



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

4400 Masthead St. N.E., Albuquerque N.M. 87109

AUG 25 2015

Chairman Tony A. Johnson
Chinook Indian Nation
P.O. Box 368
Bay Center, WA. 98527

RE: Chinook Indian Tribe

Dear Chairman Johnson,

You recently contacted me inquiring as to accessing funds held for the Chinook Tribe by the Office the Special Trustee. As you are aware, the Chinook Tribe is not Federally recognized. Section 25.83.2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, provides that... "Acknowledgement of tribal existence by the Department [BIA] is a prerequisite to the protection, services and benefits of the Federal government available to Indian tribes by virtue of their status as tribes."

Thus, because you are not recognized, the funds held with our office cannot benefit your tribe. The only suggestion that I can make to you is that you continue to pursue recognition in accordance with the regulations set forth under CFR Section 25, Part 25.

Very truly yours,

Catherine E. Rugen
Regional Trust Administrator

cc: Gino Orazi