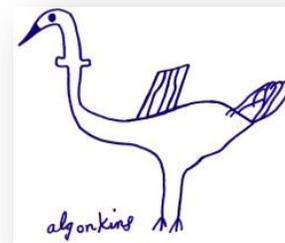


August 23, 2016

To: Dr. Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

**Cc: Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney
General of Canada
Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Relations**

Re: Canada's Constitutional Beginnings, Nation-to-Nation, and Reconciliation



On November 16, 2015 I sent you a letter regarding Canada's constitutional beginnings, and what nation-to-nation and reconciliation really mean beyond rhetoric and discourse. In this letter I clearly explained to you Canada's constitutional beginnings: that they began in 1764 when Canada's first constitutional document the 1763 Royal Proclamation was ratified, not in 1867 with the imposition of a provincial federal order.

You responded to my letter on June 9, 2016. Although I explained Canada's constitutional beginnings in very clear words and sentences, it appears you are unable to perceive the knowledge. Rather, you remain stuck in a colonial understanding. This is the nature of knowledge – if people are told a fictional story often enough they have great difficulty thinking outside of it even though it is a fiction. Humans are pitiful this way. They are less smart than a tree or water which are born with all their needed knowledge. Humans, though, need to learn from other people and are thus subject to oppressive hegemonic power and manipulation.

Moving from what appears to be your inability to think outside of Canada's fictional story you then justify the current "new treaty approach" offering that Canada released Douglas Eyford's *Renewing the Comprehensive Land Claims policy: Towards a Framework for Addressing Section 35 Aboriginal Rights*. As I stated in my letter this "new" approach, brought on by the recent Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court of Canada decision, has already been critiqued for remaining within the same colonial policy goals: the denial of Indigenous land rights thus forcing First Nations to domestically assimilate / terminate. Know that the evolution of this policy within colonial parameters will not result in meaningful change.

Appreciating the difficulty of a cognitive paradigm shift, I offer you here – in larger text as a measure to emphasize the knowledge – a more simplified understanding of what nation-to-nation and reconciliation means as Canada does not get to define it.

If there are 200 acres of land, the settler Canada Nation is entitled to 100 acres and Indigenous Nations are entitled to 100 acres. From these *equal* amounts of acreage the Nations are then entitled to the *full and complete jurisdiction* of the land and resources to then build institutions such as education, health care, laws,

courts, and child care programs that speaks to them and their ability to acquire a good life.

It is this simple Minister Bennett. From the bottom of my heart I genuinely hope this understanding of nation-to-nation provides you with the clarity needed.

Having offered this knowledge it occurs to me that you may very well know the truth of Canada's constitutional beginnings, and further you are indeed able to perceive what a genuine nation-to-nation relationship and reconciliation mean is yet you opt to push this aside so you can remain with the liberal mandate that continues to deny Canada's constitutional beginnings and what they really mean. If this is true and you do know, I genuinely apologize for my assumption.

Lastly, in your response letter you suggest that I take my concerns about the Algonquins of Ontario land claims process on to David Zimmer the provincial Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. I have no intention of doing this, as I already expressed the inadequacies of Canada's understanding of nation-to-nation and reconciliation. This was the goal of my letter to you, that being to explain to you what nation-to-nation and reconciliation means. I am not sure why you would make such a suggestion when my goal was for your edification, not for your advice that is rooted in a colonial understanding of Indigenous rights.

Thank you for responding to my letter. It is now clear to me that Canada will not genuinely honour the nation-to-nation relationship and reconciliation. It is up to the people.

For your convenience both my letter and your response can be viewed at this link:
<http://www.lynngehl.com/open-letter-to-dr-bennett.html>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Gehl', written in a cursive style.

Lynn Gehl, Ph.D
Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe