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ALGONQUIN NATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SECRETARIAT / ALGONQUIN
NATION SECRETARIAT

37TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“Working Together to Protect Algonquin Title & Rights”

Hosted by Wolf Lake First Nation

Co-Chairs: Chiefs Harry St. Denis, Casey Ratt & Vice-Chief Colleen Polson

September 21-22, 2017 Lucerne, Laniel – Algonquin Territory

MINUTES

DAY 1

1. OPENING OF ASSEMBLY

Registration is taken by Rose Thomas. Quorum is established. Assembly is opened at 1:30pm with a smudge and opening prayer by Elder Hank Rodgers.

2. WELCOMING REMARKS

Chief Harry St. Denis welcomes everyone to the assembly and notes that documentation is available at the back table and takes care of housekeeping issues.

Vice-Chief Colleen Polson does some welcoming remarks.

Chief Casey Ratt does opening remarks.

Chief St. Denis notes that the assembly was supposed to take place at Barriere Lake but due to lodging being closed for the season Wolf Lake agreed to host.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (handout available) (Resolution #2017-01)

4. RULES OF ASSEMBLY

Rules of assembly are noted to be in the back with the handouts available. (handout available)

5. RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES & APPOINTMENT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Chief St. Denis explains the resolutions and calls for a volunteer to serve on Resolutions committee. Resolutions committee is appointed (Resolution #2017-02)

6. REMINDERS

Deadline for resolutions is 10:00 am on Day 2

7. ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

Chief St. Denis explains the elections and calls for a volunteer to serve on the election committee. (Resolution #2017-03)

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8. NOMINATIONS FOR WOMEN'S AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

The floor is opened to nominations. Carly McLaughlin is the only nominee for Youth Rep and is acclaimed. Dianna Wabie and Darlene Chevrier are nominated for Women's Rep. Nominations are then closed. After some remarks from candidates and leaving Youth Rep, there is discussion of Section 7g of AGA Policy. After some discussion, Dianna Wabie then declines her nomination for Women's Rep. Darlene Chevrier is then acclaimed as Women's Rep. (Resolution #2017-04)

9. APPROVAL OF 36th AGA MINUTES

The minutes are reviewed by the assembly. A change is requested and then the minutes are accepted with that change. (Resolution #2017-05)

10. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ANPSS AND ANS AUDIT REPORTS

Annie Presseault presents the audits, questions are asked regarding past refundable funds and answered by Chief St. Denis and Tony Wawatie. Audits are accepted. (Resolution #2017-06)

11. ANPSS PROGRAM REPORTS

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

BREAK

12. UPDATE ON FEDERAL – FIRST NATION CONSULTATION PROCESS

Russell Diabo presents on the Federal-First Nation consultation process. He talks about recent memoranda signed that will potentially lead to new funding agreements. He also talks about what this will mean for the member communities. (handout available)

13. LAND CLAIMS REPORT

Peter Di Gangi gives some background on what led to the ANS doing the research for the claims for the member communities. He discusses the difference between Comprehensive and Specific Claims and what sort of claims each community has. He then discusses how the problems involved in the claims processes and the work that is going into reforming these processes.

There are some questions regarding where Kebaowek fits in. There are some questions with the recent meeting in Val d'Or and how the other tribal council didn't discuss with us before asking for this meeting and how this reflects. After a few comments there are no more questions and the discussion ends.

DAY 1 ENDS – Assembly breaks until Friday September 22, 2017

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DAY 2

14. OPENING OF DAY 2

Registration is taken by Rose Thomas and quorum is established. Day two of the assembly opens at 9:40

15. COMMUNITY UPDATES

Chief St. Denis starts with the community update for Wolf Lake

- discusses their tourism focus
- the Nanabush café and laundromat at Joachim
- canoe and kayak rentals
- wolf study
- got funds from SAA, Canada 150, and Environment Canada
- will be building suspension bridges in the future
- hopes to get the businesses turning profits soon

Vice-Chief Polson does an update for Timiskaming

- Old Fort negotiations with Parks Canada is going well
- had a pow wow there for National Aboriginal Day and they want the community to do more events at the site
- negotiating with Quebec about the Angliers camps
- health centre extension
- arena extension
- upcoming claims and going to the tribunal
- new residential area and cemetery

Chief Ratt does an update for Barriere Lake

- discusses the mediation process regarding the third party management
- the issues that they've had with it and hopes for getting out of third party management soon

Tony Wawatie does an update highlighting the Trilateral Agreement and the steps it has taken to get to implementation

- beginning in 1990 with support from Algonquin Council of Western Quebec
 - taking shape as Trilateral Agreement
 - highlight as negotiation outside of the Comprehensive Claims Policy
 - now joint ABL-Quebec Agreement
 - to be signed soon
- (handout available)

16. ABORIGINAL TITLE DISCUSSION

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Chief St. Denis talks a bit about Aboriginal Title and how it is important to know the history and have your facts ready before getting into any negotiations. How we have always prepared as if we would be going to court so the evidence has always been gathered at a high level.

Peter Di Gangi talks about how the research mandate was to present the facts and not to sugar coat anything and have had a lot of help over the years, discusses the importance of getting our expert witnesses evidence into affidavit form so it can be cross examined and held at high regard.

Topics discussed:

- the government's reluctance to take our evidence seriously until court action is threatened
- the communities don't want to get into the Comprehensive Claims Policy because of the demand for extinguishment
- the ANLF Trust that was set up as a way of getting the litigation started
- open to ABL to join in the future
- always available to explain the evidence to the communities
- how the other tribal council wants to use our experts and evidence despite not wanting to accept it from ANS/ANPSS
- NCRW to be held in Ottawa and the Algonquin showcase

Discussion period with questions regarding Kebaowek, overlap issues with Matachewan, the Trust, and the need for a new comprehensive claims policy that doesn't involve extinguishment. It is important to anticipate the issues before they arise and that's what we try to do with overlap.

17. OTHER RESOLUTIONS (See Resolutions #2017-07, 2017-08, 2017-09)

18. NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TFN will host 38th AGA (Resolution #2017-10)

19. CLOSING

Assembly is closed with a closing prayer by Elder Hank Rodgers at 11:30