

SNTC Council of Chiefs
Meeting Summary (February 2, 2011)

In attendance

Chiefs: Wayne Christian, Michael LeBourdais, Shane Gottfriedson, Rick Deneault, Nelson Leon, Judy Wilson and Fred Fortier (Acting Chief). **SNTC:** Bonnie Leonard, Walter Quinlan, Veronica Leonard

Community Roundtable

At **Splatsin** “we’re busy. Council’s working hard,” reported Kukpi7 Christian. They’re looking into a Long-Term Care facility business joint venture with a business that operates facilities in B.C. Alberta. One day each week is dedicated to a statutory review of our children in jurisdiction and youth matters, including families in need of support. They are also engaging a number of negotiations within the community with BC Hydro and Highways. This May 27-29, Splatsin will host a Traditional Gathering. Runners with tobacco will be sent out.

Chief LeBourdais said that the **Whispering Pines/Clinton** referendum on Land Designation for the southlands passed. In March, four developers will make presentations to the community. “It’s looking up,” he said.

Simpc’w will hold a nomination meeting on February 20th and, if necessary, the by-election for a new chief will be March 27th. They are carrying out a fish values interview process with elders. What they learn “gives us the ability to negotiate on ‘footprint’ issues,” said Acting Chief Fortier.

“One of the warmest buildings at **Neskonlith** is our display Eco-home,” said Chief Wilson. She reported that they are exploring eco-heating and a wind power tower as means to reduce heating costs in their portables and community hall.

Chief Leon said that the **Adams Lake** gym received a grant to convert their heating system from steam (remote operated from Kelowna) to geo-thermal and solar. They want to include a potable water system in the funding for their irrigation system, because, many band members go on a Boil Water Advisory at different times of the year. As a result of health and healing work in the community, “I’ve seen really good change,” said Chief Leon.

Youth

On January 26th the SNTC Youth Council participated in a HIV AIDS Workshop.

The SNTC Youth Council has been asked by Professor Shelly Johnson from the Social Work program at Thompson Rivers University to her class of approximately 20 social work students. Professor Johnson teaches the class "Aboriginal decolonizing social work."

This is an opportunity to identify some things that youth think are important for social work students to know before they go off to work with First Nations youth. Reanna Leonard will start a Youth Council Draft Budget to be reviewed at their next meeting.

Tribal Chairperson

Kukpi7 Christian said that he would be sending a letter to Chiefs and Councilors of member bands to learn their "expectations" of the Tribal Chair.

"I respect that our first responsibility is to the communities who elected us," he said, then, outlined key nation issues such as: the All Secwepemc Chiefs protocol; revisit the rights and title strategy and focus on decision-making, co-management and revenue-sharing; a collective chiefs process on health with a need to focus on Secwepemc traditional healers as part of the process; and human resource strategies. With Stsmémelt, "we need to define: what do we want?"

Chief Wilson offered her thoughts about "a people's vote for the Chair, and, a people's assembly."

The "number one priority for Simpc'w is title and rights," said Acting Chief Fortier.

"Open communications is the biggest thing," said Chief Gottfriedson. "I'd like to do this more often with other chiefs. We all have a role and responsibility in how effective, or ineffective, we can be," he added.

Whispering Pines/Clinton has always seen SNTC being about "title and rights and achieving self-government," said Chief LeBourdais. "We have to explore alternatives to our current models," he added. "SNTC should be like the Stsmémelt Project – it unites Secwepemc."

Kukpi7 Christian's letter will soon be in the mail to member bands.

Honouring our Ancestors, Protecting Our Future

Following up on an idea by Charlie Andrew, SNTC contracted Woodward and Co. to write this Position Paper. “It’s an important piece of work,” said Chief Christian.

The Chiefs asked for revisions to emphasize that “the Secwepemc are a sovereign people” and that “we have not given up our jurisdiction over the ancestors.” The paper will be presented by Chief Wilson at the First Nations Heritage Forum.

BC Hydro Right-of-Way

“Transmission lines go right through our territories. We receive nothing,” said Chief Deneault. BC Hydro is not “answerable” for what they do, he added.

Chief Christian suggested that Skeetchestn, Splatsin and Whispering Pines/Clinton initiate a table to discuss right-of way issues at the Band level. He also said that all Secwepemc bands should meet on the larger nation issues of rights and title and revenue-sharing.

As a starting point, Chief Christian asked for an agenda item that gives an overview of “where we are and what has been accomplished.”

“To implement on-the-ground is the hardest thing,” added Chief Leon. “It has to be on the agenda – if we’re working together, what’s it look like?”

A key question for Acting Chief Fortier was, “What’s the process we’ll use to collectively deal with ‘footprint’ issues?”

“It all boils down to process and you need the human resource capacity to support that work,” offered Chief Gottfriedson. “Involve economic development as well as rights and title technical staff,” he added. Furthermore, the Chief advised that the Chiefs look at “Canada’s role” and “consultation and accommodation guidelines.”

Secwepemc Consultation and Guidelines have been in place since March, 2005. Recently SNTC asked Davis LLP to provide a legal opinion and recommendations for an update considering the recent developments in the law and the potential implications of Canada endorsing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Tribal Director Bonnie Leonard noted that “SNTC is not the consulting body. We play a coordinating role in helping at the member band’s request.”

The Legal Opinion was provided to the Chiefs for review with the Councilors and community members.

Chief Christian said that the goal is to have consistent guidelines and processes to promote effective “interface” between the communities. Meaningful information sharing was also discussed.

Health

June Kelly (Secwepemc Health Directors Hub Coordinator) wrote that the current Hub budget faces a cut from the current level of \$200,000 down to \$116,000.

The Chiefs decided to send a letter to the First Nations Health Council stating that these cuts will severely limit community dialogue and engagement required to develop a health strategy that is First Nations owned.

URBAN Secwepemc

“They’re moving ahead on their own steam,” said Chief Leon about a new group formed by Secwepemc living in the Vancouver area. Currently there are 450 members in their Facebook group and they’re holding regular get-togethers.

“Keeping them in touch with the land,” is important to Chief Christian. Accordingly, the Chiefs asked SNTC to organize a social event with the urbanites the next time that there is a Chiefs meeting in Vancouver.

WORK @SNTC

Tribal Director

Tribal Director Bonnie Leonard submitted a list detailing over 30 completed action items. Her work spans a wide range of business involving, among others, the Consultation and Accommodation working group, Stsmémelt Project, SNTC Directors and staff, SEDCO, ANTCO and Secwepemc youth.

Finance

Nance Henne (Finance Director) said that all monthly financial reporting is up-to-date. The Finance Department has created new reporting tools that provide an easy method for SNTC managers to summarize their expenses as per funder's requirements. The Councils of Chiefs approved, by motion, SNTC's monthly consolidated financial statements.

Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

Murray Ross (Director,) reported that: Pat Matthew will appear before the Cohen Commission to answer questions about his work with the Integrated harvest Planning Committee; SFC staff are working a report on the health of key salmon stocks in the territory; and CCRIFC submitted a draft workplan and budget to provide technical services to Secwepemc communities in the Columbia River basin.

Murray participated in a special workshop of SNTC chiefs and councilors to discuss commercial fisheries business planning.

DFO funding for commercial fisheries pilot projects has ended. Now, SFC has to write a Business plan. Chief Gottfriedson advised that a business proposal that looks at projected returns over a five to seven year period would put SNTC in a position "to make an informed decision." The Council of Chiefs approved a motion outlining the next steps in this business planning.

Stsmémelt Project

130 people attended the Strategic Planning session. 90% of the submitted evaluations were positive with recommendations in January. The outcome was a Workplan that defined: key stakeholder roles and responsibilities; communications processes; dispute resolution and accountability mechanisms.

On January 27th, the Tribal Director facilitate a discussion with nine Secwepemc lawyers on the subject of developing a legal framework for the Secwepemc child welfare legislation based on traditional laws and customs. There are plans for a Research Unit to support the legal work.

Employment and Training (ASETS)

Director Martha Matthew reported that 15 participants registered for the long-term sustainable employment program run by **Central Interior Training and Employment Services (CITES)**. She facilitated a meeting with staff members from five SNTC departments to review the organization and explore ways to better deliver their services to the SNTC area. Martha also worked with a Proposal Writer in developing a home-based literacy project. The new Job Coach/Facilitator at CITES is Rochelle Cure.

STEP Director met with Splatsin Education staff and Salmon Arm Employment Services to discuss training and employment plans for the community. More visits to the communities are coming up.

On January 28th, **Kamloops Aboriginal Employment Services** hosted an Open House.

Central Interior Trades and Apprenticeship Centre met with 150 youth and community members at the Adams Lake IB Job Fair.

The **Kamloops Urban Aboriginal Strategy** hosted a planning meeting with a wide range of stakeholders from the city region on January 19th.

Other business

The SNTC representative on the Southern Interior Beetle Action Committee (**SIBAC**) is Chief Wilson; her alternate is Richard Manuel. On February 18th, there will be a forestry meeting to discuss

Forest and Range Opportunities. A Position Paper will be drafted on key issues (FRO, ground rent, revenue sharing and carbon credits). Chief Wilson will convene a **SEDCO** meeting for February 24th.

Donations

SNTC donated \$500 to the 20th Annual Murdered and Missing Women March to be held on Valentine's Day. Two tickets (\$150 apiece) were bought for the "Cops for Kids" fundraising dinner.