

March 19, 2020

Michelle Mungall, Minister
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development & Competitiveness
Room 301 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Honourable Michelle Mungall,

Re: Letter of Resignation

Further to former Minister of Jobs, Trade & Technology Bruce Ralston's letter to me dated October 29, 2019 appointing me as a Director, *North Island - Coastal Economic Trust* (ICET), this letter serves as my resignation from this board. I offer the following reasons for my resignation:

- My daughter, Ace Harry, 18 (at the time of her arrest), was one of the five Indigenous youth '*Land Protectors*' arrested at the provincial legislature on the evening of March 5, 2020. It is insulting that my daughter and her *Land Protector* colleagues put their safety at risk from white supremacist hate groups and a significant number of other racist British Columbians all the while having no reason to believe the *Victoria Police Department* (VPD) would offer any protection. On more than one occasion, these Indigenous youth were handed notes with the words '*Free Willie Pickton*'. How did the VPD respond to these threats? I doubt anything proactive was accomplished. As a British Columbian, this saddens me.
- I am disappointed at the lack of leadership demonstrated by *BC Premier John Horgan*; *Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Scott Fraser*; and *interim Green Party Leader & MLA Adam Olsen* as implied by their comments to the media following the Wednesday, March 4, 2020 'consultation' meeting with the seven Indigenous Land Protectors. BC had an opportunity to move the reconciliation needle in a positive direction but instead chose to ridicule the integrity of many courageous Indigenous youth, representing many Indigenous communities and cultures across Canada. As a signatory to *two (2) Tla'amin Nation - City of Powell River Community Accords* (2003 and 2018), I understand what a path to reconciliation resembles (i.e. community-to-community) and that path does not include what I detail here.
- Minister Fraser's action to misappropriate and bastardize a traditional/spiritual Coast Salish '*witnessing*' ceremony by exploiting MLA Olsen in his meeting with the Indigenous Youth Land Protectors, was purely for political gain. In addition to witnessing something important and high-profile, Mr. Olsen, a prominent member of the Indigenous community, had an additional responsibility to bring two sides together. Instead Mr. Olsen chose to remain silent and passive and purposely ignore BC's disgraceful Aboriginal title and rights track record. Mr. Olsen betrayed not only these Indigenous Youth Land Protectors but Indigenous peoples across Canada.

Premier Horgan, Minister Fraser and MLA Olsen may feel some sense of victory by *incarcerating* five Indigenous youth and then seeing the occupation zone 'respectfully' dismantled. In my eyes, the victory belongs to the Indigenous youth *Land Protectors* and now symbolized by a new chain link fence adorning the front steps of the provincial legislature, a building that continues to symbolize corruption, racism and now hatred.

My conscience will not allow me to lend my support / knowledge / experience to an agency that enables a government to continue its ineffective colonial approach to consulting with Indigenous peoples; an approach that has always primarily focused on blatantly ignoring recognition of constitutionally protected Aboriginal title and rights.

I would like to thank and acknowledge Line Robert (ICET Chief Executive Officer), ICET Board Chair Mayor Josie Osborne and the entire ICET Board of Directors for their leadership and reconciliation efforts.

Sincerely,



Qwastānaya

(L. Maynard Harry - former Chief Councillor, Tla'amin Nation)

Tla'amin Nation Citizen

pc: Ace Harry, Tla'amin Nation Citizen
Na'Moks (John Ridsdale)
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs
Mayor Josie Osborne, Board Chair, Island Coastal Economic Trust and ICET Board
Minister Scott Fraser, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Adam Olsen, MLA and interim Leader, BC Green Party