

**First Nation Council Record of Decisions  
August 29, 2003  
Canad Inn Polo Park – Winnipeg, Manitoba**

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**Member Attendees:**

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 - Herman Green
Little Black River First Nation	Alternate – Don Clarke
Little Grand Rapids First Nation	Nelson Keeper
Manto Sipi Cree Nation	Chief Moses Okimaw
Norway House Cree Nation	Jim Cromarty
Poplar River First Nation	Ed Hudson
Red Sucker Lake First Nation	Lawrence Harper
Sagkeeng First Nation	Joe Daniels
St. Theresa Point First Nation	Roy A. Mason
Wasagamack First Nation	Chief Brian Harper

**Regrets:**

Berens River First Nation	Hilda Flett
Pauingassi First Nation	Albert Pascal

**Secretariat:**

Ron Missyabit	Bill Anderson	Bruce Bruyere
Bernie Wood	Barb Hobson	Dale Sobkowich

**Guests:**

Caroline Bruyere	Doug Peterson	Ramona Bird-Billy
Gunther		

Caroline Bruyere said an opening prayer.

Ron Missyabit welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the status of Phil Fontaine as Chair.

Discussion followed and the members designated Ron Missyabit to chair this particular meeting.

Additions to the agenda were made and included:

- World Forestry Conference
- Item 6 change the word "Protocol" to MOU.
- Briefing on the establishment of the First Nations Council.

Approval of the agenda was moved by Herman Green and seconded by Chief Gilbert Andrews. Agenda approved.

Introductions of FNC members, Secretariat and guests were made.

There was discussion regarding the role of secretariat staff and the process used to fill positions.

There was a concern raised about members not receiving their expense claims in a timely manner. There was a request to change the process to expedite the members cheques.

Ron Missyabit covered the outstanding action items.

- Peter will contact Wade Munroe regarding outstanding Hydro items.
- Lori Thompson will be invited to the next meeting.

The minutes were adopted.

## **ELDERS GATHERING**

Barb Hobson provided a briefing on the Elder's Gathering. The Elder's Gathering has been postponed because Peter Kinew is unable to attend. There was discussion about Hollow Water First Nations Elders Gathering.

The issues and recommendations covered included:

- The number of elders from each community that would be involved
- recommendation made to invite an elder from each community to the next meeting
- translators would be required for some communities
- suggestion for a 2 day meeting
- purpose of the elders gathering is to clarify the role of the elders
- 3 elders to be represented from each First Nation community
- what role will the FNC play in this process
- suggestion made to incorporate the FNC meeting with the Elder's Gathering
- FNC needs to know the issues and process if the elders are to become involved
- Communities also need to be made aware of the process in order to plan

- Ron provided a brief history of the creation of the FNC at the members request
- Ensure purpose of Elder's Gathering is noted in the minutes
- Request made to include the youth to attend at the community's expense

Jack Fiddler motioned for an Elder's Gathering to convene with Roy Mason seconding and the motion was carried.

A member commented that November would not be a good month for St Theresa Point and would prefer October.

Details for the Elder's Gathering to be worked out by the Secretariat.

### **ESPI "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU)**

A draft copy of the MOU was handed out along with the revised copy. The chair suggested the FNC may want to strike up a subcommittee to discuss the MOU.

There was a question raised about why the FNC would need an MOU.

Chief Moses Okimaw replied he recommended the MOU because ESPI is a government initiative and therefore will impact on Aboriginal rights and government has a duty to consult.

Further discussion followed regarding the MOU and the following issues and recommendations were discussed:

- First Nation communities and it's members are suspicious of government
- What is the plan or is one already in place.
- There is currently a lot activity happening in the area from Hydro, Highways and industry.
- FNC was established to ensure their communities' interests are represented in this process.
- St Theresa Point has requested Hydro to cease all activity in their community and they have been very responsive and have complied.
- Comment made that this process needs to be put into place to protect First Nation rights and the need to ensure this is reflected in the MOU.
- Recommendation made to have a workshop on "duty to consult" and a seminar on case law so all the members understand what is meant by "Duty to Consult".
- Recommendation made for the FNC to seek advice from an independent legal counsel.

Ron reported that Hydro wants to go back into the communities. Minister Ashton has discussed with Minister Sales this process takes precedence and Hydro will have to hold off until this process is completed.

A motion was passed for First Nation Council members to take the documents back to their communities for discussion with the leadership and come prepared for the next meeting to discuss it.

The motion was made by Chief Bailey Colon and seconded by Chief Gilbert Andrews.

**Action Item 1: The MOU to be included on the Agenda for the next FNC meeting.**

**Action Item 2: The chair was directed to seek approval from the Minister on whether government will cover the cost of independent legal counsel.**

It was noted that the Terms of Reference indicates that the FNC can seek independent legal advice.

**Action Item 3: Distribute copies of The Consultation Process Appendix B to the members.**

## **VIDEO**

The video was viewed and discussion followed. The chair discussed Phil's desire to remain as chair for the committees. The Round Table directed the Secretariat to send a letter to the Minister supporting the position that Phil Fontaine remain the chair of both the Round Table and the First Nation Council. The letter of support for Phil Fontaine to remain as chair distributed to the FNC members. Discussion of appointing a co-chair and setting regular scheduled meetings to allow for the chair to be available to attend.

## **COMMUNITY VISITS**

Bernie Wood gave a presentation and update of the scheduled community visits. The following items were discussed:

- Community Co-ordinator 1 day meeting scheduled for September 5, 2003 at the Canad Inns Polo Park
- Bloodvein First Nation to be added back onto the schedule as they were missing from the revised schedule
- The budget to be adjusted to meet the needs of each community
- Be aware of the time of season and weather when scheduling visits
- Radio as a form of informing communities of visits
- Be aware of satellite communities
- Transportation for isolated communities

The needs and wishes of the communities will be considered when scheduling the visits.

**Action Item 4: Add Bloodvein First Nation back onto the community visits schedule.**

## **MAPS**

Dale Sobkowich gave a presentation on the 22 maps to be sent to the communities.

- Digital packages to made available for reprint
- Dale to update maps as the information becomes available
- Dale will present and go through each map to the Community Co-ordinators as he will not be available to attend every community visit
- Will create JPG, TIF & GIF files to allow easy access for all communities
- Member indicated he has seen TK maps
- Another member took the request of sharing Traditional Knowledge for mapping and the elders indicated no
- The elders are not comfortable in sharing traditional/sacred rights with other people

**Action Item 5: Include Ownership of Traditional Knowledge to the agenda for the next FNC meeting.**

**Action Item 6: Secretariat to distribute the final copy of the First Nation Council's Terms of Reference.**

## **INAC FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

Ron gave a presentation on the INAC funding requirements for the RPP Program. Discussion and recommendations of implementing the funds followed and included:

- Suggestion to go through the 3 tribal councils in the area
- How to access the funding and how it should be spent
- This would be designated a "Special Project" within the Tribal Council so money did not get sucked up in other areas
- Concern that one tribal council getting more funds than others.

Bernie expressed INAC'S concern they had regarding flowing funding through three Tribal Councils. INAC expressed that 1 First Nation entity would be more appropriate for processing application and project reporting.

**Action Item 7: Secretariat to continue to work on the funding process and get it into the system as quickly as possible.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **World Forestry Congress**

The conference was discussed and the FNC was informed a request was made by the Round Table to send a member to the conference.

### **Creation of First Nation Council**

This was covered earlier in the meeting and the members agreed the brief history provided gave them an understanding of how the FNC was created.

### **Raw Sewage Dumping into Lake Winnipeg**

There were concerns expressed about raw sewage being dumped in to Lake Winnipeg and the affect it will have on fishing and the environment. The members were informed that the Lake Winnipeg Advisory Committee created to address these concerns.

### **Action Item 8: Forward the Lake Winnipeg Advisory Committee list to the First Nation Council members.**

### **Winter Road**

Concerns raised about the conditions of the winter roads and vehicles abandoned on the road.

### **EXPENSES**

Concerns voiced again regarding the expense process and the secretariat to try to develop a process to ensure the members receive their checks in a more timely matter.

Elder Caroline Bruyere gave the closing prayer and the chair adjourned the meeting.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING:**

- Memorandum of Understanding document
- Gord Hannon comments to the MOU
- First Nations Council Terms of Reference
- Round Table letter of support for Phil Fontaine