



# Lubicon lake newsletter

LUBICON LAKE BAND

MARCH 2014

## Minister Frank Oberle of Aboriginal Affairs Visits the

### Community February 10th 2014

It was an exciting day for Lubicon Lake Band when the Honourable Frank Oberle, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Alberta visited the community. The visit was pre-planned with the assistance of Wendy Twin, who works with the provincial Ministry as a community liaison. Upon arriving in the community, the Minister met with Chief and Council over a lunch blessed by Elder Michael

Laboucan and took a brief tour of the community. Discussions were held regarding the land claim process, the needs for emergency housing, community infrastructure as well as capacity building and economic partnerships. The community was encouraged to seek access to the Economic Partnership Fund that the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has in place. A



Minister Oberle receives a gift from Chief Laboucan

special thank you to the Minister and his staff for visiting, we look forward to hosting you again in the very near future.

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#### Our Vision:

*The Lubicon Lake Band will be unified, self-sufficient and prosperous through economic opportunities. Respecting our people and the land while maintaining Treaty Rights, culture, language and traditions. We honour our Elders and continue to guide our youth and future generations.*

#### Our Mission:

*Lubicon Lake Band is committed to successfully completing our Land Claim and respecting our Traditions while promoting a Healthy environment in a unified community.*



## Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study (TLUSO) Has Started!



**Chris Harrison**  
-Little River Company

The TLUSO project will be completed by LLB members and be led by the newly hired project coordinator. Following project setup and training, the Coordinator will be busy completing interviews with LLB members to record their knowledge and use of the land. Continued project research will include visits to and careful recording of important sites (e.g. homesteads, cabins, camps, gravesites, medicine sites, moose licks). The project will result in the development of a secure collection

of database records and maps that identify both historic and current traditional use of Lubicon traditional lands.

Project results will be used to support negotiations and new working relationships with Government and Industry. The project will also create opportunities to educate LLB youth about their traditions and involve them in new efforts to care for their traditional lands.

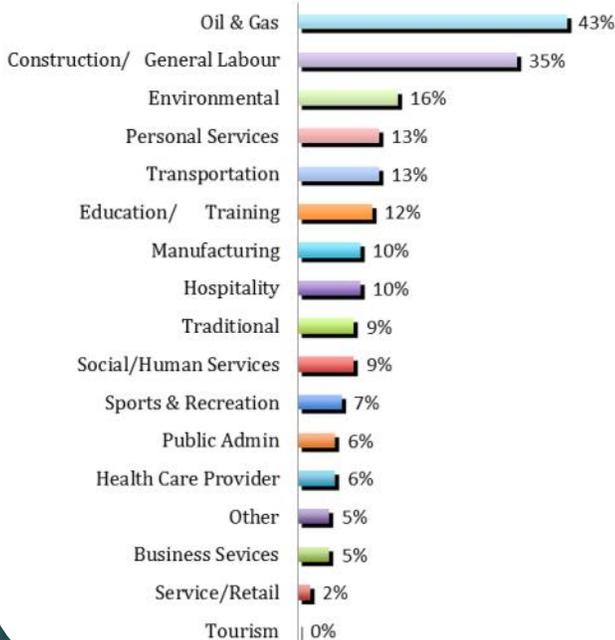
Generous sponsorship from the Government of Alberta (Aboriginal Relations) has

made start of the TLUSO project possible. LLB is currently negotiating sponsorship from Industry partners to secure additional funding necessary for project work completion.

On-site technical training and support will be provided by Little River Company Ltd. To learn more about the project and how you can participate or contribute to its success, call the LLB Office, [780-629-2356](tel:780-629-2356).

## Update: Labour Force Survey

**Employment Interests by Industry**



Lubicon Lake band received funding from Alberta Human Services to complete a Labour Force study within the community. The Lubicon Lake Band was able to successfully collect 120 surveys. The number of surveys were determined by the community population. Survey Results were broken into a number of categories such as Education and Training Levels attained and desired by Members, as well as current Employment Skills and Abilities.

The survey captures information pertaining to the employment interest of community members. This is just one area that was covered in the survey process. For information on the survey or to see the final report, please contact the Band Manager Yvonne Buc.

# Meet the New Band Manager!

## **When did you start working at the Lubicon Lake Band?**

As Band Manager, I started at the beginning of November, but I have been working for Lubicon Lake Band in one capacity or another for many years. I was a part of the first Student Summer Employment program that ran in the community when I was 15, and I have served on the Education Board, worked at the school, and been a participant in community meetings.

## **What are some of the highlights of the job since you started?**

Each day is an accomplishment and each day has its highlights. There is something wonderful happening each day, whether it is arranging to get wood delivered for a community member, or getting a program up and running, or sometimes even just getting here in the morning. The thing I am happiest about is that there are community members out working, earning money, and doing more than just getting by. I look forward to the day when all of our community members, not just all the band members, are working or training for a trade or job.

## **What is your past work experience working with Aboriginal communities?**

I have worked with Aboriginal communities all my life except for a few brief periods. I have worked for Sagitawa Friendship Centre, Tillicum Haus Friendship Centre, Lesser Slave Lake

Indian Regional Council, Native Counselling Services, and as Band Manager (First Nations Administrator) at Duncan's First Nation. I've been in management for about 15 years, and most of that has been with Aboriginal communities.

## **You recently participated in a Strategic Planning workshop with the band, what are some of the projects that the band will be focusing on in the next year?**

The Integrated Employment Program is going to be starting up, to train a number of our community members to prepare them for apprenticeship programs. The Traditional Land Use program just started. Those two programs have two members working as Coordinators. The Lubicon Lake Band Ventures is now operational and we hope to be seeing some great progress from that area in employing band members in the field. We have two Construction Managers, one of whom is also a fully qualified Safety Manager. The Safety Manager is also fully qualified to give training for several certifications that are required in the oilfield industry. There are a number of projects in the works, such as getting more housing, getting some training in the community, and getting some workshops into the community. Our Recreation Committee is moving quickly to get some fundraising and activities happening. We have an Elder's Council and a Youth Council that will be involved with community activities and who will be participating in the negotiations. Of course, we have the programs that are already in operation that are making progress; our



**Yvonne Buc, Band Manager**

Consultation Program, Social Assistance, and our Membership Program. We are also planning for a number of events for this year, such as the Play-On in Edmonton, Sports and Treaty Day Celebration, a Story-Telling Camp in July, and the Recreation Committee keeps mentioning plans to have a Quad Rally this summer. This is definitely an exciting time for Lubicon Lake Band!

## **As the Band Manager what do you feel your level of experience will bring to the band and what areas will you focus on?**

I would like to see 100% employment for all band members who want to work, opportunities to help our band members with business startups, training and education opportunities for our members, all the standard opportunities for development that any of our members can have. Most of all, I would like to see our community heal from these past years and come together again, to work together again so that everyone can participate and benefit from all the programs and growth that our community will be seeing in the next few years. I would like to see everybody happy and united toward a common community goal – growth, prosperity and development for all members. Mostly I would like to see a future for all community members and their children that includes equality and fairness for each and every member of the community, and an honest, fair and transparent administration to guide its development.

## Strategic Planning Session Allows for Council to Focus on 2014/2015 Priorities

The Lubicon Lake Band received funds from the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to host two strategic planning sessions. One session took place in October of 2013 and the second took place in February of 2014. The 2nd session in February focused on infrastructure development, policies and procedures and programming for membership.

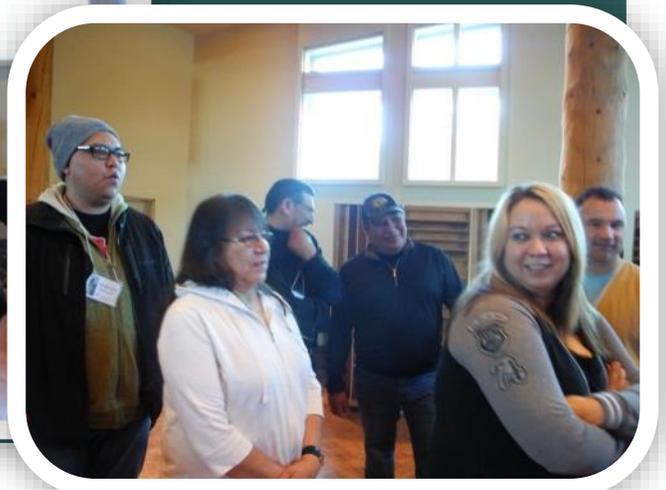


*Photo: Band Manager Yvonne Buc works with Councillor Joe Auger and Councillor Brian Laboucan on their priorities for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.*

## Chief & Council take Negotiations Training

In February of 2013 the Lubicon Lake Band Chief and Council attended Negotiations Skills Training at the Banff Centre for a one week period. The course is timely for the Chief and Council, who have been negotiating with AANDC on a land claim settlement agreement. The Banff Centre offers this unique training to assist the many Aboriginal communities and organizations that are in the negotiations process. The course offers information on preparing to negotiate important issues such as land claims, self-governance, fiscal arrangements, natural resources, co-management agreements, and business partnerships. Chief and Council enjoyed the training and hope to pursue the next level of training in the future. The course assisted them in understanding each step in the negotiation process through interest-based negotiation techniques.

Left: Chief Laboucan  
Right: Councillors Irene and Cheryl at the Negotiations training in Banff.



# Lubicon Lake Band Receives First Allocation for First Nations Development Fund (FNDF)

The Lubicon Lake band is now a recipient of the FNDF . The grant program is a Government of Alberta lottery grant program available exclusively to First Nations Band Councils in Alberta. The FNDF Grant Program is supported by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located

in First Nation casinos in Alberta. The projects are focused on social, economic and community development projects. The 2013/2014 budgeted projection for the FNDF Grant Program is \$120 million. Lubicon Lake Band was accepted in to the program late in the fiscal year and received a pro-rated allocation of \$226,000 for the 2013/14 fiscal year.

Some of the projects approved by Chief and Council included hiring an Executive Assistant, moving a trailer that will be used for a classroom facility and offering social program training in the community for band membership such as ready to work initiatives, young parenting programs and recreation programming for the youth. For more information on these programs and the upcoming dates for training contact Band Manager Yvonne Buc.



## More Pictures from the Minister's Visit!



# Meet Casper!

Marina Gladue, our Executive Assistant, is fondly known as Casper. She started in this position in November, 2014 with funding from the First Nation Development Fund.

In that time, she has learned that Chief and Council are very busy: "I don't know how they are able to handle so many meetings." One of Casper's jobs is to keep track of where the Chief and Council are, to make sure they get to their meetings, to make their travel arrangements, and to make sure they get the information that they need to get. In addition to that, we have found that Casper keeps track of us all, making sure we are reminded of meetings, events and happenings, and making sure that messages and information get to the right people.



Morning for Lubicon Lake Band

# MEMBERS OFFERED TRAINING

## PAST & UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

Lubicon Lake Band has initiated some training programs that will promote skill building and enhanced employability for band members who participate. There are several workshops that are being planned for interested community members.

Several computer skills courses have been completed: Computer Fundamentals Module 1, MS PowerPoint Module 1, and MS Excel Level 1. Further courses are scheduled: May 1 at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Computer Fundamentals Module 2; May 6 at 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. MS Excel Level 2; May 8 at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Computer Fundamentals Module 3; May 27 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. MS Excel Level 1; and May 29 at 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. MS Excel Level 2.

In March, a week long series of workshops was facilitated by Cheryl Watts of Timely Trends. She did presentations and interactions in Respect in the Workplace, Conflict Resolution, System Thinking, Team Work and Lateral Violence. Also in March, Josie Auger from Iyinaysiwiwin Place of Learning presented a workshop on Grief and Loss. We are hoping to have both of these ladies back to facilitate further workshops. We have already booked Cheryl Watts to come in for a 3 day workshop on Lateral Violence, to show where it originates and what the effects are in families, the workplace, and in the community.

April 25 to May 1 was scheduled for Class 5 Driver Training. Some spaces that were left over were given to those signed up for Class 7 training, but a full session devoted to Class 7 Driver Training will be scheduled for a date in the summer that has yet to be

planned.

Also scheduled for May, is Cree-Active Workforce Solutions, who will be presenting a weeklong seminar that focuses on preparing workers for optimal performance in the workplace. They will be offering information and interaction on Smart Work Ethics, which will include sessions on: Smart Communication Skills, Attitude/Good Work Ethic, The Power of Your Image, Interpersonal Communication Skills, Organizational Skills, and Personal Life Skills, along with a bonus class in "When Life Gives you a Job - Make Lemonade."

We are looking forward to having the new Administration building ready for occupancy, as we are working on setting up the Integrated Employment Training Program, which will prepare the participants with exposure to various work opportunities and the option of entering one of the trades in an apprenticeship position. The program is just awaiting the space that will come available, as there is currently not enough space for classes.

Lubicon Lake Band will also be starting a Headstart Program, which has been approved and is currently in the planning stages. This is a part of Lubicon Lake Band administering the Health funding and programs. This is the first step to independence from the Co-management Agreement that we have been in for the past number of years.

We are like a new bloom unfolding to embrace the sun, with new programs, new opportunities and a rejuvenation in our exist-

## Lubicon Lake Band

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### Chief and Council

Chief Billy Joe Laboucan  
Councillor Joe Auger  
Councillor Brian Laboucan  
Councillor Irene Laboucan  
Councillor Cheryl McMann  
Councillor Mike Ominayak

### STAFF

Yvonne Buc, Band Manager

#### Administration

Kristin Calliou  
Marina Gladue  
Edna Laboucan  
Martha Laboucan

#### Consultation

Wayne Auger  
Troy Laboucan  
Janene Gladue

#### Community Services

Alex Laboucan  
Vera Laboucan  
Betsy Ominayak  
Laurence Calliou

#### Project Staff

Chris Harrison, TLU  
Vacant, TLU Coordinator  
Denise Ominayak, IEP Coordinator

#### Health

Corinne Gladue  
Helen Calliou  
Loretta Laboucan  
Virginia Ominayak  
Alice Lillian Laboucan

## Community Gathering First Year Celebration

February 15, 2014 marked the first anniversary of the election of Chief Billy Joe Laboucan and the Council. Everyone in the community felt that it was an occasion to celebrate. For some, it was great to come together for a happy event, to be able to relax and laugh and enjoy themselves. For others, it was an occasion to celebrate the hope they were feeling that the community would be able to see the land claim completed and be able to see positive change for the community.

The afternoon began with a prayer from Elder Michael Laboucan, and then the Metis dancers took over and gave a wonderful performance of various styles of jigging, with a jigging contest following. Starting with the youngest age group, Master of Ceremonies Charity Laboucan, wheedled, cajoled, threatened and bribed everyone to participate. Prizes of toys went to the younger winners of their respective age groups. Older age groups competed for cash prizes for first, second and third place. An the dancing continued! After the jigging contest, there was a contest for various age groups in the hip-hop dance style, with prizes for first, second and third.

Yvonne Buc then presented plaques of appreciation from the community to Chief and Council. The plaque for Chief Billy Joe Laboucan read:

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.”

The name of the Chief was printed below the quote, to denote the appreciation of his leadership that the community felt.

The Councillors each received a plaque that read:

“Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”

Each of the Councillor’s names was printed below the quote.

After the presentation, Elder Michael Laboucan said a prayer and it signaled the beginning of a potluck supper that all community members had contributed to, with a large cake emblazoned with the Lubicon Lake Band crest completing the meal. Everyone spent the afternoon laughing, cheering on the dancers, watching the children play, and having a wonderful time just visiting. Many members commented on the good time they had and how it was a great gathering.

