



THE PREMIER
GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

June 23, 2026

Grand Chief Simon Pokue
Innu Nation
PO Box 109
Natuashish, NL
A0P1A0

By Email: grandchiefpokue@innu.ca

Dear Grand Chief Simon Pokue,

This is to confirm, further to my recent letter to you that I, along with representatives of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, met with representatives of the Innu Nation in the Office of Labrador Affairs in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on the evening of June 23, 2026 to extensively discuss the issues noted in that letter. The discussions were frank and provided a comprehensive exchange of views on the issues. We were moved by the experiences that Innu Elders and Leaders related to us during that meeting. We believe the five proposals set out below meet the desire to find a constructive path forward.

First, I wish to say I deeply regret the events that produced the controversy over the Innu exhibit and I apologize for those events. I assure you I will have the events reviewed and the officials that participated in them examined to better understand what went awry and why it went awry. You have my pledge that my Government will learn from those events to ensure they are never repeated.

Secondly, I will encourage free Indigenous cultural expression at statutory institutions publicly displaying Indigenous culture. That is, all Indigenous cultural exhibits, including those of the Innu, must be communicated to the public without editing. However, Indigenous freedom of expression includes the rights of other Indigenous people to comment on Indigenous exhibits. The Government would not be in a position to constrain the free expression of other Indigenous people. Therefore, it would be prudent to engage in consultation with other Indigenous people in the creation of any Indigenous exhibit to avoid public disputes over the exhibits.

Thirdly, related to the paragraph immediately above, the Provincial Government will not require statutory institutions publicly displaying Indigenous culture to establish a timeline of the occupancy of land in Labrador.

Fourthly, we thank you for sharing the two interim agreements you have signed with the Federal Government. These agreements require study by my officials and advisors that cannot be completed in the time allotted on this journey to Labrador. However, we will expeditiously assess these agreements and reply to you as promptly as possible.

Finally, to assuage Innu anxiety in relation to the events under discussion, I am prepared to expedite Innu land claim negotiations in the manner discussed at the noted meeting to reach the finalization of Innu treaty rights in the near future. Once the Treaty is finalized there will be no doubt as to the rights of the Innu as represented by the Innu Nation.

I am also ready to visit Sheshatshiu at another time, given that the present circumstances do not permit that, to reiterate these commitments of the Government which I lead.

Yours Respectfully and Sincerely,



Honourable Tony Wakeham

Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador

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