

**Qalipu First Nation
Council Meeting
November 20, 2022**

Albatross Hotel Gander & Microsoft Teams

Table of Contents

Attendance	3
Edits to the Agenda-	3
Acceptance of the Minutes of September 21, 2022- Motion 23-22-23	3
Committee Updates	4
Culture, Tourism, and Community Development- Strategic Plan	4
Questions received for Council	4
Council remarks	4
Agenda Editions	6
Adjournment	6

Attendance

The following members of Council and Staff attended the meeting:

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

The council meeting began at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda- Motion 22-22-23

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

Edits to the Agenda- A request was made to add discussion around the Experience Qalipu Strat plan to the agenda.

Acceptance of the Minutes of September 21, 2022- Motion 23-22-23

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

Business Arising- There was some discussion around the vehicle in the Humber River and the potential environmental threat. Chief Mitchell will reach out to government officials regarding the matter.

An error was noted regarding flag raising on July 29, should be corrected to September 29th.

Action Item- Discussion on Employee Raises. Director of Finance to hold a special meeting of council in December to approve the plan.

Vice-Chief Jenny Brake requested the removal of a sentence from councillor remarks from the minutes of September 21st, missing context.

Committee Updates

Director of Finance, Andrew Simmons provided an update on the Finance and Audit Committee Report regarding the ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning System) update. The contract has been awarded to a consultant who will assist with the implementation of a new accounting and ERP system. The new system should improve efficiency for all financial operations undertaken by the departments.

Council engaged in a discussion regarding financial supports for students in receipt of post-secondary student support, specifically students completing thesis requirements currently not eligible to receive monthly allowances under the current PSSP local guidelines.

Action Item: Hold a future meeting with council and the Director of Education and Training, Monique Carroll, to discuss current funding limitations.

Council engaged in discussions around the use of Killdevil camp by the CD department for outreach, and the limitations it presents as a "colonized" space.

Andrew Simmons discussed recent activities of the Health and Wellness Department including improving reimbursement wait times and plans to hire a new employee to coordinate Jordan's Principal Benefits for QFN members. The department has a new permanent Mental Wellness Navigator to assist members with mental health and addiction services through NIHB as well as federal and provincial programs. A discussion emerged among councillors regarding the need to improve wellness offerings to membership that use an Indigenous approach.

ACTION ITEM: Engage in discussion with Health and Wellness Department and its standing committee to consider the development of "Indigenized" solutions to wellness as a strategic priority.

ACTION ITEM: Consider a subcommittee for addictions/mental health support- bringing back to health and wellness.

Terri Greene asked that this conversation be noted in the minutes as well as the discussion around improving infrastructure/housing and proposal writing to acquire additional funding resources.

Terri Greene and Charlene Combdon engaged in a discussion from the Executive Committee Report, regarding working with Sple'tk First Nation on the plans for Wigwam Point.

Sherry Dean also discussed her recommendation that the housing portfolio be removed from Health and Wellness to establish its own standing committee.

ACTION ITEM: As per the housing strategic plan, Sherry Dean requested QFN hold annual housing forums.

Culture, Tourism, and Community Development- Strategic Plan

Council was provided with a document to share their thoughts and feedback on the strat plan previously presented. Charlene Combdon, a member of the committee, asked that the chair ensure the suggestions and recommendations of council are brought to the committee.

Questions received for Council

No questions or comments were received for council.

Council remarks

Jenny Brake- Not much to add. Appreciate comments that were brought up.

Terri Greene- Would like to have a conversation around reviewing the by-laws. Working with Sherry to conduct virtual ward meetings with the goal of attracting more members.

Sherry Dean- Had a great turnout for last ward meeting. Will be holding a youth ward meeting to connect with local youth. Happy to see growing interest in Indigenous culture. Receiving invitations from local schools to share knowledge. Participating in the Marine Biomass Project community outreach Participated in Wind Energy debate sponsored by Western Environment Centre, very optimistic discussion, wind energy is important, but we must also protect our sacred spaces. UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) engagement sessions have started locally. NAWN hosted Strong Women's Circle to give women the opportunity to share perspectives. Elmastukwek Mawio'mi planning committee is established, event will happen August 12, 2023. Held a memorial service for Michelle Matthews, long-term employee of Qalipu and a founding member of the Corner Brook Aboriginal Women's Association.

Chief Mitchell- Applaud councillors for their involvement in the community. Recently donated to the food bank, QFN used to offer donations to councillors for their wards to donate to the school of their choice.

ACTION ITEM: Review budgets to determine if the funds are available to offer donations to individual wards.

Frank Skeard- Its important to manage expectations and do what we can. Many initiatives already happening in communities, let support those initiatives. Band received funds under the "Come Home Year" budget which funded some small projects in various communities. We need to find a way to engage with communities, provide funds to support those organizations. QFN is involved in initiatives like the environmental assessment, need to engage the community more. Need to find a way to engage members to make a meaningful contribution to the environmental assessment. During Truth and Reconciliation week, volunteered with a small community organization, there was a lack of resources for events.

Ivan J. White- No comments. On the 23rd (November) UNDRIP engagement session will be held at the Legion in St. George's.

Jasen Benwah- No comment, just busy.

Hayward Young- Haven't been able to participate much in community after recent surgery, hoping to hold a ward meeting after our next (council) meeting. Would like to see a staff member in the area where people can call and get a response, members feel they are struggling to get responses from Corner Brook. Need someone in Stephenville area to navigate.

Calvin Francis- Nothing to add. Ward is small.

Chief Mitchell- Tell us about Charlie's Place and where we are with that, you supported having it designated as an Indigenous Protected area.

Calvin Francis- We are working on that now, not there yet. Some concerns that council did not support the designation. Would like to have a letter to ensure the band's commitment.

Charlene Combdon- Remembrance Day laid the wreath in Badger, each year as ward councillor, will focus on a different community. Reached out to a community member whose family member was a veteran to lay it on behalf of the band. Attended event in Swift Current, women sharing their knowledge, spoke to Kellie Kerpan to encourage the department to offer the same event in Western NL. Want to ensure all members have the same opportunity. Meeting with local groups and municipalities, invited to be a guest speaker at the Exploits Native Women AGA.

Andy Barker- Wanted to touch on Frank's comments regarding engaging membership, there was some discussion around using a phone system to share messages with members.

Andrew Simmons- Cost was a barrier, cost was per text message. Sending to 20,000 members could be cost prohibitive.

Agenda Editions

Chief Mitchell- Hayward wanted to have a discussion regarding fishing and hunting access.

Hayward Young- As a member of the (Natural Resources Standing) committee some concerns were put forth by ward members. A rumour was circulating that the band is in favour of hook and release., contrary to what members are saying. Fishing and hunting access is also a concern, plan has to be established, QENR should get involved, take a hands-on approach. Band should purchase a licence to buy wood to provide it to seniors in our communities in need.

Chief Mitchell- A survey was conducted the majority of members surveyed supported hook and retain. An application for fishing rights was submitted, we still have not received a response. A meeting is scheduled with the Minister and Executive Committee in the future. Some discussion occurred around wood licencing, but there was a concern about abuse of such a program.

Frank Skeard, who works with the Department of Forestry, offered some insight into the process.

Council engaged in some conversation about the challenges for members regarding home heating.

Charlene Combdon- Requesting council take time to review the Experience Qalipu Plan. Subcommittee met and reviewed plan to propose amendments. Reached out to proposal writer to make changes based on the subcommittee recommendations. The Department is currently operating without a plan, plan needs to be approved and implemented.

Adjournment

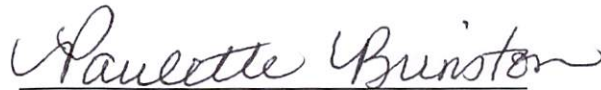
Charlene Combdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:00 pm.

The next regular meeting of council is tentatively scheduled for January 14, 2023.

Minutes Submitted By: Paulette Brinston



Approved By: Chief Brendan Mitchell



Certified By: Paulette Brinston