



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H8

Grand Chief Ralph Caribou
Swampy Cree Tribal Council
P.O. Box 150
The Pas, Manitoba
R9A 1K4

*Suzanne
Please make sure
the S.C.T.C. Office has
copy of this
Thank
[Signature]*

MAR - 6 1996

Dear Grand Chief Caribou:

To follow-up the recent telephone call you received from a member of my staff, I would like to provide you with additional information on the firearms legislation. I believe that this information should answer any further questions that you may have.

You will find enclosed, two documents respecting the firearms legislation. The first, entitled "Aboriginal Consultations Respecting the Firearms Act" details the consultation process that the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Allan Rock, directed take place with Aboriginal peoples across Canada. The second document, entitled "Highlights of Bill C-68" will provide you information on the legislation that is relevant to Aboriginal peoples.

In closing, I thank you for your attention in this matter and encourage you to contact the Consultative Unit of the Canadian Firearms Centre at (613) 941-0386 or (613) 941-9142, if you have any further questions.

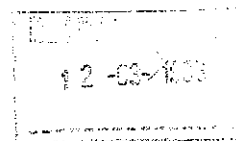
Yours sincerely,

W. Sailman

Wendy Sailman
Director, Operations and
Ministerial Services

Enclosures

Canada



**ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIONS RESPECTING
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIREARMS ACT**

- Between May, 1994 and October, 1994, the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Allan Rock, met with representatives of over 150 national and regional organizations on proposed firearms control initiatives. Included, were meetings with various Aboriginal leaders. These meetings provided the Minister with the foundation for formulating policy initiatives that he then brought to Cabinet.
- On November 30, 1994, Minister Rock tabled the *Government's Action Plan on Firearms Control*. In this document the Minister stated that "Aboriginal communities will be consulted on all aspects of the program's implementation, to ensure that their Aboriginal and treaty rights are respected".
- Since January, 1995, the Consultative Unit, with the Canadian Firearms Center (formerly Firearms Control Task Group) has been working to successfully develop an effective consultation process that will meet the two primary objectives outlined by the Minister:
 1. to respect Aboriginal and treaty rights; and
 2. to ensure the continuation of Aboriginal peoples traditional lifestyles.
- On February 14, 1995, the Minister tabled Bill C-68, "An Act Respecting Firearms and Other Weapons". To ensure that Aboriginal peoples have the opportunity to identify problems and propose solutions that will have the support and respect of their communities, section 117(u) was included. This section states:

117. The Governor in Council may make regulations

.....

(u) respecting the manner in which any provision of this Act or the regulations applies to any of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, and adapting any such provision for the purposes of that application.

- The consultation process developed, encompasses three phases, including direct consultations, follow-up and Parliamentary approval.

Phase I - Direct Consultations with Aboriginal Peoples

Stage I - Meet with Regional and National Organizations.

Stage II - Depending on direction provided by the National or Regional organizations, the Consultative Unit consulted with representatives of communities or communities themselves.

Phase II - Follow-up

- Those Aboriginal groups consulted will receive a copy, for review and comment, of the draft suggestions for the Aboriginal specific regulations. In addition, where possible, key Aboriginal communities will be revisited.

Phase III - Parliamentary Review

- The *Firearms Act* requires that regulations must go before Parliament for a 30 day sitting period. According to section 118 of the legislation, Parliament shall refer the regulations to an appropriate committee for review. This could involve public hearings. Upon receiving approval, the regulations may then come into force at an appropriate date.
- The Minister, during Third Reading in Parliament, introduced a number of amendments that now form part of the legislation. Minister Rock put forward these changes in response to concerns raised by various Aboriginal peoples (including Members of Parliament), and in particular those submissions made to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs by Aboriginal organizations and groups. The amendments are as follows:
 1. A "non-derogation" clause which expresses Parliament's intent that the new law should not interfere with the constitutional protection given to the Aboriginal or treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada (s. 2(3)).
 2. A parent or guardian may provide consent either in writing or orally, in their Aboriginal language, for a "minor" to obtain a "minors' firearms licence" (s. 8(5)).

3. The authorized lending provisions permit a sustenance hunter with a firearms licence to borrow a long gun *without* also having to borrow the registration certificate (s. 33(a)(ii)).

- On November 16, 1995 the Minister appeared before the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, where he stated that:

- The government would not proclaim in force those parts of the legislation affecting traditional Aboriginal practices until the s.117(u) regulations are also ready to be proclaimed;

- He would review the manner in which the Canadian Firearms Safety Course is delivered in Aboriginal communities;

- He would provide the Committee with examples of policy initiatives willing to consider with respect to drafting s.117(u) regulations. They are as follows:

- reducing or waiving fees for a firearms licence or for registration certificates;
- providing for individuals within a community to test proficiency with respect to the safe handling of a firearm; and
- establishing approaches to licence eligibility requirements which take into consideration cultural and traditional practices.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BILL C-68
AN ACT RESPECTING FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

Bill C-68 amends the firearms provisions of the *Criminal Code* and creates a new *Firearms Act*. The *Act* establishes a licencing system for persons wishing to possess firearms. In addition to licencing persons, the legislation establishes a system for the registration of all firearms.

POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

- The Government is committed to introducing proposals that deal with crime and preserve and promote the non-violent character of Canada.
- The three main objectives are:
 1. To maintain the non-violent character of Canada and to preserve public safety.
 2. To deter and prevent the criminal misuse of firearms.
 3. To reduce firearm suicides or accidents.

LICENCING

- **Beginning late 1996**, firearms owners will have until January 1, 2001 to obtain a Firearms Licence.
- The firearms licence is good for 5 years - renewable every 5 years.
- Firearms licences for individuals will be one of the following types:
 1. Non-acquisition (possession only)
 2. Acquisition
 3. Minors
- **Beginning late 1998:**
 4. 60 Day Temporary Licence and Registration Certificate (non-resident, non-acquisition)
 5. 60 Day Temporary Licence (non-resident, borrowing a non-restricted firearm in Canada)

1. **A Non-Acquisition Licence applicant:**

- . Will be an individual who possesses a firearm when the new licencing provisions come into force and does not want to acquire another.
- . Will not have to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and test.
- . Can mail in an application form that will be both simple in format and screening process.
- . Will pay a fee during the implementation period which could be as low as \$10/five years to start, increasing to \$60/five years (by the year 2001).

2. **An Acquisition Licence applicant:**

- . Will be an individual who wishes to acquire a firearm (whether for the first time or to add to those already possessed).
- . Must successfully complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course including the test or, alternatively:
 - challenge and pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course test without taking the course;
 - prove that they have passed, before January 1, 1995, any course or test approved by a provincial attorney general between January 1, 1993 and December 31, 1994; or
 - be certified as meeting prescribed standards by a Chief Firearms Officer (after demonstrating that he/she has sufficient knowledge of the laws, safe handling and use of firearms).
- . Approximate cost will be \$60 for a licence that lasts five years, an average of \$12 a year.

3. **A Minors' Licence applicant:**

- . An individual applying for a minors' firearms licence can only "possess" (e.g. not buy) a non-restricted firearm (e.g. shotgun or rifle).

3. (continued)

A licence will be issued to a minor for the following purposes:

Non-sustenance (e.g. target shooting, occasional hunting or instruction in the use of a firearm):

- Must be between the ages of 12 to 18 years.
- Must complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (course and tests).
- Consent of parent or guardian required.

Sustenance

- Individual must be younger than 18 years (there is no minimum age limit).
- Not required to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.
- Consent of parent or guardian required.
- Does not have to pay minors' licence fee.
- Can use a firearm without direct supervision.

4. **A 60 Day Temporary Licence (non-resident, non-acquisition) applicant:**

- Will be bringing non-restricted firearm(s) into Canada.
- At the border, Customs will check and register your non-restricted firearm(s). The validation of a declaration to Customs will serve as a temporary 60 day licence and registration certificate.
- May apply in advance for this licence and registration certificate by obtaining an application form that will be available through outfitters, hunting and shooting clubs, and Canadian tourism offices.

4. (continued)
 - A 60 day temporary licence and registration certificate may be used for more than one entry to Canada during the 60 day period and it may be renewed.
 - A nominal fee will be charged for a 60 day temporary licence and registration certificate.
5. **A 60 Day Temporary Licence (non-resident, borrowing a firearm in Canada) applicant:**
 - Will be able to borrow non-restricted firearm(s) while visiting Canada.
 - Should apply in advance for this temporary licence that will be issued by a Chief Firearms Officer. Application forms will be available through outfitters, hunting and shooting clubs, and Canadian tourism offices.
 - A 60 day temporary licence may be used for more than one entry to Canada during the 60 day period and it may be renewed.
 - A nominal fee will be charged for the 60 day temporary licence.

LENDING

- An individual can lend a firearm in two ways:
 1. If you have reasonable grounds to believe that a borrower has a firearms licence, you can lend the person your firearm along with the firearms registration certificate.
Exception: If the borrower is a sustenance hunter, then it is not necessary to also lend the registration certificate that goes with the firearm.
 2. If the person borrowing the firearm does not have a firearms licence then that person must be under the direct and immediate supervision of the owner.

SUSTENANCE HUNTER

- A sustenance hunter is not required to pay the fee for a:
 - firearms licence; and
 - registration certificate (for a firearm used for sustenance hunting).
- A sustenance hunter must take the Canadian Firearms Safety course or test, or be alternately certified.
- A sustenance hunter who is a minor is:
 - not required to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course;
 - not required to pay licence or registration fees; and
 - permitted to use a firearm without direct supervision.

REGISTRATION SYSTEM

- Starting late-1998, firearms owners will have until January 1, 2003 to register their firearms.
- An individual requires a firearms licence or a valid FAC, before they can register a firearm.
- The process will likely involve sending in a completed card, containing the requested information (e.g. make, model and serial number of the firearm).
- It is expected that during the first year of registration there will be a nominal cost of \$10 to register up to the first 10 firearms. The cost to register your firearm will increase over the five year implementation period, with the possibility of increasing to a maximum of \$18 for up to the first 10 firearms. This means there is an incentive to register early.
- Registration is good for life and there is no need to renew it, unless the firearm owner changes the status of the firearm (e.g. sells, exports, deactivates or destroys it).

AMMUNITION

- Until January 1, 2001, anyone with a firearms licence or a prescribed document (e.g. drivers licence) can purchase ammunition.
- After January 1, 2001, only individuals with a firearms licence can purchase ammunition.
- An individual with a firearms licence or a prescribed document is permitted to receive ammunition that has been purchased by another person.
- There are no limits on the quantity of ammunition.
- No record is kept of ammunition purchased.

CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE

REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED
<p>When:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An individual applies for an acquisition firearms licence (see page 2, point 2.).• An individual has been subject to a prohibition order and wishes to obtain a firearms licence (<u>must</u> take the course and pass the test). <p>NOTE: In Manitoba and Quebec, <u>certain</u> courses have been grandfathered as equivalent to the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.</p>	<p>When:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An individual applies for a non-acquisition firearms licence.• A minor applies for a firearms licence as a sustenance hunter.• A Chief Firearms Officer certifies that an individual has sufficient knowledge.• An individual applies for a firearms licence for the purpose of acquiring a crossbow.

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FIREARMS BY-LAW
#140190

The Council of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND at a joint Band Public/Council meeting held this 18th day of November 1991, hereby proclaims By-Law number 10/11/91 providing for the regulation and control of firearms within the boundaries of PUKATAWAGAN INDIAN RESERVE.

Whereas; paragraphs (c) and (d) of section 81 of the Indian Act empowers the council of a Band to make by-laws to provide for public safety of the residents on the Reserve and to maintain the observance of law and order and the prevention of disorderly conduct and the imposition of a penalty for violation thereof,

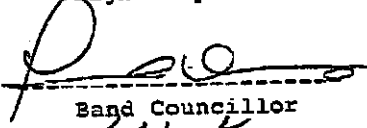
And Whereas; it is deemed expedient to provide for the regulation and control of firearms for the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the PUKATAWAGAN INDIAN RESERVE.

Now, therefore; the Council of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND inacts as a by-law thereof, the following:


1. In this by-law,
 - a) **"Council", means;** the Council as defined in the Indian Act of the Mathias Colomb Indian Band.
 - b) **"Reserve", means;** the tract of land set aside by Her Majesty within the definition of the Indian Act, for the use benefit of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND known as the PUKATAWAGAN RESERVE.
 - c) **"Firearm" means;** any device that fires projectiles by means of explosives, compressed air or springs foregoing includes a rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, spring gun and crossbow but does not include bow or a toy.
 - d) **"Hunting" means;** chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of searching for, trapping, attempting to trap, shooting at, stalking or lying in wait for any wildlife, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently captures, killed, taken or wounded, but does not include stalking, attracting, searching for, or lying in wait any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching the wildlife or of taking pictures of the wildlife.
 - e) **"Trapping" means;** taking, capturing or killing or attempting to take, capture or kill wildlife by any means or contrivance designed to enclose, capture, hold, ensnare or otherwise restrain an animal, whether that means or contrivance kills the animal or not.
 - f) **"F.A.C." means;** Firearms Acquisition Certificate.

2. No person shall have in their possession any FIREARM without an F.A.C. as set out in the within by-law.
3. All persons that have in their possession any FIREARM(S) shall immediately provide all firearms to the Band Council for storages.
 - a) Any person not wishing to store FIREARMS in their possession with the Band Council, may make alternate arrangements provided that the storages of the Band FIREARMS is outside the boundaries of the RESERVE and is removed from the boundary of the RESERVE on or before January 14, 1990.
 - b) To keep guns at home, the firearms owner must purchase gun locks and must give one key to the Band Constable for safe keeping.
4. Any person who wishes to use FIREARMS for the purpose of TRAPPING will be permitted to take their FIREARMS and leave their FIREARMS on the Trapline, provided that the trapline is outside the boundary of the RESERVE. On returning to the RESERVE with FIREARMS, FIREARMS will be stored pursuant to Section 3.
5. Any person who wishes to use FIREARMS for the purpose of HUNTING, will be permitted to obtain their FIREARMS stored with the Band Council, provided that the FIREARMS are returned for storage immediately after HUNTING has been completed.
6. Any person who violates any provision of this by-law shall at the discretion of the Council to a Provincial Judge be fined an amount not exceeding \$100.00 or three months in jail or both.
7. Any person who contravenes the By-Law and is assessed a penalty pursuant to the provisions of the By-Law has a right of appeal to Chief and Council, at a special meeting to be convened by Chief and Council within two weeks.


Signed by:



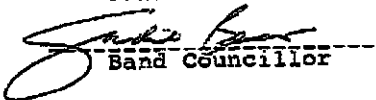
 Band Councillor




 Band Councillor




 Band Councillor



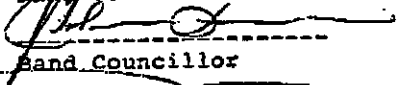
 Band Councillor




 Chief




 Band Councillor



 Band Councillor



 Band Councillor



 Band Councillor

FIREARMS BY-LAW
#140190

The Council of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND at a joint Band Public/Council meeting held this 18th day of November 1991, hereby proclaims By-Law number 18/11/91 providing for the regulation and control of firearms within the boundaries of PUKATAWAGAN INDIAN RESERVE.

Whereas; paragraphs (c) and (d) of section 81 of the Indian Act empowers the council of a Band to make by-laws to provide for public safety of the residents on the Reserve and to maintain the observance of law and order and the prevention of disorderly conduct and the imposition of a penalty for violation thereof,

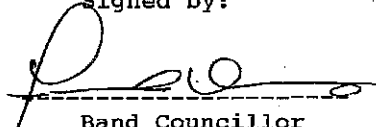
And Whereas; it is deemed expedient to provide for the regulation and control of firearms for the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the PUKATAWAGAN INDIAN RESERVE.

Now, therefore; the Council of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND inacts as a by-law thereof, the following:


1. In this by-law,
 - a) **"Council", means;** the Council as defined in the Indian Act of the Mathias Colomb Indian Band.
 - b) **"Reserve", means;** the tract of land set aside by Her Majesty within the definition of the Indian Act, for the use benefit of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND known as the PUKATAWAGAN RESERVE.
 - c) **"Firearm" means;** any device that fires projectiles by means of explosives, compressed air or springs foregoing includes a rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, spring gun and crossbow but does not include bow or a toy.
 - d) **"Hunting" means;** chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of searching for, trapping, attempting to trap, shooting at, stalking or lying in wait for any wildlife, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently captures, killed, taken or wounded, but does not include stalking, attracting, searching for, or lying in wait any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching the wildlife or of taking pictures of the wildlife.
 - e) **"Trapping" means;** taking, capturing or killing or attempting to take, capture or kill wildlife by any means or contrivance designed to enclose, capture, hold, ensnare or otherwise restrain an animal, whether that means or contrivance kills the animal or not.
 - f) **"F.A.C." means;** Firearms Acquisition Certificate.

2. No person shall have in their possession any **FIREARM** without an F.A.C. as set out in the within by-law.
3. All persons that have in their possession any **FIREARM(S)** shall immediately provide all firearms to the Band Council for storages.
 - a) Any person not wishing to store **FIREARMS** in their possession with the Band Council, may make alternate arrangements provided that the storages of the Band **FIREARMS** is outside the boundaries of the **RESERVE** and is removed from the boundary of the **RESERVE** on or before January 14, 1990.
 - b) To keep guns at home, the firearms owner must purchase gun locks and must give one key to the Band Constable for safe keeping.
4. Any person who wishes to use **FIREARMS** for the purpose of **TRAPPING** will be permitted to take their **FIREARMS** and leave their **FIREARMS** on the Trapline, provided that the trapline is outside the boundary of the **RESERVE**. On returning to the **RESERVE** with **FIREARMS**, **FIREARMS** will be stored pursuant to Section 3.
5. Any person who wishes to use **FIREARMS** for the purpose of **HUNTING**, will be permitted to obtain their **FIREARMS** stored with the Band Council, provided that the **FIREARMS** are returned for storage immediately after **HUNTING** has been completed.
6. Any person who violates any provision of this by-law shall at the discretion of the Council to a Provincial Judge be fined an amount not exceeding \$100.00 or three months in jail or both.
7. Any person who contravenes the By-Law and is assessed a penalty pursuant to the provisions of the By-Law has a right of appeal to Chief and Council, at a special meeting to be convened by Chief and Council within two weeks.


Signed by:




Band Councillor



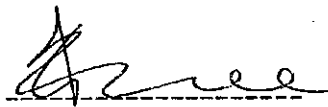
Band Councillor




Band Councillor



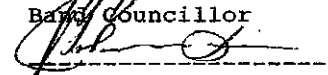
Band Councillor




Chief



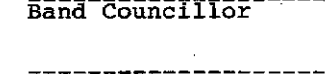
Band Councillor



Band Councillor



Band Councillor



Band Councillor

FIREARMS BY-LAW
#140190

The Council of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND at a joint Band Public/Council meeting held this 14th day of January 1990, hereby proclaims By-Law number 14/01/90 providing for the regulation and control of firearms within the boundaries of PUKATAWAGAN INDIAN RESERVE.

Whereas; paragraphs (c) and (d) of section 81 of the Indian Act empowers the council of a Band to make by-laws to provide for public safety of the residents on the Reserve and to maintain the observance of law and order and the prevention of disorderly conduct and the imposition of a penalty for violation thereof,

And Whereas; it is deemed expedient to provide for the regulation and control of firearms for the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the PUKATAWAGAN INDIAN RESERVE.

Now, therefore; the Council of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND inacts as a by-law thereof, the following:

1. In this by-law,

- a) "Council", means; the Council as defined in the Indian Act of the Mathias Colomb Indian Band.
- b) "Reserve", means; the tract of land set aside by Her Majesty within the definition of the Indian Act, for the use benefit of the MATHIAS COLOMB INDIAN BAND known as the PUKATAWAGAN RESERVE.
- c) "Firearm" means; any device that fires projectiles by means of explosives, compressed air or springs foregoing includes a rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, spring gun and crossbow but does not include bow or a toy.
- d) "Hunting" means; chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of searching for, trapping, attempting to trap, shooting at, stalking or lying in wait for any wildlife, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently captures, killed, taken or wounded, but does not include stalking, attracting, searching for, or lying in wait any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching the wildlife or of taking pictures of the wildlife.
- e) "Trapping" means; taking, capturing or killing or attempting to take, capture or kill wildlife by any means or contrivance designed to enclose, capture, hold, ensnare or otherwise restrain an animal, whether that means or contrivance kills the animal or not.
- f) "F.A.C." means; Firearms Acquisition Certificate.

2. No person shall have in their possession any **FIREARM** without an F.A.C. as set out in the within by-law.
3. All persons that have in their possession any **FIREARM(S)** shall immediately provide all firearms to the Band Council for storages.
 - a) Any person not wishing to store **FIREARMS** in their possession with the Band Council, may make alternate arrangements provided that the storages of the Band **FIREARMS** is outside the boundaries of the **RESERVE** and is removed from the boundary of the **RESERVE** on or before January 14, 1990.
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6. Any person who violates any provision of this by-law shall at the discretion of the Council to a Provincial Judge be fined an amount not exceeding **\$100.00** or three months in jail or both.
7. Any person who contravenes the By-Law and is assessed a penalty pursuant to the provisions of the By-Law has a right of appeal to Chief and Council, at a special meeting to be convened by Chief and Council within two weeks.

January 15, 1990

Dear Constituent:

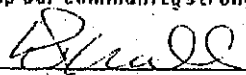
On January 29, 1990, judges Sinclair, Stevenson and Drapack will come to Pukatawagan to discuss Justice System to Council. I am inviting you to attend this meeting at the Complex. Time will be announced.

In September, 1989, during one of our public meetings, you instructed me to organize a protest against the judge, however, the protest was cancelled in favor for Council meeting with the judge. On October, 1989, the Council met with Judge Drapack and after our meeting he remanded everyone, to show us that he did not wish to take direction from Council.

On December 4, 1989, I went to meet with the Court Party and Judge Drapack told me that he would not bend to Council's demands. I told him that the people did not wish to relive the 70s. He told me that his Court Party would leave and they left. I did not send them out.

On January 15, 1990, Attorney General of Manitoba announced that he would allow our request, into having a table reserved for Council during all future Court sessions. The Council will act as jury and recommend presentencing to the judge. This a victory for our Council into taking over our justice system.

I want you to help us during this stand-off, your children will benefit. Help us keep our community strong, proud, progressive and peaceful.


Chief Pascall Bighetty

c.c. All the People of Pukatawagan

By Bob Lowery Special to the Free Press

THOMPSON — The Mathias Colomb Indian band will welcome provincial judges back to hold court on their reserve at any time, Chief Pascall Bighetty said yesterday.

On-reserve court sessions have been suspended following a Dec. 4 confrontation between the chief and council and provincial Judge Jack Drapack and his court party at the airstrip in Pukatawagan.

According to Crown attorney Glen Reid, who was present at the time, the court party was "kicked off" the reserve because the band objected to lengthy remands and light sentencing of individuals, some of whom were considered a threat to the community.

Bighetty denied he ordered the judge and court party off the reserve.

"I didn't tell them to leave," he said. "But I said if they were just going to spend an hour or more remanding people and handing out weak sentences, there was no point in their holding court. But they left on their own accord."

The band's women's committee, one of 16 groups that advise the chief and council on social and economic issues, said earlier they wanted to meet the court party with placards and banners.

Bighetty said Drapack heard about the planned demonstration and advised the band that there could be dire consequences if it was carried out.

The demonstration was called off on the recommendation of the elders' committee, which advised the chief to meet the court party at the airport without the demonstration.

Bighetty said: "We want the provincial court to go on administering justice on the reserve, but with a firmer hand until we have our own justice system in place."

Special table

In the meantime, Bighetty said the band has asked Manitoba Justice Minister Jim McCrae to have a special table in the courtroom reserved for the chief and council who could observe court and give presentencing recommendations based on their knowledge of the individual and the circumstances.

"It's not a radical change," the chief said.

"We would only be making recommendations — decisions would be entirely up to the judge, based on the law. It would be a significant step on the road to our involvement in the justice system."

Judge Drapack refused to comment on the matter.