

# DAKOTA PLAINS WAHPETON OYATE

General Delivery  
Edwin, Manitoba  
R0H 0G0

January 21, 2021

Regional Director General Stephen Traynor  
365 Hargrave St.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3B 3A3

Dear Stephen,

The relationship between Canada, the Province of Manitoba and our home community referred to as Dakota Plains Reserve #288, requires clarity. We have now come to the time and place in this modern jet age, educated world, where all assumptions, presumptions, and false information should be laid to rest. I have requested the documents that put my people under Canadian and Provincial jurisdictions and if Dakota are treaty, or have fallen under treaties, they then have to be brought to the forefront, for all to see. Any written agreements (Treaties), need to be scrutinized to determine how we can best use it to develop and gain self-determination like our Dakota people have been known to do historically. Otherwise, the time has come for this country's political powers to tell all of Canada's citizens that our Dakota Plains Oyate are being subjected to near, if not criminal oppression, by uncaring governments.

The Wahpeton tribe of landowners in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba were an independent people, free to trade, buy and sell, to provide for their families and the community, before European invasion imposed settlements in our homelands, My people have been needlessly, criminalized, oppressed and starved from essentials. For example, the freedom to create our own source revenues that would build proper homes and facilities that would provide comfort for our families. This in turn would prevent loss of our women, children, and homelessness, drug and alcohol addictions, all stemming from desperate life conditions on reserve.

The impacts of such neglect coming from the governments of this questionably established country called Canada, needs to look honestly and humanely to the Dakota and admit that we have received no recognition as capable human beings. This is complete devastation.

The Dakota Plains Wahpeton do not, and are not, signatory to any treaty. Providing there is no documentation, are we legally subject to the Indian Act, or the province of Manitoba, and its jurisdictions? If not, where do the RCMP, Child and Family, and other agencies receive their jurisdiction and funding to intervene for the presumed safety and betterment for the lives of our membership? We have always been left abandoned with the status quo of the issue at hand, with no resources to make improvements.

Tel: (204) 252-2300 ~ Fax: (204) 252-2244  
Governance ~ Youth Council ~ Womens Council ~ Elders

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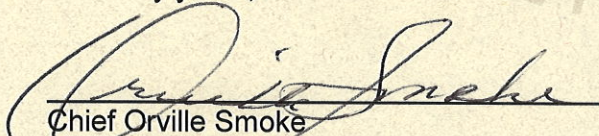
The available security and intervention forces cannot meet the needs of my people but instead increases their risk because jurisdictions apply only in certain areas. I have to look back to a time when my Great-Great-Great grandparents governed our people with unconditional love; everyone had homes, no one was missing or murdered, no abuse to children, no alcohol, no drugs, the laws exercised by the Wahpeton didn't need recognition from anyone, except the elders and women of the tribe. It simply worked, as per the Dakota mandate. We demonstrated on many occasions that we knew what to do for the prosperity of our tribal members, for example, the Old Sioux Village, (Douglas Elias research) the farms after relocation, embargoed by the Indian Agent because of complaints by non-aboriginal farmers in the area of our settlement. Then came the many failed projects due to the Indian Act regulations.

There was also the latest widely known Tobacco shop venture where we exercised our God given rights to trade with others. We made enough to sustain Dakota Plains for a period of time with bridge financing, wages, post-secondary education, and under Health, travel, accommodations, meals, handicap vehicle, as well as home repairs and a fire truck, only to be charged. If we had been allowed to continuously exercise that right which is still legally ours, we would have recovered our freedom with our own initiative. We would have been free from all the accusations of being, "a good for nothing tax dollar abuser, useless, welfare bum," etc. On a personal note, there are extenuating circumstances involved after the fact, I was charged Individually as Orville Smoke yet it is our right and mandate to trade, I just implemented it and this issue requires revalidation.

In a recent confrontation between Canadians and the Maliseet tribe over lobster harvesting, the term "moderate income" was used to describe the income limitations placed on native business ventures. Why are native people not allowed to prosper like everyone else?

I provide this document without prejudice but the creation of government bodies under foreign laws, especially one that would introduce a paper called the Indian Act, is genocidal. The Indian Act is a document that should not be administered to human beings. I and my people are not Indians as described by the Indian Act. We were born into a system that we had no control over. The time for reconciliation is now and reconciliation requires truth.

Sincerely yours,



Chief Orville Smoke  
Dakota Plains Wahpeton Oyate

cc. Governor General Julie Payette  
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
Attorney General David Lametti  
United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres  
International Court of Justice Xu Hanqin  
Premier of Manitoba Brian Pallister

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