

End of Enrolment Community Sessions

Gambo and Appleton

General Information

The Gambo Community Session occurred on March 12, 2017 at 2:00 pm. It is estimated that 30 people were in attendance and the session lasted approximately 2 hours.

The Appleton Community Session occurred on March 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm. It is estimated that 38 people were in attendance and the session lasted approximately 1 hour.

The representatives for QFN and the FNI were as follows:

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

Member/Applicant Question Period

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

1. A great deal of work went into applying for membership with Qalipu. Now this means nothing because the status cards are being revoked. It is not fair.
2. Children born after the recognition order are not eligible for founding membership. They may be eligible for registration under the *Indian Act*.
3. The letter from the Enrolment Committee in the first phase was legal and binding. Canada or the FNI didn't exercise their right to appeal; therefore, how can cards be taken now?
4. Some people have been waiting for over a month to receive the files from INAC.
5. It is difficult to understand how decisions were reached by the Enrolment Committee.
6. People are still waiting for their files. An extension to the appeals deadline is needed.
7. It was difficult for people to gather information to satisfy the points system. Many of these documents were not retained.
8. It is terrible that people in the RCMP and the military were not given special consideration regarding residency.
9. It is not reasonable for people to be penalized for having to leave for work.
10. Gambo was determined to be in and around an annex B community; however, the people didn't know that, and they didn't likely provide residency documents for Gambo. It's not fair that people can't submit new documents to prove this. They are adversely impacted.
11. The process appears to exclude people.
12. It appears people didn't receive points for being members of the FNI.

13. The parties started looking for new information in 2013 after the Supplemental Agreement. If they wanted that information it should have been part of phase one.
14. It appears some documents were missing in some files.
15. The points system is very difficult. Why was this even needed?
16. People living outside of the Mi'kmaq community needed to demonstrate frequent visits and communications. This was difficult.
17. After the Order-in-Council is passed in 2018, descendants of founding members apply under the *Indian Act*. The current process is about band creation and founding membership.
18. Enrolment Assistants cannot help write appeals or provide advice of this nature; however, members and applicants need help with these things.