

End of Enrolment Community Sessions

St. George's

General Information

The St. George's Community Session occurred on February 15, 2017. It is estimated that 100-120 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
- Vice Chief Samms-Hurley
- Councillor Blanchard-White
- 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. There were several people in attendance without decision letters.
2. Meeting the self-ID requirements was extremely difficult. The requirements essentially rendered it impossible for those who applied after September 22, 2011 to self-ID.
3. Why did the FNI allow government to help determine Qalipu membership? Many Nations appear to be moving away from the *Indian Act*, yet Qalipu, with the Supplemental Agreement, brings us closer to that legislation.
4. Some people are upset and depressed by the outcomes of this process.
5. Focusing on the past is not important at this point. We need to focus on the appeals process and help as many people as possible. You don't need government to tell you who you are. We need to remain positive.
6. 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.
7. Can someone retract an appeal that was submitted before the deadline? Some people were quick to submit the appeal but have, since then, learned more and would like to add further comments to their arguments.
8. It appears errors were made with residency requirements for people living in or around annex B communities.
9. Some people couldn't afford to travel back to the communities to maintain a connection.

10. There are cases where it seems a member relocated from another province to St. George's before September 22, 2011 and advised the parties about a change of address; however, the member was still subjected to the point system.
11. It is unfair to treat people who moved away for work differently.
12. The Supplemental Agreement should have been ratified in the same manner as the Agreement-in-Principle.
13. It is terrible that people in the RCMP and the military were not given special consideration regarding residency. They are very much connected and legislation, in some cases, permits the person to use their home community as a residence.
14. Is it reasonable to reject someone from the Band who spent a short period away from their communities for education/employment reason?
15. If we are a landless band, why is there such an onus placed on our communities and an attachment to them?
16. People outside the province need support for the appeals process.
17. Efforts need to be made to ensure the people's frustrations around this process are heard by government. People need to speak up.