



WOLASTOQIYIK WAHSIPEKUK FIRST NATION SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes
August 2019

2019 ASSEMBLY

MALISEET OF VIGER FIRST NATION, August 9 and 10, 2019

HÔTEL UNIVERSEL OF RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP

DRAFT AGENDA

- 7:30 AM** **REGISTRATION**
- 8:30 AM** 1. OPENING CEREMONY
- 8:40 AM** 2. ASSEMBLY OPENING AND CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENT
- 8:45 AM** 3. PROCEDURE RULES PRESENTATION AND QUORUM DETERMINATION
- 8:50 AM** 4. AGENDA ADOPTION
- 9:00 AM** 5. AUGUST 25, 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES APPROVAL
- 9:15 AM** 6. MARCH 31, 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT PRESENTED BY RCGT FIRM
- 9:45 AM** 7. GRAND COUNCIL REPORT – 2018-2019 ACTIVITIES
- 10:00 AM** **HEALTH BREAK**
- 10:15 AM** 8. RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS OF THE AUGUST 25, 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- 10:15 AM** **LUNCH**
- 13:15 AM** 9. FOLLOW-UP /RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS OF THE AUGUST 25, 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- 15:00 AM** **HEALTH BREAK**
- 15:30 AM** 10. STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS PROPOSED BY THE MVFN GRAND COUNCIL
- 16:30 AM** 11. MVFN NAME CHANGE PROPOSAL
- 17:30 AM** 12. CLOSING CEREMONY AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING
- 18:00 AM** **DINNER**

SATURDAY AUGUST 10, 2019

- 8:00 AM** **REGISTRATION**
- 9:00 AM** 1. OPENING CEREMONY
- 9:15 AM** 2. MVFN GENERAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- 9:30 AM** 3. PRESENTATION BY MRS. VIVIANE MICHEL OF NATIVE WOMEN OF QUEBEC
- 10:00 AM** 4. RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTATION ON TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TERRITORY OCCUPANCY
- 10:30 AM** 5. VARIA
- 10:45 AM** CLOSING CEREMONY AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

WOLASTOQIYIK WAHSIPEKUK FIRST NATION

WOLASTOQIYIK WAHSIPEKUK FIRST NATION SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES of the special assembly of the members of the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation, held on August 9 and 10, 2019, at the Hotel Universel, in Rivière-du-Loup.

1. Opening ceremony (August 9)

A greeting and some instructions on the conduct of the meeting were communicated to the members by the Acting General Manager, Mr. Pascal Dubé.

Grand Chief Jacques Tremblay greeted the members and members of the Elders Council and thanked them all. He invited three members to say a prayer in Wolastoqey, French and English.

2. Opening of the assembly and appointment of the chairman of the assembly

Grand Chief Tremblay designates Mr. François Dupéré to chair this assembly in his place.

3. Presentation of the rules of procedure and establishment of quorum

An explanation of the rules of procedure is given to the members by the chairperson of the assembly.

The members present at the opening of the assembly form a quorum, the assembly is declared regularly constituted.

4. Adoption of the agenda

The chairman of the meeting calls for the adoption of the agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Pierre-Luc Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Bernard Jenniss, the agenda was adopted as presented in Appendix I.

5. Approval of the minutes of the August 25, 2018 general assembly.

The Chairman of the assembly asked the members to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Richard Bélanger, seconded by Mr. Richard Ruest, the minutes of the August 25, 2018 general assembly were approved as presented.

6. Financial reports as of March 31, 2019 by RCGT

In accordance with section 2.2 paragraph (e) of the General By-Law, Mr. Jean Bernier of the firm Raymond Chabot Grand Thornton (RCGT), auditor of the financial statements of the Wolastoqiyik Wamsipekwik First Nation (WWFN) reports to the members on the financial statements of the WWFN for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. Members had the documents in hand to follow the reading of the financial statements.

7. Grand Council Report on Activities 2018-2019

Grand Chief Jacques Tremblay summarizes the major activities of the Grand Council in 2018 and 2019.

- Increase in financial investments: as of March 31, 2018, financial investments were \$5,000,000 and now they are \$7,600,000. They are placed in term deposits and are subject to the Financial Investments Policy adopted in July 2018;
- Signing of a Framework Agreement with the Government of Canada: this agreement recognizes the Wolastoqiyik Wamsipekwik First Nation as an Indigenous government and the Nation-to-Nation relationship;
- Signing of an international alliance (Innu, Abenaki and Attikamek): this alliance deals with all issues related to territorial overlaps between nations;
- Acquisition of two (2) pieces of land near the Gros-Cacouna harbour; for the past two (2) years, a lot of work has been done regarding the Gros-Cacouna harbour file. Negotiations will begin in mid-September with the Quebec government regarding the development of the port area.

8. Responses to the proposed resolutions from the August 25, 2018 general assembly.

The Grand Council presented its recommendation for each of the resolutions on the big screen. The chairperson reads the proposal as it was presented last year. The Interim Executive Director presents the comments, thoughts of the Grand Council.

The Chairperson then mentioned that the rules of order apply, including the mover's right of reply, and finally asked the assembly if they were ready to vote.

9. Follow-up/responses to proposed resolutions from the August 25, 2018 assembly.

RESOLUTION #1 Regional Committees

PROPOSED BY: Isabelle Baron

SUPPORTED BY: Olivier Gauvin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT regional committees be established with a budget to provide meetings and services to Nation members;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT regional committees will be formed at the request of the members for this purpose;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a policy responsibility of liaison with regional committees be added to a Chief Advisor to foster communication between Grand Council and regional committees.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #2 Admission of new members

PROPOSED BY: Julie Tremblay

SUPPORTED BY: Marco Tremblay

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly request the acceptance of citizen members of all generations after the members decided before the revision of the citizenship code.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #3 Reimbursement of medications not paid for by Health Canada

PROPOSED BY: Denis Pichette

SUPPORTED BY: Denise Genest

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of MVFN reimburse medical care (medications and other care) that is not paid for by Health Canada

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #4 Number of consecutive terms

PROPOSED BY: Sonia Cyr

SUPPORTED BY: Bernard Jenniss

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Nation set a limit of two (2) consecutive terms for an elected official to hold the same office.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #5 Beaver hunt

PROPOSED BY: Bernard Jenniss

SUPPORTED BY: Sonia Cyr

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of the MVFN resume full management of its rights to this hunt for the benefit of its members;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of MVFN make every effort to enforce the agreement preventing non-native beaver hunting on Maliseet territory;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of MVFN encourage beaver hunting by its members and that beaver meat is added to the community distribution.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #6 Signage for the reserve in Cacouna

PROPOSED BY: Denis-Doris Michaud SUPPORTED BY: H  l  ne Michaud

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the signage indicating the Cacouna Reserve clearly state the name of the Nation.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #7 Appointment of the Auditor General of the MVFN

PROPOSED BY: The Grand Council SUPPORTED BY: Bernard Jenniss

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton be appointed auditors of the MVFN for the next two years, until the next general assembly of members scheduled for June 2020.

At the last general assembly, the members of the Maliseet of Viger First Nation had voted on this draft resolution, see the minutes of the meeting of August 25, the resolution was adopted by majority. So this resolution is settled.

The President of the assembly declares that there is no intervention or right of reply, resolution settled.

RESOLUTION #8 Fishermen's wages

PROPOSED BY: Maxime Jenniss SUPPORTED BY: David Tremblay

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the fishermen have salaries that are competitive or comparable to other Nations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Maliseet fishermen benefit from superior conditions than a non-Native fisherman hired by the Nation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a competent committee recognized by the Grand Council determine the salaries of fishermen.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #9 Monitoring and management of the Whitworth Reserve

PROPOSED BY: Guy Launière

SUPPORTED BY: Diane Launière

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a board or committee be elected to oversee the Whitworth Reserve;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this board or committee resides on the Whitworth Reserve to provide oversight;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT two (2) Maliseet police officers be hired to monitor the Whitworth Reserve.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #10 Workforce training (mentoring)

PROPOSED BY: Stéphane Brière

SUPPORTED BY: Francine Larouche

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Maliseet member may be mentored by an existing employee for the purpose of taking up a position in the future.

The president of the assembly asks if the members are ready to vote. He decided to wait until the next general assembly to come back with this proposal. A member appealed the decision of the chairperson who agreed that a vote should be taken. The vote is on the postponement.

ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE

For: 131

Against: 124

This proposal is submitted on a fixed date (at the June 2020 general meeting)

RESOLUTION #11 Accounting firm

PROPOSED BY: Amélie Larouche SUPPORTED BY: Camélia Ruest

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of MVFN shall henceforth provide, at the General Assembly, the three bids obtained for the appointment of the firm responsible for the audit of the financial statements.

ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #12 Archaeological excavation—Cemetery

PROPOSED BY: Bernard Jenniss SUPPORTED BY: Isabelle Baron

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an archaeological dig be conducted at the Maliseet cemetery site in Sainte-Rita as soon as possible.

ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #13 Cash Payments Survey

PROPOSED BY: Bernard Jenniss SUPPORTED BY: Isabelle Baron

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a financial investigation be conducted into the payments received in cash to or from the MVFN in order to identify how the money collected was used;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the investigation be made public and distributed to the membership.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #14 Distribution to members of the compensation received from the Government of Canada for the railroad crossing on the Whitworth Reserve

PROPOSED BY: Jean-Yves Rioux SUPPORTED BY: Martin Rioux

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the compensation be returned to the Maliseet members, after deducting the costs of consultation(s) with the members on this matter, if any.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #15 Partnership of the members in the projects and economic development of the Nation

PROPOSED BY: Martin Rioux

SUPPORTED BY: Pierre Rioux

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of the MVFN appoint a committee that will propose to its members a plan allowing them to invest in the Nation's projects as well as to establish a company or companies on the Nation's reserve territories.

The President of the assembly asks if the members are ready to vote. The members are not ready to vote.

This proposal is postponed to a fixed date (at the June 2020 General Assembly).

RESOLUTION #16 Hiring code

PROPOSED BY: Martin Rioux

SUPPORTED BY: Pierre Rioux

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we request that Grand Council adopt a hiring code that prioritizes indigenous applicants for any position available with MVFN whether unionized or not.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #17 Claims

PROPOSED BY: Pierre-Luc Gauthier

SUPPORTED BY: Lise Dallaire

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand Council consult with the membership as broadly as possible before signing a comprehensive claims agreement and the future recognition framework for Canada presented by the Federal Government.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #18 Right of way for ATVs and snowmobiles (access card or pass)

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Simard

SUPPORTED BY: Gino Tremblay

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of the MVFN take a position in favour of granting free access to ATV and snowmobile trails for those members who wish to do so.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #19 Indigenous status

PROPOSED BY: Maxime Jenniss SUPPORTED BY: David Tremblay

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Maliseet membership be extended to the 6th generation.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #20 Acquisition of 054 card for children

PROPOSED BY: Doris Tremblay SUPPORTED BY: Gino Tremblay

BE IT RESOLVED that the MVFN Grand Council assists MVFN members in their efforts to acquire the 054 card for their child.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #21 Indigenous status

PROPOSED BY: Catherine Desjardins SUPPORTED BY: Daniel Brière

BE IT RESOLVED that MVFN must take concrete steps now in all its decisions and projects to protect and conserve the land in the broadest sense, not with the idea of using it, but with the concept of independence.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #22 Call for tenders for the filling of positions in the fisheries activities

PROPOSED BY: Marcelle Jenniss SUPPORTED BY: Françoise Jenniss

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the bids of applicants for fisheries tenders be made available to members wishing to view them after the bids have been opened and contracts awarded, and within a reasonable time frame.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #23 Elections

PROPOSED BY: Richard Ruest

SUPPORTED BY: Bernard Jenniss

BE IT RESOLVED THAT each elected position represents a different family clan for the next and subsequent elections.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #24 Tradition: Purification session

PROPOSED BY: Christine Brière

SUPPORTED BY: Hermel Tremblay

BE IT RESOLVED THAT it is essential to value ancestral traditions such as the opening of all meetings, such as the General Assembly, by having an elder speak for the prayer and the traditional opening ceremony (purification, song, dance and drum of the Nation).

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #25 Promote the next generation of hunters, fishers and trappers

PROPOSED BY: Stéphane Brière

SUPPORTED BY: Christian Chouinard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Nation create a program to promote, encourage and educate the next generation and all its members to practise traditional activities on the ancestral territory.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #26 Hunting

PROPOSED BY: Lise Dallaire

SUPPORTED BY: Pierre-Luc Gauthier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT non-Maliseet spouses have the same right to hunt as their spouse during hunting trips.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #27 Learning to hunt

PROPOSED BY: Pierre-Luc Gauthier

SUPPORTED BY: Lise Dallaire

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand Council implement an Indigenous Hunter Apprenticeship Program.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #28 Architecture

PROPOSED BY: Pierre-Luc Gauthier

SUPPORTED BY: Lise Dallaire

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MVFN issue tenders to indigenous architects for future projects within the Nation.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #29 Fishing Mentor Program

PROPOSED BY: Pierre-Luc Gauthier

SUPPORTED BY: Lise Dallaire

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council implement a training program to promote employment in the fishery.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #30 Accommodation

PROPOSED BY: Jean Morais

SUPPORTED BY: Claire Céré

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a project be put in place to accommodate visiting members, that the money spent on accommodation benefit the Nation in some way.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #31 Nomadic character of the Maliseet Nation

PROPOSED BY: Françoise Jenniss SUPPORTED BY: Anthony Jenniss

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the distinctiveness of our nomadic lifestyle be formally declared and affirmed in the definition of a status member so as not to lose the practice of the Nation's ways and customs, regardless of the members' place of residence.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #32 Hunting and Fishing Committee

PROPOSED BY: Martin Rioux SUPPORTED BY: Jean-Yves Rioux (Toronto)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Hunting and Fishing Committee be formed by appointed members from each region.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #33 Fish and game sharing

PROPOSED BY: Marc Morais SUPPORTED BY: Lise Morais

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Nation will increase the quantity or number of community box shipments, to those who request them, as long as the resource is available.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #34 Link between Maliseet communities

PROPOSED BY: Lise-Maude Aubin-Bérubé SUPPORTED BY: Ivanie Aubin-Malo

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand Council appoint an individual to act as an ambassador to the six (6) Maliseet communities to share, learn and spread the culture of the MVFN.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #35 Rimouski administrative office

PROPOSED BY: Stéphane Brière SUPPORTED BY: Audrey Carrier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Maliseet members living in Rimouski could work at the administrative offices in Rimouski according to the needs of the mandates to be accomplished.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY BY COUNTERED VOTE:

For: 99

Against: 86

Abstain: 43

RESOLUTION #36 Maliseet name of Viger and gathering of the Route des Sauvages

PROPOSED BY: Louis-Xavier Aubin-Malo SUPPORTED BY: Ivanie Aubin-Malo

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a cultural committee survey the elders and youth to find a name that represents us as a Maliseet community in the Lower St. Lawrence.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #37 Grand Chief's responsibility and salary policy

PROPOSED BY: Pierre-Luc Gauthier SUPPORTED BY: Lise Dallaire

BE IT RESOLVED THAT item 5.1.c) of the proposed By-Law Amendments be re-evaluated to avoid any conflict of interest;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the salary policy be re-evaluated to properly represent the duties of Grand Council.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #38 National Indigenous Peoples' Day—June 21—recognized as a national holiday

PROPOSED BY: Christian Chouinard SUPPORTED BY: Ken Jenniss

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MVFN lobby the appropriate authorities to ensure that all provinces and territories adopt such a holiday.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #39 Firearms Registration

PROPOSED BY: Christian Chouinard SUPPORTED BY: Stéphane Brière

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council of the MVFN lobby the Provincial Government to remove the requirement for its members to register their firearms.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #40 Financial support for language transmission

PROPOSED BY: Ivanie Aubin-Malo SUPPORTED BY: Catherine Desjardins

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the documents to be provided to the Nation to obtain financial support for education and language transmission be more adapted to the reality of the precariousness and urgency of language transmission in the indigenous context.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #41 Youth Council

PROPOSED BY: Julien Aubin-Malo SUPPORTED BY: Catherine Desjardins

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Youth Council be established before the next election.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #42 Amendment to the by-laws

PROPOSED BY: Amélie Larouche SUPPORTED BY: Véronique Larouche

BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Council propose to the General Assembly a revised compensation code to address the above deficiencies, including an equitable distribution of terms.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

RESOLUTION #43 Purification session offered at general assemblies

PROPOSED BY: Nikki Jo Nicolas SUPPORTED BY: Amélie Larouche

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Grand Council schedule purification sessions at General Assemblies.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #44 Financial assistance for dental care

PROPOSED BY: Betty-Ann Launière SUPPORTED BY: Maurice Launière

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MVFN find a way to cover all non-cosmetic dental expenses for the Nation members.

UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED

RESOLUTION #45 Two chiefs for the same mandate

PROPOSED BY: Sonia Cyr SUPPORTED BY: Dominique Chopin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT only ONE Chief Advisor be appointed to this mandate and that the other Chief Advisor be appointed to another mandate.

REJECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

10. Strategic Directions of the Grand Council of the Maliseet of Viger First Nation

An agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is being finalized that will cover a ten (10) year period and commit approximately twelve million dollars to the MVFN. Thereafter, this agreement will be renewed every five (5) years for an amount varying between \$500,000 and \$550,000 annually.

Once this agreement is concluded, the Grand Council plans to carry out a strategic planning of the commercial fisheries sector which will be integrated into the overall planning of the MVFN in the future. It is important at this time to define the mission, vision, values, and strategic directions of the MVFN.

A motion for a resolution on the adoption of a vision, mission, and strategic directions for the Maliseet of Viger First Nation was presented by Jacques Tremblay and seconded by Christian Chouinard.

A debate ensued, amendments were made and the president of the assembly postponed the vote to the next day with the agreement of the members in assembly. The vote on this proposal is postponed to the next day.

11. Proposal to change the name of the Maliseet of Viger First Nation

At the request of Grand Chief Jacques Tremblay, Chief Advisor Amélie Larouche and Chief Advisor Kévin Morais reported on the process of reflection with the involvement of the cultural committee which led to the suggestion of a new name to better reflect our reality, our language and our culture. This process was conducted simultaneously with the proposal of a new name for the Whitworth Reserve,

Consequently, it is proposed by the Grand Council and seconded by Renée Desjardins that the name “Maliseet of Viger” be replaced by “Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk,” “Wolastoqiyik” meaning “Maliseet” and “Wahsipekuk” meaning “of the St. Lawrence.

Le président de l’assemblée ouvre le débat.

RESOLUTION #2019-02

Adoption of a representative name for the Wolastoqey First Nation

PROPOSED BY: Grand Council

SUPPORTED BY: Renée Desjardins

WHEREAS the members of the assembly wish to give the First Nation a name that is more representative of the place of occupation and the ancestral territory claimed (Wolastokuk)

WHEREAS the name DE VIGER is no longer representative since the retrocession of the Viger reserve in 1870

WHEREAS the Indian Act allows First Nations to change their names

WHEREAS a request was sent to the Cultural Committee to provide the Grand Council with proposed names representative of the First Nation, taking care to verify with linguists and elders who speak the Wolastoqey language

WHEREAS Grand Council has received and reviewed the proposed names suggested by the Cultural Committee

WHEREAS the Grand Council proposes to the members the name: Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) Wahsipekuk First Nation, which means: "A group of Maliseet people living along the St. Lawrence River";

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the members of the First Nation, meeting in Special General Assembly in Rivière-du-Loup this 9th day of August 2019, adopt the name "Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) Wahsipekuk First Nation" as a more representative name for the First Nation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council undertake the necessary steps to proceed with the change of the name of the First Nation, and to publicize and promote the new name.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

The chairperson continued with the topic of the name change for the Whitworth Reserve.

At the request of Grand Chief Jacques Tremblay, the Chief Advisor Amélie Larouche, and the Chief Advisor Kévin Morais, reported on the process of reflection with the involvement of the cultural committee that led to the suggestion of a new name. The process started with a request from the Ministry

of Transportation to know what name should be put on the destination signs for the Whitworth Reserve along the future Highway 85.

Accordingly, it was moved by Grand Council and seconded by Richard Bélanger that “Kataskomik” which translates to “poor land,” “rock land,” or “isolated land,” be named “Whitworth Reserve.”

The President of the assembly opens the debate.

It was also proposed by Johanne Aubin and seconded by Mélanie Brière that it be “Up de la rivière, up the river.”

The president of the assembly mentioned that the members must first vote on the first proposal, that of the Grand Council, and if it is rejected, the members will vote on the other proposal.

RESOLUTION #2019-02 Name “Kataskomik” adopted for Whitworth Reserve

PROPOSED BY: Grand Council SUPPORTED BY: Richard Bélanger

WHEREAS all Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) Bands in Quebec, New Brunswick and the United States are members of the same great Nation;

WHEREAS the members of the General Assembly recognize that the process of cultural reappropriation is important in its approach to self-government and affirmation;

WHEREAS the process of cultural reclaiming includes the use of place names as they were known by the pre-colonial peoples;

WHEREAS a request was sent to the Cultural Committee to provide the Grand Council with proposed names representative of the territory of Whitworth, taking care to verify with linguists and elders who speak the Wolastoqey language

WHEREAS Grand Council has received and reviewed the proposed names suggested by the Cultural Committee

WHEREAS Grand Council recommends proceeding with the name change of the territory of Whitworth to “Kataskomiq”;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Grand Council to change the name of the Whitworth Territory to “Kataskomiq”;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grand Council undertake the necessary steps to proceed with the name change and to publicize and promote the new name.

ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE

12. Closing Ceremony and Adjournment of the Meeting

The president of the assembly announces the closing ceremony with a prayer presented by Mr. Siviški, Mrs. Odette Rioux and Mr. Ernest-Daniel Nicolas.

There being no further business for the day of August 9, the meeting was adjourned.

PROPOSED BY: Ursule Tremblay

SUPPORTED BY: Doris Bouchard

1. Opening ceremony (August 10)

The Grand Chief, Jacques Tremblay, greeted the members and thanked them all for the good progress of the first day.

He invited two (2) members of the Council of Elders and Mr. Siviski to make the opening prayer.

The president of the assembly explains to the members that during a special assembly, there is no varia on the agenda. Item 5 is therefore cancelled. As this is a reconsideration of the agenda, the chairperson asks if the members agree with the modification. The members voted.

The amendment to the agenda was adopted.

The chairperson advised the members that the proposal for the adoption of a vision, mission and strategic directions for the First Nation discussed yesterday, was given to them this morning. He read it.

RESOLUTION #2019-03 Adoption of a vision, mission and strategic directions for the First Nation

PROPOSED BY: Grand Council SUPPORTED BY: Christian Chouinard

WHEREAS the main issue facing the First Nation is its sustainability and this issue rests on three pillars:

- Identity (territory, language and culture);
- Advocacy;
- Good governance (political and administrative, acquisition and development of the territory);

WHEREAS the First Nation wishes to equip itself with governance tools in order to resolve this issue, notably the adoption of a vision, a mission, common values and strategic orientations for the coming years;

WHEREAS the vision proposed by Grand Council is for the First Nation to be:

- A model of Indigenous governance;
- A leader among First Nations in all our sectors of activity through partnerships with our members and other stakeholders;

- Recognized for its identity (territory, language, culture), while respecting its values and maintaining good relations with other indigenous and non-indigenous communities;

WHEREAS in order to achieve the proposed vision, the members of the First Nation request the Grand Council to implement the following mission:

- To represent the members of the First Nation by asserting their rights and looking after their interests;
- Play a political role by determining the orientations that will allow its administration to offer services to its members;
- To position itself as the guardian of the ancestral territory by adopting sustainable development practices for the next seven (7) generations; and
- To ensure that the achievement of self-government is at the centre of its actions for the sustainability of the First Nation and its identity;

WHEREAS in order to achieve the proposed mission, it is necessary that the Grand Council, the members of the various committees, the employees of the First Nation and all members of the First Nation adhere to the following common values:

- Respect;
- Transparency;
- Fairness;
- Loyalty;
- Identity Protector;
- Integrity;
- Respect for the environment;
- Sharing;

WHEREAS the adoption of strategic goals is the preferred way for First Nation members to measure how the Grand Council is implementing the expressed vision, mission and values;

WHEREAS the members of the First Nation have identified the following strategic objectives;

- Promote the principles of good governance;
- Finalize the planning and begin implementation of the Whitworth development plan;
- Finalize negotiation, development planning and begin implementation of projects on lands adjacent to the Port of Gros Cacouna;
- Implement the Viger specific claim;
- Develop the commercial fisheries sector;

- Develop the natural resources sector and territory;
- Reclaim, affirm, value and share our identity (territory, language, culture);
- Optimize our existing infrastructures;

BE IT RESOLVED to adopt the vision, mission, common values and strategic objectives previously stated;

BE IT RESOLVED that these governance tools be implemented to ensure the sustainability of the First Nation.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

2. General Manager’s Report of the Maliseet of Viger First Nation

Pascal Dubé, Acting General Manager, gave an overview of the work accomplished during the past year and thanked the members of the Maliseet of Viger First Nation team.

3. Presentation by Mrs. Viviane Michel of Quebec Native Women

Ms. Michel introduced the organization Native Women and stated its mission.

The Maliseet of Viger First Nation has representatives on the Board of Directors of Native Women, namely

- Laurence Maher
- Mrs. Shirley Kennedy, representative of the Nation’s elders
- Ms. Mélanie Brière, representative of the Nation’s youth

4. Presentation: Research project on traditional activities and land use

Mrs. Carole Lévesque, professor at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), informed the members of a project that will be done in collaboration with them.

The objective of the project is to hear the words of the members and to reconstitute a community and intergenerational memory.

Closing ceremony and adjournment of the meeting

There being no further business for the day of August 10, the meeting was adjourned. The Chair called for a proposer and a seconder.

PROPOSED BY: Ursule Tremblay

SUPPORTED BY: Louise Morais

The Grand Chief, Jacques Tremblay thanks, on behalf of the Grand Council, the president of the assembly as well as all the members for these two (2) beautiful days of work. He took the opportunity to say a special thank you to Pascal Dubé who is finishing his work as interim General Manager and wished François Pelletier a safe return.

He confirms that the next meeting will be held on June 13 and 14, 2020 for the election period.

He invites two (2) members of the Council of Elders and Mr. Siviski to do the closing prayer.