

Subject: FW: Correspondence from the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

From: Ministerial Correspondence Unit - Mailout <MinisterialCorrespondenceUnit-Mailout@justice.gc.ca>

Subject: Correspondence from the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Date: March 7, 2017 at 12:16:31 PM PST

To: "'mayor@victoria.ca'" <mayor@victoria.ca>

Dear Madam Mayor:

The Office of the Prime Minister has forwarded to me a copy of your correspondence, sent on behalf of Victoria City Council, concerning Mr. Leonard Peltier. I regret the delay in responding.

While I was not the Minister of Justice at the time of Mr. Peltier's surrender, this matter has received considerable attention from the Government of Canada.

The Department of Justice Canada launched a review of the Peltier file in 1994. As part of the review process, the Department considered the extradition materials, the relevant departmental correspondence, the judicial decisions relating to both the extradition and the trial, and the materials submitted on Mr. Peltier's behalf.

This review, which was completed in 1999, found that Mr. Peltier was lawfully extradited to the United States and that no evidence had come to light since his extradition to justify interference with the decisions of the Canadian courts and the Minister of Justice.

A copy of the review was forwarded to the Attorney General of the United States. In a letter, the Minister of Justice pointed out that many Canadians continue to voice their concerns about Mr. Peltier's case and support his application for executive clemency.

Unfortunately, the window for seeking executive clemency from President Obama has now closed. However, I can confirm that I am satisfied that the extradition of Mr. Peltier was lawful and that I would have no additional information to provide to the United States government with respect to the issue of clemency. Moreover, as Mr. Peltier is not a Canadian citizen, Canada has no jurisdiction to interfere in the manner in which the United States chooses to enforce his sentence.

I appreciate having had your comments brought to my attention.

Respectfully,

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada