

Members Update

April 4, 2016

Dear AOPFN Members,

Prior to and after the recent vote on the proposed Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) members of the First Nation raised concerns with elements of the proposed AIP.

In the actual vote, the overall results of those members who did vote, show that 327 said No and 246 members said Yes. This gives us a total of 573 Members who voted and the difference between the Yes and No vote is 81 members. There are well over 1650 members of voting age. We provided to you an initial summary of the results (dated March 17, 2016) of the Vote by placing that summary in the Newsletter, putting it on the AOPFN website and by taking copies to all the households in Pikwakanagan.

As stated to you in that summary report "We have definitely heard the concerns and matters raised by the Members. Some Members have requested we take a step back and focus on getting those concerns addressed and dealt with by the governments. We are currently doing this. We have indicated to the AOO that we have to take a step back from the process so that Council can focus on getting the Members specific issues addressed. We have already started preliminary discussions with Canada and Ontario on these issues and we will be having more fulsome discussions with them."

It has been less than 3 weeks since that March 17th report. This is a further report on what Council has been doing.

Council has taken the time to review the comments and concerns raised in order to ensure we all had a good understanding what those concerns and issues are. We have had discussions on what the best course of action should be and will continue to do so as we move along.

Chief and members of Council have had 2 conference calls with the Negotiators for Canada and Ontario and as well as other telephone calls with them. In these calls we raised the Members concerns and issues with them and discussed the same in order to ensure the negotiators understood exactly what the concerns and issue are. They did communicate to us also what questions they had and what their concerns were. They have communicated to us some their preliminary responses on some of the matters. They intend to provide more wholesome responses in writing to us.

We have another conference call scheduled with the Federal and Provincial Negotiators after which they expect to prepare and provide us with their written responses. We also have a call into the office of the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs, the Hon. Carolyn Bennet, and communicated through her staff our request to have a meeting with her. They have said they will take this request to the Minister.

We have also made the same request to the office of the Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. David Zimmer and are waiting for a positive response.

We believe that we are doing what members have asked us to do. We are sure that you also understand that it will take some time to get the responses and commitments we all are seeking. The governments do have to do their own internal consultations within government on these issues and concerns.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Meegwetch,

Chief and Council