

# Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association

February 19, 2025

Honourable David Eby  
(Via email: [Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca))  
Victoria, BC

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Dear Premier Eby,

We were deeply concerned to learn that your government has signed an agreement with the shíshálh Nation (Foundation Agreement Addendum) committing to, among other things:

- negotiate recognition of Aboriginal title within the shíshálh (Sechelt) traditional territory, and
- explore “exclusive” decision-making powers for the shíshálh Nation

It is inconceivable that local residents were not consulted on – or even advised of – the negotiation of this agreement until after the fact. And what is even a greater concern is that this agreement was signed by Ministers Cullen and Rankin two months before the last provincial election (August 16, 2024), but not publicly disclosed until four months after the election (January 29, 2025).

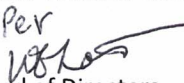
There is no secret that your government’s actions in the Sechelt area – including the directly related proposed Land Act amendments – were a highly political issue going into the last election. So the failure to disclose this agreement until after the election raises serious and disturbing questions.

Can you please advise:

- Why was this document not released before the last provincial election?
- Was (now) Minister Randene Neill aware of this agreement before she was elected?
- Who, if anyone, was consulted in the negotiation of this agreement?
- Will you commit to excluding private lands from any areas where Aboriginal title may be negotiated?<sup>1</sup>

Yours truly,

Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association

  
Board of Directors

cc: Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water Land and Resource Stewardship ([WLR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:WLR.Minister@gov.bc.ca))  
John Rustad, Leader of the Official Opposition ([john.rustad@conservativebc.ca](mailto:john.rustad@conservativebc.ca))  
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<sup>1</sup> This assumes the province has the constitutional authority to recognize Aboriginal title, which we do not necessarily accept.