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Subject: Right of Access to First Nations Lands

I met with Tim Koepke, Chief Federal negotiator and other Federal Land Claims negotiators this morning to clarify the right of government access to First Nations Lands. Tim confirmed that under section 6.4 of the UFA, we do have a right to carry out our programs on all First Nations Land. Section 6.4 is very clear. The Surface Rights Board does not come into play unless a single project lasts for more than 120 consecutive days. If less than 120 days, we have to give notice, where reasonable, but the First Nation cannot refuse access or appeal to the SRB. Other minor conditions include: no mischief; no fee payable to FN; no unnecessary interference with the use and peaceful enjoyment of its Settlement Land by the FN. We are liable only for significant damage. We will carry out our programs on First Nations Land unless senior management directs us not to.

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