

427011-64

Ottawa, February 15, 1918.

Sir,-

I have your letter of the 5th instant with reference to the election of a Chief for the Okanagan band, and suggesting the passage of a by-law with a view to improving moral conditions on the reserve.

The Department approves of your suggestion in the latter connection, and I am accordingly inclosing herewith two copies of a by-law such as is already in use by a number of bands under the provisions of subsection (c) of section 98 of the Indian Act as read in conjunction with section 97; you might take the matter up with Indian Agent Brown, who should be given one of the inclosed copies of the by-law.

Sections 166 and 167 of the Indian Act provide the procedure to be followed for the adoption of by-laws, etc., and the above mentioned sections 97 and 98 provide for their confirmation by the Governor General in Council. As I understand that at present the Okanagan band has no council, the provisions of Section 166 should be followed in this instance. Upon the by-law being adopted by the band, it should be returned to the Department in order that it may be submitted to the Governor in Council for confirmation. Upon being so confirmed, a sufficient number of copies of the by-law will be struck off for the use of the band.

I judge from your letter that you refer only to the Okanagan band and not to the whole Agency. Should it be
desired

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