

End of Enrolment Community Sessions

Benoits Cove

General Information

The Benoits Cove Community Session occurred on February 19, 2017. It is estimated that 55-65 people were in attendance and the session lasted approximately 2 hours. The representatives for QFN and the FNI were as follows:

- Chief/President Mitchell
- Councillor/Director White
- Elder Odelle Pike
- Alison White, Communication Officer
- Randy Drover, Band Manager

Member/Applicant Question Period

The following issues and concerns were raised by members and applicants:

1. Some people indicated they have yet to receive their Enrolment Committee letters.
2. People who worked hard to bring about Qalipu, who fought over the years through the FNI, were rejected based on the point system.
3. It appears the Enrolment Committee did not consider all the information.
4. There was concern expressed about the impartiality of the appeals process.
5. Geography should not be an issue in this process. Qalipu is “landless”.
6. Having to prove a substantial connection with the communities is not reasonable.
7. People who are going to Ottawa should not be attached to the Supplementary Agreement.
8. Knowing your culture or practicing your culture does not prove you’re Mi’kmaq. This is about your ancestry. If you have the bloodline you should be admitted.
9. What government is doing now is like what was done to the Indigenous women who married non-Indigenous men and lost their status. Those women fought until the issue was resolved. Qalipu is similar. It must continue to fight.
10. Membership in the Band should have been based on bloodline.
11. It is terrible that people in the RCMP and the military were not given special consideration regarding residency.
12. Those without the right to appeal are questioning their options.
13. The point system is terrible and appears to be a tool used to reduce the numbers.
14. A mechanism should be found to allow people to appeal self-ID.
15. No one had a vote or a chance to say anything about the Supplemental Agreement.
16. Why do we need to go to Ottawa all the time? Why can’t they come down here? Who is Ottawa to tell us if we are Mi’kmaq?

17. A legal challenge is being mounted by a third party (MFNAN).
18. We need to take the lemons around the process and turn it into lemonade.
19. INAC may not be giving back the complete file. Someone reported the information being returned is just the application. Supporting documentation was not included.
20. It appears some people submitted group packages.
21. Prominent members of the movement, from the early days, did not get status.
22. The system is flawed.
23. INAC line is indicating there is no such thing as a 'family package'.
24. The agreements are too legal and are difficult to understand.
25. Processing time for receiving applications is taking too long.
26. Difficult to understand how applications that were the same could be treated differently.