

**Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord
Interior Region Political Committee
Kamloops Friendship Centre
Monday, 13 February 2006 ~ 10:10 AM to 2:30 PM**

Attendees: Chief Joe Dennis, Bob McCuaig, Dave Hodgson, Chief Lynda Price, Chief Nathan Matthew, Chief Roy Christopher, and Chief Bob Pasco (10:25)

Staff: Jim MacArthur

Guests: Renee and Chief Dale Shackelly

Recording Secretary: Sandra Young

Regrets: George Saddleman, Robert Shintah, and Chief Ervin Charleyboy

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Chief Roy Christopher provided the opening prayer.

The statement of intent regarding the APFA protocol sent by Arn van Iersel was added to the agenda. A discussion of the Jan 8 conference call will also be added to the agenda.

2. Review of January 17, 2006 Meeting Minutes

There are two changes to be made to the Jan 17 meeting minutes. Chief Nathan Matthew is from the South Shuswap, Kelly MacDonald is not on the Legislation Advisory Working Group (LAWG), and Art Pape is the legal representation.

Action: Send out information on the June 4-8 National Child Welfare Conference.

Motion 1: *to adopt the minutes with the proposed edits.*

Moved by: Dave Hodgson. Seconded by: Nathan Matthew. Question called; All in favour. Motion carried.

Business arising:

There is a meeting today of the Legislation Advisory Working Group and the Chairs, which was intended to be the final review of legislation. The process has since been slowed. This is in alignment with the Feb 8 conference call where the regions agreed the process should be slowed down.

It was noted this type of information should be circulated to the Political Committee prior to meetings.

Overview of Discussion:

- George Saddleman has been named as the Stwix representative to the APFA Political Committee.
- Chief Roy Christopher has been named the North Shuswap representative.
- Board members should soon be appointed.

- Although Political Committee members are welcome to attend board meetings, it is not required.

3. Letter to the Leadership Council

The group reviewed the letter sent to the leadership council and discussed the conference call held on Feb 8.

Overview of Discussion:

- Everyone on the conference call agreed that the legislation proposed by the Legislation Advisory Working Group did not reflect aboriginal authority or interest. The timeline was also much too short and the plan seemed to favour the Ministry's interests.
- Seven seats on the board would not represent the Interior properly.
- The APFA must be the embodiment of consultation in order to avoid consulting with ourselves.
- The leadership council sent a letter to the Ministry after the Political Committee's letter was sent to the leadership council.
- The leadership council noted the Political Committee letter reflected their views.

4. Protocol Signatures

In January 2005 the Political Committee developed a protocol to show how they will work to support community governance using the 8-3-3 model. At the time not all signatures were obtained and there were also some vacant seats, which have now been filled. Today is an opportunity to have the document signed by everyone.

Overview of Discussion:

- Things have changed since this document was first drafted and that should be addressed.
- There are two documents. One is with the board and the other between the members of the Political Committee.
- The group discussed the difficulties the board has to face at the bureaucratic and political levels. It is important the Committee assists the board and has the Premier and others pay attention.
- Suggestion to have updates of letters the Political Committee has written on the APFA website as well as updates on things such as the legislation. This will keep the process as open as possible.
- The Committee agreed to adhere to the protocol.

All members of the Political Committee have now signed the protocol.

An update on the legislation meeting in Vancouver was provided to the Political Committee. The Ministry wants to continue moving forward with legislation; however, three of the regions want to slow it down. The Committee stated they were uncomfortable moving forward without complete agreement with the legislation. Legislation must be set up so when the APFA inherits this process everything already looks how we want it to.

Jim provided an overview and update of the Mental Health planning process. The Committee requested to be updated on the Mental Health planning.

Action: Send information on the Youth Justice Forum to Dave Hodgson and Roy Christopher. Fraser MacDonald and a few others at the Métis Provincial Council of BC may also want information.

5. Leadership Plan

The group was given a copy of George Saddleman's leadership plan. The APFA staff needs to know which items to work on before the next meeting.

Overview of Discussion:

- The two Political Committee protocols deserve mention in this document.
- Item 2.2 on the liaison needs stronger and clearer terms to connect with the JAMC and leadership. The Committee needs more direct contact with the provincial level.
- The delegated agencies' concerns need to be addressed.
- Legislation should be moved to 2.3 after bullet 3. A timeframe for the items would be useful.
- An organizational chart with the different committees and plans would be helpful. This would illustrate the APFA's milestones and deliverables.
- The key issues such as adoption and title and rights should be outlined in addition to the well being of children and families. It will help show what we are involved in and how decisions are made.
- A five-year work plan for achieving the vision in 2.5 would outline what the Political Committee should support for the short and long term. This moves away from strictly political information to service delivery, but will provide accountability, timelines, goals and will keep the members of the Committee informed.
- Another APFA presentation similar to the one at 108 Mile should happen.

Action: Draft a letter to the Four Political Leaders stating Chief Bob Pasco represents the Political Committee and their goals. There must be a direct connection between the Political Committee and the Four Political Leaders; therefore the Leaders should be invited to a meeting to discuss opportunities to build communications.

Lunch 12:47 to 1:33

Dave, Renee, Nathan, and Lynda left the meeting over lunch.

Overview of Discussion:

- The Stwix people must make the decision as to whether or not a Chief must represent them at the Political Committee.
- Discussion of funding formulas and other concerns to update Chief Dale Shackelly.

Action: APFA staff will put together a budget and timeline for discussion on the Leadership Plan. The items in the plan will be identified in terms of high and medium priority.

6. Response to January letter regarding protocol

The APFA protocol with the Ministry was discussed at the Jan 17 Political Committee meeting and a letter was drafted for Arn van Iersel. Arn has responded to the letter recently stating the intent of the protocol with the Ministry and the need to build a

relationship with the Interior. The Ministry is realizing that they must move forward on this issue in order for everyone to stay productive.

Overview of Discussion:

- The Ministry should respond quicker to our letters, especially since we are only given a few days to respond to things like legislation.
- Recommend an email from the Political Committee around the statement of intent be sent out to state the response letter is not what was asked for.
- The Four Political Leaders should be aware of this to bring it forward at the next JAMC meeting.

Action: Draft a letter to the Four Political Leaders in response to their statement sent out on Feb 10 regarding the APFA protocol.

7. Closing Prayer

Closing prayer was not done.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM