

JUN 23 2005

Chief Bernard Ominayak  
Lubicon Lake Indian Nation  
PO Box 6731  
PEACE RIVER AB T8S 1S5

Dear Chief Ominayak:

This is further to my October 15, 2004 letter, in which I informed you that I would review the Lubicon file, the federal mandate and the progress achieved to date on the file, and provide you with a response.

I have completed my review of the file and am pleased with the progress that was achieved at the table from 1998 to 2003. I note, however, that there are still a significant number of outstanding issues, which were outlined by the parties at the last negotiation session, that must be addressed to achieve a final settlement.

As you are aware, I met with National Chief Phil Fontaine several times in the past six months to discuss possible options on how to move forward with the negotiations. We discussed the possibility that the Negotiation Roundtable work may result in recommendations for changes to the Inherent Right Policy that could possibly address the concerns you have expressed regarding self government. I am pleased with the progress that was made at the Roundtable meeting; however, the changes to the Inherent Right Policy will come about only after exploratory talks with First Nations and must be approved by my Cabinet colleagues. The process would take at least a year, as follow up to the Roundtable Process would have to take place in order to determine the recommendations that would be put before Cabinet for approval. Given this, I do not see the Roundtable Process as providing an immediate solution to getting negotiations resumed.

.../2

Canada

-2-

I would therefore suggest two possible alternatives for the parties to consider. As a first option, I suggest we give consideration to resuming negotiations, under the current federal mandate, to address the remaining issues unrelated to compensation and self-government. This would allow us to complete the negotiation of issues that are essential for a final settlement and which fall within the current policy. It would also allow us to take advantage of the time required to complete the Roundtable follow-up work and implement any possible changes that stem from this process. A second option would be to jointly agree to close this round of negotiations until the Negotiation Roundtable work is completed and recommendations are implemented.

I sincerely hope that one of these options provides an acceptable approach to the Lubicon people. I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP