

CONFIDENTIAL



Ottawa, 1 April, 1963.

Honourable R. E. Scamers,
Minister of Lands and Forests,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Scamers;

Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline.

I refer to the meetings at Victoria on January 12 and 13 at which were present yourself, the Honourable R. W. Connor, Attorney-General of British Columbia, Mr. G. P. MacLure, Deputy Minister of Lands of British Columbia, Mr. E. Alan MacLean, Assistant Deputy Attorney-General of British Columbia, Mr. C. W. Jackson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, Mr. W. E. Jackett, Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice, and Mr. W. E. Barton of the Department of External Affairs. Unforeseen problems in Washington have caused the United States authorities to delay progress in this matter until now.

The draft of the Order in Council to be passed by British Columbia, which was agreed to at these meetings to replace British Columbia Orders in Council 2441 of the 7th October, 1952, and 2478 of the 10th October, 1952, is in all respects satisfactory for our purposes. The Cabinet has given approval to the proposed exchange of notes between Canada and the United States, of which the British Columbia Order in Council is to form a part.

For convenience I attach three copies of the draft submission to Council, as prepared at the above mentioned meeting. If you will kindly arrange to have the Order passed, as drafted, I shall have an Order in Council passed authorising me to accept on behalf of Canada from the Province of British Columbia the administration, control and benefit of the lands in question subject to the provisions and restrictions contained in the British Columbia Order in Council. The way will then be clear for the Department of External Affairs to effect the exchange of notes.

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118 -2
The construction of the pipeline is considered to be urgent because of its importance from the point of view of mutual defence. The United States wishes to proceed with the exchange of notes now, and, when that has been done to advertise for tenders. The British Columbia Order in Council is prerequisite to both these actions. I hope, therefore, you will be able to have this replacing Order passed at an early date.

It is intended to issue a simultaneous press release in Washington and Ottawa before the United States authorities advertise for tenders. As soon as arrangements for it have been completed I shall let you know, as you will doubtless wish to make an announcement in Victoria at the same time.

Yours sincerely,

Robert H. Winters.

ENCL.