

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK...October 2018-volume 20

Hello to all Band Members,

It has been awhile since my last update, it has been quite busy both professionally and personally.

MI'KMAQ FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES BUILDING

We are pleased to announce MFCS will house a building in our Community. We are central to the First Nation Communities in this area and will help them deliver more timely services to us and the surrounding communities. Dora Construction is the lead on the project and is working with MFCS. There is no cost to Bear River First Nation. MFCS is responsible for all construction costs from start to finish and for the cost of maintenance and upkeep of the building for the time they are using it. The Council under the advice of a lawyer have signed a Memorandum of understanding with MFCS to allow them use of the land for 25 years. After 25 years MFCS and the Chief and Council will meet to discuss what is next. They may wish to continue using the building or be done with it and sign it over to the Bear River First Nation.

WEBSITE

The website has now been updated with more information for our Off Reserve Band Membership. You can get to our website at www.bearriverfirstnation.ca or by googling Bear River First Nation.

ENTRANCE TO THE COMMUNITY

Councillor Frank continues to work on creating a more secure and safe entrance to the Community. He continues to keep our main entrance a priority and ensure continued discussions are ongoing to improve the width of the intersection leading into the Community.

ASH HAVEN

We have been approved through Indigenous Services Canada to do work on the Ash Haven Extension. While the clearing of Ash Haven Extension turned out to be more work than originally anticipated we are happy it is almost complete. The next steps are for CBCL (engineering company) to come in and do a design for the road.

SPLINT ROAD

We are pleased to announce the Ash Haven Extension name has been chosen and will be called Splint Road.

NEW SCHOOL

We have just recently been told we are next on the list through MK to receive capital funding for a new school. While funding is not guaranteed at this point, we will be preparing and updating documents to assure we are ready should the funding be approved. And while we may receive funding from MK, it won't be enough to cover the entire cost of the school that our Community wants, therefore we continue to find other ways to secure the funding we will need to build the school of the Communities' dreams.

BAND ADMINISTRATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

We are happy to report the Band Administration Feasibility Study is complete. It will be sent to Indigenous Services Canada very soon.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL OPERATIONAL/STRATEGY MEETING

I was honored to have the three Council Members take the day to sit with me and a consultant upstairs at the Band Office to ensure we are all still on the same page. It was nice for us to have this session together to ensure we move forward together.

OTHER

We were very pleased with the turnout for the Annual General Assembly, it is great to see so many take interest in their Community.

Reminder - watch your notices for the upcoming Harvester's Gathering and Powwow - October 17th to 21st.

This year the Christmas Supper is scheduled for December 12th. We are pleased John Gracie will once again be performing Christmas Music for us. Please contact Kait at the Band Office by email (kaitbrfn@eastlink.ca) or by phone (902) 467-3802 to confirm your attendance as this is really helpful for planning seating, the meal, gifts etc.

The Band Office, Health Center and Learning Center first day of closure for Christmas Break is December 17, and our first day back will be January 7, 2019. Please know that while the offices may be closed, during these times I continue to attend meetings and sessions to ensure our commitments are completed. Business continues whether we are on break or not.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- January 9 - regularly scheduled
- January 30 - Long Term Housing Strategy Meeting (requires another date)
- January 31 - all day - meetings with many presenters - Band Office
- February 1 - all day - meetings with many presenters - Band Office
- February 5 - regularly scheduled
- February 13 - all day strategy meeting - Band Office
- February 20 - all day - meetings with many presenters - Band Office
- March 6 - regularly scheduled
- March 7 - RDG, INAC - Band Office
- March 19 - 1:00 PM - Dora Construction - Band Office
2:30 PM - Nancy McLeod, Consultant - Band Office
- March 22 - Bryna Hatt, Legal - PJID - Band Office
- April 3 - regularly scheduled
- April 9 - Long Term Housing Strategy Meeting
- June 5 - regularly scheduled
- June 26 - Audit Review - morning - Band Office
- June 26 - AGA - Cultural Center
- July 3 - regularly scheduled
- September 5 - regularly scheduled

OTHER MEETINGS

- January 5 - Aquaculture Meeting - Band Office
- January 25 - KMKNO
- January 26 - MK - Education
- February 1 - Health Meeting - Jillyan Cress
- February 7 - 9 - Economic Development - Ottawa
- February 15 - KMKNO

Meetings Continued.....

February 16 - MK - Education
February 20 - Environment - Shalan
February 21 & 22 - KMKNO - Truro
February 28 - Ulnooweg and CMM - Truro
March 1 - KMKNO - Truro
March 19 & 20 - MFAC/Fisheries - Membertou
March 22 - CMM - Truro
March 23 - MFCS - Dartmouth
March 28 & 29 - KMKNO - Truro
April 13 - MK - Truro
April 16 - 18 - Indigenous Works - British Columbia
April 20 - DFO, Paq'twekek - Band Office
April 22 - Minister Jane Philpot - Halifax
April 25 - CMM - Truro
April 26 - KMKNO - Truro
May 2 - 4 - Nationhood Conference - Truro
May 7 - Windsor Causeway Meeting - KMKNO - Windsor
May 8 - MK - MFAC/Fisheries
May 9 & 10 - MK - BOD - Truro
May 15 - Big Moon Meeting
May 16 & 17 - MFAC - Truro
May 22 - Audit
May 23 - 25 - APC - All Chiefs
May 29 - CMM - Truro
May 30 & 31 - KMKNO
June 4 - MK - Education - Truro
June 6 - Big Moon - Band Office
June 8 - MK - Yarmouth
June 11 - Minister Keith Caldwell
June 12 - Chief Terry Paul - Dartmouth
June 13 - MFCS -
June 14 - Health Proposal - Membertou
Cannibas - Membertou
June 15 - Circle of Chiefs
June 18 - CMM - BOD
June 25 - Minister Catherine Bennett - Halifax
MFCS - Halifax
June 27 - Red Road - Truro
Health - CMM - Truro
June 28 - KMKNO - Truro
June 29 - Golf - YSI Fundraiser - Digby

Meetings Continued.....

July 4 - School Celebration - BRFN
July 5 - MFCS - AGA
July 6 - meet with Chief Andrea
July 9 - MFAC - Annapolis Valley First Nation
July 16 - MFAC - Eskasoni
July 18 - Staff Golf - Annapolis
July 20-27 - AGA/AFN - British Columbia
July 30 - METS - Truro
July 31 - MFAC - Truro
August 9 - Truro
August 10 - DFO - BRFN
August 18-20 - MFCS - Eskasoni
August 21 - MK - Antiginish
August 22 - Cannibas Update
MFAC
August 26-31 - Clam Garden/Aquaculture - British Columbia
September 7 - DFO - Paq'tnkek
September 10 - MFAC - Truro
September 11 - MK Interview BOD
September 12 - MK BOD - Strategic Planning
September 13 - MK Ulnooweg, Committee
September 14 - MFCS
September 17 - Scotiabank - AVFN
September 18 - Canoe Launch - Reji
September 19 - CMM BOD - Truro
September 21 - Fisheries
September 24 - MFCS - Dartmouth
September 25 - October 2 - Personal Moose Hunt
October 5 - MFAC and Chief PJ - unsigned bands
October 10-11 - Consultation - KMKNO Workshop
October 15 - MK - Truro
October 17 - KMKNO - AGA
October 18-19 - MK Evaluation
October 24 - CMM BOD - Truro
October 25 - Tripartite - Halifax
October 26 - MK AGA - Dartmouth

I have been working with MK a lot latterly, with the end of their contract, through a couple of one year renewals, we have been working on plans, strategies etc. for a

long term agreement. This means lots of meetings etc. to ensure Mk's next contract term benefits Bear River.

For MFAC - myself and Chief Gerry sit on this board to meet with the next levels of Government.

For CMM Health - Chief Andrea Paul is first chair and I am second chair.

It seems I have been out of the Community a lot lately attending meetings, and while this can be tiring and makes for lots of catching up when in the Community, it is important that I stay committed to ensuring the Bear River First Nation is not forgotten or left out when it comes to funding, programming etc. for the bigger communities.

Please know when I am at meetings I am dealing with the higher levels of Government such as the Premier, Ministers and other Organizations such as KMKNO, MK, MFCS, CMM, Tripartite, DFO etc. I have and will continue to fight to protect our Environment, Resources, Future Generations, Fishing, Hunting, Roads, Schools, and Treaties etc. At times I have Dr. Sherry Pictou join me for some of my meetings as an advisor.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Again, I can be reached at the Band Office by email at carolbrfn@eastlink.ca. You can also contact your other Council Members; Councilor Fred Robar-Harlow - brfnfred@eastlink.ca, Councilor Frank Meuse - frankbrfn@eastlink.ca, Councilor Carol Ann Potter - capbrfn@eastlink.ca.

Sincerely,



Chief Carol Dee Potter