



Ref. 35057

SEP 05 2014

Chief Charlene Belleau  
Esk'eteme First Nation  
PO Box 157  
Alkali Lake BC V0L 1B0

Dear Chief Belleau:

Thank you very much for your contributions to the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women since its inception in 2011. I regret that you have decided to resign but appreciate that you need to focus on your community.

I am pleased with the accomplishments of the council to date, particularly the recent signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Province and Aboriginal leadership. I appreciate your wisdom and guidance in creating such a solid foundation that will better allow us to collectively work together to improve the lives of Aboriginal women and girls.

I hope that you enjoy the beautiful scarf by artist Dorothy Grant and accept the framed MOU as a symbol of my appreciation for your work on the council.

I am still eager to come to your community, and I look forward to an opportunity for us to work together in the future.

Sincerely,

John Rustad  
Minister

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS  
AND RECONCILIATION  
BRIEFING NOTE

File: 280-20

Date: July 17, 2014  
Ref. No. 34875

- I Prepared for the **DECISION** of Honourable John Rustad, Minister
- II **ISSUE:** Charlene Belleau has resigned as a member of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women -- an appointment is required

III **BACKGROUND:**

CN/ED	✓
ADM	✓
DM	✓

On July 11, 2014 Charlene Belleau sent an email to Chastity Davis, Co-Chair of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women (MACAW) resigning from the council. Ms. Belleau cited her responsibilities as recently elected Chief of Esk'eteme as preventing her from giving the council the attention it requires.

Ms. Belleau recommended that "MACAW look at young, energetic Indigenous women like Coola Louis, UBCIC representative of MMW (murdered and missing women) to replace me, she has a lot to contribute."

IV **DISCUSSION:**

*Cross-reference briefing note 34762 (Appendix 2) for history and recent decision on appointments.*

Minister Rustad recently provided direction to appoint Chastity Davis as Chair and Barb Ward-Burkitt as new council member of MACAW using the original selection criteria and utilizing the Board Resourcing and Development Office to complete reference checks. The appointments will be made through a Ministerial Letter.

It is logical to proceed as above for the position available due to Charlene Belleau's resignation.

Selection of a candidate is required. Attached is a list of potential MACAW appointees.

s.13,s.16

V **OPTIONS:**

See Appendix 1 for candidate options.

VI RECOMMENDATION:

Minister Rustad provide staff with his preferred candidate.

Honourable John Rustad, Minister  
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Date

Approved/Not Approved

Appendix (2):  
Potential Candidates (1)  
Briefing Note 34789 (2)

Jan Gottfred, Director, 250 356-5223,  
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macaw appointment.docx

Minister did  
not sign,  
but he  
approved

Appendix 1 - Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women: Potential Council Members  
July 15, 2014 (Updated)

Potential Council Member	Area of expertise	Region / Representation
s.13,s.16,s.22		

Appendix 1 - Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women: Potential Council Members  
July 15, 2014 (Updated)

s.13,s.16,s.22

Dr. Lorna Williams	Dr. Lorna Williams, Lil'wat is the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning, an Assistant Professor in Aboriginal Education and Linguistics, and former Program Director of Aboriginal Education at the University of Victoria. Lorna was Director of the Aboriginal Education Enhancements Branch of the Ministry of Education for three years, Native education consultant with the Vancouver School Board and Director of Lil'wat language and culture for Ts'zil Board of Education. She is an author and film maker of education materials, and also the Chair of the Board of Directors, First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council.	Lil'wat First Nation. Languages/Culture. Lives in Victoria – urban.
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Page 06 to/à Page 13

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16;s.22;s.13

<p><b>Barb Ward-Burkitt</b></p>	<p>2010 Recipient Order of British Columbia: has committed almost 40 years to the Aboriginal Friendship Centre movement in B.C., at the local and provincial levels, advancing many issues that impact urban Aboriginal families. A proud Cree woman from Fort McKay First Nation in northern Alberta, but has lived in B.C. since she was a small child.</p> <p>Mrs. Ward-Burkitt's tireless efforts to find long term solutions to homelessness have led to the development of an Aboriginal women's housing program and Friendship Lodge which has 30 units of supported housing to address the needs of adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to mental illnesses, physical disabilities or drug and alcohol addictions in Prince George.</p> <p>As Executive Director of the Prince George Native Friendship Centre, the largest of 120 Friendship Centres in Canada, Mrs. Ward-Burkitt acts as a strong advocate for Elders, children and families, ensuring services offered in her community focus on a holistic approach in a culturally appropriate atmosphere.</p> <p>Mrs. Ward-Burkitt is a committed community volunteer, serving on the Northern HIV/AIDS Task Force, the Executive Committee of the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, as President of the Prince George Métis Housing Society, as well as other literary endeavors, Elder functions and cultural events.</p> <p>Mrs. Ward-Burkitt possesses a deep commitment</p>	<p>Prince George/Northern. Urban Aboriginal.</p>
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Appendix 1 - Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women: Potential Council Members  
July 15, 2014 (Updated)

	to and belief in the empowerment of Aboriginal people. Her personal philosophy and strong work ethic have helped her advocate for individual and community opportunities that are life preserving and enhance personal growth, employment and education for all people regardless of race, creed, gender, age, socio/economic background or sexual orientation.	
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MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS  
AND RECONCILIATION  
BRIEFING NOTE

**COPY**

Date: July 3, 2014  
Ref. 34789

File: 280-20

I Prepared for the **DECISION** of Honourable John Rustad, Minister

II **ISSUE:** Appointment of new Chair for the Minister's Advisory Council on  
Aboriginal Women

III **BACKGROUND:**

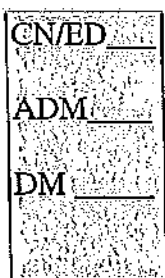
- Following the National Aboriginal Women's Forum in June 2011, the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation announced the creation of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women (MACAW).
- In November 2011, ten members were appointed to MACAW which is chaired by Wendy Grant-John. The Council is intended to provide advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women across British Columbia (Appendix I: Terms of Reference and Appendix II: Membership).
- In November 2013, all original members were reappointed for a second two-year term. Appointments were made through Ministerial Letters.
- Originally, Minister Polak engaged with Wendy Grant-John to select MACAW candidates based on the following criteria:
  - First Nation, Métis, urban and rural representation
  - Regional representation (based on the five Health Authorities)
  - Elder and Youth representation
  - Knowledge in the following areas: ending violence against Aboriginal women; children and families; education; health care; legal and justice system; mental health and addictions; homelessness and housing; Aboriginal language, culture, and arts; and, economic development
- Ms. Grant-John has indicated that she will be stepping down from her appointment before her second term concludes. Chastity Davis is the current co-chair.

IV **DISCUSSION:**

A new chair will need to be appointed by the Minister, preferably to coincide with Ms. Grant-John's resignation. Ms. Grant-John's intention has not yet been communicated to the Council.

V **OPTIONS:**

s.13,s.16



VI RECOMMENDATION:  
s.13,s.16

\_\_\_\_\_  
Honourable John Rustad, Minister  
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved / Not Approved

Appendices (3):

1. MACAW Terms of Reference
2. MACAW Membership
3. Potential Council Members