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Communique to Nisga'a Citizens

Update on Nisga'a Gift Disbursement & Temporary Pause on Remaining Payments

March 22, 2022 – New Aiyansh, B.C., - On December 4, 2021 Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a held an extraordinary sitting to authorize a \$20M allocation from the Treaty Loan Repayment for the purpose of granting a one-time gift of \$2,500 to Nisga'a citizens registered under the Nisga'a Final Agreement as of December 1, 2021.

Allocation Centres were established at Nisga'a Lisims Government (for unknown addresses and citizens residing in the USA) and in collaboration with Nisga'a Village Government and Nisga'a Urban Local offices who began distribution roll out on December 16, 2021. Each allocation site established its own processes and procedures for distribution to Nisga'a citizens who had addresses in their respective Nisga'a Village or Nisga'a Urban Local area in the Nisga'a Nation citizenship database as of December 1, 2021.

To date, 93% of the Nisga'a Nation Gift allocation has been successfully distributed to registered Nisga'a citizens.

"We acknowledge the tireless efforts of NLG, Nisga'a Village and Nisga'a Urban Local administrative staff who worked within a very tight timeframe to distribute the gift in the month of December," said President Eva Clayton. "We are very happy that they managed to effectively distribute the gift to 93% of our registered Nisga'a citizens."

There remains a percentage of 7% or approximately 500 Nisga'a citizens who have yet to receive the one-time gift. However, in a March 14 extraordinary meeting of the NLG Executive it was decided that the distribution of the remaining one-time gifts be paused temporarily.

Reason for the Pause on Distribution of Remaining Gifts:

NLG is currently working with each Nisga'a Village and Nisga'a Urban Local offices to produce reconciliation reports which will include the return of unpaid gift allocations to NLG that were not claimed or were returned to a Nisga'a Village or Nisga'a Urban Local as a result of unknown addresses, or cheques simply not picked up at the time of distribution.

The reconciliation process will also ensure some anomalies that may have occurred are corrected.

These anomalies include potential duplication of payment to some individuals between two allocation sites and citizens with no known address in the NLG database.

Nisga'a Lisims Government endeavours to complete the reconciliation review carefully at its earliest convenience and will establish direct communication with those citizens impacted. Once the reconciliation is complete, NLG will administer payments to the remaining 7% of citizens who have not yet received the one-time gift, subject to any valid third party claims to payments.

"This process has proven the importance and responsibility on citizens to keep their addresses current with NLG's Eligibility & Enrolment department', said Clayton.

Nisga'a Lisims Government wishes to emphasize the importance for citizens to keep their address current with NLG's Eligibility & Enrolment Department. Change of Address Forms are available on NLG's website here and may be submitted to the department's designated email address for receiving and implementing the change of address on the citizenship database: nepid@nisgaa.net

For further information, visit our website: www.nisgaanation.ca