

# Meeting Minutes

## **Fort William First Nation Governance Committee**

**Date:** Thursday December 4, 2014

**Location:** Aboriginal Awareness Centre, Lakehead University

**Chair:** Marlene Pierre

**Recorder:** Damien Lee (Governance Coordinator)

### **Present:**

Damien Lee

Jamie-Lee Wittmeier

Ken Cyrette

Marlene Pierre (Elder)

Stephanie MacLaurin

Lynda Banning

Louise Ward

### **Regrets:**

Councilor Phil (Benny) Solomon

Kelsea Pelletier

Councilor Trevor Wells

Jacob McKay

Councilor Wyatt Bannon

Agenda Item	Action
<b>1. Opening Prayer and Smudge</b>	➤ Marlene Pierre
<b>2. Review of Agenda</b>	➤ No new items added.
<b>3. Housekeeping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Update on Damien's December 3 presentation to Chief and Council (C+C): Damien's presentation to C+C was in camera, so no update was provided. On that note, the Committee decided the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Damien will email Wyatt Bannon with an invitation to attend our next meeting to discuss how the Committee can work with C+C when C+C discussions that touch on the Committee's work take place in camera.</li> <li>▪ Damien will draft a letter to C+C on behalf of the Governance Committee requesting information be shared with the Committee regarding what was decided in the in camera session. Purpose: Committee feels it needs information from this meeting to conduct its work on renewing the Membership Code in a properly informed manner.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Amend Governance Committee Meetings Schedule to reflect Focus Groups planning: Damien to review the Meetings Schedule and provide to Governance Committee for review. It was decided that we will still aim to have a finalized draft to provide to Council by May 2015. So:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It was decided that the Committee may need to break up into sub-committees to analyze the data garnered</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>through the Focus Groups. This may be done by setting up sub-committees to analyze based on "value," or by "section of code," or both.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Kelsea Pelletier has notified the Governance Committee that she needs to step away for a period of time to focus on her paid work. It was agreed that Kelsea will take a leave of absence, and will return in February, 2015. Damien will email Kelsea to confirm.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Finalizing the Methodology and Focus Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was agreed that the Governance Committee will do the following to facilitate Focus Group research in January-March 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each Focus Group will open with a telling of a sacred story (aadizookaan). Ken and Lynda will meet to decide which aadizookaan(ag) should be brought forward.</li> <li>▪ Focus Group participants will use art as a method to discuss the values underpinning how they include people in their families. We will use a "bubble" drawing, similar to "asset mapping."</li> <li>▪ Focus Group participants will be given the option to discuss their family connection using categories (e.g. "cousins", etc.) rather than naming each person they are connected to.</li> <li>▪ Damien will develop an information package explaining the Governance Committee's work as well as the history and meaning of the 1987 FWFN Membership Code so that Focus Group participants have all the required information for us to move on with the research.</li> <li>▪ It was decided that the Governance Committee will do a trial run with itself, to smooth out the details of our approach to the Focus Groups (trial: December 14).</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ "Conversation" will be our method of gathering information in the Focus Groups. "Conversation" has been recognized as a non-structured interview technique, allowing the discussion to go where it needs to go, thereby protecting the agency of the Focus Groups participants in sharing what they feel is important. To facilitate this conversation, Focus Group sessions will be guided by a single question; the Governance Committee will meet on December 14 to finalize said question. This question will set the tone of the discussion.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ December 14, 2014 at the Aboriginal Awareness Centre (LU). This will be a short meeting to conduct a trial run of the Focus Groups.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Meeting end</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adjourn</li> </ul>