

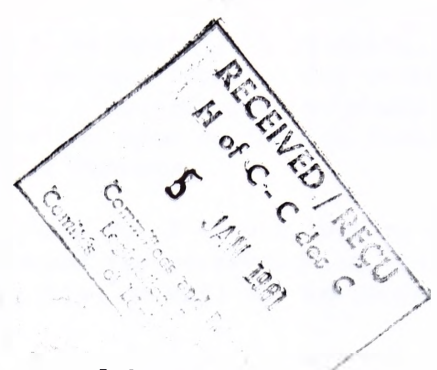
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The Pas Indian Band

P.O. BOX 297
THE PAS, MANITOBA
R9A 1K4

TELEPHONE 623-5483
623-5484
623-5485

December 17, 1980



Mr. Sandy Birch, Clerk
Joint Committee of Senate and House of Commons
on Revision of the Canadian Constitution
Parliament Buildings
OTTAWA, Ontario

Dear Mr. Birch:

RE: TREATY # 5 CHIEFS - APPOINTMENT WITH JOINT COMMITTEE

The decision by Parliament to extend the deadline for the Report of the Joint Committee has given us an opportunity to appear before the Committee and make representations on behalf of all Treaty Indian people of Treaty No. 5. Without the extension, our voice would have been silenced and, consequently, a grave injustice would have been done to the direct descendants of Cree and Ojibway people who made Treaty No. 5 with the Imperial Crown.

You can appreciate that the sudden decision by the Federal Government for unilateral patriation of the British North America Act has taken our people completely by surprise. Like other Canadians, we had expected the participation of the Provinces as an imperative requirement in any decision to bring our Constitution to Canada. We did not foresee the sudden and impulsive action taken by the Federal Government which brought Constitutional discussions between the two levels of Government to a complete halt and an end to our expectation on all matters directly affecting our rights and interests as Indian people. Unfortunately, we were denied the opportunity to participate as equals in constitutional matters.

Since the announcement of the extension for your Committee, we have managed to formulate a common position as member Bands of Treaty No. 5. The twenty-seven Indian Chiefs of Treaty No. 5 are most anxious to make a presentation before your committee.

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All the Chiefs of Treaty No. 5 will be meeting in Thompson, Manitoba on January 20, 21, & 22, 1981 to discuss and finalize our common position on patriation and the Constitution. Accordingly, we would appreciate an appointment with your Committee any time during the last week in January or during the first week of February.

We, the twenty-seven Chiefs of Treaty No. 5 have a duty to our ancestors to do all that is necessary to ensure the protection of the Indians and Indian Lands. We most sincerely hope we will not be denied the opportunity to be heard by your Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Charles G. Constant
Chief - The Pas Band

CGC/aeH

cc: Robert Bockstael, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario (LIB)
cc: Stanley Knowles, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario (NDP)
cc: Jake Epp, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, (PC)
cc: Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Employment, Immigration & Status of Women.
cc: Jim Manley, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, (NDP)
cc: Warren Allmand, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario (LIB)
cc: Lorne Nystrom, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario (NDP)
cc: Rod Murphy, Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario (NDP)
cc: Chiefs of Treaty No. 5