



August 6, 2024
Peace River Regional District
1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4H8

Attention: Peace River Regional District Board of Directors

RE: Blueberry River First Nations – Letter of Support Request for Charlie Lake Additions-to-Reserve (ATR)

Overview

Blueberry River First Nations (BRFN) is requesting a Letter of Support from the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Board in relation to BRFN's ongoing additions-to-reserve (ATR) application for two selections of land in the Charlie Lake area (see Appendix A of this letter). This process is part of BRFN's Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement with BC and Canada, which involves the transfer of BC Crown lands to Canada to be turned into a reserve for BRFN.

Letter of Support Requirement

BRFN has selected Crown land in the Charlie Lake area through its TLE Settlement Agreement with Canada and BC that are currently in the process of being converted into First Nation reserve land for BRFN. The transition of Crown land to First Nation reserve land is guided by the Federal Additions-to-Reserve Policy Directive and resulting process. BRFN is currently near the end stage of this process for its Charlie Lake land selections, which has involved the completion of environmental assessments, legal surveys, consultation, and other requirements as per Federal policy.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), who administers the ATR process, has requested that BRFN provide Canada with a general Letter of Support from the PRRD that indicates your awareness and general support for the transition of the subject lands to BRFN reserve land. Example language that could be included in this Letter of Support is provided in Appendix B of this letter for your use and/or reference.

Next Steps

Following the provision of a Letter of Support from the PRRD, BRFN will forward a copy of the letter to ISC/Canada for confirmation. This will initiate the final phase of the Addition-to-Reserve process, which involves the preparation of a Ministerial Order to the Federal Minister responsible for approval followed by the registration of the subject lands in the Federal Indian Lands Registry, thus concluding the process.

Once the lands are transitioned to BRFN reserve lands, BRFN will initiate a planning process to determine future land use and development opportunities that includes collaboration with the PRRD as part of the planning process.

Closing

BRFN thanks the PRRD for their support in helping BRFN advance a critical part of its TLE Settlement Agreement and efforts to promote reconciliation in the Treaty 8 Territory/Peace River Region. A completed Letter of Support may be submitted to Chief Judy Desjarlais via email at chief.jdesjarlais@blueberryfn.ca.

Sincerely,
Blueberry River First Nations Chief and Council

Signature _____

Blueberry River First Nations
18785 Blueberry Reserve Rd, Buick, BC V0C 2R0
250-630-2800

Appendix A – Charlie Lake Land Selections Map (for Additions-to-Reserve)

The Charlie Lake Land selections are referred to as Charlie Lake 1 and Charlie Lake 2 with a combined size of 271.1 ha (670 acres) located within the Peace River Regional District approximately 16 km northwest of Fort St John. Figure 1 outlines the locations of Charlie Lake 1 and Charlie Lake 2.



Figure 1 - Charlie Lake Selections for Additions-to-Reserve (Red)

Legal Descriptions of Charlie Lake 1 and Charlie Lake 2 are provided in Figure 2.

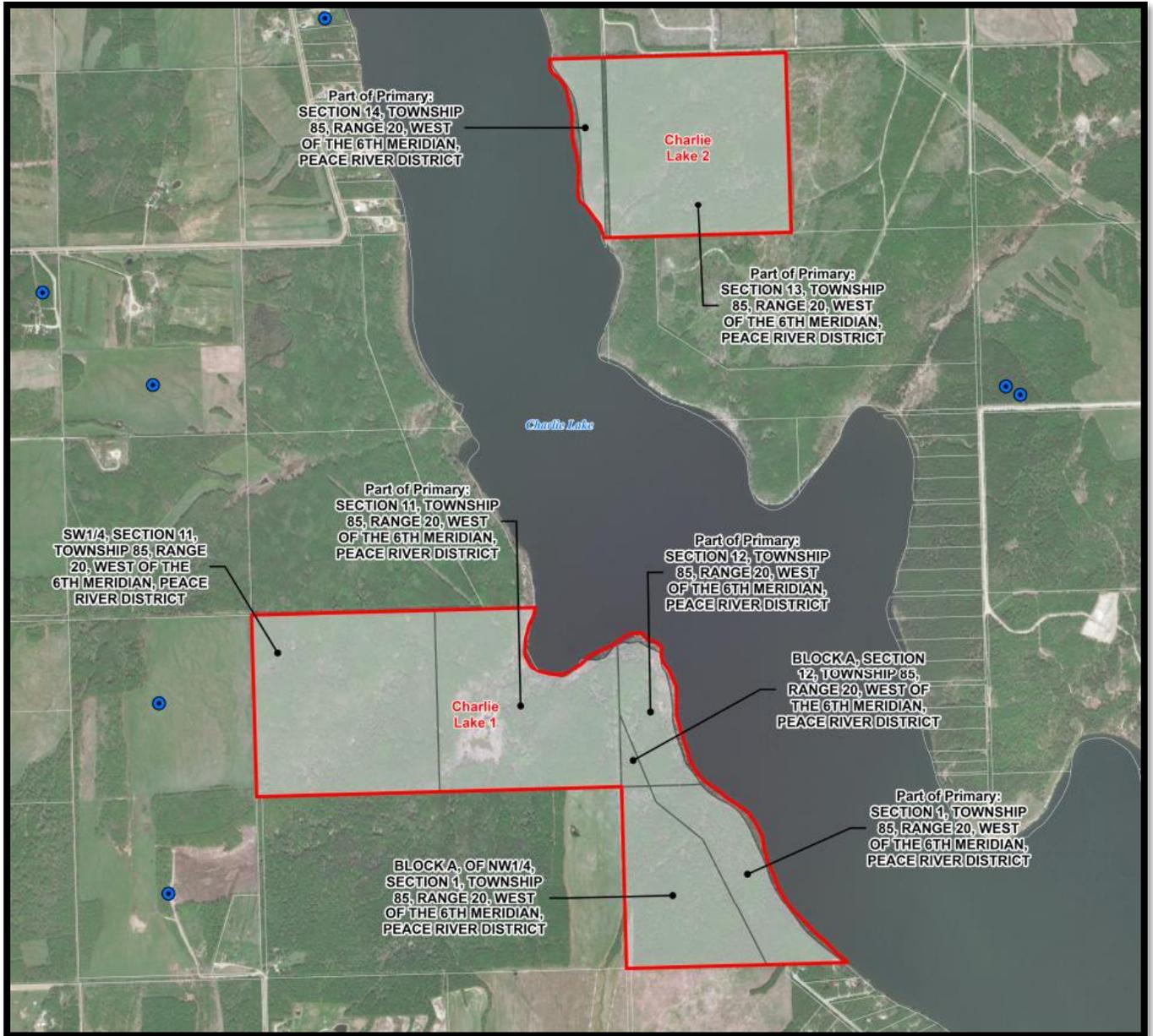


Figure 2 - Charlie Lake 1 and Charlie Lake 2 Legal Descriptions

Appendix B – Sample Letter of Support Text

Dear Blueberry River First Nations Chief and Council,

Subject: Letter of Support for Charlie Lake Additions-to-Reserve

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) is writing this letter to express its support regarding Blueberry River First Nations (BRFN) current Additions-to-Reserve application to transition its Charlie Lake 1 and Charlie Lake 2 Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) land selections to First Nation reserve land that includes the following parcels:

1. BLOCK A, OF NW1/4, SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT
2. BLOCK A, SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT
3. Part of Primary: SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT
4. Part of Primary: SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT
5. Part of Primary: SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT
6. Part of Primary: SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT
7. Part of Primary: SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT
8. SW1/4, SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 85, RANGE 20, WEST OF THE 6TH MERIDIAN, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT

Please accept this letter of support in response to your correspondence provided at Board Meeting on August 15, 2024. The PRRD recognizes the importance of these lands being transitioned to BRFN reserve land and implementation of its TLE Settlement Agreement to address the historic shortfall of reserve land that was failed to be provided to BRFN by the Federal Government through the BRFN's adherence and signing of Treaty 8. The PRRD looks forward to future collaboration with BRFN on the future planning and use of its new reserve lands at Charlie Lake.

Sincerely,

NAME:

TITLE:

