



# STELLAT'EN FIRST NATION

P.O. Box 760, Fraser Lake, BC, V0J 1S0

Phone: (250) 699-8747

[www.stellaten.ca](http://www.stellaten.ca)



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## **Subject: Stellat'en First Nation Response – Baptiste Nickel Project – Federal Impact Assessment Process**

Dear Ms. Nieman and Ms. St. James,

Thank you for your January 23, 2026 correspondence regarding the proposed **Baptiste Nickel Project** and the initiation of the planning and early engagement phases of the assessment process.

Stellat'en First Nation acknowledges receipt of this notification and appreciates the opportunity to provide input regarding the potential environmental and impact assessment processes associated with the proposed project.

Due to internal capacity constraints and competing priorities within our stewardship and governance departments, Stellat'en First Nation was unable to provide comments during the February comment period. We appreciate your understanding and respectfully request that the following comments be considered as part of the ongoing planning phase.

Stellat'en First Nation confirms that the proposed Baptiste Nickel Project is located within our **unceded territory** and has the potential to affect our **Aboriginal rights, title, and interests**, including rights related to lands, waters, fish, wildlife, and the continued exercise of our cultural practices.

At this stage, Stellat'en First Nation wishes to clearly state the following:

### **1. Federal Impact Assessment Process**

Stellat'en First Nation supports the continuation of a **federal impact assessment under the Impact Assessment Act** for the Baptiste Nickel Project.

Given the scale, duration, and potential environmental and socio-economic implications of the proposed mine, Stellat'en believes that a federal impact assessment process provides the most appropriate framework to ensure a comprehensive and transparent evaluation of potential impacts to our rights, lands, waters, and communities.



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## 2. Substitution Request

Stellat'en First Nation **does not support the substitution of the federal impact assessment process with the provincial environmental assessment process.**

In our view, a federal assessment process is necessary to ensure that the full range of potential impacts — including cumulative effects, impacts to Indigenous rights, and broader national interests — are appropriately considered.

## 3. Consideration of Substitution

Stellat'en First Nation also notes that the Government of British Columbia has requested substitution of the federal impact assessment process. As an Indigenous Nation whose rights and interests may be affected by this project, Stellat'en expects that its views will be carefully considered prior to any decision regarding substitution.

In particular, Stellat'en First Nation expects that any decision regarding substitution must fully consider the Crown's obligations to consult and accommodate Indigenous Nations, as well as Canada's commitments under the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**.

At this time, Stellat'en First Nation does **not support substitution** and believes that a federal impact assessment process is the most appropriate mechanism to ensure a thorough and transparent evaluation of the potential impacts of the proposed project. Especially when looking at the size of this proposed project and its potential lifespan. It's immediate impacts to the land is important to understand from a cultural impacts perspective.

## 4. Participation in the Planning Phase

Stellat'en First Nation intends to continue engaging in the planning phase of the federal assessment process in order to:

- identify potential impacts to our Aboriginal rights and title;
- identify culturally important areas, water systems, and ecological values that may be affected;
- ensure that the assessment process adequately reflects Indigenous knowledge and stewardship responsibilities; and
- ensure that the Crown fulfills its duty to consult and accommodate.



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## 5. Alignment with UNDRIP and DRIPA

Stellat'en First Nation also notes that the assessment process should be consistent with the principles of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** and related federal and provincial commitments to implement the Declaration, including through legislation such as the **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)** in British Columbia.

A federal impact assessment process provides an important opportunity to ensure that these commitments are meaningfully reflected in how potential impacts to Indigenous rights, lands, and waters are evaluated.

## 6. Future Engagement

Stellat'en First Nation remains open to meeting with representatives of the **Impact Assessment Agency of Canada** to discuss the project and the federal assessment process in greater detail.

We will provide further information regarding Stellat'en's Section 35 rights and areas of interest as discussions progress and as capacity allows.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Stellat'en First Nation looks forward to continued dialogue with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Stellat'en First Nation believes that the scale and duration of the proposed mine, combined with potential cumulative effects within our territory, warrant a **federal assessment process that includes meaningful Indigenous participation in the design and conduct of the assessment.**

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Doug Casimel  
Manager, Toonasa Ne Keyah  
Stewardship Department