



Chiefs and Council Notes

For June 25, 2024

The following notes summarize the Chiefs and Council Regular Meeting held in Council Chambers at Úlúus Community Complex on June 25, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

Council Business

New Strategic Plan Approved

Chiefs and Council approved the *Lilwat 2030 Strategic Plan*. The plan, now in effect, outlines the Nation's priorities and goals until the end of the decade. In the discussion around approving the plan, it was noted that the Nation needs to improve communications.

Specific Claims Update

Specific claims deal with **past wrongs against First Nations**. These claims, made by First Nations against the Government of Canada and/or the Province of British Columbia, relate to the administration of land and other First Nation assets and to the fulfilment of historic treaties and other agreements.

Some of Lilwat Nation's current specific claims have been settled, some accepted for negotiation, and some rejected. Here are where things stand as of June 25, 2024:

IR#6 Timber Lease Specific Claim

This specific claim was set aside in 1905 subject to a 21-year timber lease. In 1924, the Nation renewed the timber lease and continued to do so until 2004.

Compensation could be based on what was logged from the reserve or on a theoretical

logging event or events which the Nation might have taken advantage of.

Chiefs and Council agreed unanimously that Lilwat Nation members needed to be included in this negotiation and that a clear picture of desired outcomes needed to be in place before proceeding. This item has been tabled until Chiefs and Council establishes a direction forward based on community input.

Main Street Negotiations Specific Claim

The Main Street negotiations, pertaining to the widening of what was an eight-foot-wide wagon trail, include both the provincial and federal governments. The additional width of the road is in trespass of the Nation's reserve land.

Chiefs and Council agreed to table this item until a clear direction on this matter can be obtained from the community.

Lillooet Lake Road Specific Claim

Chiefs and Council voted to direct staff to pursue a Full Bypass Study for Lillooet Lake Road and authorized CAO Áts'xas Kerry Mehaffey to enter into a contract with Parsons Consulting for \$214,800 to complete the bypass study to determine the viability of alternative routes other than the Lillooet Lake Road. The province will be funding this bypass study.

The Lillooet Lake Road specific claim involves land in IR 3 & IR 8. Canada's offer to negotiate was accepted by Lílwat Nation in October 2019 with the condition that the federal government not require a formal transfer to the province.

Council noted the need to host meetings with Canada to discuss the basis of negotiations for settlement.

Funding for Two New School Buses for XCS Approved

Chiefs and Council approved an expenditure of \$355,891.20 to replace two school buses at the end of their useful lives. The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) replaces busses that are 10 or more years old. One bus is eligible for full FNESC funding while the second bus, which services Mile 33, does not meet that age threshold for replacement funding, but is falling apart.

The Nation has committed to funding a shortfall of approximately \$98,000 to replace both school buses.

Payments Over \$100,000 Approved

Chiefs and Council approved an Infrastructure Department payment of \$357,226.76 to Murphy Construction Corp. for the hook up of power to the Child and Family Services building being built in the Xetólacw community site. The BC Hydro connection required an extension of three-phase power from Black Bear Road down Eagle Drive to Creekside Road, with the installation of six new power poles, a distribution box and a ground transformer for the building.

It was noted that while the installation process was more involved than initially considered resulting in a higher cost, there is sufficient contingency, and the project is still on budget.

The June 25, 2024, Chiefs and Council Regular Meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.