



## Lake Babine Nation

April 10, 2026

Christal Nieman  
Project Manager  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Katherine St. James  
Project Assessment Director, Metal Mining  
Environmental Assessment Office

**Via email** [Christal.Nieman@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Christal.Nieman@iaac-aeic.gc.ca), [Katherine.StJames@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katherine.StJames@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: Baptiste Nickel Project – Confirmation of Lake Babine Nation as a Participating Indigenous Nation in the Environmental Assessment Process**

Dear Christal Nieman and Katherine St. James:

Lake Babine Nation is an “aboriginal people of Canada” having aboriginal rights and title including an inherent right of self-government recognized and affirmed under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. This letter confirms that Lake Babine Nation will participate in the federal and provincial environmental and impact assessment processes for the Baptiste Nickel Project as a Participating Indigenous Nation under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*. Lake Babine Nation’s participation does not constitute any consent or approval of the Project or any aspect thereof.

Our primary contacts for the project Darrell West, Natural Resources Director, and Deputy Chief Bessie West who is the Councillor responsible for the Natural Resource portfolio.

Some of Lake Babine’s preliminary concerns and interests related to the Baptiste Nickel Project are generally reflected in Table 10.1-2 (Summary of Interests and Concerns Raised by First Nations) of the Initial Project Description. We also note that of key interest and concern to Lake Babine Nation are the proposed routes of the Project’s transmission line which would traverse areas of cultural importance and environmental sensitivity. These and other issues must be identified and addressed in subsequent phases of the EA process including the Detailed Project Description. These issues are noted as preliminary and do not detract or in any way lessen our constitutionally protected rights.

Lake Babine Nation is ready to participate in a substituted environment assessment process that reflects the processes set out in the *Environmental Assessment Collaboration Agreement* between the Province and Lake Babine Nation (2021). This agreement under Section 41 of the EA Act (2018) includes assessment criteria for proposed projects, including the Nation’s Sustainability Framework and Socio-Economic Impacts Framework, and is an important step towards shared decision-making contemplated under the *Foundation Agreement* (2020) between Lake Babine Nation and BC.

For the environmental assessment process, Lake Babine Nation expects transparency, timely sharing of technical information, and direct dialogue with staff and elected officials of the Nation. Establishing a consistent collaboration structure—such as scheduled meetings and technical working groups—will support coordinated and effective long-term planning. We also request support from the BC EAO and IAAC to prepare for the EA process, including capacity support and in-community education and training to support our governance processes.

We appreciate your recognition of Lake Babine Nation as a Participating Indigenous Nation with respect to the proposed Baptiste Nickel Project.

Mesiy | Thank you

<Original signed by>

Bessie West  
Deputy Chief, Lake Babine Nation

<email address removed>

C.c.

Chief Wilfred Adam, Lake Babine Nation <email address removed>  
Darrell West, Natural Resources Director <email address removed>  
Georgina West, Forestry Referrals Officer <email address removed>  
Marilyn Joseph, LBN CEO, <email address removed>  
Troy Chalifoux, Chief Negotiator for LBN <email address removed>  
Stephanie Axmann, Legal Counsel <email address removed>