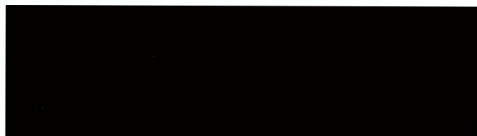

Assembly of First Nations

Assemblée des Premières Nations



August 9, 2012



Mr. Ritchie Sinclair
1604 – 30 Hillsboro Avenue
Toronto, ON M4R 1S7

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter dated June 18, 2012 and its enclosures. I commend you both for working hard to stop the widespread counterfeiting of the late Norval Morrisseau's artwork and masterpieces. The late Norval Morrisseau's contribution to the preservation and expression First Nation culture is enormous and distinguished. The Assembly of first Nations (AFN) is in agreement that the legacy of his works should not be subject to counterfeit and exploitation.

Please note that the AFN has been actively engaged in national and international efforts to cease the continued misappropriation, theft and misuse of First Nation cultural expressions, artistic works and traditional knowledge. As you are aware, the rich and vibrant cultural expressions and traditional knowledge of First Nations people have not been afforded adequate protection under Canadian intellectual property laws. Cultural expressions, traditional knowledge and medicinal aptitudes are frequently appropriated, reproduced, copied, and adapted by others.

The current copyright and intellectual property regime in Canada allow third parties peoples to use First Nation intellectual property without adequate consultation or permission. The copyright, trademark and patent regimes foster unauthorized reproduction, adaptation and commercialization of First Nation intellectual property with no sharing of benefits, economic or otherwise, with First Nations peoples. Finally, the intellectual property laws allows for the continued counterfeit manufacturing of First Nation intellectual property, artefacts and tangible assets by third parties.

The AFN has presented its views to Canada in its recent consultations on copyright reforms as well as international negotiations at the World Intellectual Property organization. We welcome collaboration on this matter and perhaps together we can create the momentum needed to achieve change.

I would suggest that you please contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter in more detail.

Respectfully,

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
National Chief