

**Qalipu First Nation
Council Meeting
July 28, 2022**

Qalipu Community Room & Microsoft Teams

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'JTB', enclosed in a circular scribble.

Table of Contents

Attendance	3
Absent	3
Acceptance of the Agenda- Motion 10-22-23	3
Edits to the Agenda	3
Acceptance of the Minutes of May 28, 2022- Motion 11-22-23	3
Edits to the Minutes of May 28,2022	4
Motion to Accept the Financial Statements Motion 13-23-23	4
Briefing Note on Investment Account Motion 14-22-23	4
Motion to Accept Budget Changes- Motion 15-22-23	4
Motion to Accept FAC Minutes 16-22-23	4
Approval of Member at-Large FAC-Motion 17-22-23	5
Proposed Changes to AGA (Annual General Assembly)	5
Briefing Note- Changes to HR Policy - Motion 18-22-23	5
Committee Reports- Question and Answer	6
Questions received for Council	6
Council remarks	6
Adjournment	8



Attendance

The following members of Council and Staff attended the meeting:

Name:	Position:
Mr. Brendan Mitchell	Chief
Ms. Jennifer (Jenny) Brake (joined via Teams)	Western Vice-Chief
Mr. Andrew (Andy) Barker	Central Vice-Chief
Mr. Jasen Benwah (joined via Teams)	Councillor Port Au Port
Ms. Charlene Combdon (joined via Teams)	Councillor Exploits
Ms. Sharren (Sherry) Dean	Councillor Corner Brook
Mr. Calvin Francis	Councillor Gander Bay
Ms. Terri Greene	Councillor Benoit's Cove
Mr. Francis (Frank) Skeard	Councillor Glenwood
Mr. Hayward Young	Councillor Stephenville
Mr. Keith Goulding (Staff)	Band Manager
Ms. Paulette Brinston (Staff)	Executive Assistant
Mr. Andrew Simmons (Staff)	Director of Finance

Absent

Youth Representative, Salome Barker, Flat Bay Ward Councillor, Bobby White, and St. George's Ward Councillor Ivan J. White were absent for the meeting.

The council meeting began at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda- Motion 10-22-23

Moved by:	Calvin Francis	Seconded by:	Terri Greene
Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against

Edits to the Agenda

No proposed additions were made to the agenda.

Acceptance of the Minutes of May 28, 2022- Motion 11-22-23

Moved by:	Calvin Francis	Seconded by:	Sherry Dean
Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against

Edits to the Minutes of May 28, 2022

Misspelling of Spitekek, spelled with two 'l-s'.

Motion to Accept the Financial Statements Motion 13-23-23

Glenwood ward councillor Frank Skeard made a motion to accept the financial statements as supplied by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Moved by:	Frank Skeard	Seconded by:	Calvin Francis
Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against

Be it resolved that the Financial Statements for the 2021-2022 fiscal year have been approved.

Briefing Note on Investment Account Motion 14-22-23

Presented by Director of Finance, Andrew Simmons. Qalipu First Nation (QFN) receives infusions of funds from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to support operations, these funds currently do not generate significant interest. The Finance and Audit Committee recommends opening an investment account that would generate a greater interest rate with minimal risk. The interest generated from the account can help to support the band's operations.

Moved by:	Frank Skeard	Seconded by:	Calvin Francis
Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against

Be it resolved that the Qalipu First Nation council hereby approves the opening of a First Nation Finance Authority Investment Fund account and will transfer \$15,000,000 from the RBC high interest savings account to the new First Nation Finance Authority account.

Motion to Accept Budget Changes- Motion 15-22-23

Some new projects have been implemented through the "I am Ready for Higher Studies" program which includes the Canadian Learning Bond (CLB) and Indigenous Labour Market Initiative (ILMI).

Moved by:	Terri Greene	Seconded by:	Frank Skeard
Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against

Be it resolved that the changes for the 2022-2023 Fiscal year budgets are approved.

Motion to Accept FAC Minutes 16-22-23

The Finance and Audit Committee held a meeting on July 7, 2022, the minutes of that meeting were submitted to council for approval.

Moved by:	Frank Skeard	Seconded by:	Calvin Francis
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Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against
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Be it resolved that the minutes of the July 7, 2022, meeting of the Finance and Audit Standing Committee are approved.

Approval of Member at-Large FAC-Motion 17-22-23

Moved by:	Frank Skeard	Seconded by:	Sherry Dean
Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against

Be it resolved that Bill Dugan will serve as Member-at large for the Finance and Audit Committee.

Proposed Changes to AGA (Annual General Assembly)

Council engaged in a discussion about hosting a single AGA, this idea was proposed by Central Vice-Chief Andy Barker. Andy discussed having two AGAs predates the QFN's use of livestreaming, which allows members to view the event regardless of location. There was also discussion around the additional cost and resources utilized for two events and that consolidation would allow those funds to be used elsewhere.

Other councillors including Frank Skeard and Charlene Combdon objected to hosting a single AGA. There was concern expressed about the lack of interaction and engagement with members in the Central Region and the AGA allows those members to connect with the Band.

Western Vice-Chief Jenny Brake suggested a different format to the AGA to increase membership engagement. The discussion was tabled, but Central Vice-Chief Andy Barker requested that council revisit the discussion later. Benoit's Cove ward councillor Terri Greene suggested reserving the discussion of the topic in a "no agenda" council meeting.

Briefing Note- Changes to HR Policy - Motion 18-22-23

Presented by Band Manager, Keith Goulding, several changes are proposed to Section 15 of the Qalipu First Nation's policy entitled "Work Life Balance, Holidays, Vacation, Family, and Other Leave."

- Section 15.E (1)(a) Remove bullet x) National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30th)
- Section 15.E (1)(b) add subsection 15.E.1.b.iii) to add National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (September 30th)
- Section 15.E (1)(b) add the caveat to state, "Where the annual celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation are both days in which QFN will be hosting events to mark these occasions; the staff and offices will observe these days on the Monday following each."

The rationale for these changes is to accommodate events and community activities occurring on those days. If staff are working, there will already be sufficient coverage for events without requiring staff to volunteer on their days off.

- Section 15.E(3)(g) Revise policy to state, "Requests by Full-time employees for Annual Leave to be taken during the summer months will be granted based upon seniority. During the Summer

Hours Schedule employees may request a maximum of four (4) long weekends, this does not apply to weekends that are included in Annual Leave that covers a block of time, eg. one (1) week. Requests are to be submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor for approval by April 30th of each year."

The rationale for these changes is that staffing gaps are occurring in the summer months with annual leave breaks combined with some staff taking extra long weekends.

Moved by:	Calvin Francis	Seconded by:	Terri Greene
Motion Carried	All in favour		Zero (0) Against

Be it resolved that the proposed amendments are made to the Qalipu First Nation's Human Resources Policy.

Committee Reports- Question and Answer

Terri Greene asked for clarification on committee reports as reports for every committee were not provided. Chief Mitchell explained all committee reports were required to be submitted historically, but it was not always practical or feasible. Frank Skeard suggested that committees provide reports once prepared outside of council meetings, any important developments should be shared by committee chairs. Sherry Dean suggested that memos should be circulated to council regarding department activities if no meetings have taken place.

Natural Resources Chair Andy Barker discussed taking on a leadership role when it comes to stewardship. A suggestion was put forth that Andy would prepare a letter on behalf of council to municipalities with the Committee's recommendations: "... better enforcement of littering laws and better enforcement of how materials are sorted before they are sent to waste management sites."

Questions received for Council

A comment was received regarding household income limits for the home renovation program. Band Manager, Keith Goulding, explained that he has already spoken to the member regarding this comment as it was more operational in nature. The limits are in place as the program is a joint initiative with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing standards.

Council remarks

Jenny Brake- Hoping to talk about the windmill situation. Personally, has received a lot of membership feedback and concerns. Felt the council should support doing an environmental assessment before the project begins.

Chief Mitchell- We have heard some feedback about wind energy, recently, which was mostly positive feedback, some took issue with Chief's public statement in support of the project. Some people are looking at economic development opportunities. Many communities in Port au Port are happy about financial growth. The province is opening crown land for the development of wind energy.



Frank Skeard- Expressed his frustration that the province has been supportive of the project without consultation from QFN.

Hayward- Young Windmills have become a buzzword in that area. Received a call from Kathy Dornan, wanted to arrange a meeting with the local band, Indian Head First Nation. We must weigh pros and cons. We are concerned about the environment, there's a lot of propaganda out there.

Andy Barker- The proposed windmill projects will not benefit Newfoundland's energy, it will be used to create fuel that is exported somewhere else.

Terri Greene- Getting a lot of member feedback regarding the windmill project, there's some confusion about the current project. Read a message received from John Hogan, Communications at GH2.

"..... The environmental permit application currently being reviewed by government is for Site A (Port au Port Peninsula). The other sites (B & C) are noted in the application, but they will each have their own applications and timelines for public review and comment.

Site C's (Flat Bay area) application will be submitted next, followed by Site B (Lewis Hills area).

The environmental permit applications for Sites B & C will have their own deadlines for public comment meaning the EA Registration deadline of July 27 "Does Not Encompass Lewis Hills"

The trip you mentioned for the wind farm tour is focused on people who live in the Site A communities, and they were selected by their fellow community members. World Energy GH2 did not participate in the selection process."

Chief Mitchell suggested that Qalipu request a meeting in Corner Brook to discuss the situation.

Andy Barker- Received a call from a member that wanted to acknowledge members of staff in the Corner Brook office for their help with the home repair program. Own family have also been grateful for the support they received through Education and Training for Post-Secondary Funding.

Jasen Benwah-Wanted to discuss the windmill situation, attended a tour and learned a lot about windmills, feels the environmental concerns are overblown. Initial concern was the roads that had to be put in place that would disturb mountains, trees, and nature, but there's economic benefits.

Charlene Combdon- Received a call for a Mawio'mi in October in Central, the location is not yet confirmed. Visited Norris Arm and St. Alban's as a representative of Qalipu, it was an opportunity to connect with members in an informal setting. Attended a meeting with Gudie Hutchings and was offered to serve as an Aboriginal rep. Also has conversations with MP Clifford Small, who has been directing members to her.

Hayward Young-No comments

Calvin Francis- No comments

Sherry Dean- Winter is coming, is there anything we can do to government we can do to stop cars being brought to Conne River? Mawio'mi planning is well under way, happening on August 14th, 20 Lundrigan Drive, Corner Brook.

The Band manager to revisit discussions about vehicle delivery to Conne River.



Terri Greene- Participated in a meeting at Pollard's Point with Shirley Wicks. Planning another virtual ward meeting in the next couple of weeks. 13 youth going through our summer program in ward. Youth participating in a drone program ,11/15 successful so far. Students are also completing a Marine Ecosystem protection course.

Frank Skeard- Continues to focus on ward. This passed period has been busy for everyone. Astounding engagement with youth, lots of youth-focused programs. Community hosted a workshop on basket weaving, where they had to turn people away.

Also, it's a huge accomplishment that we have rented a new office in Gander, providing services to membership. Grand Opening of that facility might help to improve community presence.

In advance of Truth and Reconciliation Day, volunteer group are planning a four-night event leading up to a full evening event, which will feature a mix of virtual and in person activities. Looking at ways to become proactive in environmental assessment, we need to become experts in that area.

Chief Mitchell- Updates on enrollment, still waiting for the draft agreement regarding veterans from military and RCMP. Unfortunately, Minister Patty Hajdu decided to stand by former Minister Mark Miller's decision to refuse discussion on FNI members. Sherry Dean and Mitch Blanchard attended a summer housing conference, there will also be a conference on housing.

Sherry- We will have our own housing meeting in September.

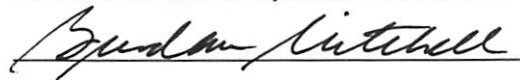
Keith Goulding- Reminder to council and membership- Burgeo is having a Mawio'mi next week. We have a fund for the Papal visit, having reviewed what was eligible. We have some funds for community groups to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a call for proposals is planned. We have planned a picture contest for Orange Shirt Day, a contribution for their school's breakfast program and monetary prize for the winner.

Adjournment

Calvin Francis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:00 pm.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th, 2022.

Minutes Submitted By: Paulette Brinston



Approved By: Chief Brendan Mitchell



Certified By: Paulette Brinston