

# REPORT FOR PCN CITIZENS

PREPARED BY MILTON TOOTOOSIS, HEADMAN

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## 1. Treaty Rights/Specific Claims/other

### The Rebellion Losses claims:

**A) The Treaty Annuity Specific Claim** referendum on July 3, 2018 approved that 75% of the settlement money would go into a trust and 25% would be for per capita distribution (PCD).

**B) The Cows and Plows (agricultural) Claim.** Canada has acknowledged that the docs have been received. If it is determined by Canada that the submission meets their criteria they will notify PCN and the negotiations will commence.

In February of 2016 a \$3-billion class action lawsuit was filed by PCN and Onion Lake Cree Nation under Section 48 (1) of the *Federal Courts Act*. The statement of claim accuses Indian Oil and Gas Canada of failing to protect and develop the resource and from failing to protect the drainage of the resource from wells close to PCN TLE lands. We anticipate a notice in 2019.

The threat and erosion of our inherent treaty rights has been ongoing for over a century. We rely on the AFN, FSIN and Treaty 1-11 organizations and other topic expert resources for their political leadership, analysis and strategies for action.

The Chiefs at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly on December 5, 2018 voted unanimously in favour of resolution #25 rejecting the federal government's Rights Recognition Framework. There was a demand to call a special meeting with the PM to discuss this urgent issue in early 2019. Beware of the ongoing threats to terminate our inherent rights and a repeat of the 1969 White Paper and other termination of rights strategies according to the top critics.

## 2. Governance & Finance

Effective governance is a key pillar to Nation Rebuilding. The Governance Committee will be called to reset the process of 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, Citizenship, Matrimonial and Real Property on Reserves). The Key challenges moving forward include addressing our sovereignty, conflict resolution process and enforcement.

A Comprehensive Community Planning process for funding application has been approved by Canada.

**Bill C-45/46 (legalization of Cannabis on Oct. 17, 2018)** - We have had very little dialogue at PCN about this law. It has economic and health benefits but there are questions about its impact on the health of youth, safety, taxation, revenue sharing and how the illegal market will adjust itself to work around the new legislation.

**Bill S-3 (Amendments to the Indian Act/Band Membership/Citizenship)** – the landmark Descheneaux Case in 2015 has triggered new strategies by Canada with the goal of addressing the gaps as identified in the case. Canada announced a Collaborative Engagement Process which PCN will apply to for funds to continue the work that has already been started to address our Membership/Citizenship law as a Section 10 Band. Exercising our right to self-determination means that PCN needs to get its own Citizenship Law in place very soon or risk getting dictated to by Canada.

**A Dog By-law** continues to be researched and proposed for the community in partnership with the Canine Action Project and the U of S, animal rights orgs and other. Visit [www.canineactionproject.com](http://www.canineactionproject.com) for more info.

**The main challenges impacting First Nations across Canada includes:** The Cannabis Act, Amendments to the Fisheries Act, Assessment Act, Canadian Energy Regulator Act, Canadian Navigable Waters Act, Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, Private Members Bill 262 (UNDRIP), Amendments to the Indian Act – Bill S-3 (Citizenship), Impact Assessment Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, First Nations Languages Act, the Firearms Act, Bill C-75 (Elimination of bias in selecting jurors). Other challenges include the inclusion of Indigenous rights in NAFTA, resource extraction and ICFS, resource revenue sharing, amongst others.

Visit the [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca) for the latest updates on legal, treaty and aboriginal rights issues and policies affecting all First Nations across Indian country. Also visit sites on social media for critical analysis and diverse perspectives by knowledgeable people such as Dr Pam Palmater, Janice Makokis, Russel Diabo, and others. We need to build up our own capacity by getting ourselves educated and informed about all of the issues.

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 ongoing challenge remains: lack of funds to meet all demands and needs, internal controls and the need for increased own source revenue to meet the needs.

### **3. Health & Safety**

We continue to monitor the ongoing threat and erosion of our treaty rights to the '**medicine chest**' as understood in our Treaty Six.

There is a need for an independent evaluation of the impacts of the Battle River Treaty Six Health Centre and its mandate to deliver basic health care services for the Poundmaker Cree Nation. With a growing young and seniors on reserve population there is a need for expanded health care services on the reserve.

The **Saskatchewan First Nations Safety Association** is available as a resource to help PCN develop a Community Public Safety Policy.

PCN was approved for a health and wellness project by Health Canada under the **Jordan's Principle initiative** to address suicide prevention. Carlin Nordstrom is leading the project by taking youth out on the land to learn how to fish, hunt and harvest the meat. Several others at CPS are involved with workshops focussed on cultural, mental and physical well-being.

### **4. Lands**

**Husky Energy Oil Spill 2016 - The Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence (COE)** lead the independent assessment report of the North Saskatchewan River differs from Husky Energy's report that 93% of their oil has been recovered from the NSR. First Nations upstream have filed law suits for environmental damages.

Concerns by citizens about the ongoing use of chemicals on crops and the environmental and health impacts. Financial resources and partner institutions to assist in the process continue to be explored.

There are gaps in the existing land code of our PCN customary law system. This has been raised several times during the MRPA consultation sessions. The lack of clear law and policy for resolving conflicts has resulted in unresolved issues. We urgently need to address this very soon and define our law and a conflict resolution process that is fair.

**The On-Reserve Cultural Site Documentation Services Project with the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) is complete.** The goal is 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 Pine Island Project** proposal is a partnership with the Prairie Steamship Heritage Association. A tour of Pine Island for the elders was held on October 26, 2018. The project plan is to launch an archeological expedition into the depths of the North Saskatchewan River to potentially find rifles, axes and other artifacts belonging to Chief Poundmaker and other Indians dating back to 1885.

## **5. Gangs and Drugs Prevention and Intervention Strategy**

At the fall 2017 Band Meeting a motion was passed unanimously banning drug dealers from the PCN reserves.

A meeting was held in late November in Regina with senior officials with Health Canada to address the critical need for funding to begin work on a prevention strategy for PCN. Funding under Jordan's Principle for 300K was approved. The project is underway with youth experiencing traditional skills such as hunting, fishing, trapping on the land and hides preparation.

A Gangs and Drugs Forum was hosted by PCN and Little Pine First Nations and held in North Battleford on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. About one hundred and fifty attendees participated in the educational and awareness sessions. A report is being written and will include strategies and solutions for moving forward.

## **6. Justice & Reconciliation**

There are ongoing talks underway to review and replace the current policing agreement we have with the RCMP and to plan for changes as the current agreement expires in 2018. Jacob Pete is our consultant for both PCN and LP. A **Community Safety Officer training program** was completed on November 23, 2018 at Little Pine in partnership with Canada, the Province of Saskatchewan and the North-West Regional College.

PCN is currently in talks with Canada to exonerate Chief Poundmaker for charges of treason-felony that are linked to the events of 1885. A joint statement of exoneration and plans for a commemorative event are currently in progress.

**On April 18, 2018 the leadership signed a reconciliation declaration with sixteen other organizations in the city of Lloydminster** as a commitment to improving trust, respect, good relations and improved livelihood for many years to come. As a follow-up to the strategy, the C&C will be meeting with the City of Lloydminster leadership in early 2019 to discuss employment and economic opportunities.

## **7. Livelihood/Community Economic Development**

The **partnership with Major Projects Group Canada (MPG)** has led to outsourcing developments as a business ready supplier of services for the construction in the ultra-competitive energy industry. Bids have been submitted to provide viable solutions for Enbridge and its prime contractors. The partnership has led to positioning the companies as bonafide service delivery solutions moving forward. Talks are underway with the ATCO Group to discuss renewable energy solutions.

The goal includes the diversification of our investments at low risk and to earn a sustainable rate of return with the profits returning to the PCN. The assets must be managed by a trusted credible entity (professional and non-political) that is transparent, accountable and responsible for making smart investments for the long-term sustainability of the PCN.

**The Kiskikomân Co-operative** has been initiated by the local artisans. The challenge is to find and secure start-up financial resources.

Talks with Canada linked to the Exoneration Project include negotiating for a new museum and year-round operations funding (e.g. Fort Battleford, Batches, Fort Walsh). A feasibility study will be conducted to help assess the untapped potential we have as an Indigenous tourism attraction.

**Commercial and residential development of P2 lands** needs further research, exploration, planning, legal and infrastructure development. The proximity of the P2 lands to the Battleford's is a tremendous opportunity.

## **8. Food Sovereignty**

Food prices are going up and the affordability of basic vegetables is a growing threat to our nation's food sovereignty. We have access to arable land and water resource to make gardening to a larger community level. The C&C met with Les Sawatsky from Meadow Lake, SK a consultant who just finished working with the Flying Dust First Nation and helped establish their community cooperative garden project. The idea is, if the community is willing,

to develop an organic garden. An initial meeting will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup> to engage the community interest and to understand the lessons learned from other First Nation garden projects.

## **9. Culture & Language**

PCN hosted a cultural camp with about twenty-five students and staff from South Carolina, USA, Australia and across Canada on July 3-6, 2018. The group were special guests at the Poundmaker Storyteller's Festival opening on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr Lanny Real Bird from Crow Tribe in Montana made the trek to PCN and presented about Indian sign language as a method of retaining Indigenous communications and languages alive.

**Cultural appropriation** – use of the Poundmaker name and likeness is a concern (e.g. Poundmaker's Lodge, Pound-Maker Ag Ventures, Poundmaker Meats, in fictional performing arts, museums, etc.). **2K Games Inc**, a gaming company with an international presence, had announced the use of Chief Poundmaker's name and likeness. It was to be launched in February 2018. There was extensive local, national and International media coverage about the lack of official approval from the Chief and Council. 2K Games Inc. has not responded to numerous media requests for a response.

**The nêhiyawêwin language retention continues to be a concern.** Within the language are concepts and terms that are the core foundation of our culture and who we are as sîpî iniwak/nêhiyawak/îniwak.

The **First Nations Languages Act** process and consultations process took place across Canada including a session in Saskatoon on August 24, 2018.

**A public school in Lloydminster proposes to PCN for approval to use Chief Poundmaker's name for a library.** The leadership has asked the school for more time in order to conduct community consultation.

## **10. Sports**

We are in the planning phase for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Lawrence Weenie Cup (LWC) Tomahockey on April 5-7, 2019 in North Battleford. The event will include adult male/female/midget divisions, a Talent Show and a Singles 8-Ball Pool Tourney. Other sports and cultural events will be added in the years ahead for what can be a culturally rich and fun winter-fest.

**Contact info: C: (306) 229-5221 E: [milton@poundmakercn.ca](mailto:milton@poundmakercn.ca)**