

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 124 - 22 [3] TABLED ON MAR 29 1993

**FORT SMITH NATIVE BAND**

P.O. BOX 960

FORT SMITH, N.W.T. XOE OPO

PHONE (403) 872-2986 or (403) 872-3414



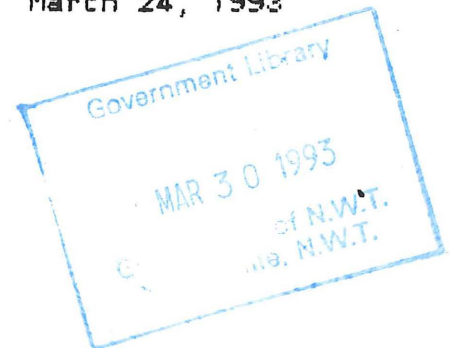
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March 24, 1993

Department of Justice  
 Honourable Stephen Kakfwi  
 Minister of Justice  
 P.O. Box 1320  
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
 X1A 2L9



Dear Sir:

This letter is to address the River Ridge Secure facility in our community. Firstly, I must admit I am disappointed to hear that internal Government bureaucrats have determined to change the facility to an "open custody" facility. The fact that our community was not consulted in determining the fate of the facility and the Band cannot see any logic at all to redesign the facility's purpose and structure. As far as the Band is concerned we have no problems with the River Ridge Facility. I would request that proper community consultation occur before any proposal is put forth by Government Bureaucrats.

The community should be the main factor of determining the fate of the facility for it has been this community that has hosted this facility which has become a part of the community's social fabric.

I would strongly urge the department to seriously consider the community's concerns before anything changes at the River Ridge Secure Facility is made.

For any concerns please feel free to contact me at 872-2985.

Masi Cho,

Per Chief Jerry Paulette  
 and Council

The logo legend incorporates two arrows to represent the Cree and Chipewyan tribes with the elements of the drum design representing the sun, fire representing the eternal flame and the water design on the tent represents the rapids of the Slave River. The teepee represents the settlement of Fort Smith. The bottom date (1899) represents the signing of Treaty 8, while 1884 records the year the logo was put into use. The diagonal staff represents the 60th parallel. The double pointed arrow shows the joining of the native people in the community. The lightning bolt represents the power to vote, while the bow and arrow represent hunting and native rights.

