



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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December 21, 2011

Chief and Council
VIA FAX
BC First Nations

Dear Chief and Council,

RE: URGENT: CROWN – FIRST NATIONS GATHERING, JANUARY 24, 2012

On December 1, 2011, National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and confirmed that the Crown-First Nations Gathering would take place in Ottawa on January 24, 2012. This meeting is the result of a call from First Nations' leadership at the 2010 AFN Annual General Assembly and was committed-to by the Prime Minister in a letter at the AFN Special Chiefs' Assembly in December 2010.

Due to the short timeline for organizing this gathering, some of the details are still being finalized with the Prime Minister's Office. Attached to this letter is the National Chief's Bulletin dated December 14, 2011 setting out background and details around this Gathering.

Some of the key details we know so far are:

- Crown-First Nations Gathering will take place in Ottawa (exact location to be determined) on January 24, 2012;
- The AFN will host a pre-gathering day on January 23, 2012 to assist in organizing efforts for delegations and speaking opportunities;
- Every elected Chief of a First Nation in Canada will be welcome to attend – while space in the meeting room may be limited at one time, organization of a potential rotation of First Nations' leadership will be organized at the pre-gathering meeting on January 23rd;
- Confirmation and registration of First Nation leaders attending these sessions is required by January 4, 2011;
- The AFN will be setting up regional video conferencing sites where First Nations leaders can watch and participate in the Gathering via video conference. The video conferencing sites in British Columbia (while yet to be confirmed) will likely be in Vancouver and Prince George;
- The agenda for the Gathering will involve a lot of ceremony to mark and affirm the historic and enduring relationship. There will also be opportunities to identify issues and challenges through concurrent sessions; and

- The AFN will launch a website specifically for the Gathering. This website will contain information and registration forms for First Nations leaders. In the meantime, however, Chiefs can register on-line through the BCAFN website at: www.bcafn.ca

Due to the brevity of time during this Gathering and to maximize the opportunity for First Nations to submit their views and dialogue with members of Cabinet, caucus and federal officials, the BCAFN is looking to engage with our Nations to request feedback and input on key issues affecting our Nations in British Columbia. Attached to this letter is a feedback and registration form in which you can submit your suggestions on key issues affecting our Nations in British Columbia that should be addressed at the Gathering (please fax completed forms to: 604.922.7444). Alternatively, you can fill out a form electronically on our website (www.bcafn.ca).

More information on the Gathering will be coming into our office from now until January 24th. We will be updating our website on a regular basis, and will send out information updates such as this. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at 604.922.7733 (please note that our office will close at 4:30 p.m. on December 23rd and re-open on January 3rd).

Respectfully,

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



Jody Wilson-Raybould
Regional Chief

Encl.\
National Chief Bulletin;
Key Issue Feedback and Registration Form