

**Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord  
Interior Region Political Committee  
Interior Indian Friendship Society  
17 May 2006 ~ 10:25 AM to 2:40 PM**

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**Attendees:** Chief Joe Dennis, Chief Lynda Price, Dave Hodgson, Chief Robert Shintah, Bob McCuaig, George Saddleman, Chief Wayne Christian, Deb Abbott, and Chief Bob Pasco (10:43 AM)

**Guests:** Chief Dale Shackelly (12:05 PM)

**Staff:** Eliza Terbasket, Jim MacArthur, and Dan Odenbach

**Recording Secretary:** Sandra Young

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**1. Welcome & Opening Prayer**

Chief Robert Shintah provided the opening prayer.

**2. Review & Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes and Action Items**

The attendees reviewed the meeting minutes and action items.

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

*Moved by: Chief Lynda Price; Seconded by: Chief Joe Dennis. Question called, all in favour, motion carried.*

Note: if any Political Committee members are interested in attending the June 4-8, 2006 National Aboriginal Child & Family Services Conference they are to contact Sandra Young by May 19.

Jim will follow up on Action 5 as the protocol has changed direction since the Feb 2006 meeting.

**3. Update on Interim Authorities and Funding**

Eliza provided an update to the Political Committee on recent events. She noted the report from the April Aboriginal Provincial Forum has not yet been sent out. However, as a result of the forum, Lesley du Toit has had the chance to see how the process should move forward. The JAMC has decided to move ahead with Interim Authorities and three-year funding. The next step is a two-day planning session on June 2 & 3 with Lesley, the chairs, coordinators and political leaders. Eliza noted the Fraser region will be putting a plan together stating they want to move towards Interim Authority quickly. However, this could set the tone for other regions unless Lesley is willing to have five different plans for Interim Authority. Eliza noted APFA staff is working on a comprehensive budget totalling \$1.4 million for the year.

Overview of Discussion:

- Interim Authority will give the planning committees legal status. Funding will go directly to the APFA, rather than the ONA.

- Legislation for the Interim Authorities Act has been in place for approximately three years. It was initially introduced to streamline things such as host agencies and would allow the Interim Authorities to build capacity to take over services. It was then shelved and is not active legislation, but has been through the cabinet.
- Fast tracking the Interim Authorities Act legislation could take four months, but it could take as long as six to eight months if negotiations are necessary.
- The BRDO does have some criteria, which won't meet our needs. Lesley has noted she will work with the BRDO.
- The Urban communities are not getting all the information they should, as there is not enough funding to improve communications. Bob McCuaig noted he would appreciate support to go find extra funding for this.
- Funding is an issue for the APFA as it affects communications and research.
- There is still a need for an organizational chart so the Political Committee knows how they fit into the process and can remain focused.
- The five regions require a dispute resolution process to meet everyone's needs.

**Action:** The Political Committee requires an understanding of how the planning process with Lesley du Toit will proceed.

**Action:** The Political Committee requires a communication strategy in order to communicate effectively amongst themselves and other groups.

**Action:** Formulate a community engagement strategy for the Political Committee.

**Action:** The organizational chart will be updated and distributed to the Political Committee. The Committee also requires an update on the APFA protocol with MCFD.

**Action:** Send Bill 65 regarding the Interim Authorities to the Political Committee members. The members will review this document.

#### **4. Political Committee Work plan**

At the Political Committee meeting in February a work plan template was distributed and reviewed. The Task Group created at the Aboriginal Provincial Forum asked for a one page overview as well as deliverables for what the Committee should focus on. Jim reviewed and summarized the updated Political Committee work plan for the attendees.

Overview of Discussion:

- We have to be clear how to move forward on things such as the *New Relationship Agreement* which references child welfare.
- A process or protocol for the Political Committee to bring matters to the leadership for discussion and resolution must be in place. As it stands now this process is very difficult and the leadership must understand the work we are doing.
- If messages should be brought to the attention of the leadership, it is possible to give them to Chief Robert Shintah to bring to their meetings.
- Aboriginal People's relationship is with the federal government rather than the provincial.
- Aboriginal rights are defined under section 35. Aboriginal people are not stakeholders and cannot be treated like everyone else.
- Aboriginal rights must be defended and an equal partnership with the federal and provincial governments obtained.

- The Premier has stated children are his priority and he should be reminded of that.
- We should be allowed to make mistakes and correct them.
- The Political Committee should focus on legislation, working together as nations and communication with the leadership.

**Action:** An analysis of the relationship of the APFA with the provincial and federal government will be done as the federal government plays a large role in the welfare of Aboriginal children.

**Action:** The Political Committee Work plan will be redone to include statements that Aboriginal People are not stakeholders and have defined rights, and the federal government is responsible for funding our programs. A funding framework will be included as well. The goals and budget will be maintained.

**Motion 2:** *To accept the Political Committee Work plan with the noted updates.*

*Moved by: Chief Joe Dennis; Seconded by: Dave Hodgson. Question called, all in favour, motion carried.*

**Motion 3:** *to examine the jurisdiction and legal relationship between the APFA, the federal government, and the provincial government.*

*Moved by: Chief Lynda Price; Seconded by: Chief Wayne Christian. Question called, all in favour, motion carried.*

## **5. Lunch 12:15 PM to 1:05 PM**

## **6. Review of Roles & Responsibilities**

The Political Committee reviewed Action #5 from the February meeting.

**Action:** A letter will be written to the JAMC leadership to invite them to a meeting with the Political Committee to discuss current events.

Overview of Discussion:

- The APFA protocol with the Ministry has taken a new direction.
- The new Deputy Minister, Lesley du Toit may be willing to sign Draft 13 of the protocol agreement.
- Once the Draft 13 is completed it will go to Arn van Iersel and the Ministry for their approval. It will then go back to the board for final approval.

The Review of Roles and Responsibilities is on the agenda because it will bring the newer members of the Political Committee up to date. These roles and responsibilities can also be reviewed to discuss if they are still applicable. Debbie also read the letter from Lesley du Toit regarding the recent changes within the Ministry.

Overview of Discussion:

- There should be a standard for appointing people to the Political Committee and the Board.
- The Committee agreed everyone has to work together in order to look after everyone and alleviate any differences.

- The work we do today is a result of past legislation. We must be prepared to provide alternatives to what is being presented to us. What we do now will lay the foundation to create a new relationship with the province.
- We will have to eventually look at delegation and whether there is a better process.
- When we take over authority will the resources be available? The government must be accountable for the baseline data.

## 7. Tribal Council Resolutions

The APFA requires Tribal Council Resolutions (TCR) for all Political Committee members. Although the meetings are open to anyone, the TCR gives a person authority to be a part of the Political Committee and make decisions. George noted the Nicola Tribal Council is meeting on May 25 to sign their TCR.

## 8. Next Steps

Overview of Discussion:

- Jurisdiction, the protocol agreement with the Ministry and the federal government should be brought up with the leadership.
- We have to be clear on our role when speaking to the leadership. We also must be aware of where we want to go.
- There should be more Aboriginal People on Lesley's new executive team.
- We should push to have four Aboriginal Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADM).
- More people will be needed to get all the work done for the APFA; however, we must avoid creating a bureaucracy.

**Action:** A letter will be written to Lesley du Toit stating the need for more Aboriginal People on her executive team and the Political Committee's interest in participating on her executive team.

## 9. FYI

Eliza informed the Political Committee about the new additions to Lesley's executive team as well as the new Aboriginal Assistant Deputy Minister. She updated the Committee on the progress of the Community Tables and the Ministry's approval of the Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Interim Plan. Debbie sent a letter to Doug Hayman stating the board has approved the CYMH Plan; however, the Ktunaxa would prefer to have the resources to develop their own plan. Eliza noted the APFA will be hiring an Early Childhood Development Coordinator.

Overview of Discussion:

- Rather than having mandates from different nations, there could be one mandate from the Political Committee, as outlined in Goal 4 of the Work plan.

**Action:** Send the Aboriginal CYMH Interim Plan to the Political Committee.

Next Meeting Date: July 19, 2006  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Interior Indian Friendship Society

## 10. Closing Prayer

Eliza Terbasket provided the closing prayer.