

February 21, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Prior to Sliammon entering into the treaty process, the Sliammon members were not fully informed about the pros and cons of whether or not we should enter into the treaty process. The people were called to a meeting and asked to decide. They were not given time to absorb and understand the information they were provided, especially the Sliammon Elders. Many Sliammon members did not attend these meetings.

The Sliammon community has never been informed about salaries and wages or contracts of our Sliammon Treaty Society negotiators. Are the negotiators on salaries and benefits on par with the rest of the community, or are they contracted workers?

The information was provided only to the community members who were in support of the process.

The selection of the Sliammon Treaty Society negotiators is based on conflict.

For example, the late Norman Gallagher, Sliammon Councillor and Sliammon Treaty Society employee appoints his son Joe Gallagher, to be a Sliammon Treaty Society negotiator. When Denise Smith was voted in Chief for Sliammon Nation, she was then appointed Chief Negotiator for Sliammon Treaty Society. Was there ever a BCR signed by Sliammon Chief and Council at duly convened meeting for the above mentioned?

Where and when did the Sliammon community appoint Roy Francis as a Sliammon Treaty negotiator? Roy Francis does not have any training in negotiation. Again, we question if Roy Francis obtained his position through a Band Council Resolution?

The Sliammon negotiation team members are very closely related, brother and sister, and first cousins. The Sliammon Treaty Society working groups are made up of Sliammon community members appointed by Sliammon Chief and Council. The appointed members are all from the same family; a grandmother, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and niece. There is no representation from other families within the Sliammon community.

The Sliammon Treaty Society has never invited a guest speaker that was against the treaty process. The Sliammon community did not fully understand the issues that they were voting on, as they were never presented with the pros and cons on a yes or no vote.

The Sliammon Agreement in Principle was voted down in 2001. The Chief Negotiators instructed the Sliammon negotiators to continue to work to make changes to the voted down package, and there was no referendum to continue negotiations on behalf of the community.

It was around this time several different Sliammon Elders formed a combined anti-treaty group. At this time they began to write letters to members of Parliament such as John Reynolds, BC Treaty Commissioner Lloyd Roberts. The Sliammon Elders anti-treaty group wrote a nine page letter dated February 10, 2003 regarding a request for recognition as a separate nation and not

to be considered as part of the Sliammon Indian Band. The request for recognition was never acknowledged.

Our group went so far as to blockade the Sliammon Salish Center on June 12, 2012 in order to stop the Sliammon Treaty Society vote.

Three Sliammon Elders attended a duly convened Sliammon Chief and Council meeting on June 16, 2012 in regards to serious concerns about the entire treaty process.

The Sliammon Elders anti –treaty group filed a Supreme Court action against the Sliammon Treaty Society. The anti-treaty group provided proof of fraud where names of deceased people were used to win the vote. Judge Savage ruled in our favour that treaty should not continue until the above-noted issues were addressed. **Again**, Sliammon Treaty continued to negotiate even though these issues were not addressed.

A court injunction was initiated on June 22, 2012 against the Sliammon Elders anti-treaty group by Sliammon Chief Clint Williams, on behalf of himself and the Sliammon Indian Band to have the Elders removed from their own traditional land. A Band Council Resolution was issued on June 18, 2012 which ordered the blockaders be removed by the RCMP. This Band Council Resolution was invalid as it contained only 3 signatures out of 10. For a Band Council Resolution to be valid, it requires a majority vote and signature. The signatories on this BCR are Chief Clint William's, Councillors Denise Smith and Eugene Louie.

Our Elders wrote a letter dated August 9, 2013 to Honourable Robert Nicholson, Attorney General of Canada, and Honourable James Flaherty, at Parliament Hill in Ottawa. To our dismay the Honourable James Flaherty passed away. The Parliament Hill flag was at half mast and no business was to take place, out of respect to James Flaherty. Why were the Sliammon Treaty negotiators taken in to a small room for signing of the Final Agreement for Sliammon?

Other letters have been written by Sliammon Elders requesting an audit of our Sliammon Indian Band and Sliammon Treaty Society.

The Sliammon Elders anti-treaty group have a treaty petition of 223 people plus 18 off reserve Sliammon Band members, who vote no to the Sliammon Treaty.

In six weeks the Sliammon Treaty will be implemented under self government.

Considering the current publicity of the First Nations Health Authority where the CEO, Joe Gallagher, who was once the Chief Negotiator of the Sliammon Treaty Society, is being investigated for unethical practices and favouritism, especially towards women. To our dismay, twenty plus years later, unqualified people have been making huge decisions on our behalf which will affect our people for many generations to come.

Furthermore, our Tla'Amin Health should also be investigated, because the same nepotism and favouritism and conflict of interest is happening in our Tla'Amin Health society. The same family is linked to the First Nations Health Authority.

We are requesting that an audit and investigation be started for the Sliammon Indian Band and the Sliammon Treaty Society, which will show all and more of what is stated in this letter.

We, as Elders of the Sliammon First Nation, feel our rights and our resources were not negotiated in our best interests.

In view of what we are of what was happening, why was there never been an investigation of the Sliammon Band and Sliammon Treaty Society? With all letters written to MLA's, Members of Parliament, Grand Chiefs Phil Fontaine and Shawn Atleo, we have never ever received a written response to our serious concerns.

Our articles can be viewed on the Warriors Publications titled /2012/06/sliammon-anti-treaty-blockade. You can also go Windspeaker for more reading.

Requesting your immediate attention and a written response addressed to the following email address: robertelizabethblaney@gmail.com., and to doreenpoint@shaw.ca.

We, the above-mentioned, request that our names not be revealed to protect the people who support us and are on Social Assistance and in working positions within the Sliammon community.

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