



## **FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **ON SAFE DRINKING WATER**

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

(11 DECEMBER 2023 – TD TOWER, 66 WELLINGTON STREET WEST,  
T’KARONTO)

#### **Reference: CHAIR**

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

#### **Reference: MEETING PROPERLY CONSTITUTED**

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

#### **Reference: BUSINESS CONDUCTED**

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

#### **Reference: APPOINTMENT OF CO-CHAIRS**

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE**, seconded and carried:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following persons be and are hereby appointed Co-Chairs of the Committee:

- a) Chief Emily Whetung
- b) Wes Bova

#### **Reference: COMMUNICATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA (“ISC”)**

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE**, seconded and carried:

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Executive Director write to ISC and urge ISC to provide to the Committee for its review and comment, a copy of the draft template that is being developed for use by First Nations to apply for funding under the Settlement Agreement entered into by Canada dated 15 September 2021 (the “Settlement Agreement”), relating to the design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair and/or replacement of water or waste water infrastructures, to ensure that this fundamental document is co-developed with First Nations.

**Reference: COMMUNICATIONS WITH FIRST NATIONS**

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE**, seconded and carried:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Executive Director engage the services of a website designer to assist in the creation of a website and related email address/domain for the Committee for the purposes of providing First Nations with information and resources relating to the mandate, operation, role and responsibilities of the Committee as set out in the Settlement Agreement.

**Reference: ASSISTING FIRST NATIONS WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESSES UNDER THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE**, seconded and carried:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Committee identify and retain the services of an appropriately experienced individual or individuals to assist First Nations in navigating and completing the application processes under the Settlement Agreement for funds:

- a) from the Water Governance Fund; and/or,
- b) for the actual costs of the design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair and/or replacement of water or waste water infrastructures.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned.

## Schedule A

| Agenda |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | Time           | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1      | 8:00 to 8:30   | Breakfast                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2      | 8:30 to 8:45   | Opening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3      | 8:45 to 9:00   | Introductions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 4      | 9:00 to 9:30   | Overview of the Mandate and Operation of the FNAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5      | 9:30 to 9:45   | Selections of Co-Chairs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6      | 9:45 to 10:00  | Recruitment of New Members for the FNAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 7      | 10:00 to 10:15 | Status of Proposed Legislation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8      | 10:15 to 10:30 | Consideration of the Briefing Note re Specified Injuries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9      | 10:30 to 10:45 | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10     | 10:45 to 11:45 | Discussion re Business Plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General Mandate - Section 7 of the Terms of Reference</li> <li>2. Water Governance Fund Mandate – Sections 48 -52 of the Terms of Reference</li> <li>3. Outreach re Settlement – Individual Claims and First Nation Claims</li> </ol> |
| 11     | 11:45 to 1:00  | Working Lunch and Further Discussion re Business Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 12     | 1:00           | Closing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Schedule B

| Members of the First Nations Advisory Committee (“FNAC”) |                                                                            |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Name                                                     | Email                                                                      | Community               |
| Chief Emerita Emily                                      | <a href="mailto:emilieee.whetung@gmail.com">emilieee.whetung@gmail.com</a> | Curve Lake First Nation |

| Members of the First Nations Advisory Committee (“FNAC”) |                                                                                |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Name                                                     | Email                                                                          | Community                                     |
| Whetung                                                  |                                                                                | Southern Ontario                              |
| Councilor Doreen Spence                                  | <a href="mailto:doreenspence@tataskweyak.com">doreenspence@tataskweyak.com</a> | Tataskweyak First Nation<br>Northern Manitoba |
| Chief Chris Moonias                                      | <a href="mailto:chris.moonias@neskantaga.com">chris.moonias@neskantaga.com</a> | Neskantaga First Nation<br>Northern Ontario   |
| Richard Inkster                                          | <a href="mailto:rinkster@kitsumkalum.com">rinkster@kitsumkalum.com</a>         | Kitsumkalum Band Council<br>British Columbia  |
| Wesley Bova                                              | <a href="mailto:wesbova@shaw.ca">wesbova@shaw.ca</a>                           | Akwesasne First Nation<br>Ontario             |
| Kathleen Padulo                                          | <a href="mailto:kathleen.padulo@coo.org">kathleen.padulo@coo.org</a>           | Oneida Nation of the<br>Thames<br>Ontario     |
| Michael McKay                                            | <a href="mailto:mmckay@nan.ca">mmckay@nan.ca</a>                               | Nishnawbe Aski Nation<br>Northern Ontario     |
| Maggie Stothart, P.<br>Eng., FEC                         | <a href="mailto:maggiestothart@nsmdc.com">maggiestothart@nsmdc.com</a>         | New Brunswick                                 |

## Tab 3

### **Follow Up Items from December Meeting**

In addition to the matters set out in the Minutes, below please find some other matters that we discussed, some of which require follow up by Committee members.

- 1) Maggie, Wes and Kerry offered to provide the Committee with examples of “business plans” dealing with the design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of water and waste water infrastructures. This should prove useful in the Committee’s review of the draft Template that ISC is currently developing.
- 2) We acknowledged that in dealing with the Water Governance Fund the Committee should coordinate with regional and national organizations who already have existing water governance models, for support and assistance.
- 3) In our dealings with First Nations the Committee must remind First Nations that if even one house or building was subject to a Long Term Drinking Water Advisory, all houses and buildings are entitled to access the settlement funds for water and waste water infrastructure.
- 4) It is important that the Committee devise a process for “retraining” the ISC bureaucracy so that it processes applications related to water and waste water infrastructure in accordance with the new “rules” in the Settlement Agreement, and not in accordance with its previous policies and procedures. This includes copying the appropriate regional offices and carefully documenting every step taken with ISC.