

ONIHCIKISKWAPOWIN –
SADDLE LAKE CREE NATION-
BAND MEETING

UPDATE TO THE NATION – JUNE 5, 2017

Key Issues

Many issues impact the Saddle Lake Cree Nation – international, national, regional and local:

- Federal budgets – law and policy changes
- Provincial budgets – law and policy changes
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Implementation
- IRS Truth and Reconciliation – 94 Calls to Action

Key Strategies

Working to address the impact on the nation and nation members:

- ongoing governance strategic sessions; meetings with government officials and industry reps
- working with Directors and Advisory Committees to address member needs
- being cautious about government intentions for off-load and beginning long term strategy development

WE ARE IN A NEW ERA OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

- ▣ 2015 – **Federal** Liberal Government
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

“It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations peoples: One that understands that the constitutionally guaranteed rights of First Nations in Canada are not an inconvenience, but rather a sacred obligation; one that is based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership; one that is guided by the spirit and intent of the original treaty relationship; one that respects inherent rights, treaties and jurisdictions; and one that respects the decisions of our courts,”

- ▣ 2015 – **Provincial** NDP Government – Premier Rachel Notley

“To Alberta’s Indigenous Peoples, the trust that we have been given tonight is a call to be better neighbors and better partners.”

Nation to Nation – What does it mean?

Saddle Lake
Cree Nation -

Treaty
Principles

Recognition of
Jurisdiction

Meeting the
needs of the
people

- ❑ Federal Liberals have been working on issues to define: Reconciliation, Nation to Nation and Fiscal Relations.
- ❑ Meetings with Federal INAC Minister Carolyn Bennett; we are working to have her come to the nation...and are also working to have Trudeau and Notley meet with Chief and Council during the Council of the Federation Meeting summer 2017.

Government to Government

- Province of Alberta is meeting with First Nations and we are cautiously working to address outstanding issues at each opportunity
- Renewal of the First Nations Consultation Policy
- Child and Family Services – Ministerial Panel
- Educational outcomes and curriculum/language focus
- Infrastructure including protocols/agreements on roads
- Indigenous Climate Leadership Plan – Treaty Six leadership working together on processes to ensure our traditional territories and traditional way of life are protected.
- Economic diversity – low energy focus and resulting in a lowered economy in Alberta impacts our ability to secure employment and financial security

SLCN Issues – Work underway

- Nation to Nation deliberations with GoC
- Government to Government with GoA
- Relationship building with Industry and others

Proposals for North/South Road and gravel in to both INAC and discussions underway with Government of Alberta – 2 meetings since January. Meeting tomorrow with Canada and Alberta on partnership and funding

- Creating working tables on issues of concern – health care access, educational outcomes, infrastructure- roads, adapting to climate change and economy

SLCN – Work Underway

- Feasibility study for new elementary school – coming to conclusion
- Expansion of the Saddle Lake Health Care Centre – and a New draft protocol agreement with the Federal Minister of Health
- Successful first year proposal in to Health Canada for traditional knowledge transfer; ‘on the land’ opportunity for youth and knowledge holders, potential to continue for 5 years. Held first meetings with 30 seniors/Elders in Watrous, SK in May 2017.

SLCN – Work Underway

- Saddle Lake Employment and Training Centre Grand Opening in February 2017
- MOU with BearSlashing and Site and others in development. Working toward securing a cross-territorial MOU with Treaty 8 partners in creating job opportunities on any future pipeline development activity.
- Preliminary work for Bison rebuild under discussion with Mikisew and others
- New fire hall in the works

SLCN – Work Underway

- GoC has proposed Saddle Lake take the lead on developing a citizenship/membership proposal – underway
- We are not merely responding to Federal Legislation Bill S-3 on membership changes to the Indian Act – we will be taking a proactive approach to ensuring decisions about membership do not happen without our influence.
- Linking this with the need to amend and update the Saddle Lake Tribal Customs – Elections Regulation.

Meetings with Federal Minister of Health, Jane Philpott, Regional Director General, Jim Sisson



Issues Impacting SLCN / SLCN Actions

- The **Future of the Indian Act** – Government aims to remove/abolish the Indian Act - we must be prepared.
- **Canadian Human Rights Tribunal** – Discrimination Cases – Jordan’s Principle – health care access for those with disabilities, children in care and others.
- Community Gatherings – Four times per year as part of goal to connect our past/knowledge to the future.
- Community Newsletter underway
- Moving ahead with community planning over 5 years and begin planning for change on SLCN terms.
- Working to increase funding to address needs and to create the tools to respond to change: Election Code update, Membership Code, Land Planning

Big Issues Impacting SLCN

- Canada and Alberta **Climate Change** initiatives- SLHCC working on establishing linkages between traditional knowledge and the environment focusing on transferring knowledge between youth and knowledge holders/Elders.
- Federal and Provincial **Education changes** – legislation and funding arrangements

January 2016 – Community Gathering – Knowledge Transfer and Visit by the Indigenous Affairs Minister of Alberta, Richard Feehan at the 2016 Baby Celebration



Important Meeting outcomes up to now

- Chief met with PM Trudeau in October 2016- delivered letter stating the objective for recognition and treaty as basis for nation-to-nation
- Chief and Councilor Moosewah met with INAC Minister Carolyn Bennett in Ottawa in December 2016 – delivered letter and spoke directly to her about education, infrastructure and invited her to come to Saddle Lake this summer.

Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada – Carolyn Bennett

Chief Makokis met with INAC Minister Carolyn Bennett in Ottawa December 6, 2016 regarding Education, Infrastructure and meeting needs



Relationship Development – MOU with BearSlashing and Site to create jobs – Also working on political and technical tables with Government of Alberta



Planning is Important – Working Together

- SLCN Governance Strategic Planning is underway
- SLCN Directors monthly meetings – aim to begin strategic planning (key opportunities are in data gathering, analysis and info sharing)
- Tipi Model – how to incorporate
- UNDRIP and TRC Calls to Action – nation to nation principles
- Prioritize needed areas such as membership and election laws
- Planning for the Planning enables leadership to see action in an ongoing way
- The final plan outlives the election cycle enabling stability in action and seeing strategies to their completion
- This Federal Government is moving to abolish/remove the Indian Act, a plan of action provides SLCN with an opportunity to be prepared.

Guided by our History and Focusing on our Future



Courtesy: St. Paul Journal, Feb 2017

Portfolio Reports – Health

- Protocol Agreement with Federal Minister of Health provides a Nation to Nation opportunity to dialogue with her on treaty based, medicine chest clause oriented services delivery and governance issues.
- Health facility extension is underway with completion slated for 2018-2019
- Concern for services denial in Non-Insured Health Benefits – continued lobby, meetings are ongoing
- Jordan's Principle implementation

Portfolio Reports - Education

- Long term goals for asserting jurisdiction and seeking recognition for our treaty right to education
- Asserting our rights to education is an Inherent right reflected in Treaty No. 6
- INAC is currently seeking authorities for new funding mechanisms, education statutory funding and mutual accountability task teams from September 2017 to December 2017

Portfolio Reports - Education



- Education Law was completed in 2015-2016
- All feedback is welcome

Portfolio Reports – Education

- New school in feasibility stage
- Discussions underway with Government of Alberta regarding curriculum, student outcomes and tuition issues
- Dealing with aging facilities includes busses; impacts to busses is linked to roads issues
- Working at trying to address longstanding racism and discrimination in schools

Portfolio Reports – Post-Secondary



- Lack of funding for the high need of people wanting to attend post-secondary continues to be the highest pressure in post-secondary

Portfolio Reports – wahkohtowin

- Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decided in 2013 that Canada is discriminating against children on reserve when it comes to funding and services for health, education and child welfare.
- Funding has been slow to be released but we continue to monitor and lobby the government with regard to implementing Jordan's Principle.
- Jordan's Principle was created after an Indigenous child died in hospital because federal and provincial government fought about who was responsible to pay for his health care.
- INAC Alberta Region is working on a Saddle Lake based pilot project where dollars will be provided to review the reporting approach for CFS dollars.

Portfolio Reports - wahkohtowin

- Alberta has implemented a Ministerial Panel on Child and Family Services after concern has been raised about children dying in care, both in a First Nation and away. These concerns mean that Alberta will review how it implements legislation for protecting children from harms while in the care of authorities and this includes the Delegated First Nations Agencies. Leadership has met with Alberta Minister of Indigenous Relations 2x to scope out to discuss child and family issues and the possibility of creating a working table to address cross-governmental issues.
- Restructuring Wahkohtowin is underway. Part of this includes shifting focus from intervention based strategies under protection and moving more resources to prevention. Building a Family Enhancement Unity to support families in healing and ultimately supports for them to stay together working through problems.
- The Saddle Lake group home, Eagles Nest, has been closed. A miyo wicihtokamihk (helping house) is now in development. Workshops, training and ceremony will be offered

Portfolio Reports – Public Works/Housing

- Many projects approved in 2016-2017 – over 9 million in federal investments are underway
 - ▣ New fire hall
 - ▣ School renovations
 - ▣ Arena roof and solar panels

Housing: Emergency Repair Program (roofs/furnaces); retrofit (5 units); 10 renovations; Multi-units (additional supports from INAC Infrastructure)

Portfolio Reports – Public Works

- ❑ Feasibility study being completed for Waterline Expansion, Housing Capital Plan, Subdivision and Elementary School
- ❑ School renovations underway
- ❑ Additional funds for band office roof
- ❑ State of emergency (roads and water delivery)
- ❑ 5 Unit CMHC Retrofits
- ❑ Garbage truck – repairs

Portfolio Reports – N/S Roads

- Proposal submitted for upgrading north and south road and additional side-roads
- Discussions with Government of Canada, Government of Alberta on partnership and funding

Portfolio Reports – Social Development



- Implementation of the wrap-around initiative

Portfolio Reports – Lands/Resources

- Land Claim –status update – GFL impacts?
- Alberta energy and revenues impacted (decreasing revenues because of low prices for gas and oil and less development) which also reflects in Saddle Lake
- Looking for alternative partnerships to diversify opportunity for the nation
- Indigenous Climate Leadership Plan – earmarks Indigenous dollars for developing and partnering on adaptation and mitigation of climate change

Portfolio Reports – Employment and Training

- Grand Opening of Employment and Training Centre in February 2017
- Focus is on training individuals for employment
- Truck Driver training is ongoing
- ASETS agreement renewal in the next fiscal year

Portfolio Reports - Consultation

- ❑ Draft form – Saddle Lake Cree Nation Consultation Policy
- ❑ Response to and monitoring of Government of Alberta – Consultation Policy Renewal (7th time in 8 years by Alberta)
- ❑ Duty to Consult – issues with interpretation between governments, industry and First Nations

Portfolio Reports - Consultation

- ❑ Free, prior and informed consent – internationally protected
- ❑ First Nations hold balance of power relative to the duty to consult especially in resource development and any expansion activity. Alberta and Canada know this which is why Consultation remains a highly contentious issue.
- ❑ Treaty supersedes policy and courts have agreed with First Nations interests in lands and resources must be protected.

onihcikiskwapowin - membership

Implications of Bill S-3

What is Bill S-3

- ❑ An Act to Amend the Indian Act (elimination of sex-based inequities in registration)
- ❑ Amends the Indian Act to provide new entitlements to registration in the Indian Registrar in response to the *Descheneaux* Case.
- ❑ *Supreme Court of Quebec (2015)*...to provide that the persons who become so entitled also have the right to have their name entered in a Band List...

What does it mean to First Nations?

- ❑ Increased numbers of people added to the membership/band list without any additional dollars attached regarding funding for services, including health, education and housing, etc.
- ❑ Increased number of people added without increased land base and infrastructure to address the need

Funding and Membership

- ❑ Federal 2% cap on overall funding remains in place despite Canada's promise to remove it and discuss new formula based on treaty.
- ❑ Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has already indicated that INAC under funds children on reserve and that underfunding also extends to our treaty rights to health, education, housing.

The Survival of Indigenous Peoples

- Bill S-3 is intended to be part of Indian Act reform and a long-standing push to remove sex-based discrimination in the Act. Bill C-31 in 1985 and McIvor (Bill C-3) in 2010-2011 was the first of these significant court cases.
- Other significant issues – including undisclosed or unknown paternity, the 2nd-generation cutoff, federal authority to determine status, and jurisdiction over citizenship...must be addressed in the Nation to Nation conversation.
- This conversation is essential as the 2nd-generation cutoff has been designed to and will result in the eradication of status Indians in Canada within 100 years.
- Determining citizenship/membership is a function of the basic and fundamental governance mechanisms of a nation. No other nation should have that influence and yet Canada continues to impose expectations on us 150 years later.
- This conversation offers us all a most significant opportunity to define ourselves: nehiyawewin? iyiniwak? Treaty? Status? Registered? Red Ticket? Indigenous? Cree? Aboriginal? Citizenship?

INAC's Action Plan

- Two Stages
 1. Canada talked to First Nations and Indigenous groups about amendments to the Indian Act to address sex-based inequities in *Descheneaux*. Bill S-3 was introduced to the Senate on October 25, 2016.
 2. Canada launched a 'collaborative process' to address the broader issues relating to Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship with a view to reform.
- 2nd stage set to be implemented July 3, 2017 once the Bill passes through House of Commons and Senate readings and royal assent.
- 19 Million has been set aside over 5 years to deal with the registration of those will become entitled as a result of the new legislation
- Significant time and administrative effort will be put into place for processing and verifying individuals in each nation impacted.

onihcikiskwapowin – Action Plan

- SLCN will be impacted if there are new members needing to be added to our band list.
- SLCN is a band where registration and membership continue to be connected to the federal Indian Registrar however we have our own office and provide these services ourselves.
- SLCN is developing a funding proposal in order to discuss with all nation members the issues surrounding membership with a 'made in Saddle Lake' plan for the future.



Onihcikiskwapowin – onikaniwak (back) Darrell Quinney, Sam Cardinal, Herb Cardinal, Robbie Moosewah, Terry Cardinal (front) Chief Eddy Makokis, Pauline Hunter, Leslie Steinhauer, John Large