

NEWS RELEASE

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Logging Stopped by First Nations Roadblock

First Nations landowners have stopped a logging operation east of Fort St James.

The First Nations family found loggers at work on their land Saturday morning and immediately ordered them to stop and to remove their equipment.

The loggers, contractors working for Canfor, immediately complied, but the First Nations family set up a roadblock to keep the loggers away.

Jim Munroe, speaking for the family at the roadblock, said the family has done everything possible to coexist with Canfor.

“We’ve had regular meetings with them and had an excellent relationship with them during the last six or seven years,” he said.

“We agreed they could do some logging on our land, but lately they’ve developed plans to log much more that we can accept. We had an information sharing agreement with them, but to get Forest service approval for this logging they violated the terms of that agreement.,” said Murnoe.

“We’ve done everything possible to prevent this confrontation. We’ve met both the Forest Service and Canfor since the cutting permit was approved. We even asked the Minister of Forests and Range to suspend the cutting permit to give us time to work out a compromise with Canfor, but the Minister has neither accepted nor rejected our appeal.”

The roadblock is on the 22,000 hectare Maiyoo Keyoh approximately 100 kilometers by road east of Fort St James. Keyohs are the lands owned by extended Carrier families. Keyohs predate the government’s creation of Indian Reserves and of the system of elected Chiefs and Councils for those Reserves. All the land throughout BC’s central Interior is divided into keyohs.

For more information:

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