

**FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION**  
**CHIEF and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Oct 08, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.**

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**CHAIR:** Chief Michele Solomon

**COUNCILLORS:** Desiree Morriseau-Shields (zoom), Jennelle Charlie, Kyle MacLaurin, Sherry Pelletier, Sheldon Bannon, Leo Bannon Jr., Bess Legarde

**STAFF:** Interim CEO - Ian Bannon, Exec. Asst. to CEO-Melissa Zeleny, Sheri Boucher – Director of Community Wellbeing

**REGRETS:** Yvette Greenwald, Jacob McKay, Brian Ludwigsen, Peter W. Collins, Bonnie Pelletier,

**GUESTS:** Anishinabek Nation – Chief Melvin Hardy, Brendan Houston, Matthew

**AGENDA – Call Meeting to Order** – Chair called meeting to order at 5:55p.m. With prayer and smudge by Chief Michele Solomon.

**MOTION #1** – *Moved by Leo Bannon Jr. and seconded by Kyle Maclaurin to accept the agenda for October 01<sup>st</sup>, 2025, with the agenda item removal of Stantec Building to be deferred and an addition of an HR Matter at the end of the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.*

**AGENDA ITEM - MEETING MINUTES for June 4 & June 25, July 9th, 23rd, 30th, September 10<sup>th</sup> & September 22nd**

**MOTION#2** *to accept the minutes for the dates identified above. Moved by Kyle Maclaurin, seconded by Desiree Morriseau-Sheilds. All in favor. Motion carried.*

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**AGENDA ITEM – PRESENTATION ANISHINABEK NATION**

Chief Melvin Hardy Brendan Houston, Matthew Hopp Director of Policy, Brendan Huston CEO of Nipissing First Nation

Anishinabek Nation wanted to come to have a high-level discussion with Council to develop a better understanding of the priorities of Fort William First Nation. They are meeting with First Nations to gather information to guide how they currently operate (i.e. what they do now and what they can do differently moving forward) They will then bring this information back to Anishinabek Nation for future planning.

Some identified areas of need by Fort William to Anishinabek Nation:

Land recognition, jurisdiction and concern about encroachment into Fort William First Nation territory, conflict with our own neighboring first nation who are under a different treaty (referenced Harvesting Letters)

Policing and funding: Need for enhanced policing and advocacy for increased funding. There seems to be a lack of on the ground, physical presence of police at times, in particular during a State of Emergency.

Policy and bylaw development: Fort William First Nation requires assistance creating and developing bylaws, policies, constitution and enforcement structures to exercise legal sovereignty. Question whether Anishinabek Nation is exploring a regional court or oversight for bylaws and enforcement. Resources: First Nation Gazette referenced as a resource for legal templates and constitutions.

Need for advocacy on the St. Joseph’s Indian Residential School File, survivors from the school are feeling setup with hopes of being able to commemorate are being met with funding cutbacks, as well as prevention, education, and support for the St. Joseph’s advisory council and survivors.

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Governance support: Request more assistance with constitutional development, governance agreements, and First Nations Land Management Act implementation.

Engagement and meetings: Anishinabek Nation specific departments/teams can come to FWFN to meet with Council or community as requested to provide information sessions; suggestion of an annual session between Fort William First Nation and Anishinabek Nation in addition to an annual meeting with all First Nations across our treaty to meet, get to know one another and get on the same page as Nations. (i.e. reimagine the Regional Meetings)

**Sheldon Bannon - Left meeting at 7:17pm**

**DEFERRED AGENDA ITEM – STANTEC BUILDING**

Stantec Building originally noted on today’s Agenda will be deferred until next week where we will have a full briefing from legal prepared to present.

**AGENDA ITEM - MOBILE EX TERMINAL – Letter of Support**

Mobile Ex Terminal (Shipping Port in the GTP Lands) currently one of our tenants, is in the process of completing an Application for Funding and has requested a letter of support from Fort William First Nation to go along with their application.

Mobile Ex currently employs a Fort William First Nation member, and it was recently written into their renewed lease agreement to make every effort to offer future employment opportunities to Fort William First Nation members.

Chief Michele Solomon wanted to bring this letter to review with Council before signing the letter of support and she proposes the following change in the second paragraph of their draft letter from “*will facilitate the secure and efficient export of Canadian Sourced lithium, Cesium and other priority critical chemicals*” to “efficient Export of Canadian Sourced Priority Critical minerals”, along with the understanding

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that Fort William First Nation will need to be informed what Minerals they are dealing before they actually export.

Action Item: Chief Solomon will make the agreed upon changes and send letter to Mobile Ex

### **AGENDA ITEM – WINDFARMS (7) BCR25-14 – BCR25-20**

Motion was passed at a previous meeting (Chief Solomon could not recall the date of this) with Oliver MacLauren regarding the Wind Farm proponents.

There are 7 BCRs that require signature. Chief Solomon reviewed language of BCR and each BCR is the same for all seven wind farm proponents.

***MOTION #3. Moved by Kyle MacLaurin seconded by Jennelle Charlie TO SIGN BCR25-14, BCR25-15, BCR25-16, BCR25-17, BCR25-18, BCR25-19, BCR25-20. All in favor. Motion has carried.***

### **IN CAMERA AGENDA ITEM – BCR25-21 Release of Jurisdiction**

***MOTION#4 Moved by Leo Bannon Sr and seconded by Jennelle Charlie council approves the signing of a BCR25-21 Releasing of Jurisdiction over donated genetic material of band member Sierra Gammond Wallace. All in favor. Motion carried.***

Action Item: BCR2025-21 will be drafted by Sheri Boucher with all the appropriate language and details regarding this item and will be signed by Council.

### **COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

**AGENDA ITEM - MERGE LANE UPDATE** – Interim CEO Ian Bannon met with Mike Strickland regarding the merge lane. The City of Thunder Bay is still waiting on a waiver from CN releasing jurisdiction over the small parcel of land being requested by the city. CN’s delay in issuing a one-page waiver is unclear; Mike will follow up with CN’s legal counsel. The City of Thunder Bay will purchase the land from Fort

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William First Nation; however, we are not directly involved in the legal matter between CN and the city of Thunder Bay.

Council suggested sending a letter of support to CN to help expedite the process, emphasizing the risks of delayed emergency access for Fort William First Nation residents.

*Action Item: Letter of Support to be drafted and sent to CN on behalf of Fort William First Nation (Chief & CEO)*

**AGENDA ITEM – TRAVEL COUNCIL POLICY**

*Action item: will be brought back to the next meeting, in final process of drafting.*

**Ian, Melissa and Janelle Charlie left meeting at 8:30 pm**

**INCAMERA SESSION BEGINS**

**FINAL AGENDA ITEM – IN CAMERA ITEM – HR (Council Only)**

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