

Indian blockade backs up trains

VIA Rail passengers just couldn't win last week. No sooner was a derailment cleared from the main line in Prince George, than an Indian blockade went up in Kitwanga.

As of press time, trains were stalled either side of the blockade on CN Rail's main north line to Prince Rupert.

Members of the Gitwanga band blocked a rail crossing last Thursday to draw attention to ongoing unemployment in their community.

Band leaders say they have no other way of dealing with the frustration caused by the closure two years ago of Westar's Gitwanga sawmill that was their community's main employer.

They claim the situation is also linked to Repap's purchase of the Carnaby sawmill attached forest license. A list of demands has been forwarded to Victoria.

For details on the blockade, please see page C1.



Buses were used to move rail passengers to and from Smithers last week after the rail blockade went up at Gitwanga. Above, 25 eastbound passengers arrive Sunday from Prince Rupert.

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