

Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Held: June 10, 2014 in the Cultural Room at the FWFN community centre

Attendance

Louise Ward
Jamie-Lee Wittmeier
Stephanie MacLaurin
Lynda Banning
Ken Cyrette
Jacob McKay (Minutes)
Damien Lee (Chair)

Regrets

Benny
Kelsea Pelletier
Trevor Wells
Wyatt Bannon

1. Prayer & Smudge
2. Introductions: Jamie-Lee Wittmeier and Jacob Mckay
3. House Keeping

Brief history of the committee; it's work up that point, introducing other members and strategy to develop year plan

Elder Marlene Pierre has volunteered her time to sit on the committee as an elder; it was also noted that Elder Rachelle Johnson also showed interest.

Committee Coordinator Damien Lee made recommendation to allow Marlene Pierre and Rachelle Johnson to sit on the Governance Committee with observer status-this was unanimously accepted by the remaining committee members.

Motion to rotate minute takers accepted-this meeting Jacob Mckay

Honorariums unresolved; should be \$100/meeting; to be resolved by next meeting.

4. Possible Sub-Committees:

Community meetings: engaging community but not influencing focus group discussion; issue of directing discussions-suggested to hold Band Membership meetings prior to focus groups to initiate engagement;

Communications: webpage for Governance Committee on community webpage needs work; webpage not only source; Kelsea has developed outline for the next community newsletter.

Collect Sacred Stories: proposal to make sub-Committee to explore and collect sacred stories as they relate to Anishinaabe "belonging" law.

Committee members to decide amongst themselves what sub-Committee they would want to work with.

5. Discussion on Colonialism and *Zhaaganaashiiyaadizi*

Last two meetings spent rationalizing a decolonization process prior to implementing programs

Reviewed articles by Alfred Taiaiake and Albert Memmi

Understanding hidden influences of colonial thought within our thinking; being aware of it.

Discussion of these issues is an ethical approach to renewing the 1988 FWFN membership code.

Plan to carefully review 1988 Membership Code. The code has some very good components; but

certain clauses certainly suggest colonial influence (ex. Blood quantum).
Discussed FWFN 1987 Referendum to opt-out of the Indian Act in relation to its Membership policies; FWFN has its own code but does not enforce it.

5.5 Discussed Continuity of Anishinaabe law as it regards to discerning who belongs.
Re-cap of the Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850; 1849 census determined who was half-breed/full blood Indian
1850 Treaties-Chiefs stated that half-breeds must be accounted for; Commissioners explained that Chiefs would be given a sum amount to be divided as they wanted; the Chiefs decided that half-breeds get full amount of Full-bloods
Can trace belonging through Treaty annuity payments.
This treaty history shows that Anishinaabe law in discerning belonging has continuity. It never ceased to exist; this was shown again in the *Powley* decisions, where the courts deferred to Anishinaabe jurisdiction to protect metis hunting rights for more than a century without assimilating them in the process.

Blood Quantum enshrined in 1876 Indian Act; Once membership status became aligned with funding then First Nation communities began internalizing/implementing blood quantum mentality into their policies

Discussion of the term Zhaaganaashiiyaadizi; to live your life as a white person at the expense of being Anishinaabe; Anishinaabe perspective of colonization

6. Next Meeting

Brief synopsis of how the Committee is going to develop/facilitate discussions with community

Next meeting date tentatively June 24th/2014

Suggested that a Committee member present reference materials each meeting-Stephanie volunteered to present next meeting