

Meeting Minutes

Fort William First Nation Governance Committee

Date: Wednesday September 3rd, 2014

Location: Cultural Room, FWFN Community Centre

Chair: Damien Lee (Governance Coordinator)

Recorder: Stephanie MacLaurin

Present:

Damien Lee

Ken Cyrette

Louise Ward

Marlene Pierre (Elder)

Jacob McKay

Lynda Banning

Stephanie MacLaurin

Regrets:

Jamie-Lee Wittmeier

Kelsea Pelletier

Councilor Phil (Benny) Solomon

Councilor Trevor Wells

Councilor Wyatt Bannon

Agenda Item	Action
1. Opening Prayer	➤ Damien Lee
2. Review of Agenda	➤ Agenda accepted with one addition: update on sub-committees
3. Housekeeping	➤ Committee's newsletter is almost finished. It requires only a bio and picture (optional) from Jacob and Jamie-Lee.
4. Update on Sub-committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Engagement sub-committee: it is now urgent to plan and deliver the two community information meetings, one in September and the other in October. Point is to get the current membership code and supporting information into hands of community. Engagement sub-committee agreed to meet Sept 10 at 1 pm at the Lakehead University library.➤ Sacred stories: this sub-committee will review stories written down in William Jones's book (1917), as well as speak to knowledge holders in the community. Purpose is to focus on values found within the stories that speak to how "belonging" is conceptualized. Sub-committee will review the ethics documents in binder (tab 9) before speaking to knowledge holders, and will liaise with the ethics sub-committee to ensure their work does no harm.➤ Communication: the "Governance" page on the FWFN website is now updated. All committee members will review it: http://fwfn.com/government/governance/➤ Ethics and Methodology sub-committee: will meet this month to finalize decisions in preparation for focus group engagement.
5. Review of FWFN	➤ Damien gave an presentation to orient the committee within the

<p>Membership Code and the 1987 Context for Opting out of the Indian Act</p>	<p>membership code. He discussed the actors within the code, how they work, how applications are made for membership, the grounds for entitlement, and how decisions are appealed. The code, as is, is not perfect, but there are many parts of it that can be used in the next draft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Marlene felt the entire “probationary” process within the code runs counter to Anishinaabe approaches to belonging. She urged us to consider align the code with kinship/family/clan based approaches to discerning belonging and/or citizenship. ➤ Damien reviewed the critiques that INAC (now AANDC) provided to FWFN regarding problems with the code. These critiques will save the committee time in editing the code. See p. 2-3 of Tom Siddon’s June 26, 1990 letter to Chief Christi Pervais. ➤ Committee indicated which things they liked and did not like about the code: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Good</u>: The appeals section is needed; “Indian custom” is already included as an acceptable source of law within the code. ➤ <u>Bad</u>: Refusing membership based on medical issues; Code currently marginalizes kinship/family/clan based approaches to discerning belonging/citizenship; The adoption section could be clarified; Lacking guidance for situations where dispute arises between parents when one does not want child to be a band member; Code does not reflect recent issues arising from Matrimonial Real Property law. ➤ In embedding Anishinaabeg values within the code, it may be useful to add an interpretation clause in its preamble: “this code will be interpreted using Anishinaabe sacred stories.” ➤ Damien agreed to send to the committee a PDF of the presentation he gave on outlining how the code works.
<p>6. Next meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wednesday September 17, 2014 in the Elders Centre (FWFN Community Centre)
<p>7. Meeting end</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adjourn