



Sto:lo Nation Government House

Building #8B-7201 Vedder Road

Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5

Memorandum

TO: STO:LO NATION CHIEFS COUNCIL

FROM: JOE HALL, PRESIDENT

DATE: MAY 27, 2011

RE: YALE TREATY UPDATE

Good morning Sto:lo Nation leadership, I am providing this update on our recent activities regarding the Yale treaty. As you may already know, the BC government introduced Bill 11 - 2011 the Yale First Nation Final Agreement Act for 1st reading on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.

Friday, May 20, 2011: The Sto:lo leadership (both SNCC and STC) met as previously scheduled with Yale Chief Bob Hope, Dominic Hope and their lawyer in a facilitated meeting arranged by the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC). Dan George was contracted by the BCTC to facilitate the meeting. BCTC members Celeste Haldane, Dave Haggard, Mark Smith were in attendance as observers. The outcome was predictable in that Chief Hope refused to commit to a process that would result in modified wording in the proposed Yale treaty. He was adamant that the treaty will remain as is and that he would develop a permit process for access to the Yale lands. This of course is unacceptable given the historical unaccommodating attitudes of Chief Hope's governance.

Sunday, May 22, 2011: I did a morning radio show with Sean Holman of Victoria CFX radio.

Wednesday, May 25, 2011: I accepted an invitation and conducted an APTN television interview which was scheduled to air the next evening on May 26th.

Thursday, May 26, 2011: Jean Teillet, Kat Pennier, Dave Schaepe, Sonny McHalsie, and I travelled to Victoria to meet with Minister Polak of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. It was our intent to meet directly with the Premier however we were only able to get Minister Polak. First thing in the morning we met with Deputy Minister Steve Munro for a briefing prior to meeting the Minister. Clearly he was not well informed and essentially carried the party line. We then met with the Minister and despite our presentation, she informed us that she hadn't heard anything that would alter their plans to move the bill through next week before the house rises on Thursday, June 2nd. Of course this was very discouraging, her suggestion that talks could continue regardless ring hollow. Fixing it later would be too late as the treaty if approved by Canada would have constitutional protection. Clearly the Province is operating on a mandate to approve this treaty at any cost. Minister Polak did not answer my question as to why BC insists on passing this obviously flawed agreement when further work could rectify the outstanding matters.

Thursday, May 26, 2011: A letter to Lieutenant Governor Steven Point was hand delivered to his office in the morning outlining Sto:lo concerns surrounding the Yale treaty. The Lieutenant Governor has the power

to withhold assent and to reserve bills. This is truly an awkward situation for LG Steven Point but we must pursue every avenue available to us. A copy of the letter will be distributed under separate cover.

Prior to lunch we began meetings with the Press in the Parliament building and shared with them our concerns. We will forward to you the articles as we receive them.

At lunch time we met with the NDP opposition critic Scott Fraser and his researcher Kenn McLaren. Unfortunately NDP leader Adrian Dix was not available; however, it will be Scott that will be conducting the debate when the bill is raised in the house next week.

We closed out the day in the Parliamentary Press Gallery where we conducted further interviews with the media. One of our key points throughout the day was that the government of BC is trying to extinguish our constitutionally protected rights and title in the canyon with this Yale treaty. They are attempting to establish the Yale First Nation as the "gate keeper" to the traditional sacred lands and fishing sites currently held by Sto:lo people. Yale has indicated clearly that they intend to establish a permit system to dictate who, when and where people (anybody) can access their lands. This is completely unacceptable.

Friday, May 27, 2011: I spoke with Independent MLA Bob Simpson who indicated he wasn't likely to support the Yale Treaty. Bob is a former NDP member, he currently represents Cariboo North. He expressed his concern about the wording in the Treaty in so far as it is completely devoid of any recognition of Sto:lo or anybody else. He sat in on the Ministerial briefing yesterday and raised questions about amended wording to recognize Sto:lo rights. BC's Chief Negotiator answered that amended wording would likely satisfy the Sto:lo however Yale is not interested in such an amendment. He indicated that he is prepared to speak to these issues however he fears that the government is going to restrict debate. I agreed to provide him with specifics surrounding problematic clauses in the Treaty.