



Honourable David Lametti
Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

March 2, 2022

Dear Honourable David Lametti,

I am writing you today on behalf of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) to express our extreme indignation and dismay with being excluded from the recent Federal Provincial and Territorial (FTP) Ministers meeting on Justice with National Indigenous Organizations (NIO).

As you aware, CAP represent off-reserve status and non-status Indians, Metis and Southern Inuit peoples and we have organizations that work daily with these communities to provide services and advocate on their behalf across the country and in all provinces. We are the only organization who can rightfully speak on behalf of those communities, and our exclusion is not only disappointing but also a disservice to community members who's issues and voices are left out of the conversation.

This national meeting with NIO leaders was focused on ongoing reconciliation efforts, the Indigenous Justice Strategy, as well as progress regarding the federal implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Act, and policing services. We have many years of advocacy in respect to these issues, and we have flagged these areas as priorities with you and your department. In particular, we called for a meeting with you and your provincial counterparts in respect to Indigenous policing and the development of national community policing strategy. Despite our ongoing efforts, you continue to disregard our concerns and leave us out of critical meetings that could support their resolution.

CAP's purposeful exclusion from this important meeting is most concerning because we have Indigenous community members who are facing racism, abuse, and death in communities, and in federal and provincial prisons on a regular basis. Our communities look to us for support and to raise their voices in hopes that their concerns are listened to, and the appropriate action is taken at all levels of governments. Prohibiting CAP's participation essentially silences those voices and leaves them even more vulnerable than before.

We ask that you work with us to remedy this situation by convening a meeting with CAP, yourself, and your provincial and territorial colleagues to address the urgent needs and concerns of our community members. In respect of CAP's important contributions on these files, we look forward to a favorable response.

Meegwetch,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elmer St. Pierre".

Chief Elmer St. Pierre
National Chief

CC: National Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin, CAP

CC: Jim Devoe, CEO, CAP