

**KASKA TRIBAL COUNCIL,  
CARRIER SEKANI TRIBAL COUNCIL and TSAY KEH DENE  
ALLIANCE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY**

This Alliance and Friendship Treaty made at Prince George this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2008.

**BETWEEN**

**KASKA TRIBAL COUNCIL**

(herein "Kaska Tribal Council")

**AND**

**CARRIER SEKANI TRIBAL COUNCIL**

(herein the "Carrier Sekani Tribal Council")

**AND**

**TSAY KEH DENE**

(herein "Tsay Keh Dene")

## **Vision**

The Peoples of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Kaska Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene by way of this historic treaty are carrying out the teachings of our Elders to live in our traditional territories as neighbors, in friendship and in mutual support and respect for each other.

Our political, social, cultural and economic relationships have existed since time immemorial and our right to continue such relationships are indivisible from our inherent Indigenous rights of nationhood and sovereignty.

Our Indigenous Nations have the right of self-determination and, by virtue of that right, our Peoples freely determine our political status and freely pursue our social, cultural and economic development.

**The Declaration of Alliance** reflects our philosophy and commitment:

*Recognizing that the Kaska Dena and Yinka Whet'enne share many close ancestral, social and cultural ties; Acknowledging that our Ancestors saw it wise to organize and conduct our personal familial cultural political and legal relationships through our Bahl'ats system; Therefore, we Kaska Dena and Yinka Whet'enne put our hearts and minds together and for the future of our people say:*

1. We acknowledge Yoodughi and Dene Thiah, The Creator.
2. We remember our Ancestors and acknowledge their love for us.
3. We see the faces of the generations of our people not yet born and we pass our love to them.
4. We respect and love our Land and know that, as our Mother, it has provided for us; and, according to our Teachings, we will stand as one to respect and protect our Land and all life on it.
5. Our Elders and young are important, for the Elders hold the knowledge of our Peoples' past and the young hold our hope for the future. We will work together to teach our young about Yoodughi and Dene Thiah, our land, languages, teachings, and our Bahl'ats, so that they will pass this knowledge on to their children and to future generations.
6. Our Bahl'ats systems are sacred to us; in them we stand as one in times of great loss and in times of great celebration.
7. We will carry our ways and our business with respect, care and love for each other and we will create stability and confidence in ourselves and our young to ensure our People and our ways will survive in the future.
8. Where we have differences we will talk to each other with great respect, care and love and work out our differences to ensure harmony and balance in our own life, families and communities.
9. And as long as the sun shines and our rivers flow we will stand with each other, support each other and do all we can to lift up each other's heart and spirit.
10. With this, we welcome the newcomers to our Land and we will share with them our Vision of who we are and knowledge about our Land; and we will live with them in a spirit of friendship and harmony.

11. We agree that the Leaders of our people will carry out talks in our Bahl'ats systems with the newcomers' governments as a means of negotiating fair, just and lasting agreements about our Aboriginal rights, titles and interests.

Et Ndohoneh

### **Land Use Vision**

Our oral histories represent the values placed on the land, water and air by our Peoples. Our management objectives are guided by the philosophy that we are part of the land. Our living and our lives come out of the land. The land is part of our family and we a part of the land.

We base our Land Use Vision on the following general principles:

- Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.
- All life forms are interconnected and sacred.
- Sharing and coexistence are the cornerstones of Carrier Sekani and Kaska resource use.
- Territory is not a commodity to be bought and sold;
- Our people hold both rights and responsibilities to ensure territorial integrity and ongoing stewardship and use.
- Our teachings on land use and ownership are passed from generation to generation.
- Healing: A tremendous amount of work is required in our communities to heal the battered body, mind and spirit from years of social, cultural, political and economic dislocation.
- Rebuilding: With healing comes rebuilding of family, language, economic base, political institutions, and control of the lands and resources.
- Reconciliation: Discussions must occur with government and churches to help our healing process of forgiving and reconciling.
- Accommodation: The respective interests of our First Nations, federal and provincial governments need to be discussed, defined, and resolved through negotiations.

These teachings have been maintained throughout all our negotiations with government and industry, and guide our land use planning process.

### **DEDICATION**

This treaty is dedicated to our respective Nations' Elders and Ancestors. Their wise use of our traditional territories has preserved the land, resources and wildlife for our generations. Through this treaty we hope to achieve this same accomplishment for our future generations.

Our Elders and Ancestors' vision and understanding of the natural environment has sustained the people of our Nations for countless generations.

By this treaty we commit, together, to further strengthen the historic bonds between our Nations; carrying the vision of our Elders into the future.

## **OUR NATIONS**

The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Kaska Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene believe that our voices are always stronger working together to protect and advance the rights and interests of the people of our member First Nations.

We, therefore, agree that our respective Nations shall dedicate our efforts to forge and reinforce strong political alliances among us on every issue and in every forum, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, which affect our lands and our Peoples, including at the regional, national and international levels.

Our Nations shall attempt, wherever possible, to develop common approaches, platforms and positions, to assert and strengthen our collective interests in matters such as; territorial, provincial and national elections, and global and international negotiations.

Our Nations further agree to support and assist one another and share the history and knowledge of our Elders in the building of effective governance structures to serve and support the people of our respective traditional territories.

## **OUR LANDS**

The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, the Kaska Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene acknowledge and affirm our respective traditional territories.

This treaty confirms that an important part of the history and traditions of the Kaska Tribal Council, the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene is based on shared use of our parts of our traditional territories and the resources nurtured by those lands.

The Kaska Tribal Council, the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene, therefore, agree to work together to preserve, use and protect our respective traditional territories, including those lands we share, according to our history, customs, practices and traditions in a manner which respects each member First Nations' governing authorities.

## **OUR ECONOMIES**

In order to build strong Nations and sustainable economies for this and future generations, we agree to work together to explore joint economic opportunities and cooperative arrangements arising from the land and resources of our respective traditional territories for the mutual benefit of our Peoples.

To ensure lasting, respectful, and beneficial relations between our member First Nations, the Kaska Tribal Council, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene also agree, as a first principle, to seek and receive prior informed consent from each member First Nations' governments before pursuing any major economic activities or agreements with regard to the shared lands and resources of our respective traditional territories.

We agree to develop business relationships with regard to the economic opportunities through mutual agreement and when it is of mutual benefit to our respective Peoples.

Such economic opportunities may include investment possibilities, forest, mining, and oil and gas development, outfitting, tourism and related businesses.

In all joint economic agreements and shared developments between us, our Nations agree to abide by the teachings of our Elders and to respect the principles of protection and sustainability of our lands and resources.

### OUR RESOURCES

The Kaska Tribal Council, the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene agree to share the wildlife resources of our traditional territories and agree that our members will respectfully and in advance, seek and receive the permission of the proper authority concerned, in writing, before hunting, trapping or harvesting fish and game for any purpose in our respective traditional territories.

### JOINT COUNCILS

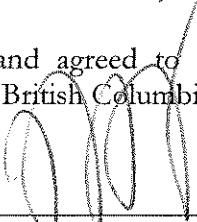
Our Nations intend that this treaty confirm the strong historical bonds of friendship and kinship between us and remains a living, growing tool to strengthen that friendship and support as we meet the challenges our Nations face as members of the global community.


And we further commit that our governments will meet together, at least once a year, to review our work on common concerns, renew our family ties, celebrate our achievements and strengthen this alliance between our Nations.

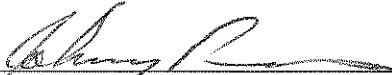
### AMENDMENTS

Each Nation also reserves the right to amend or append this document respectively, with the written consent of each member First Nation, as needed, and must be based on the overall preservation of the Kaska Tribal Council, the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and Tsay Keh Dene's future culture, heritage and traditions.

Signed and agreed to this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008 at Prince George, British Columbia.

  
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TRIBAL CHIEF DAVID LUGGI  
on behalf of the  
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY CHIEF WALTER CARLICK  
on behalf of the  
Kaska Tribal Council

  
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CHIEF JOHNNY PIERRE  
on behalf of the  
Tsay Keh Dene