

-----Original Message-----

**From:** AINC-INAC Ministre-Minister [mailto:[Minister@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@ainc-inac.gc.ca)]

**Sent:** September 19, 2006 6:40 AM

**To:** [whunter@eshippers.com](mailto:whunter@eshippers.com)

**Subject:** Squamish Nation billboard

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Mr. Wayne Hunter  
3658 Garibaldi Drive  
North Vancouver BC V7H 2X8

Dear Mr. Hunter:

This is in response to your correspondence of August 21, 2006, regarding the Squamish Nation billboard proposal.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is required under the Indian Act to consider a request from a First Nation for use of its reserve land, and in general, supports First Nations' land-use and economic goals, provided that the Department's policy and process requirements are met. The Department will approve engineering plans pursuant to the Canada National Building Code and professional engineering standards prior to the installation of the billboards to ensure the structures are safe. You raised concerns pertaining to the electronic billboards; to the best of our understanding, the proposed billboards will not be electronic.

The Indian Act and regulations do not include provisions restricting the height and design of billboards on reserve land. The Government of Canada has no regulatory framework in which to regulate billboards on federal lands, including Indian reserves. On non-reserve lands, local governments have the ability to regulate billboards; in this case, the Squamish Nation has that ability through its by-laws. Therefore, you may wish to contact the Squamish Nation directly regarding the billboard proposal, at the following address:

PO Box 86131  
NORTH VANCOUVER BC V7L 4J5

Telephone: (604) 980-4553

Facsimile: (604) 980-4523

The billboard proposal will be subject to a screening under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and members of the public can provide their comments through the Canadian Environmental Assessment website where the screening is posted ([www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca)). As part of the screening process, consideration will be given to comments from the public reflecting environmental, health and safety, and other related concerns.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,  
Original signed by  
a signé l'original

The Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP