

January 13, 2017

His Excellency the Honourable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA



Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the 370,000 members of the National Union of Public and General Employees (Canada) to add our voices to those calling on you to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier.

My union has been actively involved in the campaign to win Leonard Peltier's freedom for decades now. We think that a grave injustice has been done to Leonard Peltier and have repeatedly called on the Canadian and US governments to take steps to grant him his freedom.

A number of legal experts have attested that Leonard Peltier never received a fair trial and has never been granted a request for a new one. To serve such a long and harsh sentence without having received a fair trial is a serious miscarriage of justice.

Furthermore, Leonard Peltier has spent a much longer time in prison than other convicted murderers who received fair trials and whose guilt has been established beyond reasonable doubt. Most are quietly paroled and returned to society after serving far less time than the 41 years that Mr. Peltier has served.

Also, as you are aware, Leonard Peltier has a number of serious and life threatening health issues. His lengthy incarceration has taken its toll. The details of his medical conditions are provided in his clemency applications. If any inmate suffered from such severe health problems, health considerations alone would be sufficient reasons to grant clemency."

The litany of historical wrongs perpetrated against the Indigenous Peoples of both of our countries is long and shameful. Leonard's case is an example of this legacy. By granting clemency to Leonard Peltier, you will be both recognizing this terrible history and taking another step towards reconciliation.

I plead for you to grant clemency to Mr. Peltier, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,

Larry Brown
President

cc: Elisabeth Ballermann, Secretary-Treasurer
National Executive Board
Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (Canada)

