



SUBJECT

TREATY PAYMENTS

CIRCULAR No.  
102

INDIAN COMMISSIONER FOR B. C.,  
REGIONAL SUPERVISORS. Ottawa, April 16, 1964.


Circular Letter 445 of April 10th, 1963, directed that annuity and interest distributions would be paid by Agency cheque. The circular outlined the procedure to be followed.

Since the cheque payment method was introduced some Bands have objected requesting that payments continue to be made in cash. The matter has been reviewed by the Departmental Legal Adviser and while he was satisfied that cheques are not included in any legal definition of the word "cash" it was, nevertheless, considered that the Department was meeting its obligations under the various treaties if payment was made by cheque and accepted by the Indians.

I realize how important the Treaty Day and its ceremonies are to the Indian population within the various treaty boundaries and I would be reluctant to force upon the Indian Bands a type of payment which they are not prepared to accept.

The cheque method of payment provided definite safeguards not only for field officers making treaty payments but for the recipients as well. The change in payment method has been accepted by many groups of Indians although serious objections have been raised by others.

I am prepared to accede to the wishes of Indian Bands where their treaties specify annuities are to be paid in cash. However, before a change from the cheque method is made Superintendents should again explain to the Indians concerned the advantages there are in receiving cheques in lieu of cash. This instruction will apply to the treaty payments for the current year. Where the cheque method is to be used the instructions contained in Circular Letter 445 will continue to apply.



R. F. Battle,  
Director.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6880, file 191/28-3 pt.20)

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