

**Dene Tha First Nation**  
**PO Box 120**  
**Chateh, Alberta**  
**T0H 0S0**



**Telephone:**  
**(780) 321-3774**  
**(780) 321-3775**  
**(780) 321-3842**

**Fax:**  
**(780) 321-3886**

April 5, 2018

**VIA EMAIL – [emmaline.english@canada.ca](mailto:emmaline.english@canada.ca)**

The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.  
Office of the Minister of  
Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs  
10 Wellington Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 2100  
Gatineau, Quebec

Dear Honourable Dr. Bennett:

**Re: Agricultural Benefits - Claim**

I write to you on behalf of Dene Tha' First Nation. It was an honour to meet with you along with other Treaty 8 Chiefs on March 16, 2018 at the Marriott at River Cree Resort Hotel. And thank you for allowing a brief meeting with me and my fellow council members Andrea Godin, and Charlie Chambaud to make our request for early resolution of our claim.

As I stated at our brief meeting, our Treaty 8 Agricultural Benefits Specific Claim was duly filed with the Specific Claims Branch on our behalf by the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP on March 30, 2017. The claim was accepted as meeting the minimum standard on September 6, 2017. It has now been seven months since the claim was accepted, and we are anxious to know its status and to proceed to the negotiation stage of the Specific Claims process. I also want to extend the concerns of our Nation Elders, i.e. they would like it very much to have the opportunity to be able to enjoy receiving the benefits while they are well enough to enjoy it.

Other Treaty 8 First Nations have filed similar claims with the Specific Claims Branch and several of these Nations have reached successful settlements of these claims. Dene Tha' First Nation's claim is no different than these claims. We therefore hope to take advantage of the experience and knowledge Canada has gained in negotiating these types of claims to ensure the swift and early resolution of the claim.

Given the nature of our claim and your office's familiarity with Treaty 8 Agricultural Benefits claims, we ask for an early acceptance of the claim for negotiation so that we may proceed with the next stage of the process. This outstanding obligation has been owed to Dene Tha' by Canada since at least 1917, and we look forward to the successful resolution of the claim.

I would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss the claim in more detail with you in order to move the claim toward the successful negotiation and resolution of this outstanding promise.

Yours truly,

PER; DENE THA' FIRST NATION



Chief James Ahnassay, CET  
Dene Tha' First Nation

Enclosure

cc: DTFN Council Members  
Jim Sisson, Regional Director General, DISC Alberta Region