



# THE Interior NEWS

Week 10 • Wednesday, March 4

www.interior-news.com

## He shoots, he scores!

Smithers Flyers player Ian Smith looks back after scoring a goal against goaltender Terry Bingley in a Feb. 29 game against the Vancouver Canucks alumni team.

(Trevor Hewitt photo)

# Wet'suwet'en chiefs, ministers reach "proposed" agreement in pipeline dispute

By The Canadian Press

Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and senior government ministers reached a proposed arrangement Sunday following days of discussions over a pipeline dispute that prompted solidarity protests and transport disruptions across Canada.

Details of the draft deal, which centres on Indigenous rights and land

titles, were not disclosed, however, and work on the Coastal GasLink (CGL) natural gas pipeline at the heart of the dispute was set to resume March 2.

Federal Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett said they made progress during the talks.

"We, I believe, have come to a proposed arrangement that will also hon-

our the protocols of the Wet'suwet'en people and clans," Bennett said in a news conference in Smithers. "What we've worked on this weekend needs to go back to those clans and then we have agreed as ministers that we will come back to sign if it is agreed upon by the Nation."

She said the proposal is about mak-

ing sure "that this never happens again, that rights holders will always be at the table."

British Columbia Indigenous Relations Minister Scott Fraser said the talks have helped address the rights and title of the Wet'suwet'en, but there's still a "disagreement" over the natural gas pipeline going through

traditional territory.

Chief Woos, one of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary leaders, said the draft represents a milestone for everyone involved but that it hasn't satisfied all of their concerns.

He stressed that the hereditary chiefs remain opposed to the pipeline in their traditional territory.

Continued on Page A2



### BENCHMARK

Smithers Secondary alumni donate two new benches to school.

News/A13



### CANUCKS VS. FLYERS

Our best photos from the Canucks Alumni/Flyers games.

Sports/A19-20



### THIS BREWS FOR YOU

Smithers Brewing wins fan favourite at Williams Lake festival.

News/A27



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## NEWS

# Hereditary chiefs, ministers reach deal

Continued from Page A1

"We are going to be continuing to look at some more conversations with B.C. and of course with the proponent and further conversation with the RCMP out on the territory," Woos said. "It's not over yet. We are just looking at more work in that area."

Shortly after the proposal was announced, Coastal GasLink issued a statement saying it would resume construction activities in the Morice River area, which is near the Unist'ot'en Healing Centre, on Monday.

"Coastal GasLink appreciates that a path has been identified to address significant issues of Aboriginal Title and Rights of the Wet'suwet'en people while recognizing that Coastal GasLink is fully permitted and remains on track for a 2023 in-service date," president David Pfeiffer said in the statement.

He added the company "remains committed to dialogue and engagement" with all Indigenous groups along its route.

"We are encouraged by Chief Woos statement that he is open to dialogue and look forward to an opportunity to meet with the hereditary chiefs," Pfeiffer said.

The company had agreed to pause construction during the talks between the hereditary chiefs and the ministers, which began on Feb. 27.

RCMP had also pledged to cease patrols along the Morice West Forest Service Road during the discussions. The Mounties did not respond to requests for comment Sunday.

The dispute over the pipeline has spurred solidarity protests across the country that

have disrupted passenger and freight train service over the last three weeks. Police have recently moved to dismantle some of the blockades.

The Wet'suwet'en are governed by both a traditional hereditary chief system and elected band councils. A majority of its councils have approved the pipeline, but some of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs oppose it running through their traditional territory.

Gary Naziel, a Wet'suwet'en hereditary subchief who wants the pipeline built, said he hasn't seen the proposed arrangement.

"What's done behind closed doors hasn't been shared yet," he said. "But it will be settled in the Feast Hall — all this stuff that's been going on has to come to Feast Hall. We will deal with it there."

Naziel said no date has been set to discuss the proposal, but he noted it's a good first step and he's satisfied that the pipeline is going ahead.

"The projects are going forward so that way we can get the benefits for our education and language," he said. "If everybody is satisfied, that's fine by me. Internally we need to fix things in the Wet'suwet'en Nation.

"We already know we had titles and rights to this land. We know we own this land. We didn't have to send people across the country and start riots and all this. They said it was peaceful blockades but it was far from peaceful in some places."

The dispute also involves other unsettled land rights and title issues, including who has the right to negotiate with governments and corporations, the fact that the land is not covered by a treaty and remains unceded, and a 1997 court case that recognized the hereditary chiefs' authority and the exclusive right of the Wet'suwet'en peoples to the land but did not specify the boundaries.

Lawyer Peter Grant, who represented the Wet'suwet'en and neighbouring Gitksan First Nation, said the proposal is not a treaty.

"It's a draft arrangement, but I think it's very powerful," he said.

The secretary of the Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake said activists have decided to maintain their rail blockade on the territory south of Montreal, at least for now.

Kenneth Deer said the Mohawks want more clarification on the agreement between the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and the

federal government before making a final decision.

"It's a big decision to decide to take down the barricade or not, and they want to make sure they have everything before they make a decision," he said Sunday outside the entrance to the barricade, where Mohawk flags flew from a tent and pointed wooden shelter protected by low concrete barriers.

Deer, who said he's been in contact with hereditary chiefs, said there were good things that came out of the meeting in B.C., as well as "some things that were not so good."

He said the agreement includes discussions on who are custodians of the land, as well as a recognition of the hereditary chiefs, which he described as "significant."

"However, the pipeline is not resolved, and that a very big issue, not only for the Wet'suwet'en chiefs but for everybody," he said.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published on March 1, 2020.

— with files from Colette Derworiz in Edmonton and Morgan Lowrie in Kahnawake Hina Alam, The Canadian Press.

## THANK YOU EVERYONE!

The Bulkley Valley Museum would like to extend a huge thank you to the amazing local businesses that generously donated items for our 2020 Valentine Raffle fundraiser: Blue Water Sushi, Creative Stitches, Heartstrings, Hudson Bay Mountain Resort, Louise's Kitchen, McBike, Nature's Pantry, Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge, River Rock Treasures, Roi Theatre, Shoppers Drug Mart, Steelheads Hair Design, Stone Moth, Twin Valley Inn, and to Carters Jewellers for the incredible diamond necklace.

We also thank the businesses and individuals who supported the raffle by selling tickets, and to Safeway for hosting our ticket sellers.

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser by purchasing tickets. Over \$2400 was raised for the Museum!

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# OPINIONS

## EDITORIAL

### The best game you can name

We were recently lucky enough to have a number of Vancouver Canucks alumni in town for two games against the hometown Smithers Flyers.

It might seem like these events materialize effortlessly out of thin air. This is, in no uncertain terms, false.

In reality, this event was only possible because companies who see value in our community invested the money into it.

That includes a number of local businesses, whose contributions we are certainly grateful for.

Just as importantly, it includes the small group of resource companies who got together to invest the seed money into the project when it was nothing more

than an idea of Canucks alumni association vice president Dave Babych and a few business contacts.

It's no secret that the resource sector in Canada is currently embroiled in a controversial and divisive subject. In that sense, the media must act as a fifth estate and hold all parties to account.

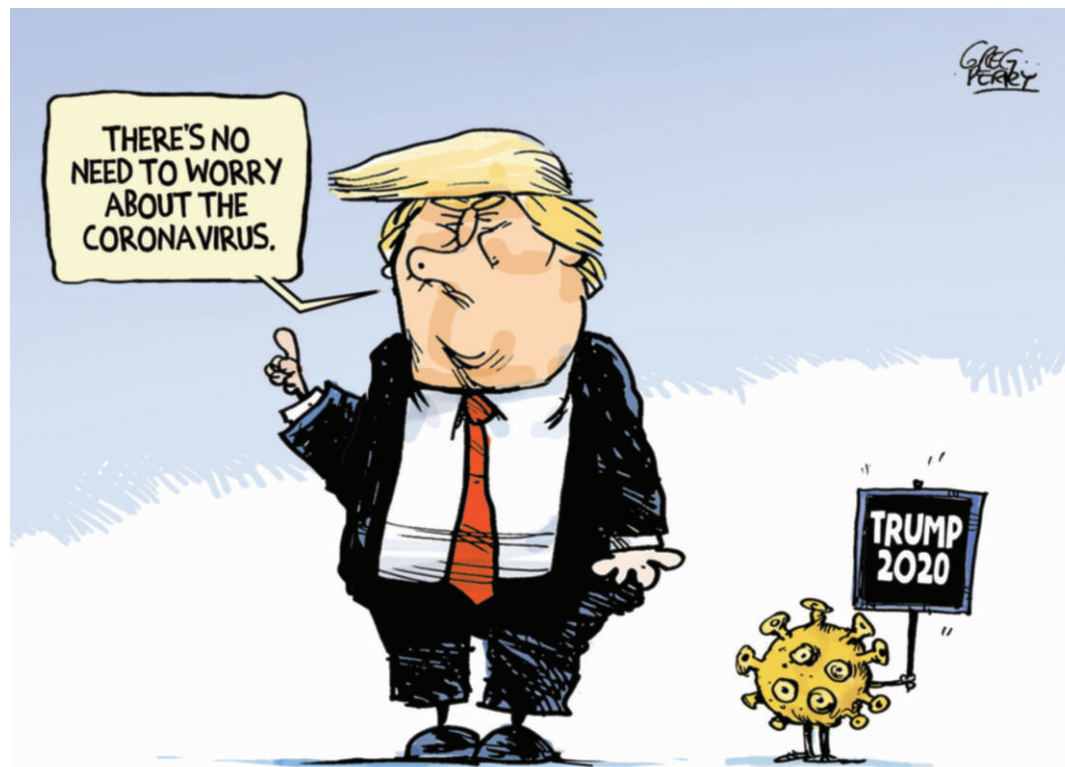
Just as important, however, is to acknowledge when these companies do good for the communities and provinces they operate within.

It's easy to get caught up in the social media flurry and be affected by some of the "resource companies = bad" mentality.

The reality is much more nuanced than that. We must acknowledge that while there are arguments both for and against the current state of resource development and extraction in Canada, there are also demonstrated positive effects from the long term economic benefits they provide our local communities and workers with.

These games were a clear example of the latter and -- we hope -- a sign of economic things to come for the region.

And who knows, maybe next time if the Flyers are looking for an easy win we can get the Toronto Maple Leafs down here next year (with the Zamboni driver stepping in for the home team, of course) and make this an annual event.



## Family planning is personal



**THE STICKY FILES**  
Marisca Bakker

I know I've written about this before but I'm going to say it again so the people in the back can hear me.

It is never okay to ask a woman if she

is pregnant or when she will become pregnant.

First off, women have a lot more worth than just bearing children.

Secondly, in very, very few circumstances will a woman say yes and want to say yes and be comfortable saying yes or say no and be willing to say no happily and comfortably. The odds are the answer can only end in disaster. Let me break it down for you.

If she is pregnant, she might not be ready to tell the world yet and you've put her in an awkward

position to either lie to you or be forced to tell you news she isn't ready to tell yet. Typically, most women are excited to be pregnant and have planned out how to tell people their news. Don't ruin that for them. Or she is pregnant and petrified and probably doesn't want to talk about it with you. If she did, she'd start the conversation. If you are concerned about someone, just ask them if they are OK, not if they are with child.

If she is not pregnant, she might want to be and it pains her

to talk about it. She may have just had a miscarriage or taken a negative pregnancy test. Would you like her to talk about the hardships of getting pregnant or cry in the middle of the grocery store? Or again, force her to lie to you while trying to put on brave face?

The estimated figure is that a miscarriage happens in around 1 in 4 recognized pregnancies, with 85 per cent of those happening in the first trimester. That means that miscarriages are common but that does not mean they are not

extremely painful to go through and not all women want to openly discuss them. Around 1 in 100 women experience what's called recurrent miscarriages which is two or more miscarriages back-to-back.

Infertility is also quite common. Out of 100 couples about 12 to 13 of them have trouble becoming pregnant. The other thing to consider is that maybe a woman has just put on a couple of pounds. Or if you ask her if she's pregnant, she will think you think she has

gained weight. Not a good scene. Maybe I sound angry about this topic. But I think a lot of women are frustrated when faced with this question. A lot of female friends have told me how uncomfortable it makes them. It is a personal matter and if we want to talk about it with you, we'll bring it up. If you are stuck with a conversation starter, try asking someone about their career or hobbies. Or just talk about the weather and what is making headlines. Otherwise, mind your own business.

Other than that, it's just a personal matter and if we want to talk about it with you, we'll bring it up. If you are stuck with a conversation starter, try asking someone about their career or hobbies. Or just talk about the weather and what is making headlines. Otherwise, mind your own business.

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# NEWS

## Rock Talk attracts a big crowd in Smithers

By Thom Barker

The Smithers Exploration Group (SEG) was extremely pleased with its 31st annual Rock Talk held Feb. 19 and 20 at the Smithers Curling Club.

“Rock Talk’s been a real success this year,” said Chris Ogryzlo, SEG president. “We’ve really benefitted by the fact that Northwest B.C. attracts the most exploration dollars of any region in the province and so that means any company who is interested in raising money, is interested in talking about the technology around their project is here, and that’s a real coup for a small town like Smithers.”

“I think the other reason this has been so successful this year is we have a new regional geologist in Smithers... A regional geologist leads the way, a regional geologist is the person who knows what’s happening in the field, visits all the sites, talks to all the proponents of properties.”

That regional geologist is Sean Tombe. He has been in the position for approximately six months.

“It’s an exciting place to be,” he said. “If you’re in B.C., it is the place to be. You’ve got the Golden Triangle and the accessory places around the Golden Triangle. We’ve got a ton of exploration expenditures, you’ve three working mines, so, as I said, it’s the place to be.”

Rock Talk is a highly technical forum that attracts exploration and mining companies, prospectors, geologists, engineers and academics.

One speaker who had the curling club buzzing was Duncan McLeish, a Ph.D candidate at McGill University in Montreal who has been studying the deposit at Pretivm’s Brucejack mine. McLeish is looking at how gold is carried in solution in gold vein forming systems.

“This is a new advancement, we’re using a new tool to image at another order of magnification,” he explained. “On a scanning electron microscope you’re looking at a micron scale, now we’re basically down to almost the atomic scale. We’re probably only the

second or third people to ever do this on an ore deposit and the first people to certainly do it here in B.C.”

He said the technique, if it can be industrialized could greatly improve the efficiency of finding economic deposits.

“We’re trying to understand how all these different nanoparticles, what causes them to come together to form nuggets in gold veins” he said. “If you can understand that then you can inform the model that they’re using to target exploration.”

Tombe said it is really valuable to have cutting edge academics in the mix.

“Brucejack and Duncan McLeish are a good example,” he said “From 2017 until now they’ve had a really good academic presence looking towards more exploration using academics and hopefully some successes in the future with that. Those are explorations you can use towards not just at Brucejack, but other places too.”

McLeish said he was glad he was able to come and get up to date on the latest research. He was particularly interested in research by Oregon State University Ph.D student Michelle Campbell who is doing geochemistry and dating on Seabridge Gold’s KSM deposit, which is very close to Brucejack.

“People have long speculated if Brucejack is the epithermal expression of the KSM system, but now with Campbell’s latest dating, it looks like that deposit is about 10 million years older than Bruce so they look like they’re different systems and that means there’s more potential to find the source at Brucejack.”

SEG was also excited about attracting Newcrest Mining to the Rock Talk. Newcrest acquired the Red Chris mine in August 2019 and is a leading expert in a relatively new technique of underground mining called block caving that they plan to use to extend Red Chris mine’s lifespan to a multi-generational operation.

“It’s exciting because Newcrest is a major player. In the minerals

industry, one of the major companies,” Ogryzlo said. “They come out of Australia, they’re very experienced in technology that will move the Red Chris mine forward.”

“The other thing with Newcrest is they have said that they’re here in B.C. because they see B.C. as an important place to be worldwide and that’s the kind of affirmation that we need, international players who can pick up properties and work anywhere in the world [and] choose to work in northern British Columbia.”



Exploration and mining companies, prospectors, geologists and academics filled the Smithers Curling Club Feb. 19 and 20 for the Smithers Exploration Group’s 31st annual Rock Talk. (Thom Barker photo)



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Photo: Ashlee Nadine Photography

Sassy Resources, Garibaldi Resources, Metallis Resources, Canada Cobalt, Etruscus Resources and BullMarketRun.com would like to thank the community of Smithers and everyone involved who helped make the Vancouver Canuck Alumni Association **“Indoor-Outdoor Challenge”** Feb. 28-March 1 such a great success and important fundraiser for local minor hockey.

### Special thanks to:

- The Smithers Celebrity Golf Tournament Committee volunteers for their tremendous organization and execution of this event
- All the former Vancouver Canucks in attendance who were such great ambassadors for the team as it celebrates its 50th anniversary season in the NHL
  - The Vancouver Canuck Alumni Association
- The Smithers Flyers Team, Smithers Fire Department and all other Volunteers
  - Pete Vandergaag and crew for making the outdoor rink possible
  - MC Todd Talbot, FIN, Paul Haysom and country music star Aaron Pritchett
- The community of Smithers for its exceptional hospitality and hosting of this event
- The Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge Team for hosting the Alumni and the Banquet events

*Let's make it happen again next year!*



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# NEWS

## Canucks alumni games an example of resource companies giving back to local communities

By Trevor Hewitt

You only turn half a century once.

In celebration of the Vancouver Canucks 50th, two back-to-back games are being held this weekend in Smithers.

The first game was at the Civic Centre on Feb. 29 beginning at 6 p.m., while an outdoor game on Tyhee Lake was on Sunday at noon.

Speaking to *The Interior News* Jon Hulstein, editor of BullMarketRun.com said the event was the result of plans made last summer between Vancouver Canucks Alumni Association (VCAA) vice president Dave Babych and a number of exploration companies within the Province.

He added that all net proceeds from the event will go towards the Smithers Minor Hockey Association (SMHA).

“We thought ... what’s more Canadian than hockey and our resource sector? So why not kind of tie the two together a little bit and also help support a local community?”

Hulstein added that the event would likely have not been possible without the initial sponsorship of a number of Canadian resource companies, almost all of them from within the Province.

According to Hulstein, while the VCAA was keen to host the event, they wanted a certain amount of the funds required to run it accounted for before proceeding.

Several junior exploration companies stepped up to the plate ... and said, OK, yeah we see that this would be a tremendous event to do, we will put the money up front and make it happen.”

That includes the primary sponsor Sassy Resources as well as Garibaldi Resources, Metallis Resources, Etruscus Resources, Canada Cobalt Works and Hulstein’s own BullMarketRun.com

Hulstein said Smithers ending up ticking off all the boxes that sponsors and event organizers were looking for.

“Smithers won out, I think, in part because this is such a vibrant community that really rallies behind good causes,” he said, adding that being able to partner with the Smithers Celebrity Golf Tournament’s [SCGT] events committee was also a big draw in choosing the town to host the event.

Hulstein said it’s events like this that are a great example of how resource companies can support the communities they are local

to in more than just economic ways, adding that the local resource sector is not exactly booming and that dollars can be hard to come by.

He added that Canada is the best country in the world when it comes to resource extraction but that recent events have caused division among Canadians regarding the topic.

“We’re seeing some pretty scary things across the country with anarchists and eco-terrorists [holding] the Canadian economy hostage,” he said.

“We’re the best in the world at resource extraction with the highest labour and environmental standards in the world and we should be celebrating.”



A panorama of the Mar 1 game between the Smithers Flyers and the Vancouver Canucks Alumni team. (Grant Harris photo)

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# SPORTS

## Smithers Flyers Vs. Vancouver Canucks Alumni - Saturday



The Smithers Flyers faced off against the Vancouver Canucks Alumni team on Feb. 29 in Smithers. It was a close game until the very end but the Canucks Alumni won by a final score of 12-10. (Trevor Hewitt photo)



# SPORTS

## Smithers Flyers Vs. Vancouver Canucks Alumni - Sunday



After a first game at the Smithers Arena on Feb. 29, the Smithers Flyers took on the Vancouver Canucks Alumni for round two at Tyhee Lake on Mar. 1. (Grant Harris photos)

## Canucks Alumni weekend events



Canucks Alumni skate with minor hockey players. (Ashlee Nadine Photography)



Members of the Canucks Alumni at the Alumni Banquet. (Ashlee Nadine Photography)