



Gitxaala Nation

To: The Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

Letter from the Elected and Hereditary Leaders of Gitxaala Nation on the Proposed Kitselas Treaty Bill

LAX KLAN, DOLPHIN ISLAND, B.C. – April 27, 2026

We write to you today as one single, aligned voice upholding our Gitxaala Ayaawx – the laws, jurisdiction, and responsibilities by which we govern ourselves. Gitxaala rights to self-determination and self-government have been ignored by your government as BC has chosen to prioritize one Nation’s rights over the rights of other Nations, including Gitxaala. We have expressed our concerns many times to many different representatives of your government, yet our voices and positions have been ignored by the Government of British Columbia. We write today to the entire BC Legislative Assembly to ensure our Nation’s rights, title, and laws are upheld.

As Bill 21 approaches a second reading and debate of the Kitselas First Nation Treaty, British Columbia has not received Gitxaala’s free, prior, and informed consent. We are steadfast in our position that our free, prior, and informed consent includes meaningful agreements between Gitxaala and the Kitselas Nation, and meaningful agreements with BC and Canada that address the impact that the Kitselas Treaty will have on our constitutionally protected rights and title.

In their current form, the Kitselas Treaty and others in your government’s queue will provide Kitselas and other Nations with lands, harvesting rights, and law-making jurisdiction within Nłuut’iksgm Laxyuubm Gitxaala (Gitxaala territory). Previously, Gitxaala provided both Canada and British Columbia with Treaty Response Reports that document the degree to which the proposed Treaties adversely impact the Aboriginal title and rights held by Gitxaala. The response has been inadequate.

Our Nation has been clear that by enacting the Kitselas Treaty, the Government of British Columbia will put in place both immediate and future impacts that are immeasurable. As the Treaties are broad in scope and indefinite in duration, it is impossible to state with certainty all potential adverse impacts that the Treaties could have on Gitxaala rights and title. However, we know for certain that among the impacts, there are unquestionable impacts on the Nation’s rights and title, through the transfer of lands, the granting of harvesting rights, law-making authority, and cultural authority to lands, waters, and resources within Nłuut’iksgm Laxyuubm Gitxaala. To date, offers of accommodation by BC have been disrespectful.

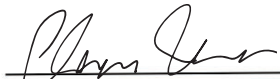
Our Nation has been working on solutions to these issues. We have attempted to address our concerns by working with both the Provincial and Federal Governments,




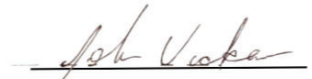
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and in direct Nation-to-Nation discussions with Kitselas. However, the introduction of Bill 21 has highlighted the bad-faith nature of these discussions. The Government has made it clear that its commitment to gaining the Nation's free, prior, and informed consent has again been ignored. This unilateral process BC has chosen to prioritize Kitselas Treaty rights over Gitxaala rights and title can only be interpreted as an infringement of our rights.

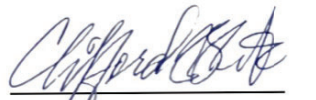
Gitxaala has been clear that all governments and Nations must acknowledge and respect Gitxaala Adaawx, Ayaawx, and Gugwilx'ya'ansk. Respecting our laws means working with our Nation to address concerns on how these treaties will give other Nations lands, harvesting rights, and governance rights in Laxyubm Gitxaala at the expense of Gitxaala rights and title. There is important work for our government to complete, there are arrangements with BC, Canada, and Kitselas that need to be finalized with Gitxaala. As such, our Nation is calling on each Member of BC's Legislative Assembly to acknowledge and respect our laws and jurisdiction, and our efforts to negotiate solutions, by calling for an immediate pause to Bill 21 — the Kitselas Treaty Act.

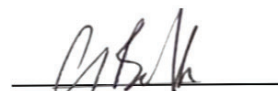

Txagyet, Clarence Innis

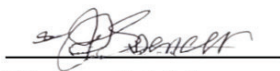

Nis Hiywaas, Matthew Hill

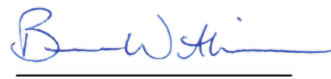

Wii Halaayt, John Vickers


K'yamt haw', Keith Innes

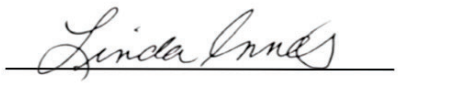

Nis Ma'awta, Clifford White

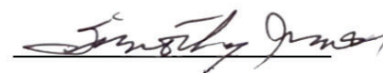

Gallan, Craig Bolton


Niis Ga uult, Job Spencer


Wudimes, Bruce Watkinson


Haywood Gaak, Bruce Innes


Lou Ga Gwelks, Elected Chief Linda Innes


Dz'agmgishaaytk, Timothy Innes