

UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS

ALL CHIEFS MEETING

JULY 30, 1979

PARK PLAZA HOTEL, TORONTO

RECORDING SECRETARY:

HELEN DOMENCHUK

UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS
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PRESENT:

UNION STAFF

Del Riley, President
Ray Martin, Executive Director
Paul Williams, Director, Rights and
Treaty Research
Patrick Madahbee, Director, Sports
and Recreation
Alan Roy, Health & Environment
Helen Domenchuk, Secretary to President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Southwest Region:

Chief Norm Stinson, Vice-President
Chief James Mason, Board Member
Mr. Ether Deleary, Board Member

Southeast Region:

Mr. Aubrey Coppaway, Vice-President
Mr. Dan Simpson, Board Member
Mrs. Elsie Knott, Elder

Robinson-Huron Region:

Chief Camille Chiblow, Vice-President
Chief Flora Tabobondung, Board Member
Chief Norman Aguonie, Board Member
Mr. William Meawasige, Elder

Lake Superior Region:

Mr. Ben Wawia, Vice-President
Mr. Fred Nowegisic, Board Member
Mr. Stan King, Board Member
Chief Louis Kwissiwa, Elder

DELEGATES

Chief Joseph Thompson, Rocky Bay
Mr. Riel Bouchard, A/Chief, Pays Plat
Chief Reno Dokis, Dokis Band
Chief Wayne Pamajewon, Shawanaga
Mr. Willard Noganosh, Magnetewan
Mrs. Sylvia Stuart, Lake Helen
Chief Arnold Goose, Scugog
Mrs. Lena Noganosh, Magnetewan
Mrs. Nellie Ashawasagai, Henvey Inlet
Mr. Milton George, Kettle Point
Mr. Mike Pawis, Shawanaga
Mr. Linwood Nicholas, Chippewas of
the Thames
Mr. Goldwyn Tabobondung, Parry Island

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PRESENT:

DELEGATES

Mr. Richard Flamand, Wikwemikong
Mr. John Nadjiwon, Cape Croker
Chief Cliff Meness, Golden Lake
Mr. Sam Pervais, Fort William
Mr. Gerald Maness, Sarnia
Mr. Arnold Henry, Chippewas of the Thames
Mr. Ed Nabigon, Heron Bay
Mr. Howard Chegahno, Cape Croker
Chief Henry Peltier, Wikwemikong
Chief Elsie King, Gull Bay
Chief Francis Stone, Michipicoten
Chief Terry Henry, Chippewas of the Thames
Chief Lawrence Madahbee, Sucker Creek
Chief Doug Sinoway, Whitesand
Chief George Finlayson, Long Lac #58
Mr. Robert Corbiere, Wikwemikong
Mr. Elwood Ashawasagai, Pickerel
Chief Ray Rogers, Chippewas of Sarnia
Chief Shirley Ashawasagai, Henvey Inlet
Mr. Les McCue, Georgina Island
Chief Philip Goulais, Nipissing
Mr. Vaughan Albert, Chippewas of the
Thames
Chief Wilmer Noganosh, Magnetewan
Mrs. Rita Penasse, Nipissing
Chief Roger Jackson, Christian Island

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The meeting opened with a prayer by Chief Flora Tabobondung.

The President, DEL RILEY, opened the meeting, and made some comments as to the reasons why this meeting was called. This was mainly to give the Chiefs and Councillors to discuss some of the agenda items for this All Ontario Chiefs Conference. He also announced that the Chairman and Co-Chairman will be Chief Norm Stinson and Chief Camille Chiblow, respectively.

DEL RILEY advised that one of the topics here will be that of the formation of a 5th organization in Ontario. His personal opinion of that was Ontario should remain with the 4 organizations that presently exist. He gave a brief history of how the 4 organizations came about. Said this could go on and on, but at some point we have to put a stop to it. DEL again stated that this is his personal opinion, and that the Chiefs and Councils here should express their own feelings about this when the topic comes up.

CHIEF NORM STINSON then took over the chair. He requested that all the delegates introduce themselves. He welcomed all.

He then went over the tentative agenda, and asked if anyone wanted any changes. Discussion also took place on the All Ontario Chiefs agenda. CHIEF CAMILLE CHIBLOW remarked that in the last couple of years of the All Ontario Chiefs meeting, he was disappointed in how the Union of Ontario Indians' Chiefs presented themselves. Said we were not ready - and that he was one of the people who requested that the Union Chiefs meet prior to that meeting to prepare ourselves. He mentioned his concerns; one being the MNR Guidelines - suggested that the Union should stick to its position. Another one being the formation of the 5th organization. He advised that his feelings were the same as that of the President, Del Riley. Said that the Secretary of State should not fund another organization. Another item he felt should be discussed was the Ontario Native Education Council. He suggested that the motion supporting this Council at the last Union general assembly should be rescinded; this was a hasty decision. CHIEF CHIBLOW then asked the delegation if there

should be a resolution passed requesting Noel Starblanket to remain as President of the National Indian Brotherhood. He referred to the statement made by Mr. Starblanket during the trip to England.

CHIEF STINSON then requested the opinions of those delegates who went to England, for the benefit of those who didn't go on the trip. They each gave their opinions. The consensus was that at first there was some disappointment in not seeing the Queen, but in the end, most came back with a good feeling that they had received a lot of support from different countries. Two recommendations came out of this:

1) that Ed Broadbent of the National New Democratic Party be sent a telegram commending him for requesting the British Parliament to recognize the Indian delegation; 2) was that Noel Starblanket get support from the Indians of Ontario to remain as President (although there was mixed feeling, in that he showed weakness in announcing he was quitting at a critical time).

MOTION #1:

Chief Norman Aguonie, Sheguiandah
Mr. Riel Bouchard, Pays Plat

THAT, we, the Chiefs of the Union of Ontario Indians, support Noel Starblanket, President, National Indian Brotherhood, in his term of office;

AND FURTHER THAT we support the President in the stand taken regarding the patriation of the B.N.A. Act and other issues that affect the Indian people of Canada.

CARRIED.

Further discussion took place on National Indian Brotherhood regarding Ontario membership. It was felt that there should be more representation - there should be another seat for Ontario considering the population. Another thing was that Ontario is not getting its fair share of funding, and that Mr. Starblanket should be requested to support Ontario.

MOTION #2:

Chief Henry Peltier, Wikwemikong
Chief Wayne Pamajewon, Shawanaga

WHEREAS the Government Funding in Canada
is unfairly divided Provincially;

AND WHEREAS Ontario does not receive fair
recognition at the Executive Council level
of the National Indian Brotherhood;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT we, the Union of
Ontario Indians request the President of
the National Indian Brotherhood, Noel Starblanket,
to assist the four (4) Ontario Organizational
Presidents in their attempt to rectify the
above situation.

CARRIED.

CHIEF JAMES MASON, Saugeen, raised the question as to why such an elaborate hotel was chosen for this meeting (Park Plaza). He made reference to the fact that there were no per diems for the delegates. RAY MARTIN replied that it was the Chiefs of Ontario who made these decisions, that he had nothing to do with it. CHIEF MASON suggested that next year the Chiefs have an input into where to hold the meeting. CHIEF STINSON said perhaps this could be discussed at the general assembly of the All Chiefs. He then asked Chief Mason to draft up a motion to this effect.

Discussion continued about the per diems and who was going to pay for the lodgings for coming in one day earlier. RAY MARTIN explained the reason for calling the Union Chiefs in one day earlier, and this was for the benefit of the Union Chiefs, at least to get 1 day's per diem (\$75.00).

MOTION #3:

Chief James Mason, Saugeen
Chief Henry Peltier, Wikwemikong

THAT we, the Chiefs of the Union of Ontario Indians, express our dissatisfaction in the selection of the site of the All Ontario Chiefs Conference 1979, as arranged by the Chiefs of Ontario Office;

The Reason Being: The facilities are too costly and that the Conference dollars could have been put to better use for the benefit of the Chiefs of Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the All Ontario Chiefs Conference 1980 be held in an establishment that is less costly than the present facilities;

AND FURTHER THAT there be consultation with the four (4) recognized Indian Associations before a site is selected.

CARRIED. (This Motion was not put to the floor)

The next item up for discussion was the 5th organization, namely, Ontario Indian Reserves Association. The Chairman requested the opinions of the delegates on this. CHIEF STINSON expressed his own concerns in the formation of another organization in Ontario. He said if they have the same aims and objectives, they could always join any one of the 4 existing organizations. Furthermore, it would cut into the funding of these associations. CHIEF CAMILLE CHIBLOW agreed with the Chairman, as did CHIEF FLORA TABOBONDUNG, CHIEF LAWRENCE MADAHBEE, ETHER DELEARY AND BEN WAWIA. Suggestion was made by CHIEF MADAHBEE that the newly-formed organization be asked to join the Union or any of the other three organizations.

MOTION #4:

Chief Lawrence Madahbee, Sucker Creek
Chief Camille Chiblow, Mississauga

WHEREAS a 5th Organization would financially jeopardize the existing 4 Organizations;

WHEREAS the Independent Bands in Ontario have similar aims and objectives as those of the Union of Ontario Indians and the other organizations; And because they do have similar aims and objectives, we, the Chiefs of the Union of Ontario Indians reject the recommendation to recognize the Organization known as the Ontario Indian Reserves Association; However, we extend an invitation to the Independent Bands to join the Union of Ontario Indians as a fifth Region with all the powers of our present Regions;

AND FURTHER THAT if this is not satisfactory, that they join one of the other present Organizations better suited to their needs in order to better express their views.

CARRIED.

The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

CHIEF CAMILLE CHIBLOW announced that the afternoon session would be chaired by BEN WAWIA and AUBREY COPPAWAY, Vice-Presidents, Lake Superior and Southeast Region, respectively.

PAUL WILLIAMS, Director, Rights and Treaty Research, was requested to speak on the MNR Guidelines. He read from the MNR Guidelines by Minister Auld. PAUL said - we have our own Guidelines, not only on hunting and fishing, but on trapping, snaring, gathering of rice, traditional things. He said these rights were not given or created by the government of Canada, those rights existed before the European nations came. These guidelines were taken from resolutions by Chiefs made throughout the past century. These guidelines were sent to all Bands. There would be copies available for the Union Chiefs during the course of this meeting. PAUL read through point by point of these guidelines. Also, PAUL advised of the Judgment, June 20, 1979, by the Federal Court of Canada concerning the Court Case of some Band members of the Robinson-Huron Treaty Region. There would be copies made available of these also. Discussion took place on problems in various areas of hunting and fishing.

MOTION #5:

Chief Flora Tabobondung, Parry Island
Chief Clifford Meness, Golden Lake

THAT we accept the Union of Ontario Indians' position on the Statement of Policy:
Indian Rights of Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering;

AND THAT we the Status Indians of Ontario reject completely the Provincial Guidelines pertaining to Hunting and Fishing.

CARRIED.

MOTION #6:

Mr. Dan Simpson, Alderville
Chief Flora Tabobondung, Parry Island

THAT we, the Chiefs of the Union of Ontario Indians, support Paul Williams, Director, Rights and Treaty Research, to appeal the Federal Court decision in connection with Robinson-Huron Treaty Hunting and Fishing cases, and that Mr. Williams take this case to a higher court.

CARRIED.

Discussion then took place on the Ontario Native Education Council (ONEC). The consensus was that a hasty decision was made at the Union All Chiefs Assembly in supporting it. The following motion was then made:

MOTION #7:

Chief Henry Peltier, Wikwemikong
Chief Flora Tabobondung, Parry Island

THAT we, the Chiefs of the Union of Ontario Indians, hold the motion in abeyance, that was passed at the Union of Ontario Indians All Chiefs Conference (1979) in support of the Ontario Native Education Council, until this issue has been brought to the floor at this All Ontario Chiefs Conference.

CARRIED.

PATRICK MADAHBEE, Director Sports & Recreation, then made an appeal to the Chiefs and Councils regarding the program, as he explained there were 4 options as to what direction this program could take. He described the 5-year plan which had been put together by the four Associations, and that input had come from the Band levels.

MOTION #8:

Chief Lawrence Madahbee, Sucker Creek
Chief Ray Rogers, Sarnia

THAT we, the Chiefs of the Union of Ontario Indians, support the 5-year Ooan for the Sports and Recreation Program, as presented by the Director, Patrick Madahbee, and

THAT we direct Mr. Madahbee to investigate all possible alternatives for the administration of this Program, which would be most beneficial to the Indian people, and THAT he report back to the Chiefs and Councils with his recommendations.

CARRIED.

ALAN ROY, Director, Health and Environment, spoke briefly on the Health program.

The Chairman, CHIEF NORM STINSON, suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Leader of the NDP thanking him for the support he gave to the Chiefs' delegation to England.

MOTION #9:

Chief Terry Henry, Chippewas of the Thames
Chief Lawrence Madahbee, Sucker Creek

WE HEREBY RESOLVE THAT we, the Chiefs of the Union of Ontario Indians, recognize and show appreciation to the Leader of the New Democratic Party for his support in our journey to England

AND FURTHER THAT we request Mr. Del Riley, President of the Union of Ontario Indians, to put this in writing and present it to Mr. Ed Broadbent personally.

CARRIED.

The Secretary was requested to contact the Board of Directors and arrange for a Board meeting the next day at noon, at which time there would be directives for the President to take the the Cabinet Ministers.

MOTION #10:

Chief Ray Rogers, Sarnia
Chief Henry Peltier, Wikwemikong

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

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