Cultural Component we would like it to be with the limited amount of funds.
3. Supported Housing programs (elders, youth/families, substance use). The need for these homes are increasing, there is a higher number of Elders in need supported housing, The capacity levels of individuals who need twenty four hour support raising their families. Substance abuse is an on-going problem and is always in need of high support.
4. Health Human Resources. We ask for additional funding to support the higher level of health workers required.
5. Indigenous Licensing Board- Regulation that support the cultural components

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Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

1. Invitation to Seabird Island
2. Greater access Provincial government market of products and services, we would also like to see more set-a-sides for provincially funded infrastructure/transportation projects. If the government is serious about Reconciliation - the government needs to open the doors to procurement (all government departments and referrals) and in the direct awarding of tenders to First Nations communities/entities
3. Seabird Woodlot – The Area of Intent has been identified and the local District of Forestry is aware, Seabird asks the Minister to set a side this area for our Future use.
4. Seabird is in the process of preparing for Child and Family Jurisdiction. We will require that Ministry be open, honest and receive the same level of program funding as the Ministry. Seabird will require the funds for all programming and operations, including staff levels, legal costs to obtain and maintain jurisdiction, and costs for cultural programs on an ongoing basis.

Mental Health and Addictions

1. Covid Impact- Covid has had a drastic effect on the mental health of our community members, with a high increase of alcoholism, overdoses, spousal and family violence, mental health and children in care.
2. Continuum of Care for Addictions in collaboration with surrounding First Nations communities
3. Cultural programs costs ie: Spiritual healers, knowledge keepers

Municipal Affairs

1. Seabird is asking the District of Kent to pay its share of capital and road maintenance for roads accessed only through Seabird Band lands; the bulk of the load is farm-related traffic, including multi-axle milk/feed/silage trucks that are causing roadbed erosion and degradation.
2. Policing for Land Code Bands, the jurisdiction extending to Land Code Bands is in question by RCMP causing a problem of enforcement and Community Confidence in the RCMP.

Public Safety and Solicitor General / Emergency Management B.C.

1. Policing for Land Code Bands, the jurisdiction extending to Land Code Bands is in question by RCMP causing a problem of enforcement and Community Confidence in the RCMP.
2. We ask that MOTI initiate dialogue with CPR and Seabird to discuss road and rail bed issues – no flow through for the Maria Slough, and flood / disaster response and mitigation, access to south side of the tracks.
3. Access to Highway 7 is difficult from hidden driveways and given the speed limit on the provincial highway. We ask for regular speed limit enforcement and adequate signage to ensure safety, as well as further discussion to create merge turning lanes
4. We continue to ask that the Minister address this issue of erosion and diking, we loose many acres per year to erosion we continue to ask for funding for a dike to protect our lands.

Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

1. Seabird Island All-weather Soccer/ball Field Seabird is very active in sports and holds several tournaments per year, Provincial and National.
2. Sasquatch Park - Seabird has very adamant over the past years of wanting to take back our right to economic benefits and control management within our territory. Even with all the promises to work with us to make this happen we are no farther along and have been denied the opportunity to manage.

Transportation and Infrastructure

1. MOTI ROW Agreement – We have been working with MOTI for several years with very little advancement. We ask the Minister to provide a mandate to complete these negotiations, develop a Rent Agreement and pay past use rent.
2. We ask that MOTI initiate dialogue with CPR and Seabird to discuss, access to south side of the tracks to support our economic opportunities.
3. Access to Highway 7 is difficult from hidden driveways and given the speed limit on the provincial highway. We ask for regular speed limit enforcement and adequate signage to ensure safety, as well as further discussion to create merge turning lanes

Premier’s Office

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4. MOTI ROW Agreement – We have been working with MOTI for several years with very little advancement. We ask the Minister to provide a mandate to complete these negotiations, develop a Rent Agreement and pay past use rent.
5. Policing for Land Code Bands, the jurisdiction extending to Land Code Bands is in question by RCMP causing a problem of enforcement and Community Confidence in the RCMP.