

Date Submitted: January 24, 2020

Proceeding name: BCUC Indigenous Utilities Regulation Inquiry

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: No

Name (first and last): Lorraine Vadnais

City: Deroche

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:

Good afternoon, I am a resident of one of the trailer parks owned by Leqamel First Nations and have been for 6 + years. As such, I will be one of the people affected should the commission decide to approve this application. After reading the final arguments letter (authored by [REDACTED]), I felt compelled to point out statements (I have personal knowledge of) which are incorrect, misleading or simply false. The answer given in the letter of final arguments : #7 (Inquiry questions) - should indigenous Utilities be regulated? The second line of the answer speaks volumes. "Regulation exists to prevent an abuse of power" In November of 2013 after a casual conversation with a neighbour, I became aware of a situation involving my pad rental fee. It seems leqamel First Nations had my fee set at a higher rate than my counterparts one in particular had purchased here long after I had. When I approached the author of the letter to ask why my rent would be higher, I was promptly dismissed without explanation via email. When I persisted with my concern by pointing out the compelling evidence I had gathered to support my claim, I was again brushed off. This time with a warning, if I was unhappy I should move! Shortly after that, I found the letter to the Utilities commission and I asked to begin the dispute resolution process. Within days I was informed that due to my "lateral violence"(?) expressed toward the "staff", I was excluded from entering the band office. She further stated that my emails would also be blocked. I received this information via a forwarded email through my disability assistance worker. Not directly from the author. I received a Notice of Eviction on December 13 via email. The grounds for eviction? My historical late payments of rent and my lateral violence! Absolutely ridiculous! In the 6 years I have lived here (until very recently) my pad fees were deducted from my disability and forwarded to the finance department. I have no history nor is it in my character to treat anyone with disrespect. My point is that all of the mechanisms the author claims are accessible and in the land code "without discrimination" are in my case at least completely untrue. Maybe my situation is unique, perhaps not. I caution the commission to consider what can and did happen in this case when considering the request to deregulate leqamel First Nations Utilities. The potential for an abuse of power is too great, in my opinion and needs to be monitored. The above statements are honest and truthful and is now a human rights complaint. I hope that the commission takes this addition into consideration before making its decision.