



Dear Michel First Nation (MFN) Members, Dated April 15, 2018.

This is a very exciting time for us, as Indian Affairs is talking with us to have exploratory discussions regarding the formation of a formal negotiating table aimed at addressing Michel First Nation's claims arising from the enfranchisement of Michel First Nation and descendants; and the development and adoption of a new membership/citizenship code by the Michel First Nation that would include all people who are rightfully members of Michel First Nation, regardless of whether they have status under the Indian Act.

It is also the most frustrating time for Chief and Council, under attack from a few members including two members of the new and self-appointed Descendants of Michel First Nation Association, Brandy Callihoo and Joe Avery; the former Chief Rosalind Callihoo; and former Councillor Beverley Asmann, and Linda Asmann Buffalo. There has been a lot of negative remarks, allegations and demands made by these 5 members recently. It only takes one quick Facebook post or email from these individuals to do damage to the whole Michel First Nation by spreading rumours and accusations. Then because Chief and Council do not respond or act as these few members demand, they continue posting and commenting on Facebook and Callihoo Corner. These five cause us to use our volunteered time to investigate and respond to their accusations, instead of working together united, with Indian Affairs.

Chief and Council, elected at the Annual General Meeting, represent ALL Michel First Nation. As a collective, we meet and discuss business including the negative correspondence and respond as Chief and Council. This letter is to inform our whole membership as to what has been happening, sticking to facts and starting from the beginning.

Bill C-31 gave Indian status to some of or most of our enfranchised members. Letters from INAC recommended those placed on the Alberta General List, to contact Gilbert Anderson for more information on Michel. Chief Anderson was our longest running Chief to date.

In 1991 the Friends of Michel Society was formed by Chief and Council at the request of INAC, so that we could receive limited funding for meetings, membership and mailouts. The Friends of Michel Society membership consists of the Chief and Council of the Michel Band #132, as elected from time to time. This #132 is the extinct Indian Reserve number: Michel Indian Reserve #132. The original Band number is #472.

Chief and council are voted in by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) every 3 years and 2018 is an election year. Currently voting members consist of those with an Indian Status card. The card is marked "Certificate of Indian Status" and states the holder is an Indian within the meaning of the Indian Act. Associate members attend the AGM and vocally engage Chief and Council every year. MFN has a motion from an AGM to only include Status Indian members UNTIL funding is available and we are recognized as a band by INAC. This was because funding stopped from INAC as we were in litigation.

The recent and self-appointed Descendants of Michel First Nation Association claim to represent 2000 members, but only have contact information for about 200. An original founder, Dean Lindsay, has already been removed. The Descendants of Michel First Nation Association was registered as an Alberta Society on May 8, 2017.

The newly formed Michel First Nation Corp. is a named Alberta Corporation and was registered Oct.2, 2017. On Oct.24, 2017 a Dissolution was registered with the Reason for Dissolution: 1 DIRECTOR SIGNED WITHOUT OTHERS AGREED. An Initial Revival of Alberta Corporation and Complete Revival of Alberta Corporation were filed Oct.25, 2017 with the Reason for Revival: **STILL PLANNING TO OPERATE AS AN ADVOCACY GROUP**, with Directors listed as Kimberly Beaudin, Catherine Margaret Beaudin, and Ashlyne Lee Hunt, Kim Beaudin's daughter. A Change Director/Shareholder and Change Address were both filed Nov.2, 2017.

At a Special Meeting arranged by Chief and Council with the Descendants of the Michel First Nation Association and Michel First Nation Corp. held Jan. 17, 2018, Ashlyne Hunt (formerly known as Shantell Scragg), a Director of Michel First Nation Corp., insisted their group is not a political operation and had no political aspirations. She claimed to represent 900-1000 people. At the Jan.17, 2018 meeting, when asked for clarity on the relationship between Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and Michel First Nation Corp., Ashlyne spoke at length about how CAP is NOT affiliated with Michel First Nation Corp., and CAP and Kim Beaudin are offering advocacy. Then in a March 4, 2018 letter, they provided conflicting information that they represent members and descendants of the original Michel Indian Band. Under the heading "Official Spokesperson(s) for Michel Peoples" it stated that "Mr. Kim Beaudin and Ashlyne Hunt take interest in the negotiation process and will take further action to solidify our claim in the negotiating process."

To be clear, Michel First Nation via Chief and Council, has NOT agreed that either Mr. Beaudin or Ms. Hunt are "Official Spokespersons" for Michel First Nation members. We are still reaching out to clarify how we can work together.

At a March 2017 meeting between the Descendants of Michel First Nation Association and Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the applications and genealogy charts were retained by CAP and not shared with the Descendants of Michel First Nation Association.

A previous AGM resolution was passed that Membership wanted no involvement with CAP. But CAP is still involved, with Kim Beaudin, the National Vice-Chief of CAP, being a Director of the Michel First Nation Corp. **This resolution has not been honoured.**

This 2017 AGM resolution was passed: Be it resolved that no discussion with media or government bodies shall be conducted without the approval and consent of the Michel First Nation elected Chief and Council. **This resolution has not been honoured.**

Individual members, Linda Asmann Buffalo and Beverley Asmann, granddaughters of Louise Callihoo who was one of the original four Michel First Nation members first placed on the Alberta General List, have retained legal counsel as they are concerned that MFN initiating negotiations with Canada may prejudice or otherwise affect their claims, and informed Canada that MFN "do not formally represent or legitimize the entirety of the Michel Band."

Just because new groups popped up this last year at the hint of INAC negotiations and possibly funding, *doesn't establish credibility*. Michel First Nation has had annual general meetings with membership and Chief and Council elections by membership for 30 years.

Chief and Council have been trying to unite the three groups into one voice to work together in our discussions with INAC, but our efforts have been unsuccessful. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Descendants of Michel First Nation Association, but they have withdrawn their support. We also tried to sign an MOU with the Michel First Nation Corp. but they say one thing and then do another. It is very frustrating.

The latest demands by Brandy Callihoo and Rosalind Callihoo call for the elected Chief and Council to resign immediately and call for a new election. Why? Because they are under the FALSE belief that two elected councillors, Celina and Jessie Loyer, are illegal. This is because at a sacred sharing circle, Celina shared that her Indian Status Certificate has the number 435 instead of 838. Just because their Indian Status Number begins with 435 does NOT mean they are Blood Band Members. Celina's Mother, the late Kathleen Steinhauer, was divorced from a Blood Band Member and placed on the Blood Indian Register when her Indian Status was reissued because that was where she was when she lost Indian Status upon marriage to Gilbert Anderson. **That is INAC policy.** It is STILL their policy, and they will not move anyone without a BCR from a recognized Band, which Michel is not. Celina and Jessie have **NEVER** been Blood Band Members and have NEVER applied for Blood Band Membership NOR TO ANY OTHER BAND including Kathleen's band at birth, Saddle Lake. Celina and Jessie have only ever been Michel First Nation members; Celina since receiving Indian Status in the late 1980's, and Jessie since she became an adult. They are registered on the Michel First Nation listing. The Elders know who they are and so does Chief and Council.

Indian **Status** and Indian **Band Membership** are two **SEPARATE** things. Band Membership is either controlled by Bands or controlled by INAC and may even include members without any Indian Status. Indian Status is ONLY controlled by INAC.

Your current Chief and Councillors were all elected at an AGM by members. Let due process occur with membership voting for Chief and Council at the next AGM later this year.

Here is another option to descendants of Michel First Nation who may now choose to **NO LONGER** be represented by the Descendants of Michel First Nation Association. We have always maintained an Associate Members List for our non-status descendants who want to be represented by Chief and Council. We will add non-status members to it and include you in all mailouts and correspondence. You may contact Councillor Roy Goerz at roygoerz54@gmail.com with your information, including the Michel First Nation member you are descended from. You may be asked for further genealogy information to help us to connect you.

If you have applied for membership with the Descendants of Michel First Nation Association OR Michel First Nation Corp. OR the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, and NO longer want them to represent you, please ask to be removed from their list with a copy to Chief and Council via Councillor Roy Goerz, and request that your documents be returned. We will gladly add you or confirm your registration with Michel First Nation.

To ALL of our members – if you have provided personal information such as Birth Certificates, please ensure your information is protected. Identity theft is a real threat.

Please note that our current funding has **ALL** been accessed through Aboriginal Consultation found by Tracy Campbell, currently with MNP, and the original founder of The Calliou Group. We are very thankful for the expertise that Tracy has provided to Michel First Nation. Tracy is also a non-status descendant of Michel and Madeline Calliou's daughter. Our current legal representative is Jeff Langlois with JFK Law Corporation.

Your Chief and Council have been in contact with INAC and are currently awaiting for them to set up a conference call to discuss where we are at in coming together and speak as one group. Right now we are very fractured. We must put our differences aside and strive to work for the descendants, status and non status, Of Michel First Nation. INAC's biggest concern is our inability to bring ourselves together to accomplish this. If we cannot make this happen it is very likely they will quit putting resources in dealing with Michel and walk away before we even get to an exploratory table.

This letter will also be mailed out to our membership to ensure those without internet receive this important newsletter. If you have changed your address or phone number, please send your new changes to Councillor Roy Goerz at the email provided above.

Respectfully

From your elected Chief and Council