

Dear Spencer,

Blueberry is in receipt of a letter from Graham O'Day, Chair of the Red Creek & Charlie Lake Community Working Group dated July 25, written in response to Energeticcity's June 29 article regarding our TLE land parcels. The June 29 article was focused on an anonymous letter that Energeticcity had received which set out a number of false claims about our TLE land parcels. I appreciated the opportunity to provide the facts and offer our perspective as part of your story.

As part of our long-term land use planning process for TLE and other Blueberry lands, Blueberry will engage directly with our neighbours at Charlie Lake and Red Creek, along with other interested parties. Direct engagement will happen at the appropriate time within our planning process. Our plans for the use of our returned treaty land entitlement will be the subject of ongoing discussion with our members and driven by the needs and objectives of our people. In the interim, no immediate decisions are being made about the TLE lands.

Our Nation has a long history of deep cultural and spiritual connection with the Charlie Lake and Red Creek areas. After decades of displacement, the return of this treaty land entitlement to our Nation allows us to once again govern these lands in accordance with our laws and values, which include commitments to enhanced environmental stewardship and strong relationships with our neighbours.

Indeed, over the past years, Blueberry has already committed to significant accommodations to address concerns raised by Charlie Lake and Red Creek residents. We agree with the assessment of Indigenous Relations Minister Murray Rankin in his April 14 letter to Charlie Lake and Red Creek residents where he notes, based on mitigation steps Blueberry has already taken, that the concerns of residents in both areas "have been mitigated to the extent possible."

We do not intend to conduct consultation or have a dialogue with our neighbours through the media. As we proceed with our planning process in the coming months and years, we will reach out to residents in both areas and other interested parties. We look forward to continued dialogue.

Chief Judy Desjarlais