



**FOND DU LAC FIRST NATION
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TREATY #8 BENEFITS TRUST**

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October 19, 2021

TO: THE MEMBERS OF FOND DU LAC DENESULINE FIRST NATION

Dear Members:

RE: TROLLS AND TROLLING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you know an internet troll? Wikipedia defines “Internet Trolls” as follows:

“Internet Troll” – a person who posts inflammatory insincere digressive, extraneous, or off topic messages in an online community, with the intent of provoking readers into displaying emotional responses, or manipulating others perception. This is typically for the Troll’s amusement, or to achieve a specific result such as disrupting a rival’s on-line activities or manipulating a political process. Even so, internal trolling can also be defined as purposefully causing confusion or harm to other users online, for no reason at all. Both the noun and the verb forms of “troll” are associated with internet discourse. Media attention in recent years has equated trolling with online harassment.

Unfortunately, Fond du Lac and our Treaty 8 Benefits Trust continue to be the targets of defamatory attacks from individuals that include Johnny Martin, who has a long history of making false, negative and indefensible statements about the Trust and the Trustees, as well as the Chief and Council, other members of our First Nation, members of his own family, elected federal and provincial officials, as well as local professionals including legal counsel.

You probably saw Johnny Martin’s recent inflammatory Facebook posts, which contained false information that the Trustees would like to correct as follows:

1. The Treaty 8 Benefits Trust of the community, that includes the Minors trust, was set up legally, through a majority community vote, to:
 - a) protect the funds for minors alive at the date of settlement and pay them their PCD when they turn 18 years of age, which is being done;
 - b) protect the funds for the First Nation today and for future generations;
 - c) grow the funds by investing;
 - d) sponsor proposal driven community projects; and
 - e) unite the Reserve and off-Reserve communities.

The minors alive on the date of settlement who have turned 18 have been paid, and those turning 18 will be paid.

2. No one has been robbed. Instead, the Treaty 8 Benefits Trust and the Minor’s Trust are the result of the hard work of dedicated people who have been working for the First Nation for decades and

have created a great opportunity for our future. Just ask Chief Kevin Mercredi who worked with the late Chief Eddie Martin on instructing legal counsel to proceed with claims for Treaty benefits, without which, individual members would not have received per capita distributions as well as emergency Covid-19 assistance and there would be no Treaty 8 Benefits Trust today.

- Johnny Martin states that he has not been paid his per capita distribution. Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation management and leaders witnessed and documented that he intentionally damaged a Band teacherage house by spreading caribou and fish remains all over the housing unit and intentionally plugging the bathtub and turning on the water before he vacated. When the Director of Education entered the house, the damage was over \$25,000, which Mr. Martin has been advised repeatedly that he owes to the Band, and he has not yet repaid the Band.

The Board of Trustees has an important fiduciary duty to be stewards of the Treaty 8 trust funds for the long-term sustainable benefit of Membership. In addition to the Trustees' responsibilities, they are fully employed elsewhere and do not have the time, or any obligation, to respond to every negative post of Johnny Martin and others. For that reason, the Trustees have generally ignored the false, negative, and indefensible posts on social media, preferring to focus instead on helping build a better community for everyone.

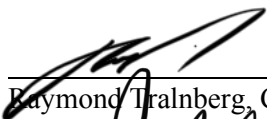
Nevertheless, the Trustees decided to issue this response to Johnny Martin's recent online posts as a way of reminding our Members that unfounded Internet Trolling of the Treaty 8 Benefits Trust, the Trustees as well as of others, cannot be condoned, and should not be tolerated, as it only spreads false information that harms and divides our First Nation.

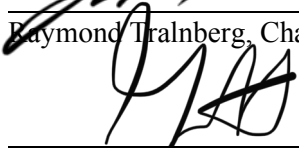
We look forward to reporting to Membership on the Trust's activities in-person as soon as CV-19 protocols allow. Until then, you can find the Trust's quarterly and annual reports on the Treaty 8 website at: <https://www.fonddulac.ca/pages/trust.html>, or feel free to contact Tina Mercredi, the Trust Coordinator, to obtain a paper copy, at: 306-686-2102, or by email at: treaty8trustees@fonddulac.ca.

Yours truly,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Per:


Raymond Tralnlberg, Chair


Gabriel Stenne Jr.


Accounting Trustee



Devin Yooya, Vice-Chair


Justin Mercredi