

An Update from the



ANISHINAABE ANOKIWIN AANOKIITOOJIG

CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE

May 2017

The purpose of the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs Committee on Governance (CCOG) is to provide a forum that links political vision with the progress of the self-governance negotiations. On an ongoing basis, the CCOG shall provide guidance, leadership, and direction to the Anishinabek Nation's self-governance negotiations in all sectors:

- Solicit the advice and direction of First Nations and Anishinabek Nation citizens on self-governance issues;
- Report on progress of negotiation to respective regions and individual Anishinabek communities;
- Recommend ways of implementing direction received from regions, First Nations, and Anishinabek citizens; and
- Recommend ways to address feedback received from regions, First Nations, and Anishinabek citizens.

The CCOG mandate is to provide leadership, direction, and support for the Restoration of Jurisdiction initiatives. The CCOG also provides political leadership direction to achieve the aspirations of our member First Nations and the Anishinabek Nation. In fulfillment of the mandate, the CCOG met May 29, 2017, at the Anishinabek Nation's head office.

Chiefs and delegates from Lake Huron, Northern Superior, and Southeast regions gathered to receive updates on the current negotiations and progress of the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement as well as other initiatives related to the CCOG.

The Anishinabek Nation's Chief Negotiator on Governance, Martin Bayer, spoke on the challenges facing our communities.

With our population being on a steady incline, half of which being under the age of 35, it is time to act and have leadership implement an Anishinabek strategy to govern ourselves. The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement could allow opportunities to work together on issues that are affecting our Anishinabek communities today.

Some of the issues that communities and their citizens face on a daily basis include the loss of language and jobs; housing shortages; decline in health with high rates of cancer, diabetes, among other illnesses; low education success rates; water and sewer problems; and the lack of needed capacity and tools to build information technology.

It was discussed that there are actions that can be taken in order to protect and preserve our identity. With respect to our Anishinabek law-making powers, we cannot continue to rely on other government's laws or funding. We require good governing institutions with stability and trained workers, separate from Chief and Council roles, as well as effective dispute systems. Establishing our own Chi-Naaknigewin (constitutions), election laws, and appeal and courts systems that are built by and for the Anishinabek that are reflective of our Anishinaabe

values and culture is vital. Lastly, having a long-term strategic vision, and envision what kind of laws and policies we would like to see 20-30 years from now.

The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement would allow for the Participating First Nations to reclaim their law-making powers on Leadership Selection (elections), Language and Culture, Citizenship, and Management and Operations of our own government. While the Agreement will not remove us from the *Indian Act* altogether, it will be the vehicle that will propel us into moving our Nation forward through greater education success rates, improved health conditions, adequate housing, greater businesses and employment opportunities, adequate waste and water treatment systems.

The CCOG discussed how to better prepare our communities to be part of this historic undertaking. A conference, *Past, Present and Future*, inspired by the previous efforts that have moved the Agreement to its present stage, and the future we envision for the Anishinabek Nation is scheduled for **January 16-17, 2018, in Sault Ste. Marie**. Leading up to the conference, the Restoration of Jurisdiction department at the Anishinabek Nation will be focusing on the direction from the CCOG to engage our communities in examining and understanding how the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement with Canada will assist the future Anishinabek generations.

Anishinaabe Anokiiwin Aanokiitoojig | Chiefs Committee on Governance Members:

South East:

- Chief Barron King, *Moose Deer Point First Nation*

Southwest:

- Regional Chief Joe Chief Miskokomon (CCOG Chair), *Chippewas of the Thames First Nation*
- Chief Leslee White-Eye, *Chippewas of the Thames First Nation*
- Chief Roger Thomas, *Munsee-Delaware Nation*

Ex-Officio:

- Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, *Aundeck Omni Kaning*
- Deputy Grand Council Chief Glend Hare (Commissioner on Governance), *M'Chigeeng First Nation*

Northern Superior:

- Anthony Legarde, *Long Lake #58 First Nation*
- Chief Patricia Tangie, *Michipicoten First Nation*

Lake Huron:

- Ogimaa Duke Peltier, *Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory*
- Chief Reginald Niganobe, *Mississauga #8 First Nation*

Anishinabek Nation:

- Gordon Waindubence, *Sheguiandah First Nation*

If you require additional information about the CCOG, please contact Esther Gilbank, ROJ Projects Coordinator: 705-497-9127 / 1-877-702-5200 ext. 2275, or by e-mail: esther.gilbank@anishinabek.ca

The next CCOG meeting will be on October 26-27, 2017, at the Elder's Hall at the Anishinabek Nation Head Office, Nipissing First Nation, ON.

ANISHINABEK NATION