

REPORT FOR PCN CITIZENS

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Top Ten Action Items Update

1. Treaty Rights/Specific Claims

The Rebellion Losses claims:

A) **The Treaty Annuity Specific Claim** process is advancing with a referendum vote ending on July 3, 2018 whereby about 72% of those who cast a ballot voted yes to accept the offer from Canada that was received on Feb. 13, 2018. The referendum also approved the trust agreement proposal and per capita distribution (PCD) formula. Legal counsel will be advising the C & C on the next steps following the referendum.

B) **The Cows and Plows (agricultural) Claim** is in the early stages of development. Canada has acknowledged that the docs have been received. PCN is in a waiting period now. If it is determined by Canada that the submission meets their criteria they will notify PCN and the negotiations will commence. The law firm Gowling WLG has been retained as the legal counsel on this matter.

It was discussed and agreed that the C & C will appoint Blaine Favel to oversee the negotiations on behalf of the PCN for a comprehensive package for losses and harm done to Poundmaker's people pertaining to the events of 1885. This package will be linked to the Exoneration of Chief Poundmaker process.

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 in proximity. No progress report available currently.

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, legal analysis and strategies for action.

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 and Citizenship).

The Matrimonial and Real Property on Reserves Act (MRPA) consultation process for PCN is complete. A draft MRPA Law has been drafted and is in the review process. It will have to come before the citizens for ratification. The Key challenges moving forward includes addressing our sovereignty, the tribunal, mechanisms and enforcement.

A Comprehensive Community Planning process is planned pending funding allocation from the federal government.

Bill C-45/46 (legalization of Cannabis by fall 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. This was a topic of hot debate at the last AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in May. We have had very little dialogue at PCN about this. It is polarizing. 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 black market will adjust itself as a means of beating the system.

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. The current PCN Band Population is 1,780.

A Dog By-law continues to be researched and proposed for the community in partnership with the Canine Action Project and the University, animal rights orgs and other. Visit www.canineactionproject.com for more info.

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 and our spending on Band Membership Assistance is under much better control. Improvements have been made.

3. Health & Safety

We continue to monitor the ongoing threat and erosion of our treaty rights to the ‘medicine chest’ as understood by treaty elders.

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 potential for expanded health care services on the reserve. The PCN population now exceeds seventeen hundred (1,700+) and the demands for housing, education and healthcare will also rise.

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

In response to the George Stanley and the Fontaine verdict, we need a community safety action plan including anti-racism education, anti-harassment education and so on. We need a new plan to heal the wounds and rebuild relations with our settler neighbours.

PCN has submitted a health and wellness proposal to Health Canada under the Jordan’s Principle initiative to address suicide prevention. This program, if approved, will target youth and be focussed on being land-based, 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. A meeting was recently called in June of 2018 by the Saskatchewan First Nations Centre of Excellence to discuss a strategy and next steps.

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 with a few families. We urgently need to address this very soon and define our law and a conflict resolution process that is fair. We must resolve this matter internally and assert our inherent sovereignty and never allow external governments to dictate our land laws and policies.

The On-Reserve Cultural Site Documentation Services Project with the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG) continues to make progress with the goal 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 has been postponed until the late summer of 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 from the historic battle of May 2, 1885.

5. Gangs and Drugs Prevention and Intervention Strategy

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. The talks continue as we strive to secure additional financial resources for new initiatives for the 2018-2019 budget cycle.

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

It is recommended that we create our own PCN Task Force to help develop an action plan and policy focussing on prevention and intervention. Other First Nations communities battling this challenge are being researched.

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 recruitment drive is underway for the training of new Special Constables pending funding approval.

PCN has been notified that Canada has intention to exonerate Chief Poundmaker for charges of treason that are linked to the 1885 Resistance. This journey of about thirty years will be a great moment in our collective history. Canada has indicated that a public event will be doable in the fall of 2018.

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 the fall of 2018 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. Contracts have been awarded and we will soon have the numbers and results to measure the economic impact benefit for PCN.

It is recommended that we est. a new economic development authority that is an arms length but still accountable to the elected leadership and all citizens. The new economic development authority would explore a diversity of new sustainable business opportunities in agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, technology, manufacturing, mining and forestry sectors.

The end goal is to diversify 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 Kiskikoman Co-operative for the artisans had a Co-operatives First Workshop in early May and launched itself at the Chief Poundmaker Museum and had displays during the Poundmaker Storyteller's Festival event on July 4th and 5th, 2018.

Floyd Favel, Curator of the Chief Poundmaker Museum, organized the Poundmaker Storyteller's Festival with a grand opening event on July 4th, 2018 that included the unveiling of a masterpiece of original art work by world renowned Cree artist Kent Monkman. There were several other great pieces of art on display at the museum art gallery.

Talks with Canada linked to the Exoneration Project includes negotiating for a new museum and year-round operations funding (e.g. Fort Battleford, Batoche, Fort Walsh). A feasibility study will be conducted this summer/fall.

The Hospitality Course continues to be delivered on the reserve with seven participants. Other training programs are being coordinated by Patricia Waskewitch in partnership with external organizations.

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

Outstanding issues include: Resource revenue sharing, attracting new investments, e-commerce, procurement, legislation that reflects our sovereignty as a Sec. 10 Self-determining Band Custom Indian Nation.

8. Culture & Language

A unique educational partnership with the U of S Indigenous Studies department resulted in hosting a cultural camp with about twenty-five students and staff from the 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 4th. 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 during the Poundmaker Storyteller's Festival.

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. We are exploring legal options.

The néhiyawéwin language retention continues to be a concern. It is recommended we declare a state of emergency. Within the language are concepts and terms that are the core foundation of our culture.

As a follow-up for the group of five who participated in the National Indigenous Language and Revitalization Project on March 6-8, 2018 we had a cultural exchange with our partner the Lac LaRonge Indian Band (LLRIB). This will be linked to the *First Nations Languages Act* process and consultations process that will be taking place across Canada this summer, including a session in Saskatoon on August 24, 2018.

9. Sports

PCN will play a lead role in hosting a First Nations Winter Festival in the Battlefords in 2019 and for many more years to come.

10. International/National Legal & Policy Issues

The main challenges facing First Nations across Canada include: 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 ICF\$; resource revenue sharing, amongst others.