

**Fort William First Nation Governance Committee**

**Date** Monday, May 26, 2014, 6:30 pm

**Location:** Fort William First Nation Council Chambers

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

**Recorder:** Lynda Banning

**Present:**

Damien Lee

Lynda Banning

Ken Cyrette

Louise Ward

Stephanie MacLaurin

**Regrets:**

Kelsea Pelletier

Councilor Phillip Solomon

Councilor Trevor Wells

Councilor Wyatt Bannon

Agenda Item	Action
1. Opening Prayer	➤ Louise
2. Review of Agenda	➤ Minutes from May 5, 2014 were reviewed – no revisions required
3. Honorariums	➤ A budget proposal has been submitted to Ian Bannon who is Damien’s Supervisor while Mike Hardy (FWFN CEO) is on vacation. ➤ Reinstatement of honorariums has been proposed and is waiting for approval
4. Draft Meeting Schedule Review (Attachment)	➤ 20 meetings is considered reasonable taking into account holidays and other community events. Committee accepted draft code with minor changes – final schedule. to be delivered at next meeting ( <b>refer to attached</b> ) ➤ Damien feels this is an ethical way to proceed ➤ We need to look first at what rules currently exist ie. UOI Citizenship Law, Indian Act, previous FWFN Membership Code, innovative membership codes from other First Nations ➤ Committee will do a critical review of the Indian Act and how it has impacted membership ➤ The example of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation was provided. They have made a decision to send a letter to United States Customs indicating ALL their members are 100% Anishinabek when members of that community are applying to work in the US; this exposes/undermines the fiction of blood quantum. ➤ We can either look at membership from a deficient (compete for meager resources) or proficient (get the numbers to keep us going) perspective ➤ A research plan will be developed using an Indigenous Research Model that begins from the starting point that FWFN as a self-determining community within a sovereign nation of Anishinaabeg. ➤ Sub-committees will need to be established to work on specifics ➤ Damien and Stephanie will meet with Kristy King regarding a communication strategy ➤ Discussion around transparency: have focus group/s and then have those groups vet what is being recorded as their statements ➤ Damien will speak with Chief and Council regarding the possibility of being prepared to hold a referendum vote on the revised Membership Code on the day of the 2015 election

<p><b>5. Review and Selection of new Committee members</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2 applications were received: Jacob McKay and Jamie Lee-Wittmeier</li> <li>➤ <b>Both applicants were accepted by Committee consensus</b></li> <li>➤ No new members will be added to the committee after meeting 2 for the duration of the current work plan – this enables Committee to reach its required goals in the next 12 months.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Next Meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Meeting 1</b> – Tuesday, June 10, 2014 @ 6:30 pm</li> <li>➤ Damien will let members know location.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. To Do</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Damien to provide finalized draft of meeting schedule</li> <li>2. Damien to get Council approval on work plan</li> <li>3. Damien to research focus groups, ethics</li> <li>4. Damien to confirm with 2 new members</li> <li>5. Damien to provide committee with draft budget for review</li> <li>6. Damien to deliver binders to members by Monday, June 2</li> <li>7. In preparation for next meeting, Committee members to read material for Meeting 1</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 8:30 pm</li> </ul>