

Charles Paquette
67 Murphy Road
Petawawa, ON
K8H 1W8
scpaquette@sympatico.ca

February 28, 2023

VIA EMAIL: tribunal@tanakiwin.com

Algonquin Tribunal
Algonquins of Ontario
Consultation Office
31 Riverside Drive, Suite 101
Pembroke, ON K8A 8R6

Dear Tribunal Members:

Re: Joseph Paquette, RIN# 11371

I would like to bring your attention to an error in **Enrolment Officer's Responding Report made in response to the Initial Submission by an interested Party: Report Regarding Ancestor Joseph Paquette (RIN #11371) Dated January 30, 2023.**

This report states on Page 8 under the heading *Testimonies*,

Two statements were included in the respondent's package, as follows:

- *Dwight Paquette signed a statement on October 7, 2020 indicating that his father, Oswald Paquette, informed him that "the PAQUETTE family had a native blood line (ALGONQUIN) through his father and was known by other family members."*

Oswald Paquette (RIN # 16101, born 1920) is a son of John Issias Paquette and Melvina Marie Brunet (RIN #14671). He is a grandson of Oliver Paquette Sr.)

Oswald Paquette is a first cousin of the respondent, as they share a grandfather, John Issias Paquette and great grandfather Oliver Paquette Sr. as well as the ancestors from previous generations as shown in the respondent's family tree.

Dwight Paquette is my first cousin. Dwight's father, Oswald, is my uncle. It therefore appears that the Enrolment Officer has misidentified Oswald Paquette, RIN# 16101, born 1920, as Dwight Paquette, no RIN identified. I otherwise have no comment on the remainder of the Report, except to reiterate that there are Paquettes who have lived and married with *known* Algonquin ancestors, in further connection to our community.

I wish to remind this Tribunal of its impossible task of recreating the past based on settler documentation. What Mr. Coburn calls "circumstantial evidence" is in fact my family's oral history, teachings and way of life. His report identifies that the Paquettes have been a part of an Algonquin Collective for over 150 years, and at a time when the Anishinaabe Algonquin citizenship code considered all Algonquin allies living amongst them to be "Algonquins equal to

one and all.” While I do not agree with the conclusions of the Coburn report for reasons previously indicated, I wish to reiterate that my ancestors and I have been accepted members of my Algonquin community, and I am being asked to give this up to match a “new” set of rules. I see more risks associated with Mr. Coburn’s approach segregating our community, than with mine, which relies on my ancestral traditions, oral history and life.

Finally, I ask that this Tribunal consider accountability. It is unfortunate that the AOO has not acknowledged in their various reports the implications that including and excluding families like mine has had on our relationships, community, and lives. I ask for the Tribunal to consider how this will be addressed, reiterating my hope that process, fairness and the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers will govern.

I look forward to attending the hearing which is anticipated to be scheduled sometime in May.

Thank you, meegwetch.

Charles Paquette