

McLeod Lake



Indian Band

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February 9, 2023

Prince George District Teachers Association
1968 Queensway
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VIA EMAIL: dbeauregard@sd57.bc.ca

Attention: Mr. Daryl Beauregard, President

RE: School District Board Meeting of December 13, 2022 and January 21, 2023

As Chief of the McLeod Lake Indian Band, I was very disheartened by comments you made to Chair, Rachael Weber, of School District 57, on December 13, 2022 after she read the Elders' prayer created by the Elders of McLeod Lake Indian Band. Mrs. Weber's intention was to open the first Board meeting of the year in Truth and Reconciliation through a prayer that was thoughtfully created by members of our own and to recognize the Nations in a respectful way.

Your letter of January 13, 2023, after the prayer was read and noted that the prayer was written by the Elders of the McLeod Lake Indian Band, stated that "opening the meeting with a Christian prayer undermined inclusiveness and respect for diversity and reconciliation".

The McLeod Lake Indian Band took offense to this statement as this was not at all what Mrs. Weber was doing. Her intentions were honest and transparent and she was, in fact, respecting the Nations by including everyone into this prayer and opening this Board meeting in this manner.

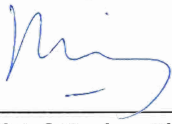
Again, you took this further and brought this letter to the public Board meeting and read it aloud. Mrs. Weber made it clear to you that your facts were incorrect on your stance with the prayer being a "Christian" prayer. This was, in fact, a prayer created by the Elders of the McLeod Lake Indian Band. When Mrs. Weber was done commenting and wanted to move on with the meeting, you yelled out "this is undemocratic". We were appalled with the way you disrespected the Chair and our Nation.

Your letter sent February 9, 2023 to the media again, stated that the Chairs' comments were "unbecoming of a Board Chair". We do not agree with this statement. In fact, Mrs. Weber was doing her job and correcting information that was spoken by you.

Mrs. Weber has worked for the McLeod Lake Indian Band for over 4 years now and has always represented us in a respectful and compassionate way. She always places people first, no matter their race, religion or political stance. We stand behind Mrs. Weber's comments and believe that she was simply thanking a presenter and that she would never disrespect any group, like the LGBTQ or other groups because she works with all people from all backgrounds and sexual orientations. Mrs. Weber cares for all people of all backgrounds.

We hope that moving forward, you will respect the Nations and learn from the people that work with us. We hope that you will have an open mind to listen and not jump to the media to sensationalize a story that simply is not what you think it is. There was no intent to hurt any political body or group.

Sincerely,



Chief Harley Chingee

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