



PCN Band Meeting  
Report for PCN Members  
Priority Action Items for Milton Tootosis, Headman

## 1. Governance & Finance

Effective governance is a key pillar to Nation Rebuilding. The governance conversation will be incorporated in the **Community Development Initiative (CDI) navigator**. This could include researching and collaborating to find common language and definitions for our own laws based on our culture, customs and practices. There are existing draft documents to be reviewed (e.g. Election and Citizenship/Membership Acts). The project will include engaging community members for a long-term comprehensive community plan. The vision will be created by the people for the community.

The Matrimonial and Real Property on Reserves Act process for PCN is completed. The next step will be to ratify the PCN MRPA. Once it is ratified it will have to be enforced.

The Management Action Plan (MAP) is a process to monitor and improve the fiscal condition of the Nation. The committee, which meets quarterly, includes reps from the C & C, INAC and the RBC. The good news is spending in under-funded areas is generally under control. The bad news is there is still a growing need for more financial resources as the nation's population expands (1,700+). The pressure to find or create alternative financial resources (own source funding) versus piece meal project-based funding is ongoing.

## 2. Justice/Public Safety

PCN will partner with the Saskatchewan First Nations Safety Association as a resource to help PCN develop a Community Public Safety Policy.

**The nêhiyaw wîcihitowin (Cree Helping Cree) is a Little Pine First Nation and Poundmaker Cree Nations project** and is lead by Jacob Pete, Austin Tootoosis, and Dr. Holly Graham (U of S).

In order to address current gaps in existing programs and knowledge, a holistic approach utilizing the medicine wheel which represents the interconnectedness/interrelatedness of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellness, has been created for this five-year project.

This project acknowledges that the past and current relationships between Indigenous peoples and the Police Service has suffered from a legacy of harsh policy and enforcement practices as part of colonization. It is important to note that this was a relationship created by government policy – not by the RCMP, not by Indigenous peoples. This project is timely and has the potential to change this historical relationship for both the RCMP and Indigenous peoples – to create, build, and sustain authentic respectful relationships.

### Three components to this project:

#### 2.1) Restorative Justice

Our team would: establish and integrate Tribal Court into both First Nations; discuss the current use of discretionary authority to charge by the justice system with the justice system; collaborate with justice system to ensure the Gladue Principle is utilized; and, implement Alternatives to Violence (ATV) community programming- infused with Indigenous worldviews. Building healthy relationships is inherent within a Restorative Justice process.

## 2.2) Reclaiming and Rebuilding Our Indigenoussness

Utilizing *Recreating the World: A practical guide to building sustainable communities* by Michael and Judie Bopp to provide the foundation for increasing individual and community capacity. This guide will be Indigenized using néhiyaw (Cree) worldview by Austin Tootoosis and presented in a weekly group format.

## 2.3) Establish and Maintain own Police Force

The Training for Community Safety Officers (11 from Little Pine and 2 from Poundmaker First Nation) began August, 2018. The training was delivered in partnership with the two First Nation communities and SK Corrections and Policing, funded by Battleford Tribal Council SITAG, and delivered by Saskpolytech. The first four weeks of training were in Little Pine FN and the last two weeks were delivered in North Battleford, SK. Upon completion of this six-week course, the candidates are eligible to be appointed Special Constables by the Province (Justice). The graduates will work with the local RCMP in a tiered policing system to provide community – based police services in Little Pine and Poundmaker First Nation.

## 3. Lands

Concerns have been raised by Band members about the ongoing use of chemicals on crops and the environmental and health impacts. Financial resources and partner institutions to assist in the process will be scoped out.

The lack of an updated land code is an obvious weakness in our customary law system. This has been raised several times during the MRPA consultation sessions. The lack of clear law and policy has resulted in unresolved conflicts with a few families. We urgently need to address this very soon and define a conflict resolution process that is fair and equitable. We must resolve this matter internally and maintain the control internally within the nation.

The On-Reserve Cultural Site Documentation Services project with the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) is completed to ensure PCN has documented knowledge on the locations of culturally important sites as a step towards protecting the lands during industrial and commercial developments.

The BATC hosted a two-day session for the **Indigenous Advisory & Monitoring Committee/Line 3 Treaty 6 Elders/Leaders information session** on February 28, 2019. There were a lot of trust issues, lack of communications raised and awareness about the duty to consult conditions #21 & #29 shared at the session.

Enbridge Inc. hosted a on- day focus group on March 6 focussing on conditions #21 & #29 as part of the engagement process. Concerns were presented now that part of Line 3 replacement is completed. There is a lack of unity amongst the FN business entities, a lack of capacity and sustainability. Enbridge reported that the Line 3 replacement on the US side has been delayed until 2020.

## 4. Gangs and Drugs Prevention and Intervention Strategy

A drug abuse crisis is affecting many First Nations across Indian country, both on the reserves and in the cities. Chronic under-funding is a systemic problem affecting all First Nations across Canada to help address this social challenge.

We participated in the “Walk Against Drugs” in the fall of 2017 to raise awareness. The walk from Chief Poundmaker School to Little Pine School included students, staff and elected leaders from both First Nations.

We plan to create our own PCN Task Force to come up with solutions, an action plan based on the feedback and recommendations from the Gangs & Drugs Forum held in North Battleford in the fall of 2018.

There are ongoing talks underway to review the current policing agreement we have with the RCMP and to plan for changes as the current agreement expired in 2018.

## **5. Livelihood & Community Economic Development**

The partnership with Major Projects Group Canada Inc. has resulted in outsourcing developments as a business ready supplier of services for the construction, energy, renewable energy, manufacturing, mining and forestry sectors. Connections have also been initiated with the information technology and the agriculture sector as well as other First Nation owned business development corporations to explore potential partnerships. The end goal is to diversify our investments at low risk and to earn a rate of return with the profits returning to the PCN.

The PCN Arts Co-operative for the artisans made the inaugural appearance at the Lloydminster Christmas Expo on Nov. 17-19, 2018 and is getting ready for the Art Show and Exoneration event in May, 2019 and also the June 21<sup>st</sup> event to be held at Fort Battleford, Town of Battleford.

Commercial development of P2 lands needs further research, exploration, planning and infrastructure development. The close proximity of the P2 lands to the Battlefords is an opportunity.

Plans are underway to study the feasibility of acquiring land and building a Convenience Store/Gas Bar/VLT lounge concept near the town of Paynton, SK off Highway #16 (Yellowhead). Preliminary analysis indicates support for the business idea for job creation and profitability.

We hosted two sessions (January & March) for the PCN Community Garden Project with consultant Len Sawatsky of Meadow Lake. The proposal includes the start-up costs for a small operation and a green house. The plan is to take the plan to funding sources including meeting partners such as CHEP Good Food Inc., Agri-Food Canada and Health Canada.

## **6. Culture**

The renewal of the Chief Poundmaker Museum and Historic Site as a cultural tourism destination is underway with the Art Show on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Exoneration Event on May 2, 2019. Floyd Favel is organizing the Poundmaker Performance Festival and Art Show on May 1<sup>st</sup> and August 6, 7, 8, 2019.

The Chief Poundmaker Museum building is operational during the off season and will be used for various projects year-round. It has the potential to be the hub for cultural activity during the off-summer months.

The Pine Island Project is a partnership with the Prairie Steamship Heritage Association. The project plan is to launch an excavation into the depths of the North Saskatchewan River to potentially find rifles, axes and other artifacts from the historic battle of May 2, 1885. A tour of Pine Island for the elders was held in late October 2018. A promotional video targeting funders has been completed with the support of the PSHA.

Cultural appropriation – use of the Poundmaker name is a concern (e.g. Poundmaker’s Lodge, Pound-Maker Ag Ventures, in fictional performing arts, museums, etc.). Legal counsel has been attained to communicate with gaming giant 2K Games Inc. which had used the Poundmaker name and his likeness for one of its gaming products.

The land-based education **Oskâyak Mînowin Project** funded by the Jordan’s Principle Initiative resulted in numerous youth from the Chief Poundmaker School benefitting from fishing, hunting trips and personal self development workshops in the community. Carlin Nordstrom was the main leader and project coordinator. The project comes to an end at the end of March, 2019. Funding for 2019-2020 is pending.

The nêhiyawêwin language retention continues to be a concern. Canada’s Indigenous Languages **Legislation Bill C-91, An Act respecting Indigenous languages** first reading was on February 5, 2019. Once official, this Act will assist in language renewal and survival.

## 7. Treaty Rights & Claims

The ongoing information flowing from the advocacy work of the AFN, FSIN and Treaties 1-11 is available for those interested. There are many credible sources available online as well.

We will continue to attend the Treaty gatherings whenever possible to stay on top of the pressing challenges that impact our inherent rights.

The Rebellion Bands Annuity Claim is completed. The settlement was for \$4.8 Million minus the legal costs and per capita distribution which leaves a balance of \$2.6 Million. The balance is to be left in the Legacy Trust Account with an expected annual return of about 4%. The Trust is professionally managed by Brittanie Laverdure, JD, (the Trustee) Regional VP – Indigenous Wealth/RBC Wealth Management, Royal Trust Corporation of Canada.

The Cows and Plows (agricultural) claim is in very early stages of development. We are waiting for a response from Canada to the claim. If approved, the next step is negotiations.

The oil and gas drainage claim (PCN and Onion Lake Cree Nation vs Canada) - No progress to date.

The constant threat and erosion of our inherent treaty rights is real. We rely on the AFN, FSIN and Treaty 1-11 organizations and online topic expert resources for their political, legal analysis and strategies for action.

### **Bills to watch:**

**Bill C-45/46** (legalization of Cannabis by summer 2018) - There is a National Working Group (AFN) that is mandated to address education and public awareness, impaired driving and workplace safety, public health, revenues, economic development, social, jurisdiction, justice.

**Bill C-262** (*an Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*) passed (206 voted yes and 79 voted no) in the House of Commons on May 30, 2018 and is now in the Senate.

**Bill C-69**, is titled “the modernization of the National Energy Board and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency” or *An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act* and make consequential amendments to other Acts.

**Bill C-92** is the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and families*. It is legislation addressing Indigenous Child Welfare that recognizes First Nations jurisdiction over child and family services. It has two provisions. First is for family unity and secondly automatic standing. There is advocacy by the AFN for increased funding and investments.

## **8. Reconciliation**

Canada has committed to exonerate Chief Poundmaker. Plans are underway for a May 2nd event plan and a budget to be submitted to ISC (Ottawa). The project includes a joint statement of exoneration, a program with VIP dignitaries, many visitors and youth (from schools) from the region.

We continue to lobby the leadership of the cities of Lloydminster and North Battleford as we collectively spend a lot of money there and we need to start seeing these cities and their businesses employ more of our people.

We are participants of an Office of the Treaty Commissioner Reconciliation projects in Lloydminster and the Battlefords.

The Chief and some Council members met with the Mayor Gerald Albers, City of Lloydminster on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to begin developing a mutually respectable relationship and a plan to commit to sharing cultural, employment and business opportunities.

## **9. Sports and Recreation**

PCN is hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Lawrence Weenie Cup (LWC) Tomahockey in North Battleford on April 5, 6, 7, 2019. The event will include recreation, legends (35+), masters (45+), women and midget divisions plus an Indigenous talent show. Plans are to expand and to add other cultural events in 2020 as the foundation for a Winter-fest. Visit [www.tomahockey.info](http://www.tomahockey.info) for details.

## **10. International/National Policy Issues**

It is important to stay up to date with broader issues impacting First Nations across Indian County. The main challenges facing all First Nations across Canada, as discussed at the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Meeting in Ottawa in early December, 2018 included: Legalization of Cannabis, UNDRIP, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Creation of Indigenous Services and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (formerly INAC), North American Free Trade Agreement, Youth Council, Elders Council, Women's Council, Health, Education, Law and Policy Review, Fiscal Relations Final Report, AFN/Canada MOU on Joint Priorities, Environment and Fisheries, Housing-National Housing Strategy, First Nations Labour Market, Jordan's Principle, Community Safety/Policing/Justice, Languages Legislation, Protocol Agreement with Indigenous leaders from Ecuador, Heart and Stroke Foundation; Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, North American Indigenous Games/World Indigenous Nations Games, Chronic Wasting Disease. Numerous resolutions were discussed and debated.

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