



# WOLF LAKE FIRST NATION

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## MINUTES OF BAND MEETING

Lands and Resources Office & Via Livestream

Tuesday July 13, 2021

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Chief Lisa Robinson	Present
Councillor Jim St-Denis	Present
Sonia Young	Absent
Martha Polson – Band Manager	Present

### Attendance:

Terry Zulkowski	Online	Gerald Young	Online
David St-Denis	Present	Carl St-Denis	Online
Mary Honen	Online	Lynn Rossignol	Online
Brody Whissel	Present	Steven St-Denis	Online
Tamara King	Present	Brenda St-Denis	Present

### 1) Opening – Elder

### 2) Opening Remarks from Chief

Chief Lisa opens the meeting by acknowledging our people, our territory, our ancestors and our future generations and she welcomes the members present and online. She announces that where Covid-19 is concerned we are now in the green zone but we still have to respect the prevention measures, the distancing and hand washing to remain safe and especially to protect our elders.

She speaks of the trip to Watson Lake with staff and some elders. Listening to stories of hardship and perseverance. Thanks to the Health and Wellness Team for the work.

### 3) Political Update from Chief and Council

#### National (AFN):

The AFN held the annual general assembly online with the elections of a new national chief: After the casting of five voting rounds of ballots the first woman National Chief was elected: Rosanne Archibald. Chief Archibald has a background history in law and has a new approach to the political and administration aspect and will create change.

**Regional (AFNQL):**

Last update was the UNDRIP and where Bill C-15 received royal assent in June. This new legislation will align Canadian law with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. So we look forward to see how the framework will unroll and make changes in our law to the benefit of our people. In terms of the political relationship with Quebec, the AFNQL and Qc formed a framework agreement and they working on the relationship with Quebec.

**Algonquin Anishinabe Nation (AAN):**

The last update was concerning the moose moratorium and the MOU submitted to Quebec. The Algonquins of Barrier Lake decided to reinvigorate their Barrier Lake - Quebec agreement in which they had an Integrated Resource Management plan for their territory. The success of their management plan could serve a model for other Algonquin nations in managing their territory.

**Algonquin Nation Programs and Services Secretariat (ANPSS & ANS):**

For the AOO land claim, the ANS are in the process of looking at the Algonquins of Ontario land selection process. They have identified parcels of land that they would like transferred to the Algonquins of Ontario. The ANS are identifying those parcels and are preparing a document to submit our opinion to ensure that our territory and our rights are protected for Wolf Lake people.

**Building Le Breton File:**

We continue working with the National Capital Commission and we will be finalizing a framework to develop opportunities that will be available to our nation; to secure jobs and maintain an Algonquin rightful presence in the national capital area in the heart of our territory.

**Wolf Lake First Nation (WLFN):**

The last update on the Timiskaming Quebec Dam Replacement Project was to have a capacity building fund to carry out some environmental studies and we have now secured the funds to carry out some environmental studies.

**Boat Washing Station:**

WLFN has secured funding for a boat wash station. We will look into purchasing equipment for this activity.

Word from Councillor Jim St-Denis.

Greets the members and thanks the staff for their work in providing the outdoor activities.  
Announces the new employee: Ashley Desjardins the membership Coordinator

**4) Administration Update**Office reopening during pandemic

We have received notification from the health authorities that we are now in the green zone but we must continue with the precautionary measures of distancing, wearing masks and hand washing.

New Staff – Membership Services Officer

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Ashley Desjardins as the Membership Services Coordinator. She will begin work as of August 26, 2021 but must give a two week notice to her present employer.

Administrative work: We have been looking into a future staff retreat to be held in the community for the employees to improve on communications between staff and also to provide better service our members.

## **5) WLFN Businesses Update**

### Camp LaLucarne:

With the Covid regulations we are in the green zone and could possibly open the restaurant with the prevention measures in place. The only problem is that the staff are on sick leave till the end of July so, we are in search for a temporary cook. In the meantime we are doing repairs to our balcony because Covid regulations now allow for meals to be served on balconies.

The lot behind the main lodge is to be levelled and electrical outlets will be installed to allow for customers with mobile homes.

Rentals of the La Lucarne cabins are going well as we have hired a temporary cleaner who will also take reservations for the cabin rentals. She is doing a very good job.

Swisha: Grant Lance is converting the Nanabush Café building into rentals. The work is almost completed and is adding the finishing touches like purchasing appliances and beds.

### Temiskaming Quebec Dam Replacement Project:

The environmental assessment is ongoing for the dam. This is to further the work and advance the statement of asserted rights where we prove that we have been using our rights for many years and continue to this day. The technical team from WLFN, TFN and KFN have completed a fish study and will soon begin the plant study and later a land use study. These studies will be ongoing for a period of 15 months. The proponent will then present their report to the Environmental Impact Agency who will then respond with some recommendations and mitigation measures for the work of replacing the dam.

### Algonquin Canoe Company:

Much work has taken place at the Algonquin Canoe Store during the time it has been closed. It has been remodeled with more of a native feel and the displays are updated. Tamara has done very good work. Training for the employees at the Algonquin Canoe and Camp La Lucarne will take place with a new POS system. This new sales system will be connected directly to the band office and the bank.

### Update from Tamara King:

Tamara shared some information on her background work with ACC 5 years ago and her prior experience with Ottawa Aboriginal Experiences: booking tours on Victoria Island and planning events. She took some construction courses and has now returned to the Algonquin Canoe. There are five summer students at the store and is providing training with the sales system and retail promotion, some tourism promotion and research into other first nation ventures.

## **6) WLFN Specific Land Claim Update**

Chief Lisa acknowledges elder Melvin McKenzie, a member of WL as band manager under Chief Paul and his mother as councillor in 1980s. Melvin provided important information and played an important role in advocating for our Algonquin rights and for Wolf Lake to have a recognized land base.

Chief shared information on the chronology of the claim, the filing in November of 2018 and the elders Testimony in September 2019. The information was transmitted to Canada and in 2020 WL received a letter from Canada wanting to negotiate. In this process we are involved with the Specific Claims Tribunal and we are also in negotiations with Canada. This dual process to ensure that the interests of Wolf Lake are always protected.

After discussion with council we feel it is now time to begin dialogue with our community to have open dialogue and to inform everyone. There will be an information package prepared beforehand with the history of WLFN and the history of the WLFN Reserve claim and we will have a engagement session with legal counsel also.

We will be reaching out to our members to form an advisory committee to help guide us in the engagement process.

Dates to keep in mind of our upcoming Community Engagement Sessions:  
-August 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> (confirmed) & August \*17<sup>th</sup> or \*24<sup>th</sup> (\*TBD)

## 7) Program Updates

### **Health & Wellness Report with Melissa King Robinson:**

A Report on Past Events by Melissa King-Robinson.

A scavenger hunt provided WLFN community members with hiking backpacks.

Family Fun Fishing Derby: Virtual format where participants sent in videos each day and were required to use a code word for accountability. In total we had 88 participants registered for this event: the wolf lake first nation members, children and grandchildren.

Watson Lake trip: A group of elders, staff members and helpers and a videographer (Ed Regan). This documentary style work will be used to share the story of Wolf Lake First Nation and our ancestors. We visited Watson Lake and Wolf Lake with three elders who were able to take us to various locations and share some history of our ancestors with us. We are currently looking for members who would be interested in participating in this film when we will be filming interviews either at the band office or somewhere outdoors. Anyone interested please contact Melissa 819-627-9221 or [mrobinsonking@wolflakefirstnation.com](mailto:mrobinsonking@wolflakefirstnation.com)

Trip to Emerald Lake: Community members were invited to a paddling activity and a camp-out with a few members of the Mahingan Sagaihan Youth group. The youth learned to paddle, fish, practice canoe rescue and outdoor cooking.

Activities in the month of July:

-Family Camping Trips to Camp La Lucarne, Watson Lake Cabins and Dumoine Lake Cottages.

Events in the month of August & September

-Outdoor Movie Night

- Nate McMarting - Fire Keeper Teachings
- Day Trip to Fort Temiscamingue (mid-August)
- Youth Night Activity (August 25)
- Sweat Lodge Ceremony ( September 10)

Reminders:

- A Geo-Cache in our area with beautiful colored rocks in containers filled with interesting things is still ongoing.
- Children's Programming for Ages 0-6 will continue throughout the summer.
- Jordan's Principle Program continues to be accessed by members. Any questions, concerns or for information please reach out to our office.
- Food Security Program will continue with gift certificates for the participants.
- Orange t-shirts are available at the MSHWC office.

**-Forestry Report with Brenda St-Denis**

Working closely with the MFFP, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the RYAM Mill in Bearn. There are some sectors that were harmonized but some sectors planned for spruce budworm are no longer salvageable and will be looking at new sectors. We should get news within the next month or so. The MNR agreement for this year was recently signed. We got approval for the boat washing station.

**-Timiskaming Quebec Dam Replacement Project Studies:**

Recently Kelsea McKenzie was hired to take on some environmental study contracts. She has a background in environmental protection technology. We are pleased to have a Wolf Lake member working in her field of work for Wolf Lake First Nation.

**-Meet and Greet with Louis-Philippe Gauthier:**

The Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec is hosting an event with Louis-Philippe Gauthier. He is the contact person for the Abitibi-Temiscamingue area and the event will be held tomorrow at the Kebaowek Community Hall beginning at 2:00 PM. This event is being held for our youth to promote and provide training information that is available in the Abitibi-Temiscamingue area and locally as well.

**8) Varia & Questions.**

No questions from members present or those online.

**9) Next Meeting Date – September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**