

IROQUOIS CAUCUS

RECORD OF DECISIONS – FINAL

Akwesasne September 5 & 6, 2013

PARTICIPANTS

Kahnawake: Robert Patton Jr., Martin LeBorgne, William Diabo, Kenneth McComber, Christine Zachary-Deom, Kahsenenhawe, Gina Deer, Dennis Diabo (Intergovernmental Coordinator), Winona Polson-Lahache

Akwesasne: Bill Sunday, Brian David, Mike Mitchell, Louise Thompson, Joe Lazore, Jamie Bay

Tyendinaga: Barry Brant, Roy Maracle, Shoo-Shoo (Policy Analyst), Lisa Maracle (Director – Community Services), Amy Cowie (Research Assistant)

Six Nations: Ava Hill, Carl Hill, Helen Miller, Lewis Staats, Richard C. Powless (Advisor), Phil Monture (Land Consultant)

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

Wahta: No Representatives

Kahnesatake: No Representatives

Chair: Brian David

Recorder: Trevor Bomberry (ICC)

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

Bill Sunday opened the meeting.

The agenda was reviewed and it was agreed to add border crossing.

REVIEW JULY 3 & 4 RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were two amendments:

1.) Page 5: SN Land Rights, 3rd paragraph "HDI" was changed to "NextEra"

2.) Page 6: Top of the page, 1st line "Each community is to send..." was changed to "Each community may wish to send..."

The record of decisions were finalized with the amendments.

There was concern regarding the leak to the media of the July 3 & 4 draft record of decisions.

Undertaking: ICC will send the draft record of decisions and action items to each council's contact person only.

Undertaking: MBQ will prepare a response to let the government know that only MBQ speaks for their rights. MBQ will send their response to IC members.

IC COORDINATOR UPDATES

WEBSITE: One quote from a website developer was circulated.

Kahnawake offered to host the IC website on their website. Other councils will post a link on their respective websites to the IC website. The ICC will be responsible for updating the website and will work with Kahnawake's technician. Hosting fees could be up to \$150 a year.

Undertaking: ICC will work with Kahnawake's technician to get the IC website functioning.

FINANCE: There was a financial statement distributed. It is unclear what the status of the IC finances are.

Undertaking: SN councillors & ICC will meet with SN finance to sort out the IC finances.

ICC BRIEFING NOTE: Trevor circulated a briefing note outlining what the position has become. The IC was reminded that the ICC contract is for 3 days a week. It was suggested this issue be revisited at the next IC after a proper financial statement is prepared.

UN RAPPORTEUR JAMES ANAYA

It was stated that Special Rapporteur James Anaya will be visiting Canada in October and that each community should examine the UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples and identify the sections and violations that Canada has committed.

It was suggested that the IC collectively identify three important issues and to be specific. It was also stated that each community should complete a package to submit it to Mr. Anaya. It was suggested that the timeline for each community to undertake this task be 2-3 weeks and that each community send their document to Trevor. It was also suggested that a conference call may occur regarding this issue.

Undertaking: Each community is to create a document to submit to Special Rapporteur James Anaya. There was a suggested timeline of 2-3 weeks to complete this task.

Undertaking: ICC to follow-up with James Anaya & Maia Campbell.

BORDER CROSSING

Oneida expressed concern that they can no longer get the status cards needed for community members to cross the border. It was stated that communities may have to share cards in order to accommodate community members.

The border crossing summit will be moved to May 2014. This will give the IC the winter to establish a course.

PAUL ROBINSON & RON JAMIESON PRESENTATION

Electronic copies were distributed prior to the meeting as well as hard copies the day of the meeting.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Jamieson proposed that the cost for the IC to hire them will be shared by the six communities, diluting each communities cost.

NATIONAL CHIEF LETTER

Points 1, 2 & 5 were to have been worked on.

This is an ongoing task communities are still working on.

Undertaking: Each community is to keep working on points 1, 2 & 5.

EDUCATION

It was stated that the government has the FN Education Act already written and that it will be introduced this fall and passed by September 2014.

The government met with FN organizations and agreed that the meetings were not consultation. The government released a report that said these meetings were considered consultation. Their report says that they consulted with the Iroquois Caucus regarding this issue.

It was said that the legislative process is a good way to go and to get the opposition to stretch the process out.

It was stated that each council's technicians meet and create a position paper opposing the FN Education Act. Akwesasne agreed to take the lead on this meeting and will solidify this issue on September 18th.

Undertaking: Akwesasne will take the lead on organizing a meeting of each council's technicians to create a position paper opposing the government's FN Education Act.

ALGONQUIN AIP – GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Hard copies of the presentation were distributed.

It was stated that this presentation does not constitute consultation.

SN presented a letter to the government representatives notifying them of SN's validated Hawkesbury land claim.

The government representatives stated that the duty to consult regarding overlap claims lies with the crown, not the Algonquins. They said the door is

open for overlap agreements after the Algonquin agreement is finalized and that this agreement does not legally bind other FN.

It was asked of the government representatives if mining will be affected. They responded that resource revenue sharing is not in the Algonquin agreement, it was not conceded – but rather an issue they never addressed.

ICC PROCESSES & STRUCTURE

It was pointed out that there are two different IC processes & structure documents. One finalized document is the objective.

It was stated that some of the working groups were not functioning as they should have been.

Undertaking: Each council is to formulate specific questions and send them to ICC.

Undertaking: Each council is to forward their respective council's structure so if an issue comes up the correct person can be contacted.

CONSULTATION

Ken Rubin's information was distributed. He is an expert at exposing the government and their actions.

The cost for Ken Rubin to host a half day workshop is \$1,800.00, which would be \$300 per community. It was stated that Akwesasne has an agreement with OPG and they provide funding for capacity building. OPG may fund the cost of the half day workshop.

Undertaking: Akwesasne will research whether OPG will fund a half day workshop from Ken Rubin. Note: the next IC is in Ottawa and that is where Ken is based out of.

TOBACCO

The conference call that was to have taken place between the Grand Chiefs never occurred. The ICC was asked to help organize the Grand Chiefs, but there were conflicting schedules of availability.

It was stated that distributors of tobacco are sending notices to vendors telling them that they have to pay tax or they will not get their tobacco products. This is the reason it is imperative that the Grand Chiefs have a meeting.

Undertaking: Chief Abram and the ICC will organize a conference call with the Grand Chiefs regarding the tobacco issue.

FINANCE MEETING WITH FEDERAL MINISTER

There are various issues Iroquois people are encountering when it comes to taxation.

Past efforts to utilize the AFN to organize a meeting with the Ministry of Finance have proved difficult. The response to the AFN from the Ministry of Finance is to meet with the CRA. The CRA is for enforcement only, the IC would like to meet with the policy makers, which is the Ministry of Finance.

A draft letter to be sent to the Minister of Finance was circulated. The following addition will be included: "appoint a senior staff to work with the ICC on a mutually agreeable agenda".

Undertaking: The ICC will send the letter to the Minister of Finance.

FREE TRADE MOU

Hard copies of the latest draft of the Free Trade MOU were distributed.

It was stated that this is a working document and that councils should send their comments/suggestions to the ICC. It was also suggested that the IC dedicate half a day in the future to look at any amendments and to begin finalizing the Free Trade MOU.

Undertaking: Each community will send their comments/suggestions regarding the Free Trade MOU to the ICC.

HARPER COVER LETTER

A draft cover letter was circulated. It was approved with the addition: "appoint a senior staff to work with the ICC on a mutually agreeable agenda".

Undertaking: Make suggested addition to the cover letter addressed to PM Harper and send.

MATRIMONIAL REAL PROPERTY

There is concern with INAC's document concerning this issue. They specifically referenced meetings with the IC as consultation when in fact it was stated at the meeting that it was not to be deemed as consultation.

Undertaking: SN advisor will create a draft letter to be sent to INAC instructing them to remove the part in their document that states they consulted with the IC.

Next Meeting: Ottawa on December 8 & 9, 2013.

Olive Elm closed the meeting.