

Welcome Band Members, on behalf of myself, Councillor Fred, Frank and Carol Ann we welcome you to the 4th Annual General Meeting/Assembly on this day July 12 starting at noon. Please make sure to turn off your cell phones or put them on vibrate, it can be distracting. First let's begin by everyone taking a few minutes to get their lunch, once we are all seated again we will move on with regular business.

1. The Agenda is provided on the tables. Would anyone like to add anything to this agenda?
Can we get acceptance of the Agenda?
2. As you will notice around the room the staff of the Band have put together information in regards to the programming they are responsible for. We hope this will help provide a deeper understanding of programs with the Band Members.
3. At the Chief and Council booth you will find the following:

- Bear River First Nation Strategic Plan and all approved policies for your viewing
- Update from the Chief's Desk for the past year – copies available for take home.
- Previous year Audits

Please note, while the Audit is not complete for the past fiscal year (2016/17) it has been started and will be completed by the Auditor's and submitted to INAC before the required due date. Once INAC approves the Audit, it will be uploaded to our website.

We are happy to note the website is complete and can be found by typing "Bear River First Nation" in google.

I will not explain the following about the Chief and Council and the responsibilities they hold:

Councillor Frank Meuse – Portfolio Holder of the Slope Failure and Nova Scotia Power. He will update about these two projects in a bit.

Councillor Fred Robar-Harlow – Portfolio Holder of the Snow Removal Contracts and Food Fisheries

(Tag holders) He will update about the Food fisheries in a bit.

Councillor Carol Ann Potter – Portfolio Holder of Seven Paddles, Forestry and Commercial Fishing. She will update about these projects in a bit.

I myself represent our Band on through many levels of government such as:

- Assembly of First Nations – All 13 NS Chiefs sit on this Board.
- Federal and Provincial Government – meetings with the Ministers, MLA's etc.

I also sit on the executive of the following boards:

- MK (Education)
- METS (Employment)
- Mi'kmaq Family and Children's Services
- MRDP (Wind Companies)

Regular Band Business is conducted with the following institutions:

- Our Financial Institution remains the Royal Bank of Canada
- Our Auditor remains Grant Thornton, LLP (limited liability partnership)
- Our Lawyers remains, Mary Jane Abram, CMM

- The Tribal Council we are affiliated with remains the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

We remain an active member in the following:

- KMKNO/Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative
- MK (Education)
- METS (Employment)

Now on to other business from the Chief and Council:

FUNDING

- We maintain regular funding from INAC and continue to accept Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training, Infrastructure and Capital upgrades, Wastewater, Roads, etc.
- CHMC – we continue to receive one housing allocation per year although we have asked for more than one, we have been added to wait a list.

LONG TERM HOUSING STRATEGY – we have met a couple of times on this issue. Housing continues to move along, it is a bit of a slower process in our Community but when houses are built, they are done properly and with energy efficiency making them as affordable to maintain as possible for the home occupants.