

Ottawa, March 4, 1910.

Sir,-

Councillor Solomon Benedict and Mr. Joseph Laurent came to the Department yesterday and presented a copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Abenakis band held on the 28th ult., accompanied by six affidavits.

With reference to this matter I have to inform you that the whole subject of the proposed investigation was discussed with Messrs. Benedict and Laurent and it was explained to them that now, more than a year after the last election, the Department cannot allow an investigation into charges of corruption or irregularities of any kind before or on the day of the election.

Messrs. Benedict and Laurent have been informed that as soon as you know that Chief Watso and Councillor Msadoquis will be in a position to attend the investigation, you will give due notice of the same, allowing a fair time, say a week or ten days, so that both sides may be prepared. You will explain that, while on the one hand, as has already been stated to you several times, no charges relating to the matter of the election will be heard or investigated, on the other hand Councillor Msadoquis will be as free as Chief Watso to make charges as to any kind of misconduct on the part of the chief so long as the same has occurred since the date of the last election.

It will be necessary that a careful record be kept of the substance of any evidence heard, in order that the same may be forwarded to the Department for its decision.

Your obedient servant,

J. G. Gaudreault, Secrétaire du Lac,
Que.

Secretary.

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