

**SPEAKING NOTES**  
**FOR**  
**THE HONOURABLE STAN HAGEN**  
**MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE**  
**MANAGEMENT**

**TO THE NORTH COAST LAND AND RESOURCE**  
**MANAGEMENT PLANNING TABLE**

**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**PRINCE RUPERT**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2002**

## **INTRODUCTION**

?? Thank you very much and good morning.

?? I'm happy to have the opportunity to join you today as this important process gets underway.

?? And, I am pleased to be in the traditional territory of the Tsimshian people.

?? I want to thank the President of the Tsimshian Tribal Council, Debbie Jeffries for the welcome she extended to the table this morning.

?? And I also want to thank your two co-chairs who have taken on this task - Mayor Don Scott and Clifford White.

?? This is a big job that you have all taken on... and you deserve my sincere appreciation... and the appreciation of the people who live and work in this region.

## **WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR**

?? You are here to complete an important task, the process of land and resource management planning for the North Coast.

?? And I want to say at the start that our government recognizes that this is a complex process and that some groups are concerned about where this will lead, how it will impact their communities, and if they will have a future in this region.

?? I can tell you that our government believes this process can produce positive results... If we do this right, we can create greater certainty for the economy and for the environment while generating new opportunities for our citizens.

?? With the economic challenges facing this region I would also like to convey a strong message that our government will be doing everything possible to stimulate economic activity over the short term.

?? Your two MLAs, Bill Belsey and Roger Harris, have been very effective at getting cabinet to understand the challenging circumstances here in the Northwest.

?? And to that end, I am pleased to tell you that the cabinet committee on the economy and the environment, which I chair, has been tasked to look specifically at the opportunities available to this region.

?? It is my belief that through this process, we can build on these opportunities and ensure that we have a sustainable economic base for our residents.

?? I'll have more to say about the process in a few moments... but first I want to talk about the bigger picture.

## **GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH**

?? Streamlining land use planning and getting processes like this one underway and completed in a timely way is a key part of this government's plan to get our economy back on track.

?? Our province has tremendous resources and is well positioned to succeed in the world economy. We have incredible natural assets, skilled and productive workers... and a favourable geographic position.

?? But to take advantage of these assets... we need to increase land use certainty and lower the cost of doing business in British Columbia.

?? In the case of the coast, we need plans that can put more workers back to work, while ensuring our environment is protected and our international markets remain open.

?? This is easy to say and difficult to do. But I think we have a process in place that can help and I hope you share this goal.

## **THE REVISED PROCESS**

?? As you may be aware, we have streamlined the process for land use planning... one with clearly defined timelines... and fewer people at the planning table.

- ?? Planning will continue to follow a sectoral model... with each of the people at the table representing a declared and clearly defined constituency.
- ?? There are representatives from local governments... the federal government... First Nations... the environmental community... forestry... tourism... recreation... labour... and mining.
- ?? We need to have everyone who has a stake in land use at the table if we want to come up with plans that will reach these goals and will work on the ground.
- ?? I'd like to say a bit more about the role of First Nations in this process... as it's a unique one.
- ?? The First Nations have six seats around this table ...and this reflects your role as a level of government here on the coast.
- ?? I do understand that this number is of concern to some...

?? I want to assure all participants that it is my sincere belief that by having all First Nations represented; we can constructively deal with LRMP issues in all traditional territories on the coast quickly and effectively because of full representation.

?? This process is one way we can work together to open the door to increased economic opportunities for all - aboriginal and non-aboriginal...

?? I believe this will help pave the way for new relationships and increased partnerships between First Nations and other participants in the North Coast economy.

?? While this process is designed to integrate First Nations vision for the land and resource use into the LRMP, there will also be opportunities to develop economic opportunities with First Nations and non First Nations in areas such as tourism, aquaculture, and other sectors while the process continues.

?? This streamlined model is in action here today... and I'm really excited about what can be accomplished.

?? Just as my ministry's job is to balance economic and environmental priorities... your job is also to strike a balance.

?? I am confident that things will move smoothly and that your co-chairs...Don Scott and Clifford White ... will do a great job of making sure things stay on track... and are run in a balanced... neutral manner.

?? Together they bring extensive local experience to the table and I trust you will support their efforts to ensure the process runs smoothly and effectively.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

?? Your terms of reference lay out the full task ahead... and you've got a clear mandate to complete a plan by December 2003.

?? As noted in the Terms of Reference the North Coast LRMP is terrestrial. Coastal planning will be completed under a separate process that focusses on a smaller area than the LRMP.

- ?? Having said that, I do expect the coastal planning process and the LRMP to share information so that the results are compatible.
- ?? One step to achieving balance is by having the mineral sector back at LRMP tables.
- ?? We are committed to plans that recognize the unique challenges of using a “hidden” resource and we are asking LRMP tables to create plans that can attract investors to BC’s mineral resources while maintaining high environmental standards.
- ?? This will require new, innovative thinking on your part and I would strongly encourage table members to take a more creative approach to mineral interests.
- ?? I want to revitalize our mineral sector and this must involve a better understanding of the needs of the mineral sector in these processes.

- ?? The land use plan will also need to identify transitional issues and strategies to ensure the communities on the coast have economic stimulation along with environmental certainty.
- ?? As you are all well aware the government has a significant fiscal challenge and land use plans cannot result in large new expenditures.
- ?? These transitional issues will involve looking fairly at adjustment issues - and we are developing a sustainability fund to address some of these issues.
- ?? Having stated this, I must tell you now that the fiscal realities of government need to be carefully considered in your efforts.
- ?? Our goal with the sustainability fund is to lever the \$35 million in government funding that has been set aside... and to make sure we maximize the contributions to the fund from other parties.

?? Despite our fiscal challenges, I have worked successfully with my Cabinet colleagues to ensure that this funding remains in place.

?? In fact, I am pleased to announce that we are now in the process of drafting a business plan to have the funds available to assist in the transition to sustainability on the Coast.

?? I realize these discussions are of critical interest to some sectors, and I am committed to keeping you informed of the progress on this subject.

## **CONCLUSION**

?? With that, I'd like to step aside now and let you get back to work.

?? When your work is complete... you will have achieved a great accomplishment that will stand this region... its natural environment and its economy... in good stead for the long haul.

?? I'm convinced that the key is to work in partnership.

?? Partnerships lead to success; they can result in timely and balanced decisions... a protected environment... jobs and opportunities for British Columbians.

?? Today is a great start... and I encourage you to go the extra mile over the next several months to make sure we end up with a final plan you can all be proud of.

?? Thanks again for your contribution to this important process and I wish you well for today's meeting and for the road ahead.

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