

NOTICE TO GITANMAAX MEMBERS

March 23, 2009

Dear Gitanmaax Band members:

Re: Gitanmaax Indian Reserve – Kisgegas

In the past several weeks you may have heard information or received a public letter dated March 16, 2009, from Kisgega'as Simogiigyet regarding Gitanmaax Indian Reserve –Kisgegas (No. 06759). The purpose of this notice is to update membership and, to advise you that Band Council will not engage in any further discussion with Chiefs claiming interests in Kisgegas.

First, we assure membership, In all of its actions, Council has a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interests of membership. The *Indian Act* specifically prevents Council from taking any action to transfer rights to any of our reserves without the express consent of the majority of Gitanmaax Band members by way of referendum.

Kisgegas is a priority with Council and we assure you that its legal designation as Gitanmaax Reserve lands remains in fact and shall be protected as such.

Over-view of Kisgegas discussions

Band Council first agreed to meet with Chiefs after receiving a request from Cliff Sampare dated February 9, 2009. At that time Mr. Sampare stated six chiefs would be in attendance. On February 27, 2009, Council arrived to a full hall of participants invited by the Chiefs and/or others. This was done without notice or knowledge of Gitanmaax Band Council. Out of respect to the Chiefs and the traditional system, we agreed to continue with the meeting despite not preparing for a public forum on this matter. This meeting was recorded and the word for word transcript is attached for your review and information.

The Gitxsan Treaty Office published in the Interior News a notice suggesting that Gitanmaax Band Council will be signing over Kisgegas on March 13, 2009 with an "Independence Day of Gisaga'as" set for March 14, 2009. Gitanmaax immediately sent a letter to the Chiefs and the Gitxsan Treaty Society to correct this misinformation as the Council did not commit to signing any such document.

Band Council discussed the Chiefs' request at our March 13, 2009 meeting and the transcript is also attached. On March 16th, 2009, the Gitxsan Treaty Office arranged without knowledge or consent of the Council, for a public letter to be distributed door to door on Gitanmaax. This letter sought to discredit Chief Marjorie McRae and Council.

On March 23, 2009, Band Council notified Kisgegas chiefs by letter that we will not engage in any further discussions with them. We also advised the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs that they are not to discuss Kisgegas Indian Reserve with anyone except Gitanmaax Band Council. This concludes Gitanmaax's involvement in Kisgegas discussions with chiefs claiming an interest on Gitanmaax reserve lands.

If you require any further information or clarification on the contents of this notice, you may contact Pauline Rubinato 250-842-5297