

Feb 2, 2023

Attn: Kirk Dressler

Cc. Alice Johnstone Deputy CAO

As agent for the Stafford's please allow me address the concerns brought forth in the letter to Alice Johnston, Deputy CAO, CRD dated January 11, 2023, after researching the matter.

In order of presentation:

1) The alleged destruction archaeological sites occurred under the supervision of the Social Credit government who contracted a major project in 1967 of the construction of Highway 20 from Williams Lake to the Sheep Creek Hill bridge to Standard General Contracting Ltd..

In 1967 and 1968 this contractor and sub-contractors significantly disturbed approximately 12.5 hectares of the Stafford's private property (CRD Parcel 015-031-276) to the degree that any and all archeological sites, if present, would have been completely destroyed. Unfortunately this occurred in a time when the significance of the importance and preservation of archaeological sites was not understood nor appreciated. This was done in search of a large volume of suitable aggregate which was located on the above mentioned property. The Stafford's had no involvement in any of this activity.

Once the project had been completed in 1973 the 12.5 hectare pit of varying depths was returned to the Stafford's who have never expanded nor altered the perimeter boundaries in any way, shape or form as the aggregate is accessed by depth.

I am, by separate email, providing you with a letter dated January 6, 2021 from the Ministry of FLNRORD, Archaeology Branch which confirms the above outlined in paragraph two.

2) No one in the Stafford family nor ranch employee has ever even been near WLFN IR #5 on anything other than on horseback looking for stray cattle. It is suspected that the damage may have been inadvertently caused by heavy equipment used by FN's Borland Creek Logging to improve vehicle access for those wishing to attend a Sacred Ceremony for a band Elder held at IR 5 in 2018. It should be noted that this improved access was constructed on the Stafford's private land and gravel for the road was offered to the band at no charge to extend respect.

3) I have seen much correspondence regarding access to IR 5 dating back to 2008 from the band, the band's lawyers and government in which the Stafford's have cooperated fully in order to address this issue. This was last left with the Ministry of FLNRORD in January 2022, where it became dormant presumably due to other priorities. I have taken the liberty of contacting Susan O'Sullivan, the former

government lead on this and have asked her to reignite this process and I will email my correspondence with her to you as well.

As to the ALC I have advised them of the lack of response on your behalf.

Respectfully

Martin Sills P.Ag. (Ret.)