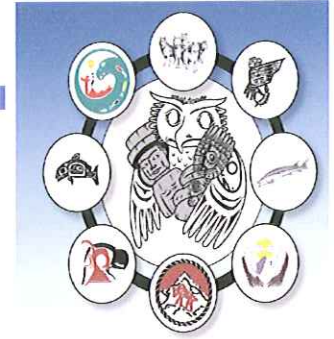


STÓ:LŌ TRIBAL COUNCIL

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Xeytl' sqe'qo'qetset kw'es xyolhmet ta wayeles

Let's work together to make a better tomorrow



April 21, 2009

Paul Sprout
Regional Director General, Pacific
Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Suite 200-401 Burrard Street Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 3S4

Dear Paul Sprout:

Re: Preferential Treatment for Client Group of former Area Manager

I am concerned that DFO is extending preferential treatment to a client group of a former Lower Fraser Area Manager. Here I speak of Mr. Jim Wild

It seems Mr. Wild is retained by the Stó:lō Nation Society to give them advice on fisheries programming and how best to seek funds from the DFO. I thought there were rules governing former senior DFO employees taking contracts or work from communities or organizations served by the DFO. Our community is deeply concerned and troubled that DFO employees who were once supervised by Mr. Wild are especially attentive to the Stó:lō Nation Society and half-hearted in their dealings with the Stó:lō Tribal Council. Efforts on the part of the Stó:lō Tribal Council to engage Lower Fraser DFO staff is often rebuffed, shunted aside or completely ignored. Yet we hear that the DFO Lower Fraser employees hold regular meetings with Mr. Wild and his client group, the Stó:lō Nation Society.

I am no longer prepared to either tolerate or remain silent about the apparent inability of the DFO to carry-out its public service duties in an unbiased manner. Rules governing potential conflict of interest for former senior DFO managers are undoubtedly in place for good reason. I urge you to take a close look at the situation in your Lower Fraser operation with a view to eliminating biased conduct by DFO employees and ensuring that former senior employees of DFO are prevented from unduly influencing DFO employees to win preferential consideration for their clients.

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Paul Spout
April 21, 2009
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I hope that you will act immediately on my concerns. It is important that problems in your Lower Fraser Area operation are rectified as soon as possible.

I await your prompt reply.

Yours truly,

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Tyrone McNeil
Vice-President