

TO: Honourable Hugh Faulkner
Minister
Department of Indian Affairs & Northern Development
Ottawa

Dear Minister:

Yesterday, I visited the Tobique Indian Reservation in New Brunswick in order to have a first hand look at the problem existing on that Reservation with respect to married women who, without a certificate of possession, have been forced to leave their homes due to family difficulties and who presently are staying at the Band Hall Building in protest over their lot and the unfair treatment which is afforded to Native women by the Indian Act.

I view with alarm the danger which now exists for the health and safety of these women given the rapidly approaching cold season. We ask that you instruct officials of your Department to make a personal visit to the Tobique Reservation, at which time the grounds for our concern and alarm will be verified, and also they might be able to attempt a conciliation of some of the immediate issues involved. The New Brunswick Human Rights Commission is ready to assist your Department in resolving both the immediate problem as well as the long-range human rights issues that relate to this matter.

Signed: Dr. Noel A. Kinsella
Chairman
New Brunswick Human Rights Commission
Province of New Brunswick
Fredericton, N. B.

(2)

October 19, 1977



Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0H4

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Dr. Noel A. Kinsella,
Chairman,
New Brunswick Human Rights Commission,
Province of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Dear Dr. Kinsella:

This is in reply to your telex message of October 19, concerning the situation facing certain Indian women of the Tobique Reserve.

I can assure you that I am well aware of the gravity of this social problem, and I have asked my Regional and District officers to do all they can to help resolve it.

With the co-operation of all concerned, I hope that a solution will be found in the near future.

(3)

Yours sincerely,

J. Hugh Faulkner.

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COMMISSION