

## Political Update – October 2016

Greetings Chiefs. I am certain you would all agree, October was a very busy month. It was great to see many of you in Toronto at the First Nations Economic Forum and the Water Symposium in Niagara Falls. As you are aware, the Anishinabek Nation Water Strategy is an active file and we are anticipating a genuine commitment from INAC to address BWAs as well as advocating for consideration of the other key areas, O&M and capital.

Modelled on similar approach to that of the Anishinabek Nation Water Needs report, at our Citizenship Forum of September 29-30 we sought direction from Chiefs/proxy's to do the same on housing. In some ways, there are advantages to an aggregated approach to seek action on some critical areas but always with the understanding that we do so based on your continued guidance and direction and we never lose sight of who we are working for. We will update you further at our November Grand Council in Rama.

I am pleased that some of our First Nations long standing issues are seeing resolve, yet we recognize that there is much more progress to be made on a number of other files. I encourage you, if you are experiencing challenges or envisioning opportunities that are specific to any provincial ministry, to take advantage of the Leaders in the Legislature meetings that Chiefs of Ontario is coordinating. If you require any assistance with your interest in meeting with any Ontario Minister, please contact me.

We shall all have a chance to network with one another with all the November meetings planned, it's certainly a very busy month with many Chiefs meetings occurring:

Nov. 7 & 8	Chiefs forum on Health – Toronto
Nov. 9 & 10	Chiefs forum on Pipelines – Toronto
Nov. 15 & 16	Anishinabek Nation Grand Council – Rama
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	AN Southeast Chiefs mtg. – Mizwe Biik, Toronto (5:30)
Nov. 21-23	COO- SCA/Leaders in the Legislature, Toronto
Nov. 30	Chippewa's of the Thames SCC hearing and all day rally – Ottawa

And finally, during October, In addition to a number of other meetings, conference calls and letters prepared on your behalf with Canada and Ontario government departments on a number of items, during the month of October I met with the following:

October 4	Minister Murray, MOECC – Great Lakes Water Guardian Council
October 7	Laurentian University – presentation on Mental Health & Addictions
October 11	Ministry of Indigenous Relations
October 12	Minister McGarry – new MNRF Minister – briefing on bilateral MOU
October 12	Minister Murray – MOECC – Advocacy / First Nation issues
October 12/13	First Nation Economic Forum
October 20	Chiefs Committee on Health/AFN – Service Providers meeting
October 17	Little NHL Official Launch with City of Mississauga
October 18	First Nations Water Symposium – Niagara Falls
October 25	Chiefs Committee on Health – Toronto
October 26	Political Confederacy Retreat – Lac Des Milles Lac