

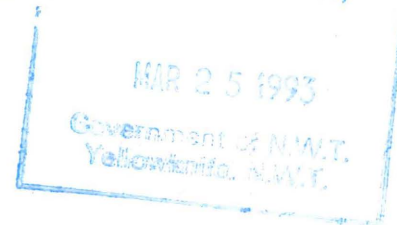


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Regional Vice President
Union of Northern Workers
Fort Smith Regional Office
Box 1500
Fort Smith, N.W.T. X0E 0F
Phone & Fax: (403) 872-366

Mr. Steven Kakfwi
Minister of Justice
Dept. of Justice
GNWT
Box 1320
Yellowknife
NWT

24th March 1993



Re: Your Comments In The House - River Ridge Issue.

Dear Mr. Kakfwi,

I write to you with regard to specific comments you made in the Legislative Assembly, in answer to Ms. Jeanie Marie Jewell's questions.

On page 2937 of Hansard, under "Further Return To Question 554-12(3)" Your statement reads that you had sent the Deputy Minister, plus the staff from Corrections Division to Fort Smith to meet with the Union and staff to review plans etc.

As the Regional Vice President of the Union of Northern Workers, I would like to advise you that the Union was not informed of the pending arrival of your Deputy Minister. The Union was not informed of any intention (on the Deputy Ministers' part) to meet with the Union to discuss this issue.

In fact, I was requested to attend a staff meeting at River Ridge on Monday 22nd March. The Deputy Minister would be present at this meeting. However, my request to attend came from River Ridge employees; not from your officials. Which would tend to suggest that meeting with the Union was not very high on the Deputy Ministers' list of priorities.

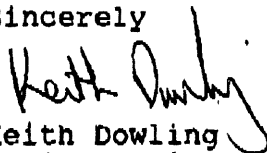
I did have the opportunity to speak with Mr. Bickert. But only because I took it upon myself to attend an open house, that River Ridge was having on that day.

As to your further comments, that everyone except the Union is in agreement with regard to this issue: As I am sure you are now aware

this is not the case. The Metis Nation has sent a written communication to Mrs. Marie-Jewell clearly communicating their concern. Mr. Kakfwi, I believe you are also in receipt of a letter from Fort Smith Mayor Dennis Bevington, voicing the town Councils' concerns. River Ridge employees are not happy now, or before Mr. Bickerts' visit to River Ridge. And lastly the Union is concerned.

Therefore I would suggest that your statement that "as far as you know everyone is in agreement, except for the Union" is completely inaccurate. As I believe you knew it was at the time you made the remarks.

Sincerely



Keith Dowling
Regional Vice President

cc. Darm Crook, President UNW
Geoff Bickert
Jeanie Marie-Jewell
Tina McNeill, Shop Steward
Dennis Bevington, Mayor