



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
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February 17, 2026

RECEIVED
BRANCH OF ADMINISTRATION

FEB 17 2026

NORTHERN CHEYENNE AGENCY
LAME DEER, MT 59043

HAND DELIVERY

Andrew Werk, Superintendent
Northern Cheyenne Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 40
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Re: Supplemental Information to February 11, 2026, Letter

Superintendent Werk:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council submits this further supplemental notice to update the administrative record in light of additional developments that materially affect the Bureau's continued reliance on the September 10, 2025 "Declaration of the Chiefs" and subsequent removal actions.

As previously documented, the Chiefs' Declaration dated September 10, 2025, purported to dissolve the duly elected Tribal Council and assert inherent authority to remove elected officials. Since that time, the composition of the Tribal Council has shifted repeatedly—through temporary appointments, an October 30 election, and subsequent removals.

Most recently, additional removals have occurred.

However, the most significant development is the February 16, 2026 "Statement and Call to Halt" issued by Larry Beartusk, a seated Chief, on behalf of duly seated Chiefs.

That statement expressly declares:

- The recent meeting removing Council members was "non-valid";
- Only one known seated Chief was present;
- Individuals not yet properly seated participated;
- Traditional Law was not followed;

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR – Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.

- “NO REMOVALS HAVE OCCURRED.”

This statement calls into serious question the legitimacy of the body purporting to act under the September 10 Declaration. It demonstrates that even within the Chiefs structure, there is no unified or settled authority. The status of who is properly seated as a Chief—and who has authority to act—is itself contested.

This development confirms that the Bureau cannot reasonably treat the September 10 Declaration as the product of a stable, constitutionally constrained governing body. The authority asserted under that Declaration has now resulted in:

- Removal of duly elected Council members;
- Installation of temporary council members;
- Removal of replacement members;
- Removal of members elected in the October 30 election;
- And now internal repudiation of those removals by seated Chiefs.

The pattern is unmistakable: Council membership shifts at will under assertions of inherent authority that are not bounded by constitutional process. Removal letters explicitly state that no hearing will occur and that the Chiefs’ decision is final.

Under these circumstances, Council members—whether duly elected or subsequently elected—serve only so long as the current faction of Chiefs permits them to serve. There is no defined constitutional mechanism ensuring that removals are subject to judicial review, procedural safeguards, or enforceable limits.

Moreover, if the Chiefs’ authority is itself internally disputed, and if seated Chiefs declare certain removal meetings null and void, there is no reliable way to determine which actions bind the Tribe. A Tribal Court ruling recognizing the duly elected Council would have no guaranteed enforceability if the Chiefs’ asserted authority is not constitutionally tethered.

This confirms what the Council has consistently stated: this dispute cannot be settled internally because the asserted authority being exercised is not clearly bound by the Constitution, by due process, or by enforceable judicial review. Placing the burden on the duly elected Council to prove unlawful removal—while those asserting removal authority need not first demonstrate the constitutional basis of their power—improperly reverses the burden and renders internal remedies illusory.

Under *Goodface v. Grassrope*, 708 F.2d 335 (8th Cir. 1983), the Department must act where internal disputes prevent orderly governance. Deference presumes a functioning constitutional structure in which authority is bounded and enforceable. The present record demonstrates ongoing instability and internal fragmentation at the level of the Chiefs themselves.

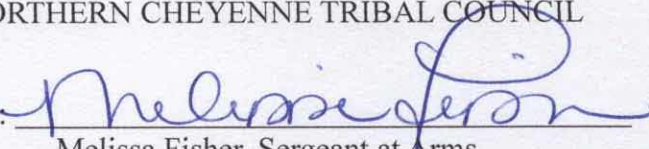
Unless the Bureau declines to recognize removals based on the September 10th Declaration and its progeny, Council membership will continue to fluctuate at the asserted discretion of competing factions of Chiefs. That is not stability; it is structural uncertainty.

For these reasons, the Council respectfully renews its request that the Bureau issue a written interim recognition determination consistent with IBIA precedent and the Department's obligation to stabilize government-to-government relations.

This submission is made to preserve the administrative record and the Council's rights on appeal.

Respectfully,

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

By: 
Melissa Fisher, Sergeant at Arms
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council

Phone: (406) 720 0854

Email: melisfish79@gmail.com

Attachments:

- February 16, 2026 Statement and Call to Halt
- September 10, 2025 Declaration of the Chiefs
- February 6, 2026 Removal Letters

**STATEMENT AND CALL TO HALT
FROM THE SEATED CHIEFS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE PEOPLE**

We issue this statement to bring immediate clarity, restraint, and protection to our people, our traditions, and our government.

There is a seating ceremony forthcoming. Until that ceremony occurs and Chiefs are properly seated and publicly recognized, no actions of this magnitude should proceed.

THE RECENT MEETING AND SIGNED ACTION IS NON-VALID

The meeting in which certain individuals purported to remove elected Tribal Council members is tainted and non-valid for the following reasons:

1. Only one known seated Chief was present;
2. The decision was made by a small number of individuals, not by a body of properly seated Chiefs;
3. The Societies were not called and had no voice in a matter of this seriousness;
4. Individuals who are not yet seated as Chiefs participated and signed;
5. Hubert Blackwolf who participated and signed still owes a Sundance vow, and under Traditional Law should not have been participating in such meetings at all.

Because of this, the meeting and any documents signed as a result are tainted from the outset and are therefore null and void.

TRADITIONAL LAW WAS NOT FOLLOWED

Under our ways:

- A Chief is not to be used for political enforcement;
- A Chief is not to be pulled into deep political disputes;
- Major decisions affecting governance require broad, seated leadership and consultation, including the Societies.

What occurred does not reflect Traditional Law.
It reflects people playing with authority they do not yet hold.

Our people are paying the price for this confusion.

NO REMOVALS HAVE OCCURRED

We state clearly:

- Therefore the unlawful removal of Tribal Council member has occurred;
- There is no authority for enforcing these actions;
- Any attempt to do so must stop immediately.

CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT

We call for:

1. An immediate halt to all actions taken under the tainted meeting;
2. No further enforcement, announcements, or directives related to removals;
3. Respect for the upcoming seating ceremony, so the people know who their Chiefs are;
4. A pause on all decisions of this magnitude until Chiefs are properly seated and recognized.

This is necessary to prevent further harm and division.

PROTECTING THE PEOPLE AND OUR WAYS

Our traditions are not tools.

Our Constitution is not optional.

Our people should not suffer because leadership is being rushed, attacked, or manipulated.

This must stop now, so order can be restored the right way.

Signed and submitted by

Larry Beartusk

Seated Chief

On behalf of the duly seated Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne People



Northern Cheyenne Nation
Anonymous member · 1h ·

So wondering minds are wanting to know, will there be another election and what does that look like for females?

1

1

5

All comments



Reuben Roundstone · Follow



6m Like Reply



Reuben Roundstone · Follow

As Far as I know Everything is at a Halt.

2m Like Reply



Joi Garza

Who cares if the name is "anonymous". If what their saying is the truth and majority of people feel it is the truth then what does it matter on who posted it. Also people are easily harassed if they dont like what truth



Write an answer...



2:53



Facebook

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OPEN



STATEMENT AND CALL TO HALT FROM THE SEATED CHIEFS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE PEOPLE

We issue this statement to bring immediate clarity, restraint, and protection to our people, our traditions, and our government.

There is a seating ceremony forthcoming. Until that ceremony occurs and Chiefs are properly seated and publicly recognized, no actions of this magnitude should proceed.

THE RECENT MEETING AND SIGNED ACTION IS NON-VALID

The meeting in which certain individuals purposed to remove seated Social Council members is **invalid and non-valid** for the following reasons:

1. Only one known seated Chief was present.
2. The decision was made by a small number of individuals, not by a body of properly seated Chiefs.
3. The decisions were not called and not received as a matter of the Society.
4. Individuals who are not yet seated as Chiefs participated and signed.
5. Hubert Blackwolf who participated and signed **still owes a Sundance vow** and under Traditional Law, should not have been participating in such meetings at all.

Because of this, the meeting and any documents signed as a result are **invalid from the outset** and are therefore **null and void**.

TRADITIONAL LAW WAS NOT FOLLOWED

Under our ways:

- A Chief is not to be used for political enforcement.
- A Chief is not to be pulled into deep political disputes.
- Their decisions affecting governance require broad, seated leadership and consultation, including the Society.

What is being done now reflects Traditional Law. It reflects people playing with authority they do not yet hold.

Our people are paying the price for this confusion.

NO REMEDIES HAVE OCCURRED

We state clearly:

Reuben Roundstone

4m



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SEP 11 2025

DECLARATION OF THE
CHIEFS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBENORTHERN CHEYENNE AGENCY
LAME DEER, MT 59043

We, the undersigned Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe we met on Wednesday September 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm with the undersigned Headman of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe military section. We declare the Chiefs have the inherent authority under Northern Cheyenne Traditional Law as follows:

1. We have inherent authority for leading the Northern Cheyenne people, providing guidance and making important decisions for the Cheyenne People.
2. We have inherent authority to interpret and to enforce traditional laws and customs within the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.
3. We have inherent authority to manage the resources of the Northern Cheyenne people for the benefit of the people.

We the Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have decided under our inherent authority to take back control of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Government. We declare we are dissolving the current Tribal Council due to excessive debt, misuse of monetary sources and misconduct. The Chiefs hereby dissolve the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. The Chiefs hereby remove the following Tribal Council Members and other staff as follows:

1. Melissa Fisher, Council member and Sergeant of Arms
2. Howard Gutierrez, Council member
3. Stephen Raining Bird, Council member
4. Melissa Lone Bear, Council member
5. Donavin Limberhand, Council member
6. Eva Foote, Council member
7. Michael Freize, Council member
8. Owen Spottchorse, Council member
9. Hilina Gutierrez, Tribal Council secretary
10. Kari Killnight, Treasurer
11. Ryhan Rowland, Employee

We declare the above persons are hereby banned for life from ever standing for any election with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe or holding any leadership position. The above Tribal Council members and staff are directed to immediately leave the Tribal Building.

We also declare all of the members of the following illegal security team hired by Melissa Fisher and the above Tribal Council members to be a threat to the people and to have illegally seized the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Building preventing the people from accessing it.

1. Amilo Blackhorse
2. Dustin Goudreaux
3. Deven Sanchez
4. Ryan Foote
5. Ralph Radfox
6. Darno Limberhand
7. Kade Blackhorse

8. Lynn American Horse
9. Collins Russell
10. Selena Little Old Man
11. James Morrison
12. Dean Braine
13. Billy Graham
14. Baby Son Little Sun

In addition, to any recently hired security members by Melissa Fisher and other council members. The above members of this illegal security team are directed to immediately leave the Tribal Building. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal building is the Peoples Building and shall not be used by the Council members and illegal security team to block the peoples access to the building.

LAKE 1 P. Bearhawk

Larry A. Bearhawk

Chief

Reginald Killgick

Reginald Killgick

Chief

Larry Medicine Bull

Larry Medicine Bull

Chief

Lyon Seminole

Lyon Seminole

Chief

Wesley Spotted Elk

Wesley Spotted Elk

Chief

Lionel Blending Elk

Chief

Collins Russell

Chief Collins Russell

James A. Bennett, Sr.

Chief

Reginald Killgick

Reginald Killgick

Chief

Hubert Black Wolf

Chief

Markus Bantel the Crazy Dog Headman

Robert Bradley

Robert Bradley

Headman, Dog Soldiers

Markus Bantel

Headman, Crazy Dogs

Mike Road Horse

Headman, Bowstrings

Joseph Wenzel Bear Horn

Headman, Elk Horn Scrapers

Hugh Clifford

Headman, Kit Foxes

Headman, Swift Foxes

Tribal Council Member Removal Letter
Formal Notice of Removal

NORTHERN
CHEYENNE

FEB 10 REC'D

TRIBAL COUNCIL
RECEIVED

DATE: 02/06/2026

TO: (1) Tory Davie, (2) Cory Spotted Elk, (3) Reuben Roundstone, and (4) Wade Redhat

Dear Tribal Council Members,

This letter serves as formal notice of removal of your Tribal Council Member positions with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, effective immediately as of 02/06/2026.

The above-mentioned Tribal Council Members did not attend or left the meeting and broke quorum of the previous two tribal council meetings which were lawfully convened by the Tribal President. The first tribal council meeting was on January 16, 2026, and the second tribal council meeting was on January 26, 2026. The Tribal Council Members provided no notice of non-attendance nor an explanation regarding their subsequent absence of their duties.

The Traditional Chiefs Council issued three verbal warnings that the entire Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council would execute the duties of their office in the best interest of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the above-mentioned Tribal Council Members have been determined not to have done so.

The above-mentioned Tribal Council Members are in violation of Article VII of the Bylaws -- Code of Ethics, Sections 1 and 2, (2)(a) discharge the duties and exercise the powers of office in good faith and in a manner which the Tribal Official believes will best serve the interests of the Tribe; and (2)(g) not knowingly make any false statement in any official statement, report, certificate or other document, presented to or on behalf of Tribal government or the Tribal membership, which has an adverse effect on significant interests of the Tribe or its membership.

The above-mentioned Tribal Council Members have violated Article VII in the Tribal Constitution -- Removal From Office, Filling Vacancies, Section 2, Removal From Office, "any officer or councilman who shall fail to perform the duties assigned to him or shall be guilty of gross neglect may be removed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Tribal Council, after affording the accused member a fair opportunity to be heard in his own defense. The decision of the Tribal Council shall be final." Since the Tribal Council will not have a quorum, the Traditional Chiefs Council shall have the authority under Traditional Law, to remove the above-mentioned Tribal Council Members. The above-mentioned Tribal Council Members have failed to perform their duties and have been found guilty of gross neglect by the Traditional Chiefs Council.

After careful consideration, the decision has been made to end your employment with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. This action is taken in accordance with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe's constitutional policies and procedures and under the authority of the Traditional Chiefs Council. Please note that your final paycheck, including any accrued benefits and unused vacation days,

will be provided to you in accordance with applicable laws and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe's policy. There will be no hearing, the decision of the Traditional Chiefs Council will be final.

You are required to return all Northern Cheyenne Tribe's property, including keys, identification cards, laptops, and any other materials belonging to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, by your last day of employment. Your last day of employment will be effective immediately upon the date of this letter.

Please contact Human Resources Department Director Denise Swank to arrange the return of these items and to discuss any questions regarding your final compensation and benefits.

We appreciate your contributions during your time with us and wish you success in your future endeavors.

CC: Traditional Chiefs Council

Larry Medicine Bull

Hudon Black Hawk

Ch. Muceler

12/28
James A. Bennett, Jr.