

IROQUOIS CAUCUS

RECORD OF DECISIONS – FINAL

Tyendinaga, December 4 & 5, 2014

PARTICIPANTS

Kahnawake: Chief Martin Leborgne, Chief Robert Patton Jr., Chief Gina Deer, Dennis Diabo (technical advisor)

Akwesasne: Chief Billy Sunday, Chief Joe Lazore, Chief Brian David, Vaughn Sunday (IGL)

Tyendinaga: Chief Don Maracle, Councillor Barry Brant, Councillor Doug Maracle, Tanya King-Maracle (policy analyst), Lisa Maracle (director of community services)

Six Nations: Councillor Carl C. Hill, Councillor Helen Miller

Oneida: Chief Sheri Doxtator, Councillor Harry Doxtator, Councillor Olive Elm, Martin Powless (Policy Analyst)

Kahnesatake: Grand Chief Serge Otsi Simon, Chief Victor Bonspille,

Wahta: Chief Philip Franks, Councillor Stuart Lane

Guests: Councillor Kevin Metlot (Listuguj)

Chair: Chief Don Maracle

Recorder: Trevor Bomberry

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

Chief Billy Sunday opened the meeting.

REVIEW SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2014 DRAFT RECORD OF DECISIONS

The draft record of decisions was finalized.

ICC UPDATES

FINANCES: A summary and updated draft (3) budget was distributed.

WEBSITE: The IC website is up and running, there will be minor adjustments as needed. The website address is: www.iroquoiscaucus.com

OKWAHO NETWORK PRESENTATION

Co-founders Ryan and Shyra Barberstock conducted a powerpoint presentation on their social media website. Copies were distributed also. The following is an excerpt from their handout:

"The Okwaho Network uses social networking technology so that Indigenous community leaders, members, and business owners can connect, engage, and collaborate online. The Okwaho Network brings together Indigenous peoples from all over the world. It also helps to bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses that work together"

Further information can be found on their website at:
<http://www.okwahonetwork.com>

TOBACCO BILL C-10

Haudenosaunee Trade Collective (HTC) and Kahnawake Tobacco Association (KTA) representatives were to attend the IC for this agenda item. Both organizations sent their regrets.

It was stated that it would cost \$50,000 to launch a constitutional challenge against Bill C-10. It was agreed that the people in the tobacco industry will have to fund the process if the decision is to pursue this through the courts.

Other FN communities are willing to join the fight against Bill C-10. Councillor Metlot from Listuguj was present, his community is willing to join the IC in a coalition against Bill C-10. New Credit is willing to join the IC in lobbying efforts as well.

It was noted that in order for Bill C-10 to be enforceable, it has to go through an implementation process, which has not happened yet.

Akwesasne may have made a submission to Ontario regarding the amendment to the raw leaf tobacco act. They will send their submission to

the IC if they can confirm that they made a submission. Akwesasne stated that Ontario likes their draft law pertaining to Akwesasne's tobacco pilot project. Akwesasne said that the royalties are to be 100% reinvested into the community, and that Ontario agreed to this verbally.

Kahnawake's Chief Phillips will ask the AFN to be involved in the IC's initiatives regarding Bill C-10.

There was discussion on who would be the face of a constitutional challenge. It was pointed out that the IC does not have standing (in the legal system), and therefore cannot take on this role. It was suggested that maybe each elected Chief/Grand Chief could sign the constitutional challenge. It was suggested that maybe the AFN could be the lead in the courts, it was also noted that if they are to challenge Bill C-10 in court that it may affect their political relationship with the government, which may also affect their funding. Chief Deer said that the tobacco people do not want to be the face in the courts.

The traditional people/government in each IC community may have an issue with jurisdiction, it was stated that this is a mutual fight against the government and that both the elected and traditional governments need to work together for the good of the people.

The IC struck a Tobacco Planning Committee, the members are:

Oneida: Martin Powless (policy analyst)
Kahnawake: Chief Robert Patton Jr.
Kanesatake: Grand Chief Serge Otsi Simon
Wahta: Councillor Stuart Lane
Tyendinaga: Councillor Barry Brant
Akwesasne: Vaughn Sunday (IGL)
Six Nations: TBD

The Tobacco Planning Committee will meet at 4:00 after the IC on Thursday December 4th.

TOBACCO PLANNING COMMITTEE (TPC)

The TPC decided on December 4th that there will be a TCP meeting in Ottawa on January 21, 2014 (location & time to be determined) in order to prepare for the meeting the next day. The meeting with the IC, Tobacco People, Confederacy & the AFN to deal with Bill C-10 will be in Ottawa on January 22, 2014 (location & time to be determined).

Each IC council are to invite the tobacco people and the traditional people in their community to the January 22nd meeting in Ottawa.

The IC agreed to use the surplus to fund travel costs for IC members and a venue to conduct these initial meetings, but not to contribute to the tobacco people's defense fund. It was also agreed to use up to \$3,000 to pay a lawyer to develop a framework and to provide recommendations on how to challenge Bill C-10.

It was suggested and agreed to, that due to the urgency of this matter, to use Gowlings for either or both January 21st and January 22nd only. Kahnawake will take the initiative and contact Gowlings to make the appropriate arrangements – a meeting with Gowlings is being arranged for later in December. Kahnawake will distribute the recommendations from Gowlings prior to the January 21st meeting.

Each IC community are to recommend lawyers so that a list can be created for the tobacco people should they wish to pursue Bill C-10 in the courts.

Undertaking: Akwesasne will circulate their submission regarding the raw leaf tobacco act.

Undertaking: Each IC council are to invite the tobacco people and the traditional people in their community to the January 22nd meeting in Ottawa regarding Bill C-10.

Undertaking: Each community will send their recommendation for a lawyer to the ICC to compile a list.

NATIONAL EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

The FNEA is in abeyance, the National Education Framework distributed addresses funding only. COO are pushing communities to accept this, they want to take it to the AFN's meeting the week of December 15th for approval.

Kanesatake stated that they do not support the National Education Framework and would rather wait until the next government is in place. There was a lack of consultation in regards to this framework, much like the lack of consultation with the FNEA.

It was suggested to invite Health Canada to discuss special needs students

Undertaking: ICC will invite Health Canada to the next IC.

AFN TASK GROUP

There was discussion regarding the invitation from the AFN to the IC to appoint a representative to participate in the AFN Task Group.

The IC was reminded that they have a partnership agreement with the AFN and that the IC should not be involved with the AFN's internal affairs. It was also said that if the IC were to get involved in the AFN's affairs, then the existence of the IC is in question.

The IC agreed that a representative will not be appointed to the AFN Task Group.

Undertaking: The ICC will notify the AFN that the IC will not be appointing a representative to the AFN Task Group.

TAXATION

Six Nations met with the Minister of Finance and Minister Zimmer, they asked for letters to be distributed reminding businesses that the Iroquois are GST and PST exempt.

It was stated that major changes are coming to the FN gas card system, this is being done with no consultation to the FN. It was suggested to invite the Directors of Motor Fuels from Ontario and Quebec to the next IC in Ottawa.

There was discussion regarding having a taxation summit, this was to be a joint effort by the AFN and the IC after the Border Summit, given the political atmosphere of the AFN, there has been no movement on this issue. There was discussion about striking a planning committee for a taxation summit – no decision was made. Each community will take this issue back to their respective council's for direction and send the ICC agenda items. The taxation summit should include all taxes such as; retail tax, income tax,

excise tax etc. Six Nations may or may not take the lead on this, Six Nations representatives will have to take this back to their council.

Undertaking: ICC will invite the Directors of Motor Fuels from Ontario and Quebec to the next IC in Ottawa.

Undertaking: Each IC community is to send agenda items to the ICC for a taxation summit.

Undertaking: Six Nations will ask their council about taking the lead on organizing a taxation summit.

BORDER CROSSING

Akwesasne has organized a meeting with various government officials to be held on December 18th in Ottawa at the AFN. The meeting will discuss options on a new card that could be used for border crossing.

Undertaking: Akwesasne will update the IC after this meeting has been conducted.

ONTARIO BIRTH CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Akwesasne resident Sheri Bonaparte played an audio CD that Akwesasne's radio station conducted on the issue of having one traditional name on an Ontario birth certificate. Akwesasne recognizes one name for their community's birth certificates, Ontario will not recognize Akwesasne's birth certificate system. Letters have been submitted to the Human Rights Commission, to Minister Zimmer and others, they are waiting for a reply.

It was asked of the IC to send a letter of support for this issue, each community will need to take this back to their respective council for discussion and a decision. It was recommended that each individual community should send a letter of support also.

There are various fundraising efforts underway to help with the costs associated with this cause. The IC agreed to donate \$1,000 towards this initiative.

Undertaking: Each community will take the issue of supporting one traditional name on an Ontario birth certificate.

IC FREE TRADE MOU

The name "Iroquois Trade Commission" is to be changed to "Iroquois Trade Alliance".

Undertaking: The ICC will circulate the MOU with the name change. The Grand Chiefs will sign the MOU at the next IC.

IC CONSULTATION POLICY

This agenda item has been tabled to be addressed at the next meeting. IC communities are to send their comments to the ICC.

Undertaking: Communities are to send their comments on the IC Consultation Policy to the ICC.

NEW BUSINESS

INDIAN LAND MANAGEMENT FUNDS: Vaughn Sunday and Barry Brant will look into this issue and send information to the ICC.

MRP UPDATE: Oneida is seeking an exemption from MRP, they do not have a law in place but they are deemed a settlement and deal with their land issues. Six Nations passed their MRP law two years ago, they have not notified the government. Kahnawake has passed their own MRP law and they have sent it to Canada, now they are being told that they have to send it to the Minister.

Oneida inquired about having an Iroquois Tribunal to deal with these matters. It was noted that not all IC communities have their own law, so the Tribunal will have nothing to use in those communities with no law.

NEXT MEETING

The next IC will be in Ottawa on February 12th & 13th. The IC will host a meet and greet at this meeting.

Chief Billy Sunday closed the meeting.