



VIA EMAIL and MAIL

July 9, 2021

The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Indigenous Services Canada  
10 rue Wellington  
Gatineau, QC  
K1A 0H4

**Re: Transfer of Bears paw Nation Capital Moneys to Ozija Thiha Legacy Trust**

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Dear Minister Miller:

I am the Chief of the Bears paw Nation, a party to Treaty no 7 of 1877 which was concluded on a Nation to Nation basis.

Throughout the years, we have continuously asserted our right to self-determination, including the right to control our lands, resources and monies.

For decades, Canada has retained our royalty monies unilaterally and without our consent under the Indian Act in clear violation of our Treaty relationship with the Crown and the Crown's trust obligations to our Nation. Because at long last, in 2020, Canada agreed to transfer to the Bears paw First Nation its capital monies and future royalty monies, we accepted to proceed with the transfer under the process of the Indian Act, but without prejudice to our legal position as a Nation.

For the purpose of the transfer, Stoney Tribal Administration adopted a unanimous resolution dated October 15, 2020 confirming the consent of the Bears paw, Chiniki and Wesley Nations to the transfer to Bears paw Nation of its per capita share of amounts credited to the Capital account of the "Stoney Indian Band". By letter of February 18, 2021 to me, you confirmed your commitment to prepare a Ministerial Standing Order to authorize the transfers once certain steps were completed. With minor exceptions, these steps have all been completed.

More importantly, we consider that a firm agreement exists between Canada and the Bears paw Nation to transfer the capital monies without delay and that Canada has flagrantly breached this agreement and reneged upon its commitment, notwithstanding the huge effort and work of representatives of our Nation and the arrangements put into place by us in respect to the trust (as shown in the detailed Bears paw Capital Trust Money Transfer Newsletter of January 2021).

In this regard, your Regional Director General for Alberta, using as an excuse an internal letter to me, which was copied to him and which dealt with several internal self-determination questions of the three Stoney Nations wrote to the three Chiefs and Councilors on May 26, 2021 paternalistically interfering with internal matters, unilaterally determining a "pause" until the end

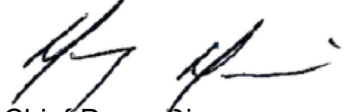
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of July 2021 of the transfer process and basically inviting the thwarting of the transfer process. This position is not only unacceptable, but unjustifiable and a living example of the colonial philosophy and discriminatory methods which continue to drive Canada in its relations with our Nation and other Indigenous Peoples.

Over the years, as evidenced by the trust funds of other Indigenous Nations, our Nation has lost several million dollars because of the failure of Canada to relinquish control of our monies to us. We have been advised that the Bearspaw Nation has lost over \$3.4 M since April 1, 2021, and additional losses are incurred every day.

I therefore demand that you immediately take the steps required to truly respect your commitments to us in and to proceed without further delay to the transfer of our capital monies. We do not intend to be a silent hostage to the forked tongue of Canada.

**BEARSPAW NATION**



Chief Darcy Dixon

cc: Bearspaw Nation Council  
Councillor Rod Hunter  
Councillor Rex Daniels  
Councillor Pierre Lefthand  
Councillor Anthony Bearspaw  
Rob Shotclose, CEO, Bearspaw Nation  
Sean Sullivan, ISC, Ottawa