

# Aspect Consultants Inc.

WINLAW, B.C.

TEL. 226-7612 / 635-4422

c/o 4548 Lakelse Ave., Terrace.  
(until May 2/74)

Chief Peter Williams,  
Kitwancool Indian Band,  
KITWANCOOL, B.C.,  
c/o Caspaco, Skeena River, B.C.

Dear Chief Williams:

Further to our telephone conversation, I would like to repeat my regrets at not having realized that you were President of the Kitwancool Band and thereby the Chief Councillor in charge of your people's land claim and related matters. My previous attempts to communicate with your band regarding the proposed rail road to be built by the CNR through the Nass Valley, and thereby through that area claimed by your people, were unfortunately not directed to you, as they should have been. It was only by good fortune that I learned from Susan Beach of my error. (I have since learned that the Provincial Archeologist, Mr. Gordon Hanson, has also been trying to set up a meeting to discuss the archeological sites which may be along the proposed route and to organize a survey of your lands to locate and identify all such sites to ensure their protection and that they remain the property of the band. His address is c/o Provincial Museum Building, Victoria, B.C., by the way.)

The reason I wished to contact you and arrange a meeting with your people was to explain the proposed railway plans and to discuss the implications this may have for you and your people, especially inasmuch as it will cross those lands which your people have for so long claimed to be still by aboriginal right yours. I am aware that you have, together with others such as Professor Wilson Duff at UBC, established this claim in considerable detail. As a social anthropologist, consulting to the CNR, I am expected to see that you understand what the proposed railroad project is all about and that the CNR understand what you and your people feel about the proposed project. Very simply, I am to see that a two-way communication is well established and then to make my own professional opinions known to both sides in the form of a report.

Unfortunately I am right this minute finalizing the Interim Report to be submitted to the CNR on the 30th of this month. That does not leave time for a meeting with the people at Kitwancool. It only allows for some brief communication between yourself and myself by way of telephone, I'm afraid. I would certainly appreciate hearing from you again before that deadline, if possible. Otherwise I will simply, briefly, incorporate my recollection of your comments into the body of this interim report and we can set up a meeting with your people in late summer, say, when we both have more time.

As I understand you, the position your people take on the possibility of developments such as the railroad taking place on your traditional lands is very much like that taken by the Nishgas to the immediate south-west of you. You are not opposing such developments in principle, rather you are determined that your land claim be settled first. I further understand that you also wish to be consulted directly by the governments on all such matters affecting your lands, before any such developments are commenced. Please correct me, if I am wrong in this regard.

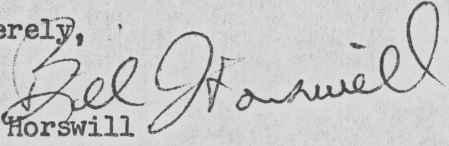
Chief Williams, cont.

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As I explained on the phone, I expect to be away from Terrace from about May 1st to July or August. I will be at the address listed on the letter-head of page one. Please feel free to contact me there should anything arise in the meantime. When I return to Terrace to continue with my work perhaps you and I could get together and arrange a meeting or study session involving band members? I need to understand how those people to be affected by the proposed developments actually feel about it.

I very much enjoyed talking with you and look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Horswill