

ALGONQUIN NATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SECRETARIAT / ALGONQUIN
NATION SECRETARIAT
35th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
“Aboriginal Title: Time for Action”
Hosted By Timiskaming First Nation
Co-chairs: Chiefs McBride, Ratt & St. Denis

Day 1 - Wednesday, October 21, 2015 - TFN Community Hall
Administration Issues

DRAFT

MINUTES (RESOLUTIONS and REGISTRATION LISTS ATTACHED)

1. OPENING OF ASSEMBLY

Registration is taken by Rose Thomas. Quorum is established. Assembly opens (around 1:15 pm) with a smudge and opening prayer by Elder Hank Rodgers.

2. WELCOMING REMARKS

Chief Terence McBride welcomes everyone to the AGA and provides a few opening remarks.
Chief Harry St. Denis also does some welcoming remarks.
Chief Casey Ratt also does some welcoming remarks.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (handout available) (Resolution #2015-01)

4. RULES OF ASSEMBLY

Alison McBride presents the Rules of Assembly, Section 5 of the Annual General Assembly Policy (handout available)

5. RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES & APPOINTMENT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Alison McBride presents the Resolutions Procedures, Section 6 of the Annual General Assembly Policy. Resolutions Committee is appointed (Resolution #2015-02)

6. REMINDERS

Deadline for resolutions is 12pm on Day 2 of AGA

7. COMMUNITY UPDATES

TFN: Chief McBride discusses the following
-Projects occurring on the territory in Ontario
-Consultation Requests
-Meeting with Temagami

- talks with Matachewan to address overlap and MOU
- Latchford Dam project
- Arena project underway
- Health Centre Renovations and second medical transportation vehicle
- baseball field lights, first tournament
- repair to the road washout and connecting to Algonquin Ave.
- upgrading the water station
- new road to go in for new housing developments
- log home training and possibility for facility at Bullrock

WLFN: Chief St. Denis discusses the following

- the various energy projects with Eagle Village and MRC
- owning Camp La Lucarne
- the business at Des Joachims, café, laundromat, canoe rentals
- focus mainly is on tourism
- getting requests from Ontario and Quebec
- starting to get more understanding about presence in Ontario
- Roseanne Van Schie to talk more about their economic development projects tomorrow
- energy east

ABL: Chief Ratt discusses the following

- they've been under third party management for over 8 years
- ABL took them to court because they weren't being consulted on any of the financial decisions/transactions
- they have to hear the case in Ontario since AANDC refused to hear it in Quebec
- meeting on the Trilateral Agreement to get it implemented
- accelerate the process
- revenue sharing still continues to be the stumbling block
- ABL have refused the First Nation Transparency Act because they aren't signing off on their financial agreements

ABL: Tony Wawatie discusses the following

- how the third party management is limiting their being able to participate in their interests, limiting their ability to travel to meetings
- economic development funds are frozen
- having to get the financial information to share with their community
- hard for the community to rebuild
- have plans to expand the reserve and to hook up to the hydro grid
- approach for co-existence and to live in harmony with everyone on the territory but hard when the media presents people as confrontational
- hunting on the territory and respecting the communities

Questions/Comments

- Harold McKenzie (TFN) - feels for ABL, and says he hates to say it but it's hard to see a bright future for them with all these things and is the Tribal Council or are the Chiefs doing anything to

help?

Chief McBride - working with ABL on capacity building with a university for when they get out of third party management, so the community will be able to run the community

-it's not political

-program is accredited and will be accepted by the government

Peter Di Gangi - the problem with being able to help fully is the government changed the tribal council policy and this took away the advisory and political services

-ANPSS is able to help with capacity building

-working on getting the documents we have out of storage and cataloged to be used by ABL

-also working with the Barriere Lake Solidarity group for the things that are outside the tribal council scope

-the cuts to resources really are limiting what tribal councils can do as well

8. ELECTION PROCEDURES

Alison McBride presents the Election Regulations, Section 7 of the Annual General Assembly Policy. The Election Committee is appointed (Resolution #2015-03).

9. NOMINATIONS FOR WOMEN'S & YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE (Election Report Available)

The floor is opened to nominations. When nominations are closed, Darlene Chevrier is acclaimed as Women's Rep and Lindsay McLaren Polson is acclaimed as Youth Rep.

10. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ANPSS AND ANS AUDIT REPORTS (handouts available) (Resolution #2015-04)

11. APPROVAL OF 34th AGA MINUTES (Resolution 2015-04)

12. ANPSS PROGRAM REPORTS

Debra Stanger-Leduc, Hospital Liaison Worker presents her report (handout available)

Handouts also available for Donna McBride, Health Program Manager and Mario St-Georges' annual reports

13. ADJOURNMENT OF DAY 1

Day 1 is adjourned at 3:00 pm

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34th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
“Aboriginal Title: Time for Action”
Hosted by: Timiskaming First Nation
Co-Chairs: Chiefs McBride, Ratt and St. Denis
Day 2 - Thursday, October 22, 2015 - TFN Community Hall
Land & Policy Issues

14. OPENING OF ASSEMBLY

Registration is taken by Rose Thomas. Quorum is established. Assembly opens at 9:45am.

15. WELCOMING REMARKS

Chief McBride welcomes everyone back for day 2 and reads the agenda for Day 2, which is then adopted. Chief St. Denis then welcomes Chief Lance Haymond and Councillor David McLaren from Eagle Village and Grand Chief Verna Polson from AANTC.

16. LAND & POLICY ISSUES

ANS Land Rights

Specific Claims

Peter Di Gangi goes through the difference between Specific and Comprehensive Claims. He then explains which claims have already been submitted, which ones could be submitted to the Tribunal, and the status of the others on the workplan.

David Nahwegahbow then talks about the legal aspects and cash limitations of the Specific Claims Tribunal.

The floor is opened for questions.

Aboriginal Title and Consultation

Pete explains Aboriginal Title and some of the landmark cases. He discusses how ANS was always told to prepare the evidence to the standards as if they would be going to court and then he explains the problems with the Comprehensive Claims Policy.

This then turns to the duty to consult. Discusses what and where that duty comes from. The development of the Statement of Asserted Rights (SAR). It was a tool for the provinces and Canada to be able to consult properly, we are finding they are still not taking the evidence seriously.

Discusses meeting with other communities about possible overlaps and positive outcomes.

Quick Break until 11:15am

Consultation continued

Pete talks about Energy Easy Pipeline and attempts to have meaningful consultation. Mentions that the pipeline crosses about 280km of the Aboriginal Title territory. He also says that based on consultation attempts to date the communities don't have enough information to make a properly informed decision on this matter.

Dave talks more about the pipeline issue and consultation, mostly on if the crown is able to pass along their duty to consult onto companies/corporations. Mentions Chippewas of the Thames case. He mentions that there needs to be meaningful consultation if things are going to move forward.

Questions/comments from the floor are related to the reduced funding from the National Energy Board (NEB) and how this doesn't provide enough for meaningful consultation.

Chief McBride mentions that from talking to other bands, the amounts the companies are providing for the consultation process can vary greatly from band to band and this needs to be brought to attention.

Chief St. Denis mentions that the bands have done their share of trying to get meaningful consultation and have not been met with the same effort.

A few more comments and questions.

Lunch - assembly breaks until 1:05pm

17. WELCOMING REMARKS

The Chiefs bring the assembly back to order.

18. LAND & POLICY ISSUES - Continued

Russell Diabo give a background on the proposed development at Chaudiere Falls on traditional Algonquin territory in Ottawa. He talks about how the land was re-zoned without consulting any of the Algonquin communities. Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake) is in favour of the project. The new development is proposed to be many high rises, a high power dam, and more condos. The National Capital Commission was going to turn the space back into parklands. Late Elder William Commanda's vision was for the land to be turned into a peace centre. Algonquin communities would like to see the land returned to Algonquin hands as the islands are sacred to the Algonquin people. Construction on the dam project has already begun.

Resolution relating to the Akikodjiwan Project is read and adopted by the assembly. (See Resolution #2015-06)

Some questions/comments about what the other Algonquin bands think and if Pikwakanagan will change their mind. More to come later in afternoon on them.

Russell then goes through what the Liberal Party has promised in relation to Aboriginal issues in their platform.

- national inquiry to murdered and missing women/girls
- enact TRC recommendations
- meet with First Nations leaders on shared priorities
- endorse the Douglas Eyford report
- see recording for complete list

Floor is opened for questions and comments

- how to deal with new C-3 members, education

Aboriginal Title and “Algonquins of Ontario” (AOO)

Pete discusses the status of the Aboriginal Title claim to date, it is very close to completion for the four communities.

Dave says the communities will need to eventually decide what to do when the reports are complete (i.e. negotiations, court) but they will need to pick the path that makes the most sense.

Questions about any new budgets with new government and what the best route would be.

- while hoping for reconciliation, it is hard to do while in court
- not sure what new budgets could have in regards to the funding that was cut
- Joseph Katt (2nd Chief at Temagami) talks about the spirit and intent when the treaties were signed, and how that should be the goal and hopes for a modern confederacy

Pete talks about how it's good form relationships with the neighbouring communities and work from there when discussing Aboriginal Title area. Then discusses the potential impacts of the AOO Agreement in Principle:

- loose membership guidelines
- could result in the core community being outvoted
- Eagle Village will be most impacted on AOO land selection

ANS has written and received replies from Asst Deputy of Ontario on this issue and will need to draft a good response as the government reply takes care to keep them covered if it ends up in court.

More discussions on extinguishment clauses and release clauses.

19. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Rosanne Van Schie provides an update on the various economic development projects that she is working on with Wolf Lake First Nation, including:

- canoe companies

- café
- Wolf project

Chief St. Denis mentions that they are working on a website that will have all these projects in detail.

20. OTHER RESOLUTIONS (see Resolution #2015-07)

Chief St. Denis reads a resolution relating to the location of next year's AGA. The resolution is for the assembly to mandate the Board to decide the location of the next AGA. It is adopted.

21. CLOSING

The Chiefs make some quick closing remarks thanking the members for attending.

Meeting closes at 3:15pm with a closing prayer by Elder Hank Rodgers.