

IROQUOIS CAUCUS

RECORD OF DECISIONS – FINAL

Oneida, September 18 & 19, 2014

PARTICIPANTS

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

Akwesasne: Chief Billy Sunday, Chief Louise Thompson, Chief Brian David

Tyendinaga: Councillor Barry Brant, Councillor Doug Maracle, Tanya King-Maracle (policy analyst)

Six Nations: Councillor Carl C. Hill, Councillor Helen Miller, Councillor Darryl Hill, Councillor Lewis Staats, Eliza Montour (political advisor)

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

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

Wahta: No Participants

Guests: R. Doxtator (Oneida member), Rosalie Doxtator (Oneida member), Lahkahlotah (Oneida member)

Chair: Councillor Harry Doxtator

Recorder: Trevor Bomberry

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

Councillor Olive Elm opened the meeting.

REVIEW JULY 3 & 4, 2014 DRAFT RECORD OF DECISIONS

There was one amendment on page 2, change to "115 concerns and recommendations".

The draft record of decisions was finalized with the one amendment.

ICC UPDATES

FINANCES: A summary and updated draft (3) budget was distributed. Akwesasne is reluctant to send their contribution this year due to the IC surplus. There was discussion that the surplus could be used towards legal challenges or towards education and that the surplus would be expended quickly. Each community is to forward their comments/concerns to the ICC and a letter will be drafted to send to each community explaining the need to send their contribution this year.

WEBSITE: The IC website is almost ready to go; there was a decision to remove any personal information from the record of decisions.

DRAFT LETTERS: The draft letters to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Public Safety needs to be more assertive. The ICC will circulate another draft after receiving input from IC technicians.

Undertaking: ICC will circulate a draft letter regarding the IC surplus.

Undertaking: Draft letters to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Public Safety will be re-drafted and circulated by the ICC.

TOBACCO BILL C-10

The Iroquois Caucus is being offered an opportunity to present to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on September 24, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. in regards to Bill C-10. Kahnawake Chief Deer offered to be the IC representative for this matter, the IC agreed to pay for her costs to attend in Ottawa. It was stated that a representative from each IC community should attend (in the gallery) to show support – each IC representative would be responsible for covering their own costs.

Six Nations presented on September 18, 2014 to the Standing Committee, SN shared their presentation and speaking notes.

The IC analysts created a position to submit to the Standing Committee, the document was ratified by the IC members in attendance.

IC FREE TRADE MOU

There was a one page document distributed of the conference call that occurred in regards to the IC Free Trade MOU. The suggestion from the conference call was to identify trade items in the MOU. There was discussion on this matter, it was pointed out that the MOU is a political agreement between communities, not an economic development agreement – so there is no need to list commodities.

The MOU cites the creation of a Trade Commission, there was discussion that the word “commission” should be changed to something else, it was stated that “society” could be an option. The Trade Commission’s responsibility will be to list the commodities.

Undertaking: Each community will take back to their respective council’s the issue of changing the name of Trade Commission and will submit new possible names for consideration.

IC EDUCATION SUMMIT

An email from Kahnawake’s education technician was distributed, the technician is asking what the IC hopes to achieve with an education summit. It was noted that each community is different, Six Nations and Tyendinaga are federally run schools and others are not.

It was stated that the FNEA was stopped, but that something needs to replace it.

Undertaking: Each community is to take the concerns of Kahnawake’s technician back to their respective council to address this matter.

BORDER CROSSING SUMMIT

Akwesane provided an update on the recent border crossing summit that it hosted in early September. It was attended by 150 people, there were border officials from the CBSA and Homeland Security in attendance, although it was noted that the CBSA sent front line workers only to the summit and that they left after the first morning.

There is a security card created by the Nation Council that has been sitting in Washington for two years, updates will be provided as they unfold.

Arizona indigenous people have a secure card that they use for land travel, they have no problems using it on both sides of the border. Washington suggested using Arizona's process for our own, it was stated that any card created would be available for all Haudenosaunee people.

ENBRIDGE UPDATE

Enbridge is hosting meetings in Kingston and Niagara Falls to address First Nations concerns. Kahnawake, Kanesatake, Akwesasne and Tyendinaga will be attending the meeting in Kingston and Oneida, Wahta and Six Nations have been invited to the Niagara Falls meeting.

There was discussion that the IC needs to be united and send the same message to Enbridge when meeting with them. Currently, information sharing is not occurring as each community does not know what other IC communities are discussing with Enbridge.

Six Nations stated that they have met with Enbridge and have advised Enbridge that they need to have a community meeting with Six Nations members – this has not occurred. Because of this, Six Nations will be sending a technician to the meeting in Niagara Falls instead of an elected official.

Kahnawake advised that they are taking the same approach, they will be attending Enbridge meetings not to make decisions but to gather information on Enbridge's proposals.

Akwesasne has not taken a position as of yet, their community will be making the decision on how to move forward on this matter.

The remaining communities indicated that they share the same concerns and that all IC communities should keep everyone updated.

Undertaking: IC communities are to keep each other updated on their meetings with Enbridge.

TAXATION

IC communities are having difficulties with the CRA seizing funds in bank accounts; IC members are growing tired of waiting for help and are opting to pay the fines imposed by the CRA.

It was stated that the IC has to come together on this issue and to keep notifying the government that the communities are not tax collectors. We are non-taxable individuals; the wording of tax exempt is misleading. It was suggested that some of the IC surplus could be used for a legal opinion on this matter, Hutchinson Law was recommended.

It was suggested that all IC communities write letters to MP's and Senators urging them to address this issue. It was also proposed (and agreed) to have the next IC in Ottawa and to have a meet and greet while there. It was stated that strongly worded letters be sent to Minister Oliver and to the CRA

There was discussion that the AFN may already have a legal opinion on this matter, the ICC will follow-up with the AFN. Chief Philips is part of the AFNQL, he has suggested that the IC and the AFNQL get on the same page.

Undertaking: Each IC community is to send letters to MP's and Senators urging them to address taxation in IC territories.

Undertaking: ICC will draft letters to: the Minister of Finance, the CRA and to the AFNQL.

IC CONSULTATION POLICY

Preliminary feedback has been received from Akwesasne and MBQ only.

Undertaking: The remaining IC communities are to provide feedback to the ICC.

PROGRAM FUNDING CUTS

There is concern regarding the program funding cuts every community is experiencing. It was suggested to get the AFN involved to find out how Indian Affairs expends the money they receive.

Undertaking: ICC will contact A/National Chief on this matter.

AFN NATIONAL DIALOGUE

The letter of invite to the IC from the AFN to participate in the national dialogue was distributed.

The IC would like to know the direction the AFN is taking on this matter before taking a position. It was proposed (and agreed) that the ICC will take part in the first meeting/conference call to gather information only. The IC will create a mandate and appoint a representative to participate in the national dialogue at the next IC in November.

Undertaking: ICC will call into the AFN National Dialogue to gather information only.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of a rotating judicial system occurred. IC communities are in the final stages of creating laws; it was suggested to have this as an agenda item at the next IC.

Six Nations brought forth two items: 1.) there is an invitation by St Patrick's church in Caledonia to recognize Saint Katera, SN will send an email to IC communities 2.) McMaster Hospital has named the SN elected council in a court matter regarding a SN child who is refusing treatment from McMaster. It was stated that the child's parents are opting for a different treatment in the United States.

Akwesasne members are receiving jury selection notices; they are being threatened with fines if they do not participate. MCA has issued a letter objecting to these notices.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be in Ottawa on November 26 & 27, 2014.

Chief Sunday closed the meeting.