



# Chiefs and Council Notes

## For October 22, 2024

The following notes summarize the Chiefs and Council Regular Meeting held in Council Chambers at Úííus Community Complex on October 22, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

### FY2025 Q2 Director's Presentations

All presentations, unless otherwise indicated, were 10 minutes in duration with a 10-minute period for questions and comments.

#### Finance and IT

The Finance and IT Department has hired a recruitment service for the Reporting Manager position. Prospective candidates are looking for a hybrid position, this consideration will be reviewed by Finance Director Karen Mallon. The position is a new one for the department, so the impact of not having one has not been felt by the finance team. The finance director hopes that the addition of a Reporting Manager will improve efficiency.

As the finance director will not be present at Chiefs and Council meeting for monthly reporting, it was requested that she provide a narrative to accompany the financials. Nímtsvq Councillor James Williams will take questions arising from the monthly financial reports back to her to respond to during quarterly reporting.

#### Lands and Resources

The department has been installing signs at all reserve access points to deter firewood cutting, kayaking, fishing, and use of mountain bike trails by non-community members.

The Lands and Resources Director noted that the department is also reaching out to companies to let them know they are trespassing when operating on Lííwat Nation lands which is difficult when landowners along the river grant access.

#### Comments/Questions:

**Skalúlmecw** Chief Dean Nelson would like to see projects on lands purchased by the Nation to begin sooner rather than later. For example, he would like to see a men's home created on the Higgins land. **Nímtsvq** Councillor James Williams advised that building on non-reserve lands would require applying for permits through SLRD and that the technical experience required is available at Lííwat Construction Enterprises (LCE).

**Qaqawam** Councillor Christopher Wells noted that we would like to see the fence at the Spetch property torn down as it's dangerous, and impedes drivers view of the road. **Nímtsvq** Councillor James Williams suggested speaking with LCE General Manager Jason Andrew about this matter.

#### Xetólacw Community School

Education Administrator **Akmiñ** Verna Stager updated Chiefs and Council on current issues and activities at Xetólacw Community School. The administrator noted that plans are underway for Chiefs and Council to hold a meeting before the students on December 3. Confirmation of that date is pending. She also spoke to a recent incident of vandalism to the school's play structures that was

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not captured by school's security camera. She said if the culprits are identified, they will be brought into a meeting with their parents.

Stager also cited that Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) concerns have arisen due to MCFD's staffing shortage and that in some circumstances both abuser and victim can be in the school, which is not supposed to happen.

### Comments/Questions:

*Sawt* Councillor Martina Pierre noted that the issue of staff housing was not included in Verna's report. The administrator concurred, saying that both housing and daycare are significant needs that effect staffing.

## Infrastructure, Public Works and Housing

Director of Infrastructure, Public Works and Housing Tom Laviolette provided on an update on the Lake Road watermain project noting that the department is currently working with Urban Systems to determine how to address this issue.

Laviolette also noted that the new foster homes being built will be run by Child and Family Services, which will be developing operational policies. Another department project, an Elders Complex, has completed its design phase with Adjacent Architecture in consultation with Community Programs and Lílwat Nation Elders.

He concluded his presentation by sharing that a funding application to the Indigenous Housing Fund for the Main Street Project was not successful, noting that successful CMHC funding would result in higher rents.

### Member Housing

#### (15-minute presentation)

This item was in reference to a housing request made by Nation member Mason Ducharme. It initially appeared he was getting a house and .15 ha of land. However, this is a scenario where the house is owned but the land belongs to the Nation. There is a clear BCR pertaining to the whole subdivision.

Ducharme will own the house on the lot but not the land it's on. Council was concerned that it would look like he owns the land and recommended that a policy and process be developed in collaboration with the Land Management Board.

### MOTION:

Moved by *Lhpatq* Councillor Maxine Bruce  
Seconded by *Kik7ak* Councillor Helena Edmonds

That the Lílwat Nation Chiefs and Council approves in principle Lílwat Nation Member Mason Ducharme's Housing Application for a Ministerial Loan Guaranteed (MLG) of \$600,000.00 with Bank of Montreal (BMO) and an Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) Housing Subsidy of \$95,790.00 to purchase a new home.

CARRIED

## Community Development

### (15-minute presentation with 15-minute question and comment period)

Community Development Director Jolene Andrew updated Chiefs and Council on the department's activities. The director noted that actual financials for the department were not received until July 2024. Had that information been available earlier, Social Development spending would have been suspended.

### Comments/Questions:

*Qaqawam* Councillor Christopher Wells would like to donate hunting game to the Community Development programming, which would just have to pay for the butchering. One animal could yield up to 1,500 lbs of meat.

*Lhpatq* Councillor Maxine Bruce said that she appreciates seeing Ucwalmícwts in reports but would love to see QR codes attached to resources that would teach people how to pronounce these words correctly. She also said that she feels that that the *94 Calls to Action* from UNDRIP need to be incorporated into Community Development.

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Andrew noted after a recent meeting with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), "There is no one pushing back like we are."

**Gélpcał** Chief Ashley Joseph would like Youth Justice staff to be operating its own programming, noting that it's important to see our people in leadership to inspire others to take leadership roles. He would like to see the ideas generated by staff turn into actions. He also expressed a desire for Youth Justice to use Skalúla and up the valley locations to show our youth their land.

**Nímtsvq** Councillor James Williams stated that Community budget overrun needs to be addressed.

Andrew stated that budget shortfall projection was \$1 million.

It was noted that Community Development has allocated \$30,000 in gift cards to address emergency food requests. This is a budgeted item and the department is no longer spending. The director is currently pursuing other sources of funding. **Lhpatq** asked if there was a budget for Christmas hampers for the Nation. **Skalúlmecw** Chief Dean Nelson said it was probably still in the budget. He also noted that he feels the Nations needs to invest in certainty such as greenhouse growing.

## Community Programs

Agricultural Manager Shannon Didier presented on a grant proposal for Qwalímak Nleþcálten requiring a BCR. Didier described Qwalímak Nleþcálten as a four-acre organic garden that has been steadily expanding over the last four years and is almost self-sufficient and is fulfilling its mandate by selling harvest bags and going to farmers markets in Pemberton and Whistler.

The Agricultural program is applying for Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) for the Qwalímak Nleþcálten Agritourism Expansion in hopes of securing a food trailer that would primarily reside at the garden site and offer coffees, smoothies, and sandwiches with the farm providing the majority of produce. Once it's established, the food trailer could be taken to rodeos and pow wows. Another component of the grant application is to work on value-added production, such as making pickles and dehydrating

vegetables for later use. The \$350,000 grant proposal also considers funding for a staff position and the purchase of a shipping container for direct-to-consumer sales and administration space. The agricultural program investment would be \$75,000 and would include normal department purchases such as seeds, soil and apiary equipment.

It was noted that Claudia Thevarge is working on a business plan for the Qwalímak Nleþcálten grant application.

### Comments/Questions:

**Nímtsvq** Councillor James Williams inquired if the \$75,000 own source contribution could be assets. The agricultural manager reiterated that this contribution could be split between in-kind and applicant cash.

### MOTION:

Moved by **Lhpatq** Councillor Maxine Bruce  
Seconded by **Kík7ak** Councillor Helena Edmonds

That the Lílwat Nation Chiefs and Council approve the BCR LN 005 Community Services Agreement 2024.10.22 Qwalímak Nleþcálten Agritourism Expansion.

CARRIED

## Payment over \$100,000

Chiefs and Council approved the payment of an invoice from Murphy Construction in excess of \$100,000 for the Lílwat Small Homes project.

### MOTION:

Moved by **Sawt** Councillor Martina Pierre  
Seconded by **Qaqawam** Councillor Christopher Wells

That the Lílwat Nation Chiefs and Council approve a payment of \$343,052.98 to the Murphy Construction Company.

CARRIED

The October 22, 2024, Chiefs and Council Regular Meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.