

Ministre des
Relations Couronne-Autochtones



Minister of
Crown-Indigenous Relations

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

May 16, 2023

National Claims Research Directors
c/o Jody Woods
Research Director
Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
401–312 Main Street
VANCOUVER BC V6A 2T2

Jwoods@ubcic.bc.ca

Dear National Claims Research Directors:

Thank you for your open letter of April 26, 2023, in response to my March 31, 2023 letter, in which I acknowledged the concerns raised regarding the informal access to records process administered by Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

As previously noted, I am in agreement that full access to relevant records is essential for First Nations claims research. I am pleased to hear that Jody Woods was able to recently meet with my Director of Policy, Julia Carbone, to further discuss your concerns and strategize on next steps.

I acknowledge that there is currently a backlog in processing 8(2)k forms. I have asked departmental officials to process the remaining requests and to not require the use of the 8(2)(k) form that was introduced in late January 2023. I understand that progress has already been made on this front. I have further directed that departmental officials work with researchers and the joint working group to ensure the development of an efficient process for the processing of future requests that both meets the needs of researchers and ensures the respect of Canada's obligations under the *Privacy Act*.

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The work being undertaken by researchers is of the utmost importance in addressing past harms and in supporting Indigenous Peoples as they move forward and advance their visions of self-determination. Access to records in support of specific claims is a priority for the Government of Canada and I look forward to continuing to work together to eliminate barriers to accessing records for claims research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., K.C., M.P.
The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
National Chief RoseAnne Archibald
Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Lands Territories and Resources
British Columbia Specific Claims Working Group
Senate Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples BC
British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
First Nations Summit