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**Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord  
Board Meeting  
Westbank First Nations Health Centre ~ Westbank, BC  
12 October 2006 ~ 9:52 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Attendees:** Lori Swanson, Edna Terbasket, Pauline Terbasket, Marg Ahdemar, Kelly Kubik, Debbie Abbott and Roy Christopher

**Staff:** Eliza Terbasket

**Guests:** Geoff Greenwell, Assunta Rosal (11:45) and Elaine Herbert (11:45)

**MCFD:** Lesley du Toit, Deb Foxcroft and Doug Hughes (all from 12:05 to 2:15 PM)

**Recording Secretary:** Sandra Young

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**1. Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Edna Terbasket provided the opening prayer.

**2. Review & Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion #1:** *Motion to adopt the agenda with the exception of having Geoff's presentation at the beginning of business arising.*

*Moved by: Pauline Terbasket, Seconded by: Edna Terbasket. Question called, all in favour. Motion carried.*

**3. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes & Review of Action Items**

**Motion #2:** *Motion to adopt the previous meeting minutes as presented.*

*Moved by: Pauline Terbasket Seconded by: Lori Swanson. Question called, all in favour. Motion carried.*

**4. Business Arising From Previous Meeting Minutes**

- APFA Staff Members Location

Pauline explained that Geoff Greenwell was contracted by the ONA to do a search of potential locations to house the APFA. Geoff introduced himself to the board members and presented his findings. He noted there is a concern for the ONA because the APFA is growing quickly.

After looking at 16 different potential sites, Geoff believes the best options are in downtown Kelowna. The property at 532 Leon Avenue seems to be the most suitable. There are other options downtown, towards the Kelowna airport, and the option to buy space at the Shannon Lake area. Although the price to buy is reasonable, there are better deals downtown Kelowna.

Overview of Discussion:

- Being on reserve has kept APFA unique. Having an office downtown sends a different message to all Aboriginals. The other planning committees that are in

Ministry offices receive a negative perception from Aboriginal People. Being on reserve also is appealing to staff members who can have tax free income.

- How would a move impact the budget for the rest of the year? Before we decide anything we should know.
- If there is a move, it is just for the interim. The most important thing is to have staff members working well together.
- No matter where the APFA is located, the ministry needs to be willing to assist us with funding for a new building.
- The APFA needs to be its own entity. If the Leon office meets the needs of the APFA, then we should do it as soon as we know costs.
- The ministry won't hand over the reigns until the APFA demonstrates it is capable; the ministry has to buy in to your plan. They should be funding the cost of strategic planning.
- To change the budget in any major way, we will need the approval of the ministry.

Geoff left at 10:46 AM.

Break 10:46 AM to 11:00 AM

**Motion #3:** *Recognizing the need for growth, the APFA will contract Geoff Greenwell to do a comparative cost benefit analysis of the leasing options in Kelowna and in Westbank. This will be done immediately.*

*Moved by: Lori Swanson, Seconded by: Marg Ahdemar. Question called, all in favour. Motion carried.*

##### **5. Discussion of Topics to Discuss with Lesley du Toit, MCFD**

Deb read from the list of prioritized discussion topics for Lesley du Toit. This list was circulated to the board earlier. The board agreed to narrow the topics from nine to about four.

Overview of Discussion:

- The legal status of the APFA should be discussed; otherwise we will always need a host agency.
- We must be clear on whether we want to have Interim Authority status or not and whether legislation will infringe on jurisdiction or not.
- To answer other questions, we need to understand the administrative transfer.
- In order to move ahead we need resources. Then the APFA can be a stand-alone entity that can hire staff and build capacity.
- What is the purpose of the transformation team and how will it impact us?
- Lesley has said what has been done in the past hasn't worked, so what do we need to make it work? Once we are a stand-alone, legal entity all the other points will fall into place.
- Some case files are being transferred to the delegated agencies. We have to identify where the gaps are.

##### **6. Lesley du Toit, Deputy Minister**

Deb Foxcroft, Doug Hughes and Lesley du Toit joined the meeting. The Sensisystem School gave a prayer and sang a song to welcome the guests.

## **7. Lunch (12:15 to 12:35 PM) / Meeting with Lesley du Toit**

Lesley and Deb introduced themselves to the board and provided an update to them. Lesley thanked the board for the opportunity to meet with them and thanked the Okanagan nation for the use of the land. She noted she is unable to make quotes for any press releases, but the APFA is welcome to do a release without quotes to indicate the Ministry is lending support to the APFA.

### *Update from Lesley du Toit*

The ministry is still trying to restructure the provincial office that will reflect a more integrated approach and will have values such as respect. Deb Foxcroft is working on what her piece of the office will be. Her team will work more directly with aboriginal communities. The ministry needs to be guided by the community and we are just starting to understand what that means. Child welfare is within the hands of those who have some say in it, communities. The vision of the aboriginal communities will eventually be entrenched in what the ministry does. The other piece of this is making changes in how the ministry delivers services and how the ministry functions. For this there is the Transformation Team and the Transformation Reference Group. The two streams cross over with the Reference Group. The APFA chair and coordinator would be a part of the group to bring information back to the board.

The Provincial Forum is scheduled to take place for two days in November, with a possible third date in December.

### *Update from Deb Foxcroft*

Deb's team and office is currently developing, which is taking time, as Deb wanted to get out to communities, meetings and forums as well. Once her structure is in place and she is confident in her position she can get out and lead and help the planning committees. Deb wants to set up structures to support organizations as best as possible. She has made some small changes in the ministry in terms of doing business differently. Deb asked for everyone's patience as change won't happen overnight. However, she noted she looks forward to working with the APFA and hopes to have their support and the communities' support.

### *APFA Discussion*

The APFA understood the Premier's office was looking into ways for the planning committees to have legal status without legislation or Interim Authority status. What is the status of this?

- There was a review of this and the best way for the planning committees to have legal status is through enabling legislation. This must be discussed with the planning committees now as there is a short time frame to get the work done for this.
- The best way for Interim Authority to happen is to use the Interim Authority Act that already exists, which is basically setting up something similar to a crown agency. If you want Interim Authority status while waiting for enabling legislation, you will be accountable to the Minister and parliament rather than the ministry. The authority model is based on the health authority model, which was imposed to a certain extent.
- JAMC has decided to go ahead with legislation, which will have to be put together in a tight timeframe. If a region wants to become an authority based on legislation they can. We may also never use that legislation if regions do not want to.
- What goes in to legislation is now critical. The enabling legislation will set whatever form of authority that is needed in place. It is not child welfare legislation, which is be a separate step that takes three to five years.

- There is no barrier to setting up authorities as long as it moves regions closer to their overall vision and goal. Deb Foxcroft is leading the process of putting this legislation in place for spring.

There are basically two options for legislation with a third down the road, but it comes down to accountability. There are other things happening such as the Delegated Agencies. Has the ministry looked at the Provincial Education Jurisdiction Agreement? There are also First Nations in BC moving towards treaty talks. Child welfare can be a roadblock for this.

- There are blockages that need to be removed for people to get where they want to go. The delegated model has to be looked at and if necessary done differently so it is appropriate for all people.
- The ministry does need to consider what way to move forward with nations who are working on treaties. Lesley has discussed this with the Minister, and it seems child welfare hasn't been a part of treaty discussions. However, it must be on the agenda.
- Lesley has been asked by Aboriginal leaders to look at the education legislation to see if something similar could be used for child welfare. This must be examined more closely. If new legislation is involved the federal government should also be involved.
- Why be afraid of putting all of this on the table? Even if things are different everywhere, it has to be what's best for children and families. Lesley, Deb and the Minister are not afraid of this complexity. There are endless options the aboriginal community and the Ministry can develop.

What is the status of the legislation planning committee? Can you provide clarification on the transformation committee and whether it will impact the APFA or not? There is a need for adequate resources to move our agenda forward and address our capacity issues. Although MCFD does need its own capacity building we need it just as much if not more so. We are still not driving the process.

- The transformation reference group is a larger piece Lesley has come to work on. It has to do with ensuring services for all children, youth, and families are delivered in the most effective way possible. People will have a say in what services should look like and how they are delivered to avoid silos.
- The transformation reference group is for the whole province, and regionalization is a smaller piece of that. Within the transformation group the APFA can put forward their needs. Lesley is supporting the reference group, but will not dictate how it is run. The transformation reference group not a decision making body
- It is important to do things differently and have Aboriginal People be fundamental to delivering services. Only Aboriginal People will attend the aboriginal forums, and there will be no one telling you how to change things.
- You have the opportunity to do what you want at your own pace; you can take whatever time you need. You will not be forced into regionalization or any other model and the Ministry will stand behind you. If anyone, including the Ministry, is pressuring you it must be dealt with in a respectful way.
- All regions have been invited to submit a proposal on the next three years of funding to see what you need, but it can be changed later. The budget that was submitted for this fiscal year should have covered off what resources you felt were needed, as we do want to level the playing field. If there are perceived stumbling blocks, Lesley and Deb Foxcroft must be informed. The resources are there and how you use them is up to you.

- You must be able to frame things in a way Treasury Board can understand; they do not understand planning.
- The Legislative Advisory Working Group (LAWG) hasn't been doing any work recently as legislation had been put on hold. Deb Foxcroft will have a conference call Oct. 13 to discuss legislation and the LAWG.

Will the legislation process be open and transparent?

- There is more flexibility than originally thought. There will be as much consultation as possible while beginning to write legislation so the content and principles are there. Once this is done it will be handed over to others to write legislation. At this point only a small group of people will be allowed to be involved in the process until the very end. You must then trust you have done the work and the group involved is doing the proper work. The content won't be any different though.
- To wait for 2008 for enabling legislation does not make sense, as you don't have to follow the legislation. It will not force or stop anything.

Will the Ministry support the APFA to have a home, rather than a house? Can you support a lease of \$100,000?

- There is an opportunity within your budget to have space; it just has to be worked out in the budget. There doesn't seem to be anything stopping you.

Lesley, Deb Foxcroft and Doug left the meeting at 2:15 PM.

Break 2:15 to 2:34 PM

## **8. Debriefing of Lesley du Toit's visit**

Overview of Discussion:

- We have had to move as we can with our budget and it is not simple to talk about permanency. All the messages we have had in the past have been piecemeal and we've always had to worry about funding. Perhaps we should mention this to Lesley at dinner.
  - We need a commitment to revisit our budget to see what will be needed for the next three years.
  - There should be some strategic planning, HR planning and facility planning. We have the go ahead from Lesley and we can adjust the budget, so we should go forward with it.
  - Regardless of where we want to go, Interim Authority status will take care of the interim.
- Discussion of Press Release

At the last board meeting, the board determined a press release would be a good way to generate news coverage. However, the Ministry did not want to meet with the press to answer questions and it is difficult to do a press release without quotes. If the APFA gave the news editors the story, it could be perceived as telling the editors how to do their job.

Overview of Discussion:

- We must be clear on our messaging to avoid confusion.
- The press release was a good idea at first, but it didn't turn out the way we wanted.
- We could keep the information for a later date to show we attempted something positive but didn't get the opportunity.

**Action:** Write a press release on Lesley du Toit's visit to fax out to the aboriginal organizations.

In camera 3:03 to 3:50 PM

Roy left at 3:50 PM.

**9. Additional Agenda Items or Announcements**

Deb updated the board on upcoming provincial events. There will be a review of the Joint Aboriginal Management Committee (JAMC) on Oct. 16. The Transformation Reference Group is meeting for the first time on Oct. 19 and there will be a smaller meeting on Oct. 18. So far we have not been asked to identify our experts to attend this meeting. The Political Committee is meeting Oct. 20 and the chairs are meeting with Deb Foxcroft Oct. 24.

The resolution that was written during the in camera session was passed in order to confirm next steps.

**Action:** Once the CEO job description is prepared it will be sent to the board to review.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM

**10. Closing Prayer**

Eliza Terbasket provided the closing prayer.