



MAIYOO KEYOH SOCIETY

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NEWS RELEASE

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Fifth Day of Logging Roadblock East of Fort St James

As BC's First Nations Chiefs gathered in Vancouver for a three day forum on title, rights and economic development, a logging operation east of Fort St James was halted for a fifth straight day by First Nation landowners.

A logging contractor employed by Canfor began cutting a road right of way onto the land on Saturday but was ordered off the land by Chief Sally Sam, Hahul, of the Maiyoo Keyoh. The contractor immediately complied with the order. Chief Sam and her supporters have maintained a roadblock since then.

Chief Sam says the road way clearing and logging is an unjustified infringement on her title to the land. She says the road was being pushed towards an area where Canfor was planning a massive clearcut.

The roadblock is preventing access to the right of way and to timber the contractor had already cut on the right of way and worth at least \$60,000. The logging contractor has not attempted to pass the roadblock. Ministry of Forests officials and RCMP officers have visited the site but the roadblock remains peaceful.

Neighbouring keyoh titleholders have joined the roadblock to show their support. All of the land throughout this region was divided into keyohs by the Dakelh (Carrier) people many hundreds of years ago. Title to these keyohs is formally passed down from generation to generation.

Keyohs predate the government's creation of small Indian Reserves and the creation of elected Chiefs and Councils for those Reserves. The roadblock on Maiyoo Keyoh is north of Great Beaver Lake and is about 100 kilometers by road east of Fort St James.

For more information:

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

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