

**Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord
Interior Region Political Committee
Interior Indian Friendship Society
24 July 2006 ~ 10:35 AM to 3:10 PM**

Attendees: Chief Joe Dennis, Bob McCuaig, Chief Robert Shintah, Chief Lynda Price, Debbie Abbott, Chief Wayne Christian, and George Saddleman (11:42 AM)

Staff: Jim MacArthur

Recording Secretary: Sandra Young

Regrets: Chief Bob Pasco, Dave Hodgson and Cheryl Casimer

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

Chief Robert Shintah provided the opening prayer. Bob McCuaig acted as chair in the stead of George Saddleman.

2. Review & Adoption of Agenda

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

Motion 1: *to adopt the meeting minutes as presented.*

Moved by: Robert Shintah, Seconded by: Joe Dennis. Question called, all in favour. Motion carried.

Debbie provided an update on the July 11 meeting that was to take place between herself, Chief Bob Pasco and the leadership council. The meeting did not go forward as the leadership was double booked.

Overview of Discussion:

- A regularly scheduled meeting with the leadership would allow the Political Committee to be more effective.
- Lesley du Toit has not given us any confirmation on her plans, which isn't a partnership. We must take on a decision-making role. The aboriginal side requires capacity building, just as the ministry does.
- We must organize ourselves around roles and responsibilities.
- Lesley has said she would like to engage Canada and we must be ready for that.
- We need to know the timeline for legislation.
- There should be research done on the economics of this process. What is the total operating budget? Are fiscal resources going to be transferred to us? Are we ready to negotiate with unions?
- What agreements do the province have with the federal government?
- The APFA should look at the three pillars of life mentioned at the AFN AGM, which included women and children as the second pillar.

- UBCIC was given funding from the five regions to support the Aboriginal Provincial Forum in April. There was a bit of a surplus, which could help us gather information on federal and provincial initiatives to benefit all the regions.

Motion 2: *That a motion be presented to the provincial chairs on July 27 to jointly retain consultants with the financial, legal, and socioeconomic expertise to 1) identify funding disparities in the funding formulas between the federal and provincial governments in providing for child and family services in BC; 2) review the legal instruments and fiscal framework for delivery of these funds for child and family services, and; 3) other issues as identified and not limited to the above.*

Moved by: Chief Lynda Price, Seconded by: Robert Shintah. Question called, all in favour. Motion carried.

Action: The Political Committee requires a communication strategy to know who to communicate with and when.

Action: Request that Deb Foxcroft provide an update of recent MCFD activities to the Political Committee at the September Aboriginal Provincial Forum.

Action: Create a Terms of Reference for an analysis of agreements the provincial government has with the federal government.

4. Lunch 12:25 PM to 1:01 PM

5. Update in Interim Authorities and Legislation

Deb and Jim met with Lesley du Toit on June 28 to discuss the Interior Region's budget. There is a concern that Lesley is making decisions with regions individually rather than with the ACC. We must know if the procedures for decision-making have changed because of the pressure to move ahead quickly.

The Technical Working Group (TWG) is meeting to look at the legislation that was already created. Along with legal experts, the TWG is going to look at a legislation framework for the September Provincial Forum. This will allow for three months of community feedback. Although Lesley has stated this is our last window of opportunity, we must ensure communities have a chance for open dialogue in order for us to have the support we need.

Overview of Discussion:

- There is a concern that Lesley will set up a framework and then return home. We will then be left with no allies unless we have legislation.
- Communication around legislation is essential.
- The TWG must consider the possibility of inheriting liability.
- To ensure capacity building we must involve the federal government and know what funding and services are available to us.
- We must involve other social ministries and corporate people to change how the federal and provincial governments think.

Action: Obtain a copy of the Royal Bank Report.

6. Update on July 11 Meeting with Leadership

Deb noted Don Bain would look at another date for the Political Committee to meet with the leadership.

7. Organizational Chart

Overview of Discussion:

- All regions should have an organizational chart then identify the jobs needed.
- An accountability framework is needed as well.

8. Ktunaxa Protocol with the APFA

Overview of Discussion:

- There has been a challenge with some community service managers telling the Ktunaxa they needed the APFA to support their initiatives before moving forward. However, the APFA is still in planning.
- There are a lot of things in this protocol to look at. There may be a need to dialogue more and sign something amongst us in order to trust everyone is acting in our best interests.
- Rather than signing several protocols with nations, perhaps there should be one everyone signs to make it a mandate for the APFA. The Political Committee would look at it in trust of the nations to identify priorities.

The Ktunaxa Protocol with the APFA will be tabled until representation from the Ktunaxa Nation can be in attendance.

9. Readiness Work Plan

Overview of Discussion:

- Who will make decisions on children and families? These policies and procedures must be in place to avoid reinventing what already doesn't work.
- There will come a time when we will want to dialogue with the judicial process.
- Ends policies will address what we are trying to do such as guardianship staying in communities.
- Legislation should have a structure for accountability and reporting back.
- The nations must provide a mandate in terms of prevention.

10. Inter-Regional Work Plan

The Inter-Regional Work Plan has gone to every region, as it must be addressed shortly. The coordinators have done strategic planning on the priorities. The outcomes of what has been achieved will be tracked. Victoria has always been head quarters, but we want to build something different either in each region or something each region will share.

11. Draft Engaging Canada Strategy

At the last meeting there was a request for a strategy to engage Canada. It was recommended that Jim begin the strategy by looking at the Members of Parliament. There are six ministries who should be involved in this process. None of the MPs are from BC, but some of the people on the standing committees are in BC. Jim proposed the message state the historic opportunity to work together. Cindy Blackstock from Caring for First Nations stated this strategy must be measurable and to the point. By acting quickly we can determine which MPs are supportive of this strategy and which are not. It should take about \$20,000 to get this strategy up and running.

Action: Follow-up on the documents from Steven Harper and Jim Prentice regarding aboriginal issues.

12. FYI

Deb updated the Political Committee on the transformation reference group Lesley is establishing. Lesley's executive team is being moved to the transformation team and each Regional Executive Director of MCFD is being asked to find an Aboriginal Person to sit on the team. The Political Committee may want to think about a potential candidate to represent the Interior but can travel to Victoria.

Action: Send the 2006/07 APFA Budget to the Political Committee.

Next meeting: 14 August 2006
Interior Indian Friendship Society
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

13. Closing Prayer 3:10 PM

Chief Robert Shintah provided the closing prayer.