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ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

May 6, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Re: Bamfield Road

Dear Premier Horgan,

On behalf of our Nation, I am writing to you seeking an update on your commitment from November 2019 regarding much needed upgrading of the Port Alberni-Bamfield Road.

When you visited Anacla in November 2019, you directed staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to establish the Bamfield Road Reconciliation Action Group with us and the other road stakeholders to work together to determine how best to upgrade the road in a timely manner. We have done that and reached agreement with MOTI in early 2020 that the proposal put forward by our Nation to chip seal the road is technically feasible and, if constructed according to the plan put together by our engineering firm, Urban Systems, is also affordable - \$30.7 million including a \$7.3 million contingency allowance.

We are ready to get on with this project. We've recently let a contract for more engineering work to guide the final design and we understand the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is preparing a submission for funding.

I know you and your government are looking for projects to kick start the economic recovery. This project will do that. Upgrading the road will employ workers and involve businesses from the Alberni Valley. Once the road is upgraded, it will provide improved access to Bamfield, Anacla and the west coast of Vancouver Island opening up the area for tourism allowing small businesses to recover quicker. An improved road will lower cost through reduced wear and tear on vehicles for industrial users thus assisting them with their economic recovery. Finally, and most importantly, an improved road will reduce fatal accidents which is something we all want.

As we've previously said, we are ready to partner with BC to begin a new era of reconciliation to stimulate the BC economy. Speedy approval of this project will be another sign that the Province of British Columbia is ready to start that journey as well.

Robert J. Dennis Sr.
Elected Chief Councillor
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
cc: Honourable Carole James, Honourable Scott Fraser

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