

KOLA: <http://users.skynet.be/kola/index.htm>

Sept. 14, 2000

Letter of Support from Switzerland

The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal
House of Commons
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Parliament Buildings Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Fax 001 613 941-6900 resp. 001 613 995-2962

Dear Minister Dhaliwal,

As a member of INCOMINDIOS Switzerland, a support organization for the Indigenous peoples of North, Central and South America, I'm highly concerned about the situation at Burnt Church, and am appealing to you to take whatever action is necessary to defuse the situation and ensure the safety of all people who work for the Burnt Church First Nation and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

To date I can only conclude from some information sent to INCOMINDIOS Switzerland that the Canadian government is intent on staying the course despite the risk of serious physical injury to either members of the Burnt Church First Nation population and Fisheries Officers or both.

To my knowledge the legal questions at issue at Burnt Church are exceedingly complex and deserve a thoughtful measured response following consultation and negotiation with all concerned. I think that uni-lateral action on your part is not helpful.

I think that the risk of further injury and the potential for loss of life must take precedence over short-term politically expedient solutions. In short, only you have the power to change the climate and facilitate a peaceful end to what has become an intolerable confrontation that may only end in tragedy.

Any further information or comment from your side would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

cc: Minister R. Nault, IAND Canada, NAULT.R@parl.gc.ca

MP John Finlay, FinlaJ@parl.gc.ca
INCOMINDIOS Switzerland
KOLA, kolahq@skynet.be