



QUARTERLY REPORT - APRIL, MAY,
JUNE 2019

April, May, June, 2019

To find out what projects and issues I have been busy with take a quick read of this quarterly report and summary. It's not all but I captured the most important areas. Please feel free to comment and add your own thoughts and suggestions for solutions by emailing me at milton@poundmakercn.ca

Milton Tootoosis
Headman



1. Governance & Finance

Effective governance is a key pillar to Nation Rebuilding. The governance conversation has been incorporated in the Community Development Initiative (CDI), lead by navigator Deanne Kasokeo. Assisting Deanne is Delainee Antoine-Tootoosis. The project began this spring. As mentioned before, there are existing draft documents to be reviewed (e.g. Election and Citizenship/Membership Acts) and new ones to be drafted such as an Education Act. The project will include engaging community members for the comprehensive community plan (a first). The vision will be created by the people for the community and will be long-term. Keep posted for upcoming engagement sessions on the reserve and in Edmonton and Saskatoon.

The Matrimonial and Real Property on Reserves Act process for PCN is completed and needs to be voted on in a referendum.

On July 23-25, 2019 the 40th Annual Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly will be hosted by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The objectives, consistent with the AFN Charter, includes providing a space for First Nations governments from across Canada to develop agreement and decisions on key issues affecting First Nations across Canada. The top issues will be implementing the UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action, inherent and treaty rights, fiscal relations, health and wellness, climate change/environment, economic/social development, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. There will be many other treaty rights and political issues tabled in the form of resolutions for debate and decisions for direction and solutions.

The Liberal government reports that funding for First Nations across Canada has improved but most Chiefs say it is still not enough to close the gaps and to improve up the quality of life index. We have seen new monies for infrastructure, youth programming under the Jordan's Principle initiative, comprehensive community planning and education. However, we are still fiscally challenged to address law and policy making, housing, health care, child and family services, roads, sports, arts, culture and heritage, restorative justice, on reserve court, tribal policing, persons with disabilities, communications (community radio), renewable energy development, specific claims.

The Management Action Plan (MAP) purpose is to improve the fiscal management of the Nation's funds received from Ottawa. The bad news is there is an ongoing and growing need for more financial resources. The pressure to find or create alternative financial resources (own source funding) and to apply for project-based funds from alternate sources is an ongoing challenge.

2. Justice/Public Safety

PCN has allied 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). Some funding has been secured to address part of the proposal objectives and will start in the fall of 2019. A holistic approach utilizing the medicine wheel which represents the interconnectedness/interrelatedness of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellness targeting the youth will be used for this project. 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 – Not approved

2.2) Reclaiming and Rebuilding Our Indigenoussness – Approved

2.3) Establish and Maintain own Police Force – Not approved

Funding for reclaiming and rebuilding our Indigenoussness has been approved and the restorative justice and establishing and maintaining our own police force has not. The lobbying effort continues to gain support and funding for the two unfunded areas.

3. Lands

The lack of an updated land code continues to be an obvious weakness in our customary law system. The lack of clear law and policy has resulted and will continue to result in conflict. It is critically important to address this policy issue internally within the nation.

Pipelines – PCN is connected to the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee/Line 3 group for updates for the Enbridge owned pipeline coming through our ancestral territory. The Line 3 replacement is completed. The industry is controversial with some First Nations pro and some are anti pipelines. Indigenous engagement and environmental protection remain the top policy priorities.

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. The plan remains to establish a strategy following up on the Gangs & Drugs Forum held in North Battleford in the fall of 2018.

The BATC Justice program is being resurrected with a call for two new committee members (one youth and one elder). This initiative will press the re-set button for this fall 2019.

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 in the Line 3 replacement project that has come to an end. The partnership is getting ready to compete for other new opportunities in the construction industry.

A proposal for the Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (IAFSI) with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has been completed for funding consideration. If approved the organic vegetable and apprenticeship project will commence in April, 2020. This looks promising.

Connections continue to be explored in other sectors as well as with other business corporations.

The PCN Arts Co-operative for the artisans has established its home base at the museum.

Plans continue to be 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).

Green energy strategy – most experts agree that the world is undergoing major climate changes and that it is urgent to respond in the reduction of green house gases. The First Nations Power Authority (FNPA) is positioned to assist PCN with an assessment as part of stage one. The next stage would include community consultation and establishment of a community lead strategy followed by securing financing in order to implement the plan.

6. Culture

The renewal of the Chief Poundmaker Museum and Historic Site as a cultural tourism destination continued into its second year with the Art Show on May 1st organized by museum curator Floyd Favel. We had a traditional feast to kickstart the event which was well attended by many visitors.

The historic Exoneration of Chief Poundmaker event happened on May 23, 2019. The Prime Minister of Canada The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau came to PCN to formally apologize and posthumously exonerate our legendary Chief Poundmaker of all alleged wrongdoings dating back to NW Rebellion of 1885. We had over one hundred VIP dignitaries in attendance and about two thousand attend the event. The ceremony was televised live by CBC and covered by media nationally and internationally. There were over eight hundred mentions of the historic event that day by mainstream media outlets, major networks and on social media platforms.

Floyd Favel organized a traditional feast and art show on May 1, 2019 to honour the warriors who fought on the battle site hill on May 2, 1885. Favel will also be organizing the Plains Indian Sign Language Camp on July 29 to August 2 and the inaugural Poundmaker Performance Festival on August 6, 7, 8, 2019. The festival will attract actors and visitors from Poland and across Canada.

The Pine Island Underwater Archeological Project is a partnership with the Prairie Steamship Heritage Association (PSHA). The project plan is to launch an excavation into the depths of the North Saskatchewan River to potentially find rifles from the historic battle of May 2, 1885. A technical tour of Pine Island with Parks Canada and the Chief Underwater Archeologist is planned for July, 2019.

Cultural appropriation – use of the Poundmaker name is an ongoing concern (e.g. Poundmaker's Lodge, Pound-Maker Ag Ventures, Poundmaker Meats, in fictional performing arts, museums, etc.). Legal counsel has provided a legal opinion about protecting Chief Poundmaker's name and likeness.

The land-based education Oskâyak Mînowin Project funded by the Jordan's Principle Initiative resulted in numerous youths from the Chief Poundmaker School benefitting from fishing, hunting trips and personal self development workshops. Carlin Nordstrom was the leader and project coordinator. The project came to an end at the end of March, 2019. Funding for 2019-2020 has been secured and the next schedule of camps are being planned out.

The nêhiyawêwin language retention continues to be a concern. Keep an eye on Canada's Indigenous Languages Legislation Bill C-91, An Act respecting Indigenous languages. There are plans to have a Plains

Indian Sign Language Camp and a Cree Immersion Camp in July, 2019 as part of a strategy to keep our language alive for many generations to come.

7. Treaty Rights/Claims & Bills to Watch

There is ongoing information flowing from the advocacy work of the AFN, FSIN and Treaties 1-11. We continue to network and learn from other treaty based First Nations. We continue to attend the Treaty gatherings whenever possible to stay on top of the pressing challenges that impact our inherent rights. There are many credible sources available online as well.

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 which is to be left in the Legacy Trust Account. The expected annual return is 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 early stages of development. As soon as we get confirmation from Canada that it is approved, we move forward to the negotiations stage.

The oil and gas drainage claim (PCN and Onion Lake Cree Nation vs Canada) requires several First Nations affected by the same problem to agree to join the class action claim. The claim is being led by one of Canada's top-class action lawyers.

The threats to erode of our inherent treaty rights is ongoing. PCN allies with the AFN, FSIN and Treaty 1-11 organizations and treaty based First Nations scholars to guide the ongoing resistance.

Bills to watch:

Bill C-92 is the Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and families.

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-91 is An Act respecting Indigenous languages

Bill C-27 is the First Nations Financial Transparency Act

Bill C-45 is the Cannabis Act

Bill C-262 is an Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (206 voted yes and 79 voted no) at the Senate level in Ottawa in late June. APTN reported that the major reason the bill was opposed is over the language "free, prior and informed consent" or FPIC and the lack of agreement on whether First Nations can have veto power and to say no to resource development.

8. Reconciliation

Canada's Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, officially apologized and exonerated Chief Poundmaker of all alleged wrongdoing dating back to 1885. About two thousand people attended the historic ceremony and over one hundred dignitaries travelled to the battle site hill to partake in the

event. We had exceptional news coverage locally and internationally, including social media mentions that went global.

We continue to lobby the leadership of the cities of Lloydminster and the Battlefords as we collectively spend a lot of money there. We need to start seeing business and employment opportunities in return for more of our people as specified in the TRC Calls to Action (and other reports over the decades).

Many First Nations leaders have said we cannot have real impactful reconciliation without tapwêwin (truth) and economic reconciliation. We can have all the demonstrations and educational awareness sessions we want but if we do not address the poverty question and meaningful education/training/procurement strategies that lead to long-term livelihood opportunities we will continue to have escalating social and health problems. The cost of the status quo is simply not sustainable.

9. Sports and Recreation

PCN hosted the 19th Annual Lawrence Weenie Cup (LWC) Tomahockey in North Battleford on April 5, 6, 7, 2019. The event included twenty-six teams (largest ever) and over three hundred athletes in recreation, legends (35+), masters (45+), women and midget divisions. LWC also included an Indigenous 8-ball pool tournament for men/ladies and a talent show. Plans are to expand and to add other cultural events in 2020 as the foundation for a Battle River Winter-fest. Visit www.tomahockey.info for details.

10. International/National Policy Issues:

The main challenges facing all First Nations governments across Canada include but are not limited to: Transition from the *Indian Act* to Nation Building and application of the core pillars of effective governance and management; climate change and action; ineffectiveness of contribution agreements vs real long term funding; underfunding (in most cases chronic) and a lack of capacity to address economic development, education, legalization of cannabis, implementation of the UNDRIP and TRC Calls to Action, racial discrimination, creation of Indigenous Services and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (formerly INAC), North American Free Trade Agreement, youth, elders, women, health, education, law and policy review, fiscal relations with Canada, environment and fisheries, housing, water and emergency management, First Nations labour market, Jordan's Principle, community safety/policing/justice, languages, international relations with Indigenous leaders from around the world, murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, North American Indigenous Games/World Indigenous Nations Games, Day Schools and Scholars Class Action vs Canada, and other.

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