

# COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

February 11, 2017 Regular Meeting of Council

06.04.2016

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## Regular Meeting of Council in Stephenville



On February 11, 2017, the Qalipu Chief and Council met for a regular meeting at the Lion's Den in Stephenville. All members were in attendance with the exception of western Vice Chief Erica Samms Hurley, central Vice Chief Joe Bouzanne and Port au Port Ward Councilor Jasen Benwah. This was the first meeting of Council for then new Band Manager Randy Drover.

This was also the first meeting of Council following the mail-out of letters regarding the decision of the Enrolment Committee and registration in the Qalipu First Nation. A crowd of approximately 40 members attended the meeting. Typically, 30 minutes is allotted on the agenda for questions and answers with members in attendance. In light of the large turnout and the likelihood of important questions regarding Enrolment, Chief Mitchell spent 2.5 hours in dialogue with membership.

## Executive Committee Report, AGA Rescheduled and Consultants



**Executive Committee Meeting Report:** was presented by Band Manager Randy Drover. A discussion took place about the plan for an operational review. It was stated that the review would be done in collaboration with the Directors and brought back to the Executive for final decisions on potential restructuring of the organization and staff.

**Annual General Assembly (AGA) Rescheduled:** The Band Manager presented a briefing note recommending moving the AGA from June to September in order to allow more time for the review, audit and presentation of financial statements. The Council agreed with the recommendation and passed a motion to move the next AGA to September, 2017.

**List of Consultants:** An expression of interest was recently completed by the Band; consultants and businesses were invited to have their profiles added to an inventory that Qalipu can draw on for goods and services in the future. The list was compiled and presented to Council.

One Councilor requested clarification on which of those businesses were aboriginal owned. The list will be amended to show aboriginal ownership.

## Resolutions, Support for Chief Joe, Membership Q & A



**Resolutions:** Several resolutions were passed by Council including moving signing authority and financial authority from the Director of Operations to the Band Manager, budget expenditures for the World Host Training Initiative, Craft Authentication Program and Mawio'mi 2017. Resolutions were also passed for the involvement of the Qalipu Natural Resource division in the Federal Environmental Assessment process for Flemish Pass Drilling Project, Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Exploration Drilling Project and Husky Energy Exploration Drilling Project.

One resolution regarding the ginu membership database was not passed by Council. The request was to expand the database to incorporate the culture and volunteer skillsets of membership as a component of the member profile. Council was left with questions regarding how the information would be used, and how cultural teachings could be accurately captured in the database. Council requested that more information about the resolution be tabled at the next regular meeting.

## Resolutions, Support for Chief Joe, Membership Q & A continued



**Support for Chief Mi'sel Joe:** Chief and Council provided a letter of support for Chief Joe who would intend to make a journey to Scotland to bring Beothuk remains back to Newfoundland.

### Question and Answer Period

The question and answer period was dominated by concerns regarding the end of the Qalipu enrolment process. Concerns raised included division among families (some accepted to be Founding Members, others not), possible administrative errors, need for solidarity moving forward, implications of the Daniels decision, and need for assistance with appeals.

Chief Mitchell announced an upcoming community tour and invited all those in attendance to come out and bring forward any questions that had not been addressed during the Q & A portion of the Council meeting.

A full representation of the concerns of applicants and members has been captured in Community Session Reports on our website following a community tour in various locations.

Tom Rose, a member of the Stephenville Town Council, spoke about the urban reserve concept and encouraged development in Stephenville. He said that Stephenville has an airport, a large bay and port of entry, and noted that there is plenty of land available in the town. He added that from a project management and engineering perspective, Stephenville makes a lot of sense for development. Rose said this is because of the sandy loam structure of the land, ideal for keeping building simple and cost effective. He also spoke about the Mi'kmaq communities of Bay St. George, and Stephenville being an ideal place to represent those people and communities.

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## Policy Change WFQ, Charitable Contributions, Next Meeting



**Policy Change, Work Force Qalipu:** Current policy states that applicant must provide basic requirement of high school diploma or Adult Basic Education. Since colleges and universities request this as part of the entrance requirement, it was agreed that policy could be changed so that applicant could show acceptance to the college or university and omit the requirement to school high school equivalency.

**School Contributions:** Council agreed to make a \$500 donation to the Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School Lego League, one of six teams in Canada chosen to represent the nation in a competition with 80 other countries.

It was agreed that a budget should be put in place each fiscal year so that Council has ability to respond to requests for donations.

**Powwow Contribution:** A motion was made to make a contribution of \$7000 to the upcoming Bay St. George Annual Powwow.

**Next Meeting:** the next meeting of Council will be a budget meeting on April 1 followed by a regular meeting of Council on April 29 in Grand Falls-Windsor.

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