

**Qalipu First Nation
Council Meeting
July 30th, 2025**

Microsoft Teams

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Attendance

The following members of Council and Staff attended the meeting:

Name:	Position:
Ms. Jennifer (Jenny) Brake	Chief
Mr. Charles (Charlie) White	Western Vice-Chief
Ms. Colleen Paul	Central Vice-Chief
Ms. Terri Greene	Councillor Benoit's Cove
Mr. Francis (Frank) Skeard	Councillor Glenwood
Mr. Ivan White Sr.	Councillor Flat Bay
Ms. Shianne Squires	Councillor Exploits
Mrs. Lory Benoit-Jesso	Councillor Port au Port
Ms. Miranda Osmond	Councillor Stephenville
Ms. Holly Muisse	Councillor St George's
Mr. Charles Pender	Band Manager
Mr. Jonathan Walsh (Staff)	Director of Finance
Ms. Allyson Robbins (Staff)	Executive Assistant

In camera session from 6:00-7:45pm.

Meeting began approximately 7:50pm

Councillors Calvin Francis and Ernest Green were absent from this meeting.

Acceptance of Agenda –Motion 22 - 2025-2026

Moved by:	Charlie White	Seconded by:	Lory Benoit-Jesso
Motion Carried	All in favour	Nine (9)	Zero (0) Against

- Agenda item regarding the Briefing Note for Personnel Title Changes was removed because a further conversation is required for the Finance and Audit Committee.
- Motion to approve the agenda with proposed amendments.
- All in favour.
- Motion carried.

Acceptance of May 31st Meeting Minutes- Motion 23- 2025-2026

Moved by:	Charlie White	Seconded by:	Holly Muisse
Motion Carried	All in favour	Seven (7)	Zero (0) Against

- Motion to approve the May 31st meeting minutes.
- Councillors Terri Greene and Shianne Squires were absent from the May 31st meeting and could not vote for this motion.
- All in favour.
- Motion carried.

Acceptance of July 2nd Special Meeting Minutes- Motion 24- 2025-2026

Moved by:	Terri Greene	Seconded by:	Ivan White Sr.
Motion Carried	All in favour	Eight (8)	Zero (0) Against

- Motion to approve the July 2nd meeting minutes.
- Councillor Frank Skeard was absent from the July 2nd meeting and could not vote for this motion.
- All in favour.
- Motion carried.

Briefing Note- Education and Training Policy- Motion 25 - 2025-2026

Moved by:	Terri Greene	Seconded by:	Ivan White Sr.
Motion Carried	All in favour	Nine (9)	Zero (0) Against

- It is recommended to amend Section 4.1 of the PSSSP guidelines and Section 5.1 of the ASETS Guidelines to include supplies required by the student for their program of study.
- It is recommended that Section 4.6 PSSSP Guidelines living allowance as per ISC's guidelines, living allowance rates will be determined based on Canada Student Loans rates for living at home or living away from home for the lowest provincial rate each year. For example, the 2025-2026 lowest rate for a student living away from home is PEI at \$1,290.00 per month, and the living at home lowest rate is Newfoundland at a rate of \$560.00 per month.
- It is recommended to amend Section 3.5 of PSSSP guidelines to change the June 30th deadline to May 31st.
- It is also recommended to increase the maximum amount of support from \$30,000.00 to a maximum amount of \$53,000.00 per year, per client as per ISC guidelines, pending available budgets
- Councillor Frank Skeard stated that he would like to take out the \$53,000 per year and say instead, from ISC pending available budgets. If ISC increases its budget they should come back to us. Council agreed with this statement.
- Motion to accept the policy changes with amendments.
- All in favour.
- Motion carried.

BCR-01-25-26- Professional Institutional Development Funding Request- Motion 26 - 2025-2026

Moved by:	Lory Benoit-Jesso	Seconded by:	Miranda Osmond
Motion Carried	All in favour	Nine (9)	Zero (0) Against

- It is recommended that Council approve the attached application for P and ID funding through a band council resolution.
- Councillor Terri Greene stated she is pleased with this step taken to invest in protecting our infrastructure.
- Band Manager Charles Pender confirmed with council that once they get a recommendation they will move onto the next step.
- All in favour.
- Motion carried.

BCR-02-25-26- First Nations Finance Authority Banking Information Change Form- Motion 27 - 2025-2026

Moved by:	Ivan White Sr.	Seconded by:	Terri Greene
Motion Carried	All in favour	Nine (9)	Zero (0) Against

- Motion to accept the change in banking for New Dock from RBC to BMO.
- Councillor Frank Skeard asked why the banks were changed. Band Manager Charles Pender replied stating that RBC were holding up the transaction of the purchase of shares and were difficult to work with.
- All in favour.
- Motion carried.

Tentative- Audit Financial Statements 2023/2024

Director of Finance Jon Walsh gave an update regarding the financial statements for 2023/2024.

- Over the last few weeks they have had good conversations with the auditors. This time of year is complicated due to annual leave with auditors and staff but we are coming up with solutions to those matters regarding the statements.
- Hoping to have a process in place and have results soon. He cannot put a timeline on it, but Vice Chief Colleen Paul said the finance and audit committee is in regular contact with funders to make sure the line of communication is open and understand where we are in the process.
- Band Manager Charles Pender shared that the implementation of the new software was not ready to go when it was launched but it is clear now. ISC funders are also providing a letter to the auditors regarding the statements.
- Band Manager Charles Pender also stated there is a process to follow but once Finance gets the statements then it will be brought to Chief and Council to approve, then published to the website for membership to see.

Committee Updates

Health and Wellness Report

Councillor Terri Greene gave an update as Chair of the Health and Wellness Standing Committee:

- Committee had a conversation about the Member at Large position.
- Looking into a 5–10-year funding agreement to have money up front with ISC.
- Jordan's Principle is seeing a lot of approvals but there is still a backlog. The department is anticipating to receive upset calls around the school year.
- An extension for the Indigenous Patient Navigator is in the works. Looking to add a position in central and the Stephenville office.

- Mental Health services have increased. Each month the department sees about 300 pre approvals.
- A Cultural Wellness Facilitator will begin soon and will provide more updates when she receives them.
- No candidate was selected yet for the Assistant Director position.
- The Housing Counsellor will stay advertised until a candidate is selected.
- Land Based Learning camps have started and are going well.
- Discussed hybrid working and its impacts on mental health and wellness.
- Next meeting is August 27th and will provide a follow up then.

Environment and Natural Resources Report

Vice Chief Charlie White gave an update as Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Standing Committee:

- Meeting took place with himself, Director Ian Sullivan and Councillor Calvin Francis.
- Discussed with Corner Brook Pulp and Paper and they are not interested in Charlie's Place to remove timber due to distance and costs. They will have a follow up meeting with them on the next steps.
- Had a meeting with New Found Gold on July 16th in Grand Falls-Windsor. New Found Gold stated they must complete work in 2025 for 18 test pits. There will be more talks moving forward.
- Discussed the Member at Large position. A candidate has been selected but need to confirm they have status with the Band and will be notified soon.
- Next meeting date is tentatively set for September 10th.
- Vice Chief Colleen Paul pointed out the statement that read if a claim is lost, next company after New Found Gold have no legal obligation to consult indigenous groups, but that is not correct. Chief Brake said we should address that statement because they do have an obligation. Vice Chief Charlie White said they will have a conversation about it.
- Vice Chief Charlie White also claimed that there is no current funding to have a river guardian for the exploits river but once money is allocated it will be brought to Chief and Council.

Vice Chief Charlie White also discussed a report from the Fisheries Manager from July 7th.

- AFGs witnessed 50 salmon, 29 salmon retained, 31 inspections and 6 occurrences.
- AFGs in Bay St George are the lead on young eels. Monitor the catches and patrol rivers near Flat Bay, Barachois Brook, Stephenville Crossing and occasionally Warm Brook and Blanch Brook.
- CB AFGs team training guardians in inspection and more observe and report roles. Patrol Bay of Islands and lower Humber area. Helping with green crab work.
- Early season run of salmon on Humber is looking positive.
- Gander Bay AFGs are trainees and active in lower Gander River. Receiving tips on possible illegal activities and good relationship with other enforcement agencies.
- Glenwood teams patrol gander river and lake. Lots of inspection and community presence. Gander lake keeping a close eye on cabin owners.

- Salmon numbers are good, a little below average in central.

Band Manager Report

Band Manager Charles Pender gave an update on the following topics:

- Continuing to work with the Town of Peterborough regarding Wigwam Point.
- Continue to look to engage a consultant to oversee the governance and HR policy review.
- Compensation review information has been rolled out to staff. This was approved by Chief and Council on May 31st.
- An organizational review is in the works. A kick off meeting had taken place and will have another meeting in a few weeks.
- A new performance review tool is also in the works. The first meeting took place in June and will have another in September when staff return from summer holidays. It will take about 4-6 months and will need to establish a budget.
- A Compliance Officer started last week.
- Office space is an issue. Staff has grown in all locations. 3 Church Street has no AC and once it hits 30 degrees Celsius staff are sent home. Looking into heat pumps and other options.

Council Remarks

Charlie

- Himself and Councillors from Bay St George did a tour of the fish factory.
- Met with Triple Point and sent a report for your review.
- Powwow season has started. Nice to get out and enjoy the cultural celebrations.

Frank

- Land Camps took place last week in Gander and was a huge success. Interactions with kids and staff learning culture and building a sense of community is great.
- Tomorrow is the last day to apply for the Home Energy Initiative program.
- Many reached out to him with concerns about qualifications for the program. People struggle to heat homes with electricity that do not qualify that could use the support.
- Chief Brake stated that the guidelines come from the funder and change each time and can only go with what is available, but they will keep an eye out when other programs roll out. Will give that feedback to the funders as well.

Colleen

- Continue to support work and participate in Executive, Council, and Finance and Audit Committee meetings.
- Contributed to early consultations of the rezoning of Louie John Hill in partnership with the town of Grand Falls-Windsor with Councillor Shianne Squires, Chief Nelly Power and Andy Barker. Met with town to discuss parameters of the hill and identify where on the hill that was culturally relevant.

- Met with Minister Hutton to advocate funding to support indigenous arts to indigenize our spaces.
- Attended the Maritime and Arctic Security and Safety Mass conference in St John's. represented our Nations interest in marine and environmental and economic security.
- The Ship Stop Here campaign. Encourage to look that up, initiative uniting leading ocean marine and defense across NL to support connections and economic growth.
- Attended the opening of the Special Olympics in Gander.
- Provided input on the review of the Community Support program and contributed to restructuring conversations aimed at increasing clarity, accountability, and equity in our territory.
- Focused on restoring confidence in our governance practises by addressing concerns around our financial oversight and our policy compliance.

Ivan

- Gave thanks to council for the support for Education and Training.
- Powwow went great and thanked everyone for the support.

Shianne

- Sent apologies for not hosting a virtual replay of her previous ward meeting. Looking at September to complete this.
- Looking at getting training for naloxone kits with NL Health services for anyone who is interested.
- Attended with Vice Chief Colleen Paul regarding the Louie John Hill and rezoning the space
- Attended the Housing engagement session on the heat pumps. Members expressed appreciation for having virtual option for the meeting.
- Spent time at the Band office during the Badger fire evacuation. Residents are tough and kept each others spirits up, thanked Town of Badger, Town of Grand Falls-Windsor, and the Salvation Army for a wonderful job.
- Chief Brake stated that it is hard to see an increase in natural disasters. Looking at ways on how we can respond and be ready to help in any way we can.

Chief

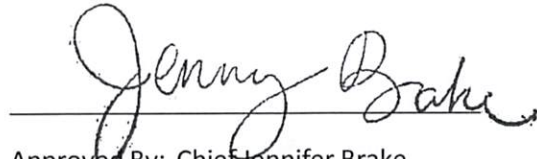
- Presented to the First Nations Financial Authority Board of Directors by initiation with 5 other First Nations in Canada that had successful stories that were funded by the First Nation Financial Authority regarding New Dock. Proud to present on New Dock. Asked her to speak again in October.
- Attended the BC5 summit in Ottawa. Over 400 Chiefs in attendance. Government on Canada said they would consult before, but they were not before the bill was decided on.
- One comment that was made during that time was "great if you hear us, but now we need to go back and fight with our province and make sure they hear us."
- We struggle for our provincial government to hear us and fight for our recognition.

- In Ottawa, sat on the committee around child welfare reform which is an ongoing issue between the commission and Assembly First Nation and federal government to resolve that. Continue to sit on the conversations.
- Met with ISC regarding Veterans File and forwarded an invitation to meet as soon as possible to meet and resolve this issue. Expressed concerns about this being an outstanding issue and still willing and eager to resolve it.
- Gave thanks to everyone for the work you do. Industry partners we meet we assure them our priorities are environment and social first, education and training and employment opportunities, as well as any opportunities for the Nation to create revenue streams that is where we are.
- Continue to monitor the MCS Baltic situation.

Adjournment- Western Vice Chief Charlie White motioned to adjourn the meeting and Central Vice Chief Colleen Paul second.

The council meeting ended at approximately 9:27pm

Minutes Submitted By:



Approved By: Chief Jennifer Brake



Certified By: Natasha White