

## News release from Little Shell Tribe on December 30, 2023



### LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF MONTANA

#### Statement of Facts

##### Invalid Filing of Recall Petition

- Ms. Sarah Schmasow had continually emailed the Little Shell Tribe for information regarding the filing of a proper recall petition. Each time, the Tribe has provided her direct access to the Little Shell Tribe's Election Code that contains information regarding the proper filing of a recall petition.
- In 2021, Ms. Schmasow filed an invalid and unlawful recall petition with the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). In its response to Ms. Schmasow, the federal agency stated that the DOI does not have oversight over the Little Shell Tribe's elections. The DOI provided Ms. Schmasow copies of the Tribe's Constitution and the Election Code. The DOI did not provide the Little Shell Tribe with a copy of Ms. Schmasow's recall filing.
- The Election Code provides clear and straightforward procedures of how to properly file a recall petition. All petitions are delivered directly to the Tribe's Election Committee. The Election Committee is an independent and impartial committee that provides orderly, transparent, and fair administration of Little Shell tribal elections and any recall petition according to the Little Shell Election Code.
- To date, no recall petition has been properly filed with the Election Committee.

##### Sarah Schmasow

- In 1999, Ms. Schmasow filed a lawsuit *Schmasow v. Native American Center*, she pursued all the way to the Montana Supreme Court. In the lawsuit Schmasow identified herself as a member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation. Schmasow argued that a Little Shell tribal member was not "an Indian." Her lawsuit was a direct assault on the cultural and sovereign integrity of the Little Shell Tribe. Fortunately, the Montana Supreme Court disagreed with her argument and held that the Little Shell tribal member was an "Indian".
- Shortly after federal recognition Ms. Schmasow applied for enrollment in the Little Shell Tribe and was enrolled. However, Ms. Schmasow failed to disclose that she was also enrolled in the Chippewa Cree Tribe - Little Shell law prohibits dual enrollment in two tribes. After conducting an investigation, the LST Enrollment Office suspended Ms. Schmasow's tribal membership until she formally relinquished her membership with the Chippewa Cree Tribe. When Ms. Schmasow complied with the Little Shell tribal law her membership was unsuspended and she was duly enrolled.
- Ms. Schmasow has engaged in a campaign of online harassment of Tribal Councilmembers and tribal government staff.

- Ms. Schmasow has held herself out as a false "Hereditary Chief" of the non-federally or state recognized Little Shell Band of the Pembina Chippewa Tribe. The effort was part of a plot to try to sow disinformation and attempt to wrestle control of the government away from the duly elected Tribal Council. In addition, the Pembina Chippewa Tribe is an offshoot of the Little Shell Pembina Band (LSPB). The Anti-Defamation League has listed the LSPB as an extremist group that is a "fictitious Native American tribe" that has engaged in a "wide variety of frauds and scams."
- Over the past several years, the Little Shell Tribal Council and unfortunately tribal government staff have been subject to ongoing verbal threats and harassments from Ms. Schmasow. In order to protect the safety and well-being of government employees, the Tribe had to resort to calling law enforcement officers due to Schmasow's physical threats and extreme verbal harassment. Both staff and visiting tribal members have provided written reports that state that Schmasow made the following statements:
  - LST staff are "Fucking white people". These remarks were made to several staff members who are actually enrolled Little Shell tribal members.
  - Direct threats to kick the ass of a staff member.
  - Yelling that a staff was a "fucking white cow" and "white bitch".
  - Threatening to round up warriors to get rid of the white people.

#### **Albert Strain**

- Albert Strain is also known as Albert LeDeau Jr.
- Held himself out as a false "Hereditary Sub Chief" of the Little Shell Band of the Pembina Chippewa Tribe. The Pembina Chippewa Tribe is an offshoot of the Little Shell Pembina Band (LSPB). The Anti-Defamation League has listed the LSPB as an extremist group that is a "fictitious Native American tribe" that has engaged in a "wide variety of frauds and scams".
- Mr. Strain has made several harassing phone calls to Little Shell tribal government staff.
- He has also engaged in a campaign of online harassment of Tribal Council members.

#### **Kimberly Nolan (AKA Kimberly Lafromboise)**

- Kimberly Nolan with known aliases of Kimberly Lafromboise, Kimberly Hernandez, Kimberly Boe, and Kimberly Voght.
- Kimberly is not a Little Shell tribal member.
- Kimberly has falsely claimed before Washington state court that she is a member of the Little Shell Tribe and a "tribal attorney in the State of Montana, Rocky Boy Indian Reservation."
- Kimberly is not an enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe nor has she, to the Tribe's knowledge, attempted to enroll in the Tribe by submitting an enrollment application.
- Kimberly has not received a juris doctorate and cannot hold herself out as an attorney. She is not a licensed attorney in the State of Montana. The Chippewa Cree Court stated they did not have Kimberly listed as either an attorney or as a lay advocate.

#### **Jamie Tamburo**

- Tamburo is not a Little Shell tribal member.

#### **Charles Walking Child**

- Mr. Walking child is not a Little Shell tribal member.
- Mr. Walking Child has engaged in a years long campaign of online and telephonic harassment of Tribal Council and tribal government staff. This harassment has included physical threats and attempts to coerce and intimidate the victims.

**Hate Group**

- Ms. Schmasow, Mr. Strain (AKA Mr. Ledeau), Ms. Nolan (AKA Ms. Lafromboise), and Mr. Walking Child have formed a social media page that perpetuates hate and discrimination. This hate group has allowed racist and disparaging statements and posts regarding Little Shell tribal government staff and of the Little Shell Tribal Council.