



Auditor General of Canada
Vérificatrice générale du Canada

4 October 2006

Mr. Kevin Thorne
5639 Club Road
Duncan, B.C.
V9L 6W9

Dear Mr. Thorne:

Thank you for your letters faxed to us on 26 September and 3 October 2006, requesting that the Office of the Auditor General conduct a forensic audit of the Cowichan Tribes of Duncan, British Columbia.

While I am sorry to hear of your concerns, my Office does not have the power to audit First Nations. Rather, our role is to audit the programs and activities of federal government departments and agencies and to report our findings to Parliament.

You may wish to contact the National Allegations and Complaints Coordinator of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada about your concerns. Contact information for that office is as follows:

National Allegations and Complaints Coordinator
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
10 Wellington Street, Room 2107
Hull, QC
Postal Address: Ottawa, ON K1A 0H4

Tel.: (819) 953-7012 or 1 (800) 567-9604
Fax: (819) 934-6103

I hope this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Fraser, FCA

\$62,170 should stay the same in 2006/07.

Jessie – That was approved at the last Council meeting, Council went with the formula.

- Wesley – I don't know if we're addressing the same issues here I'm wanting to review the Finance Manager's position through the Personnel Committee. I have no problem adopting the budget with the exception of the Finance Manager subject to Personnel Committee.

WESLEY MODESTE MOTIONED, SECONDED BY LESTER JOE THAT THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT BUDGET BE APPROVED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FINANCE MANAGER WAGE. THE FINANCE MANAGER POSITION TO BE REVIEWED BY THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

1 ABSTAINED – DORA WILSON

MOTION CARRIED.

[Action – General Manager advise the Personnel Manager to set up a Personnel Meeting regarding the Finance Manager position being reviewed by Personnel.]

b) Environment Budget

Robert – The Environment but was also tabled at the April meeting of Council for further review. What you have before you now is all the original budgets with one exception page 1 have been revised following the termination of the position. The expenses have been reduced to what actually has been spent in the first two months of this year. The original budget had total expenses of \$67,000 they've now gone down to \$52,402.00, to balance the budget the transfer from Property Taxation has been reduced from \$34,000 to \$18,983.00. The result of that termination is that Property Taxation has to contribute that much less to balance this budget so that everything remains the same. All the other budgets were unchanged as to what was originally presented.

- Philomena – What you are saying is Property Taxation gave \$69,000 before now they're only giving \$18,000?

Robert – They gave \$34,500.00 that has been reduced to \$18,983.00 all the other budgets have not changed from what was originally presented. Most of those are budgets of surpluses from last year there is no new money coming in. Pages 10 & 11 – Page 10 has funding from INAC coming in this year so far we've received \$30,000 an additional \$5,000 will be coming in. Page 11 – Koksilah Nursery Environment and the new money there is from the sale of plants. Those two budgets are the ones with funding coming in this year all the other ones are running on surpluses.

- Cindy – What happened with the truck from Environment?

→ Ernie – It was sold when it was bought it cost \$28,000 and it was sold for \$23,000, the money went back into the recovery fund.

→ Jessie – It went into the recovery fund we will revise that in September as it happened in the new year.

- Cindy – Is that where that originally came from?

Jessie – Yes.