



PO Box 449
211 Peenmain Drive
Sheshatshiu, NL A0P 1M0
Ph: (709) 497-3854
Fax: 709-497-3881

Innu Round Table Meeting #19
June 8th, 2017 St. John's Convention Centre, St. John's, NL

Parties in Attendance:

Innu: Grand Chief Anastasia Qupee
Deputy Grand Chief Simeon Tshakapesh
Chief Eugene Hart, SIFN
Chief John Nui, MIFN

Canada: William McGillivray, HC
Rory O'Connor, INAC

Province: Robin Fowler, NL/Justice
Susan Walsh, NL/CSSD
Judy White, NL/IAAS
Micheal Harvey, NL/HCS

Note: a complete list of participants is attached

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Executive Director of the IRT Secretariat, Natasha Hurley convened the meeting at 9:15.

All parties were present (see list attached).

The chair extended condolences to Deputy Grand Chief Tshakapesh and family for their recent tragedy.

2. REVIEW AGENDA

The draft agenda was approved with no changes.

3. REVIEW NOTES/DECISIONS/ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

June meeting notes were reviewed and approved with no additional changes. A summary of key action items from the meeting was provided.

4. OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE IRT MEMBERS

Grand Chief Qupee feels not many things have changed and some initiatives are still ongoing. It's been a long uphill battle on issues including alcohol and drugs, family violence and the other social challenges that come with it. Families are struggling and there has been some good work done but some has stopped. The communities shouldn't have to be in crisis to get attention. The good work should continue not stop . CBC contacted her about the Canada Day 150 celebrations but she had nothing to say with all the issues in the communities. And always playing catch up with the funding or the programs/services they were supposed to receive. They are the fastest growing population in NL. How are they going to catch up when the population is growing so quickly. She asked that everyone keep an open mind and have a good meeting.

Deputy Grand Chief Tshakapesh said he is glad to be here today. He noted that his grandfather spoke many years ago about how the Innu world would be different. A lot of what he predicted are problems Innu are facing today including losing their youth. Simeon challenged those at the table to make a change. It's time that the Innu control their own affairs again. His son was in the child welfare system and it took him to treatment in Regina but he couldn't fit in as it was a different culture. He took his own life just over a week ago. He sees the problems in the community and across the country that need to change. Racism is a big issue. . So many deaths could have been prevented if the communities had just been listened to. The homes they are living in are not adequate and need to be inspected. There is much to do.

Chief Nui expressed his sympathy and respect for Simeon being there so soon after losing his son and how hard it must be for him. He feels the work done with the Innu Nation and SIFN has been positive since he was elected. But requests are being repeated over and over again. We can't be sitting here in 20 years times bringing up the same issues at every meeting. We need to bring Innu values into education. Gas sniffing and drug dealing have long been a problem that needs answers. Focused programs for at-risk youth are needed in the community. The alcohol by-law needs to be enforced. Since it stopped people are bringing alcohol in freely again. We need security training for Peace Keepers in the community. He is at this meeting to make a better future for their youth.

Chief Hart said there are a lot of struggles within the communities and although the working relationship is strong the proposals seem to take a lot of time to get any answers. Sheshatshiu was the last Innu to be recognized and he wonders if that is why there is a program gap. He mentioned how successful the IRT has become for both communities and that the Innu are running their own school system. Things need to be dealt with sooner rather than later. The Bluesky training and initial plans for placement facilities have been done, yet the next step of funding has been halted. The people rely on the elected leaders to bring their messages to the table and that is what they are trying to do here today.

Rory O'Connor acknowledged the frustrations at this difficult time but also noted the positive work and efforts to move forward on a number of important projects.

William McGillivray finds that the IRT meetings are a chance to be humbled when hearing of the suffering and anger of the communities. Despite the heaviness of what is being said the strength of the people around the table is clear. HC doesn't know the solutions but that it is in the journey with the Innu. This is an important year as the Labrador Innu Healing Program is in its last year so its success and its renewal needs to be discussed and a plan made to move forward.

Judy White noted she has just begun with the province but assures the Innu they are listening and thanked everyone for sharing. They are here to learn and hopefully find solutions.

5. ACTION LIST UPDATE

a. IRT Workplan and Budget

Reviewed the budget and it appears that it will be balanced for the year. Total revenue for the fiscal year (INAC, HC and NL-CYFS) is \$3.7M. The year to date expenditures show a remaining balance of \$3.2M

Hurley noted that the IRT now has office space in Natuashish at the Mushuau Band Council for the Prevention staff and Income Support staff.

b. Income Support

Kylie Rose gave an overview of the IS program to date noting a current caseload of 180 files, including 26 in Natuashish. There was \$934K in assistance issued last fiscal year. \$1M is the expected projection for this fiscal year. Clients are 46% employable, 44% have significant barriers to employment, and 10% are considered unemployable. A Community Liaison Officer has been hired for Natuashish. Integrated Case Management had 30 clients participate in Active Measures in 4th quarter of 2016/17 and 27 clients exited to employment/training. There were 4 quarterly compliance reviews completed last year and the next quality assurance review is in June.

Rose indicated that an IS Working Committee had been held the day before and that another meeting is planned in the near future.

Joudry mentioned that there is a very important lesson that can be learned in which giving the right tools and supports the Innu organizations can do just as well as anyone else. He noted Income Support and the success of the education devolution as great examples. . The Notice of Recovery has been received from INAC with respect to the decision made by the IRT board in regards to the IS Exemption applied for the Christmas disbursements from the Innu Trust . INAC deemed these payments not eligible for exemption under their regulations. The chiefs have been briefed and

there will be a formal objection filed with INAC. INAC owes the Secretariat \$39,000 for delivering the program last year which is a completely separate issue from the recovery.

Action Items

- ***Innu Chiefs will file a formal objection to the 2016-17 recovery notice issued by INAC.***

c. Innu Child Welfare Update

Lyla Andrew presented Provincial NL CSSD statistics for the Labrador Innu zone as 117 children from Sheshatshiu and 59 from Natuashish in care in May 2017. Regarding Sheshatshiu, 64% are placed in the community, 14% in Goose Bay and North West River, and 6% are placed outside of province. Regarding Natuashish, 34% are in the community, 20% are placed in NL, and 10% are out of province. There were 24 children removed from both communities in the last 5 months. None of those children removed from Natuashish were kept in their community. Of the 17 children returned to their communities in the last 5 months, 10 were returned to their parent's custody, 4 were on 6-month supervision orders to their parents.

DGC Tshakapesh spoke to their concern of the state of the homes in Natuashish and Sheshatshiu. There are many people living in small homes. There is mold in the homes and it is not adequate living space. They have been on a boil water order since February. He also spoke to the difference in the prices of food from there to the island.

O'Connor said that INAC is aware of water advisory issue and they are working with the community on a solution. McGillivray said the water issue is a priority also for HC. The water test levels have been down and need to come up.

Michelle Hawco and Melinda Wellsman from BlueSky have been working on transforming the current Group Home in Sheshatshiu to a home that meets current Level 4 standards will also be embedded with the Innu culture. The goals of this phase of placement efforts was to keep children in their home communities, facilitate bringing more of the children home, developing programing that strengthens Innu children's ties to their culture and communities, and to create Innu led, Innu managed and Innu operated placements designed specifically for Innu children using the Innu Care Approach.

Blue Sky's role is to facilitate and support all the preparation and provide training and programing, all in advance of the Innu actually running the facility. Funding ended at the end of March but some interim funding stretched activities to the end of May. During that time, they retained the Innu management trainees. Phase 2 includes moving the group home transition to the next phase. Continuing training, hiring of workers, and program development were all originally planned to meet the

level 4 requirement by January. Without sufficient funding, the transition plan for the group home is at risk.

In addition, Blue Sky was asked to help identify other needs and develop proposals in coordination with both communities. This resulted in plans for an emergency placement home and an enhanced group home in Natuashish which would accommodate 11 children. In Sheshatshiu, in addition to the group home, plans were developed for 2 emergency placement homes which would accommodate a total of 16.

A lot of accomplishments have been made in the community on placements. But if they are not able to move forward soon, there will be a number of impacts on the timeline of things progressing and in keeping the Innu management trainees.

Nickolas Gregoire is one of the Innu management trainees. He spoke of how all the kids have been traumatized and their training (as management/staff) has included a lot of trauma informed care and practices. It's the best practices of today and helps scratch the surface of what these kids have been through to help them heal. He is a part of this community and these are great steps forward. Instead of returning to these facilities, the youth will be taken away again. He fears that if funding is not found soon, this will be the practice once again.

Hurley asked what the cost of having children in care was. Information was unavailable. Joudry noted that the planning figure of average cost per child placed in a staffed residential care facility (Group Home or Emergency Placement Home, not a foster home) is around \$200K- \$225K/year for planning purposes.

Rick Healey said that there is a lot of work to do but the momentum on this project has been building for the last two years. It's a tremendous opportunity to build capacity in both communities that will last long after this investment. The province wants to play a supportive role so once the funding is approved by INAC they will enter into an agreement with SIFN/MIFN to operate the placement facilities.

Chief Hart spoke of his own experience of being a foster parent and expressed that there are a lot of good homes in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish. There is a lot of hope to take back their own kids and stop sending them outside.

Qupee wonders what needs to happen for a change to take place. They know it will take a lot of work and effort and they accept that. There are a lot of hoops that need to be jumped through to get to the end result. Funding should not stop halfway and should be seen through to the end. She also announced that they were doing a press conference at 4:30 to address community issues regarding CYFS issues.

Action Items

- ***INAC to respond to the Innu request for CYFS capacity building funding for the placements in Natuashish and Sheshatshiu.***
- ***INAC, NL and Innu to convene a side meeting later today.***

d. Justice Sub-Committee

Judith Rae spoke to some issues that have been circulating through discussions in the past year regarding policing, lack of a policing agreement, and community security where Peace Keeping forces can attend to issues in a non-policing way. Regarding Natuashish there is a lack of by-law enforcement. The RCMP has decided not to search and seize from the flights and there has been an increase in alcohol and other problems since then. Court is being postponed and held over for months. In Sheshatshiu the lack of court presence is also an issue. The most common needs that she hears are for diversion programs and a policing agreement for each community. A committee needs to be set up so a focused discussion can be set up. The Innu met with assistant commissioner Peter Clark, and he is interested in being on that committee.

ADM Robin Fowler said they are ready to start participating in the committee as soon as possible. Language and translation has been a challenge for many years now and they know this needs to improve.

Chief Nui mentioned the proposal for justice positions in Natuashish that was submitted in 2013 and again last year and both were turned down. He asked for direction as to where to go with it, as they are very much needed. Fowler asked for him to resubmit it to him again.

Tom Keegan said the other federal partners are very interested in joining in the subcommittee and terms of reference are being reviewed.

Action Items

- ***IRT Sec to speak with all parties to organize a meeting for a Justice and Policing Committee***

6. HEALTH UPDATE

The Labrador Health Secretariat has been phased out and the funding is being used for capacity development projects in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish. Currently funding is used towards the Community Wellness Systems Navigator position and interchange for June Fry as Innu Child Health Coordinator.

McGillvray said they will be working with the Health information management to get answers on where the communities want to be and how they can refine the programs to work better with the large numbers of youth in the communities.

7. NEXT IRT MEETING

It was agreed that the IRT Meeting #20 will take place on October 12th in Ottawa, ON. Pre-meetings will be conducted on October 11th. ***Update: The Westin Ottawa has been booked for IRT Meetings.***

Prepared By: Alicia Penashue

Reviewed by: Natasha Hurley

ATTACHMENTS:

Agenda

List of Participants

IRT Sec Operational Workplan and Budget 2017-18

Income Support Program – presentation

CYFS Statistics presentation

IRT MEETING June 8th 2017 – List of Participants

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail
Roy Pike	MTIE	709-899-4227	rpike@innueducation.ca
Brian Harvey	GNL (IIAS)	709-693-1612	brianharvey@gov.nl.ca
Judy White	GNL (IA)		judywhite@gov.nl.ca
Christopher Appleby	GNL (IIAS)	709-729-0404	applebyc@gov.nl.ca
Robin Fowler	GNL (Justice)	709-729-7357	robinfowler@gov.nl.ca
Penny Winter	GNL (Justice)	709-729-1084	pennywinter@gov.nl.ca
Danny Barrett	GNL HCS	709-729-3657	dbarrett@gov.nl.ca
Michael Harvey	GNL HCS	709-729-3103	michaelharvey@gov.nl.ca
Leslie Keays-White	HC-FNIHB	902-471-8469	Leslie.keays-white@hc-sc.gc.ca
William McGillivray	HC-FNIHB	902-717-3201	william.mcgillivray@hc-sc.gc.ca
Shannon Chambers	HC-FNIHB	902-402-7963	shannon.chambers@canada.ca
Rory O'Connor	INAC	902-402-6002	rory.oconnor@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
Della Gagnon	Public Safety Canada	709-772-4942	della.gagnon2@canada.ca
Nathalie Levesque	INAC	902-661-6358	nathalie.levesque@canada.gc.ca
Susan Walsh	CSSD	709-729-3468	swalsh@gov.nl.ca
Tom Keagan	INAC	902-664-7435	tom.keagan@aadnc-aadnc.gc.ca
Ruby Tshakapesh	Innu Nation	709-478-2846	Ruby_tshakapesh@hotmail.com
Simeon Tshakapesh	DGC Innu Nation	709-478-8836	stshakapesh@gmail.com
Anastasia Qupee	GC Innu Nation	709-899-6514	aqupee@innu.ca
John Nui	MIFN Chief	709-899-1451	tshannui@gmail.com
Natasha Hurley	IRT Sec	709-899-2410	nhurley@irtsec.ca
Eugene Hart	SIFN Chief	709-899-1282	ehart@sifn.ca
Garrett O'Brien	Innu Nation	709-899-5459	gobrien@innu.ca
Mary Jane Nui	SIFN	709-899-0879	mjnui@sifn.ca
Steve Joudry	IRT Sec	902-221-3377	sjoudry@irtsec.ca
Kylie Rose	IRT Sec	709-899-6007	krose@irtsec.ca
Angela Pasteen	MIFN	709-899-6041	Angelp1947@hotmail.com
Mark Nui	Innu Nation	709-899-3124	mnuui@innu.ca
Prote Poker	MIFN	709-899-2577	Prote2014@gmail.com
Len Rich	MIFN	709-897-4703	lenscottrich@hotmail.com
Nick Paradisis	MIFN	709-478-2436	nick.paradisis@gmail.com
Elena Andrew	MTIE	709-899-4809	eandrew@innueducation.ca

Nachelle Poker	MIBC	709-899-4998	nachellepoker@gmail.com
Annie Picard	IRT Sec	709-897-4593	apicard@irtsec.ca
Dominic Rich	IRT Sec	709-899-2077	drich@irtsec.ca
Nickolas Gregoire	SIFN	709-899-5680	ngregoire@sifn.ca
Leah Jenkinson	SIFN	709-899-3976	ljenkinson@sifn.ca
Josie Benuen-Pone	SIFN	709-899-1868	jbpone@sifn.ca
June Fry	IRT Sec	709-899-0301	jfry@irtsec.ca
Lynne Gregory	SIFN	709-899-1715	lgregory@sifn.ca
Lyla Andrew	IRT Sec	709-899-3612	lylaandrew@irtsec.ca
Jackie Whelan	CSSD	280-2621/944-9369	jackiewhelan@gov.nl.ca
Kristin Sellon	SIFN	709-899-1075	ksellon@sifn.ca
John Higham	Chignecto	506-536-2378	john.higham@chignectogroup.com
Michelle Hawco	Bluesky	709-691-9513	Michelle.hawco@blueskyfamilycare.com
Bart Jack	MTIE	709-899-1306	bjack@innueducation.ca
Mary Jane Edmonds	MTIE	709-899-1376	manishanedmonds@gmail.com
Mathias Rich	MIFN	709-897-7587	matshiaa@gmail.com
Terry Andrew	SIFN	709-899-4847	tandrew@sifn.ca
Judith Rae	OKT	416-981-9349	jrae@oktlaw.com
Shannon Tobin	SIFN	709-899-6997	stobin@sifn.ca
Melinda Wellsman	Blue Sky	709-689-7295	melinda.wellsman@blueskyfamilycare.com
Brent Carbonell	Blue Sky	709-685-8048	brent.carbonell@blueskyfamilycare.com