

Relevant facts and reasons for the objection

As a status Indian registered pursuant to the *Indian Act*, I am insured with Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits for First Nations and Inuit Program.

Please note that according to a Québec government decree, bearing number 973-97 dated July 30th, 1997 regarding the "Regulation modifying the Regulation on the Québec General Medication Insurance Plan, status Indians registered pursuant to the Indian Act are exempt and therefore do not have to pay premiums to finance this plan [*the Québec General Medication Insurance Plan*]. This exemption is granted on the basis that they already benefit from a medication insurance plan that is at least equivalent to the Québec government's plan by virtue of a program administered by the Federal government. (Please refer to **paragraph 10.2 on page 13** of the information bulletin published by the Québec department of Finance bearing number 98-7 dated **November 6th, 1998**)

In a letter dated January 14th, 2000 addressed to Mr. Daniel Nolett, general director (at the time) for the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki inc. concerning the subjection of status Indians to the payment of premiums to the Québec Health Insurance Plan (*Fond des services de santé-FSS*), Mr. André Forget, Ministerial coordinator of aboriginal affairs for Revenue Québec (at the time) stated the following: "We hereby confirm that we will undertake the necessary steps to approach the Government of Canada to discuss the possibility of an agreement relative to the subjection of the payment of premiums to the Québec Health Insurance Plan by taxpayers having Indian status" (the original French version of this letter is here-included). To my knowledge, no steps have been taken in this file. We hereby ask that a mechanism be set up to exclude status Indians from the requirement to pay premiums to the Québec Health Insurance Plan and the annual health contribution.

On May 11, 2011, during a meeting between the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador (AFNQL) Mr. Ghislain Picard and the Québec Minister of Native Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Kelly, Chief Picard asked that a meeting be set up with the Minister of Finance and Revenue, Mr. Raymond Bachand to discuss the exclusion of members of the First Nations of Québec from the payment of the Québec health contribution. Also, a letter dated July 5th, 2011 requesting such a meeting has been sent to the Minister of Finance. For your information, you will find here-included a copy of the acknowledgement sent to Chief Picard by Minister Bachand's office. The AFNQL is still waiting for a reply.

In closing, according to Minister Bacahnd's 2010-2011 budget announcement, (please refer to the document entitled "For a more efficient and better funded health care system") in respects to the health contribution we can read the following: "*In order to dedicate the sums levied exclusively to health-care services, the government is announcing the creation of a fund dedicated exclusively to financing health and social services institutions. Administrative responsibility for the fund will be entrusted to the Minister of Health and Social Services, who will see that the sums placed at the Minister's disposal serve, among other purposes, to*":

- strengthen front-line services
- support training and development in the profession of specialized nursepractitioner, as well as for the integration of that profession into the clinical setting;

- support promising initiatives designed to improve the health-care system's performance, whether in respect of services offered or governance and structures

In what way will this health contribution help improve the health of First Nation citizens of Québec? Will the Québec government, by way of transfer payments, share a percentage of revenues generated by this contribution with health institutions located on reserve to improve health services offered to the First Nation citizens of Québec?

I hereby inform you that, according to the above mentioned reasons, I object to the payment of the Québec Health Contribution as announced on March 30th, 2010 by Minister Bachand in his 2010-201 budget speech.

Signature of the First Nations citizen

Date