



Office Of The Hereditary Chiefs Of The Gitksan And Wet'suwet'en People

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 APRIL 1992

An agreement between the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en and the Province of British Columbia to narrow issues of litigation in the Delgamuukw appeal and to establish a schedule of pre-treaty discussions leading towards treaty negotiations, was reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed today between the two parties.

Together, the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en and the Province of BC will apply to the Court of Appeal for a Consent Order referring the agreed items to negotiations. The terms of the MOU are subject to Canada's agreement on issues to be deferred to negotiations.

There has been no word from Canada of its position, however, counsel for the Attorney-General of Canada met with Minister of Indian Affairs, Tom Siddon, on Friday.

The Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en view this agreement as another definite step toward resolving the long-outstanding issue of their title and rights. "We're still proceeding with our appeal on May 4th because there are key legal issues from McEachern's judgement that must be overturned," says Satsan, one of the Speakers for the Chiefs, "but by agreeing to this MOU, the Province of BC has finally committed itself to a process of honourable negotiations. We've been pushing for that for a long time. Now the work begins."

Depending upon Canada's position, the application for a Consent Order may appear on the agenda of the Pre-hearing Conference at the Court of Appeal tomorrow at 9 a.m.

-30-

For more information:

Satsan (Herb George)	682-1990
Maas Gaak (Don Ryan)	682-1990