



# NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 128

LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043

PHONE: (406) 477-8252

FAX: (406) 477-8324

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE'S PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2017

## BIA AGREES WITH TRIBE'S LEGAL POSITION THAT REMOVAL OF KILLSBACK WAS LAWFUL UNDER TRIBAL LAW

In recognition of the Tribe's sovereign authority to determine its own internal affairs, the BIA issued a letter to the Tribal Council today which says in part:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs recognizes the authority of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council to take action to remove the Northern Cheyenne Tribal President and that the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council's action to do so is final pursuant to Article VII, Section. 2 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe is aware that former president L. Jace KILLSBACK has attempted to create confusion and questions among Tribal members, Tribal employees, and the general public regarding his removal from office. Mr. KILLSBACK has asserted incorrectly that the Tribal Council's action to remove him from office was legally defective. Mr. KILLSBACK further asserted that the Tribal Council action required Bureau of Indian Affairs approval before it could be effective.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council's action of October 6, 2017 to remove Mr. KILLSBACK was done in full compliance with the Tribe's Constitution and Bylaws. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe is a sovereign nation in full control of its internal affairs. Decisions concerning those internal affairs are only subject to review in Tribally established processes. Tribal law provides and officer may be removed from office for failure to perform their assigned duties or acting with gross negligence in the performance of their duties. The BIA's letter removes any doubt concerning the correctness of the Tribe's position.

The Tribal Council expects the BIA letter will put to rest any confusion among the Tribal community as to who is authorized to make official decisions for the Tribe. Pursuant to the Tribe's Constitution, Vice President Conrad shall serve as interim president until a special election can be held. The Tribal Council will continue to fulfill its responsibilities to the Tribal community under the Constitution and Bylaws.

**LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us  
back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.**