

Barkerville Connector Preliminary First Nations Consultation Report

Prepared for:

Barkerville Heritage Trust

Prepared by:

Aspen Communications Ltd

February 2010

Barkerville Connector Preliminary First Nations Consultation Report

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Executive Summary:

The Barkerville Heritage Trust, which is responsible for Barkerville Historic Town, has conducted a focussed information exchange and dialogue with First Nations to seek input to the Barkerville Connector – Purden Road , a proposed highway link from Barkerville to Highway 16 near Purden Lake. The objectives of the outreach included ensuring First Nations are well informed about the Barkerville Connector and have opportunities to identify their interests and provide input to ongoing development of the Connector. Additional objectives included building relationships, working toward establishing a First Nations presence at Barkerville Historic Town and collaborating on economic and social benefits.

Six First Nations were contacted to determine their interests in the proposal. Contacts were made by telephone and followed up by correspondence. Overview information was provided to each First Nation with offers of more detailed information and face to face meetings for discussion and dialogue. Kluskus and Ulkatcho First Nations advised they do not have interests. Simpcw First Nation advised they may have an interest and wish to be kept informed. Lheidli T'enneh, Lhtako Dene – Red Bluff, and Nazko First Nations all confirmed interests. Meetings were held with each of the three latter groups.

The overall response to the outreach was positive and the three First Nations which entered into the detailed dialogue each indicated general support for the Purden Road with some important cautionary notes. Each expressed concern for impacts on wildlife and fish as well as other environmental impacts and stressed the importance of constructing the road to a suitable standard to ensure safety for travellers and protection of the environment. Tourism and related economic benefits to the region and the First Nations were also recognized. Support was expressed for further discussion to develop a greater First Nations presence at Barkerville Historic Town.

A number of recommendations are detailed in the body of this report. First and foremost is that more detailed consultation with First Nations must be conducted if and when the Barkerville Connector proceeds to detailed engineering and environmental design. The detailed studies should also include design criteria for the Purden Road, locating historic trails and assessing opportunities for regional tourism benefits. Barkerville should also maintain ongoing communications with these groups and remain abreast of evolving requirements and best practices for First Nations consultation.

Barkerville has indicated a commitment to working with First Nations to ensure their history in the region and their involvement with the Cariboo Gold Rush is both known and respected. This commitment supports ongoing discussion of opportunities for First Nations participation at Barkerville.

Introduction and Background:

Barkerville Historic Town, operated by Barkerville Historic Trust, is a major regional tourism attraction with annual attendance of approximately 70,000 visitors. Currently the main access to Barkerville is by Highway 26 from Quesnel and tourists are obliged to return via the same route at the end of their visit.

Barkerville is designing and implementing strategies to further strengthen its position as a premier tourism destination in BC. Highway access is the only way for visitors to arrive at Barkerville. Providing visitors with additional route options will enhance the future of Barkerville Historic Town.

The Barkerville Connector would create a circle route to Highway 16 that would draw additional tourist traffic. By lessening the distance for traffic on major routes to reach the site, and offering possibilities for circle tour experiences for the touring visitor, Barkerville's efforts to increase tourist traffic could be greatly enhanced. This proposed circle route will complement the Province of BC initiatives which promote circle routes throughout BC. Together with the establishment of the international airport at Prince George, and expanded promotion to the Asia Pacific region, these initiatives can increase visitation at Barkerville and its contribution to the regional and provincial economy.

Initially, Barkerville examined three route options: an upgraded road south from Barkerville to Likely and thence to Williams Lake; a new road through the Goat River watershed to Highway 16; and an upgrade of the Purden Road through the Bowron River valley to Highway 16.

The Purden Road has emerged as the preferred option. This route follows the existing forestry road along the Bowron River and connects Highways 16 and 97, the two major traffic arteries through the central interior of BC. It has the lowest cost for construction, shortest time to implement and minimum environmental disturbance.

In the fall of 2007 Barkerville held a number of consultation sessions with local governments, tourism associations and others in the region to seek feedback on the proposed Barkerville Connector. The results of this consultation were presented in the Community Consultation Report prepared by Kevin Brown Communications in December 2007. Feedback received during these consultations indicated overwhelming support for a successful future for Barkerville, and a generally strong level of support for the proposed upgrade of the Bowron River – Purden Lake road and circle route proposal. The 2007 consultation did not specifically target First Nations, however it did include one meeting with representatives of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation east of Prince George.

Following the completion of the 2007 Community Consultation, Barkerville identified the need to reach out in a systematic way to First Nations who may have interests in the Barkerville Connector – Purden Road. Hence this First Nations Consultation initiative was launched. An RFP was issued and a contract was awarded to Aspen Communications Ltd of Prince George to lead this consultation.

Barkerville Historic Trust acknowledges the support of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the City of Prince George which coordinated arrangements with the Northern Development Initiative Trust which provided funding assistance for this consultation initiative.

Consultation Approach:

The approach to consultation has been to identify First Nations that may have a traditional interest in the area adjacent to the Bowron Lakes and/or Purden Road. The approach was to cast the net widely to ensure that all First Nations in the area surrounding the Bowron Lakes and Purden Road would have an opportunity to express an interest.

First Nations were initially contacted by telephone to their administration offices to introduce the consultation. After providing overview information on the Barkerville Connector they were asked to advise if they have an interest or not. If they indicated they may have an interest, a face to face meeting was suggested to present further information and discuss how they wish to be consulted on this proposal. Rather than offer a prescription for the consultation process, the First Nations were invited to advise on what would constitute an effective process for them. The process was designed to be flexible to meet the individual First Nations' needs to the extent possible.

Barkerville Heritage Trust adopted the following objectives for this consultation with First Nations:

- Ensure First Nations are well informed and understand the Barkerville Connector proposal
- Provide First Nations organizations the opportunity to provide input to the Barkerville Connector proposal and identify their interests and issues
- Provide a forum to discuss First Nations views and work with them to identify and clarify issues and address their concerns regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal
- Build trust, credibility and long-term relationships with First Nations, including working toward establishing a First Nations presence in Barkerville Historic town and collaboration on social and economic benefits that might be achieved.

Identification of First Nations and Initial Outreach:

Potential First Nations interests were identified by reference to traditional territories indicated on First Nation and Tribal Council web sites and statement of interest areas indicated on the BC Treaty Commission and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada web sites. This search was guided by local knowledge provided by Directors and CEO and of Barkerville Heritage Trust and supplemented by the consultant's experience.

The initial scan identified six First Nations that might have an interest:

Lheidli T'enneh: This First Nation has confirmed their traditional territory includes the Purden Lake and Bowron River and Lakes area. Their territory is generally from Prince George east to Mount Robson

including most of the upper Fraser River drainage. The Lheidli T'enneh has a negotiated Final Agreement (treaty) with British Columbia and Canada which failed an initial ratification vote by their members. The senior governments have held the Final Agreement pending a further ratification vote by the First Nation.

Lhoosk'uz - Kluskus: This First Nation has confirmed that it does not have an interest in this consultation. Their traditionally territory is in the north Chilcotin, mainly to the west of Nazko town site. The Lhoosk'uz - Kluskus First nation is a member of the Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council.

Lhtako Dene – Red Bluff: This First Nation has confirmed their traditional territory includes the Bowron Lakes area. Their territory is generally from Quesnel east to the Alberta border. The Lhtako Dene First Nation is a member of the Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council.

Nazko: This First Nation has confirmed their traditional territory includes the Bowron Lakes and upper Bowron River area. Their territory also includes an area to the west of Quesnel. The BC Treaty Commission web site indicates they are currently in Stage 4 (Agreement –in-Principle) treaty negotiations with BC and Canada.

Simpcw: This First Nation has not confirmed whether or not the Purden Road or Bowron Lakes area are within their traditional use area. However they have requested that they be maintained on file as an interested First Nation and contacted if there are any further developments on the Barkerville Connector proposal. They confirmed that the Goat River route is within their area of interest. The Simpcw First Nation is a member of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council which includes other First Nations whose territories include the upper Robson Valley and Thompson River area.

Ulkatcho: This First Nation has confirmed that it does not have an interest in this consultation. Their traditionally territory is in the north Chilcotin, mainly north and south of Anahim Lake. The Ulkatcho First Nation is a member of the Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council.

Information Provided to Support Consultation:

Participants in any consultation need to be provided with the information they require in order to participate in meaningful discussion. This consultation used the following information items to provide this information to participants and potential participants:

- A one-page Overview was prepared which provides the basic information regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal and introduces the consultation including the objectives of the consultation. This item was sent to each the identified First Nations following initial telephone contact.

- A PowerPoint presentation was prepared which describes the Barkerville Connector proposal, including the anticipated benefits to Barkerville, the route options considered, the attributes supporting the Purden Road as the preferred option as well as an overview of the consultation. This presentation was made at the face-to-face meetings held with the Lheidli T'enneh, Lhtako Dene – Red Bluff, and Nazko First Nations.
- The Preliminary Barkerville Connector Community Consultation Report prepared by Kevin Brown Communications details the initial consultation with communities and tourism interests throughout the region which was completed in the fall of 2007. A copy of this report was provided to any First Nation on request.
- The Road Connection Analysis for Barkerville evaluation report prepared by Scott Consulting (the Scott Report) details the analysis of the three route options that were considered and identifies the Purden Road as the preferred option. This report was provided to any First Nation with an interest in this evaluation.

The First Nations Consultation Overview is attached in Appendix A. The Barkerville Connector Power Point presentation, the Community Consultation Report and the Scott Report can all be viewed and downloaded from www.barkerville.ca.

Consultation Overview:

To introduce the consultation, each of the six identified First Nations was contacted by telephone call to their administration offices. These introductory calls were made on November 23 and 24, 2008. Initial discussion sought to confirm whether the group has an interest in the Barkerville Connector consultation.

Follow up information was sent by email, fax or postal mail within one week of the initial telephone contact. This included the Overview summary and when requested, the Scott Report.

The Lhoosk'uz – Kluskus and Ulkatcho First Nations advised they do not have an interest in the Barkerville Connector. These First Nations were sent letters confirming they had been advised of the consultation opportunity and confirming they had advised they do not have any interest. (Copies of the letters are attached in Appendix C.)

The Simpcw First Nation did not confirm an interest in the Purden Road route, nor were they able to confirm they do not have an interest. They did request that they be kept informed of any developments related to the Barkerville Connector proposal and advised that they may in future confirm whether they have an interest or not. They advised that the Goat River route is within their traditional use area.

The Lheidli T'enneh, Lhtako - Red Bluff and Nazko First Nations all confirmed an interest in the Barkerville Connector consultation. Ongoing telephone discussions, correspondence and meetings were held with these three First Nations as follows:

Lheidli T'enneh:

- In 2007 a meeting was held with Lheidli T'enneh representatives as part of the Barkerville Connector Community Consultation program which occurred at that time. This meeting is summarized in the Community Consultation Report prepared by Kevin Brown Communications in December 2007.
- Telephone discussions with the Lheidli T'enneh Lands Manager were held over a period of eleven months. During these conversations, it was confirmed that the Barkerville Connector information materials were provided to the Chief and Council, along with analysis provided by the Lands Manager.
- Numerous attempts were made to arrange a presentation to Chief and Council over the period from December 2008 to October 2009. Scheduling conflicts, changes to Lheidli staff responsibilities, and a Band Council election were all factors in delaying an eventual meeting date. However throughout this time the Lheidli advised that the Chief and Council were being kept informed.
- A meeting with Chief Councillor Dominic Frederick, Councillor Regina Toth and Lands Manager Patricia Wight was held on October 29, 2009.

Lhtako – Red Bluff:

- An initial meeting with Chief Councillor Geronimo Squinas, Councillors Wanda Alfred and Terri Boyd and Band Manager Craig Buchan was held on December 9, 2008.
- Follow up telephone discussions with Band Manager Craig Buchan occurred over the next three months. During this period the Band Manager advised that discussions occurred with band members and among the Band Councillors.

Nazko:

- An initial meeting with Nazko Lands and Resources Coordinator Stuart Alec and Referrals Representative Bernice Cremo was held on December 9, 2008.
- A presentation was made to a Nazko First Nation community meeting on January 20, 2009. This meeting was attended Band Councillor Jerry Laurent, Stuart Alec, Bernice Cremo and about 40 – 50 members of the Nazko First Nation. The meeting was facilitated by Terrence Paul.

- Follow up telephone and email discussions with Lands and Resources Coordinator Stuart Alec occurred over the next six months.

At the conclusion of the discussions with each First Nation, a letter was sent to each summarizing the discussion points, documenting the feedback received, and formally concluding this phase of consultation. (Copies of the letters are attached in Appendix C.)

Feedback Summary:

The following summarizes key feedback received from the First Nations which participated in this outreach. A summary of responses from each First Nation is presented in Appendix B.

Impacts on Fish and Wildlife:

- Lheidli T’enneh, Lhtako – Red Bluff, and Nazko First Nations all expressed concern that the Purden Road would provide increased access to the upper Bowron valley which would lead to increased hunting and fishing pressure. Fish and wildlife are an important food source for their members and the need to maintain healthy populations was stressed.
- Both legal and illegal hunting and fishing are expected to increase as a result of a road upgrade. Each of these First Nations expressed concern for the ability of the Province to adequately manage these resources and to adequately enforce fishing and hunting regulations.
- The road design, construction and maintenance would need to provide for protection of the Bowron River fisheries resource which includes significant runs of Pacific salmon.
- Increased wildlife mortality from collisions with vehicles was identified as a concern. Caribou are a species of particular concern and more study may be required to identify the extent of current populations and to design measures to mitigate impacts.
- Wildlife disturbance by increased off road traffic such as ATVs and snowmobiles was also identified as a concern. In order to limit access, some branch roads may need to be deactivated.

Road Construction Standard and Safety:

- The Lheidli T’enneh, Lhtako – Red Bluff, and Nazko First Nations each identified the need to design and construct the road to a standard adequate to simultaneously handle both industrial and recreational/tourism traffic. A two lane paved standard was preferred.
- First Nations questioned whether the Purden Road would be an all weather, year-round facility and indicated an adequate level of maintenance would be necessary if it were intended for all season use.

Preservation of Historic Trails:

- The Nazko First Nation indicated there are a number of historic First Nations trade routes and trails in the Bowron River and Bowron Lakes area and indicated the need to locate and preserve these trails and prevent disturbance due to construction and operation of the Purden Road.

Tourism and Recreation Development:

- The Barkerville Connector may result in benefits to the First Nations through enhanced eco-tourism opportunities both along the connector route and at either end.
- Provision of suitable camping options along the Purden Road was suggested both to provide for resident recreationists and to enhance tourism experiences.
- It was also suggested that opportunities exist for environmental interpretation such as viewing areas for salmon migrations.

Qualified Support:

- The First Nations generally supported the proposed Purden Road but offered some cautionary notes. Most significant were the needs to address a number of concerns in the route design, construction and maintenance as detailed above. The Purden Road was seen as more attractive than other options since it would follow the route of an existing resource road.
- The Lheidli T'enneh have indicated during the 2007 Community Consultation meeting that the Purden Road could compliment some tourism developments which are being considered by the First Nation in the Purden Lake area. The Nazko First Nation also identified possible ecotourism opportunities that could be enhanced by the completion of the Purden Road.

Goat River Route:

- The First Nations agreed that any development of the Goat River route would present concerns regarding access and environmental impacts. The Lheidli T'enneh were pleased that the Goat River route was no longer being considered and the Simpcw First Nation particularly stressed that they would have major concerns with this route.

First Nations Presence at Barkerville Historic Town:

- The Lheidli T'enneh, Lhtako – Red Bluff, and Nazko First Nations agreed that a greater recognition of First Nations history at Barkerville would be desirable. All were amenable to participating in further discussions to define the First Nations history in the area and role in the Cariboo gold rush and development of Barkerville town.

- There was also interest in commercial opportunities such as having First Nations craft items sold at Barkerville retail outlets and guided hiking or ecotourism in the area.

Consultation Approach:

- Each First Nation expressed appreciation for this outreach and information sharing regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal. They also indicated they wish to be kept updated on any future developments on the proposal.
- The First Nations identified the need for a more detailed consultation approach should the Purden Road proceed to detailed environmental and engineering design. (Barkerville representatives acknowledged that this would be a requirement should the proposal advance to this stage of further development.)
- At least one First Nation suggested that participant funding might be required to enable them to participate meaningfully in a more detailed level of consultation.
- The Lhtako – Red Bluff First Nation were very clear that they regard this current outreach as information sharing and discussion only and that it does not constitute consultation. They feel that currently the legislated requirements for consultation are evolving. They are monitoring these developments and will participate in future consultation in accordance with the legal requirements at that time.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

- ❖ **First Nations which participated in this information exchange and consultation were clear that adequate measures to protect fish and wildlife resources would be essential to successful implementation of the Barkerville Connector – Purden Road project. Fish and wildlife are given high importance in any First Nations consideration of project impacts and benefits.**

Recommendation #1: If and when the Barkerville Connector proceeds to detailed environmental impact assessments, the First Nations should be involved in establishing the scope of the studies that will be undertaken, and involved in conducting the studies wherever possible.

- ❖ **At least one First Nation pointed out the existence of historic trails and trade routes in the Bowron River/Bowron Lakes area, and that these represent a significant heritage resource.**

Recommendation #2: Further investigation and research into the location of historic trails should be included in the work leading to implementation of the Barkerville Connector.

- ❖ **First Nations have suggested that in addition to increased visitation at Barkerville Historic Town, the Barkerville Connector may present tourism opportunities and provide added tourism benefits for the regional economy as well as for area First Nations.**

Recommendation #3: Planning for the Barkerville Connector should include assessment of regional tourism benefits, and should include consideration of amenities along the Purden Road such as camping facilities and viewing and interpretation sites.

- ❖ **First Nations identified the need to design and construct the Barkerville Connector to be able to safely handle both industrial and recreation/tourism traffic.**

Recommendation #4: Design criteria for the Barkerville Connector should specify that both large industrial traffic such as logging trucks, and tourism traffic such as motor homes and large RVs will use the road at the same time.

- ❖ **All participants have indicated they appreciate this outreach to First Nations and requested Barkerville keep them informed of any developments related to the Connector.**

Recommendation #5: Barkerville should provide communication to the First Nations at appropriate intervals, but at least once a year, to provide updates regarding the Connector. (This recommendation also includes other stakeholders such as those contacted in the 2007 Community Consultation.) Initially, this report should be distributed to the four First Nations that participated in this outreach. This recommendation applies even in the event that the proposal is shelved for an extended period or abandoned. Annual updates should be distributed whether significant new developments have occurred or not. Parties with an interest in the proposal need to be kept informed of the status.

- ❖ **The feedback from First Nations indicated significant interests and some concerns with the Barkerville Connector – Purden Road proposal as noted above, however no First Nation expressed opposition. One First Nation summed up their response to the proposal as “We just want it to be done right.” Significant work including environmental assessment and detailed design would need to be conducted to move the proposal forward and before actual construction could commence. Aboriginal involvement in this detailed design phase of work would be essential.**

Recommendation #6: Barkerville should anticipate and plan for more in depth consultation with First Nations if and when the Connector moves to detailed environmental and engineering studies. Barkerville should monitor and remain abreast of evolving legislative requirements and best practices for First Nations consultation in order to be prepared for effective consultation when it is required.

- ❖ **Three First Nations that participated in this outreach have indicated that the Upper Bowron River and Bowron Lakes area are included in their traditional use area. One additional First Nation indicated they may have a traditional interest. Given the rich resources of the area, it should not be surprising that the territory has been shared among a number of First Nations.**

Recommendation #7: If and when the Barkerville Connector moves toward detailed environmental and engineering design and the related First Nations consultation, Barkerville should propose a consultation process that brings the interested First Nations together in one forum. The synergy gained by this approach could benefit all participants as well as the Barkerville Heritage Trust.

- ❖ **All of the First Nations approached expressed support for working toward a greater First Nations involvement and presence at Barkerville Historic Town.**

Recommendation #8: Discussion with First Nations should continue on this topic. In the short term there may be opportunities to facilitate First Nations commercial interests at Barkerville, i.e. access to retail space for sale of handicrafts etc or as a base to promote eco tourism or other services. In the longer term Barkerville should coordinate research to define the history of aboriginal peoples in the Barkerville area and their involvement in the Cariboo Gold Rush, working toward an interpretive presence at Barkerville. This effort will need to be coordinated with all the First Nations that include the Upper Bowron River and Bowron Lakes in their traditional use area.

Appendix A: Information Materials used in the Barkerville Connector – Preliminary First Nations Consultation.

Barkerville Connector First Nations Consultation – Overview

The Barkerville Heritage Trust, which is responsible for the Barkerville Historic Town, is reaching out to First Nations to seek input to the Barkerville Connector, a proposed highway link from Barkerville to Highway 16 near Purden Lake.

Barkerville Historic Town is a major regional tourism attraction with annual attendance of approximately 70,000 visitors. Currently the main access to Barkerville is by Highway 26 from Quesnel and tourists are obliged to return via the same route at the end of their visit. The Barkerville Connector would create a circle route to Highway 16 that would draw additional tourist traffic.

Objectives of the Consultation:

Barkerville Heritage Trust is seeking to consult with First Nations, with the following objectives:

- Ensure First Nations are well informed and understand the Barkerville Connector proposal
- Provide First Nations organizations the opportunity to provide input to the Barkerville Connector proposal and identify their interests and issues
- Provide a forum to discuss First Nations views and work with them to identify and clarify issues and address their concerns regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal
- Build trust, credibility and long-term relationships with First Nations, including working toward establishing a First Nations presence in Barkerville Historic town and collaboration on social and economic benefits that might be achieved.

Overview of Barkerville Connector Proposal

Barkerville is designing and implementing strategies to strengthen its position as a premier tourism destination in BC. Vehicular traffic will play a vital role. By lessening the distance for traffic on major routes to reach the site, and offering possibilities for circle tour experiences for the touring visitor, Barkerville's efforts to increase tourist traffic could be greatly enhanced.

Initially, Barkerville examined three route options: an upgraded road south from Barkerville to Likely and thence to Williams Lake; a new road through the Goat River watershed to Highway 16; and an upgrade of the Purden Road through the Bowron River valley.

The Purden Road has emerged as the preferred option. It has the lowest cost for construction, shortest time to implement and minimum environmental disturbance as it would follow the existing forestry road and, it connects two major traffic arteries Highways 16 and 97.

Next Steps:

Barkerville Heritage Trust is contacting First Nations to discuss how they would like to be consulted. A consultation plan will be developed based on input from these initial discussions. It is expected that, at minimum, meetings will be held with each First Nation with an interest in the Barkerville Connector.

For further information contact: Dave Read, Phone: 250-564-9266 or Email aspencom@telus.net or Judy Campbell, Phone 250-994-3302 extension 23 or Email judy.campbell@barkerville.ca

Additional information materials used in the Barkerville Connector – Preliminary First Nations Consultation:

Barkerville Connector Power Point Presentation.

Preliminary Barkerville Connector Community Consultation Report.

Road Connection Analysis for Barkerville (The Scott Report)

The Barkerville Connector Power Point presentation, the Community Consultation Report and the Scott Report can all be viewed and downloaded from www.barkerville.ca.



Appendix B: First Nations contacted with interests and issues raised.

First Nation:	Interests and Issues:
<u>Lheidli T'enneh:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish and wildlife • Environmental impacts of construction • Road design and construction standard • Tourism opportunities • Pleased that Goat River route is not being proposed • First Nations presence at Barkerville
<u>Lhtako Dene – Red Bluff:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish and wildlife • Road design and construction standard • First Nations presence at Barkerville
<u>Lhoosk'uz - Kluskus:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interest – not within traditional use area
<u>Nazko:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish and wildlife • Historic trails and trade routes • Road design and construction standard • Tourism opportunities • First Nations presence at Barkerville
<u>Simpcw:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not confirm an interest in the Purden Road, but requested to be retained on file. • Expressed concern (anticipated opposition) to the Goat River route
<u>Ulkatcho:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interest – not within traditional use area

Appendix C: Correspondence to First Nations:



Chief Lillian Squinas
Kluskus First Nation,
PO Box 4639,
Quesnel, BC V2J 3J8
December 16, 2008

Dear Chief Squinas,

Re: Barkerville Connector Proposal

Barkerville Heritage Trust, operating Barkerville Historic Town, is currently developing a proposal for a connector highway that would link Barkerville town to Highway 16, near Purden Lake. Preliminary review of the favoured route as well as two other route options has been completed. Barkerville is currently consulting with First Nations with an interest in the Purden route.

This will confirm that we have forwarded overview information on the proposal to the Kluskus First Nation by email and have received a reply from Band Manager Denis Umpleby. Mr. Umpleby informed us by way of telephone message on December 2, 2008 that the proposed Barkerville Connector is not in the Kluskus First Nation traditional territory, and that Kluskus would have no interest in the consultation.

We appreciate that Kluskus has received and reviewed the information and responded to us. If you have any further questions regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal, or any other aspect of the Barkerville Historic Town, please contact us at your convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Campbell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Judy Campbell
Chief Executive Officer



Chief Dominic Frederick
Lheidli T'enneh Nation,
1041 Whenun Road,
Prince George, BC V2K 5X8

February 3, 2010

Re: Barkerville Connector Proposal

Barkerville Heritage Trust, operating Barkerville Historic Town, is currently developing a proposal for a connector highway that would link Barkerville town to Highway 16, near Purden Lake. Preliminary review of the favoured route as well as two other route options has been completed. Barkerville is currently consulting with First Nations with an interest in the Purden route, which generally follows the Bowron River from Bowron Lake to Highway 16.

This will confirm that Barkerville has provided information and sought feedback from the Lheidli T'enneh Nation over a period of time. Barkerville representatives met with Lheidli representatives in December 2007 and presented an overview of the proposal at that time and heard feedback. In November 2008 Barkerville forwarded updated information focussing on the Purden Road to the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and we received feedback verbally from Lheidli representatives following internal discussion of the update.

Barkerville representatives also met with the Lheidli T'enneh Chief, Band Councillor Regina Toth and Lands Manager Patricia Wight on October 29, 2009 and presented an update on the Barkerville Connector proposal and responded to questions from the Lheidli leaders. The Lheidli T'enneh confirmed that the Upper Bowron River and Bowron Lakes areas and the proposed Purden Road are included in their traditional use territory.

Feedback from these meetings and discussions indicates the following interests and concerns:

- Increased hunting and fishing pressures and increased possibility of poaching: Policing would be important and the Lheidli would like to hear from the Conservation Officer Service how the

increased need for enforcement would be handled. Some branch roads may need to be deactivated to limit access. Increased traffic may also lead to more vehicle/animal collisions.

- Safe road design and construction: The road should be constructed to an adequate standard that could safely accommodate both industrial traffic and tourist/recreational traffic. A two lane, paved road would be the preferred standard. Also of interest is how the road would be maintained, and by whom, and would it be open for seasonal or year round use.
- Environmental impacts of construction: The road should be designed and constructed in a manner to limit erosion and sedimentation into the Bowron River. The Bowron River salmon fishery is important to the Lheidli and they would want assurance that the road upgrade would not negatively impact the Bowron River itself or the creeks that flow into the river.
- The Lheidli T'enneh Nation may want to do their own cost/benefit study on the Connector and consider further the potential impacts and benefits and may also propose mitigation measures to minimize possible impacts. The Connector could result in benefits to the Lheidli through eco-tourism opportunities etc.

This will confirm that Barkerville will continue to maintain the Lheidli T'enneh Nation on file as an interested party to the Barkerville Connector proposal and that your office will be contacted if and when the Barkerville Connector proceeds to detailed engineering and environmental studies.

We appreciate that the Lheidli T'enneh Nation has engaged in information exchange and discussion with Barkerville. If you have any further questions regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal, or any other aspect of the Barkerville Historic Town, please contact us at your convenience.

Yours truly,



Judy Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

Copy to Patricia Wight, Lands Manager



Chief Delores Alec
Nazko First Nation,
Box 4129,
Quesnel, BC V2J 3J2
November 2, 2009

Dear Chief Alec,

Re: Barkerville Connector Proposal

Barkerville Heritage Trust, operating Barkerville Historic Town, is currently developing a proposal for a connector highway that would link Barkerville town to Highway 16, near Purden Lake. Preliminary review of the favoured route as well as two other route options has been completed. Barkerville is currently consulting with First Nations with an interest in the Purden route, which generally follows the Bowron River from Bowron Lake to Highway 16.

This will confirm that we have forwarded overview information on the proposal to the Nazko First Nation. Following receipt of that information, Barkerville representatives met with Stuart Alec and Bernice Cremo on December 9, 2008. Barkerville representatives also attended a Nazko community meeting on January 20, 2009 which was attended by Band Councillor Jerry Laurent, Stuart Alec, Bernice Cremo, and about 40 to 50 additional Nazko members. Barkerville representatives made a presentation on the Barkerville Connector proposal at this meeting and responded to questions from those present. In these meetings, Nazko confirmed that the Upper Bowron River and Bowron Lakes areas and the proposed Purden Road are included in their traditional use territory.

Following the January 20 meeting we understand the Nazko representatives engaged in further discussion of the proposal. Feedback from the meetings noted above, and our follow-up conversations with Nazko representative Stuart Alec indicate the following interests and concerns:

- Preservation of historic trails. Nazko particularly referred to the Goat River trail, but also said there are other trails and trade routes used historically by the Nazko and other aboriginal peoples. They described the Nazko as having a significant involvement in trading prior to European settlement, trading for goods from as far away as the prairies and the coast.

- Wildlife and other environmental values. Nazko expressed low confidence in the ability of the Province to manage wildlife and concern that increased access and traffic would impact wildlife. As well as legal over-hunting, they expressed concern for increased poaching, as well as more disturbance of wildlife from traffic such as ATV's etc. In addition to specific concerns about wildlife impacts, they expressed a general concern for environmental impacts from the road and increased traffic.

Nazko representatives also advised that they are not opposed to the connector road, but "just want it done right." In addition to environmental concerns, this included the caution that the road should be constructed to a standard that would accommodate both logging and tourist traffic and that suitable camping options should be made available along the route.

We understand that Nazko does want to be part of any future discussion or consultation on the Barkerville Connector. This will confirm that Barkerville will continue to maintain the Nazko First Nation on file as an interested party to this proposal and that your office will be contacted if and when the Barkerville Connector proceeds to detailed engineering and environmental studies.

We appreciate that Nazko has engaged in information exchange and discussion with Barkerville. If you have any further questions regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal, or any other aspect of the Barkerville Historic Town, please contact us at your convenience.

Yours truly,



Judy Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

Copy to Stuart Alec, Nazko First Nation



Chief Geronimo Squinas
Red Bluff First Nation,
Box 4693,
Quesnel, BC V2J 3J9

April 3, 2009

Re: Barkerville Connector Proposal

Barkerville Heritage Trust, operating Barkerville Historic Town, is currently developing a proposal for a connector highway that would link Barkerville town to Highway 16, near Purden Lake. Preliminary review of the favoured route as well as two other route options has been completed. Barkerville is currently consulting with First Nations with an interest in the Purden route, which generally follows the Bowron River from Bowron Lake to Highway 16.

This will confirm that we have forwarded overview information on the proposal to the Red Bluff First Nation. Barkerville representatives also met with the Red Bluff Chief Councillor, two Band Councillors and the Band Manager in December 2008 and presented an overview of the Barkerville Connector proposal and responded to questions from the Red Bluff leaders. Red Bluff confirmed that the Upper Bowron River and Bowron Lakes areas and the proposed Purden Road are included in their traditional use territory. Red Bluff were clear that this meeting and follow up conversations are information sharing and discussion only and do not constitute consultation.


Following the initial meeting, the Red Bluff leadership engaged in some discussion of the proposal with band members. Feedback has been that since the Purden Road would not create a new route (i.e. currently a resource road traverses nearly the entire route) there would be less concern than if a new access route were being created. However there is concern that the upgrading the Purden Road would create more access to hunting grounds.

Red Bluff has stated that given the introduction of new legislation that will recognize aboriginal rights and title in BC, they will not respond formally to any referrals pending passage and review of that legislation. Red Bluff does want to be part of any future discussion or conversation on the Barkerville Connector and have stated that should the proposal move forward to approvals and detailed engineering, they will need to engage in serious consultation following the rules in place.

This will confirm that Barkerville will continue to maintain the Red Bluff First Nation on file as an interested party to this proposal and that your office will be contacted if and when the Barkerville Connector proceeds to detailed engineering and environmental studies.

We appreciate that Red Bluff has engaged in information exchange and discussion with Barkerville. If you have any further questions regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal, or any other aspect of the Barkerville Historic Town, please contact us at your convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

c.c. Craig Buchan, Band Manager



Chief Keith Matthew
Simpchw First Nation,
Box 220,
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0

Dear Chief Matthew,

Re: Barkerville Connector Proposal

Barkerville Heritage Trust, operating Barkerville Historic Town, is currently developing a proposal for a connector highway that would link Barkerville town to Highway 16, near Purden Lake. Preliminary review of the favoured route as well as two other route options has been completed. Barkerville is currently consulting with First Nations with an interest in the Purden route, which generally follows the Bowron River from Bowron Lake to Highway 16.

This will confirm that we have forwarded overview information on the proposal to the Simpcw First Nation by email and have had follow up conversations with Sam Phillips and Duane Eustache in your office. We have not received confirmation of whether or not the Purden route is in the traditional use territory of the Simpcw people. We have been advised by your staff that the Simpcw maintains an interest in the possible development of this highway connector.

This will confirm that Barkerville will continue to maintain the Simpcw First Nation on file as an interested party to this proposal and that your office will be contacted if and when the Barkerville Connector proceeds to the next step of project development, i.e. detailed engineering and environmental studies.

We appreciate that Simpcw has received and reviewed the information and responded to us. If you have any further questions regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal, or any other aspect of the Barkerville Historic Town, please contact us at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Judy Campbell
Chief Executive Officer



Ulkatcho First Nation,
PO Box 3430,
Anahim Lake, BC V0L 1C0

February 6, 2009

Attention: Chief Lynda Price

Re: Barkerville Connector Proposal

Barkerville Heritage Trust, operating Barkerville Historic Town, is currently developing a proposal for a connector highway that would link Barkerville town to Highway 16, near Purden Lake. Preliminary review of the favoured route as well as two other route options has been completed. Barkerville is currently consulting with First Nations with an interest in the Purden route.

This will confirm that we have forwarded overview information on the proposal to the Ulkatcho First Nation by email and have received a reply from Becky Holt, who handles your referrals. Ms. Holt informed us by telephone call on December 18, 2008 that the proposed Barkerville Connector is not in the Ulkatcho First Nation traditional territory, and that Ulkatcho would have no interest in the consultation.

We appreciate that the Ulkatcho First Nation has received and reviewed the information and responded to us. If you have any further questions regarding the Barkerville Connector proposal, or any other aspect of the Barkerville Historic Town, please contact us at your convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Judy Campbell'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Campbell
Chief Executive Officer