

DECEMBER 3, 2025 LETTER



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-8252
FAX (406) 477-8324



VIA E-mail

December 3, 2025

Jodi Camrud
Deputy Regional Director – Trust Services
Rocky Mountain Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs
2021 4th Ave. N.
Billings, MT 59101
jodi.camrud@bia.gov

Re: Response to November 29, 2025, Correspondence— Prior BIA Law Enforcement Intervention, Violation of Stated Non-Interference Policy, and Required Immediate Recognition

Deputy Regional Director Camrud:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated November 29, 2025. The Bureau's refusal to meet and its continued invocation of "restraint" and "non-interference" cannot be reconciled with the record now before the Agency—nor with the Bureau's own recognition framework under *Goodface v. Grassrope*, 708 F.2d 335 (8th Cir. 1983). The BIA has already intervened through its law enforcement arm in a manner that materially altered the status quo, and the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has issued a Final Order resolving core governance questions. Continued refusal to issue a recognition decision is neither neutrality nor restraint; it is abdication under the guise of restraint.

Your premise—that the Bureau must "defer to tribal mechanisms" and that questions "should be resolved" in tribal court—is also legally and structurally defective. The Bureau repeatedly demands "tribal remedies" while declining to identify any tribal forum with authority to provide the relief the Bureau implies is available. That posture collapses under the Tribe's controlling law and is now refuted by the Constitutional Court's own jurisdictional holdings.

In addition, the Bureau's posture ignores the single most important administrative reality: the BIA has already treated the sitting Council as the operative governing body for federal administrative purposes through the Tribe's duly enacted ordinances and the Bureau's prior dealings with the government seated under those ordinances. The Council's status as the seated legislative body

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.

(2024–2028 term) has not “changed” through any constitutionally valid removal process. There is no evidence—none—that any Council member was removed pursuant to Article VII of the Constitution. The Bureau cannot pretend that the government previously recognized through duly enacted ordinances somehow evaporated without notice, hearing, and a two-thirds vote by the Council itself.

The Tribe’s Constitution assigns the removal of Council members exclusively to the Tribal Council and imposes mandatory due process prerequisites. Article VII, Section 2 provides that removal may occur only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Tribal Council after affording the accused member “a fair opportunity to be heard in his own defense.” It then specifies: “The decision of the Tribal Council shall be final.” That finality clause is not surplusage. It is a structural allocation of power to the Legislative Branch and an express non-reviewability directive.

The Tribe’s Revised Law & Order Code confirms the jurisdictional consequence of such constitutional finality. The Code provides that the Constitutional Court may not adjudicate constitutional claims to the extent a challenged enactment or decision is “explicitly designated as final and not subject to review” in controlling law, including the Tribe’s Constitution. Where the Constitution declares a decision final, the Constitutional Court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction to “review” it. Here, the due process and procedural prerequisites for a lawful Article VII removal were not satisfied. There was no notice, no hearing, and no vote by the Tribal Council—let alone a two-thirds vote. The only asserted basis for “removal” is a unilateral “declaration” by individuals styling themselves as “chiefs”—a body with no constitutional authority to remove Council members. Such a declaration is facially absurd and obviously cannot substitute for the constitutionally mandated process, cannot create an Article VII removal where none occurred, and cannot manufacture jurisdiction in the Constitutional Court.

The Bureau’s “go to tribal court” directive is not only wrong in principle; it is also unworkable in practice. The Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has already held—expressly and in a dismissal order—that it lacks jurisdiction over precisely the type of dispute the Bureau keeps insisting must be litigated there. In *Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council v. Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe*, Cause No. CC-2026-002 (N. Cheyenne Const. Ct., Lane Deer, Montana), Judges Stephen T. Small, Michael A. Monson, and Adrian A. Miller entered an Order of Dismissal dated October 7, 2025, dismissing the Tribal Council’s complaint for lack of jurisdiction. The Court explained that it has jurisdiction over “Constitutional Claims” only where a party challenges whether a “resolution, ordinance, code, or other legislative enactment of the Tribal Council” is invalid; that the complaint did not involve such a claim; and that, notably, in a Constitutional Claim proceeding “the Tribal Council is required to be made a Party Defendant and is not the Plaintiff.” The Court further held that absent an ordinance, resolution, or code explicitly empowering the Constitutional Court to adjudicate the matter, it had no jurisdiction, and the case must be dismissed.

The Bureau’s posture therefore presents an unacceptable, Bureau-created ultimatum. The BIA insists the Council “pursue tribal remedies,” yet the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has

already dismissed the Council's complaint precisely because the Court lacks jurisdiction when the Council is a plaintiff challenging the actions of other parties and when the dispute is not a "Constitutional Claim" as defined by the Code. Does the Bureau seriously contend that the lawful Council must repeatedly file cases that the tribal judiciary has already declared non-justiciable—only to be dismissed again—or else commence criminal or quasi-criminal enforcement actions against community members as the sole remaining "remedy" to regain access to its own offices? The BIA's refusal to issue a recognition decision forces the lawful legislative branch into either futile filings or punitive escalation. That is not "restraint." It is coercion by paralysis.

This conundrum is worsened by the Bureau's handling of the so-called Chiefs' Declaration. That declaration was submitted to the BIA. The Bureau has not issued a clear written decision expressly recognizing it. Yet the Bureau's law enforcement actions—arrests of sitting Council members and facilitation of displacement from offices—have created the practical effect of treating the declaration as operative while depriving the duly seated Council (recognized through duly enacted ordinances and longstanding administrative dealings) of the ability to function. If the Bureau intends to remain "neutral," it must act like it: neutrality requires refusing to implement, enforce, or operationalize the demands of an ultra vires declaration while simultaneously refusing to recognize the lawful governing body.

The Bureau's invocation of "non-interference" is especially untenable because BIA law enforcement has not remained neutral. As set forth in the attached affidavits of Melissa Fisher and Melissa Lonebear, sitting Council members were arrested and detained without lawful basis, and those actions materially aided unlawful actors in occupying or controlling governmental offices. This intervention stripped the lawful Council of access to offices, records, communications, and practical operational capacity. It also deprived the lawful Council of access to tribal resources necessary to retain counsel and protect the constitutional order. Having created this crisis through coercive law enforcement action, the Bureau cannot now disclaim responsibility and demand that the lawful Council locate money, offices, and legal capacity it has been denied—while a rival faction benefits from Bureau-caused displacement. The Bureau must correct the situation it destabilized.

The affidavits further describe a longstanding operational reality that the Bureau cannot ignore: BIA law enforcement has been repeatedly unresponsive to calls and complaints from the lawful Council and its members regarding interference with tribal governmental operations. Had the Bureau responded even-handedly and promptly to those calls—particularly where individuals were interfering with the Council's lawful duties and occupying government offices—the present escalation would not have occurred. The record thus reflects not only undue interference when the Bureau chose to act, but nonfeasance and non-responsiveness when action was requested to protect lawful governmental operations.

The Bureau's position also raises a question of basic consistency. If the Bureau's answer to this crisis is that the Council must initiate enforcement proceedings for "interference with tribal

government” against the individuals who issued the Chiefs’ Declaration and interfered with Council operations, then the Bureau must confront the obvious corollary: the same standard must apply to any actor—tribal or federal—whose conduct materially facilitated interference with the lawful legislative branch. The Council does not seek escalation. It does not want prosecutions against tribal members. It does not want a cycle of arrests. But the Bureau cannot force the Council into a punitive enforcement posture as the only “remedy” while insulating the Bureau’s own law enforcement conduct from scrutiny or consequence. If the Bureau forces the Council’s hand by continuing to refuse recognition and by continuing to operationalize displacement through law enforcement conduct, then the Bureau should expect the Council to pursue every remedy available—including enforcement complaints, administrative appeals, and external review—to protect the constitutional order.

There is also an unavoidable appearance problem the Bureau should not ignore. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has previously been compelled to seek relief in federal court regarding chronic inadequacy in BIA law enforcement services on the Reservation, particularly staffing and response failures. Against that backdrop, it is profoundly troubling that the Bureau’s law enforcement presence becomes swift and concentrated when the mission is not public safety, but intervention in an intra-tribal political dispute and the arrest of sitting elected officials. Whether or not the Bureau claims benign motive, the optics are indefensible and will be scrutinized in any administrative or judicial review of the Bureau’s actions.

These facts trigger the very federal recognition duty the Bureau is attempting to evade. Under *Goodface v. Grassrope*, the BIA cannot avoid its responsibility by refusing to recognize any governing authority at all. Where there is a dispute, the BIA must recognize the last uncontested government on an interim basis pending tribal resolution, and once the tribal forum has resolved the dispute, the BIA must act consistently with that resolution. The Bureau’s refusal to issue a recognition decision—final or interim—creates an unlawful vacuum that prevents the Tribe’s government from functioning and prevents any aggrieved party from accessing meaningful administrative review.

For these reasons, the Council demands immediate written action. First, the BIA must issue a written recognition decision identifying the duly elected Tribal Council as the governing body for federal purposes, consistent with the Constitutional Court’s Final Order, the Council’s status throughout that litigation, and the absence of any evidence of Article VII removal. Alternatively, if the BIA asserts that a dispute persists notwithstanding the constitutional record and the Court’s rulings, the BIA must issue an interim recognition decision under *Goodface* identifying which governing body it will recognize pending final resolution. Indefinite refusal to recognize anyone is unlawful and forecloses meaningful IBIA review.

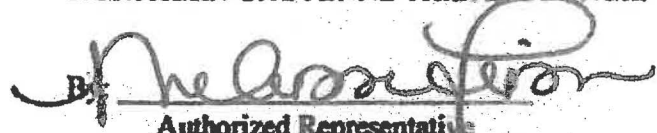
Finally, upon issuance of the recognition letter, BIA law enforcement must act consistently with that recognition decision—i.e., to assist in restoring access to offices and facilities to the recognized governing body and to prevent unlawful occupation or interference with governmental

demand that the BIA enforce the BIA's own recognition decision and refrain from repeating unlawful interference that produced the current paralysis.

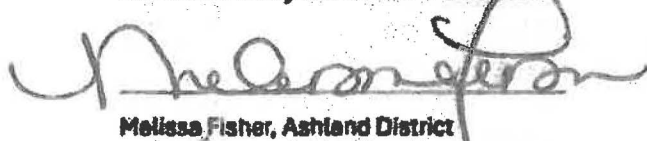
The Council requests your written response within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt, including the date on which the Bureau will issue its recognition determination. Absent prompt action, the Council will pursue all available remedies.

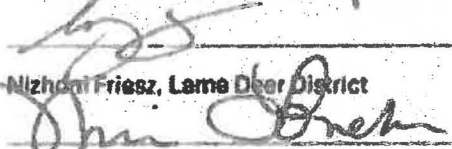
Respectfully,

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

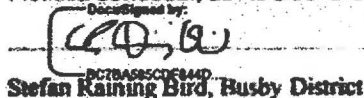
By: 
Authorized Representative
Phone: 406 720 0854
E-mail: melisfisher@gmail.com

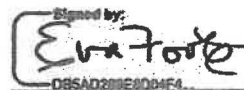
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council:


Melissa Fisher, Ashland District


Nizhoni Friesz, Lama Deer District

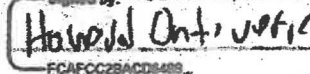
Melissa Lonebear, Lama Deer District


Stefan Raining Bird, Busby District

Signed by:

DB5AD2B5E8D4F4

Eva Foote, Ashland District


Donaldo Limberhand, Lama Deer District


FCAPCC2BACD5485

Howard Ontiveros, Muddy District

Signed by:

Gwen Spotted Horse, Birney District

Attachments: Affidavits of Melissa Fisher and Melissa Lonebear;
Order of Dismissal in CC-2026-002; and
Ordinances DOI-010 (2023) & DOI-008 (2025) sergeant

AFFIDAVIT OF MELISSA FISHER

I, Melissa Fisher, being first duly sworn, hereby state as follows:

- 1. I am an adult member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. During all events described below, I was a sitting, duly elected and seated member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. I give this affidavit based on my personal knowledge, my direct observations, and my best present recollection of events.**
- 2. I provide this affidavit to request an investigation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs into the conduct of BIA law enforcement personnel and/or those acting under their direction during the events of September 11–12, 2025 and October 8, 2025, including the arrest and detention of four sitting Council members based on allegations of “governmental interference,” and the apparent law enforcement support provided to a rival faction attempting to seize and occupy Tribal governmental offices.**
- 3. On or about September 11, 2025, a removal hearing occurred involving President Gene Small. On that date there was a large and hostile gathering outside the building, including individuals aligned with the group commonly referred to as the “chiefs” faction. The environment was threatening, and I feared for my safety. I had information that individuals associated with that faction had threatened violence toward me.**
- 4. During the events of September 11, law enforcement was present in and around the building. At one point, it was communicated to me that law enforcement was going to take me outside to the “teepee” because members of the “chiefs” faction were demanding my presence there. I refused because I believed it was unsafe and because I understood the demand was being made by hostile individuals attempting to intimidate Council members.**
- 5. After proceedings concluded, Council members left the building with personal belongings. As we left, we were yelled at and called names. It was extremely hostile. I felt threatened, and it was clear that the group outside was attempting to shame, intimidate, and prevent us from exercising lawful authority.**
- 6. On September 12, 2025, after an earlier meeting, several Council members—including myself—returned to the tribal building to continue governmental work. We entered using our**

access cards. We were attempting to conduct official Council business, including a scheduled Zoom call with counsel and others.

7. Upon entry, a contracted security guard confronted us and asserted that we were “removed” and “not supposed to be” in the building. The guard’s statements and posture treated seated Council members as trespassers in their own governmental offices. This was alarming and inconsistent with the fact that we were still elected officials carrying out duties.
8. Once inside, we observed that internal systems appeared to have been disrupted. My recollection is that equipment had been unplugged or altered in a way that interfered with council business and communications. This was consistent with an effort to prevent the lawfully elected Council from functioning.
9. While we were inside, individuals outside pounded on windows and yelled. The situation escalated to the point that my daughter, Velma, became visibly distressed and cried. We feared the crowd was attempting to force entry or intimidate us into leaving.
10. A Council member called law enforcement requesting assistance due to the crowd and threats. My understanding and recollection is that law enforcement did not respond in a way that protected us or restored order at that time.
11. After leaving the building, people accused us of stealing documents and “files.” The allegations were false. It appeared to me those accusations were used as a pretext to trigger law enforcement action against us.
12. During these events, I observed law enforcement focus on allegations that Council members were taking “files,” including requests to search or inspect a vehicle trunk. I did not consent. Critically, the response priorities appeared inverted: we could not get protective assistance when threatened and surrounded, but law enforcement attention quickly shifted to accusations made against us by the hostile faction.
13. On or about September 25, 2025, I observed and/or became aware that individuals aligned with the “chiefs” faction packed and removed Council members’ office belongings. Some items were placed outside on the lawn. This was humiliating and inappropriate and further demonstrated that the faction was attempting to seize offices and expel elected officials.

14. My recollection is that law enforcement officers were present in the parking area during this removal. Their presence appeared to protect or facilitate the removal/occupation activity rather than protect Council property rights or restore lawful access.
15. On October 8, 2025, I and other Council members attempted to return to the tribal building to conduct official work. Given prior harassment and intimidation, family members accompanied us for safety.
16. At approximately 9:46 a.m., Council Member Melissa Lonebear placed a call to law enforcement requesting assistance. We were told officers were "on the way."
17. At approximately 9:48 a.m., entry was made into the building through a magnetic-lock door using a key card. I observed that supporters aligned with the "chiefs" faction gathered and positioned themselves as if they were prepared for confrontation and recording.
18. At approximately 9:59 a.m., BIA law enforcement arrived, including Chief of Police Peter Rodriguez and Lieutenant Cordell Anthony. I observed multiple law enforcement vehicles arriving and positioning around the building. I also observed a transport vehicle (described as a "paddy wagon") present as part of the response. The presence and posture of law enforcement appeared to be organized in advance and consistent with a planned enforcement action rather than protection of elected officials seeking access to their offices.
19. After law enforcement arrived, there was a period during which officers met or gathered on the north wing of the building. During that time, we remained in the building in a volatile and hostile situation. My understanding was that law enforcement did not take steps to secure lawful Council access or disperse the hostile crowd.
20. After approximately an hour or more, officers entered and began arresting Council members. I was arrested. I was then detained, including being held October 8-10th.
21. The charge communicated to me was "governmental interference," as defined in the newly effective law and order code (effective approximately October 1, 2025). My citation lacked detailed factual allegations establishing probable cause; it presented the charge label without meaningful supporting facts.

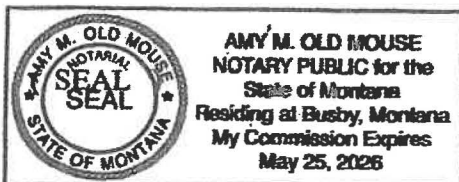
22. As a duly elected councilwoman who has never been removed, I do not understand how I can be charged with "governmental interference" while simply trying to occupy my office and doing my job unless the BIA took the side of Gene Small and the unlawful faction and recognized them as officials of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.
23. The arrest and detention of elected Council members had an immediate chilling and disabling effect on the lawful government of the Tribe. It deprived the Council of functional access to offices, resources, and the ability to carry out duties. It also created a severe inability to retain counsel or defend the Council's position because access to operational funds and systems was blocked or controlled by the opposing faction, whose takeover was facilitated by law enforcement actions described above.
24. I request that the BIA investigate whether the arrests were supported by lawful authority and probable cause, whether BIA officers acted contrary to neutrality standards, and whether law enforcement actions improperly enabled one faction to seize and control government offices. I further request that the BIA immediately preserve all dispatch logs, body-worn camera footage (if any), in-car video, radio traffic, call recordings, incident reports, citations, booking records, and communications among officers and supervisors for the dates identified above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

DATED this 3rd day of December, 2025.


Melissa Fisher, Affiant

SUSCRIBED AND SWORN before me this 3rd day of December, 2025.




Notary Public for the State of Montana
Residing at Busby, Big Horn
My commission expires May 25, 2026

AFFIDAVIT OF MELISSA LONEBEAR

I, Melissa Lonebear, being first duly sworn, hereby state as follows:

- 1. I am an adult member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. During the period described in this affidavit, I was a sitting, duly elected and seated member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. I make these statements based upon my personal knowledge, direct observations, and my best recollection.**
- 2. I submit this affidavit in support of a request for BIA investigation into BIA law enforcement actions during the governance dispute, including the arrest and detention of sitting Council members and law enforcement actions that appeared to assist a rival faction in seizing control of Tribal government offices.**
- 3. On or about September 11, 2025, there were significant tensions at the tribal building related to governance issues. A large group of individuals associated with the "chiefs" faction gathered outside and the situation was volatile. Council members faced intimidation and threats.**
- 4. On September 12, 2025, Council members returned to the tribal building to perform official duties. We entered using access cards. A contracted security guard confronted us and asserted we were "removed" and did not belong in the building.**
- 5. While Council members were inside, individuals outside pounded on windows and shouted. There were serious safety concerns. Calls were made to law enforcement requesting assistance. My understanding from the events described and our contemporaneous debrief is that law enforcement did not respond promptly to protect Council members during the period when the crowd was threatening the building and those inside.**
- 6. After Council members exited, accusations were made that Council members were stealing "files." Law enforcement attention appeared to focus on those accusations rather than on the earlier calls for protection. Those accusations were used, in my view, to justify enforcement actions against Council members.**
- 7. By approximately September 25, 2025, Council members' office belongings were being boxed and removed and, in some cases, placed outside. This conduct reinforced that Council members**

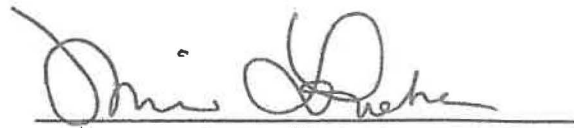
were being excluded from offices and that the opposing faction was attempting to control government space.

8. On October 8, 2025, I accompanied other Council members returning to the tribal building to perform official Council responsibilities. We anticipated confrontation due to prior harassment and the ongoing occupation/exclusion issues. Family members were present because of safety concerns.
9. At approximately 9:46 a.m., I placed a call to law enforcement requesting assistance. I made this call because we expected confrontation and sought a peaceful, safe return to the building for lawful officials. During the call, I was told officers were on the way.
10. At approximately 9:48 a.m., Council members entered through a magnetic-lock door using a key card. Soon after entry, supporters of the opposing faction gathered and appeared poised to confront and record Council members.
11. At approximately 9:59 a.m., BIA law enforcement arrived, including Chief Peter Rodriguez and Lieutenant Cordell Anthony. I observed a significant law enforcement presence, including multiple vehicles and a transport/holding vehicle described as a "paddy wagon." This looked like an organized operation prepared for arrests rather than a protective response to ensure elected officials could safely perform duties.
12. Although I had requested assistance for peaceful access, the conduct that followed did not secure the building for the lawfully elected Council. Instead, after law enforcement arrived, officers met or gathered on the administrative side and did not act to restore Council access or disperse hostile groups outside.
13. After a period of time—approximately an hour or more after officers arrived—officers entered and arrested sitting Council members. The charge described was "governmental interference," which I understand was associated with a new law-and-order code effective around October 1, 2025.
14. The arrest and removal of Council members and the continued exclusion from offices prevented the lawful Council from functioning. It worsened instability, empowered unlawful

actors occupying offices, and left elected Council members without access to the basic resources required to defend lawful governance and retain legal counsel.

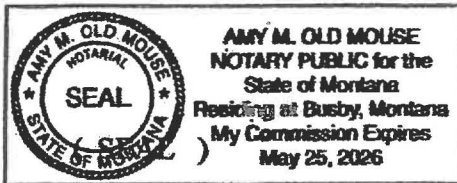
15. I request that the BIA investigate whether the arrests were supported by lawful authority and probable cause, whether BIA officers acted contrary to neutrality standards, and whether law enforcement actions improperly enabled one faction to seize and control government offices. I further request that the BIA immediately preserve all dispatch logs, body-worn camera footage (if any), in-car video, radio traffic, call recordings, incident reports, citations, booking records, and communications among officers and supervisors for the dates identified above.

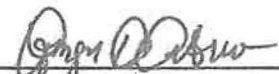
DATED this 3rd day of December, 2025.



Melissa Lonebear, Affiant

SUSCRIBED AD SWORN before me this 3rd day of December, 2025.




Notary Public for the State of Montana
Residing at Busby, Big Horn
My commission expires May 25, 2026

[illegible]

Before the Court is Plaintiff's Complaint and Request for Declaratory Judgment Forthwith (the "Complaint") filed with the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court on October 2, 2025 and received by this Court the same day. According to Section 2.9.2 of the Law and Order Code (October 1, 2025), the Constitutional Court has exclusive and original jurisdiction over "Constitutional Claims," which are defined as claims between parties "that a resolution, ordinance, code or other legislative enactment of the Tribal Council ("Council Enactment") is in whole or in part invalid" because it violates specific

laws. In short, the Court has jurisdiction to determine whether a Council Enactment is valid or invalid. The Complaint does not involve a Constitutional Claim as defined in the Code because it is not a claim challenging a Council Enactment. Instead, the Tribal Council is the Plaintiff and is challenging actions of another party. Notably, for a Constitutional Court proceeding on a Constitutional Claim, the Tribal Council is required to be made a "party-defendant" and is not the plaintiff. Law and Order Code § 2.9.4(A).

Other than Constitutional Claims, the Constitutional Court only has jurisdiction over claims that the Tribal Council "by resolution, ordinance or code" in its absolute discretion explicitly empowers the Constitutional Court to adjudicate. Law and Order Code, § 2.9.9. No such resolution, ordinance, or code has been enacted here to give this Court jurisdiction over the Complaint. Accordingly, this Court does not have jurisdiction, and the Complaint is **DISMISSED**.

Dated this 6th day of October.



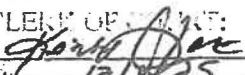
Steven T. Small
CHIEF APPELLATE JUDGE



Michael A. Monson
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

/s/ Adrian A. Miller

Adrian A. Miller
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

NORTHERN CHEYENNE COURT
CERTIFIED COPY
CLERK OF COURT:
BY: 
DATED: 10/14/25



**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 008 (2025)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2024-2028 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 5, 2024 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Gene Small, President
2. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
3. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
4. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
5. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
6. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
7. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
8. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
9. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2024-2028 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

10. Gene Small, President
11. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
12. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
13. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
14. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
15. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
16. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
17. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
18. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 18th day of November 2024.

ATTEST:


Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe


Gene Small, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

**ADAM
WOLF**

Acting Superintendent

Digitally signed by
ADAM WOLF
Date: 2024.12.05
16:05:41 -07'00'



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Northern Cheyenne Agency
P.O. Box 40
Lame Deer, MT 59043**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION**

**Gene Small, President
Gene.Small@cheyennenation.com
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043**

Dear President Small:

This is in reference to Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) enacted on November 18, 2024 and received on December 4, 2024.

Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) promulgating and seating the duly elected officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for the 2024-2028 term of office.

Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) is hereby noted. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council has the authority to take this action pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 (r) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Superintendent has authority to respond to said ordinance.

All necessary copies of this ordinance have been retained for our files.

Sincerely,

**ADAM
WOLF**

**Digitally signed
by ADAM WOLF
Date: 2024.12.05
16:05:08 -07'00'**

Acting Superintendent

Enclosure

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 010 (2023)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2022-2026 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 8, 2022 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2022 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2022-2026 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 21st day of November 2022.



Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Acting President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

ATTEST:



Alicia Cano, Acting Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

ANDREW WERK Digitally signed by ANDREW WERK
Date: 2022.11.30 16:04:53 -07'00'

Superintendent

DECEMBER 8, 2025 LETTER



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128

LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043

PHONE: (406) 477-8252

FAX: (406) 477-8324



VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL

December 8, 2025

Jodi A. Camrud
Deputy Regional Director – Trust Services
Rocky Mountain Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs
2021 4th Avenue North
Billings, Montana 59101
Jodi.camrud@bia.gov

Andy Werk, Superintendent
Northern Cheyenne Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Lame Deer, Montana 59043
Andrew.werk@bia.gov

Re: Demand for (1) Written Clarification that No Faction's Resolutions Will Be Approved Absent Recognition; and (2) Express Notice that "Deemed Approved" Procedures Will Not Be Allowed to Legitimize a Fraudulent Council

Deputy Regional Director Camrud and Superintendent Werk:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council submits this letter as a supplement to our prior correspondence. It is necessary because it has come to our attention the Bureau's present posture is no longer merely "restraint." It has become a legally consequential pattern of partial constitutional adjudication, selective action, and silent inaction—each of which predictably alters the Tribe's governmental and financial status quo.

This letter therefore reiterates the Council's demand for an immediate federal recognition determination and adds a second, urgent demand: the Bureau must immediately and expressly disavow approval—including any "deemed approval"—of resolutions and directives submitted by any purported "interim" or unlawfully seated body during this dispute, and must confirm in writing that no resolutions will be approved until the Bureau issues a formal recognition decision identifying the governing body for federal purposes.

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR ¹ - Out of defeat and exile they led us
back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.

I. The Bureau is already making constitutional determinations — therefore it cannot claim incapacity to ~~assess~~ legitimacy issues central to recognition.

The Bureau has already demonstrated that it is willing to evaluate whether Tribal resolutions comply with the Northern Cheyenne Constitution. Specifically, the Bureau previously rejected Resolution No. 174 (and related actions) on the ground that the resolution was contrary to the Northern Cheyenne Constitution and therefore not approvable. By doing so, the Bureau necessarily made an affirmative constitutional assessment—without any tribal court judgment compelling it and without any “neutrality” pretense preventing it from acting.

That fact creates an immediate contradiction in the Bureau’s current position. If the Bureau can interpret and apply the Northern Cheyenne Constitution to determine whether a duly passed resolution is constitutionally valid for BIA approval purposes, then the Bureau plainly has the institutional capacity—and the responsibility—to evaluate constitutionally relevant legitimacy questions in the recognition context, including:

1. whether the claimed “removal” of eight (8) councilmembers complied with Article VII’s mandatory due-process and voting requirements;
2. whether the so-called “chiefs” possess any authority under the Tribe’s constitutional structure to remove, supplant, or dissolve the elected legislative branch; and
3. whether any faction’s attempted transfers of authority over tribal funds and operations rest on constitutionally void acts.

This is the Bureau’s logic trap, and the Bureau cannot escape it. The Bureau cannot simultaneously (a) adjudicate the Constitution to reject a resolution as unconstitutional and (b) claim “non-interference” prevents it from assessing the constitutional legitimacy of the very faction purporting to wield governmental authority through unconstitutional acts. One is a constitutional determination; the other is a constitutional determination. The Bureau has already crossed that bridge, and it must now act consistently.

II. The Bureau must issue a recognition determination (final or interim); indefinite nonrecognition is unlawful and operationally destructive.

The Council reiterates its position that indefinite nonrecognition is not neutrality. It is an affirmative decision to permit paralysis while disputed actors exploit silence to control funds, offices, communications, and the federal interface.

The Bureau’s recognition obligations in leadership disputes are well articulated in federal recognition case law, including *Goodface v. Grassrope*, 708 F.2d 335 (8th Cir. 1983). Where a dispute exists, the Bureau cannot simply refuse to recognize anyone and thereby foreclose administrative review and enable further dissipation and entrenchment. The Bureau must at minimum issue an interim recognition identifying which governing body it will recognize for federal purposes pending final resolution.

III. Urgent second demand: the Bureau must expressly prevent “deemed approval” of unlawful resolutions during the dispute.

The Council also demands immediate written action because the Bureau’s silence is now being weaponized through the BIA’s own resolution-approval procedures.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe operates under a BIA-controlled resolution submission and approval framework under which the BIA must approve or disapprove submitted resolutions within ten (10) days of receipt, and if the BIA does not respond within that period, the resolutions are treated as deemed approved. The Council understands that the unlawfully seated faction has already submitted resolutions to the Agency. The duly elected Council has grave concern that the Bureau’s refusal to “take sides,” combined with silence beyond the ten-day period, will be interpreted—by banks, contractors, agencies, and third parties—as affirmative BIA approval of unlawful acts.

That is unacceptable. It would be a backdoor recognition-by-inaction.

Accordingly, the Council demands the Bureau immediately issue a written letter addressed to President Gene Small and copied to the duly elected Tribal Council stating plainly:

1. that the BIA has not approved any resolutions submitted by the purported interim/unlawful council during the pendency of this dispute;
2. that no “deemed approval” will be recognized or allowed to attach to resolutions submitted by any faction during the pendency of the dispute; and
3. that the BIA will not approve any resolutions until it issues a formal recognition determination identifying the governing body authorized to act for federal purposes.

This demand is particularly warranted because the Bureau has already shown it will affirmatively reject a resolution on constitutional grounds when it chooses to act (as it did with Resolution No. 174). If the Bureau could act to reject a resolution as unconstitutional then, it can—and must—act now to prevent its own silence from being construed as approval of unconstitutional acts by an unlawful faction.

IV. Requested action and deadlines

For the foregoing reasons, the Council demands:

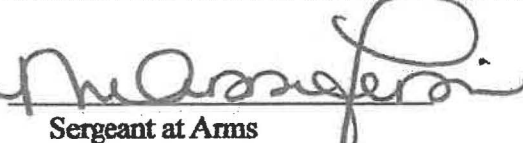
1. **Recognition Determination (Final):** the BIA issue a written recognition decision identifying the duly elected Council as the governing body for federal purposes; or, at minimum,
2. **Recognition Determination (Interim):** a written interim recognition decision identifying the governing body the BIA will recognize pending final resolution, sufficient to permit administrative review;

3. **Anti-Deemed-Approval Notice:** within 48 hours, a written letter from the BIA to President Gene Small and copied to the duly elected Council stating that the BIA has not approved, and will not deem approved, any resolutions submitted by any purported interim/unlawful council during the dispute, and that no resolutions will be approved until recognition is issued; and
4. **Status Confirmation:** written confirmation identifying which resolutions, if any, have been received since October 8, 2025, the date of receipt, and the BIA's approval status for each, with express confirmation that none will be treated as approved by lapse of time during the dispute.

The Bureau cannot continue to claim restraint while simultaneously allowing its procedures to be used to operationalize unlawful governance through silence. If the Bureau refuses to act, the Council will pursue all available remedies.

Respectfully,

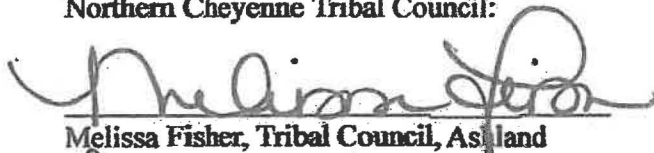
NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

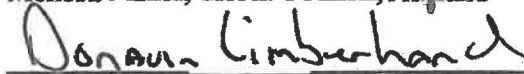
By: 
Sergeant at Arms

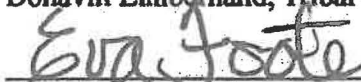
Phone: 406 720 0854

E-mail: MelissaFisher79@gmail.com

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council:

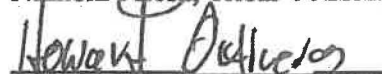

Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council, Ashland

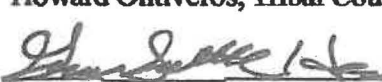

Donavin Limberhand, Tribal Council, Lame Deer


Eva Foote, Tribal Council, Ashland


Stefan Rainbird, Tribal Council, Busby


Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council, Lame Deer


Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council, Muddy


Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council, Birney


Melissa Loncbear, Tribal Council, Lame Deer

cc: Resolution No. 174 & the BIA's Rejection Letter Signed by Andy Werk



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Northern Cheyenne Agency
P.O. Box 40
Lame Deer, MT 59043

IN REPLY REFER TO:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Gene Small, President
Gene.Small@Cheyennenation.com
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear President Small:

This is in reference to Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Resolution No. DOI-174 (2025) enacted on September 8, 2025, and received on September 8, 2025.

Resolution No. DOI-174 (2025) setting removal hearing on complaint against Tribal President.

Resolution No. DOI-174 (2025) is hereby disapproved. The Amended Constitution & Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, as referenced in Article XI-Separation of Powers, in part states, "No person or entity charged with the exercise of power of one branch shall exercises a power belonging to another branch unless expressly authorized to do in this Constitution and Bylaws, Tribal law, or applicable federal law". Additionally, as referenced in the Bylaws, Article I-Duties of Officers, Section 1 and 2 specify the President and Vice President are the presiding officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. This resolution lacks the duly elected President's or Vice President's signature.

Pursuant to Article IV – Powers of the Tribal Council, Section 4 Manner of Review, of the Amended Constitution & Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Superintendent has authority to respond to said resolution. In part states, if these reasons appear to the Council insufficient, it may, by a majority vote, refer the resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, who may within ninety (90) days from the date of its enactment approve the same in writing, whereupon the said resolution shall become effective.

All necessary copies of this resolution have been retained for our files.

Sincerely,

**ANDREW
WERK**

Superintendent

Digitally signed by
ANDREW WERK
Date: 2025.09.09
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**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

RESOLUTION NO. DOI – 174 (2025)

**RESOLUTION SETTING REMOVAL HEARING ON COMPLAINT AGAINST
TRIBAL PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, organized and operating under the Tribe’s Amended Constitution and Bylaws approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996;

WHEREAS, under Article VII, Section 2, of the Tribe’s Amended Constitution and Bylaws, any officer or councilman who fails to perform his or her assigned duties or shall be guilty of gross neglect may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Tribal Council after affording the accused a fair opportunity to be heard in his or her own defense;

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2025, the Tribal Secretary received a Complaint for Removal of the Tribal President signed and sworn by Melissa Fisher (“Complainant”), which alleges the Tribal President (“Respondent”) failed to perform his administrative duties; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council wishes to schedule a hearing to determine if the Tribal President has failed to perform his administrative duties, appoint a hearing officer, and establish rules for that hearing; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. **Removal Hearing.** There shall be a hearing on September 11, 2025, at 1 p.m. to determine if the Tribal President should be removed from his position under the requirements of Article VII, Section 2;
2. **Procedure.** The following rules apply to the hearing.
 - A. The hearing shall proceed as follows:

Complainant’s Opening Statement	up to 15 minutes
Respondent’s Opening Statement	up to 15 minutes
Complainant’s Case in Chief	up to 30 minutes
Respondent’s Defense	up to 30 minutes
Complainant’s Rebuttal	up to 15 minutes
Respondent’s Rebuttal	up to 15 minutes
Complainant’s Closing Statement	up to 10 minutes
Respondent’s Closing Statement	up to 10 minutes

- B. Each party may submit documentary evidence or testimonial evidence. Documentary evidence may only be used in the Case in Chief or Defense if delivered to the Tribal Secretary by 4:30 p.m. on September 10, 2025. Any such documentary evidence received shall be made available by the Secretary to the opposing party as soon as practicable after receipt. Evidence submitted in response to evidence presented in the Case in Chief or Defense need not be provided in advance;
- C. Each party may be represented by legal counsel;
- D. Only those members of the Tribal Council present during the entire course of the hearing shall be entitled to vote on whether the Tribal President should be removed;
- E. The Tribal Secretary shall provide this Resolution to the Tribal President and Complainant as soon as practicable.
- F. The Hearing will be closed to the public.

3. **Hearing Officer.** The Tribal Council hereby designates Jeromena Beartusk as the hearing officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hearing Officer shall receive compensation upon completion of the findings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Council directs the Tribal Secretary to process the resolution today, September 8, 2025.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by vote of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 7 votes for passage and adoption, 1 vote against passage, and 0 abstentions, this 8th day of September 2025.



Howard Ontiveros, President Pro Tem
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

ATTEST:



Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Disapproved:

**ANDREW
WERK**

Digitally signed by
ANDREW WERK
Date: 2025.09.09
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Superintendent

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 008 (2025)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2024-2028 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 5, 2024 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Gene Small, President
2. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
3. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
4. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
5. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
6. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
7. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
8. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
9. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2024-2028 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

10. Gene Small, President
11. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
12. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
13. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
14. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
15. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
16. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
17. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
18. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 18th day of November 2024.

ATTEST:



Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe



Gene Small, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

**ADAM
WOLF**

Acting Superintendent

Digitally signed by
ADAM WOLF
Date: 2024.12.05
16:05:41 -07'00'



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6284
FAX (406) 477-6210



VIA E-mail

December 8, 2025

Jodi A. Camrud
Deputy Regional Director – Trust Services
Rocky Mountain Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs
2021 4th Avenue North
Billings, Montana 59101
Jodi.camrud@bia.gov

Re: Supplemental Authority — The BIA’s Duty to Issue a Recognition Determination (Final or Interim); the Illegality of Indefinite Nonrecognition; and the Practical Availability of a Proper Constitutional Court Challenge

Deputy Regional Director Camrud:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council submits this supplemental letter to provide additional authority and clarification directly refuting the Bureau’s position that it may indefinitely withhold a recognition determination under the guise of “restraint,” while simultaneously directing the Council to pursue “tribal remedies” that—by the Tribe’s own law and the Constitutional Court’s holdings—are not available in the posture the Bureau demands.

1. Indefinite nonrecognition is reviewable agency action and is unlawful paralysis, not “restraint.”

Federal courts recognize that agency recognition decisions (and refusals to decide) are reviewable under the Administrative Procedure Act, and that an agency abuses its discretion when it uses “neutrality” as a pretext for indefinite inaction that produces tangible harm. In *Winnemucca Indian Colony v. U.S. ex rel. Dept. of the Interior*, 837 F. Supp. 2d 1184 (D. Nev. 2011) (No. 3:11-cv-00622-RCJ-VPC), the court reaffirmed jurisdiction to grant declaratory and injunctive relief under the APA concerning recognition-related disputes, and it recognized that DOI/BIA cannot simply refuse to act where the practical effect is governance paralysis. The core lesson is that a refusal to make a recognition determination—final or interim—can be arbitrary and capricious when it creates a vacuum that disables government and invites dissipation of resources.

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.

That principle applies here. A refusal to recognize anyone is not “restraint.” It is an affirmative decision to leave the Tribe without a functioning federal interface while disputed actors exploit the uncertainty in ways that cause irreparable harm.

2. “Deference to tribal forums” only makes sense where a functioning forum can actually provide the remedy being demanded.

The Bureau often invokes federal “restraint” cases to avoid involvement in tribal election or leadership disputes. But those principles presuppose the availability of a functioning tribal forum capable of resolving the dispute in the posture required. In *Wheeler v. U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs*, 811 F.2d 549 (10th Cir. 1987) (No. 85–1375), the court emphasized restraint largely because the election dispute could be addressed through tribal mechanisms. The Bureau’s reliance on that logic is misplaced where it demands a tribal-court remedy that does not exist for the relief sought.

Here, the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has already confirmed that the Council cannot proceed as plaintiff in a generalized challenge to the actions of the so-called “chiefs” unless the matter constitutes a “Constitutional Claim” as defined by the Code or the Court is explicitly empowered by Council enactment. *Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council v. Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Cause No. CC-2026-002 (N. Cheyenne Const. Ct., Lame Deer, Montana), Order of Dismissal (Oct. 7, 2025)*. The Court dismissed for lack of jurisdiction and explained that, in a Constitutional Court proceeding on a Constitutional Claim, the Tribal Council is required to be made a “Party Defendant,” not the plaintiff.

This matters for federal recognition because it demonstrates that the Bureau’s recurring directive—“go to tribal court”—is incomplete as stated. It is not that “tribal remedies” broadly exist in theory; it is that the applicable law requires the dispute to be presented in the correct posture and the correct claim type.

3. The Court’s “Duly Elected Council-as-defendant” posture makes interim recognition both the right and practical approach.

The Order of Dismissal in Cause No. CC-2026-002 does more than deny jurisdiction over one complaint. It identifies the procedural reality the Bureau refuses to acknowledge: if the so-called “chiefs” or any unlawfully constituted body believes it has a qualifying “Constitutional Claim,” then it may bring that claim in the proper posture—i.e., against the Tribal Council as the required defendant—consistent with the Code.

Accordingly, interim recognition of the duly elected Council is not “taking sides” in internal politics. It is the only approach that (a) preserves continuity of government for federal purposes, (b) prevents further dissipation of tribal resources pending resolution, and (c) leaves open a clear, orderly pathway for challengers to litigate a qualifying claim in the Constitutional Court in the posture the Court itself requires. The Bureau’s refusal to recognize anyone, by contrast, creates

paralysis while simultaneously demanding that the Council pursue relief the Constitutional Court has already declared unavailable to it as plaintiff.

4. Recognition decisions are the practical fulcrum in factional disputes affecting operations and finances.

Courts have also recognized that leadership disputes quickly spill into operational and financial crises that turn on federal recognition posture. In *In re Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa / Meskwaki Casino Litigation*, 340 F.3d 749 (8th Cir. 2003), the Eighth Circuit recounted how a leadership conflict led to banks freezing accounts and severe operational disruption, and how Interior/BIA recognition determinations played a stabilizing role for federal purposes even while courts declined to adjudicate the underlying tribal leadership dispute. The point is straightforward: recognition is the threshold administrative function that prevents institutional breakdown.

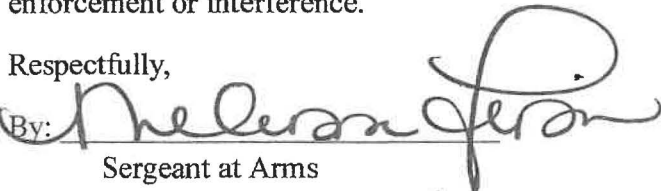
Demand reiterated.

For these reasons, the Council reiterates its demand that the Bureau immediately issue either:

1. a **final written recognition determination**, or at minimum
2. an **interim written recognition determination** sufficient to permit administrative appeal and to restore functional governance for federal purposes.

The Council further requests written confirmation that BIA law enforcement will conduct itself consistently with the Bureau's recognition posture so that the recognized governing body can safely regain access to offices, records, and basic operational control without further selective enforcement or interference.

Respectfully,

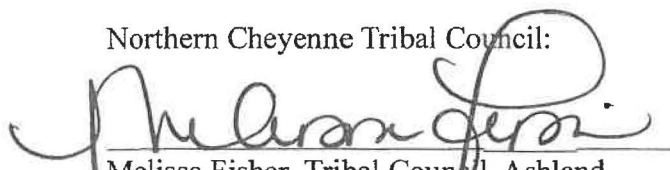
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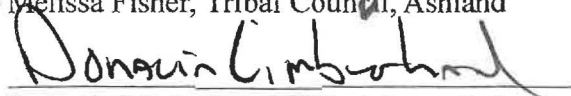
Sergeant at Arms

Phone: 406 720 0854

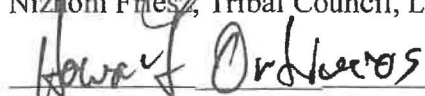
E-mail: melisfish79@gmail.com

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council:


Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council, Ashland


Donavin Limberhand, Tribal Council, Lame Deer


Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council, Lame Deer


Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council, Muddy



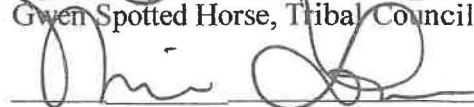
Eva Foote, Tribal Council, Ashland



Stefan Rainingbird, Tribal Council, Busby



Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council, Birney



Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council, Lame Deer



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Northern Cheyenne Agency
P.O. Box 40
Lame Deer, MT 59043**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION**

**Gene Small, President
Gene.Small@cheyennenation.com
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043**

Dear President Small:

This is in reference to Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) enacted on November 18, 2024 and received on December 4, 2024.

Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) promulgating and seating the duly elected officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for the 2024-2028 term of office.

Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) is hereby noted. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council has the authority to take this action pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 (r) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Superintendent has authority to respond to said ordinance.

All necessary copies of this ordinance have been retained for our files.

Sincerely,

**ADAM
WOLF**

**Digitally signed
by ADAM WOLF
Date: 2024.12.05
16:05:08 -07'00'**

Acting Superintendent

Enclosure

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 010 (2023)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2022-2026 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 8, 2022 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2022 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2022-2026 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 21st day of November 2022.



Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Acting President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

ATTEST:



Alicia Cano, Acting Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

ANDREW WERK Digitally signed by ANDREW WERK
Date: 2022.11.30 16:04:53 -0700

Superintendent

DECEMBER 15, 2025 LETTER



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6284
FAX (406) 477-6210



December 15, 2025

VIA U.S. MAIL

William Kirkland
Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian affairs
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Response to Memorandum from President Gene Small dated December 8, 2025 –
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Government Recognition**

Dear Assistant-Secretary:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council respectfully submits this response to the December 8, 2025, memorandum transmitted by President Gene Small to the Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Because recognition decisions must rest on accurate statements of tribal law and process, we clarify the record and request that the Department adhere to the governing federal standard requiring recognition of a single, lawful governing body for federal purposes on at least an interim basis.

At the outset, it is essential to be precise about the identity of the Northern Cheyenne governing body that the Tribe and the Bureau have historically recognized. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council includes members seated under Ordinance No. DOI-010 (2023) (promulgating and seating duly elected officers for the 2022–2026 term, with staggered terms) and members seated under Ordinance No. DOI-008 (2025) (promulgating and seating duly elected officers for the 2024–2028 term, also reflecting staggered terms). Both ordinance, copies of which are attached hereto, were enacted pursuant to the Northern Cheyenne Constitution and were transmitted to—and “noted” by—the Northern Cheyenne Agency in the ordinary course of federal-tribal administration.

In addition, please understand the following:

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.

I. The Northern Cheyenne Constitution Does Not Confer Political or Removal Authority on the “Chiefs”

President Small’s memorandum asserts that the “Northern Cheyenne Traditional Chiefs,” acting under authority purportedly “recognized” in tribal law, directed a special election to fill alleged “vacancies” on the Tribal Council. That assertion is incorrect as a matter of Northern Cheyenne governance. The Constitution vests governing authority in elected institutions and prescribes exclusive processes for removal of elected officials. Whatever the cultural and advisory importance of traditional leadership, the Chiefs are not the constitutional legislature and do not possess constitutional jurisdiction to remove Council members, declare vacancies, or direct elections for Council seats. The Chiefs also do not have any other authority over the Tribal Council, inherent or otherwise and they have no supporting oral history or documentary evidence to the contrary.

II. No Tribal Resolution or Ordinance May Supersede the Northern Cheyenne Constitution, and the Department Has Both Authority and Obligation to Reject Enactments That Plainly Conflict with It.

President Small’s memorandum relies heavily on Resolution 84 (90) and related assertions of authority purportedly exercised by the Northern Cheyenne Traditional Chiefs. That reliance is legally misplaced. As a matter of fundamental tribal constitutional law, no resolution, ordinance, or executive action can supersede, amend, or override the Northern Cheyenne Constitution, absent compliance with the Constitution’s express amendment procedures.

The Northern Cheyenne Constitution is the Tribe’s supreme governing law. Ordinances and resolutions are subordinate enactments; they exist only insofar as they are consistent with the Constitution that authorizes them. Where a resolution conflicts with the Constitution—or purports to create governing authority or removal powers not found in the Constitution—it is void to the extent of the conflict and cannot serve as a lawful basis for federal recognition.

Resolution 84 (90), on its face, does not and cannot confer governing authority on the Chiefs. At most, it provides for advisory or consultative participation by traditional leaders in specified matters and situates any such participation within the Tribe’s constitutional structure. It does not amend Article VII, alter the Tribe’s election framework, or authorize removal of elected officials by anyone other than the Tribal Council acting through constitutionally prescribed procedures. Even if it purported to do so, such a result would be legally impossible without a constitutional amendment approved by the Northern Cheyenne people.

Importantly, the Department and the Bureau have long exercised authority to decline to recognize or implement tribal ordinances and resolutions when those enactments conflict on their face with a tribe’s constitution or bylaws. The Bureau has done so not only in response to formal challenges, but also through BIA’s own review when constitutional conflicts are apparent. This is not an

intrusion into tribal self-governance; it is a recognition principle: federal dealings must be grounded in constitutionally valid tribal action.

~~The constitutional violations here are neither subtle nor debatable.~~ The Northern Cheyenne Constitution establishes the elected Tribal Council and presidential offices, prescribes exclusive Article VII procedures for removal, and contains no provision authorizing the Chiefs to remove Council members, declare vacancies, direct elections, or seat a different governing body. Any subordinate enactment invoked to justify those actions is necessarily invalid to the extent it conflicts with the Constitution. Because these defects are clear on the face of the governing documents, the Bureau is not required to treat factional assertions of “inherent authority” as sufficient to displace the Tribe’s constitutional government. Consistent with its recognition practice—including the Agency’s prior “Noted” acceptance of constitutionally valid election ordinances such as DOI-010 and DOI-008—the Bureau should decline to give effect to actions that directly conflict with the Constitution and should instead recognize the governing body seated pursuant to constitutionally valid ordinances.

III. The October 30, 2025 “Special Election” Was Extra-Constitutional As There Were No Lawful Vacancy of the Council Seats.

President Small’s memorandum represents that a Chiefs-directed “special election” occurred on October 30, 2025 under the 1996 Amended Constitution and Bylaws. But the Constitution does not authorize chiefs to call elections, and Council seats do not become vacant simply because an extra-constitutional faction declares them vacant.

By contrast, DOI-010 and DOI-008 reflect the Tribe’s standard constitutional and statutory election process: certified reservation-wide election results and sworn oaths of office. DOI-008, for example, recites the November 5, 2024 general election, certification by election judges under the Election Ordinance, and oaths sworn on November 18, 2024. DOI-010 similarly recites the November 8, 2022 election, certification, and oaths sworn on November 21, 2022.

The Department’s recognition analysis must start with the government seated under these ordinances—not with a later process initiated outside the Constitution and outside the Tribe’s election law.

IV. The Constitutional Court’s CC-2026-001 Order Did Not Validate the Chiefs’ Removal of Council Members or the Replacement Council

President Small’s memorandum also invokes the Constitutional Court’s decision in CC-2026-001 as if it resolved the Chiefs’ authority and the legitimacy of the replacement Council. It did not. CC-2026-001, a copy of which is also attached, addressed whether President Small was lawfully removed. It did not adjudicate whether the Chiefs had constitutional authority to remove Council members, it did not declare Council seats vacant, and it did not validate any chiefs-directed election for Council seats.

The relevant point for the Department is straightforward: absent a constitutionally valid vacancy and absent a constitutionally valid election under the Tribe's election law, the existence of DOI-010 and DOI-008—and the BIA's prior practice of noting and retaining them—remains the strongest documentary indicator of the lawful governing body.

V. Federal Recognition Law Requires Interim Recognition of the Constitutionally Seated Governing Body Pending Lawful Tribal Resolution

Federal law does not permit the Bureau to avoid recognition decisions by claiming neutrality while rival factions assert authority. Under *Goodface* and the line of IBIA decisions applying that rule, BIA must recognize a single governing body for federal purposes at least on an interim basis to preserve government-to-government relations and continuity of federal programs. Here, the only governing body that is anchored in the Tribe's constitutional election process and memorialized in duly enacted ordinances is the Council seated pursuant to DOI-010 and DOI-008.

VI. Conclusion and Request

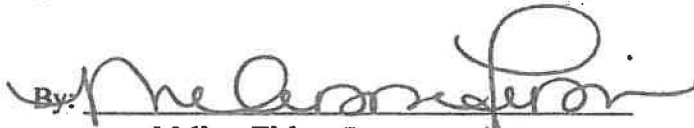
For the reasons above, and to ensure the administrative record is accurate, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Recognize that the Northern Cheyenne governing body for federal purposes consists of the duly seated Council members and officers identified in Ordinance DOI-010 (2023) (2022–2026 staggered terms) and Ordinance DOI-008 (2025) (2024–2028 term, including continued recognition for staggered terms).
2. Decline to treat Chiefs' declarations as creating lawful vacancies or authorizing an election process not recognized by the Northern Cheyenne Constitution; and
3. Confirm recognition of the Council seated under DOI-010 and DOI-008 unless and until a forum with jurisdiction under tribal law issues a decision altering that composition through constitutionally valid means.

Respectfully,

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

(Seated Pursuant to Ordinance DOI-010 (2023) and Ordinance DOI-008 (2025))

By: 

Melissa Fisher, Sergeant at Arms

Phone:

(406) 720 0854

E-mail:

Meliefish79@gmail.com

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 010 (2023)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2022-2026 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 8, 2022 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2022 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2022-2026 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Eva Foote, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
2. Torrey Davie, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
3. Donavin Limberhand, Jr., Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
4. Melissa Lonebear, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
5. Nizhoni Friesz, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 21st day of November 2022.



Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Acting President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

ATTEST:



Alicia Cano, Acting Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

ANDREW WERK Digitally signed by ANDREW WERK
Date: 2022.11.30 16:04:53 -0700

Superintendent

**TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

ORDINANCE NO. DOI – 008 (2025)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL PROMULGATING
AND SEATING THE DULY ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
FOR THE 2024-2028 TERM OF OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by the authority pursuant to the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 (f) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states that the Tribal Council members shall be elected for the term of office specified in this Constitution and Bylaws and until his or her successors are sworn into office; and

WHEREAS, the November 5, 2024 Reservation-Wide General Election of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, naming the winning candidates, has been certified by the duly appointed Election Judges in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96) which is the Election Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2024 the newly elected Tribal Council Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe have formally taken their oath of office, sworn to by a Notary Public and Tribal Court Judge, in accordance with Ordinance No. 18 (96); and

WHEREAS, the Tribal President, Vice President and Council deem it necessary and appropriate to inform the Tribal Membership, subordinate and affiliated organizations of the Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, other Federally recognized Tribal Governments, and all State and Federal Government officials of the newly elected and duly seated members of the Northern Cheyenne Governing Body; now

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND PROMULGATED that the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Members, having been duly elected and sworn into office the four year terms, are now respectively seated as the political officers of the Governing Body of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Reservation:

1. Gene Small, President
2. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
3. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
4. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
5. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
6. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lame Deer District Representative
7. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
8. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
9. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all the above listed political officers of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe are hereby entitled to emoluments of their office and shall exercise their constitutional powers to perform their duties of office in service of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and its members; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the predecessors of all the aforementioned officers have concluded their terms of office and therefore no longer carry authority to represent the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in their former capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any prior Tribal Council resolutions that contradict or conflict with this Ordinance are hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED the following Northern Cheyenne Tribal members will continue to serve and be recognized as duly elected and seated political officers of the Governing Body for their 2024-2028 staggered terms of office in accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws:

10. Gene Small, President
11. Ernest Littlemouth, Sr., Vic-President
12. Melissa Fisher, Tribal Council Ashland District Representative
13. Howard Ontiveros, Tribal Council Muddy District Representative
14. Stefan Raining Bird, Tribal Council Busby District Representative
15. Theresa Small, Tribal Council Lane Deer District Representative
16. Gwen Spotted Horse, Tribal Council Birney District Representative
17. Curtis Elkshoulder Jr., Trial Judge
18. Justin David Roundstone, Trial Judge

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 0 votes against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 18th day of November 2024.

ATTEST:


Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe


Gene Small, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

**ADAM
WOLF**

Acting Superintendent

Digitally signed by
ADAM WOLF
Date: 2024.12.05
16:05:41 -07'00'

**IN THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
OF AND FOR THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
LAME DEER, MONTANA**

GENE SMALL,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

**NORTHERN CHEYENNE
TRIBE TRIBAL COUNCIL,**

DEFENDANT.

)
) **CAUSE NO. CC 2026-001**
)
)

) **JUDGES:**
)

) **STEVEN T. SMALL**
) **MICHAEL A. MONSON**
) **ADRIAN A. MILLER**
)

) **FINAL ORDER**
)
)

Before the Court is a Gene Small's Motion for Declaratory Judgment and Recognition of Presidential Authority filed on October 1, 2025 ("Petition"). Eight members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council (the "Council") filed a Response to Plaintiff's Motion for Declaratory Relief and Cross-Motion for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief ("Response") on October 25, 2025. Upon review of the Petition and Response, the Court finds and orders as follows:

SCOPE OF THIS PROCEEDING

In the Response, the Council has attempted to expand the scope of this proceeding to include a question as to the legitimacy of certain actions taken by the Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, among other questions. The only issue in front of the Court in this matter is whether the Council's proceedings to remove Gene Small as President were "in whole or part valid or invalid." Northern Cheyenne Law and Order Code (the "Code"), § 2.9.3 (2025). Any other question is not properly before this Court for several reasons.

First, the Petition was filed on October 1, 2025, and the Petition governs the scope of this proceeding. Second, the Council passed Resolution No. 2026-001 on October 17, 2025,¹ more than two weeks after the Petition was filed in this matter. A resolution passed after a Petition/Complaint is filed cannot govern the Petition. Third, the Council is attempting to bring a case against the Chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe (the "Chiefs") in this case, and the Chiefs are not a party to this case. Gene Small ("Small") is not a member of the Chiefs

¹ This Resolution is also invalid as explained below because it is signed by Howard Ontiveros as President Pro Tem, and the Council's appointment of him was unconstitutional.

and is not required to defend their actions, nor should he attempt to do so. This Court is not going to expand this proceeding beyond the scope of the Petition filed by Small. To do so would be a violation of due process.

SERVICE

The Council complains that individual members of the Council were not served with the Petition and have been barred from the Council building. It further alleges that the members did not receive a copy of the Petition until the day before the Response was due. The Council's actions in this case show otherwise. The same members who filed the Response on October 24, 2025, also filed a Motion to Dismiss or alternatively to Request Additional Time ("Motion to Dismiss") in this case on October 14, 2025. As of October 14th, at the very latest, the Council had access to the case pleadings and were fully aware of the Petition.

As noted in the Order denying the Motion to Dismiss, those same Council members refused to provide addresses or phone numbers that would have allowed the Clerk of Court to determine where to serve them. In fact, the Council members have now filed two pleadings with

this Court – the Motion to Dismiss and the Response – and refused to provide addresses or phone numbers in both. These pleadings violate the requirements of the Code. According to Section 4.2.3 of the Code, “[a]ll documents filed in any action shall” contain the name, address, and telephone number where the party may be reached.

On October 14, 2025, the Council first appeared in this action by filing its Motion to Dismiss. At that time, Council was required to include the addresses and telephone numbers of its members (or their counsel) on the initial pleading. The Council also had immediate access to the entire case file, including the Petition. Despite these obligations, the Council has twice failed to furnish the required contact information: first in its Motion to Dismiss and again in subsequent filings. The Council’s present assertion that it did not receive the Petition is therefore either inaccurate or attributable to its own non-compliance with the procedural rules governing service and appearance.² Proper service upon the Council was effected, and the Council had ample opportunity to respond; indeed, certain of its members have done so.

² Council has since filed a Notice of Defendant’s Email Addresses on November 7, 2025 providing email addresses for Defendant and requesting service be made to said email addresses.

ANALYSIS AND ORDER

Small alleges that the Council unconstitutionally appointed a President Pro Tem, Howard Ontiveros (“Ontiveros”), and then unconstitutionally removed him. The Council admits that it appointed Ontiveros as President Pro Tem, but the Council claims that it had no choice because Vice President Littlemouth, Sr. sided with President Small in ongoing disputes among the Council, preventing them from moving forward with meetings. The Council cites Robert’s Rules of Order for their authority to appoint Ontiveros as President Pro Tem. Notably, the appointment of Ontiveros happened before the Council held the removal proceeding for Small and before it voted to remove him as President.

The removal of an officer or councilmen is governed by Article VII of the Northern Cheyenne Constitution (the “Constitution”). This article also governs officer vacancies. According to Section 4(a) of Article VII, “[i]f the office of President is vacant, the Vice President shall serve as acting President in the interim. If the offices of both President and Vice President are vacant simultaneously, the Tribal Council shall appoint from within its own number an acting President who shall serve in the

interim.” The Constitution is clear. The only scenario which allows the Council to appoint a President Pro Tem is when both the office of President and Vice President are vacant. Here, when the Council appointed Ontiveros as President Pro Tem, neither office was vacant. The Council had no authority to appoint Ontiveros and its actions in doing so were unconstitutional.

It is particularly concerning that the Council decided to appoint a President Pro Tem for the purpose of removing the actual President. Small was President at the time the Council acted to appoint Ontiveros. Vice President Littlemouth, Sr. was also the Vice President at that time. The express provisions of the Constitution cannot be overridden by Robert’s Rules of Order simply because the Council is frustrated with the elected President and Vice President. The Council had no authority to appoint Ontiveros as President Pro Tem under Article VII, Section 4(a) of the Constitution. Accordingly, the Council’s appointment of Ontiveros as President Pro Tem was invalid.

Any resolution signed by Ontiveros as President Pro Tem is also invalid. This includes Resolution No. DOI-174 (2025), which set the removal hearing on the complaint against Small. Since the Resolution

setting the hearing was invalid, the hearing against Small was similarly invalid. However, the Court will also review the hearing for purposes of clarity.

At the September 11, 2025 hearing, Ontiveros voted with seven other Council members to remove Small as President. As noted above, Ontiveros was appointed as President Pro Tem prior to this hearing, even though there was no vacancy in the office of President. Thus, at the hearing, the President Pro Tem bizarrely voted to remove the actual President. According to Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution, removal of an officer requires a vote of 2/3 members of the Council, after affording the accused member a fair opportunity to be heard in his own defense. Since the appointment of Ontiveros as President Pro Tem was invalid, he had no authority to vote at that hearing. Accordingly, the Council did not have the 2/3 votes needed to remove Small.

Of course, the hearing itself was also invalid as noted above because Ontiveros had no authority to sign the Resolution setting the hearing. This Court does not understand how Small could possibly have had an opportunity to be heard in his own defense at a removal hearing when the Council had already replaced him with a President Pro Tem.

That same President Pro Tem then voted against Small at the hearing, which was set to determine whether Small was to be removed as President. In short, the Council held a hearing where two tribal Presidents ostensibly existed at the same time, with one voting against the other to remove him. The procedures that the Council followed for the removal hearing were not only unconstitutional, but they were also nonsensical.

Accordingly, the Court **FINDS AND ORDERS** as follows:

- Resolution No. DOI-174 (2025) setting the removal hearing for Small was unconstitutional and invalid.
- The removal hearing, the Hearing Officer Findings, and the Council's vote to removal Small were unconstitutional and invalid.
- Any other Resolution signed by Ontiveros as President Pro Tem is also invalid, including Resolution No. DOI-177 (2025) and Resolution No. DOI-001 (2026).
- Small remains President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and has the right to exercise all presidential authority allowed by the Constitution and the Code.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2025.

/s/ Steven T. Small

Steven T. Small
CHIEF APPELLATE JUDGE

/s/ Michael A. Monson

Michael A. Monson
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

/s/ Adrian A. Miller

Adrian A. Miller
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

[Handwritten signature]
11/20/05



DECEMBER 23, 2025 LETTER



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6284
FAX (406) 477-6210



December 23, 2025

VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL

William Kirkland
Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian affairs
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Kirkland:

On behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, I, Melissa Fisher, Sergeant-at-Arms for the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, write to respond to recent communications you have received from Jennifer H. Weddle dated December 12 and December 18, 2025, and to respectfully request clarification regarding the Department's current posture toward governance and recognition issues within the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

First, the Council must correct the record. The assertions in Ms. Weddle's emails—that "all Northern Cheyenne Tribe processes are complete," that governance has returned to "normal," and that the October 30 election resolves all issues—are legal conclusions advanced by counsel for one faction. They do not resolve the core constitutional questions the Council has repeatedly presented to Indian Affairs: whether lawfully elected Council members were removed pursuant to the Northern Cheyenne Constitution, whether lawful vacancies existed, and whether the subsequent election was constitutionally authorized. Those questions remain unanswered by the Bureau even though the answers are clearly obvious.

Second, the Council is deeply concerned that Ms. Weddle's correspondence appears to be treated as authoritative despite the fact that the Tribal Council never approved a resolution authorizing an attorney contract with Ms. Weddle or her firm, nor has the Council approved any line-item budget for her compensation. The Council's understanding is that no such authorization exists. Under these circumstances, Ms. Weddle's communications purporting to speak for the Tribe raise serious concerns, and the Council respectfully requests that DOI/BIA not perpetuate this situation by acknowledging or relying upon correspondence from counsel who lacks Council authorization.

Third, Ms. Weddle's request that BIA "resume regular review and approval" of resolutions at the request of President Gene Small and the installed council underscores why the Council continues to demand a written interim recognition determination. Resuming approvals for one faction, without a reasoned explanation addressing *Goodface v. Grassrope* and the IBIA interim-

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.

recognition cases, would amount to recognition in practice and would further undermine the Department's stated neutrality posture. The Council therefore reiterates its request for a written determination identifying which governing body DOI/BIA recognizes for federal purposes pending lawful tribal resolution, with an explanation sufficient to permit administrative review.

Fourth, the Council must address process and fairness concerns. It is the Council's understanding that President Gene Small and Mr. Scott Davis have been personal friends for a number of years. While the Council makes no allegation of misconduct, it would feel more confident in the integrity and neutrality of the Department's handling of this matter if Mr. Davis were not involved in any way in decisions or communications relating to Northern Cheyenne governance during this dispute.

Fifth, the Council respectfully requests equal access. Unlike President Small, the Council does not have funds to travel to Washington, D.C. or Las Vegas for in-person meetings. The Council therefore asks for a meeting with you in Lame Deer, Montana, or alternatively in Billings, Montana, at a mutually convenient time. Providing equal opportunity to be heard would be consistent with the Department's neutrality policy and only seems right given that the Council's current predicament arose after BIA actions that treated the Chiefs' declaration as operative and relied on representations from President Small that the Council contends were false.

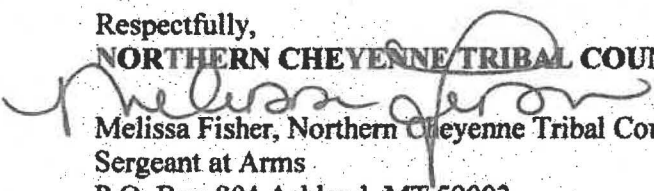
Sixth, the Council must also address a troubling implication in Ms. Weddle's correspondence that, if left uncorrected, risks misleading the Department and third parties. Ms. Weddle's emails suggest that the former Council members were "removed" due to "very serious allegations of financial fraud" and imply that those allegations justify the displacement of elected officials and recognition of a rival governing body. That implication is incorrect and must be expressly rejected. No Tribal Court, no federal court, no administrative body, and no competent tribunal has found that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Business Council—or any individual Council member—committed theft, fraud, abuse, or any other unlawful act. To the contrary, all completed audits of federal funds and general fund monies—including CARES Act and ARPA funding—do not support any allegation of theft, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement by the Tribal Council or its members. These audits directly contradict the narrative advanced in Ms. Weddle's correspondence. No Article VII removal proceedings adjudicated any claims of financial misconduct, no due process determination exists, and no audit findings support the allegations being implied. Allegations advanced by one faction or its counsel—particularly after elected officials were forcibly removed and deprived of offices, records, and resources—do not constitute findings of fact and cannot be treated as justification for removal, vacancy creation, or recognition of a unlawful governing body.

Finally, the Council reiterates that it did not arrive at this position voluntarily. The confusion and paralysis now facing the Tribe were caused or materially escalated when BIA accepted and enforced a baseless declaration by self-styled Chiefs and acted on unverified complaints submitted by President Small and his staff/supporters, resulting in the arrest of four lawfully elected Council members and their families. Those actions conveyed a false message of legitimacy that continues to this day. The appropriate corrective step is not continued deferral, but a reasoned interim recognition determination grounded in the Northern Cheyenne Constitution and federal law.

We have sent numerous letters to the BIA concerning this matter. We trust you have received or have been apprised of all of them. If not, we would be happy to email them to you or provide you with the copies should you accept our invitation to meet.

We appreciate your attention to these matters and respectfully request a written response addressing the points above, along with confirmation of a meeting date in Montana at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,


NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Melissa Fisher, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Sergeant at Arms
P.O. Box 804 Ashland, MT 59003
406.720.0854, melisfish79@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 11, 2026 LETTER



-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6284
FAX (406) 477-6210



-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

February 11, 2026

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BRANCH OF ADMINISTRATION

FEB 23 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: Chief's February 6, 2026 Declarations and Implications Concerning The Lawfully
Elected Tribal Council's Request for BIA Recognition

Superintendent Werk:

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council submits this supplemental notice to update the administrative record regarding developments that materially affect the Bureau's continued reliance on internal tribal processes and exhaustion principles.

On February 6, 2026, the Traditional Chiefs Council issued formal removal letters to additional Tribal Council members, including individuals who had replaced members of the duly elected Council. The letters state there will be "no hearing" and that "the decision of the Traditional Chiefs Council will be final." They assert authority under "Traditional Law" to remove elected officials where the Council allegedly lacks quorum.

These removals confirm that the governing structure presently operating under the Chiefs is not constrained by the constitutional removal procedures set forth in Article VII. The Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the Tribal Council after affording the accused member a fair opportunity to be heard. The February 6 letters instead declare unilateral removal without hearing and declare the Chiefs' decision final.

The absence of due process protections, coupled with the declaration that the Chiefs' decision is final and unreviewable, demonstrates that the authority presently being exercised is not operating within, or subject to, the constitutional framework governing elected offices. Where removal occurs without hearing and is declared final, there is no clear mechanism ensuring that constitutional checks—including judicial review—would bind or constrain that authority.

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Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever**

This has direct implications for the Bureau's repeated suggestion that the duly elected Council must seek relief in Tribal Court.

As previously explained to the Bureau, the Northern Cheyenne Constitutional Court has held that the Tribe's Code allows the Tribal Council to appear only as defendants. Under that structure, the Council cannot initiate suit to prove its own lawful status. Placing the burden on the duly elected Council to affirmatively prove to the Bureau—or to a court—that it was unlawfully removed is therefore inconsistent with the Tribe's own procedural framework.

If the Chiefs assert authority to remove constitutionally elected officials, the burden logically rests on them to demonstrate, in a proper constitutional forum, that such authority exists under the Tribe's Constitution. That allocation of burden is consistent with basic due process principles and with the Tribe's own procedural rules, which position the Council as defendants rather than plaintiffs.

The February 6 removals reinforce this point. The Chiefs are exercising removal authority without constitutional process and declaring their decisions final. Under those circumstances, requiring the duly elected Council to initiate litigation to disprove removals—while the asserting authority need not prove its own power—effectively reverses the proper burden and renders internal remedies illusory.

Moreover, if the Chiefs' decisions are declared final and not constitutionally constrained, there is no guarantee that even a Tribal Court ruling recognizing the duly elected Council would be respected or implemented. A system in which removal authority is exercised without hearing and without acknowledged judicial constraint cannot reasonably be expected to produce a stable, enforceable internal resolution.

Under *Goodface v. Grassrope*, 708 F.2d 335 (8th Cir. 1983), and subsequent IBIA precedent, the Department has an obligation to identify a governing body for federal purposes where internal disputes prevent orderly governance. Deference presumes a functioning constitutional structure in which authority is bound and judicial determinations are operative. The February 6 removals demonstrate that such enforceable constitutional constraint is not presently operative.

Accordingly, continued deferral does not promote tribal self-government; it perpetuates instability while improperly shifting the burden of proof onto those who were elected pursuant to ordinance and constitutional procedure. The burden should rest on those asserting extra-constitutional removal authority to demonstrate that such authority exists.

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 responsibility to stabilize government-to-government relations.

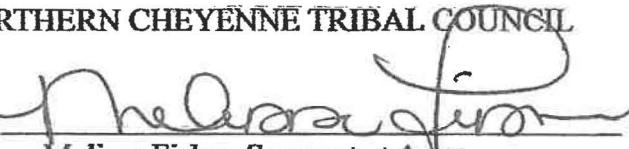
A response to our previous requests is long overdue. If we do not receive a response to our letters requesting recognition by the end of business on Tuesday, February 17, 2025, we will file an appeal with the IBIA.

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

Respectfully,

Respectfully,

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

By: 

Melissa Fisher, Sergeant at Arms
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council

Phone:

(406) 720 0854

Email:

melisfish79@gmail.com

Attachment: February 6, 2026 Tribal Council Member Removal Letter

**Tribal Council Member Removal Letter
Formal Notice of Removal**

**NORTHERN
CHEYENNE**

FEB 10 2026

**TRIBAL COUNCIL
RECEIVED**

DATE: 02/06/2026

TO: (1) Tory Davis, (2) Cory Spotted Elk, (3) Reuben Ragsdale, 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

Harold Black Hawk

Chancellor

James A. Bernard

FEBRUARY 17, 2026 LETTER



-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6284
FAX (406) 477-6210



-WOHEHIV-
The Morning Star

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February 17, 2026

FEB 17 2026

Thylkwa

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;

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- “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.

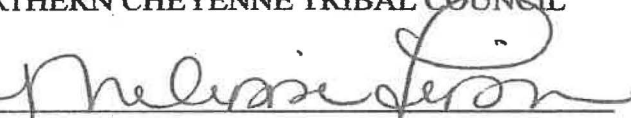
Unless the Bureau declines to recognize removals based on the September 10th Declaration and its progeny, Council membership will continue to fluctuate at the asserted discretion of competing factions of Chiefs. That is not stability; it is structural uncertainty.

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 are a free nation. We have the right to live and protect our land, our
nation, and our people.

There is a seating ceremony forthcoming. It is a ceremony of the Northern Cheyenne
people seated and publicly recognized on account of this magnitude of the present.

THE RECENT MEETING AND SIGNED ACTION IS NOW VOID

The meeting which certain individuals participated in recently under the name of the Northern Cheyenne
tribe and approved by the following:

1. One and a half seated chiefs were present.
2. The meeting was made by a great number of individuals, not a majority of the
seated chiefs.
3. The Seated Chiefs were not called and had no right to be called.
4. Individuals who were not seated as Chiefs participated and signed.
5. Hubert Blackhawk was present and signed, but was not a Seated Chief.
6. The meeting was held in a room which was not a meeting place.

Because of this the meeting was not a meeting of the Northern Cheyenne people and
is therefore null and void.

TRADITIONAL LAW WAS NOT FOLLOWED

Under the law:

- A Chief is not to be called for public enforcement.
- A Chief is not to be called into deep political disputes.
- There is no law of the Northern Cheyenne people which states that a Chief
consultation, including the Seated Chiefs.

It is the law of the Northern Cheyenne people that
it is to people playing with authority they do not get paid.

The people are the law of the Northern Cheyenne people.

NO REMOVALS HAVE OCCURRED

There is no law.

- Therefore the unilateral removal of Tribal Council members has destroyed
- Their legal authority for enforcing their orders
- Any attempt to do so must stop immediately

CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT

We call for

- An immediate halt to all actions taken by the federal government
- To suspend all federal appointments or assignments related to this case
- To call for the upcoming meeting concerning the process of the Tribal Council
- To ensure that all decisions of the village are made in a democratic and recognized

This is necessary to prevent further harm to the village.

PROTECTING THE PEOPLE AND OUR WAYS

Our traditions are not lost.

Our Constitution is not broken.

The people of the village have the right to decide their own future.

This must stop now. No order can be taken from the right way.

Signed and submitted by

Larry Bearfoot

Senior Chief

Chief of the Village Council, Council of the Northwest Territories

2:53



Anonymous member

Anonymous member · 1h · 12

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

0 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

Open in the Facebook app

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 and traditional governance.

There is a leading emergency gathering. That the emergency efforts are to address properly stated and publicly recognized, no actions of this emergency should proceed.

THE 10-CENT MEETING AND SIGNED ACTION IS NOT VALID

The meeting of which actions are taken is not valid. The meeting of which actions are taken is not valid.

1. This one meeting is not valid.
 2. The meeting was made by a small number of individuals, not by a body of people, seated chairs.
 3. The meeting was not called by a body of people, seated chairs.
 4. The meeting was not called by a body of people, seated chairs.
- Michael G. Smith, who is not a member of the Northern Cheyenne People, should not have been participating in such meetings at all.

Traditional law, the way of life, and the way of life, should not be taken from the people and the people should not be taken.

TRADITIONAL LAW WAS NOT FOLLOWED

The meeting

1. The meeting was not called by a body of people, seated chairs.
2. The meeting was not called by a body of people, seated chairs.
3. The meeting was not called by a body of people, seated chairs.

Traditional law, the way of life, and the way of life, should not be taken from the people and the people should not be taken.

The meeting was not called by a body of people, seated chairs.

NO REASONS HAVE OCCURRED

The meeting

Reuben Roundstone

4m



facebook.com



...the ... of ...

We have a number of...
 and...
 and...
 and...
 and...
 and...

1. *William of Ockham* (c. 1287–1347) *Summa logicae* (1323–24)
2. *Thomas Aquinas* (c. 1225–1274) *Summa theologiae* (1265–72)
3. *Stephen Hawking* (1942–2018) *A Brief History of Time* (1988)
4. *Albert Einstein* (1879–1955) *The Theory of Relativity* (1905)
5. *Isaac Newton* (1643–1726) *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (1687)
6. *Charles Darwin* (1809–1882) *The Origin of Species* (1859)
7. *Marie Curie* (1867–1935) *On Radioactivity* (1898)
8. *Albert Einstein* (1879–1955) *The Theory of Relativity* (1905)
9. *Isaac Newton* (1643–1726) *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (1687)
10. *Albert Einstein* (1879–1955) *The Theory of Relativity* (1905)
11. *Isaac Newton* (1643–1726) *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (1687)
12. *Albert Einstein* (1879–1955) *The Theory of Relativity* (1905)
13. *Isaac Newton* (1643–1726) *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (1687)

1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the system is not working properly.

100-443887-100

1. Anna Maria
2. Maria Theresia
3. Maria Theresia
4. Maria Theresia
5. Maria Theresia
6. Maria Theresia
7. Maria Theresia
8. Maria Theresia
9. Maria Theresia
10. Maria Theresia

NORTHERN
CHEYENNE
FILED
TRIBAL COUNCIL
RECEIVED

Tribal Council Member Removal Letter
Formal Notice of Removal

DATE: 02/06/2026

TO: (1) Tory Davis, (2) Coy Spotted Elk, (3) Ruben Round Horn, 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

Hobart Black Hawk

Ch. Ameller

James A. Bernard



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
(406) 477-6284
FAX (406) 477-6210



February 17, 2026

RECEIVED
BRANCH OF ADMINISTRATION

FEB 17 2026

HAND DELIVERY

NORTHERN CHEYENNE AGENCY
LAME DEER, MT 59043

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:

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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.

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- “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.

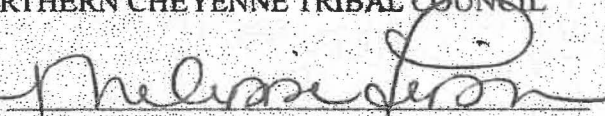
Unless the Bureau declines to recognize removals based on the September 10th Declaration and its progeny, Council membership will continue to fluctuate at the asserted discretion of competing factions of Chiefs. That is not stability; it is structural uncertainty.

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

- Strengthen the national network of United Church of Christ churches
- There is an urgency to achieving these actions
- A national day of prayer and fasting

CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE HALT

We call for:

1. An immediate halt to all federal actions which are racist in nature
2. The further enforcement of anti-discrimination laws
3. Respect for the minority rights of all people, and the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
4. A pledge to all citizens of the United States to live in peace and harmony

This is necessary to prevent further hate and division

PROTECTING THE PEOPLE AND OUR NATION

Our nation is not safe.
Our Constitution is not safe.
Our people should not suffer because of the actions of a few.
This must stop now. It can be stopped the right way.

Signed and submitted by

Larry Swenson
Senator, Utah

On behalf of the many people of the United States who are suffering

2:53



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?

0 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 A



Facebook

Event on Thursday, June 14

OPEN



REMOVE EVENT

EDIT EVENT

STATEMENT AND CALL TO HALT FROM THE STATE CHIEFS OF THE MONTHER CHALYING PEOPLE

We state the time and place for the meeting, and a number of people are
expected to be in attendance.

There is a meeting tomorrow afternoon, and the time and place are
already set and are being organized to make it a day where should please

THE RECENT MEETING AND HOW IT ACCORDS TO US

The meeting in which we were present and the time and place were
told and we were told to be ready to go.

- 1. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.
- 2. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.
- 3. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.
- 4. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.

The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.

REASONS FOR THE MEETING

- 1. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.
- 2. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.
- 3. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.
- 4. The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.

The meeting was held at the time and place of the meeting, and the time and place were
told to us.

ALL PEOPLE ARE WELCOME

Everyone is welcome.

Reuben Roundstone



facebook.com



4

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

17
M. J. CHITKOTI (LIFE MEMBER ASSOCIATION)
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

1950

1945-1946

[illegible]

Desert, that the desert, was the wilderness.

May 1944

SECRET

Henry

SECRET

1. The first of these is the fact that the

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which are arranged in two columns. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed style. The list includes names such as "John Smith", "Mary Jones", and "Robert Brown", along with their respective addresses in various cities and states.

1. The first of these is the fact that the

1. Project: A study of the
2. effect of the

... A ... CONTAINING ...

1. The first of these is the fact that the

1980

1960-1961

1944

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]

11. The Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has been a member of the United Nations since 1949. It is the only government in the world that has been recognized by the United Nations as the sole legitimate government of China.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

1942. The following year, the same pattern was repeated, with the same results.

10. School Lunch
11. Insurance
12. Dental
13. Life Insurance
14. Health Insurance

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which are arranged in a columnar format. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed style. The list includes names such as "John Doe", "Jane Smith", and "Robert Johnson", along with their respective addresses.

per Spinoza
per Spinoza
per Spinoza
per Spinoza
per Spinoza

10/10/1941

Group 4 Band 5

Handwritten signature: *Handwritten signature*

March 2nd 1904

10/10/1944

Amelanchier canadensis

High Chief

NORTHERN
CHEYENNE

Tribal Council Member Removal Letter

Formal Notice of Removal

TRIBAL COUNCIL
RECEIVED

DATE: 02/16/2026

TO: (1) Cory Davis, (2) Cory Spotted Elk, (3) Reuben Roundstone, and (4) Wade Redbal

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 02/16/2026.

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 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

Harold Black Wolf

Ch. Mueller

James A. Swank