



Lubicon Lake Band Newsletter

LUBICON LAKE BAND

DECEMBER 2014

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Premier meets with Lubicon: Cheryl McMann, Pearl Calahasen, Joe Auger, Billy Joe Laboucan, Jim Prentice, Mike Ominayak, Brian Laboucan, Irene Laboucan.

ALBERTA'S PREMIER VISITS LUBICON LAKE BAND

On October 30th 2014, history was made, it was the first time that an Alberta Premier, Jim Prentice visited the Lubicon Lake Band located in Little Buffalo, AB. The community not only had the Premier visit but the Honourable Jim Prentice is also the Minister for Aboriginal Relations. He was accompanied by the Assistant Minister for Abo-

original Relations, The Honourable David Dorward, as well as Pearl Calahasen, MLA for the District of Lesser Slave Lake, Deputy Minister, Donavon Young and Assistant Deputy Minister Clay Buchanan. The agenda for the day focused on an update of the communities Land Claim negotiations, housing and infrastructure as it relates to the

nineteen mobile homes that were provided by the Province of Alberta, and Employment and Training and Education. It was a successful meeting whereby the Premier and his staff were treated to a lunch of Moose Nose Soup prepared by Elder Barbara Laboucan.



Land Claims Update —Federal Government

On December 1st an important step forward was made between Canada and Lubicon Lake Band. Leaders sat down in Ottawa and signed a Negotiation Framework which is the first step on the path to settling land claim negotiations for Lubicon Lake Band, who is the last of the Treaty 8 isolated communities that were missed by the Treaty Commissioners at the time of Treaty making over 100 years ago.

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Chief Billy Joe Laboucan, the councilors of the Lubicon Lake Band, and MP Chris Warkentin aim to set out processes for addressing the three priority issues in a concurrent fashion with the Negotiation Framework. Their Framework will bring clarity and mutual agreement between the federal and Lubicon negotiators on the nature of the work ahead of them.

The three main priorities that were identified in the Negotiation Framework by Lubicon are:

- the establishment of a reserve pursuant to Treaty
- community construction on the future reserve lands
- resolution of Lubicon’s claims to other treaty-related benefits

"Our Government remains committed to enabling First Nations to take advantage of the economic prosperity this country has to offer.

The Negotiation Framework signing brings us one step closer to our goal, of moving forward together, in the spirit of reconciliation, with shared priorities that will ensure that long-term benefits flow as quickly as possible to Lubicon members leading to improved living conditions and increased well-being."

- Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study (TLUSO)

Lubicon Lake Band is busy completing ground-truthing work for identified traditional land use sites. Days are short and cold but still busy and productive!

We look forward to office space to work from some time in the new year, and the opportunity to hire a new program coordinator and support staff.

Much thanks to Chief and Council and all community members who have generously offered their support and time for project work completion this year.

Happy Holidays from the traditional land use study team!



Dillon Laboucan, William Metsikassus, Hector Whitehead, Wesley Laboucan. Left: Chris Harrison.

Notes from the Staff

I am originally from Little Red River Cree Nation, which is located about 130km east of High Level. My role with the Band is to provide management services in all Band programs, with a focus on the Band's corporation, Lubicon Lake Band Ventures. My educational background consists of environmental sciences and business, with specialization in sustainable management and cultural sustainability in indigenous communities.

We have undergone some much needed restructuring for the Band in the past couple of months. We are also getting ready to lay the first cornerstone in building a solid economic foundation. The People of Lubicon Lake Band will aim to have a strong focus and preservation of our language, history, stories, teachings and achieving cultural sustainably in the region.



Conroy Sewepagaham, CEO

Even with all that is taking place positively for the community, we are constantly reminded from our Cultural Teachings. These teachings from our Elders of yesterday and today will be incorporated into our businesses.

"...we're building the foundations today, to help create a better tomorrow and to create prosperity for all members of the Lubicon Lake Band..."

When we succeed at creating prosperity for Lubicon Lake Band, we also succeed in creating opportunities for our members, our community, for our neighbors and all of Peace River Country.

I'm excited and ready for the challenges ahead, but also ready to help the People of Lubicon Lake Band in finding a true balance between our environment, and achieving economic prosperity.

Mena'Que'Tham,
Conroy Sewepagaham

Councillor Irene Laboucan prepares traditional gifts for Guests

Councillor Irene Laboucan has been busy assisting her Council on the administrative processes that comes with government visits. Not only has Irene been present at the meetings but she has been the person assigned to gifting and presenting the gifts in the community. Irene recently had the pleasure of presenting the Premier and Minister of Aboriginal Relations, Jim Prentice with a pair of gloves that were hand stitched and beaded by her. When Irene was asked about her work she said, "I shot the deer, I skinned the deer and I tanned the hide and then made the gloves". The Premier was honoured



Jim Prentice & Irene Laboucan

to be presented with the gloves by Irene herself.

Irene also presented five pairs of moccasins at the community celebration meeting on November 21st when Minister Frank Oblerle visited. She worked long hours to ensure all of the guests were presented with gifts during their visit. Others who received gifts were Pearl Calahasen, David Dorward. Jane Wilson, David Woodman and Wendy Twin. Wendy Twin, Aboriginal Relations' Liaison for Treaty 8, Aboriginal Relations was honoured to receive her moccasins and referred to them as a part of history. Something to be cherished. The council would like to thank Irene for her hard work and dedication.

Nineteen Mobile Homes for Lubicon



Tim Sawan, Construction Manager,
Lubicon Lake Ventures

Tim Sawan, Construction Manager for Lubicon Lake Ventures has been key in supporting his community on the set up of nineteen mobile homes. Prior to this project Tim has had previous experience working with oil and gas companies in the area. Tim's role in the Alberta Government project was key as he was assigned to work directly with David Woodman who was hired by the Lubicon Lake band to oversee the set-up of the nineteen mobile units. Through Tim's work with David he had a direct role in understanding the project plan and deadlines and scope of work. Tim was involved in working with staff who were from the Lubicon Lake band on home demolition, clearing of lots, site grading and final preparation for the lots for set-up. Tim's showed great leadership in working on this project and worked closely with community members and communicating with them throughout the project. Chief and Council are very pleased that Tim was part of the project and look forward to his continued work with the Lubicon Lake Band.

Signing for New Homes...



Minister Oberle Visits Lubicon Again!

On November 21, 2014 a community celebration was held at Little Buffalo to thank the previous Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Frank Oberle for his dedication to housing in the community. The community welcomed Minister Oberle, now Minister of Energy for the Alberta Government as well as Pearl Calahassen, MP for Lesser Lake and David Dorward, Assistant Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Alberta Government. The community held the celebration in their new band office that officially opened on November 21, 2014. The Lubicon Lake Band utilised their First Nation Development Funds to set up the band office so that they have more space for staff and community celebrations. A community feast was prepared by community members and Elders were treated to a traditional meal along with guests from the Alberta Government and LLB staff. Guests were also able to observe the talented jingle

dancers from the community. Councillor, Cheryl McMann opened up her home to Minister Oberle so that he could see the spacious living conditions that she and her family were now enjoying. The Alberta Government provided gifts to the community and recognised Elder Barbra Laboucan for her hospitality and traditional cooking. Chief and Council would like to thank all the ladies and students who helped in preparing the feast and serving our guests. We would also like to acknowledge Marina Gladue (Casper) and those who set up the new building and made the day a successful celebration.

Left: Minister Oberle takes pictures of the celebration. Center: David Dorward, Middle: Cheryl McMann, Right: Dancers. Note: Cecelia Cardinal from Woodland Cree First Nation made all the outfits for the dancers.



Mobile Homes Continued

David Woodman, Project Manager hired by the Lubicon Lake Band worked is assisting the community with the first phase of the Lubicon Lake Housing project in the summer and fall of 2014. David's role was key in allowing for the smooth transition of nineteen mobile homes from Slave Lake, AB into Little Buffalo, AB. David also worked closely with Janene Wilson who was assigned by Chief and Council on the administrative side of the project. Chief and Council were instrumental in ensuring that the project ran smoothly and reflected the expectations of community members. David compliments the home owners for their support and patience during the delivery of the homes. David would also like to acknowledge the strength of Chief and Council to work with their partners on setting up the homes; Lubicon Lake Ventures, Municipal District of Opportunity, E&E Homes, the Province of Alberta and Canada. When we asked David what was his favourite part of the project he replied, "Working with the individual homeowners, Chief and Council and being welcomed into the community as a partner in the process." David was acknowledged by Chief and Council for his dedication to the project on November 21st during a community celebration.

Lubicon Lake Band

Box 1351
St. Isidore, Alberta

Office: (780) 629-2356
Fax: (780) 629-2473

Chief and Council

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

STAFF

Conroy Sewepagaham, CEO

Nancy Apannah, Operations Manager

Jackie Laboucan, Finance Manager

Administration

Kristin Calliou

Marina Gladue

Edna Laboucan

Consultation

Wayne Auger

Community Services

Alex Laboucan

Vera Laboucan

Betsy Ominayak

Health

Helen Calliou

Corine Gladue

Loretta Laboucan

Virginia Ominayak

Happy Holiday's from Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council

On behalf of Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I would also like to send a congratulations to Chief Billy Joe Laboucan and his Council for their hard work during 2014 and the successes accomplished.

Best wishes for health and happiness to the community in the New Year.

Al Rollins, CEO, KTC



***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !
I wish that all of you will have a healthy and safe holiday. With your support, we have made good progress in our community in this past while, and hope that we will continue. One thing we need to do above all other accomplishments is for our community to work together as one. During this new year, we let us renew our old friendships for the good of all.***

Thank you for your support.

***Billy Joe Laboucan,
Chief, Lubicon Lake***

