



East Side Planning Initiative

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Broad Area Planning

RECORD OF DECISIONS
FIRST NATIONS COUNCIL MEETING
Legislative Building, January 29, 2004

Participants:

Berens River First Nation	Hilda Flett
Bloodvein First Nation	Frank Young
Bunibonibee Cree Nation	Chief Bailey Colon
Garden Hill First Nation	Jack Fiddler
God's Lake Narrows First Nation	Chief Gilbert Andrews
Hollow Water First Nation	Alternate – Rene Barker
Manto Sipi Cree Nation	Chief Moses Okimaw
Norway House Cree Nation	Jim Cromarty
Poplar River First Nation	Alternate – Emile Mason
Red Sucker Lake First Nation	Lawrence Harper
Sagkeeng First Nation	Joe Daniels
St. Theresa Point First Nation	Roy A. Mason
Wasagamack First Nation	Alternate - Joe Harper

Regrets:

Little Black River First Nation	Jonas Peebles
Little Grand Rapids First Nation	Nelson Keeper
Pauingassi First Nation	Albert Pascal
Grand Council Treaty #3	Joe Kuhn

1. RECORD OF DECISIONS OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A copy of Moses Okimaw's original draft MOU provided to FNC members.

The Regional Partnership Program Funding Application budget was amended and distributed during the FNC December 3, 2004 meeting.

A letter to the Minister requesting the province cover the cost of independent legal counsel to review the draft MOU was drafted and sent.

The motion requesting honorariums to FNC and Elders be paid has been submitted to government.

2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Moses Okimaw's original draft MOU and Government of Manitoba's draft MOU documents were distributed.

Discussion followed with the following points:

- Clarification of Recognition of Aboriginal & Treaty Rights
- It was determined that the MOU is specifically for First Nations
- The wording on page 3 Section 2G should be changed from "The First Nations Council must have... to will be provided with..."
- Caution about the wording of the document
- Will First Nation communities that have undertaken Land Use Studies be reimbursed
- Discussion of what the term "Case Law" means
- A map of the planning area is the missing Attachment A that is referred to in Moses's document
- The documents are for discussion only at this point and there is no requirements for signatures at this point
- Concern that Moses's original document has been "watered down to almost nothing"
- Difficult to do a comparative analysis on the documents after just having received Government of Manitoba's MOU document.
- The MOU should be a collaborative joint writing
- Recommendation made to take the best of both documents and combine them.
- Recommendation to have First Nation legal representative review the documents
- Does the document include inherent right to traplines
- Concern that government does not always act in the best interest of First Nations people

Ministers' Struthers, Robinson, Lemieux, Smith and Lathlin joined the meeting to discuss the Government of Manitoba's draft MOU. The joint meeting covered the following:

- An Aboriginal Issues Committee of Cabinet has recently been established to address the many different issues that departments receive
- Confusion and lack of understanding regarding the ESPI process
- There is a need to have government meet with FN leaders to work and develop this process

- Government recognizes that First Nations will have a say and they are committed to working with them
- The MOU is the first step and will lead up to a Protocol
- The wording on page 3 Section 2G was addressed and Minister Struthers replied that the wording does not imply that adequate funding would not be available to this process
- Representatives from the FNC need to be recommended to join the two appointed members from government to the MOU Working Group

Further discussion followed about the deadline of completing and signing of the MOU. Government is committed and will have 2-3 Ministers visit the participating communities to discuss the proposed MOU. The Ministers meetings with the communities are in addition to what is already in place.

The funding to this process was discussed and government is committed to assisting the FNC in the development of the MOU and its process.

3. INAC FUNDING APPLICATION

Bernie Wood reported the Regional Partnership Program Funding Application was submitted. INAC responded with a letter acknowledging receipt of the proposal and outlining addition requirements before the application can go any further. The Province of Manitoba will provide \$60,000.00 to this process if the proposal is denied. The Chair has not received a response from the INAC Director and is prepared to call the INAC Minister directly. The letter of response from INAC RPP was distributed.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding paying for elders meals so they can make it to the meetings. They do not have the funds to cover all the costs to attend the meetings and are therefor left out of the process. There needs to be something put into place if government is committed to include Elders in this process.

5. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

- a) Recommendation made for 3 FNC members to join the two appointed members from government to the MOU Working Group.
- b) Recommendation to have First Nation legal representative review both documents.