

CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND

Quarterly Reports

June 2012

File Copy



*WY
PBC. AB*

**CHIEF and COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR
JUNE 2012**

Ahneen Georgina Island Membership!

Please take the time to enjoy reading our 3rd Quarterly Report from Chief and Council.

Also please be advised that Council is always available to meet with membership when scheduled through Natalie at the front desk, do not hesitate to contact Chief or any Council members for questions or suggestions. Miigwetch!

Community Announcements:

Council would like to thank Community Consultation Worker, Suzanne Howes for arranging and organizing the Aboriginal Day festivities. Her, Ian BigCanoe and Wellington Charles all volunteered and took the time to host the games and activities while the police did the barbeque. A big thank you goes out to these individuals for taking the initiative to put this event on. Everyone enjoyed themselves and had a good time. The fireworks were spectacular!

A Joint Services meeting was held with some Council members on what we can do or how we can support initiatives to combat drug and alcohol abuse as well as suicide prevention. The meeting was very well attended by the committee and a quorum of Council. We all had a chance to discuss the impacts that a crisis in the community had on our roles and positions in the community and how we can in the future prepare and be there for community members who are suffering from the impacts. As we all were grieving over the incident. Everyone was seeking immediate action but we came to realize that programs and planning take time if we want them to be a success and well attended by the membership. Suggestions were taken back to full Council and proposals began as well as the planning from various departments. It was decided that a follow up meeting with the lead managers be held with full Council to come on board to lead and direct who will take responsibility for the initiatives and planning. We want to create an initiative that we hope the membership will support and also take action on.

Coldwater Claim:

Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama First Nation and Beausoliel First Nation all successfully passed the Coldwater Vote on April 14th. Nawash First Nation had their vote on July 7th and it was a successful vote as well! We would like to congratulate all the First Nations on ratifying this important claim.

Next steps are to receive a Federal Government Order in Council following that no appeals are made within 7 days of Nawash's vote. The Order in Council is a process authorizing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to sign the Settlement Agreement. Federal Officials will begin to work on the Order in Council which can take about 3 months to secure or longer. The Order in Council involves the cabinet process therefore the timing cannot be accurately stated. However with the high profile of the Coldwater Narrows claim and the constant pressure we are putting on them, we hope it will be a faster process. Once the Order in Council is attained and the Minister has signed off then Canada can take up to 45 days to pay out compensation to the First Nation Trusts.

It's been a long run but we are almost at the finish line!

Williams Treaty:

Court proceedings and Community evidence began on May 7th at Rama First Nation. Our profile witness for Georgina Island was elder Andrew BigCanoe. Council was in attendance the day Andrew had to go onto the stand for our people. He was amazing! He was very knowledgeable and did very well in the examination process; his answers were very consistent and well answered. I and Council were very proud of Andrew and his ability to stay calm and remain firm in his answers. He was on the stand the whole day and was questioned consistently about our First Nation and the treaty. Council would like to thank Andrew for taking the time and energy to be on the witness stand for Georgina Island and speak on behalf of our ancestors and our membership concerning the Williams Treaty.

In - court proceedings will commence in Toronto in October.

Health:

Many of the departments in Health have been concentrating on the serious Mental Health problems which have arisen in the Community over the past few months. We have had the first of a number of workshops with staff, department heads and the community to prioritize crisis issues and gaps in our services. It can be difficult to solve some of these problems due to money constraints but we do our best to try to find solutions.

The South-East Health Board will no longer be funded by the Union of Ontario Indians. Medical Services has cut the Union's budget and there is no money for the four Health Boards in Ontario. These boards have provided much needed information, the opportunity to work with other First Nations on Health projects and to prepare ourselves for changes coming from Medical Services. The South-East Health Board and our Health staff representatives on the board are working together to try and secure funding to at least meet four times a year to discuss the impacts with other First Nations and the changes to the Health Care system and how First Nations are handling it.

Social Services:

Cut Backs, Cut Backs, Cut Backs! These words best describe what is happening in the Welfare budget. The cut backs are coming and have already began as of July 1st from both the Provincial funders and Indian Affairs. As of now Health and non health related discretionary benefits have been capped at \$10.00 per case load.

The meeting with the Chiefs of Ontario in June discussed the issue and it was corresponded to us that it was too late to change the cut backs that have already come down but we can urge and stress that a moratorium on the cuts be put in place. First Nations lack the additional support programs that are available in municipalities; therefore, we have limited resources to draw on. The Chiefs of Ontario are bringing the issue forward to the Provincial representatives.

Recreation:

Wellington Charles is our new Recreation Manager. He has the children participating in sports, helping out with the girls Ball Hockey, doing crafts and encouraging parents to volunteer. He will be managing the summer camp called Camp Ooma Wigwaming (This is our place) which will begin July 9th to August 17th for ages 6-12 years with parents picking children up for lunch. Lots of trained staff will be assisting in this program that has their CPR and Camp Councillor Training.

This is an excellent start to what promises to be a very good program.

Education:

There will be some staff changes at Waabgon Gamig for this coming September.

- Ms. Tanya Leary has transferred to another school and students, parents and staff saw her off with a warm and sad farewell. The Waabgon primary class will welcome Ms. Tiffany Barber as their new teacher in September.
- We are excited that Debbie Fuime has agreed to join the Waabgon school team in September as our new Education Assistant. The children will be familiar with Miss Debbie as they all know her from the childcare center. Jodi Johnston is leaving to pursue a position with the York Region District School Board.

Morning Glory School graduation was on June 26th. Congratulations goes out to Graydon Davidson and Sage Castle on their grade 8 graduation.

Sutton District High School graduation was on June 28th. Congratulations goes out to Jordan Hartwick, Howard Dennis, Hayley Williamson, Bruce Big Canoe and, Billy Villeneuve on receiving their grade 12 diploma. Way to go!

The Georgina Island Education Committee is seeking two new members to start a new two-year term in September. Please see Lauri Williamson, Education Manager if interested.

August 20 – 25, Waabgon School Staff along with some keen parents will be attending “the Art of Mentoring” training to learn about nature based learning and the importance of sharing our gifts with our children.

On May 11th, Georgina Island hosted a Visioning Session with the York Region District School Board to discover and plan strategies to further support aboriginal students who attend provincial schools. Further sessions will take place in the fall.

Environment:

A compactor has been stationed behind the Marina Restraunt for recycling; we encourage the membership to be diligent in the recycling program to keep our landfill site from overflowing. It is important that we take as much garbage off the First Nation so that our future generation of children will not have to deal with the devastating effects of the over flow of garbage on our beautiful island.

Water Station:

Repairs need to be done on the Water Station which may create turn off of the water for a couple of hours. The water quality is not affected from the repairs that are needed as the repairs are outside the raw waterline. When the repairs begin notices will be sent out to community members notifying them of any shut downs of the water on the First Nation.

Finance:

The audit has begun and our Finance staff have been very diligent in providing the information required as well as answering any and all questions posed by the auditors. Once the audit is complete Council will be scheduling a Community Auditors meeting in the Fall.

***Council wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!**



July 9, 2012

COLDWATER – NARROWS LAND CLAIM UPDATE

NINETY-THREE PERCENT SAYS 'YES' IN NAWASH VOTE

On July 7th, 2012, the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation voted to accept the Coldwater Narrows Settlement Agreement. A total of 822 votes were cast with 757 voting to accept, 57 to reject the Settlement Agreement and eight spoiled ballots.

The Chippewa Tri-Council First Nations, which include the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, Beausoleil First Nation and the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, all voted to ratify the Settlement Agreement on April 14th, 2012. Now that all four communities have ratified the Settlement Agreement, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (AANDC) will seek authority from Cabinet to execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of Canada.

Once the Minister has authority to sign the Settlement Agreement, the Chippewa Tri-Council First Nations, Chippewas of Nawash First Nation and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs will formally sign the Settlement Agreement and then Canada will pay the compensation to the First Nations.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE COLDWATER-NARROWS LAND CLAIM

This process may take between three (3) and seven (7) months for the compensation to be paid by Canada to the First Nations. This schedule includes:

- 1) There is a seven (7) day period following the July 7th vote for appeals
- 2) Following a successful vote, the federal government must secure an Order-in-Council authorizing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to sign the Settlement Agreement on behalf of Canada. This typically takes between three (3) to six (6) months.
- 3) Once the Order-in-Council has been attained and the Minister has signed the Settlement Agreement, Canada can take up to forty-five (45) days to pay the compensation to the First Nations.

The Chippewa Tri-Council Chiefs and Councils and the Chippewas of Nawash Chief and Council and their respective negotiation teams have begun taking steps to influence Canada to expedite this process and provide the compensation as soon as possible. We have received written confirmation that the process will be expedited as much as possible. However, an Order-in-Council involves the Federal Cabinet and the Chippewa Tri-Council and Nawash have no control over the Cabinet process.

For further information regarding the Coldwater Narrows Land Claim, please contact any member of Chief and Council.