

IROQUOIS CAUCUS

RECORD OF DECISIONS – FINAL

Ottawa May 6 & 7, 2013

PARTICIPANTS

Kahnawake: Robert Patton Jr., Martin LeBorgne, William Diabo, Dennis Diabo (Intergovernmental Coordinator)

Akwesasne: Billy Sunday, Joe Lazore, Brian David

Tyendinaga: Barry Brant, R. Donald Maracle, Tanya King-Maracle (policy analyst), Lisa Maracle (Director – Community Services)

Wahta: Bill Hay

Six Nations: Bill Montour, Ava Hill, Carl Hill, Lewis Staats, Richard C. Powless (Advisor)

Oneida: Joel Abram, Olive Elm, Carol Antone, Martin Powless (Policy Analyst)

Kahnesatake: No Representatives

Chair: Richard C. Powless **Recorder:** Trevor Bomberry (ICC)

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

Olive Elm opened the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF IROQUOIS CAUCUS COORDINATOR

Trevor Bomberry was introduced as the Iroquois Caucus Coordinator.

ICC business card: sample 2 was chosen with the addition of “elected governments of”.

An email address specific to the ICC was approved at a cost of \$100.

Website: there is no website; cost could be up to \$15,000 to create one.

FINANCES UPDATE

A spreadsheet was distributed showing the current status and the amount that has been transferred to Six Nations.

A briefing note was distributed showing the arrears each community owes as well as the contribution for 2013/2014. ICC will invoice each community for amounts owing.

Draft Budget #1 was distributed & approved with the following changes:

- Increase line item Meeting Expenses to \$10,000
- Include \$15,000 for potential website

It was stated that if the Iroquois Caucus are going to become more active, the budget will have to be increased.

UNDERTAKING: ICC will get quotes for website development.

MRP UPDATE

Six Nations updated their progress. Mediators: Mike Myers will do the traditional training and a firm from Hamilton will do the mediation training. It was noted that SN police have to refer to the provincial system. It was stated that an IC tribunal is desirable when dealing with these matters.

Standing Committee on the Status of Women, May 7, 2013: Bill Montour presented on behalf of the IC, Don Maracle presented for Tyendinaga and Joel Abram presented for Oneida. Kahnawake is presenting on May 8, 2013. It was stated that Bill S-2 will come into effect in one year.

WCIP UPDATE

Bill Montour was chosen to represent the IC at the preparatory conference in Norway in June 2013. Bill has to step down due to health reasons and has suggested and received approval for Ava Hill to be the IC representative.

Six Nations stated that they will be attending the UNPFII later this month (May 2013) and will be hosting a Side Event.

There was discussion regarding the three Rapporteurs from the UN. It was decided to invite them to meet with the IC.

UNDERTAKING: Richard Powless and the ICC will follow up on the invitation to the UN Rapporteurs.

BORDER CROSSING

The issue of harassment of Iroquois people crossing the border has become constant. IC communities are working on this, it was stated that an agreement should be reached with the USA first using the Jay Treaty before pursuing an agreement with Canada. It was stated that the Treaty of Utrecht could be used also and may have more merit.

It was stated that the Iroquois have to re-establish a relationship with the CBSA. The IC will develop a position regarding border crossing.

An IC community has a child case issue at the forefront currently. They are seeking advisement on this issue from the IC. The Peacemaker's court in Onondaga was suggested, it is recognized and people have had success using it for this purpose. It was also stated that the AFN could intervene and to use the recent protocol signed between the IC & AFN.

CBSA Aboriginal Liaison Officer James Marchand & Wesley Benedict, Community Advocate on CBSA Complaints, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne presentation (oral & power point)

TOBACCO

It was stated that the tobacco trade is not viewed as contraband by the IC.

Kahnawake is drafting laws, stamp etc., and would like the tobacco industry regulated to protect community members from being criminalized.

Akwesasne has received funding to develop laws. They would like to finish their regulations first before sharing them with the rest of the IC.

Wahta is looking into manufacturing their own product for the whole community – so there will be a single source for vendors.

Tyendinaga is only involved in the quota system which is beneficial to them.

Oneida retailers pay \$2 per carton which goes to the community to cover things that may not be covered such as medical costs. GRE had proposed giving a dollar per carton – not sure if the offer is valid.

In the past, GRE asked Six Nations for a BCR to give the tax to SN Elected Council instead of sending it to the Federal government. Six Nations voted against the BCR. GRE paid \$168 million in tax this past year.

It was stated that the IC needs to stand together and create a MOU for free trade.

It was decided that the Grand Chiefs (or delegate) come together to discuss & formalize this. Akwesasne is already working on a document that is the centre of this issue. Chief Bill Montour will organize a meeting of the Grand Chiefs (or delegate).

Akwesasne appeared before the Standing Committee (on tobacco). Billy Sunday will get the documents used for the presentation and forward to the IC.

UNDERTAKING: Akwesasne will forward the presentation they used when they appeared before the Standing Committee (on tobacco).

UNDERTAKING: The Grand Chiefs (or delegate) will meet to formalize a Free Trade MOU. Akwesasne is working on a document that is the centre of this issue and will forward. Chief Bill Montour will organize the meeting.

AANDC EDUCATION

It was stated that a tripartite agreement was already signed and AANDC was going ahead with their new legislation regardless of First Nations' concerns.

It was noted that it is good for the IC to oppose this legislation but an alternative is needed to replace it.

It was decided that the IC will develop a position unilaterally opposing AANDC's consultation and legislation regarding this matter.

UNDERTAKING: All IC communities will develop a position unilaterally opposing AANDC's consultation & legislation regarding education and will send their position to the ICC to develop one draft.

CONSULTATION

It was indicated that core funding is available to organizations/groups for consultations to occur. Kahnawake will get more details on funding.

It was decided the IC needs to develop a position on consultation. IC communities who have consultation policies will forward them to ICC to develop a draft.

UNDERTAKING: Kahnawake will get more information on funding for consultation.

UNDERTAKING: The 3 IC communities that have a consultation policy will forward them to the ICC to develop a draft consultation policy for the IC. The target date is one month to have a draft developed for the IC.

STATUS OF JP'S

There were 4 Aboriginal JP's, 2 have retired so now there are 2 left. The government will not be appointing any new Aboriginal JP's.

Kahnawake & Akwesasne are working together to get their own Justice's using their own criteria. It was stated that they would like to get them in place before discussing using them for an IC Tribunal.

NATIONAL CHIEF – FOLLOW UP

Ava Hill's 5 points for discussion was distributed.

Point 3: Ava & ICC will work on submitting a letter to the AFN/Yukon.

Point 4: Keep taxation and border crossing summit separate.

Ava will keep working with Jennifer Brennan (AFN) to get a Finance meeting regarding taxation.

Each community is to take Points 1,2 & 5 back to their respective councils and return with feedback at the next IC (July 3 & 4).

UNDERTAKING: Ava & ICC will work on submitting a letter to the AFN/Yukon. Ava will also continue to work with Jennifer Brennan to get a Finance meeting.

UNDERTAKING: Each IC community is to take Points 1,2 & 5 back to their respective councils and return with feedback at the next IC (July 3 & 4).

SIX NATIONS LAND RIGHTS

Ontario has the Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI) on the list for proponents to consult when considering development. At the IC in December 2012, it was agreed to send a letter to Ontario telling them to remove HDI from the list. This has not happened to date.

A summary of what HDI is, was requested before going forward on this issue. Letters of support to remove HDI from the list will then follow. A meeting with Minister Zimmer should be arranged to deal with this issue.

Billy Sunday & Brian David brought forward the need for support from Iroquois Caucus communities for a peaceful demonstration in Akwesasne on May 17th. They will walk across both bridges as one to assert Iroquois rights, relationship, Treaty's etc.

UNDERTAKING: ICC will send information on HDI. ICC to arrange a meeting with Minister Zimmer.

NEW BUSINESS

TransCanada Pipeline: It was agreed not to meet with TCP until the IC develops a consultation policy. The 3 communities who have consultation policies will send them to the ICC to develop one draft. Target date is one month to have a rough draft developed.

James Bay was to have finished a letter going to Harper. ICC will send a reminder.

Algonquin Presentation: It was agreed to invite them to present at the next IC in July. Each IC community should bring their land claims people to this meeting.

Aboriginal Midwifery: It was decided to decline this request to present to the IC as it is about programming and the IC is rights based.

UNDERTAKING: ICC to send a reminder to James Bay. ICC will notify TCP of deferment of meeting, invite Algonquin's to next meeting and notify Aboriginal Midwifery that their request to present has been declined.

REVIEW & WRAP UP

There is concern from communities that the IC is not doing anything. There is a need to see tangible results.

It was stated that the IC needs to meet with Ministers directly in order to get results and the protocol between the AFN & IC should be used to get these meetings. Two issues put forth are the cutbacks to education and health. However, it was indicated that the IC needs to have a position before it meets with any Minister. IC councils need to take this back to their respective councils to develop their positions. They will send their position's to the ICC to develop one position on behalf of the IC for approval. There is a one month target date to send position's to the ICC.

It was reaffirmed that it is important for people to show up if we ask for these meetings.

UNDERTAKING: Each IC community will develop a position on education and health. They will send their position's to the ICC within one month to develop one draft position.

JASON ARBOUR PRESENTATION

Jason Arbour presented orally his research on how the Algonquin land claim is really a Mohawk land claim. He has a website with all documentation; the link to his website was forwarded to the IC.

NEXT MEETING: Tyendinaga July 3 & 4, 2013

Billy Sunday closed the meeting.