

Council Meeting Report

A regular meeting of Chief and Council was held at the Qalipu Community Room in Corner Brook on March 16, 2018.

The main item on the agenda was review and approval of 2018-2019 Annual Operating Plans and budgets. Directors of each of the Departments were in attendance to present their plans, answer questions.

Other items on the agenda included a Qalipu Development Corporation update, question and answer period with members in attendance, a presentation from the Town of Stephenville, and an enrolment update.

QDC Committee Update- Brian Dicks, Corner Brook Ward Councilor

A subcommittee was put in place to bring recommendations to council regarding the reorganization of QDC, the for-profit, arms length branch of Qalipu.

It's been about a year since the committee got together, and to date they have brought recommendations, and had those approved through council to move forward.

A General Manager has been hired.

The next step is to identify Board of Directors. The subcommittee is now vetting names of individuals that have been identified. The subcommittee will present those names to Council for approval in the near future with the expectation that the Board of Directors in place by start of April.

An Operating Plan draft document (investment parameters, terms of reference, operations related issues) is being prepared and will be presented to Council once finalized.

2017-2018 Annual Operating Plan Updates-Keith Goulding, Band Manager

The Band Manager called on Departmental leads to provide a fourth quarter update from the 2017-18 Annual Operating Plan

Highlights-Education and Training Department

Director Monique Carroll

- All eligible students who applied for support have been funded.
- A year end financial surplus will provide for additional student allowances and book reimbursement.
- INAC will rolling out some new policies in 2018/2019 which will be of benefit to our members. Policy is changing to allow students funding for education programs of the same level as the student's current credentials. For example, a student who had completed a bachelor's degree could not receive funding to complete a second bachelor's degree in a different discipline. Currently, members can only move up to the next level (Masters). With the policy change,

students can be funded for any diploma, degree or certification without this barrier. This policy change will come into effect in 2018-2019.

It was noted that Ward Councilors often receive requests for letters of support for students applying for programs. There are often admission tracts for aboriginal applicants, and this is beneficial to our students. If any student has request for letter of support (pharmacy, medical school, nursing.) Please bring them forward, Councilors will gladly provide letters of support for our students.

- The Department will partner with Canadian Welding to deliver the Mind over Metal camp for youth. More details and opportunities to register will be shared when available.

Highlights-Natural Resources Department

Director Jonathan Strickland

- A Traditional Use Study was completed in Benoit's Cove and Corner Brook. 25 interviews were completed in total.
- A new position, Community Youth Engagement Coordinator, was added on contract. The position has seen the development of resource kits for education outreach and will provide assistance with the development of some promotional material for the department as well.
- The Department is involved in a variety of environmental related associations and groups.
- Climate change vulnerability assessment is underway. The department will present Chief and Council with recommendations following the assessment.
- QNR considering membership needs in forestry, the domestic harvest, and understanding how climate change will impact those needs. The department is seeking funding to research this.
- RFP has been submitted for QNR to manage provincial guardian program. We have our own program with 12 guardians. Last week a submission was submitted to the provincial government to take over the guardian program for the entire province. This would mean 79 guardian positions, and 11 supervisory positions. If we secured this contract, we would manage this program.

100% of project funding is coming from external sources and provides needed finances for capacity building.

Highlights-Operations Department

Director Rob Dicks

- ISO certification- in October, an external audit was conducted. Following the audit, QFN was recommended for ISO 9001 certification for the Departments of Education and Training (formerly Work Force Qalipu) and Community Development (formerly Service Qalipu). The Operations Department is now working toward certification of its own department. With the conclusion of this process, all departments within the QFN will be ISO Certified, making QFN the first and only Band in Canada to be ISO certified across all its departments.
- Election 2018-the Director is chairing the Election Reform Committee and has held several meetings in the fourth quarter regarding improvements to the way we administer elections, the

potential for an Amendment Vote to change the Custom Code Governing Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band Elections, and challenges faced with an unsettled membership list.

Highlights-Community Development Department

Director Ralph Eldridge

- Developing capacity within the department to enhance K-12 curriculum development, and education outreach. Emphasis on cultural content within the curriculum.
- Core funding received through INAC under LEDSP program, \$900,000 for core operations
- Project funding this year, external to core funding: \$560,000 funding received for projects (Dancers and Drummers of the New Dawn, ElderFace, Waltes, Business Development Center initiative)
- Proposal being submitted to ACOA for a business development centre, to work with the Cormack Centre in Stephenville to work in collaboration other partners in that area for the development of that centre.
- The Well Ahead Project Coordinator will be hired soon, and the three-year project will commence.
- Closing out phase one of the Tourism Strategy.
- Language curriculum model program at Immaculate heart of Mary. Funding proposal submitted.

2018-2019 Annual Operating Plan Updates-Keith Goulding, Band Manager

The Band Manager called on Departmental leads to provide a summary of the 2018-2019 proposed Annual Operating Plans and respond to questions from Chief and Council

Highlights-Natural Resource Department

Director Jonathan Strickland

- Expansion. As the Natural Resource group has recently become a stand-alone Department (formerly fell under the Community Development group), expansion will occur. The former Manager is now the Director.
- Pursuit of additional opportunities in terrestrial research, agriculture.
- Climate change funding is available and will be pursued.
- Outdoor education with students, and community youth engagement to be a greater focus going forward.
- QNR will work toward increasing communication with membership regarding environmental issues.
- Commercial fisheries will be managed by Qalipu Development Corporation in the future.

Highlights-Operations Department

Rob Dicks, Director

- Framework of how a housing program should be configured to meet the needs of the Band

- Expansion of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (short-term mental crisis, vision care)
- Creation of a Health Development Strategy
- Proposal to move forward with development of programming for Mental Health and Traditional Healing.
- Identify and secure a voting process that will be ratified by the membership at the 2018 Election for use in the 2021 Qalipu Election
- Increase effectiveness and accountability of the procurement process for the Band with new software

Highlights-Finance

Jodie Wells, Comptroller

- Maintain balanced budgets
- Develop purchasing policy
- Regular meetings with Finance Committee
- Acquire First Nation Financial Management Board Certification
- Improve finance communications by adding more information to website

Highlights-Community Development Department

Director Ralph Eldridge

- Provincial collaboration on indigenous tourism: Five nations coming together as working group to focus on Newfoundland Indigenous Tourism.
- Focus on supporting member business start-up and growth through the Business Wings Program, and establishment of a Qalipu Business Development Centre in Stephenville.
- Work with stakeholders to develop and deliver community workshops, and community events.
- Development of new management plan for the Kildevil Outdoor Education Program.
- Mawio'mi 2018 to be held in October
- Develop workplan, social and emotional toolkit for the Well Ahead Project

Education and Training Department

Monique Carroll, Director

- Continue to provide funding to qualifying applicants for books, tuition, fees and allowances
- Continue to provide funding to qualifying applicants for employment opportunities
- Ensure members are aware of third party funding options, and work with partners to create and support for training/employment opportunities
- Ensure operational excellence through monthly audits of files.
- Implement online program application process

Membership Q & A

One member commented on a few observations, noting that he is impressed with work QFN is doing, and pleased to hear about changes to how QFN will conduct elections in the future.

Looking through the Custom Election Rules, article 32.2 says that any elected official can be removed from office for indictable offence, but the actual types of offence is not laid out.

The member asked, “Have you looked at having a code of conduct for candidates in our Elections?”

The Band Manager confirmed that this is not in the current Code, and that we may need a referendum to add this to the election code.

Chief Mitchell acknowledged and thanked a member in the room who led the demonstration in Corner Brook on February 24, Keith Cormier. He also acknowledged and thanked organizers Jim DuHart and Odelle Pike, for their role in demonstrations that took place in Ottawa, and Stephenville.

Chief Mitchell also took the opportunity to acknowledge two others in attendance, Lorraine Stone and Diann George for their work establishing and running a new youth group in Corner Brook.

One member in attendance expressed concern about having a variety of crafters and artisans for art workshops etc. The member suggested QFN needs to broaden its reach on artists, and who gets engaged for this work. Suggested using ginu as a database for contacts on this kind of thing.

A member questioned when we might expect to see the new Founding Members list coming out. It was confirmed that the timeline is on track, that the new Founding Members list should be reviewed for an Order in Council when the House sits in May of this year.

Another member commented on the outcome of Qalipu’s bid for surf clam quota in partnership with the Innu Nation and Miawpukek First Nation. He asked about red fish, noting that there hasn’t been an update on that in a while.

Chief Mitchell confirmed that QFN is still working on the file with Barry Group. Chief Mitchell commented that he is also having discussions with the unions involved, with the province and with municipalities. He said it’s going to take some time, and that it’s a slow-moving process.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee reviewed all proposed budgets prior to the meeting of Chief and Council. It made recommendations, and the proposed budgets were passed through a Council resolution.

\$2000 per quarter has been set aside for donations. First come, first serve. Those who would like to request an individual donation should make the request to the Band Manager. Note, any single donation not to exceed \$500.

Discussion on Hook and Release

The QFN position, based on survey with membership, is that we do not want a catch and release fishery only, we would like to have some retention.

85% of membership who participated in the survey said they do not support a hook and release only fishery.

65% of membership surveyed said they support the status quo, retention and hook & release both.

Presentation from Tom Rose and Stephenville Town Council's Finance Chair Mark Felix

Tom Rose, Mayor for the Town of Stephenville addressed Council. He said the Town of Stephenville is moving forward with a new economic agenda to create jobs for aboriginal people. Stephenville has rich aboriginal history and Rose commented that he is very proud that Qalipu has made a significant investment in the town of Stephenville with the purchase of property at 90 main. He spoke to rebranding and restructuring in Stephenville to be an innovative hub for economic development.

There is a focus on environment and stewardship. Rose said that one of the mandates in Stephenville is to build on green development, hydroponics, technology, and sustainable development. Rose shared that on March 21, Stephenville to be the first community in this province to sell carbon credits to the international community. International companies want to buy the credits from Stephenville. Use that money to do more green and sustainable business.

Rose spoke to the urban reserve concept and reminded Council of the benefits of establishing such a development in Stephenville.

Mark Felix talked about the Cormack Centre and development plans. He said the centre will be renamed as the Stephenville Innovation Centre. Partners will be brought together there to move the project forward and it will function as a social enterprise. He commented that everyone can work together and said that Qalipu is the perfect fit for this. Felix said that collaborative partnerships offer a professional, integrative business development service. He said that the Town of Stephenville is willing to work with anyone in the Bay St. George area.

The next regular meeting of Chief and Council will be held on May 12th, 2018 at the Community Room in Corner Brook. Please contact Mabel MacDonald to register at mmacdonald@qalipu.ca