

ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
SECRETARY, INDIAN
AFFAIRS BRANCH



CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 32-168

AIR MAIL

OTTAWA December 24, 1941.

Dear Sir:

I have to refer to your communication of December 16 in which you advise me that the Hartley Bay Band are holding a meeting on January 8 next for a period of one year instead of the three years as formerly.

Will you kindly refer to my letter to you of March 27, 1941, in which you were advised that the Department would not disturb the present Council, but that it could not be given any official sanction under the Indian Act in view of the irregular way in which it was made. Before the Indians of Hartley Bay Band could hold an election every year it would be necessary for them to be placed under the Advancement Sections of the Indian Act by the passing of an Order-in-Council.

As I advised you in my letter of January 29, 1940, the Department does not propose to make any change at the present time. This Band is under the indefinite system of the Indian Act (Section 97), and while the Indians may have held elections every three years this was not reported to the Department, and they had no authority so to do. The department does not wish to interfere with the established practice of these Indians but would like to have a further report from you.

Yours very truly,

T.R.L. MacInnes,
Secretary.

J. Gillett, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Prince Rupert, B. C.