

Qalipu First Nation  
Council Meeting  
December 12, 2020  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

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## Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Council of Qalipu First Nation held its regular meeting of Chief and Council on Microsoft Teams. This meeting was live streamed for members of Qalipu. Chief Mitchell welcomed staff, Councillors, and the Youth Representative to be sworn in. Councillor Odelle Pike led the meeting with a prayer and the official QFN meeting began at 10:42 am.

## Attendance

The following members of Council and Staff joined the Microsoft Teams Meeting:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Position:</b>
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. Calvin Francis	Councillor Gander Bay
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. Sabrina Muise	Youth Representative – <b>to be sworn in</b>
Mr. Keith Goulding (Staff)	Band Manager
Ms. Tina Diamond (Staff)	Office Administrator
Ms. Alison White (Staff)	Communications Officer
Mr. Ryan Matthews (Staff)	Communication & Computing Specialist

## Absent

All councillors were present. One Councillor abstained from voting in the earlier part of the meeting.

## Review and Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Chief Mitchell read the items.

## Motion 35-20-21 – Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made to accept the **agenda** with an addition and a request.

Moved by:	Odelle Pike	Seconded by:	Brian Dicks
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against

Agenda accepted.

Several committee reports were circulated prior to the meeting and feedback on those reports was requested to be submitted by email.

#### Additions/Request to the Agenda

- Qalipu Cultural Foundation
- Request to add Justin Tobin during the 'Address to Council' to introduce him to the Council.

#### Youth Representative - Swearing In & Signing of the Oath

Ms. Sabrina Muise read the Oath of Office while holding a feather. She signed to Oath with Councillor Odelle Pike. The swearing in was live-streamed and posted on the website.

#### Review and Acceptance of Minutes

##### Meeting Minutes - September 26, 2020

A draft of the meeting minutes was distributed to Council for edits. A final draft was provided prior to this meeting and no further additions or amendments were suggested.

##### Motion 36-20-21 – Adoption of the Minutes

A motion was made to accept the **minutes of September 26, 2020**

Moved by:	Calvin Francis	Seconded by:	Keith Cormier
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against

Minutes of September 26, 2020 were adopted.

#### Business Arising from September 26, 2020 minutes

With regards to Executive Committee working on relationships and meetings with Provincial Government – these meetings were deferred due to COVID.

Emphasis is placed here on recognition of those [individuals] of the past who brought about the band and aimed to form the Band. There was a request that the individuals be honoured for what they did. A motion was made to organize an event.

##### Motion 37-20-21 – Organize an event in the upcoming fiscal year

In the upcoming fiscal year, organize an event that will bring together past leaders whose efforts led to the creation of Qalipu First Nation. Qalipu needs to honour and recognize their contributions.

Moved by:	Randy Drover	Seconded by:	Ivan White, SR
Motion Carried	All in Favour	Ten (10) For	Zero(0) Against

Organization of an event accepted.

## Strategic Plan

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, previously submitted a draft strategic plan report and an implementation schedule. He indicated that the strategic plan was reviewed at Council. He asked for any questions or inputs and noted that the strategic plan is a working document and can be reviewed as needed.

## Resource Development Projects

Band Manager, Keith Goulding gave an update on projects that the band has been in consultation. With regards to Marathon Gold, Qalipu First Nation (QFN) has met with Marathon Gold and will continue to have virtual consultations. Several elements include: Environmental Stewardship; Environmental reporting; Research and traditional knowledge; Economic opportunities for membership; Procurement; and Engagements. There will be reporting to share with the membership. Also, there are clauses whereby termination of the Social Economic Agreement(SEA) can be done. The SEA has not yet been signed by QFN and there is a committee working with Marathon Gold which will expand as needed.

It is noted that there are other projects occurring and QFN should be at the table for the discussions. There was also a request for a youth to be at discussions and for a consultation with the youth.

## Format and Content of Committee Reports

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, previously presented a template for an Executive Committee Report and Band Manager's Report. He indicated the following headings: Date; Description of Action; Assigned To; Due Date; Comments.

This template is planned to be used for the other committee reports. Councillor Skeard indicated that the format is easy to follow and he suggested that it be used by the Chairs of the Committees and by the Directors when submitting reports. It is noted that the format may be more difficult for the Finance Committee to use.

## Elections

Band Manager, Keith Goulding, indicated that upon review of moving to a four(4) year Election term, he spoke with the Consultant doing the Strategic Plan review. He also noted meetings with the Youth and feedback from CCP link (which is on our website). Feedback indicated that most individuals were okay with the four(4) year term and it makes sense to do a four-year term. Some concern was that individuals may not want the long term of four years.

There was feedback with Intelivote and the company indicated they are ready for 2021 election. Band Manager explained how the system will work. He also noted there are no issues with adding a referendum question(s). The youth representative requested the contact information for the company.

A request was made to hire a Chief Electoral Officer early. Also noted was the fact that the IRA would assist with the Election.

## Committee Updates

Due to time restrictions, the only Committee that will provide a report is the Finance and Audit Standing Committee (FASC). All other committees supplied reports to Council in an email and feedback and questions were addressed through email prior to the Council meeting.

## Finance & Audit Standing Committee (FASC)

Vice-Chief Randy Drover presented to Council the minutes of the FASC on November 13, 2020. Also presented were the QFN Financials as of October 31, 2020 which was reviewed at the November 13, 2020 FASC meeting. There are no budget adjustments to be discussed.

### FAC Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2020

The meeting minutes presented on details of what the FASC discussed and reviewed. Vice-Chief Drover discussed the travel budget which is lower and indicated that the funds could be used for capital works projects. The FASC and the Finance Department are working on the savings within some departments. The Director of Finance is reviewing with the Directors/Management a use for the funds.

The FASC noted a concern regarding the absence of the Director of Operations. During the absence, the Director of Finance became responsible for additional duties in the financial system, and this practice cannot be sustained. The FASC recommended that Council move forward and hire the Manager of Finance, which arises from the organizational review, to ensure the financial duties/responsibilities/tasks are properly distributed among employees.

The Natural Resources Manager is moving forward and will be advertised soon.

### *Motion 38-20-21 – Advertise for a Manager of Finance*

A motion was made that based on the recommendation of the FNFMB and the Organizational review that the position of Manager of Finance be added to the Finance Department and that we instruct the Band Manager to proceed with the recruitment and selection at the earliest opportunity.

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

Manager of Finance to be hired

### *Motion 39-20-21 – Acceptance of QFN Financial Statements as of October 31, 2020*

A motion was made to adopt the financials statements of October 31, 2020 as circulated.

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

Financial Statements accepted.

## Youth Representative

Ms. Sabrina Muise, sworn in at the beginning of the meeting as the Youth Representative with Qalipu, was asked to give a presentation to Council. Ms. Muise requested that the Youth Committee Co-Rep Justin Tobin join the meeting. Mr. Tobin introduced himself and gave a brief background of his interests. Ms. Muise also began by introducing herself and telling Council and those listening of her work and other interests.

Her report began with the in-person Youth Gathering, ways to engage Youth, and updates from Youth across the province. The last Youth Gathering was held in Burry Heights, on November 6-8, 2020 with twenty(20) youth participating. Ms. Muise highlighted activities at the Youth Gathering and noted that

several online meetings with youth were held. With regards to youth engagement, she emphasized that all Mi'kmaq Youth are represented. Ms. Muise also highlighted some indigenous youth across the province and briefly told of activities and projects that are being worked on.

### Qalipu Cultural Foundation

There was a request by Candace Simon and the QCF to have a meeting with the Council. It was indicated that a meeting in mid-January may be possible.

### Council Remarks

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

Jasen Benwah: The food security program is keeping him busy. He has requests from members which he forwards to staff members.

Frank Skeard: The Qalipu Natural Resources has a venue for direct member input to the standing committee. In Glenwood, there are emerging groups who are doing great things. These grass-roots organizations have been doing great things since COVID and we should continue to recognize and support them.

Randy Drover: We should set up an Advisory Groups for Women, Two-spirited, Elders, Youth, and others. Merry Christmas to all.

Calvin Francis: Spending lots of time in his office assisting band members completing paperwork, using his phone or fax. Merry Christmas to all and looking forward to an in-person meeting.

Andy Barker: There is now a link on QFN's website of Frank Speck's research. We are encouraged to read it. It is an insightful research into the history of Beothuk and Micmac [Mi'kmaq] in Newfoundland.

Odelle Pike: Not a lot to report. There are lots of mental health issues in our area. Seniors in the area need help. She wishes to be mindful of our seniors and help as needed. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ivan J. White: He recognised a dream of a childhood friend David who wished to write and draw comics specifically Marvel Comics. His friend is an inspiration for those in this band and on the island that you can achieve your dreams.

Ivan White, SR: Busy in Flat Bay. Congrats to Sabrina as Youth Representative. Agrees to recognize other groups. Wondering where we are with Round Two of COVID funding.

Keith Goulding noted that with respect to the second round of funding, we had several groups apply and we gave funding to ten(10) groups. The money has been received by these ten groups. The kits will be completed and sent out following the application deadline at the end of January 2021.

Ivan also sent greetings of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bern White: Lots on the go and nothing finalized to report on. Happy New Year and Merry Christmas to all.

Brian Dicks: With regards to the organizations that received COVID funding, in the first round North Shore Aboriginal Group received funding and did up hampers and it was rewarding for those who received the hampers and for those who participated in the distribution. In round two, the Corner Brook Aboriginal Group will receive funds. There is a Housing Survey online designed to give input into the Housing Committee Strategic Plan. Acknowledged the Season and wishes all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Keith Cormier: Thanks to Councillors, Staff and to the Band Manager. Looking forward to meeting in person soon. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Keith Goulding: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanks for your support during these challenging times.

Chief Mitchell: With regards to Enrolment, we are working with Government on the files for Veterans and Federation of Newfoundland Indians(FNI) to move this forward. A letter to the Federal Government was sent last week push this file forward. Other letters have been sent in the past. I appreciate the work of Councillors for the work of all the initiatives that you are working on. I thank the staff who come to work daily and work hard on your behalf. Thanks to Alison White who sits in on all the meetings and provides the Communications to all the mediums for our membership. Thanks to Tina Diamond for work you provide to Council and Staff. Wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021.

Calvin Francis: Pleased with the work of Alison White and Tina Diamond. Communication work of Alison is always impressive, and Tina goes beyond her regular duties is always available to assist us.

Sabrina Muise: Grateful to be here at this table. Merry Christmas.

## Next meeting

Scheduled for January 2021; however, this may be changed to February 2021.

## Adjournment

Calvin Francis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.

**Minutes Submitted By: Tina Diamond**



Approved By: Chief Brendan Mitchell



Certified By: Tina Diamond