

Statement from Chief Greg Desjarlais

Since 2019, I have had the honour of serving the members of Frog Lake First Nation. Throughout my time as Chief, I have worked to advance our Nation's interests, strengthen our governance, advance long-term economic development and business opportunities, create opportunities for our people, and enrich the quality of life for our members through our culture and our God-given way of life. My commitment to Frog Lake and its members has never changed.

Unfortunately, the Federal Court has now dismissed my application for an injunction. Although the Court did not grant the injunction, it did clarify that my removal was not carried out in accordance with our Nation's Election Code and that a serious issue does exist. That finding is significant and reinforces the importance of ensuring that decisions affecting our governance are made lawfully, fairly, and in accordance with the rules established by our Nation.

Further, Justice MacDonald accepted many of my arguments regarding how removals from office should take place, subsequently rejecting many of the arguments put forward by Council. The Court also reiterated that I remain the Chief of Frog Lake First Nation and should have the ability to represent our Nation as it pertains to policies and issues. To date, I have not been allowed to pursue these activities, and I continue to be impeded from carrying out my duties as Chief.

The broader matters before the Court, together with the independent processes that have been initiated, remain ongoing. Out of respect for those processes, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the specific allegations or the evidence. I remain committed to cooperating fully and allowing those processes to proceed fairly and independently.

The personal impact of these events has been significant. My reputation, my ability to earn an income, and my standing within my community and among colleagues have all been affected. These are difficult circumstances for me and my family, and I ask that people remember that the relevant processes have not yet reached their final conclusions.

I have always believed that fairness, due process, and respect for our governance institutions are fundamental principles that must guide us. I remain confident in those principles and believe that, in the end, a just resolution will be reached based on the facts, the law, and the requirements of our Nation's bylaws.

Given the clear indication from the Court that issues exist with the manner in which I have been suspended, I call upon my fellow Council members to rescind BCR FLO

#013-26-26 and ensure any further processes adhere to our Election Code. If immediate action is not taken to remedy the situation, I will continue to pursue all legal avenues regarding the actions of Council, of which I am more than confident I will be successful.

Above all, my focus remains on the people of Frog Lake First Nation. I am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received, and I remain committed to serving our Nation with integrity, respect, and dedication.