



FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE **OK SAFE DRINKING WATER**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (the “Committee”)

(25 September 2024 – TD TOWER, 66 WELLINGTON STREET WEST,
T’KARONTO)

1Reference: CHAIR

Chief Emily Whetung acted as chair of the meeting. John P. Brown (“**Executive Director**”) acted as secretary for the meeting.

2Reference: MEETING PROPERLY CONSTITUTED

A quorum of the Members of the Committee was present in person or virtually as set out in Schedule A.

3Reference: BUSINESS CONDUCTED

The Committee considered and addressed the matters set out in the Agenda attached as Schedule B.

4Reference: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 28 JUNE 2024 MEETING

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the 28 June 2024 meeting be and are hereby approved.

5Reference: UPDATE RE NEW FNAC WEBSITE

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The “Engagement Plan for the First Nations Advisory Committee” delivered by Vincent Design be placed on hold until the FNAC is satisfied that the Funding Request process and Claims Dispute Resolution Program can operate properly in light of the current position ISC is taking regarding its funding obligations under the Settlement Agreement.
2. The FNAC should request that the RDGs (particularly the Ontario RDG) attend a meeting of the FNAC to discuss ISC’s current position re funding.
3. The FNAC should investigate a more focused approach to create awareness of and to deliver information relating to the FNAC website by

targeting First Nations communities with water issues using Instagram and Facebook.

4. Wes Bova, Maggie Stothart and Kerry Black should reach out to local tribal councils to gather a set of criteria of the qualifications and skills experts should have to be able to assist First Nations with assessing, designing and requesting funding for water and wastewater infrastructure. These criteria will then be included on the “Resources” page of the website.
5. Amend the list of eligible First Nations on the FNAC website so that they are grouped by province and then alphabetically.
6. The FNAC should send emails to appropriate individuals in the relevant Chief’s organizations in each province advising them of the FNAC website. These names/organizations will be obtained by:
 - a. John Brown sending an email to the AFN asking for a list of the provincial organizations that are members of the AFN;
 - b. Kerry Black providing John Brown with a list of suggested organizations that he can reach out to with information regarding the website.
7. Maggie Stothart will send information regarding the FNAC website by email to the regional chiefs and water operators.

6Reference: COMMITMENT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the FNAC continue to identify First Nations who are seeking funding for water and wastewater infrastructure and to provide these First Nations with guidance, support and financial assistance in order that they may access and engage in (a) the new Funding Request Process, and (b) if required, to access and engage in the Commitment Dispute Resolution Process under the Clean Water Class Action Settlement.

7Reference: INAN STANDING COMMITTEE AND BILL C-61

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

In response to the partisan politics that is evident in the INAN Standing Committee meetings FNAC should write to representatives of all parties to emphasize the urgent need to pass Bill C-61.

8Reference: SCHEDULING A MEETING WITH RDGS

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the FNAC should write to ISC and Canada:

1. requesting that the capital management officer in each region compile and deliver to the FNAC the current funding requests received;
2. emphasizing that First Nations do not have to be in the FNIP to be eligible for funding under the Settlement Agreement;
3. providing a link to the FNAC website;
4. asking ISC to describe the source of funding that has been made available under the Settlement Agreement and to confirm that this new source of funding is separate and apart from any funding previously made available by Canada between 2016 and June 2021;
5. requesting that the Attorney General review ISC's "spending" under the Settlement Agreement since June 2021;
6. requesting that ISC explain its current funding mechanism under the Settlement Agreement;
7. clearly articulating the funding mechanisms that are required under the Settlement Agreement;
8. requesting from ISC its annual reports outlining the amounts spent under the Settlement Agreement; and
9. demanding that Canada and ISC meet its funding obligations under the Settlement Agreement.

We should include any such letter as a discussion point at our meeting with the RDGs.

9Reference: WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO ISC re FUNDING OBLIGATIONS

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. John Brown circulate the letters that OKT has delivered to ISC and Canada with questions regarding their approach to funding requests under the Settlement Agreement, and that the FNAC write a follow up letter to ISC and Canada supporting OKT's position.
2. Maggie Stothart have one of the Funding Requests that she has submitted under the Settlement Agreement to ISC on behalf of her First Nation clients reviewed to assess the strength and merits of the request. This is to determine which request should proceed through the Commitment Dispute Resolution Process, and whether the FNAC should financially support the First Nation in this endeavour.

10Reference: _____ THE FNAC WEBSITE

ON A MOTION DULY MADE, seconded and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT John Brown is directed to amend the FNAC website in accordance with the recommendations provided by the members of the FNAC.

11Reference: _____ ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned.

Schedule A

Members of the First Nations Advisory Committee (“FNAC”)		
Name	Email	Community
Chief Emerita Emily Whetung (present)	emilieee.whetung@gmail.com	Curve Lake First Nation Southern Ontario
Councilor Doreen Spence (absent)	doreenspence@tataskweyak.com	Tataskweyak First Nation Northern Manitoba
Chief Chris Moonias (present)	chris.moonias@neskantaga.com	Neskantaga First Nation Northern Ontario
Richard Inkster (absent)	rinkster@kitsumkalum.com	Kitsumkalum Band Council British Columbia
Wesley Bova (present)	wesbova@shaw.ca	Akwesasne First Nation Ontario
Kathleen Padulo (present)	kathleen.padulo@coo.org	Oneida Nation of the Thames Ontario
Mario Swampy (absent)	mario_73@hotmail.com	Nipisihkopahk (Samson Cree Nation) Alberta
Maggie Stothart, P. Eng., FEC (present)	maggiestothart@nsmdc.com	New Brunswick

Schedule B

Agenda – 25 September 2024		
	Time	Description
1	8:00 to 8:30	Breakfast
2	8:30 to 8:45	Opening & Introductions
3	8:45 to 9:00	Approval of Meeting Minutes of 28 June 2024 and consideration of follow up items
4	9:00 to 9:20	Update re New FNAC Website and Discussion of New Pages and Resources that Should be Added (John)
5	9:20 to 9:40	First Nations that Have Used the New Funding Process (Maggie)
6	9:40 to 10:15	Funding First Nations who Trigger the Commitment Dispute Resolution Process (All)
7	10:15 to 10:30	Health Break
8	10:30 to 11:30	Status of Bill C-61, First Nations Clean Water Act (Chief Whetung) a. September 16th Attendance before the Standing Committee of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) b. Written Submission to INAN c. Next Steps
9	11:30 to 11:50	Health Break and Lunch Pickup
10	11:50 to 12:50	Providing Active Guidance to ISC (All) re: a. How much is needed to meet current needs (e.g. AFN Infrastructure Gap Study) b. How ISC should prioritize its spending to meet current needs c. Training its staff on their obligations under the Settlement Should the FNAC pursue ISC for its funding information or continue to support class counsel's efforts in that regard?
11	12:50 to 1:00	Closing