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September 10, 2018

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Justice Building, Room 106
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bennett:

Re: Dene Tha' First Nation's Treaty 8 Agricultural Benefits Specific Claim

This is a follow up to my letter dated April 5, 2018. As in my earlier letter to you, Dene Tha' First Nation is asking again for Canada to expedite the review of our Treaty No. 8 Agricultural Benefits Claim, which was accepted by your Ministry on September 6, 2017 as meeting the minimum requirements. Since Canada has confirmed that our Claim has been formally filed with you, I wish to point out and emphasize that our Nation has the same entitlement to Agricultural Benefits as the approximately 20 other Treaty 8 First Nations with whom you recently settled this Claim, and so the processing of our Claim should be a simple and quick matter.

Given that the historical circumstances and legal issues are substantially the same for all Treaty No. 8 Agricultural Benefits Claims, there is simply no need to re-do the legal and confirming research work that has already been done.

With respect, I submit that, under these circumstances, for Canada to take the full three years allowed to it under the *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* would be difficult to understand as anything other than opportunistic behaviour clearly incompatible with the honour of

the Crown. Our Nation has been greatly comforted by your government's commitment to reconciliation, and so we feel we can count on you to direct your officials to avoid creating the perception of opportunistic conduct, and to expedite the processing of our Claim.

Thank you for your consideration of my concern, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Ahnassay', with a small dot at the end of the final stroke.

Chief James Ahnassay

CC: Dene Tha' First Nation Council
Darlene Hookanooza, Executive Director of Operations, DTFN
Peter Havlik, Havlik Consulting Group
Natalie Neville, Acting Director General, Specific Claims Branch, CIRNAC