



DA'NAXDA'XW/AWAETLALA NATION
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August 2, 2019

TO: DA'NAXDA'XW/AWAETLALA FIRST NATION MEMBERSHIP
FROM: THE HEREDITARY CHIEFS COUNCIL
DATE: August 2, 2019

We are writing to you to inform you of recent events that have impacted the governance of our Nation. As you may recall the members were asked in a survey in 2017 about what kind of leadership you wanted. Members responded overwhelmingly that they preferred to be represented by a Hereditary Chiefs Council. Gordon Glendale agreed to the formation of the Hereditary Chiefs Council when he negotiated a settlement to a court case that challenged the legitimacy of the Chief and Council that controlled our Nation for more than 30 years.

The Hereditary Chiefs Council (HCC) was formed as a result of your wishes and was confirmed by the Federal Court of Canada on May 27, 2017 in a consent order. That is, both sides of the litigation agreed to settle the matter through the formation of the HCC that had the job of developing a governance code to present to you, the members. On August 1, 2017 the HCC became the legally recognized Council of the Nation under the *Indian Act*. Not decided by the *Indian Act*. Recognized as the government of the Nation that makes decisions and manages the Nations assets, companies, money and programs funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). We are attaching a letter from ISC that confirms who they recognize as our government.

Over the last two years the Chiefs met frequently and tried to start the process of developing a Code, it never went anywhere. Gordon Glendale continued to control the staff and the resources and refused to advance the Code. Other issues were discussed, such as the agreed opposition to the fish farms and concern for wildlife viewing and other resources in our traditional territory.

We repeatedly asked for information about the various business interests, companies and accounts that the Nation holds in trust for the membership, nothing was shared with us by those who controlled it: Gordon Glendale and members of his family on staff.

Recently Molly Dawson resigned as Band Administrator and Ruby Mannila was appointed as the Interim Band Administrator. Upon taking the position she noticed irregularities in the way the Nation's administration had been managed. Upon further investigation there were several items of concern that she brought to the attention of the Chiefs, ISC and our insurance providers.

We have attempted to be as respectful as we can in dealing with the suspicions and allegations that have been raised because they are serious and warrant a complete and through investigation. It would be our preference to manage this investigation internally and not air our business.

So that is what we are doing: undertaking an investigation into the financial management and state of our Nation. Since it is our responsibility to ensure all of the Nation's programs, services and other activities are carried out in an accountable and transparent manner, we have passed a resolution to order a forensic audit of all Da'naxda'xw-Awaetlala First Nation administrative records and accounts to clarify these matters. The HCC also has a duty to protect the assets that belong to all of us and we are doing just that.

Once the audits have been complete, we will report the results of the audit and investigation to the members. While the investigation is ongoing Gordon Glendale will not be a member of the HCC. If his family wants him to remain their Chief, that is the business of the Glendale family.

We want to assure you that our intentions are to fulfill our duties and obligations to our members in a fiscally responsible way and ensure that our Nation can continue to move forward and thrive into the future. We will be continuing our commitment to draft a governance code for OUR Nation, however, this is not an immediate priority as we have other more serious issues to deal with right now, so your patience and understanding is appreciated, this Council is committed to get our governance code developed.

In the meantime, the HCC has confirmed the hiring of Ruby Mannila as Band Administrator. Ms. Mannila will receive ongoing guidance, direction and support from the HCC. Because all matters relating to employment are of a confidential nature, they will be addressed directly between the HCC and the Nation's employees.

We commit to provide reports on a monthly basis, to update you on the forensic audit and investigation.

If you have any questions, you may contact us by email mannila@shaw.ca

Gilakasla,

Chief Norman Glendale

Chief Billy Peters

Chief Robert Duncan