

Report on the July 9th Community Meeting & Potluck

The July 9th Community Meeting & Potluck were held at the home of Bob & Maureen Majaury in the Smith's Falls area – thank you Bob & Maureen! The business meeting focused on negotiation updates and community building.

Paul Lamothe provided updates on the progress at the negotiations table and noted that the table is currently working toward finalizing a document entitled 'Frequently Asked Questions' – to provide answers and information on the most common questions regarding the negotiation process. In addition, the table is working on establishing 'The Elements of the Claim' which will detail the items on the table that are being negotiated for.

Another area Paul reviewed was the work on a 'Moose Management Plan' to be agreed upon by all communities. This issue is currently contentious due to pending charges against members of the Antoine Algonquins (Mattawa) for hunting last fall. At the meeting on July 9th, our community agreed that we should support the Antoine's in their fight for our rights.

Since the meeting, in discussions with other ANRs, it is being suggested that an 'Algonquin Defence Fund' be established to assist Algonquins with legal costs incurred in defending their rights as Algonquins. Please watch this website over the next few days as we hope to have a fund established and be able to provide directions on how to donate to the fund. We have over 7,000 Algonquins in Eastern Ontario and it is important that we all contribute to assist those who are fighting for our rights!

In regards to community development, we are currently working on establishing a constitution, as well as short and long term goals for the community. If you have suggestions, please submit your ideas via email, fax or phone --- we welcome your input!

The area of fundraising was also discussed with several ideas being reviewed and researched for reports at the next meeting. Following our May meeting, a 'photo identification card' has been developed and will be implemented in September. This card will be your identification for the purposes of membership, harvesting, fishing, etc. The card will be valid for a five-year period and an administration cost of \$10.00 per card will be charged - this is to assist with the costs involved in issuing the cards only. This will be the recognized card of the Ottawa Algonquin First Nation. The next community meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday September 17th in Ottawa and we will be issuing the new identification cards onsite at this meeting. Further details will follow, but please mark September 17th on your calendar as an important meeting to attend!

As always, we welcome your feedback in all areas and your involvement in our community development is urgently needed! Please feel free to contact us at any time.