

End of Enrolment Community Sessions

Corner Brook

General Information

The Corner Brook Community Session occurred on February 27, 2017. It is estimated that over 300 people were in attendance and the session lasted approximately 3 hours. The representatives for QFN and the FNI were as follows:

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

Member/Applicant Question Period

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

1. It appears many people have yet to receive a letter from the Enrolment Committee.
2. It doesn't make sense how the government can simply take cards away from people who had them for six years.
3. Canada needs to be here to hear from members and applicants.
4. The Qalipu appeal process is not normal.
5. It is difficult to appeal without being able to submit additional documents.
6. People are finding it difficult to understand how some family members can be accepted while others are not.
7. You should be able to submit more information on appeal.
8. It is silly to suggest you needed to be Indian by a certain date.
9. The review process is flawed.
10. Qalipu people should have been involved at the Winnipeg Processing Unit.
11. It is unfortunate that people living outside the annex B communities were subjected to the point system.
12. Given what's happening, why are we not walking away from the Supplemental Agreements? It appears other nations are trying to move away from the *Indian Act*, and we are desperately trying to be recognized under it.
13. Marie Mitchell Sparks is a very important Mi'kmaq women who has been instrumental in the Mi'kmaq movement in Newfoundland. She deserves more recognition.
14. Self-ID changed with the Supplemental Agreement. The change in the Supplemental Agreement caused a great deal of confusion for people.

15. People should have the right to appeal.
16. How can you be members of an organization and not maintain communication?
17. It's called a Band because everyone must stay together.
18. Obtaining the necessary documents to prove frequent visits and communication was difficult.
19. 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.
20. INAC indicated no family file/package will be sent. If the main applicant asked for the family file, the only thing that will be sent is the personal documents. This must be clarified.
21. The points system should be thrown out. If you have Indian blood that should be enough.
22. Everyone knows the point system is foolish.
23. If you consider the large families in our communities, it shouldn't be surprising that we reached 103,000.
24. Losing status will adversely impact members' lives.
25. What were people thinking when the Supplemental Agreement was adopted? It is a terrible injustice that's been inflicted on our people.
26. The Enrolment Committee is fickle. It accepted evidence during round one that appears to be inadequate during round two.
27. It would be better if eligibility was determined by a blood test.
28. Additional Enrolment Assistants are needed to help with appeals.
29. MP Hutchings may have suggested the Government of Canada had nothing to do with this.
30. It is terrible that the Government of Canada or the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have not been more outspoken on this file.
31. Some families suppressed their Mi'kmaq ancestry, and this made it difficult for people in this situation to qualify for Qalipu membership.
32. Main applicants for families are only receiving their person files. Is the ancestry not being included? This must be clarified.
33. People without the right to appeal have little recourse.
34. There is a conflict of interest between the Chief of Qalipu and the President of FNI.
35. When people are requesting their files, is the complete applicant record, containing assessment notes, being provided? This must be clarified.
36. Another extension to the appeals process is required.
37. People who registered a temporary change of address, who essentially relocated for work, were unfairly subjected to the point system.
38. People who have cards now should not be reassessed.
39. Bonne Bay should have been included in annex B.
40. People are concerned they may lose their cards if they decide to relocate after this process concludes in 2018.