



MEMO

TO: Council **DATE:** November 18, 2024

FROM: Darcy Dober **FILE:** COM-02
Mayor

SUBJECT: Letter from the Leader's Table to Premier Eby and Opposition Leader
Rustad Condemning Racism and Anti-Indigenous Rhetoric

Background Information:

The Chiefs, Mayors, and Directors of the Peace River Regional District and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality have issued a united statement condemning the racism and anti-Indigenous rhetoric that emerged during the 2024 Provincial Election campaign. Representing First Nations and municipal governments in Treaty 8 territory, they call on provincial leaders to reject discriminatory sentiments and uphold inclusivity and respect within communities. This statement urges provincial leaders to take a firm stance against intolerance, reinforcing that British Columbia is a place of safety and respect for all.

Proposed Motion:

That Council supports the letter from the Leaders' Table dated November 12, 2024, condemning racism and anti-Indigenous rhetoric, further, that the Mayor be authorized to sign the letter on behalf of the City of Dawson Creek.

Respectfully,

Darcy Dober
Mayor

November 12, 2024

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
premier@gov.bc.ca

John Rustad
Leader of the Opposition
John.Rustad.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Dear Premier and Leader of the Opposition,

Congratulations on your re-election as members of the Legislative Assembly in the 43rd Parliament of British Columbia.

We, the undersigned Chiefs, Mayors and Directors of the Peace River Regional District and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, write as the elected leaders of First Nations and municipal governments in northeast BC, Treaty 8 territory, to express our united condemnation of the racism and anti-Indigenous rhetoric recently displayed in the course of the 2024 Provincial Election campaign by some candidates for public office. It is our steadfast belief that such statements have no place in our province and that they must be met with firm and immediate opposition from leaders at every level.

As leaders in the northeast, we are committed to fostering a society rooted in mutual respect, inclusivity, and reconciliation. Racism and anti-Indigenous sentiment damage these efforts, creating division and harm within our communities. We stand united in our expectation that, when such sentiments surface, the leadership of this province will act decisively, condemning them unequivocally and setting a clear example.

We are firmly united in our message that it will never be acceptable to not speak up at any point when these kinds of discriminatory sentiments are expressed publicly, and we expect leaders at the provincial level to do the same.

We urge you, as the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, to take every opportunity to reinforce the message that racism and intolerance have no place in British Columbia. Our communities are watching, and our citizens expect nothing less than strong, unwavering leadership on this critical matter.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to anti-racism and creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful British Columbia for everyone.

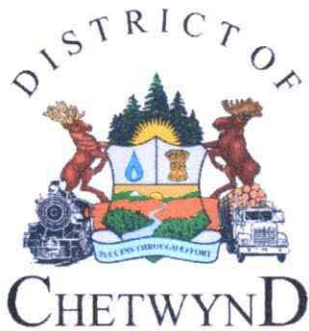
Yours sincerely,



City of Dawson Creek



City of Fort St. John



District of Chetwynd



District of Hudson's Hope



District of Taylor



District of Tumbler Ridge



Doig River First Nation



Fort Nelson First Nation



Halfway River First Nation



Saulteau First Nations



Northern Rockies Regional Municipality



West Moberly First Nations



Prophet River First Nation



Village of Pouce Coupe



Peace River Regional District

- cc. Jordan Kealy, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Peace River North
Larry Neufeld, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Peace River South