



Lac des Mille Lacs Reserves 22A1 -22A2

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APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER UPDATES

ELDERS COUNCIL

Our Elders Council has been very active during the winter and spring of 2013 with monthly meetings and a number of visits to the construction site of our Community Cultural Centre. Following discussions with Chief and Council, it has been decided that the 2013 annual Elders Gathering will coincide with the Community's annual Pow Wow and Opening of the Community Cultural Centre, which will give our out-of-town Elders an opportunity to attend. The dates for this Event are June 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, discussions and plans are proceeding based on expressed interest for activities such as: cultural and/or traditional teaching, Ojibway language, regalia, and drum making classes. As the huge undertaking of our Elders Gathering/PowWow/Opening of Community Cultural Centre has taken up much of our time, we anticipate the above classes will run in the fall. Many thanks go out to the members of the Elders Council for their time and commitment to serve and assist the First Nation.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE

The construction of our new Community Cultural Centre overlooking the Roundhouse is well underway. Our contractors have worked throughout the winter months in an effort to have the building completed by June of 2013. The foundation and flooring have been poured, walls and roof erected and all of the insulation installed as we prepare this report. Our Elders Council are very excited and pleased with the progress. Chief and Council are most appreciative of the efforts of the contractors to ensure that the building is complete in time for our Elders to visit and tour during this years' annual Elders Gathering. Details regarding the use of the complex will be developed and shared with the membership prior to the completion of the project.

FIRST NATION WEBSITE

The development of our First Nation's new website has now been completed and is expected to be launched during May/June 2013. We anticipate that this communication tool will better assist our members in learning more about the First Nation and its initiatives and to be better informed. As communication issues are always an on-going problem for any organization, we hope to address and alleviate deficiencies via this website. Directions to navigate the site will be developed and mailed to the membership, for the "members only" section.

LDMLFN FLOOD CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS

As reported to the membership in our last Newsletter our negotiations are moving ahead in a very positive manner. Our Negotiating Team has done an excellent job of researching and preparing studies and reports that substantively support our claim. At this point in time the Land Appraisal Report has been completed by the appraisers and delivered to the table along with the completion of the Survey Report. As you are aware there are three different parties at the negotiating table: The Crown of Canada; the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs representing the Province of Ontario; and the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. All three parties are in the process of reviewing the final reports and will be discussing them at length during our upcoming table meeting in May.

Since our last report to you on the status of our negotiations Canada has appointed a new Lead Negotiator to represent them. This Federal Negotiator also represents Canada at the negotiating tables of numerous other First Nations within the Treaty #3 negotiations that are on-going as well. This has caused some further delays due to

one Federal Negotiator having to focus on many flood claims. Following our second meeting with Canada's new Lead Negotiator he informed us that he was extremely surprised to see how far advanced the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation's negotiations were.

As the membership is aware, the previous Federal Negotiator, John Hay, had sent a letter to the First Nation stating that he expected to present an offer to us in the late spring/early summer of 2013. We have now been notified by the current Federal Negotiator, John Scime, that the three year timeline has been extended.

Please see the attached quote from him:

"As you will recall from the attached letter from my predecessor Mr. Hay, Canada had expected to present an offer to the LDMLFN in the spring of 2013. We have discussed during the course of our recent meetings between LDMLFN, the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and AANDC, that this is no longer possible due to delays experienced largely as a result of Canada changing negotiators. In recent discussions at the table, both I and Mr. John Nolan of MAA reconfirmed our commitment to working with the LDMLFN toward reaching an agreement in principle in a timely manner. If all goes well, we expect an offer will be possible by the end of this calendar year."

John Scime, Negotiator, Specific Claims Branch – AANDC

Our membership should know that your Chief and Council and the Negotiating Team are committed to negotiating the very best settlement offer possible. We would like to extend a very special thank you to all members of the Team for their faithfulness and dedication to all of the work that has been done. These types of negotiations are very time consuming, and we are determined to have ours successfully completed this year.

Please remember that once an offer of settlement is put on the table, it will go through the Referendum Process for Acceptance and Approval by our Membership. Chi Miigwetch to our members for their patience in this matter.

LDMLFN CAPITAL PLANNING STUDY

After a long-extended review, the Draft Final Report submitted by JR Cousins Engineering to AANDC (INAC) has been completed with all revisions accepted by AANDC. We are presently awaiting the Final Report to be delivered so that the document can be accepted and signed off by AANDC. It is expected that we will be in a position to begin the surveying of lots for Phase One housing later this summer. This report will be available on our web-site.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

You will recall in our prior Newsletter there was a call for Letters of Interest from Community members interested in sitting on the LDMLFN Housing Committee. From the letters of interest received from Community members a Housing Committee has been put in place. The Committee is presently holding regular meetings and developing a Terms of Reference along with Policies and Guidelines to be brought to Council for approval. These policies will assist the First Nation as we move ahead with repatriating our lands, and ensure that we do so in a safe and productive manner, as well as following standard construction and building codes.

OSISKO HAMMOND REEF – GOLD PROJECT

The project teams of Osisko Hammond Reef Gold continue to work very closely with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Provincial Ministry of the Environment as they continue through the Environmental Assessment process. It is expected that the company will successfully get through the Assessment this fall and will be in a position to begin construction of the mine site in the spring of 2014.

Once again we want to remind the membership that we anticipate that there will be job opportunities that will become available once mine construction begins. As part of our agreement with Osisko, the First Nation will be notified of the opportunities as they become available in order that we can inform our Community. In an effort to be prepared for this our Administration has developed a Skills Inventory that will allow us to contact members that have an interest in gaining employment. Once again we encourage you to submit up-dated resumes and letters of interest so that we can add them to our Skills Inventory and be in a position to contact you once opportunities become available. Please contact Bruce Barber for more information.

Once the mine site goes to construction and the mine goes into operation Osisko is projecting a 20 year mine life. This means that from initial construction to mine closure they are looking at a life span of approximately 25 years which will provide long-term opportunity. The construction and operation of the mine requires employees in many different fields.

MATERNITY LEAVE REPLACEMENT

We are seeking an experienced Receptionist/Administrative Assistant to cover a six-month maternity leave, (subject to change) and to commence immediately. Interested Band/Community members are asked to submit a letter of interest and resume to the attention of the Band Administrator by Monday May 13th 2013 - 12:00 p.m.

YOUTH PROJECT – LANDSCAPING

We are seeking an experienced Landscaper/Gardener to oversee the development of our Community Garden on Reserve 22A1. We envision that this Community Garden will be a central activity for our Elders to participate, enjoy and assist in cultivating while they are staying at the Community Cultural Centre. We are extremely excited about this project, as we continue to repatriate our lands! Interested individuals are asked to submit a letter of interest and qualifications to the attention of Chief White Cloud. For additional details please call the office and/or leave a message with Danielle Morrison, Administrative Assistant. Along with the Head Landscaper, we are looking for students interested in assisting in this project for the months of May and June.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to assist in our Huge "Elders Gathering/PowWow/Opening of Community Cultural Centre" this year. High school students looking for volunteer hours are also encouraged to put their name down for this event. Please call Bruce Barber if you are able to offer assistance at any time during this event. Chi Miigwetch! **Dates: June 20, 21, 22, 23 2013**

DONATIONS

A Huge Miigwetch goes out to Doug & Gladys Mychasiw for their generous donation of \$1,000.00 towards the furnishing of the Community Cultural Centre! Any and all donations are welcomed. Those interested in doing so are asked to please make the cheque payable to "Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation" (Community Cultural Centre.)