



MAIYOO KEYOH SOCIETY

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NEWS RELEASE

Thursday February 21 2008

VIOLENCE NARROWLY AVERTED

A First Nation logging roadblock east of Fort St James ended peacefully on Wednesday.

It ended with an agreement between the Maiyoo Keyoh, Canfor, and the logging contractor employed by Canfor.

The Maiyoo Keyoh remained bitter about the Ministry of Forests.

“They caused this problem but did nothing to help resolve it” said Maiyoo Keyoh representative Jim Munroe.
“The tension had become very serious. The Ministry put the safety of this small community at risk.”

He said the Ministry did it because of their denial.

“ They deny they have a responsibility to recognize our title to the land. They deny they have a court-ordered duty to consult with us, to justify any infringement on our title to our land and resources, and to compensate us.”

Instead, he said, the Ministry engaged in token consultation and then gave Canfor the approval to start logging. He said the logging contractor was just caught in the middle.

“The Ministry’s behaviour is reprehensible. They put the safety of our community at risk. They have a frivolous disregard for the social fabric of our community.”

The blockade ended when the manager for the logging contractor employed by Canfor and Maiyoo Keyoh Chief Sally Sam shook hands on an agreement in the presence of two RCMP officers at the blockade 100 kilometers by road east of Fort St James.

The logging manager went to the roadblock to tell the blockaders he would not proceed with cutting timber on Maiyoo Keyoh as originally planned. He said Canfor has given him another block to log outside Maiyoo Keyoh.

In reply the Maiyoo Keyoh said they would take down their blockade and allow the logging contractor to remove timber already felled. The logging manager and Chief Sally Sam then shook hands, ending the 12 day blockade.

The manager was not the logger who threatened a less than peaceful solution the previous afternoon.

For more information:

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Bestowed by the Creator, to serve, as protectors of our traditional territory.

Regular roadblock updates are at <http://www.maiyookeyoh.ca>