

IROQUOIS CAUCUS

RECORD OF DECISIONS – FINAL

Ottawa, April 28 & 29, 2015

PARTICIPANTS

Kahnawake: Chief Gina Deer, Chief Clinton Phillips, Dennis Diabo (technical advisor), Paul Nicholas (technician), Martin Stacy (technician)

Akwesasne: Chief Billy Sunday, Chief Joe Lazore, Theresa Thompson (executive assistant)

Tyendinaga: Tanya King-Maracle (policy analyst)

Six Nations: Councillor Carl C. Hill, Councillor Wray Maracle, Councillor Terry General

Oneida: Chief Sheri Doxtator, Councillor Harry Doxtator, Councillor Randall C. Philips

Kahnesatake: Chief Victor Bonspille, Chief Lourena Montour

Wahta: Regrets

Guests: Joe Norton (Kahnawake)

Chair: Chief Victor Bonspille

Recorder: Trevor Bomberry

Not all participants were able to be present for the duration of the meetings.

Chief Billy Sunday opened the meeting.

MEET AND GREET PREPATORY SESSION

A list of Senators and MP's invited to the meet and greet was distributed. Of the twenty-eight invitee's, one confirmed her attendance prior to April 28th. Three more confirmed their attendance on April 28th. It was noted that

although there was a low number of confirmations, the meet and greet will still take place.

The meet and greet was attended by two MP's, Carol Hughes (NDP) and Anne Minh-Thu Quach (NDP). There was a commitment from Carol Hughes to attend the IC the next day to discuss MRP, and she will invite her colleagues to attend also.

TOBACCO BILL C-10

Randy Cross will be replacing Peggy Mayo Standup as the contact person for the new group created to fight Bill C-10. Coordinator Darryl Chrisjohn was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

It was stated that we need to push Canada and the provinces back and assert our jurisdiction over the tobacco trade in our communities. It was recognized that historical research needs to be conducted, and that each community can contribute to this research.

It was reiterated that the new group has the lead in the fight against Bill C-10 and that the IC is in a supportive role.

Kahnawake indicated that it has one year to pass their tobacco law which was mandated by community members at a community meeting. It was said that if the people don't follow the tobacco law, then it is useless.

It was acknowledged that there are PR campaigns that directly attack the tobacco trade in IC communities. It was suggested that a year round PR campaign to educate the Canadian public on our rights regarding the tobacco industry needs to occur – the people who are doing well in the industry could possibly pay the costs for this initiative.

Tyendinaga member Bob Greenwood is having difficulties with Health Canada in regards to advertising (documents were distributed). Mr. Greenwood's lawyer Ian Brady called into the IC to discuss the possibility of an IC resolution supporting Mr. Greenwood's initiative of advertising his cigar business. The IC decided that they cannot make a decision and would need more information.

ENBRIDGE, NEB & TRANSCANADA

Kahnawake met with TransCanada a year ago, the individual they met with that was representing TransCanada was disrespectful and condescending. Kahnawake was successful in meeting with TransCanada's vice president – who agreed that status quo was not going to work when dealing with them.

Kahnawake has told Enbridge that their issues are territory wide; each IC community needs to be on the same page when dealing with them. NRCAN stated to Kahnawake, that their legal obligation in regards to consultation and accommodation will be carried out by the National Energy Board (NEB). There is an issue with this as the NEB is a technical review and approval agency and are not the correct entity to discharge the crown's duty to consult or accommodate. The meeting ended earlier than was planned. The NEB will be opening an office in Montreal in April 2015, and agreed that the discussions would to continue at that time.

Enbridge has asked Kahnawake to facilitate a meeting between them and Six Nations because they said Six Nations is not returning their calls. Enbridge was informed that Kahnawake would pass the message on, but could not facilitate a meeting.

Akwesasne is still meeting with Enbridge and NEB, they have had an agreement since the 1960's with Enbridge regarding a gas line that goes through their territory.

Oneida has not met with Enbridge as of yet, Enbridge has indicated that they would like to conduct a consultation process.

IC FREE TRADE MOU

The decision was to defer the signing of the IC Free Trade MOU until all communities are present.

TVO REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW ON BILL C-51

A request from TVO for an interview on Bill C-51 was sent to Akwesasne, Akwesasne forwarded the request to the IC. The IC agreed to have Chief Gina Deer participate on their behalf in the interview.

Undertaking: The IC will issue a written statement in regards to Bill C-51.

BORDER CROSSING UPDATE

There is a case in Akwesasne currently making its way through the courts. It is in regards to two people that did not report directly to the Canadian border before going to Cornwall Island to drop two children off. The adults are charged with aiding and abetting illegal aliens.

The new border crossing cards are on hold, INAC's card is the only one accepted at this time. Meetings to move forward on a new card are being planned.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

There is a suggestion to have an economic summit and to invite the AFN, AIAI, COO and others. The premise of having this summit is to create a coalition to address our collective concerns to the government. The IC Free Trade MOU can be addressed at this summit also. A tentative date of September 2015 was proposed, the IC can initiate this but other organizations need to be involved, maybe the AFN could be the host organization. Chief Gina Deer and Chief Clinton Phillips will take the lead on this initiative. July's IC will be used to decide which organizations should be involved.

Undertaking: Chief Deer and Chief Phillips will begin the preliminary steps of organizing an economic summit.

Undertaking: Each IC community will take the idea of having an economic summit back to their respective councils.

TAXATION SUMMIT

Six Nations advised that they will not be organizing a taxation summit. Oneida has offered to take the matter of hosting a taxation summit back to their council.

Undertaking: Oneida will take the issue of hosting a taxation summit back to their council.

EDUCATION SUMMIT

Akwesasne will take back to their council the idea of hosting the education summit. Kanesatake said that they may be hosting a language summit; each IC community will be invited if it is confirmed.

Undertaking: Akwesasne will take to their council the issue of hosting the education summit.

REVIEW DECEMBER 4 & 5, 2014 DRAFT RECORD OF DECISIONS

Akwesasne will forward an update regarding the matter of one traditional name on an Ontario birth certificate.

The draft record of decisions was finalized

Undertaking: Akwesasne will forward an update of the one traditional name on an Ontario birth certificate.

MRP UPDATE

Carol Hughes (NDP deputy aboriginal affairs health critic), Sylvain Chicoine (NDP) and Niki Ashton (NDP aboriginal affairs critic) joined the meeting. Kahnawake explained that their MRP law has been rejected by Minister Valcourt, after INAC said Kahnawake's community decision making process was good and should be promoted to other First Nations. All of Kahnawake's 88 land transfers since implementing their own MRP have been rejected by INAC while other First Nations are having their incomplete forms approved. There was a commitment from Carol Hughes to visit Kahnawake in the near future.

Six Nations has been working on their own MRP for over 5 years; they sent it to Canada as information only. Ottawa stated that Six Nations MRP law will override their law.

The NDP said that they would attend any future IC meetings in Ottawa, it was proposed and agreed by all present to invite the NDP to future meetings in Ottawa.

FINANCES

The draft 2015-2016 IC budget was approved.

IC CONSULTATION POLICY

Any suggestions and/or comments are to be sent to the ICC.

NEXT MEETING

July 29 & 30, 2015 – Wahta will be asked to host

Undertaking: Invite the director of motor fuels to the next meeting.