

Qalipu First Nation
Council Meeting
January 25, 2020
1 Church Street, Corner Brook, NL
Community Room

APPROVED

By TDiamond at 1:46 pm, Mar 30, 2020

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Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Qalipu First Nation held its regular meeting of Chief and Council at the Community Room, 1 Church Street. The official meeting began at 10:35 am with Chief Mitchell welcoming nine(9) Qalipu members, two(2) guests from Marathon Gold and one(1) more guest. Chief also welcomed Councillors, staff, and the Youth Representative.

Attendance

The following members of Council and Staff were in attendance:

Name:	Position:
Mr. Brendan Mitchell	Chief
Mr. Keith Cormier	Western Vice-Chief
Mr. Randy Drover	Central Vice-Chief
Mr. Jasen Benwah	Councillor Port Au Port
Mr. Brian Dicks	Councillor Corner Brook
Mr. Frank Skeard	Councillor Glenwood
Ms. Odelle Pike	Councillor Stephenville
Mr. Andy Barker	Councillor Exploits
Mr. Ivan White, SR	Councillor Flat Bay
Mr. Ivan J. White	Councillor St. George's
Mr. Calvin Francis	Councillor Gander Bay
Mr. Bernard White	Councillor Benoit's Cove
Ms. Jessica Saunders	Youth Representative
Mr. Keith Goulding (Staff)	Band Manager
Ms. Tina Diamond (Staff)	Office Administrator
Ms. Alison White (Staff)	Communications Officer

Agenda

Motion 29-19-20 – Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Chief Mitchell read the items. A motion was made to accept the **agenda**.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Keith Cormier
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Eleven (11) For	Zero(0) Against

Agenda accepted.

APPROVED

By TDiamond at 1:45 pm, Mar 30, 2020

Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2019

Meeting minutes were distributed to Council by email. A final copy was provided to Council prior to the meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes with no edits required.

Motion 30-19-20 – Adoption of the Minutes

A motion was made to accept the *minutes of November 12, 2019*.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Keith Cormier
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Eleven (11) For	Zero(0) Against

Minutes of November 12, 2019 were adopted.

Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2019

Meeting minutes were distributed by email to Council for edits. A draft copy was provided to Council prior to the meeting and Councillors advised of further edits to the minutes. After agreement of the suggested edits, a motion was made to accept the draft minutes.

Motion 31-19-20 – Adoption of the Minutes

A motion was made to accept the *minutes of November 16, 2019* with suggested edits.

Moved by:	Calvin Francis	Seconded by:	Bern White
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Eleven (11) For	Zero(0) Against

Minutes of November 16, 2019 were adopted.

Member Transfer Request

A member of QFN presented a Statement of Consent to indicate acceptance to another band. QFN received a Notice of Acceptance in the form of BCR from the accepting band - OFN. A BCR to release the member was required.

Band Council Resolution 08-19-20 – Member Transfer

The BCR was read by Keith Goulding, Band Manager, and reads as follows:

That after review and as per section 12 of the Indian Act, we the council of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band, hereby release the following member to the OFN as requested.

[Name, Birthdate, and Registry Number]

BCR was signed by eleven (11) members of Council.

Marathon Gold

James Powell, Director of Environment and Stakeholder Engagement, and Mary Hatherly, Manager of Stakeholder Engagement, presented to Council and QFN members details of Marathon Gold's Valentine Gold Project. Mr. Powell showed a detailed drawing of the site location and identified areas of interest on the site drawings. There was an opportunity for Questions from Chief, Councillors and Qalipu members.

Mr. Powell and Ms. Hatherly indicated that the construction phase of the project will be approximately 18-24 months and there is an expectation of approximately 480 employees in the areas of construction, technicians, security, catering, and spinoff businesses. Marathon Gold is working on Environmental Assessment (EA) and engineering processes. It is committed to working with Qalipu First Nation (QFN) and Miawpukek First Nation (MFN). The company plans to hold consultation sessions within the communities of interest and plans to meet with stakeholders.

Member Question and Answer (Q&A)

Member: Looking at July 18th, 2019 minutes, please explain AOP Priority Initiatives One(1) – Conduct further research to pursue Aboriginal rights for members and Two(2) – Increase communication with the Province on NL regarding the duty to consult with Qalipu.

Chief Mitchell: With regards to priority one – Aboriginal Rights, this is concerning “fishing rights”. We are making progress, then we will focus on “Hunting Rights”. Regarding “duty to consult” we are having positive results. We have a positive relationship with government and that applies to both Provincial and Federal. There is a need to be informed and government is doing a good job in reaching out to us.

Randy Drover: With regards to gathering FNI documents relating to this matter [duty to consult], the gathering process has been started.

Member: After reviewing September minutes, there was a transfer of money to QDC. Is there a way for members to view how the companies of QDC are performing?

Chief Mitchell: QDC has one shareholder (QFN); we try to have QDC at arms-length. QDC will provide an Annual Report following March 31, 2020 year-end. They will meet with council and report on what they are doing.

Randy Drover: The companies must be incorporated into the band’s Annual Financial Statements. You can get a sense of how QDC is performing by reviewing last fiscal financial statements ending March 31, 2019.

Member: I was interested in how it[the statements] can be viewed – either individually or through QFN financials.

First Nation Financial Management Board (FNFMB)

Band Manager, Keith Goulding updated councillors on the Human Resources Policy. It is the fourth FMB Policy and was reviewed by legal council and still requires further review by the Band Manager. In February, the HR Policy will be distributed to Council.

Annual Report 2018-2019

The Annual Report needs a motion by Council as part of FAL.

Motion 32-19-20 – Motion to approve Annual Report 2018-2019

A motion was made to accept the Annual Report which was distributed at the September 2019 AGA.

Moved by:	Brian Dicks	Seconded by:	Calvin Francis
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Eleven (11) For	Zero(0) Against

Annual Report was accepted.

APPROVED

By TDiamond at 1:45 pm, Mar 30, 2020

Youth Representative Report

The Youth Representative, Jessica Saunders, provided Councillors a report on the Youth Gathering 2019 and the Youth Connection Update 2020. The Gathering was well received by all who participated. Those who attended broke out into groups and had group discussions. She noted youth concerns are: Environment Education; Mental Health; Cultural Education.

Ms. Saunders indicated that the Youth want to have workshops such as beading and drumming. She also indicated that the youth want a place to go – to hang out and interact. She believes that now is the time to start on the next youth conference/gathering.

With regards to Mental Health, she spoke of lack of indigenous conversation and the need for more initiatives, need for a community, and a need for an open conversation.

Ms. Saunders' "Youth Connection Report" highlighted her activities and revealed what the youth would like to see.

Jordan's Principle

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, gave background of the Jordan's Principle. The child-first principle initiated because of a dispute between the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Goulding presented on the overall intent of the principle and listed items that Jordan's Principle funding can pay for. This principle covers children up to the age of nineteen(19).

Atlantic First Nations(AFN) Health Partnership provides the funding for this principle. AFN has determined that the funding is community based and this means that the funding is meant for First Nations with reserves. All First Nations children can access the funding; however, QFN Band is unable to apply for funding to have a staff member. The funding for staff was awarded to MFN in Conne River.

QFN hopes to join the AFN Health Partnership in June of 2020.

Annual Operating Plans

AOPs for the end of quarter two(2) were presented to Council which provided end of September updates. Band Manager, Keith Goulding, asked if there were any questions. Some highlights include:

- Discussions about Community Development projects and where the projects are located.
- Operations departments will be working Vision Care and staff may need to be hired. There may be four and half (4 ½) more positions with addition of Vision Care.
- With regards to Education and Training, there were inquiries about funding for short-term courses i.e. Job specific courses.
- With regards to Natural Resources AOPs, there were general questions regarding several of the projects.
- Regarding the Electronic Voting System, the updated Band Member list will be provided in 2020.

Enrollment Update

Chief Brendan Mitchell provided an update on the activities with government. Chief Mitchell noted the following:

- BCR was sent to Ottawa regarding Veterans
- For the February meeting, the priority will be former FNI members
- Marc Miller is now the Minister of Indigenous Services

With regards to the court cases, the cases have yet to be finalized. The Veteran file and identifying individuals have been a long process. Chief Mitchell indicated with regards to former FNI, the Implementation Committee is still working on the file.

Committee Updates

Committee Chairs are provided an opportunity to update the entire council on the activities of the various committees. Councillor Calvin Francis left the meeting prior to the updates.

Housing Committee

Councillor Brian Dicks provided a brief report. He indicated the committee had meetings in the fall with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and since that meeting applied for funding to develop a Strategic Plan. The committee will receive 50% now and 50% in next fiscal year.

The committee plans to meet with the Communications Officer to develop Community consultations. The Consultations will consist of two community members from each of the nine(9) wards, an Elder from Western, an Elder from Central, and a Youth Representative. The Band Council will be invited as well as members from CMHC.

Chief Mitchell spoke of an upcoming Housing Conference in Toronto. He stated it is important that someone attend the conference in March 2020. Council agreed that someone from the committee should attend - no objections.

Communications Committee

Councillor Odelle Pike presented the Communications Policy to council. Council had an opportunity to review this policy prior to the meeting. Councillor Pike asked if there were any questions. After a few minor spelling and typographical errors, Council voted to accept the policy.

Motion 33-19-20 – Motion to approve Communication Policy

A motion was made to accept the Communication Policy as modified.

Moved by:	Odelle Pike	Seconded by:	Ivan J. White
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Ten (10) For (Calvin left the meeting)	Zero(0) Against

Communication Policy was accepted.

Finance and Audit Standing Committee

Vice-Chief Randy Drover presented the meeting minutes of October 25, 2019 and January 17, 2020. Vice-Chief Drover noted the Committee has been considering the report from Higher Talent regarding a classification and pay scale program for Qalipu First Nation. The Director of Finance prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) to move this important work forward. The Committee reviewed the RFP during the October meeting, and wanted to see the recommendations by Higher Talent better reflected. The Director of Finance will review.

Review of January 17, 2020 discussed December 2019 Financial Reports. These reports will be distributed to Council for review. The committee also discussed budgets, upcoming adjustments to the budgets, as well as spending. With regards to previous Budget Adjustments, council reviewed, no questions were posed.

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By TDiamond at 1:44 pm, Mar 30, 2020

Community Development Standing Committee

Vice-Chief Keith Cormier presented council with a January report and highlighted current projects as well as upcoming initiatives. Several questions were posed and answered. Several follow-ups required by the Chair of the Committee as well as Acting Director.

Vice-Chief Cormier also presented the report of a research student who wished to provide Council with a Proposal for Research Approval. The research deals with Seal and after review, the proposal was not approved by Band Council.

With regards to Language, Chief Mitchell noted that QFN has an opportunity to apply for funding. Three staff members have been asked to work on the proposal. The funding can provide for a full-time Language Technician and it can provide individuals with opportunities to work with the Language Technician.

Natural Resources & the Environment Standing Committee

Councillor Frank Skeard submitted two documents regarding initiatives in Gander for review by Councillors. These initiatives were briefly discussed.

Councillor Skeard stated the committee met in Corner Brook on December 9, 2019. The Committee is continuing to create a map of Traditional territory of QFN. The committee is also working on a new Community Engagement Environmental Assessment (EA) initiative and are engaged with the Federal EA.

Executive Committee Report

Chief Brendan Mitchell presented a report of the discussions and actions of the Committee. He noted the committee last met on January 9, 2020. Chief Mitchell discussed briefly the Atlantic First Nation Health Partnership and its plan to meet in June. Chief Mitchell's report also highlighted Organizational Review as well as Strategic Planning. He spoke of AFN All Chief's meeting in Ottawa and meetings with government officials. With regards to FNFMB, he indicated that four required policies should be adopted. The Human Resources Policy requires finalization by QFN council and will be a priority for an upcoming meeting. Briefly, Chief Mitchell discussed Enrolment and Urban Reserve. QFN is working to understand the legislation regarding a Landless Band.

With regards to a selection of a Regional Chief, this should be done during the first quarter of 2020. QFN continues to with Sple'tk Nation regarding Wigwam point where a draft MOU has been prepared. Employee performance reviews were completed for 2019.

Band Manager Report

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, presented to council a report of Band Activities. He indicated that he completed ten(10) performance reviews. He also was involved in ISO certification and has worked on Qualified Donee Project - this is now with CRA. Mr. Goulding indicated BambooHR implementation is in the final stages and will allow for staff to work in more workspaces.

Mr. Goulding met with representatives from Health Canada to begin Vision Care. This will result in 1,000 more claims to process annually and will require four additional full-time staff and a half-time IT support person.

Discussions for the MOU with CNA will be in February in advance of the Business Forum set for February 18-19, 2020. There have been five(5) Strategic planning sessions held. The online survey had approximately three hundred(300) responses. A meeting regarding Urban Reserve is set for February.

Also presented to Council is a spreadsheet of Action Items that arise out of meeting with Council. The spreadsheet provides a Description of Action, a Due Date and a Comments section. This Action Items Report will be attached to all band manager report. A request has been made to include Resolutions to the report.

Council Remarks

Councillors were asked to provide remarks and update each other on activities and events within their wards. Nine(9) councillors still in attendance.

Jasen Benwah: Had a very busy year. We are trying to get more workshops and aiming to build on Tourism and hoping to increase involvement in the ward. The next ward meeting will be in eight(8) weeks.

Frank Skeard: The Christmas social was held in December 2019 and was well received. On January 15, 2020 there was a memorial posting for Chantel John, it was attended by many individuals including Chantel's family. There are several events being planned and beading is held on Monday evenings. Glenwood is holding a Cultural night on March 1st, 2020. This will include a nature walk and traditional skills. A meeting space is an issue in Glenwood. On February 22, 2020 there is an Aboriginal Coaching Module. A Facebook page has been created entitled "Indigenous Events in Central Newfoundland" and covers areas of Gander, Glenwood, and all Central. The Cultural Foundation's support adds good value to the events in Central.

Bern White: Aiming to create events for Tourists. Research is being done on Sea Urchins in the Bay of Islands. Still active on Municipal Council.

Ivan White SR: Flat Bay was busy. We have built an extension on the Band Council building so now the room is a bigger space for meetings. This year the Flat Bay Band will hold Mawio'mi year - The members would like the Community Development Team to visit Flat Bay.

Ivan J. White: No Report.

Randy Drover: Members want to see the Chief in Glenwood and Grand Falls.

Odelle Pike: No report from members. She is willing to assist Randy and Frank in their area.

Andy Barker: Band Office has been reorganized for more office space.

Keith Cormier: No Report.

Band Council Resolution 09-19-20 – P&ID Funding

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, presented a BCR to Council concerning yearly request to ISC for funding. The BCR reads:

To submit an application to Indigenous Services Canada under the Professional and Institutional Program 2020-2021. 10% of the total cost is required as the Bands contribution towards the total cost of the listed projects, pending review and approval by Indigenous Services Canada.

Motion 34-19-20 – motion to approve BCR

A motion was made to approve BCR 09-19-20.

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By TDiamond at 1:47 pm, Mar 30, 2020

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Moved by:	Keith Cormier	Seconded by:	Jasen Benwah
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Nine (9) For	Zero(0) Against

The BCR was signed by nine(9) members of Council in attendance. The BCR contains a list of items and dollar amounts requested. Following the signing of the BCR, Councillor Skeard left the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council will be announced in an email.

Adjournment

Odelle Pike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Minutes Submitted By: Tina Diamond



Approved By: Chief Brendan Mitchell

Tina Diamond

Certified By: Tina Diamond