

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change

May 23rd 2019

Please Continue Forward with Your Partnership Agreement with the Saulneau and West Moberly First Nations

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we would like to commend you for including the **Saulneau and West Moberly First Nations** in developing a conservation strategy surrounding the preservation of caribou and their habitats. We believe this is a strong stride towards **reconciliation**, which we hope will set precedent for future nationwide consultations.

However, we understand that you are receiving backlash related to this partnership with Indigenous communities. We have seen an increase in anti-Indigenous sentiments throughout the consultation process. It is crucial that you remain firm in your commitments to this important agreement. We also ask that you publicly condemn racism against Indigenous peoples in the strongest possible terms and that you stand against the divisive tactics that other individuals may employ during this time.

Additionally, we urge you to continue your work with Indigenous communities by fully involving them in this, **and future conservation efforts** as they are pivotal to the preservation of the cultural heritage of Indigenous communities. This intersectional approach to policymaking will ultimately allow for other Indigenous communities to participate in **government consultation** while preserving their cultural autonomy.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Hayashi".

Brandon Hayashi
Vice-President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc. Sean Fraser, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and The Honourable Doug Donaldson, BC Minister of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development