

Gitsegukla Band Council

710 Ray Charles Avenue
Gitsegukla, BC
V0J 2J3
Phone: 250-849-549

Community Notice

Gitsegukla Band Council wants to ensure that community members are continually provided clarity in comparison to what is being posted on Facebook.

As members of Band Council, we really do care about every community member living in this community and off-reserve.

We are very aware of escalating problems with Drugs and Alcohol that are taking place in our community. In particular, the sale of Drugs and Alcohol to our young children, teenagers, young adults, and vulnerable community members.

We want to be up front and honest with everyone regarding our experiences in dealing with the dangers associated with Drugs and Alcohol. We have been dealing with these for a very long time.

We are working hard to address the concerns community members have, however unless the BCR's passed by Council are approved in Ottawa, they do not carry any authority, which means the RCMP cannot enforce our orders. This leaves all of us feeling "Helpless."

We all are under the control of the "Indian Act" which means that no matter how we look at things, we absolutely can't do anything "unless" Indigenous Services Canada authorizes it.

Band Council is working closely with Indigenous Services Canada's national, and provincial regional offices and the RCMP's national and provincial headquarters to find a way to make our BCR's enforceable. We are taking these steps as we care about every community member and their safety.

We have made a bit of a breakthrough with Staff Sargent Commander Darren Durnin of the Hazelton RCMP Detachment, and with Indigenous Services Canada Duncan Stephen who is the Manager of Emergency Management.

Band Council has passed 3 banishment BCRs including: 2 for high risk offenders to children and 1 for an individual who causes chaos when she is in the community. But

we are told by the local RCMP detachment that they can only stand with us when these BCRs are being delivered; they cannot help us enforce them.

We are asking for your patience and understanding as we continue working with Indigenous Services Canada's national and provincial regional office and RCMP's national and provincial headquarters in finding a way to get our BCRs enforceable by the RCMP.

In an effort to address this urgent situation, direction will be provided to Band Council on how to design By-Laws that must be ratified by Indigenous Services Canada national headquarters in Ottawa, as these By-Laws must coincide with the Indian Act and Emergency Management Act.

The signatures of all members of Gitsegukla Band Council signify that we stand together with this notice.


Chief-Willie Blackwater

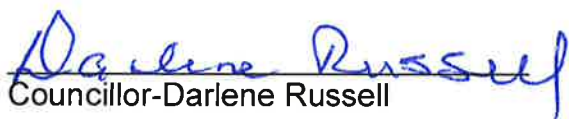

Deputy Chief-Victoria Russell



Councillor-Jennifer Gladstone


Councillor-Brian Wesley


Councillor-Art Sampare


Councillor-Morris Williams


Councillor-Darlene Russell


Councillor-Roxane Alexcee

Councillor-Noel Argueta

Date: AUG 5 7/20