



File: ENVA-30200-20/YELPRO-05-03

Reference: 422597

July 20, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

Rob Kerslake, Mayor
Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer
Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager
District of Barriere
Box 219
4936 Barriere Town Road
Barriere, BC V0E 1E0
Ddrexler@barriere.ca; Rkerslake@barriere.ca; Cmatthews@barriere.ca

Dear Mayor Kerslake, Daniel Drexler and Chris Matthews:

I am writing to inform you that on July 15, 2026, the Lieutenant Governor in Council authorized an agreement (the Agreement) under Section 7 (1)(b) of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (the Declaration Act) with Simpcw First Nation (Simpwcw) in respect of decisions for mining projects under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018) (the Act). This Agreement requires Simpcw consent and a provincial environmental assessment certificate for the Yellowhead Copper Project (Yellowhead) to proceed. The Agreement is publicly available and can be found here: [BC Gov News](#)

For awareness, the Agreement may be amended in the future to be applied to proposed new mines in an area where Simpcw is understood to be the primary Indigenous decision maker, where there are decisions under the Act. If a future proposed mine is determined eligible to be subject to the Agreement, the EAO will engage your organization (as applicable) in addition to all potentially affected First Nations before making a decision to amend the Agreement. Cabinet approval would be required prior to amending the Agreement.

The EAO is looking forward to working with you as the Environmental Assessment for Yellowhead proceeds. We will continue to engage local communities by facilitating public comment opportunities and we appreciate your participation as local government advisors.

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If you have questions about the contents of this letter, please reach out to the EAO Yellowhead project team lead, Tracey Janes, by telephone at 236 478-0633 or by email at Tracey.Janes@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Smyth'.

Danielle Smyth
Acting Chief Executive Assessment Officer and Associate Deputy Minister

cc: Rhonda Kershaw, Band Administrator
Simpco First Nation
Band.Administrator@simpco.com

Alex MacLennan, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Alex.MacLennan@gov.bc.ca

Nathaniel Amann-Blake, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals
Nathaniel.Amann-Blake@gov.bc.ca