



December 21, 2022

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President
Chief Don Tom, Vice-President
Chief Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer
On behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Cheryl Casimer, Political Executive
Robert Phillips, Political Executive
Hugh Braker, Political Executive
On behalf of the First Nations Summit

Regional Chief Terry Teegee
On Behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations

Dear First Nations Leadership Council Members:

RE: BC First Nations Health Governance Structure

I am writing on behalf of the Gitanmaax Band and Members. The purpose of this letter is to Echo and support the letter dated November 23, 2022 from the Sto:lo Tribal Council where they respond to your letter to Wade Grant and Wenecwstin (Wayne Christian) dated November 7, 2022.

In 2015, the First Nations Leadership Council signed a Protocol with the First Nations Health Council. The FNLC and FNHC acknowledged their respective and separate governance and accountability structures. The FNHC is not subordinate to the FNLC. The 15 FNHC members are accountable to the Chiefs that appointed them within their respective regions.

In the First Nations Leadership Council letter to the FNHC, you demand that the First Nations Health Council not renew its ten-year funding agreement which expires March 31, 2023. You insist that the FNHC "cooperate in an arms-length health governance review..." Canada, the Province of BC and the First Nations Health Authority have a legal and binding agreement. This tripartite agreement, a constructive arrangement, has provisions for formal organizational evaluations. The FNHC and FNHA have begun their engagement with Chiefs in each of the regional caucuses this Fall of 2022. The FNHC and FNHA are seeking out advice and direction to strengthen the First Nations Health Governance Structure. We question the need for the FNLC to undertake any evaluation.

In your letter of November 7, 2022, you also claim to be representing “Title and Rights Holders.” Your assertion that you have a mandate to speak for “Title and Rights Holders,” which is a remarkable departure from past convention, policy or practice by the First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Assembly of First Nations.

Through your actions, you are undermining a duly constituted First Nations Health Governance structure. Through your demands, you are threatening the funding for community health programs and benefits that are specific and will have a direct impact to our Gitanmaax Band membership. Through your letter of November 7th, 2022, you are exercising political interference in another organization. This is not what the First Nations Leadership Council was created to do.

Respectfully, I must remind you that the Gitanmaax Band Council is mandated as the Governing Body of the community of Gitanmaax to oversee the delivery and management of programs, services, public safety and the well being of all persons visiting or residing within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Gitanmaax Reserves. The Gitanmaax Band Council is the only body that makes decisions on behalf of its membership. The Leadership Council has no authority to represent or make decisions for Gitanmaax unless supported by a Band Council Resolution.

The Gitanmaax Band Chief and Council are respectfully asking you to cease and desist from your political interference in the work of the FNHC and the FNHA and leave the decision making to the Elected Chiefs and Council in the Provincial of British Columbia to address any issues that they may have, moving forward.

Signed,

GITANMAAX BAND COUNCIL


Chief Councillor: Tracey Woods

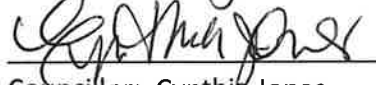

Councillor: Veronica Green


Councillor: Shelley Johnson


Councillor: Jessica Mikolayczyk


Councillor: Jackie Green

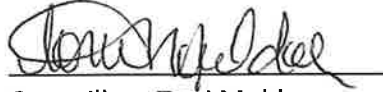

Councillor: Theresa Jack


Councillor: Cynthia Jones


Councillor: Ross McRae



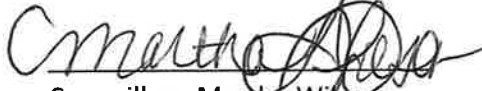
Councillor: Crystal Muldoe



Councillor: Toni Muldoe



Councillor: Mavis Sebastian



Councillor: Martha Wilson

Cc: First Nations Health Council – 15 of 15
BC First Nations
Honorable Adrian Dix, BC Health Minister
Stephen Brown, Deputy Ministry, BC Ministry of Health
Honorable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada
Gina Wilson, Deputy Minister, Indigenous Services Canada
Honorable Marc Miller – Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
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