



# KAINAI COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SOCIETY

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February 17, 2010

Mr. Brad Pickering  
Deputy Solicitor General  
and Deputy Minister of Public Security  
9<sup>th</sup> floor, John E. Brownlee Building  
10365-97 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3W7

Dear Mr. Pickering:

On February 9, 2010 the Board of Directors for Kainai Community Corrections Society (KCCS) were given the announcement by Alberta Government representatives of their decision not to renew the contract for the minimum security Correctional Facility, the Elders Program and the Crime Prevention Program, all segments of Kainai Community Corrections Society. The contract would expire March 31, 2010. They indicated that their decision was based solely on the low number of inmates being supervised and not on the performance of the employees.

The Kainai Correctional Centre is a twenty four bed facility and has been averaging fourteen to sixteen inmates in recent years. This problem of not having sufficient inmates has been addressed on a number of occasions, not only by the board but also by KCCS management. The manager of the Kainai Correctional Centre, Robert Wells and the director of Kainai Community Corrections, Rick Soup, have made a concerted effort over the years to create an awareness to Correctional Centres in Alberta of our need for more inmates. The response to their efforts has been mixed or inconsistent. As an example, one center offered eight minimum security inmates to our center but because we don't admit inmates directly, these inmates have to go through the Lethbridge Correctional Centre. The Kainai Correctional Centre anticipated eight inmates after the admitting process was complete, however, six of these inmates were reclassified to medium security and so the result was that we received only two of the intended eight. There are other examples of lack of cooperation mainly from the Lethbridge Correctional Centre.

There is a realization that the decision made is influenced by economics. We recognize the role that the Alberta Government has in stabilizing the economy but this decision is not consistent with that goal. With the contract not being renewed, there will be twenty nine people that will possibly be unemployed. This will have a great effect on an already depressed economy on the Blood Reserve where there is a high unemployment rate. In addition to this, the employees would be paid the same whether there is twenty four or fifteen inmates. The benefits of maintaining the respective programs in question outweigh any economic benefit.

There is another point of consideration that has been directed to the attention of government officials in the past and that has perhaps not been considered in the decision making process. It

has been noted by various Inquiries and Reports that native people that become involved with the judicial system be supervised by native people and that rehabilitation programs be administered by native people. The recommendations of those Inquiries and Reports have been implemented by KCCS. and they are working. We have many success stories. There have been many clients that have gone to lead productive, successful and exemplary lives. This is because the employees are not only aware but are also sensitive to the needs and concerns of our native clients. There is even at present, public outcry at the lack of programs and services being directed towards native people. KCCS. contributes not only to the stability of the community but also provides a valuable service.

In considering these factors, it is then with logic and sound reasoning that we request you to rescind your decision of not renewing the contract for the Kainai Correctional Center, the Elders Program and the Kainai Crime Prevention Program. We await your response to this letter.

Respectfully,

Bert Tallman  
Chairman  
Kainai Community Corrections Society  
Board of Directors

cc: Frank Oberle  
Minister of Solicitor General  
and Public Security  
cc: Chief Charles Weasel Head  
Blood Tribe  
cc: Greg Weadick  
MLA for Lethbridge-West  
cc: Evan Berger  
MLA for Livingstone-Macleod  
cc: Bridget A. Pastoor  
MLA for Lethbridge-East  
cc: Martin Arcand  
Chairman – Yellowhead Corrections  
cc: Jeanette Many Guns  
Chairman – Siksika Justice  
cc: Ben Black Plume  
Chairman – Tsuu T'ina/Stoney Correctons