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Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a Approves New Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement

On June 28, 2019, Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a ratified its third Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement, which Nisga'a Lisims Government negotiated with Canada and British Columbia. The Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement is now awaiting ratification by British Columbia and Canada and it is hoped that the Agreement will be fully signed in the coming weeks.

Once ratified by all three parties, the Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement will provide for fiscal transfers from Canada to the Nisga'a Nation of over \$80 million a year for governance and the delivery of programs and services. The new agreement provides approximately \$15 million more in annual fiscal benefits to the Nisga'a Nation above that of the previous fiscal financing agreement, in the form of increased funding and relief from the practice of deducting amounts from fiscal transfers on account of the Nisga'a Nation's other sources of revenues. Nisga'a Lisims Government worked closely with Canada to develop its new Collaborative Self-Government Fiscal Policy, which enabled these increased annual fiscal benefits.

British Columbia also provides funding for programs and services under the Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement. In the agreement, British Columbia promises to create a new policy for its fiscal relationship with the Nisga'a Nation based on the Nisga'a Treaty, The Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement also specifically contemplates further negotiations:

- with Canada to add assets to the list of assets in Schedule C so that the Nisga'a Nation can receive life-cycle and operations and maintenance funding for those additional assets;
- with British Columbia to increase funding for child & family services delivered by Nisga'a Child & Family Services in the northwest Corridor (primarily Terrace, Prince Rupert, Kitimat); and
- with Canada to improve program and services funding over time as Canada expands its new Collaborative Self-government Fiscal Policy to cover additional funding areas.

Nisga'a Lisims Government intends to continue to work closely with Canada to improve its fiscal policy for funding modern treaty nations in the areas of education, health, social and housing programs.