

IROQUOIS CAUCUS

RECORD OF DECISIONS – FINAL Gatineau, Quebec, December 8, 2013

PARTICIPANTS

Kahnawake: Martin LeBorgne, Dennis Diabo (Intergovernmental Coordinator)

Akwesasne: Bill Sunday, Brian David, Mike Mitchell, Vaughn Sunday (Intergovernmental Liaison)

Tyendinaga: Barry Brant, Shoo-Shoo (Policy Analyst)

Six Nations: Ava Hill, Carl Hill, Helen Miller, Richard C. Powless (Advisor)

Oneida: Joel Abram, Olive Elm, Harry Doxtator, Martin Powless (Policy Analyst)

Wahta: Tim Thompson (Proxy)

Kahnesatake: No Representatives

Chair: Trevor Bomberry

Recorder: Shoo-Shoo

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

Bill Sunday opened the meeting.

REVIEW SEPTEMBER 5 & 6 DRAFT RECORD OF DECISIONS

The September 5 & 6, 2013 draft record of decisions was accepted as final.

MRP DRAFT LETTER

A draft letter to be sent to Minister Valcourt regarding removing consultation with the Iroquois Caucus in their document concerning MRP was circulated. There were minor amendments; the ICC will circulate the amended document for approval.

IC COORDINATOR UPDATES

IC CONSULTATION POLICY: The ICC is continuing work on the IC policy. The ICC proposed creating a disclaimer for all governments/organizations to sign stating that their presentation to the IC is not consultation and is for information only.

IC WEBSITE: The IC has contacted Kahnawake's IT regarding adding the Iroquois Caucus to their website.

IC FINANCES: A summary showing the current balance and an updated IC budget was distributed. All IC communities are paid in full until the end of the current fiscal. It was stated that Kanesatake should be added to show that they have not contributed.

It was proposed to allocate funds to have Iroquois singers & dancers at the AFN-AGA being held in Halifax in 2014. It was decided to research the cost associated with sending singers and dancers before making a decision.

Undertaking: The ICC will research the cost of travel and accommodations for Iroquois singers and dancers to attend the AFN-AGA in Halifax.

IC STRUCTURE AND PROCESSES

It was stated that a review of IC processes and structures is needed. It was pointed out that the IC gets sidetracked by new legislation and that the IC should focus on one thing and follow it through. It was suggested that each community pick one issue and to have a special session to prioritize the issues.

It was acknowledged that the IC used to have traditional representatives attend past meetings. It was stated that the traditional body said they could only work with elected councils if they were to get out of the Indian Act, which was perceived as a threat. It was agreed to try and work with the traditional government again and to invite the traditional representatives from each community who will be hosting IC meetings, this will save the cost of traveling for the traditional representatives. The objective is to for both elected and traditional governments to work on common issues. It was suggested that the IC should update on processes and structures before meeting with the Confederacy.

It was pointed out that the IC does not operate under/within the Indian Act, individual councils do, but not the IC as a whole.

There was discussion about drafting a letter in response to the Confederacy's letter, there was also discussion that rather than drafting a response, maybe the IC should start new with the Confederacy.

It was proposed to schedule ½ day of the next IC for strategic planning and that each council should come prepared with 3-5 issues which would be results based.

Undertaking: All communities are to bring forward 3-5 issues for the strategic planning meeting at the next IC.

ENBRIDGE LINE 9

Amanda Lickers had requested a letter of support from the IC. Not all councils have had a chance to discuss this issue; therefore, a letter of support cannot be issued at this time. MCK has intervenor status in this issue and has made a presentation to the NEB, all the information regarding this is on the NEB's website.

Undertaking: IC communities will have a discussion on this matter with their respective councils.

HEALTH MINISTER RESPONSE

The response email from the Health Minister's office was distributed. The response stated that Minister Ambrose was unavailable to meet with the IC. It was recommended that the IC meet with Keith Conn, Ontario Regional Executive, and Mary Luisa, Quebec Regional Executive, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. It was proposed that Mr. Conn would be pleased to host the meeting in Ottawa.

The IC agreed to meet with Mr. Conn and Ms. Luisa, but the decision was to invite them to the next IC in Kahnawake.

Undertaking: ICC will invite Mr. Conn and Ms. Luisa to the next IC being held in Kahnawake.

TOBACCO

The ICC tried repeatedly with negative results to get the IC on the witness list for the Standing Committee on Justice in regards to Bill C-10. MCK and MCA were invited to present to the Standing Committee, their presentation notes were distributed.

It was noted that only 3 Grand Chiefs attended the GC's meeting in November that was dedicated to the issue of tobacco. It was stated that political discipline is needed in order to deal with important matters such as tobacco as it affects every IC community. There is a sense of urgency on this issue.

Anne Bird, Ministry of Finance, sent her regrets (email was distributed) for not being able to present to the IC on tobacco draft regulations, pilot projects and taxation.

Undertaking: ICC will continue to try to get the IC on the witness list for the Standing Committee on Justice for Bill C-10.

Undertaking: Invite Anne Bird, Ministry of Finance to the next IC in Kahanwake re: tobacco draft regulations, pilot projects and taxation.

EDUCATION

There has been nationwide opposition to the government's proposed First Nations Education Act. There are differences in each IC community as to the procedure in which education is administered.

There was discussion as to whether the IC would submit a position against the FNEA. MCK stated that they have already submitted a letter to PM Harper opposing the FNEA, MCK offered to share the letter and to re-draft it for the IC. It was said that opposing the FNEA is not enough, reasons should list why the FNEA is unacceptable and what we can contribute.

It was proposed to have an IC Summit on education with each council's technicians/resource people. Each community is to take this proposal back to their respective councils for further discussion and to identify resource people. The IC Summit has been tentatively scheduled for April 2014 in Tyendinaga.

Undertaking: Kahnawake will re-draft their letter for the IC that was sent to PM Harper regarding the FNEA.

Undertaking: Each council is to identify resource people to attend an IC Summit on education in April 2014.

FREE TRADE

It was proposed to review the latest draft of the IC Free Trade MOU and to suggest any amendments or point out any oversights that may exist. There was discussion about trading commodities that each community has access to. Each community agreed to get their respective technicians together to identify trade items, this meeting will occur before the next IC. It was proposed to conduct this meeting via conference call or a person to person meeting in Tyendinaga.

There was discussion regarding Iroquois people having difficulties crossing the border. There will be a border crossing summit held in May or June 2014, it was suggested that the Iroquois have a model of a border crossing card ready by the meeting.

Undertaking: Each council is to forward the names of their resource people to meet to discuss trade items in regards to the draft Free Trade MOU.

Undertaking: IC communities will work on a model of what a border crossing card would look like.

AFN TASK GROUP

Chief Ava updated the IC on the resolution submitted to the AFN in Whitehorse. There will be a panel discussion on this topic at the AFN-SCA being held on December 10 & 11, 2013. It was suggested that the IC needs to consider members who would sit on the permanent task group.

There was discussion about sending Iroquois singers and dancers to the AFN-AGA in Halifax in July 2014. The undertaking is listed in the finances update.

LACROSSE & PAN-AM GAMES: KEVIN SANDY & RUSTY DOXTATOR

Kevin Sandy and Rusty Doxtator conducted a presentation (with handouts) on Lacrosse and its inclusion as being a sport at the Pan-Am games 2015. There are several opportunities for IC communities to become involved in for these games.

Next Meeting: Kahnawake will host on February 6 & 7, 2014.

Olive Elm closed the meeting.