



Qalipu
FIRST NATION

Qalipu First Nation

Council Meeting
May 30, 2026

**NewDock Project Office St. John's
& Microsoft Teams**

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Agenda

Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band Council Meeting

Agenda

Qalipu Community Room

Date

Traditional Opening

Welcome

Roll Call

Acceptance of Agenda

- ✓ Motion to Accept

Acceptance of Minutes

- ✓ Motion to Accept March 28, 2026, Minutes
- ✓ Motion to Accept April 2, 2026, Minutes
- ✓ Motion to Accept April 28, 2026, Minutes

Business Arising from the Minutes

- ✓ Action Items

BCR — L'nuk Rights and Territory Policy

- ✓ Motion to Accept

BCR — Official Language Policy

- ✓ Motion to Accept

BCR — Developing a Policy Brief on Housing Insecurity and Homelessness

- ✓ Motion to Accept

BCR — Forestry Planning and Management

Committee Reports

Council Remarks

Next Meeting

- ✓ Regular Meeting, Wednesday, July 15, 2026, Meeting Location TBD.

Adjournment

- ✓ Motion to Accept

Meet and Greet with Members and Guests

Attendance

The following members of Council and Staff attended the meeting:

Name:	Position:
Jennifer (Jenny) Brake	Chief
Colleen Paul	Central Vice-Chief
Charlie White	Western Vice-Chief
Francis Skeard (Virtual)	Councillor Glenwood
Calvin Francis	Councillor Gander Bay
Ernest Green	Councillor Corner Brook
Shianne Squires	Councillor Exploits
Lory Benoit-Jesso	Councillor Port Au Port
Ivan J. White	Councillor Flat Bay
Holly Muise	Councillor St. George's
Miranda Osmond	Councillor Stephenville
Brad Evoy	CAO
Natasha White	Senior Executive Assistant
Amanda Gaudett	Executive Assistant
Kellie Clarke	Communications Manager

Guests

The following guests and members of the public attended the meeting:

Laura Flynn
Heather Alexander
Joan Hodder
Melina Cooper
Sharon Halfyard
Hayward Burden

Jessica Gruncy
Joshua Skinner
Edward White
Deborah Gallant
Alexander White

John Burden
Joanann White
Jeff Combdon
Lorenda White
Joann Greeley

Invited Guests

Justin Campbell on behalf of First Light
Lisa Browne Head of the Rooms
Mayor Danny Breen

Deputy Minister Jason Higgins
Chief Misel Joe
Sheila O'Neil

Acceptance of Agenda– Motion 92- 2025-2026

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.			
Moved by:	Ernest Greene	Seconded by:	Charlie White
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

- Motion Carried

Acceptance of Minutes March 28, 2026 – Motion 93- 2025-2026

THAT the Minutes of March 28, 2026 be adopted.			
Moved by:	Lory Benoit-Jesso	Seconded by:	Shianne Squires
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

- Motion Carried.

Acceptance of Minutes April 2, 2026 – Motion 94- 2025-2026

THAT the Minutes of April 2, 2026 be adopted.			
Moved by:	Holly Muise	Seconded by:	Colleen Paul
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

- Motion Carried

Acceptance of Minutes April 28, 2026 – Motion 95- 2025-2026

THAT the Minutes of April 28, 2026 be adopted.			
Moved by:	Ivan White	Seconded by:	Charlie White
Motion Carried	All in favour	Nine (9)	One (1) Against

- Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

CAO provided an overview of ongoing action items, noting progress in several key areas. Updates were shared on structural considerations within the Education Department, as well as a review of employee compensation related to the use of personal devices. Governance improvements were also highlighted, including updates to meeting minutes to incorporate agendas and to enhance clarity around motions and recommendations.

Further work is underway regarding staff support measures, specifically related to cell phone reimbursement practices. The First Nation Financial Management Board (FNFMB) training has been scheduled and is taking place today, supporting continued governance and financial compliance efforts.

Progress continues on the organizational chart variance requested by Council, with a revised version including employee names and highlighted changes nearing completion.

Additionally, an open call has been issued for members to update their information in Ginu, and follow-up has been completed on various program-related inquiries.

BCR-L'nuk Rights & Territory Policy -Motion 96-2025-2026

THAT Council adopt the L'nuk Rights & Territory Policy, as amended.			
Moved by:	Holly Muise	Seconded by:	Colleen Paul
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

Council reviewed the proposed Band Council Resolution regarding L'nu'k rights and territory and expressed strong support for the document, noting its importance in affirming Mi'kmaq rights and interests across traditional territory.

Members emphasized that the resolution reflects the recognition of L'nu'k rights as protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act and reaffirmed that the absence of reserve lands does not diminish the Nation's inherent rights or connection to its unceded and unsurrendered territory.

Discussion highlighted the significance of the resolution as part of a broader effort to advance dialogue with the province, including continued advocacy related to the 1949 Confederation and the need for formal acknowledgement of its impacts on Mi'kmaq people. Council noted that meaningful reconciliation requires recognition of historical truths, including the exclusion of Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous peoples from the Terms of Union.

Amendments:

- Language was revised to replace references to “First Nations” with “Indigenous Peoples” to ensure inclusivity of all Indigenous groups, including non-status individuals and other Indigenous communities.

Decision:

- The motion for the Band Council Resolution on L’nu’k rights and territory policy was carried with the proposed amendment.

BCR-Official Language Policy -Motion 97-2025-2026

This policy is grounded in several key authorities within our Nation and internationally:

- The ongoing direction and guidance of the Sante' Mawio'mi (Grand Council);
- Articles 13-16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and,
- Article 28 of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (ILO 169) of the International Labour Organization;

This policy also reflects in the ongoing struggle for recognition and safeguarding of Indigenous languages, particularly reflected in the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, the Calls for Justice of the MMIWG Inquiry Report, and countless other inquiries led by and for our Nations and Peoples. In this, we acknowledge Canada’s affirmation of our rights in the federal *Indigenous Languages Act* (S.C. 2019, c. 23).

THAT Council approve the Official Language Policy, as amended.			
Moved by:	Miranda Osmond	Seconded by:	Shianne Squires
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

Council reviewed the proposed Official Language Policy, recognizing it as a significant step toward the revitalization, preservation, and promotion of the Mi’kmaq language within the Nation.

It was highlighted that considerable work has been undertaken by staff, particularly in advancing language initiatives and supporting ongoing learning efforts. Council acknowledged its collective commitment to language revitalization, including the intention to incorporate language learning into regular Council meetings to strengthen knowledge and use.

Council reviewed key provisions of the policy, including:

- Recognition of the Nation's duty to revitalize, use, develop, and transmit the Mi'kmaq language to future generations
- Adoption of the Smith-Francis orthography, in alignment with direction from the Sante' Mawio'mi
- Commitment to bilingual governance practices, including translation of roles, titles, signage, and official documents where feasible
- Plans to provide regular progress updates to Council
- Support for both internal capacity building and collaboration with external organizations aligned with Mi'kmaq language standards
- Promotion of Mi'kmaq language use across education systems and broader territory, including advocacy for bilingual signage and recognition across jurisdictions

Discussion noted that implementation would require a phased, multi-year approach, involving collaboration across departments, engagement with community members, elders, and language experts, and potential partnerships with other organizations to enhance capacity and resources.

Additional discussion included:

- The potential for a Mi'kmaq place-names initiative to support language visibility
- Clarification that "trusted external organizations" refers to partners aligned with established Mi'kmaq language standards and orthography
- Recognition of existing interest from municipalities and partners in supporting bilingual signage and language initiatives
- Motion Carried.

BCR 08-25-26- Developing a Policy Brief on Housing-Motion 98-2025-2026

THAT, Council instructs the CAO to engage with the Housing Division to develop a policy brief to both Federal and Provincial Ministers of Housing and Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador regarding systemic solutions to housing insecurity and homelessness impacting our members—including topics, but not limited to:

- Rent Control;
- Vacancy Control;
- Short-Term Rental Regulation;
- Planning and Zoning; and,
- Housing Accessibility and Affordability;

Moved by:	Ernest Greene	Seconded by:	Lory Benoit-Jesso
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

Council discussed the development of a policy brief on housing, with members raising concerns regarding barriers faced by members in accessing support programs.

It was noted that some existing program criteria, such as age limits for first-time home buyers and means-testing thresholds, may unintentionally exclude members particularly those who are purchasing homes later in life after extended periods of renting. Council emphasized the importance of ensuring that policies and advocacy efforts reflect the realities and needs of the membership rather than external program limitations.

Discussion also highlighted challenges faced by members living outside incorporated municipalities, including additional administrative requirements and potential barriers to accessing supports. Members noted the importance of ensuring equitable access regardless of living arrangements or location within the territory.

Administration clarified that many program restrictions are tied to external funding requirements from federal and provincial partners; however, efforts continue to advocate for greater flexibility and to identify programming opportunities with broader eligibility criteria. It was also noted that clear communication to members regarding these limitations is important.

- Motion Carried.

BCR 09-25-26-Forestry Planning -Motion 99-2025-2026

THAT, Council, through our Administration and government relations resources, with the Environment and Natural Division and Standing Committee, and the Membership engage with the province regarding the inclusion of our Nation and all Indigenous nations in critical forest management planning, including but not limited to:

- Environmental Protection Guidelines for Forestry Operations;
- Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy;
- Cyclical 5-Year Forestry Plans;
- FireSmart;
- Indigenous Consultation Policy; and,

THAT, QFN proposes further discussion with all relevant parties towards an Indigenous-led and developed process to lead the future of our territory's forest management planning processes.

Moved by:	Holly Muise	Seconded by:	Lory Benoit-Jesso
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

Council reviewed the proposed motion related to forestry planning and discussed considerations to strengthen the language and scope of the resolution.

Members emphasized the importance of forestry as a longstanding part of Mi'kmaq culture, highlighting the need to reflect both protection and sustainable management and utilization of forest resources within the policy. It was noted that the term "protection" alone may be interpreted as restricting activity, whereas a balanced approach should recognize responsible use alongside stewardship.

Council also identified the need to address broader systemic considerations, including:

- The Indigenous (Aboriginal) Consultation Policy, with concerns raised regarding inconsistencies in its application across Newfoundland and Labrador. Members noted the importance of advocating for improvements to ensure consultation processes better reflect the realities and needs of Mi'kmaq communities on the island.
- The inclusion of FireSmart principles as part of forestry planning, recognizing the increasing risks associated with climate change and the importance of proactive measures to protect communities from wildfire impacts.
- **Amendments:** Terminology Update (Scope of Forestry Approach):
 - Revise language in the background section of the BCR from "protection of forests" to include "protection and sustainable ecosystem management" to reflect both stewardship and responsible utilization of forest resources.
 - Add a provision to address the Indigenous (Aboriginal) Consultation Policy, with a focus on advocating for improvements to ensure it better reflects the needs and realities of Mi'kmaq communities in Newfoundland.
 - Include reference to wildfire resiliency planning (FireSmart principles) as a key component of forestry management, recognizing increased risks related to climate change.
- Motion Carried.

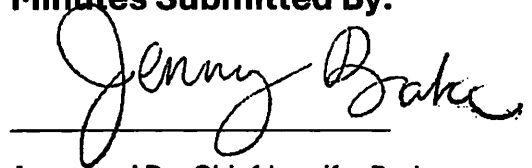
Motion to Adjourn-Motion 100-2025-2026

Moved by:	Calvin Francis	Seconded by:	Shianne Squires
Motion Carried	All in favour	Ten (10)	Zero (0) Against

The council meeting ended at approximately 12:30pm

Next regular Council meeting date is tentatively scheduled for **July 15, 2026**

Minutes Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer Brake", written over a horizontal line.

Approved By: Chief Jennifer Brake

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Natasha Lavers-White", written over a horizontal line.

Certified By: Natasha Lavers-White