

# McLeod Lake



# Indian Band

General Delivery, McLeod Lake, BC V0J 2G0  
Main Office (250) 750-4415 Fax: (250) 750-4420

---

March 5, 2024

To: Minister Whiteside  
[mmha.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mmha.minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Whiteside,

I am writing to you on behalf of the McLeod Lake Indian Band to express our deep disappointment and concern regarding the recent decision not to select Mackenzie as the location for the new foundry project. This decision has far-reaching implications for our community, particularly in light of the significant challenges we face, including drug and alcohol abuse among our youth.

As Chief of the McLeod Lake Indian Band, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this project for our community. Having a foundry in Mackenzie would have provided much-needed employment opportunities and skill development programs for our youth, offering them a pathway to a brighter future. It is disheartening to see this opportunity slip away, especially when the potential benefits to our community are so clear.

Furthermore, the establishment of a foundry in Mackenzie would have had a positive impact not only on our Band members residing in Prince George, McLeod Lake, and Mackenzie but also on the surrounding communities. By creating jobs and stimulating economic growth, this project could have helped to alleviate some of the social and economic challenges faced by our region, including substance abuse and poverty.

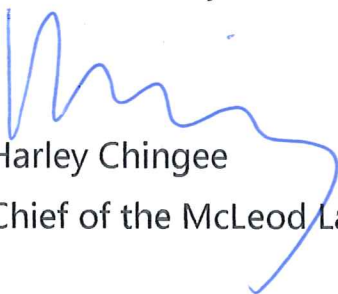
In particular, I want to highlight the critical role that this project could have played in addressing the issue of drug and alcohol abuse among our youth. With limited opportunities for employment and engagement, many of our young people are vulnerable to the lure of substance abuse. The establishment of a foundry in Mackenzie would have provided them with a

sense of purpose and direction, offering them a meaningful alternative to destructive behaviors.

I urge you to reconsider Mackenzie as a viable location for the foundry project, recognizing the profound impact that this decision will have on our community and its residents. Your support in this matter is crucial not only for the future of Mackenzie but also for the well-being of our youth and the prosperity of our region as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give it the serious consideration it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harley Chingee', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Harley Chingee

Chief of the McLeod Lake Indian Band