

## End of Enrolment Community Sessions

### Port-au-Port

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#### *General Information*

The Port-au-Port Community Session occurred on February 14, 2017. It is estimated that 170 people were in attendance and the session lasted approximately 2.5 hours. The representatives for QFN and the FNI were as follows;

- Chief/President Mitchell
- Councillor/Director Benwah
- Elder Odelle Pike
- Howard Thistle, NIHB Navigator
- Alison White, Communication Officer
- Randy Drover, Band Manager

#### *Member/Applicant Question Period*

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

1. Members/Applicants living in and around annex B communities were rejected based on residency and were subjected to the points system. It is not clear why this happened.
2. There was confusion around the appeals process. People are unclear why certain people can appeal and others cannot.
3. There was a belief that some applications were reviewed by the Winnipeg Processing Centre (WPU) and perhaps never went to the Enrolment Committee.
4. Affidavits were not sufficient evidence since the adoption of the Supplemental Agreement.
5. People assisting the process did not advise applicants of potential problems with their documentation or quality of their applications.
6. Bands were closed to membership, thus making it difficult for people to join.
7. It appears FNI members are not receiving points when being assessed for group acceptance. Several stories were shared by those in attendance.
8. The Agreements were 'legal heavy'.
9. People need help with the appeals. There are not enough resources in the community to help people understand or take advantage of the appeals process. The five Enrolment Assistants is not enough. People need help writing appeals.
10. Cases were shared where it seems people who signed the form before Sept 22, 2011 were denied based on self-ID.
11. INAC call centre is not providing the assistance needed.
12. There are too many inconsistencies in the agreement.

13. There is some fear about admitting you retained your card when there are so many people who have been denied.
14. FNI failed to educate people when the Supplemental Agreement was adopted. People didn't know what information should be submitted.
15. The Federal Government tricked people with the letter in 2013 by suggesting additional information may not be required.
16. Why were people treated differently on self-ID? Why were people treated differently before and after the Recognition Order?
17. The Supplemental Agreement changed everything. Substantial changes were introduced that impacted people in significant ways.
18. People should not have been denied the right to appeal.
19. It's hurtful. People are taking our heritage away.
20. Why didn't Canada appeal the Enrolment Committee decision letters in round one? If they didn't appeal, how can they take cards now?
21. Canada didn't appeal the apx. 23,000 people who were given status through the first phase of enrolment in 2008-2009.
22. How do you distinguish between those who are interested in benefits and those interested in children and grandchildren?
23. Can't understand why the FNI Board, at the time, when approving the Supplemental Agreement, couldn't see this was going to happen. Did they not read the Agreement?