

Date: January 30-31st, 2007.

Location: Behchokò

Members Present:

Behchokò Joe Mackenzie

Gamètì: David Wedawin

Whatì: Ted Nitsiza

Wekweètì: Noella Kodzin

Whatì: Alfonz Nitsiza (chairperson)

Staff Present: Jim Martin, CEO; Lucy Lafferty, Director of Education; Joe Beaverho, Projects Coordinator

Alfonz Nitsiza welcomed the board members, called the meeting to order and said a prayer to open the meeting.

1. Approval of the Agenda

07.01:01 Motion to approve the agenda with the following additions including fitness and fitness equipment; medical travel from communities to airports; income support issues; Moved by Ted Nitsiza; Seconded by David Wedawin ; Carried.

2. Review of Previous Minutes

2.1. Regular Meeting December 1-3rd, 2006 in YK

07.01:02 Motion to approve the minutes as presented of the regular meeting held December 1-3 in Yellowknife as presented; Moved by Ted Nitsiza; Seconded by David Wedawin; Carried.

3. Reports from Management:

3.1 Overview of the Meeting: CEO

The CEO explained that the primary purpose of this meeting was to respond to a call by the Tłıchq Government to have a special meeting with the Board on Tuesday night. He said that at the last Tłıchq Community Services Agency meeting in December, it was agreed that another meeting was necessary at the end of January/February to deal with any proposed changes to the Scholarship programming. The chairperson had also asked that Aurora College be invited to discuss their programs in the region. Jim said that Anna was traveling and would not be able to attend this meeting.

3.2 Program Reports: Education & H&SS

There were no program reports for this meeting.

4. Reports: Delegations

4.1 Maurice Evans and Jane Arychuk from Aurora College/Topic: College Programs in the Tłıchǫ Communities. Maurice spoke generally about the College and its programs. He described the programs in each Tłıchǫ community. Program calendars, the College strategic plan and other informational materials were distributed to Board members. Members asked various questions about the programs. There was a discussion about partnerships between the Board and the College including the current community based Teacher Education program and the Aboriginal Language Instructor program. Jim asked if the College would consider a partnership with the Agency in regards to the Mine Training Society. He said that HRDC in Ottawa were having problems justifying funding the program because it was situated in a high school. College staff were already part of the program development process and were also on the Advisory Committee. Maurice said that the College would be pleased to work with the Agency in this program. He said that an MOU can be drafted describing the relationship. Alfonz thanked Maurice and his staff for attending this meeting.

4.2 Lynn White from Whiteworks Consulting in YK /Topic: Seniors Assessment Survey in the Tłıchǫ Region Ruth Budgell introduced Lynn White and the Seniors Assessment Survey work in the communities. Lynn's staff will be in Gamètì all this week. Whatì will have meetings next week and Wekweètì will be visited during the week of February 13th. She asked members to discuss some of the issues facing elders and what some of the solutions might be.

Alfonz suggested that elders are not adequately informed by front line workers about available programs. Elders housing is an issue as the design is not suitable for elders as the floors are too high and so they are up a flight of steps...some elders are not able to go out. He also said that the smaller communities do not have trained staff to look after elder's problems in their homes with furnaces and plumbing. Ted Nitsiza said that there needs to be consideration for standby /emergency heating for elders when there are general problems in the community. Lucy Lafferty spoke about elders who asked to know about the modern world and how it works. The balance in our Society has shifted because at one time they were really respected for their learning and knowledge. Changes in housing have worked against traditional practices where families lived close together to support each other. Loneliness is a big part of their lives because they cannot communicate with their grandchildren anymore. Joe Mackenzie said that there are fewer elders today than there were at one time. They have no places to go such as a café to meet with other elders and talk. Lyn thanked the members for their time and thoughts.

4.3 Tłıchǫ Government Executive Council meeting

The members of the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency met with the Tłıchǫ Government Executive Council to discuss matters of mutual concern. Attending for the Tłıchǫ Government were George Mackenzie, Grand Chief and John B. Zoe, TEO, and Chiefs of the four communities, Leon Lafferty, Henry Gon, Charlie Football and Charlie Jim Nitsiza. Alfonz Nitsiza welcomed everyone and spoke about the importance of working together. He said that the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency would appreciate

being consulted by leaders prior to problems with TCSA programs and services being taken to GNWT Ministers. He said it is a “colonial leftover” that we still run to the GNWT to solve our problems. Grand Chief George Mackenzie said that as leaders we hear a lot of problems and complaints. He said communication is very important and that this is our first meeting together. We should schedule meetings on a regular basis. Chief Leon Lafferty spoke and said that he feels it is important to go to the GNWT to resolve problems especially when people do not pay attention to him. He felt that the Wellness programs were not active enough in the community and he wants to see these programs communicating what they are doing and the services that they offer. He also spoke about the constant finger pointing and blame that is focused on the Chiefs for social problems in the community and he believes that these problems are the responsibility of the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency. All the Chiefs took turns speaking. Chief Henry Gon expressed concerns regarding staff in his community who are bootlegging and only hiring their family and friends into available positions. He also spoke about his concerns that there was dishonesty involved in regards to criminal record checks and whether people were getting jobs or not. Chief Charlie Football expressed concerns about staff keeping patient confidentiality in the community. He also said he would like to be kept informed of when people come into his community so that people can more readily access services. Chief Charlie Jim Nitsiza spoke about the need for strong police forces in the communities and these would help in dealing with social problems. Jim Martin said that he believes that the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency is doing a good job overall despite major problems staffing problems in the communities and having to develop strategies to deal with complex issues such as the high rates of STI's . He said the Agency shares the same problems as the Tłıchǫ Community Governments in replacing staff and finding good people. He mentioned that all the community governments have lost SAO's in the last year or two and experienced great difficulty in replacing them. When you don't have staff in positions, programs and services suffer. He said that at the end of the day , the CEO is responsible for the work of the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency and the Chiefs and the Board always have the option of hiring a new person to do the work if they feel conditions should be better. Social Problems need to be addressed by all organizations in the communities. People need to work together and not point fingers and blame each other. George Mackenzie agreed that there is no value in blaming and that it is important for everyone to work together. He said that good ideas need to be brought to the attention of the Tłıchǫ Government prior to setting the budget for the next fiscal year in March. He said it was good to meet like this and communicate with each other and that this should happen more often so that the Tłıchǫ Government can work closely with the Tlıcho Community Services Board. John B. Zoe spoke and said that there are no answers on a shelf in YK that can be taken down and applied here. We need to find solutions that fit our communities.

It was agreed that Jim Martin and John B. Zoe would work together to draft a paper on the social problems with some strategies to deal with them that could be funded by the TG. These ideas will then be presented at a meeting in February.

5. Action Items

5.1 Review of the Tłıchq Scholarship Program: Jim reviewed the “Points for Review and Discussion” document detailing information about the scholarship program. Members reviewed a recent budget statement of the program. Approximately \$95,000 had been spent from April to September by the old Scholarship Committee on their honouraria, travel and on administration and salary expenses for the Coordinator. All these expenditures were stopped when the Tłıchq Government asked the Tłıchq Community Services Agency to take over management of the program from the Committee. All funds are now being directed to students.

The intent of this exercise today is to review the program and come up with recommendations for improvement. Any recommendations made will also be sent for input from current students accessing the program, as well as some people who have been actively involved with the program in the past, and the Chiefs. The Chiefs will have the final say as to whether the program should be changed or not.

One of the major questions to consider is whether to hire a Coordinator or not for the program. There is no right or wrong answer...both courses of action can be justified. A coordinator can provide support for students in applying for university and college, help in filling out applications, advice on housing, orientation to being successful, troubleshooting and counseling while they are in college, university. However the position is very expensive at \$70-100,000. These funds can be used to support more students and training can be done to get the Coordinator’s job done by other people in the system...outreach workers in each community, teachers, guidance counselor(s) etc

An important point to understand is that if a Coordinator is paid for out of the scholarship program, then more complexity in the program is possible because we have a fulltime person working on it. If a Coordinator is not part of the Scholarship Program, then we need a “simpler, less complex” program that can be managed easily by Tłıchq Community Services Agency staff who work with the scholarship program part-time as only one among many other duties. Simple is best when you do not have a Coordinator. Simple is best for communicating the program to people. Complex is best when you want to achieve very specific policy aims...when you want to encourage high performance and/or students to go into professional fields such as engineering, law and medicine. Most of the money now goes to awarding excellence...these are scholarships. Other funds go into the basic grants which everyone gets. It is important for the Board to make a decision about the complexity or simplicity of the program and whether the program will reward excellence as in scholarships or give money equally to all students who apply.

After a discussion on the topics presented, it was the consensus of Board members that it would be best to move forward with planning a simpler program that was more equitable to all students. To achieve this, the recommendation is to cut down on the number of scholarships and put this money into the basic grants. Based on existing policies some differentiation could be made for the following:

- Different levels of grants for Tłıchq residents/ and for those entitled to funds by their citizenship only;
- Different levels of grants for families, single students.

- Different levels of grants for people in community programs vs. programs out of town.
- Consideration for the eligibility of apprentices in school for an 8 week program

Members discussed the following scholarship categories and made recommendations on each:

First/Second and Third year academic awards in the amount of \$30,000

It was agreed that these should be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants.

Celebration award for graduates

It was agreed that these should be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants.

Christmas bonus

It was agreed that these should be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants.

Emergency Funding

It was agreed that an emergency funding category was always necessary.

Funding of Correspondence Courses

No decision was made on this category.

Reimbursement of Intercession and summer costs

No decision was made on this category.

Special Funding for Professional Post Secondary Programs

It was agreed that these should be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants.

Strong Like Two People Scholarship ...2 people x \$500

It was agreed that these should be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants.

It was agreed that the following scholarships in the total amount of \$70,000 annually given by the Mines would be kept as scholarships awarding excellence.

BHP Billiton....4 x \$5000 for academic excellence

Diavik College Diploma Scholarships.....10 x \$3000 for academic excellence

Diavik Diamonds University Degree Scholarships...4 x \$5000 for academic excellence

Members discussed the Scholarship Funds used for High School Awards. The review found clearly that there was NO connection between giving high school students awards and those same students going to College. It was agreed to put all high school awards from scholarship funds into post secondary education which is the original intent of the

scholarship funds. Some high school awards specific to the mines could remain intact. The Board may also choose to put some Th̄ch̄q Community Services Agency funds towards those student awards that they feel are important.

The Chief Jimmy Bruneau Memorial Scholarships at \$1500 x 18= \$27000 which also includes the Mezi Community School Awards at \$1500 x 7+= \$10500 will be eliminated and the resulting savings of \$37500 will be used to increase basic grants. *The Community leadership Awards* at 10 x \$500 = \$5000 will be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants. *The Grade 12 Academic Achievement Awards* 10 x \$1000= \$10,000 will be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants. *The Athletic Excellence awards* 4 x \$125= will be eliminated and the funds distributed to all students through the basic grants.

Scholarship awards for high school students that will remain in place are the 10 BHP Billiton awards of \$500 for academic excellence among high school students.

Other Scholarship program Issues:

The application process was discussed and it was agreed that we should try to simplify and make it easier for people to apply. The Grant application would be very basic but needs to include a consent form from the student to allow the Th̄ch̄q Community Services Agency staff to access personal information such as whether they are still in the program and what their marks might be. The nature of a scholarship will require more information simply because they are based on academic achievement . Therefore marks and recommendations will still be required.

Motion 07.01:03 to approve in principle the recommended changes to the Scholarship Program and that the CEO will work with the Director of Education and the Projects Coordinator responsible for the program to develop an information package that explains the changes clearly. This package will be distributed to students and selected others prior to taking to the Chiefs for a final decision. Moved by Joe Mackenzie; Seconded by David Wedawin; Carried.

Jim mentioned that the old Committee had approved the Chief Jimmy Bruneau and Mezi School scholarships which are used to fund a trip to the south with the students. The students had received letters in August informing them that they had won this award. The Board felt that this commitment should be honoured if at all possible. The Board asked Jim to work with Joe and Lucy to find a way that the trip might still go ahead at least for this year.

5.2 Third and Final Reading / Policy on School Surpluses

Members were reminded that this proposed policy would instruct auditors to roll over school surpluses from one year to the next into school budgets at the local level. Surpluses from school programs accounts would not go into a general surplus fund as before. Members agreed that this had been discussed at the local level and there have been no objections.

Motion 07.01:04 to approve the policy on School Surpluses. Moved by Ted Nitsiza; Seconded by David Wedawin; Carried.

5.3 Proposed Policy work

Members were asked to familiarize themselves with this section on the proposed organization of policy work prior to the next meeting.

5.4 Community Concerns:

a) Behchokò: *DEA /Agency Board Member on Staffing Selection Committees:* Joe Mackenzie asked a number of questions regarding staffing procedures and DEA member participation. Jim explained the staffing procedures and said that historically DEA members were always asked to sit on selection committees. However he said that staffing interviews have not been delayed because of the unavailability of DEA members. People are called and if available, they are welcome to participate but that there are so many selection committees that frequently Board members get tired of participating or are unable to get the time away from work. He said that there have been a number of complaints from members in Whatì, Gamètì and Behchokò around this issue and he committed to working with the Tłı̨chọ Community Services Agency managers and HR to improve practices so that there is substantial participation by DEA/Agency representatives on hiring committees.

Joe asked questions regarding a particular individual seeking employment with the Tłı̨chọ Community Services Agency in Behchokò.

07.01:05 Motion to move into an “in camera” session. Moved by Joe Mackenzie; David Wedawin; Seconded by David Wedawin; Carried.

0.01:06 Motion to move out of the “in camera” session. Moved by Joe Mackenzie; Seconded by David Wedawin; Carried.

b) Gamètì: *Gamètì School Addition:* David Wedawin expressed concerns about the materials for the new school getting in on the winter road and asked if pressure could be exerted on the GNWT to get all materials into Gamètì on this winter road in case they experience problems next year with a warm winter. Jim said that the Tłı̨chọ Construction Company has until the end of February to put in a bid to the GNWT to construct the school. At this time, if the GNWT approves their bid, they will have only 2-3 weeks to place an order before the road closes. This simply is not enough time for suppliers to respond, package the materials and ship it. DPWS has said however that the intention would be to purchase rebar and concrete for the foundation. This material should be immediately available and could get into Gamètì before the winter road shuts down this year. The foundation will be constructed this summer and then next winter the rest of the supplies will be shipped in to the community on schedule. Jim said that it was possible that in the event of a warm winter, school construction materials could be flown in on a Hercules. He said it was not the first time this would have happened in Gameti, When Henry Zoe was the MLA, he was successful in convincing the GNWT to resort to this

option after winter road schedules were missed during the initial construction of the Gamèti school.

c) Wekweeti: *Medical Travel from the community to the Airport:* Noella Kodzin expressed concerns about the new costs for patients traveling out to medical services in YK. She said in Wekweeti, the Development Corporation now charges \$15 dollars to get to the airport. She had difficulty getting there and she wondered how people will manage. Members discussed the issue. The CEO mentioned it has been raised before with the Minister of H&SS at meetings, and we have been told that it is GNWT policy that medical evacuation to YK begins at the airplane, not at home or the health centre. Therefore it is the responsibility of the patient or the patient's family to ensure that they get to the airplane. Alfonz Nitsiza suggested that this is an item that should be brought to the attention of the MLA. Jim said that he would forward a copy of the Tłıchǵ Community Services Agency minutes to Jackson to see if anything might be done.

Attendance of a second DEA member at Regional TCSA Meetings: Noella mentioned that one of the DEA members frequently requests to attend the Tłıchǵ Community Services Agency meetings. During the days of the DCSB, it was common practice that 2 DEA members would represent each community. Jim mentioned that during the DCSB it was the practice that there would be 3 representatives from each community, the 2 DEA representatives and the Chief as well. This has changed under the Tłıchǵ Community Services Agency. Both the Intergovernmental Services Agreement (ISA) and the Tłıchǵ Community Services Agency legislation call for one representative from each community appointed by the Tłıchǵ Community Governments and a chairperson appointed by the GNWT and the Tłıchǵ Government. There is no provision anywhere to bring out additional members from the DEA's, nor has budget funding been set aside to do this. Last year the chairpersons were invited to one meeting but that was for a special purpose. Members discussed the issue and felt that there was no reason why a single member of the DEA (the TCSA Board member) could not adequately represent community interests at Tłıchǵ Community Services Agency meetings. To say anything else is to suggest that these Board members are not doing their jobs.

d) Whatì:

Income support: Alfonz Nitsiza said that Income Support is frequently raised as a problem by people in the communities. He says there have been many recent changes to the program and that people, especially elders are not fully informed of their rights when they speak to income support staff.

Fitness programming & Equipment : Ted Nitsiza spoke about the need for fitness programming and fitness equipment in the communities and asked if this is a H&SS responsibility. Alfonz said that MACA is responsible for sports and recreation in the communities and provides the funding for these activities to the Tłıchǵ Community Governments. Jim mentioned that at least two schools have often set up weight rooms and fitness facilities as part of their physical education programs and these have been made available to community members on occasion.

DEA Chairperson Request for a Regional Meeting: Jim Martin mentioned that he and Lucy had received an e-mail from the Whatì School Principal speaking for the DEA

Chairperson MaryAnn Jeremick'ca. She is asking for a regional meeting to raise common concerns of all the DEA's. Members expressed surprise at this request and said that they were unaware of any common concerns. Alfonz said that it is very important that DEA's use their representatives on the Agency Board to their advantage and keep them apprised of any issues that should be raised at the regional Board level. Ted Nitsiza said that he was unaware of any local issues that needed to be raised at the regional Board level. Members agreed to defer any further discussion on this topic until a discussion could be arranged between Agency Board members and their DEA members.

5.5 Other:

All "Other" items were dealt with under community concerns.

6. Information Items

6.1 Briefing Note: Term of Office/DEA Board Members

The CEO said that this item was the result of a request from the Department of Education, Culture & Employment to deal with a discrepancy in the Education Act regarding the dates of the DEA elections. In the days of the DCSB, the DEAs were elected every 2-3 years based on the terms for their community Municipal Councils which were either 2 years or 3 years. Since the establishment of the Tłıchq Government, these terms have now been extended to 4 years and the question is, "Do the DEA's want to have elections every 2 or 3 years based on the past legislation and practice, or do they want to follow the new example set by the Tłıchq Government". Each DEA will be asked to pass a motion on this issue and forward it to the Tłıchq Community Services Agency. The Gamèti DEA has already voted on this issue at their last meeting and agreed that they would like a 4 year term of office. Once all the DEA's have indicated their preferences, Jim will forward their responses to the GNWT.

6.2 TCSA Business Plans 2005-2009 (06-07 Edition)

Members were asked to read this draft document for the next meeting.

6.3 Correspondence from Chairperson to Maurice Evans Dec 05/06.

This item was noted by Agency Board members.

6.4 Correspondence from Maurice Evans to Chairperson Jan 23/07

This item was noted by Agency Board members.

7. Next Regular Meeting/ Adjournment and closing prayer.

The members agreed that the next meeting would be held within the next 4-6 weeks at the discretion of the Tłıchq Government as per the discussion at the joint meeting earlier this week. The CEO will inform the members as a date and location is chosen.

The chairperson closed the meeting with a motion to adjourn. Noella Kodzin said the closing prayer.

The minutes are approved as written, by motion of the Board.

Chairperson

Date

Chief Executive Officer

Date

To Do Items arising from this meeting

- Item 1 4.3 Draft a summary of social issues in Behchokò with suggestions for action (CEO with TEO/TG)

- Item 2 5.1 Draft a summary of recommended changes to the Scholarship Program for consultation purposes and final approval by the TG. (CEO with Director of Ed and Projects Coordinator)

- Item 3 5.4 (a) Work with Managers and HR to ensure better community DEA/Agency member representation on hiring committees. (CEO with all 3 Directors, HR)