

The NDP is failing in its duty to notify British Columbians of active litigation impacting private property as more cases surface: Elenore Sturko

Court documents show claim against City of Kamloops and surrounding properties

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Surrey, B.C. – As more court cases advance, Elenore Sturko, MLA for Surrey-Cloverdale (Independent) is calling on David Eby and his NDP government to provide full disclosure to British Columbians on all Notices of Civil Claim filed against the province by First Nations claiming title, particularly over areas of existing private property.

The recent court decision in the case of Cowichan Tribes v. Canada is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to claims of Aboriginal title in this province,” Sturko said. “The government has utterly failed to act in its basic duty to notify British Columbians of litigation that directly impacts their rights.”

Sturko points to the government's own response to a notice of civil claim filed by the Secwepemc Nation which “seeks a declaration of Aboriginal title to all or part of the Territory, which Territory includes the City of Kamloops, a number of other municipalities, Sun Peaks Resort, roads, railways, privately owned tenures of many types, including fee simple grants, mineral tenures, and many other Crown granted interests.”

The government has remained silent on litigation which has the potential to impact entire communities.

“The private property rights of thousands of British Columbians are now in question, particularly in light of the court precedents set by the NDP in their handling of the Cowichan Tribes claim, and most certainly by the granting of title over existing private property in Haida Gwaii,” Sturko said.

“While David Eby and his NDP government claim to be working to protect the interests of private property owners, they have failed egregiously to notify the public of claims filed against their private property and continue to work almost exclusively in secret working up land-back agreements behind the backs of British Columbians. It’s time for the premier and his government to provide the transparency British Columbians deserve.”

(see attached documents)