

Qalipu First Nation
Council Meeting
July 23, 2020

Bennett Hall, 11 West Street, Corner Brook
&
Microsoft Teams

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Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Council of Qalipu First Nation held its regular meeting of Chief and Council at Bennett Hall, 11 West Street, Corner Brook to allow for proper social distancing. This meeting was closed to members of the public due to COVID-19.

Councillor Odelle Pike smudged the room and said a prayer to begin the meeting. Councillors held an in-camera with the Auditor of BCJ prior to the meeting of Council. The official meeting began at 10:55 am. Chief Mitchell welcomed staff and the Youth Representative to the meeting and introduced the Auditor.

Attendance

The following members of Council and Staff attended the meeting as indicated:

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 – Joined through Microsoft Teams
Mr. Frank Skeard	Councillor Glenwood – Joined through Microsoft Teams
Mr. Brian Dicks	Councillor Corner Brook
Mr. Calvin Francis	Councillor Gander Bay
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. Bernard White	Councillor Benoit's Cove
Ms. Salome Barker	Youth Representative – to be sworn in
Mr. Keith Goulding (Staff)	Band Manager
Ms. Tina Diamond (Staff)	Office Administrator
Ms. Alison White (Staff)	Communications Officer

Special Guests

Name:	Position:
Ms. Holly Lewis	Auditor - BCJ Tax Centre
Ms. Rebecca Whalen	Project Manager – First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) Cancer Care Program – Joined through Microsoft Teams

Absent

All members of Council were present. One Councillor abstained from voting in the motions as ability to hear the conversations and contribute to discussions was difficult through Microsoft Team software.

Youth Representative & Oath of Office

As Alternate Youth Representative, Ms. Salome Barker has agreed to take on the role of Youth Representative on the Qalipu Council. Ms. Barker read and signed the Oath of Office. Members of Council and staff sang the Honour Song and Ms. Barker completed other applicable documents pertaining to her position.

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda

Chief Mitchell briefly read through the items of the agenda. Items were rearranged and no additions were required.

Motion 08-20-21 – Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made to accept the **agenda**.

Moved by:	Odelle Pike	Seconded by:	Bern White
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Agenda accepted.

Audited Financial Statements

Ms. Holly Lewis, Auditor with BCJ Tax Centre in Corner Brook, attended the meeting to present the audited financial statements for year ending March 31, 2020. She summarized the statements, briefly went through the notes and accounts, explained each category in the statements, and answered some general questions from Councillors.

Following the verbal presentation, Ms. Lewis indicated that signatures were required by the Chief of Qalipu First Nation (QFN) and the Chair of the Finance and Audit Standing Committee (FASC).

Motion 09-20-21 – Accept the Draft Financial Statements

A motion was made to accept the draft QFN Consolidated Financial Statements for 2019-2020 as presented.

Moved by:	Calvin Francis	Seconded by:	Ivan White, SR
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Draft statements accepted.

Motion 10-20-21 – Motion to suspend QFN meeting

A motion was made to suspend QFN Meeting.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Keith Cormier
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Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained
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QFN meeting suspended for approximately four(4) minutes.

Motion 11-20-21 – Motion to resume QFN meeting

A motion was made to resume the QFN meeting.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Odelle Pike
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

QFN Meeting resumed.

Journey Across the Island – First Nations, Inuit and Métis(FNIM): Cancer Care Program

Joining through Microsoft Teams Software, Ms. Rebecca Whalen, Project Manager with FNIM, provided Council an update on the project. She gave a quick summary and indicated that the goal was to improve the quality of care in the province. She presented to Council a poster that the project would like to use and indicated that she would like to have input on the flag to be used on the poster. After discussion, Council recommended to use the Grand Council Flag. Ms. Whelan noted that the posters, once approved, can be printed, and distributed.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Meeting Minutes - May 23, 2020

A draft of the meeting minutes was distributed to Council for edits. A final draft was provided prior to this meeting and Councillors suggested further minor edits.

Motion 12-20-21 – Adoption of the Minutes

A motion was made to accept the **minutes of May 23, 2020** with suggested edits.

Moved by:	Keith Cormier	Seconded by:	Brian Dicks
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Minutes of May 23, 2020 were adopted.

Budget Adjustments

Two budget adjustments were presented to Council for review. The first deals with the Lands Economic Development Program(LESDP) and involves moving of funds from the Community Development Budget into the Education and Youth Budget. The second concerns the Comprehensive Community Plan(CCP) and involves moving the budget from travel to Office Supplies, Office Equipment, and Licenses & Fees. These supplies and equipment supported the virtual meetings.

The budget adjustments were reviewed by the Finance and Audit Standing Committee (FAC) prior to the meeting.



Motion 13-20-21 – Accept the Budget adjustments

A motion was made to accept the budget transfers as circulated.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Keith Cormier
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Budget Adjustments accepted.

Youth Representative – Address to Council

Ms. Salome Barker, newly sworn in Youth Representative, indicated that she would take the role seriously and will represent the youth. She indicated that the youth have had many brilliant ideas and meet once every two weeks in online platforms. Salome informed Council of meetings held and discussed issues that youth want to learn about.

The Annual Youth Gathering is still being considered for this fall subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Committee Updates

The Committee Chairs were given an opportunity to provide an update on the activities of the various committees.

Finance & Audit Standing Committee (FACSC)

Central Vice-Chief, Randy Drover, presented to Council the minutes of the FACSC on June 30, 2020 and July 16, 2020. Also presented were the Quarterly QFN Financials as of June 30, 2020.

FACSC Meeting Minutes – June 30, 2020

The meeting minutes mainly dealt with the financial audit. The Committee went through all the statements in detail. Noted items of concern include: an amount due to QFN from Qalipu Cultural Foundation (QCF); Student Receivables; and Guardians' wages.

Motion 14-20-21 – Forgive amount from QCF

A motion was made to forgive the amount of \$19, 450 due from Qalipu Cultural Foundation as a result of the MOU relating to the strategic plan.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Brian Dicks
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Amount forgiven.

Motion 15-20-21 – Forgive Student Receivables

A motion was made to forgive \$7853 as receivables from students who have withdrawn from University or College.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Odelle Pike
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Amount forgiven.

To clarify, those students who are already in collections will remain in collections until the Director of Finance can find a solution for those students.

With regards to Guardian's wages, research is being done by Band Manager and Director of Finance to possibly move an Admin Fee to Salaries and Wages to enable a small raise in pay for Qalipu River Guardians.

FACSC Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2020

The meeting minutes mainly dealt with the QFN Quarterly Financial Statements as of June 30, 2020. Of noted interest is the fact that the PSSSP received an additional 1.5 million which needs to be budgeted for. No issues were discussed, and no questions were asked regarding the quarterly statements.

Motion 16-20-21 – Accept first quarter QFN Financial Statements

A motion was made to accept the first quarter financial statements as of June 30, 2020 as circulated.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Ivan J. White
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Statements accepted.

Housing Committee

Councillor Brian Dicks gave a brief verbal report to Council. He noted that in September there are plans to reconvene the Committee and move forward with virtual meetings.

Communications Committee

Councillor Odelle Pike submitted to Council a written report. In her report, recommendations were made that the Committee would like to become a Standing Committee and would like to have money set aside in the budget for next year.

During the last Council meeting, the committee was tasked with providing a solution to address questions from members during a Council meeting. A briefing note provided to Council identified the Issues, Background, Recommendations and Rationale.

Communications Officer, Alison White, who is also a member of the Communications Committee, handed to Councillors a draft of the Annual Report. Ms. White asked for suggestions regarding the contents of the Draft Annual Report. Suggestions included a section for Meet the Chief and Council and a section for Meet the Committees; This will allow for the Members at large to gain recognition.

Following the suggestions for additions to the content, Band Manager noted that once the final PDF version of the draft AGA Annual Report is sent through email to Councillors, a motion to approve the AGA Annual Report 2019-2020 will be required.

Motion 17-20-21 – Accept Q&A Briefing Note recommendations

A motion was made to accept the Q&A recommendations as in section 3 of the Briefing Note submitted by Communications Committee.

Moved by:	Ivan J. White	Seconded by:	Keith Cormier
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Recommendations accepted.

Education and Training Standing Committee (ETSC)

As chair of the ETSC, Odelle Pike presented a report on funding allocations for the various programs ran by the department. The report also notes various actions and meetings of the staff of the Education and training Department. Ms. Pike noted with more money being received for students, plans to fund more students and/or allocate a living allowance to students is being researched.

Natural Resources and the Environment Standing Committee (NRESC)

Councillor Frank Skeard, Chair of the standing committee, presented to Council a meeting overview of the last meetings held by the committee. He was temporally unavailable on Teams to respond to any questions.

Community Development Standing Committee (CDSC)

Western Vice-Chief Keith Cormier shared a written report with Councillors. The report highlighted the programs being worked on by the department. He noted that online National Indigenous Peoples Day(NIPD) had over 28,000 views, there are Heritage workshops being held on zoom, MMIWG Commemorative Garden should begin construction before end of July with an aim for a completion date of October. The department has been working on several projects with respect to Tourism and Craft Development and recently partnered with Deer Lake Airport to include Indigenous Art and Craft in the shop. With respect to Community Economic Development and the Donee Status, the department is looking into potential new projects.

Band Manager Report

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, presented an Action Items Report to Council prior to the meeting and was asked to give a detailed report on Live-Streaming and Elections as well an update on the following topics:

- Comprehensive Community Plan - Five community sessions done with 12-15 people. Council engagements, staff engagements, youth engagements and online surveys are ongoing
- Strategic Plan - Council’s working group held a meeting to discuss the report. Discussions were presented to the Consultant
- Organization Review – this needs to be aligned with the Strategic Plan
- Marathon Gold – MOU has been drafted. Four pillars are identified

Briefing Note – Live Streaming

After review of our policies, it is noted that the band shall hold two general meetings not less than once a year - This is the Annual General Assembly (AGA). Also noted is meetings of Band Council shall be held at a minimum of once every three months.

The following are a list of considerations: Infrastructure; Space; Integrated System; Virtual Council Meeting; Staffing; and Training. Discussion focussed on an Integrated System and the need to purchase a system.

Motion 18-20-21 – Purchase an Integrated System

A motion was made to purchase an Integrated System at a cost of \$18, 917.

Moved by:	Keith Cormier	Seconded by:	Odelle Pike
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Purchase accepted.

Elections

When researching whether the date of an Election can be changed, Band Manager referred to the Indian Act and the Custom Election code. Research was conducted with government and legal counsel. The determination made was that the Election could be changed to four(4) years with no permission from the Government of Canada. A referendum of the membership would have to occur as a part of the fall 2021 election and would take effect in the fall 2024 election.

Council asked the Band Manager to solicit some member feedback on the idea of Council moving from a three-year term to a four-year term .

COVID-19 Update

Chief Mitchell indicated that he has been involved in several meetings and noted that some Qalipu staff have returned to the office. With regards to funding, there was a breakdown given in the Band Manager report. The amount for Community Emergency Response Fund has been allocated to several aspects and must be used for the instances dictated by ISC. The Support Fund of \$52,975 from ISC and the Band top-up of \$22,025 is more flexible - Council discussed what to do with the \$75, 000.

Motion 19-20-21 – Disburse COVID-19 funding

A motion was made Central Vice-Chief Randy Drover

I move “that Council shall disburse the \$75,000 in COVID-19 funding by inviting applications from Indigenous groups [organizations] on the Island of Newfoundland to help Qalipu members with COVID-19 initiatives. I further move that the maximum grant for organizations shall be set at \$7,500. I further move that the Band Manager shall develop a reporting framework that the groups must adhere to.”

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Brian Dicks
Motion Carried	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against	One (1) Abstained

Disbursement approved

Executive Committee Report

Chief Brendan Mitchell, Chair of the Executive Committee, noted the committee last met on June 29th, 2020 and he made the following points:

- With regards to enrolment, Chief Mitchell noted we are moving forward positively, and the next meeting with Canada is on July 30th, 2020.
- Regarding Urban Reserve, there was a meeting in March of 2020 and COVID-19 has slowed discussions with Canada.

- Marathon Gold discussions continue and there are plans to hold consultations with members in Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, Corner Brook, Stephenville, and St. Georges to present issues for member conversations.
- Fishing access for members is important to the band. Discussions with DFO is ongoing and the executive committee, as well as senior staff, are encouraged to maintain relationships with government officials.
- The MOU regarding Wigwam Point with Sple'tk First Nation (SFN) and Qalipu First Nation (QFN) is being considered.
- Qualified Donee Status has been approved for Qalipu. The status will allow Qalipu to access funds currently available to organizations with charitable status.
- Qalipu has applied for language funding to support language initiatives and await a decision regarding approval of funds.
- An announcement was received recently that the Cultural Foundation has two new members.

Chief Mitchell thanked Staff and Community Members for efforts and contributions to the online cultural sharing and initiatives during COVID-19. He also gave a special thanks to Veterans and others who participated in the virtual celebrations on National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD).

Council Remarks

Youth Representative and the Councillors were asked to update each other on activities within their communities.

Odelle Pike: Individuals in the community have been busy. Mental Health concerns are an issue. Would like to find ways to support members in the communities even the youth, women and children need support.

Keith Cormier: Did not realize COVID was going to mean that the Band would be so busy. Been enjoying visits to the various communities and encourages everyone to stay safe and wash your hands.

Randy Drover: There has been a project that has come out of the Glenwood Ward - It concerns a building. The Glenwood area has a lot of Mi'kmaq history and the concept is to create a cultural centre in the area around the building. The Executive Committee supports the initiative and the project will enhance the building.

Andy Barker: The graveyard in Glenwood could use some attention - This should be a future initiative.

Chief Mitchell: There is a committee being formed to rename the Mary March Museum located in Grand Falls - Windsor. Exploit's Ward Councillor Andy Barker will represent Qalipu on that initiative.

Salome Barker: The youth group are working to organize an online workshop and are looking for individuals to facilitate workshops.

Bern White: No report

Ivan White, SR: Following COVID, please come into the communities and have discussions with the three bands in Flat Bay Ward to see how to assist the bands.

Brian Dicks: Looking forward to the MMIWG Project. Since last meeting, have interacted with members, wrote letters for scholarship applicants, and wrote a letter of support for the owner of the Old Brake Museum. The Old Brake House Museum in Meadows tells of the history of the Bay of Islands – there is a lot of Mi'kmaq history.

Ivan J. White: Last week, spoke with members regarding letters received.

Jasen Benwah: Port au Port is busier than ever. We have been doing fundraising and have students working. With regards to the letters being mailed out, there are successful applicants in the ward. Those unsuccessful could still not change the information regarding Self-ID. The veterans are still waiting on information.

Frank Skeard: No Comments

Closing

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, gave an update on the Return to Work Presentation on COVID. He informed Councillors to review the presentation to inform members. He indicated that members are required to make appointments to visit with staff - PPE will be required as well as a visitor questionnaire.

Next meeting

The next meeting of Council is tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2020 with the AGA to be the following day. Because of social distancing and the ability to Live-Stream, there may be one AGA Meeting to be held in Corner Brook.

Adjournment

Councillor Odelle Pike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Minutes Submitted By: Tina Diamond



Approved By: Chief Brendan Mitchell



Certified By: Tina Diamond