

District of Chetwynd and West Moberly and Saulneau First Nations Community to Community Forum Final Report

Date: July 3, 2003
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Cottonwood Hall, Recreation Centre

Present

Evan Saugstad, Mayor
Merlin Nichols, Councillor
Bob Nicholson, Councillor
Mark Wilfur, Councillor
Brenda Maisey, Councillor
Laverne Norris, Councillor
Tim Caton, Area E Director
Helen Duggan, Commissioner
George Wright, Commissioner
Mike Redfearn, Administrator
Roland Wilson, Chief – West Moberly FN
Diane Able, Councillor – WMFN
Bill Burgess, Councillor – WMFN
Karen Dokkie, Councillor – WMFN
Clarence Wilson, Councillor – WMFN
Elaine Bottineau, Administrator – WMFN
Taryn Dokkie, EDC – WMFN
Jerome Listhaeghe, Consultant, WMFN
Allan Apsassin, Chief, Saulneau FN
Tammy Watson, Councillor – SFN
Lisa Taylor, Councillor – SFN
Teena Demeulemeester, Forestry Tech – SFN

Absent

Nikki Courtoreille, Councillor – SFN
Henrette Landry, Councillor – SFN
Wayne Rose, Councillor

1. 5 p.m. Social

2. Welcome from Mayor Saugstad, MC

3. Introductions

- Everyone attending stated their names and titles.
- Chief Willson expressed a thank you for changing dates so that both bands were able to attend this forum, as the forum was originally planned for June 19th.

4. 6 p.m. Dinner

Presentations

5. District of Chetwynd - Discussion topics

• Chetwynd & Area Economic Development Commission Initiatives

- ◆ Review projects that were of common interest and letter of intent that has been submitted; Community Forest, First Nations Heritage Site and Community Cultural and Natural Resources Innovation Centre.
- ◆ 2010 Olympic Funding – Discussion.
- ◆ Preparing for Proposals or Ideas that are Shelf Ready to be put together for any funding opportunities that come available.

• Recreation Centre - Discussion

- ◆ Funding, District of Chetwynd & Peace River Regional District
- ◆ (650,000)
- ◆ (750,000) Pool

Discussion of Saulteau First Nations building an arena and the impact of funding and operating costs that would impact Chetwynd Arena.

Discussion:

There are no plans of building an arena right now and both of the bands would approach the District if in the future they are serious about building an arena.

Chief Apsassin expressed concern over racism and an incident from last year when the Sukunka Iceman Hockey Team had to supply security due to a fight outbreak in the stands.

Recommendations:

That First Nations be involved throughout the process and also have the opportunity to be **more** involved in current issues.

Review opportunity for First Nations to become more involved with the Civic Property Commission

Outcome:

The Administrator will contact both bands about scheduled meetings for the Civic Property Commission. All meetings are open to the public.

• Chetwynd Courthouse

- ◆ The District of Chetwynd contributed \$10,000.00 last year to ensure we keep our Courthouse. The District asked for contributions from both bands and Peace River Regional District last year and all partners were unable to contribute. By partnering, the funding for the Courthouse would be split 4 ways each year.

Recommendations:

We would like all partners to consider future participation if possible because we don't want to lose this important service.

- **Community Forest**

Recommendations:

The Chetwynd & Area Economic Development Commission has been working on partnering projects for a Community Forest. The Northern Lights College, Forestry Department has submitted a letter of intent and will be preparing the proposal. Re: Review attached letter and information of partners and plans

Outcome:

Saulteau First Nations would like to have a Workshop on Community Forests and how the partnering would work, as well as previous information on the work that has been done to date. Saulteau will plan a meeting and contact interested parties.

- **Communication**

Recommendations:

Communication and opportunities to meet like this are important. Improving timelines and communication is something that we are committed to and will strive to improve upon.

Outcome:

All parties are committed to working hard on timely communication when possible.

- **Health**

Recommendations:

Hospital situation is still critical as we continue to be assessed to ensure we will keep all our services and our hospital. Continued support and involvement from everyone is important.

Outcome:

All parties are committed to keeping involved and keeping informed on the issues.

6. Comments from West Moberly First Nations

Verbal comments from Chief Willson:

West Moberly is committed to local issues along with the many area First Nations issues. We will continue to assist and be involved. This meeting has been a good start for communication and joint projects, such as the First Nations Heritage Site and other projects that we are currently working on. Looking forward to future meetings.

Invitations from West Moberly First Nations – for West Mo Days July 25, 26, 27th, 2003 to Tim Caton, Peace River Regional District Electoral Area E, District of Chetwynd Mayor & Council and Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce.

7. Comments from Saulteau First Nations

Verbal comments from Chief Appassin:

Concerns on the plans for the Community Forest and we hope to meet soon on the issue. This meeting has been a good start for all of us. Not consultation just information session.

8. Closing Remarks

This was the beginning of regular meetings. Look forward to the next meeting and the items discussed today will be followed up.

Adjourned 8:30 p.m.