

121698-6

Ottawa, March 27, 1912.

Sir,-

With reference to that part of your letter of the 5th inst. reporting that a new council has been appointed for the Kitkatla band, Bella Coola agency, I beg to say that the Department does not appear to have any previous record of a council for this band.

As, with the exception of four bands--the Port Simpson, Metlakatla, Skidegate and Massett (which are under the Advancement Part of the Indian Act)--neither of the elective systems has been applied to Indian bands in British Columbia, the Department does not interfere with the system of election or appointment that may be followed by each band, and unless the appointment of a council or any change therein is reported, the Department is not even aware of the existence of the same. It is desirable, however, for various reasons, that the Department should keep a list, corrected up to date, of all chiefs and councillors. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will advise me of the system of appointment or election followed by the Kitkatla band, the names of the present councillors, the dates of their appointment or election, and the term of office--for what number of years or for life.

You speak of this band having "watchmen" as well as councillors. I shall be glad to learn what relationship these officers bear to the councillors.

Your obedient servant,

A.M. Tyson, Esq.,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Vancouver, B.C.

[Signature]
Asst. Deputy and Secretary

Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,
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