

SNTC Council of Chiefs Meeting Summary (January 13, 2010)

Opening and closing prayers were said by Elder J.D.Billy.

1. COMMUNITY NOTES

- Bonaparte seeks SNTC support for its efforts to negotiate revenue-sharing with the three mines in development in their area. Chiefs Deneault and Mathew offered to share their experiences and information with Chief Porter.
- Splatsin: on Dec. 12th, Chief Christian was re-elected.
- The Skeetchestn Pow-Wow will be held March 12-14.
- Simpcw will host a Career Fair on Wednesday, February 10th
- Adams Lake is close to hiring an Event Coordinator for the Elders Gathering.
- Whispering Pines/Clinton elections will be held on February 4th.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- The Chiefs formally appointed Bonnie Leonard (Tk'emlups) as SNTC Tribal Director. She thanked the chiefs for the opportunity.
- Chief LeBourdais plans to meet with provincial Minister Blair Lekstrom on February 3rd to start discussions on Strategic Engagement Agreements between SNTC and BC. These Agreements would cover: shared management; shared decision-making; definitions of consultation and accommodation; and impact-benefit agreements. One reason to move forward with these types of Agreements is that the volume of Referrals has become too much to manage. He assured the Council that all work will be vetted by lawyers. Title will be "protected."

Chief Christian told Chief LeBourdais that he had helpful information to share. Chief Mathew said, "We need work together." The best Agreements are those negotiated by a nation that "moves together," he added.

Chief Leon said that "the hardest question for him" is whether or not individual community agreements "weaken title" for the whole nation. "How do we best represent the Title holder?" he asked.

Chief Deneault responded that if something impacts "my people," then he responds to Skeetchestn's needs. However, if something effects "our people," the Secwepemc, he focuses on the best interest of the territory. He then suggested that the Chiefs could get together to more fully explore the issue.

- Discussions about the Green Lake OCP have served as a starting point to open communications with the north. The next meeting is confirmed for Friday, January 22nd. Items on the agenda include a Protocol Agreement and the Elders Gathering.
- The Youth and Elder representatives now have a voting seat at the SNTC Council of Chiefs meetings.

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3. NEW BUSINESS

- Elder Richard Billy would like to see more elders from the southern part of the territory come out to the Elder's meetings. There are a lot of "smart voices" that he'd like to hear from. He was "disappointed" that more Chiefs weren't attending that day's Council of Chiefs meeting. "I feel that they should be here," he said.
- The Youth Group raised nearly \$1500 at the Elders fundraiser held at Tk'emlups last Dec. 19th. J.D. Billy thanked SNTC and the youth group for their fundraising to help with the King and Queen's travel costs.
- The Financial Management Policy, with some minor revisions suggested by the Chiefs, was accepted. Chief Christian thanked the Finance Committee for its work.
- SNTC's Aboriginal Right and Title Department is getting closer to finishing its work on the Secwepemc Book.

4. PORTFOLIOS

Child Welfare (Chief Porter): The Dec. 8th meeting with Minister Polack resulted in funding commitment of \$400,000 in the next fiscal year for the Stsmamlt project.

Aboriginal Rights and Title: Kukpi7 Christian will visit the 17 communities, then, neighbouring nations, to present a framed 2010 Memorial poster and to talk about the Memorial and rights and title.

Fisheries and Wildfire (Chief Deneault): On January 28th, Chiefs Deneault and Arnouse, two of their councilors and Murray Ross and Pat Mathew from Secwepemc Fisheries Commission will meet to develop portfolio strategy.

Forestry (Chief Mathew): Logging has started at CP100 (Chules Mountain). The Chiefs discussed collective action with respect to harvesting timber to build First Nations housing.

Transportation: Chief LeBourdais is setting up a meeting with provincial Minister Bond.

Health: June Kelly led a delegation from the Secwepemc Health Director's HUB asking for the chief's political support with respect to the planning for the development of a First Nations health authority.

The current problem is that the process is moving too quickly. The Health Directors believe that the First Nations Health Council has "highjacked" the agenda and, consequently, there hasn't adequate been consultation.

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In Attendance

- Chiefs Wayne Christian, Michael LeBourdais, Rick Deneault, Keith Mathew, Terry Porter and Nelson Leon.
- Councilor Fred Fortier (Simpw)
- Bonnie Leonard (Tribal Director), Veronica Leonard, Walter Quinlan (SNTC)
- Reanna Leonard (Youth Representative)
- Richard Billy, J.D. Billy (Elders)