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# Lac La Ronge Indian Band

## NOTICE TO LAC LA RONGE INDIAN BAND (LLRIB) MEMBERS

### Comments Being made on Social Media are False and Misleading

It has been brought to my attention that comments have been made about Chief Tammy Cook-Searson by a non-band member, Ronald Warner, that are false and misleading.

The purpose of this communication is to correct this misinformation that has been circulating on social media that Tammy Cook-Searson, personally holds title to land and property that belongs to the Lac La Ronge Band (LLRIB).

Under Canadian law, a First Nation (Band) is not a legal entity, does not have powers of a natural person, and can not be bound by the signatures of its officers (Chief and Councillors). This means that a First Nation cannot hold land in its own name.

Therefore, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band cannot acquire or hold real property (land) in the usual sense. Land Titles in particular will not accept the name of a First Nation Band as owning land. Consequently, the Chief is commonly listed as holding assets "In Trust on behalf of the band members". This applies to all First Nations in Canada not just the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. The Chief does not receive any personal benefit from holding these assets in trust on behalf of the band members.

This is the system that Lac La Ronge Indian Band has operated under for many years. Property belonging to the Band is held by the Chief in Trust on behalf of the Lac La Ronge band members. This practice dates back to former Chiefs including the late Senator Myles Venne and Senator Harry Cook. When a new Chief is elected, the Band's lawyers go through a process of replacing the name of the out-going Chief and registering the name of the new Chief on Land Titles and other legal documents.

Let me assure LLRIB band members that Chief Tammy Cook-Searson does not and cannot receive any personal interest or benefit from holding band assets in Trust on behalf of our membership. Rumours that imply otherwise are false. As the Executive Director, and on behalf of the Chief and Council, we have a duty to protect the interests of our Band members. The LLRIB takes all allegations very seriously, but I remind LLRIB members that many comments made on social media are false and/or misleading and may in fact amount to **defamation** – which occurs when someone's reputation is harmed by false written or oral statement about that person being made to a third party.

Sincerely,

Gladys Christiansen,  
Executive Director, Lac La Ronge Indian Band