

Shirley Lang

Subject: Letter of Reference

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2002 7:58 AM

From: pfarnden@wjsgroup.com

To: <dakota-west@shaw.ca>

Category: Dakota

July 17, 2002

To Whom It May Concern

I am pleased to write a letter of reference for Ms. Shirley Lang of Dakota West Consulting. Ms. Lang prepared and delivered a workshop for our organization on Restorative Justice in March of 2001. The workshop was designed to provide an overview on Restorative Justice, the issues and methods of developing Restorative Justice in First Nations communities. The workshop was designed for First Nations members in the Slave Lake Alberta region.

Ms. Lang presented a very thoughtful, down to earth and well researched workshop on this topic. She presented her material in a very engaging fashion and organized the information for the participants in an easy to understand format. She knew her subject matter thoroughly and was able to answer questions from a wide range of participants in an intelligent and respectful way. Ms. Lang was very sensitive to the customs and traditions of the community and tailored her presentation and format to match the needs of the community. She gained respect from the elders and members of the group because she showed respect for their knowledge and wisdom.

I would not hesitate to ask Ms. Lang to present again on this topic or related areas because she is very responsible for her work and diligent about the quality of her projects. I think Ms. Lang has a great deal to contribute as a teacher, trainer and person.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 780 - 439-5087 if you have any questions.

Peter Farnden

President, WJS Group



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

National
Parole Board
Pacific Regional Office
3rd Floor - 32315 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 1W6

Commission nationale des
libérations conditionnelles
Région du Pacifique
3e étage - 32315 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, (C.-B.) V2T 1W6

Tel: (604) 870-2468
Fax: (604) 870-2498

29 May 2002

Ms. Shirley Lang
Coordinator
Dakota West Consulting
PO Box 48003, 3575 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 3L0

**Re: "Working Together" Workshops
Dispute Resolution Project 2002
National Parole Board, Pacific Region**

Dear Shirley:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable contribution in making our "Working Together" workshops a success. Our goal was to consult with the Aboriginal communities throughout British Columbia by having three separate meetings. The focus of the two-day workshops was twofold. One was to communicate and share knowledge with the Aboriginal community on how the NPB makes decisions and the second focus was to discuss the feasibility of conducting community-assisted hearings in the Aboriginal community.

You played a key role by coordinating the invitations that went out to the Aboriginal community members, determining where the meetings were to take place in the selected cities and coordinating the detailed events of the days including meals, give-away gifts and an evaluation questionnaire. The workshops were within a 2 month period, which did not give you the luxury of time. You quickly adapted to the tasks and all the workshops were well attended by Aboriginal community members.

The meetings were a resounding success. We met our two objectives and the feedback from the questionnaires was very positive and led to subsequent invitations to the communities. It was very important to approach the community in a culturally sensitive manner, which respected proper protocol for the various areas we visited. The meetings focussed on relationship building with the community and this did occur. Shirley, you effectively coordinated your contracted duties and you were professional. Thanks for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Blair
Regional Manager Community
Relations & Training
NPB Pacific Region

Canada

Hon. A.C. Hamilton Q.C.
408 Laidlaw Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0K7
Telephone (204) 896 5788 Fax (204) 896 4512
adrach@ilos.net

October 26, 2001

Shirley Lang
Dakota West Consulting
P.O. Box 48003
3575 Douglas Street
Victoria, B.C. V8Z 3L0

Dear Shirley

Re: Victoria Symposium

Thank you again for inviting me to participate in the Message for the Millennium Symposium you organized in Victoria in September. It was a wonderful event. I was extremely impressed by the wide array of highly qualified speakers and participants that brought their own experience and thoughts to bear on matters of great significance to First Nations.

I hope that the Gladue case will encourage community workers to forge ahead with their efforts to establish healing and other support programs in their communities and to find ways of letting the courts know how the programs might be used by judges wishing to refer an offender to a program rather than sending him or her to jail. It offers new opportunities for communities to assume greater responsibility for their own members and their own law and order.

It should also cause all the courts and judges in Canada to consider how they sentence Aboriginal offenders and whether they are making sufficient inquiries and examining all the alternative there are before sending someone to jail.

The case tells judges the considerable care they must take when sentencing an Aboriginal person and the inquiries they must make before passing sentence. It tells lawyers of the new responsibilities they have when representing Aboriginal people.

Your program fitted very nicely with my own writings on the re-building of Aboriginal authority and the establishment of at least some parts of a parallel justice system for Aboriginal people. Thank you for helping to distribute copies of my book *A Feather not a Gavel*. I am not interested in book sales in themselves but am pleased to have First Nation people consider some of my ideas that I hope might be of use to them in one way or another.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A.C. Hamilton', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. A.C. Hamilton Q.C.



THE HONOURABLE JUDGE

Thomas J. Gove

THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

6263 DEER LAKE AVENUE
BURNABY, B.C. V5G 3Z8

TEL: (604) 660-7147

FAX: (604) 660-4527

tgove@provincialcourt.bc.ca

November 26, 2001

Ms. Shirley Lang
Aboriginal Support and
Healing Centre Society
Suite #507, 185-911 Yates Street
Victoria, BC, V8V 4Y9

Dear Ms. Lang:

Re: Gladue: A Message for the Millennium Symposium

Thank you very much for including me in this wonderful Symposium. Although I have attended many conferences and courses on and about Aboriginal Peoples, this is the first one that I have attended that was organised and run by an Aboriginal organisation. Please do more of these.

Best of luck in the future. My kindest regards.

Yours truly,

Tom Gove



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

850 BURETT AVENUE
VICTORIA, B.C. V8W 1B4
(250) 356-1032

October 30, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Spirit of the People Aboriginal Support & Healing Centre Society

I attended the Gladue Symposium arranged by this Society on September 27th & 28th. It was well run and was most effective in helping to bridge the communication gap between First Nation communities and the mainstream of Canadian society. Shirley Lang, from Dakota West Consulting, in particular, did a fantastic job in co-ordinating the various speakers and programmes for this two day symposium.

I hope that funding will be available for further such meetings and look forward to attending them.

Yours truly,

Judge J. M. Hubbard
Provincial Court Judge

JMH/ajb



October 3, 2001.

Dear Shirley

Thank you for all you have
done to make the conference a
wonderful success.

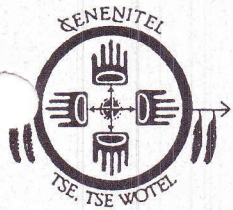
Thank you for the many acts
of kindness during the confer-
-ence and at the farewell.

Just after the conference, I
noticed I had a quarter in
my change (enclosed.) I think the
same, with all the paddles
in the same boat, pulling
together reflects the theme and
hope of the conference.

My prayer is for continued
'creativity' in peacemaking +
reconciliation,
also in unity

Ross

Ross Tweedale



SAANICH NATIVE SUPPORT PROGRAM

7449 WEST SAANICH ROAD
P.O. BOX 58
BRENTWOOD BAY BC V8M 1R3

PHONE: (250) 544-1812
FAX: (250) 544-1802

December 18, 2001

To Whom It May Concern
RE: Letter of Support for
Shirley Lang, Dakota West Consulting

I write this letter in support of Shirley Lang & her business Dakota West Consulting. Shirley has provided services for the Saanich Native Support Program through facilitating a workshop on the Gladue decision and how these changes may affect the Aboriginal communities.

The workshop that Shirley had facilitated was offered to the four Saanich communities (Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, and Tseycum). There were approximately 25 people who attended this workshop. In all, the workshop was a revelation for a majority of the group as well as being very informative. Some comments from the group were 'I think this is a very interesting and knowledgeable workshop', 'the knowledge that there is help out there to assist individuals in need is assuring.' Nevertheless, Shirley's understanding of culture awareness and community structures is phenomenal.

I do not hesitate to recommend any program that Shirley is involved with as I consider her a trusted agent who brings with her the ability to work with First Nations people and to bridge the gap that often exists from one community to another.

If I can be of assistance in clarifying any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All My Relations,

Curtis Olsen, Coordinator
Saanich Native Support Program

dw



TSOW-TUN LE LUM SOCIETY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CENTRE

P.O. Box 370, 699 Capilano Road
Lantzville, British Columbia V0R 2H0

Telephone: (250) 390-3123

Fax: (250) 390-3119

Aug. 24/98

To Whom It May Concern

Re. Ms. Shirley Lang,

Ms. Lang was given a two month contract to organize and co-ordinate the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Tsow-Tun Le Lum Treatment Centre. The Celebration was a great success and everything ran very smoothly and this was a result of the work done by Ms. Lang.

Ms. Lang's effort was tireless and her attention the smallest details required guaranteed the trouble free day of the celebration. She was very enthusiastic about the project and covered all the necessary details required to conduct such a large event. We are very appreciative of the efforts and the results of her excellent work.

Respectfully,

Charles J. McLaughlin
Executive Director