

Minister
of National Revenue



Ministre
du Revenu national

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

FEB 19 2010

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
Chief William Charlie
Chief Robert Chamberlin
Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
5th Floor
342 Water Street
Vancouver BC V6B 1B6

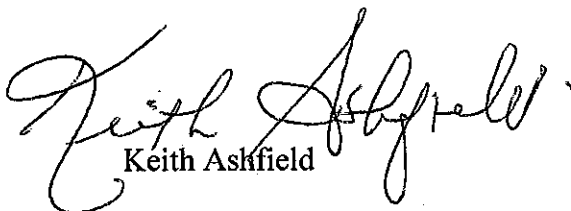
Dear Grand Chief Phillip, Chief Charlie, and Chief Chamberlin:

I am writing in response to your correspondence addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, concerning your request for consultation on the tax treatment of First Nations under the proposed harmonization of British Columbia's provincial sales tax with the federal goods and services tax. Please accept my apology for this delayed reply.

The Canada Revenue Agency is responsible for administering the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax legislation as passed by Parliament. Any change to legislation, such as the effect of the proposed harmonized sales tax in British Columbia and its implications on First Nations, is a tax policy matter, which falls under the responsibility of the Department of Finance Canada. It was appropriate, therefore, that you also sent your correspondence to the Honourable James M. Flaherty, Minister of Finance, for his consideration and reply.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Yours sincerely,


Keith Ashfield

c.c.: The Honourable James M. Flaherty, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance

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