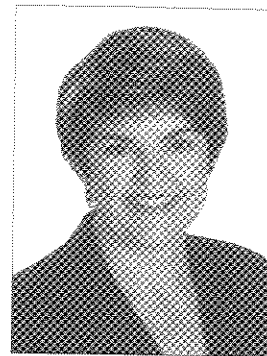


Room 109
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Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly



Carole James, Leader
Official Opposition

June 30, 2009

Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier
Province of British Columbia
Room 156, West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Campbell:

Citizen engagement is an essential component of any healthy democracy, and is particularly important for a society seeking to take concrete steps to address past wrongs. As British Columbians continue towards a new relationship with First Nations, it is essential that we as a society work together to move forward on the path to true reconciliation.

Many British Columbians are raising unanswered questions about the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act. Given that your government has stated that one of the key goals of the legislation is to achieve certainty, the uncertainty created amongst industry, citizens, and communities by the lack of public discussion of this proposed legislation is troubling.

In order to move forward on reconciliation we must address this lack of information and citizen engagement. The First Nations Leadership Council has taken a lead role in organizing consultation with aboriginal communities throughout the province, and for that they should be commended.

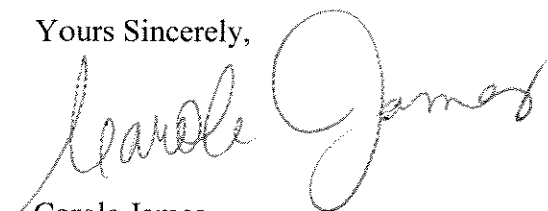
I believe government for its part requires a similar vehicle, a bi-partisan vehicle to conduct broad public hearings on the proposed legislation. The Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs has performed similar roles in the past, including with the Nisga'a Treaty.

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Therefore, I suggest that when the House reconvenes later this summer, the legislature mandate the Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs to consult with British Columbians on the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act, and to report back on both the proposed legislation and suggested steps towards enacting it.

I look forward to discussing this with you further.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole James". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Carole James".

Carole James
Leader of the Official Opposition

Copy to: First Nations Leadership Council
Honourable George Abbott, Minister
Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Bob Simpson, MLA (Cariboo-North)