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Ottawa, Jan. 22, 1910.

Sir,—

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. in which you report that Francois, one of the councillors of Kinnesayo's band, resigned last year, and that the members of the band desire to have an election in order to replace him.

In reply I beg to say that, with one or two exceptions, the elective system of chiefs and councillors, under section 93 of the Indian Act, has not been applied to any band in the western provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia—and some years ago the Department adopted the practice of making appointments of chiefs and councillors for an indefinite term. After such appointments have been made, chiefs or councillors can only be removed from office in the same manner as those who have been placed in office under the elective system, namely by the Governor General in Council on the grounds mentioned in section 96 of the Indian Act, namely, dishonesty, intemperance, immorality or incompetency.

As the members of Kinnesayo's band desire that the vacant position of councillor be filled, you may arrange to hold a meeting for the purpose of ascertaining the choice of the band, after which you will report the name of the Indian selected, giving your recommendation either for or against the appointment in the best interest of the band.

W.B.L. Donald, Esq., M.P.,
Indian Agent

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