

End of Enrolment Community Sessions

St. John's

General Information

The St. John's Community Session occurred on February 22, 2017. It is estimated that 280- 300 people were in attendance and the session lasted approximately 4 hours. The representatives for QFN and the FNI were as follows:

- Chief/President Mitchell
- Elder Odelle Pike
- Randy Drover, Band Manager

Member/Applicant Question Period

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

1. Some people have yet to receive their letter from INAC.
2. It is difficult for people to understand the Enrolment Committee's decisions.
3. Evidence submitted for self-ID was not considered by the Enrolment Committee.
4. It is felt that people living outside of the annex B communities were not treated properly.
5. A class action laws suit should be launched to address the issues.
6. It will be a great injustice that many senior citizens who will lose their cards will be unable to acquire proper medical services and products.
7. The MPs need to be approached.
8. The Band should put up an example of an appeal letter.
9. People can't send documents for assessment if they didn't know they were Mi'kmaq.
10. Other Indigenous people don't need to prove their cultural activities. They are also not penalized because they live in different communities.
11. How could people know they were Mi'kmaq? It was so secret.
12. Why did the FNI agree to the Supplemental Agreement when it knew this could be a possible outcome?
13. Assistance is needed regarding the appeals process (writing/other). All the information relevant to the appeals process, including things that would help people with arguments, should be consolidated and provided to the membership.
14. People need to understand how their applications were assessed.
15. Appellants need to know the details of the assessment process to adequately craft an appeal. How can an effective appeal be prepared without knowing this information?
16. It is bothering that people had to prove who they are to people in Ottawa.
17. It's unfair what is being done.
18. The bloodline should be enough.

19. The enrolment process is a farce.
20. Qalipu should focus on this as a discriminatory act under the Charter.
21. Concerns were raised about not being able to provide additional evidence with the appeal.
22. It was suggested the *Indian Act* provides a different appeals process.
23. Confusion around how the annex B communities were selected.
24. Canada should not be able to take a card away if they didn't appeal it before 2011. The letter from Tom Rideout indicated once the 30 days expired, the decision was legal and binding.
25. How can the parties think they have that much power to determine a person's status based on the applicant's address?
26. Mobility rights are sacred, but the Qalipu process is infringing on them.
27. Qalipu members were not given a chance to vote on the Supplemental Agreement.
28. Section 10 of the *Indian Act* would enable Qalipu to recognize those members and applicants who are not successful through the enrolment process.
29. The process did not accommodate children who were removed from their homes and placed in foster care outside of the annex B communities.
30. It is not reasonable to expect people to retain gas receipts or to take pictures of moose meat that was given by family and friends.
31. The FNI closed its doors to membership.
32. People were not aware that September 22, 2011 would be the important date. In some cases, it was difficult to obtain the necessary documents, and people were working towards the November 30, 2012 deadline. It is silly that if you applied before September 22, 2011 you were treated differently.
33. Only 6% out of the 74,000 got in. The process was designed to keep people out.
34. No special consideration was given to those people who serve the country (i.e. RCMP and the military) in this process in terms of residency. These people, while serving the country, still maintained voting rights in their home communities.
35. We should be able to go to Canada to ask for a Supplemental Agreement to the Supplemental Agreement to correct these issues.
36. People couldn't attend pow wows or things of this nature. They didn't exist. Communities suppressed their Mi'kmaq culture.
37. The points system is flawed. The information that was sought was difficult to acquire. Many people didn't keep it.
38. Direction at the beginning of the process was not clear enough.