



L-R Director of Operations Rob Dicks, Western Region Vice-Chief Erica Samms Hurley and Chief Brendan Mitchell

Summary Report on Regular Meeting of Council

March 12, 2016



Qalipu members listen in on the proceedings of the Council meeting.

Meeting of Council

On March 12 the Qalipu Chief and Council held a regular meeting in St. George's at the Ktaqmkuk Mi'kmaw Museum. The meeting's primary purpose was to receive the Finance Committee's report, and to pass the proposed budgets and operating plans for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The meeting also featured guest presentations from a documentary film maker, David Maggs, and Kirby Mercer, President of Beothuk Energy. Other items included follow up on support of the Aboriginal Sports Circle, approval of the Privacy Policy, and ratification of a motion to increase Councilor Honorariums by \$2000 annually.

The Finance Committee consists of Joe Bouzanne (Central region Vice Chief), Gerard Alexander (Ward Councilor-Stephenville), Annie Randell (CEO), Rob Dicks (Director of Operations), Jodie Wells (Finance Manager), Randy Drover and Ken Hynes (members at large), and Cory Decker (Secretary). The role of the Committee is to meet regularly to review the Band's finances, ensure that budgets are being expended in accordance with the approved plan, and ask questions. The Committee then brings back its findings and

recommendations to Chief and Council at their regular meetings. As a new fiscal year begins following March 31, the Finance Committee plays an important role in preparing the budgets for presentation to Chief and Council. The report, available by request, included a review of expenditures for the RCMP/Qalipu Youth Employment Program, and the Linkages Program, both of which show successful outcomes for the Band and member participants. Budgets, and proposed expenditures, in all areas of Qalipu were reviewed including Non Insured Health Benefits, Emera Socio-Economic

Agreement, Lands and Economic Development Support Program, Band Support and the Health Service Integration Fund. The Committee recommended that Council approve the 2016-2017 Budget as presented. The budget was passed.

The Committee also had action items for staff follow up including to pursue the launch of the Qalipu Cultural Foundation as a separate entity for next fiscal year.

A Word from Chief Mitchell

"We have not typically had members involved in Council meetings but today, and in the future, we will. We have also heard some feedback from members saying they would like to be able to ask questions while attending our meetings so we have added a question period today before lunch as a trial.

In the future we would like members to submit their question one week in advance of meetings at a minimum so that we have time to put together information or resources to answer the question"

-Chief Brendan Mitchell

Annual Operating Plans: highlights

The Directors of Qalipu's departments were on hand to table their new Annual Operating Plans and budgets for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Operating Plans are tied to direction from Chief and Council and the Qalipu five year strategic plan. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis to capture milestones, and to make additions or other changes.

Executive and Qalipu Business Trust

- Evaluate and make a decision on formal national affiliation for Qalipu (AFN or CAP)
- Evaluate and decide where Urban Reserve will be located
- Conduct further research to pursue Aboriginal Rights for members

Work Force Qalipu

- Continue to provide funding to qualifying applicants for books, tuition and employment opportunities
- Enhance ginu membership database.
- Develop a cultural training course to offer members as part of application process.

Service Qalipu

- Leverage Band size to obtain benefits for members
- Support member business start-up and growth through piloting the Qalipu Business Wings Program
- Continue to capture cultural teachings and knowledge of Elders

Operations Qalipu

- Expand administration activities of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and create health development strategy
- Review and refine annual Communications Plan and develop Communications Policy document
- Obtain a tool for voting for Qalipu Elections that is a more inclusive method for members.



Rob Dicks, Director of Operations presents the consolidated

Originations Documentary

David Maggs talked to Chief and Council about working with Qalipu to develop a documentary that chronicles the resurgence of indigenous culture in Newfoundland and the difficult process of establishing the Band's Founders List. He also hopes to use the documentary to demonstrate that what many would consider typically indigenous beliefs such as seven generation thinking, environmental concern and respect for elders-are in fact beliefs that can, and are, embraced by many regardless of origin. In this way, by being united in a vision for a better earth, we break down the unnecessary barriers of asserting who is indigenous and who is not.

Maggs ties his interest in Mi'kmaq culture back to an unusual find at St. Pat's Church in Gros Morne National Park. On the ceiling of this building, more than a century old, are Mi'kmaq stars on either side of the cross. He was inspired by the historical connection between Mi'kmaq and European cultures, and wanted to give voice to these stars that had stood unnoticed for 140 years.

Council is interested in the project, and its potential to capture an important moment in the Band's history. Stay tuned for more information about this documentary including opportunities for youth to mentor on the production team.



L-R Beothuk President Kirby Mercer, Western Vice Chief Erica Samms Hurley, Chief Brendan Mitchell, Central Vice Chief Joe Bouzanne and CEO Annie Randell

Council Hears from Beothuk Energy

Kirby Mercer, President of Beothuk Energy was on hand to talk to Council about the 180 megawatt offshore wind farm his company has in the works for Bay St. George. Mercer said that offshore wind energy will be an emergent source of energy in the future and suggested that it is an initiative that fits well with the Qalipu vision, and seven generation thinking.

"Environmental groups don't want to see transmission links going through their lands," Mercer noted, "They want to see green, sustainable energy."

Mercer went on to explain the choice of location, "When we look at Bay St. George, we have world class wind. It blows hard, and it blows consistently. A wind energy project like the one Beothuk is proposing can do for western Newfoundland what oil has done for western Canada."

Kirby talked about benefits for the region including manufacturing facilities, employment opportunities and the potential for western Newfoundland to become a hub of learning for students from across Canada. He said, "Western Newfoundland could become a centre of excellence for green energy, not just wind."

Q & A with Chief and Council

Chief Mitchell: How much will this project contribute to our local economy?

Mercer: \$135 million annually during the construction phase alone.

Councilor Calvin Francis: How far offshore would this be?

Mercer: 20 km offshore with gravity based structures placed in depths of water not more than 30 m.

Councilor Brian Dicks: Where and how do you see Qalipu participating?

Mercer: Work hand in hand, engagement and input to ensure we are doing this right. Working together to create opportunities for members and member owned business, opportunity for investment and ownership in the company.

Councilor Brian Dicks: Based on the triggers that need to be tripped in order for this project to begin...What's your time line? Where are you with this?

Mercer: In serious negotiations with 2 energy suppliers. Feels like there could be an offtake agreement within the next 30 days. That's how close it feels.

Councilor Blanchard White: You talked about jobs and building fabrication plants in Corner Brook. I would argue that placing it in Bay St. George would be good too, easier to access.

Mercer: Why Corner Brook? The dock is very shallow there, and the water drops deep very quickly. This makes sense for gravity based structure development as we are proposing with this project. There will be a lot going on in Bay St. George as well. There will be many employment and other opportunities.

To learn more about Beothuk Energy's proposed wind farm explore their website, [here](#).



David Maggs briefs Chief and Council on "Originations" documentary featuring the Qalipu First Nation.