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Ms. Lisa Blais
President
Association of Justice Counsel
300-2725 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2B 0A1

Dear Ms. Blais:

This is further to my letter to you of May 31, 2012 in which I responded to a number of issues you raised in your letter of May 22, 2012 regarding the Department's approach to "volunteering".

With respect to the May 15, 2012 information session for affected employees in the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio (AAP), I had indicated that:

1. employees who did not wish to participate in the selection of employees for retention and lay-off (SERLO) process, were asked to advise their managers by June 1, 2012 if they did not wish to participate in the SERLO and preferred to volunteer; and
2. they were further advised that they could volunteer for surplus at any time during the SERLO process, which I had indicated was targeted for completion by June 11, 2012.

Upon subsequent discussion with AAP senior management, I would like to further clarify the second statement above that AAP affected employees can volunteer for surplus at any time during the SERLO process prior to the results being issued for those processes. This will afford those affected employees more time to reflect on important career choice decisions.

I trust that this further clarification responds to any other concerns that you may have regarding volunteering in the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio.

Yours sincerely,

Joel A. Oliver
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Management Sector