



SELKIRK FIRST NATION

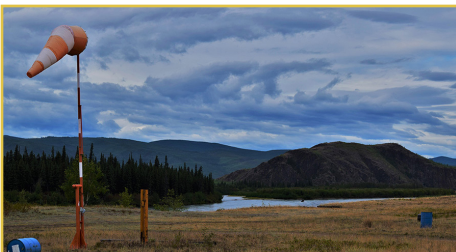


Hó Ney Ra

small stories



- Chief's Message: General Assembly Highlights
- Financial Transfer Agreement
- Hot Lunch
- Old Community Hall
- Education



Inye dóhúch'í (how are you)

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

I was happy to see so many SFN citizens attend our 22nd Annual General Assembly, held on our traditional territory of Minto Landing on August 2-4th. The General Assembly presents citizens with the opportunity to discuss issues that are important to us and make decisions on matters. This year, Selkirk citizens discussed, among other things, future developments in the community such as the Community Safety Plan and a Multi-Use Community Recreation Centre.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The role of our newly appointed Community Safety Officers, Darcy Marcotte and David Bennett, is to assist the RCMP and Conservation Officers and Selkirk citizens. However, they are not there as a taxi service but are there to help citizens when needed and keep the community safe. The Safety Officers will be implementing a new strategy called, *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (C.P.T.E.D.) with the goal of "create an environment that is warm, welcoming, and clearly cared about where people who want to be bad, can't." The Community Safety Plan isn't about putting up fences but to create open areas, beautiful social environments to create feelings of safety, pride, ownership, and investment. The plan contains short-term, mid-term and long-term activities:

- a. Short-term: Cleaning out old cars and properties, landscaping and creating visibility and access, is quickest and most impactful.
- b. Mid-term: Installing lights on the bridge and walkways, as well as

installing welcome signs by citizens as a point of interest to attract visitors. Also, installing video camera near high value assets of SFN.

- c. Long-term: Create public art pieces to educate citizens/visitors on the rich history of their land (Doóli) and discourage graffiti. Also, to upgrade the campground to include signs, advertisements, and maintain the site and create jobs. Lastly, to install public infrastructure like sidewalks, walking and running paths to encourage citizens to remain active, and to use public parks and playgrounds.

The motion to implement the SFN Community Safety Plan was passed by consensus at the General Assembly 2019.

MULTI-USE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE

Another important resolution passed during the General Assembly was the approval of a Multi-Use Community Recreation Centre, supported by Chief, Council, the youth panel and the community. The Centre would be a place for the youth to assemble and have access to adequately equipped spaces for them therefore having a healthy outlet for their creativity and energy. The old Youth Centre was condemned due to mould and other issues. Citizens recognise the



LEFT TO RIGHT: Georgie McGinty, Sharon Nelson, Morris Morrison, Millie Johnson and SFN Citizens.

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G.A. HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

importance of a Youth Centre in the community and also are aware that the youth have had to move their centre numerous times throughout the 90's and 2000s.

The General Assembly deemed a Multi-Use Community Recreation Centre important enough to put it in a resolution. SFN will have to find funding for this project. The resolution says that the MLA representing Pelly Crossing is requested to collaborate with the Council and the SFN Youth Working Group to secure adequate resources to build such a Centre.

The long-term benefits of such a facility would be invaluable to Pelly Crossing. The youth would have a variety of sports and activities to participate in, and a safe place to go after school and in the evenings. Not only is this facility beneficial to the well-being of our youth but to every Selkirk citizen of all ages, enabling citizens to exercise year-round and adopt a healthy lifestyle. Recreation, exercise, and active living are imperative to community health and wellness, and this facility would be at the center of it.

On behalf of the Council, Mussi to the citizens who attended and to those who continue to support us in our work.

(General Assembly photo spread will be in the upcoming Newsletter.)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Youth Panel of Cody Sims, Tyra Gill, and MacKenzie Silas-Gill.

FINANCIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT

On August 26th, Selkirk First Nation signed a renewed Financial Transfer Agreement (FTA) with Canada.

Self-government financial transfer agreements are an annual formula grant toward the First Nation costs for:

- Land Claim and self-government implementation
- Operating for governing bodies such as the Council, boards, and committees.

While this is not the first time that SFN has signed such an Agreement, this FTA does contain major elements that will have a direct and positive impact.

The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program, designed to help Indigenous people improve their skills and find employment, is now part of our FTA instead of SFN having to ask for funding every year for this program. This brings continuity and certainty to an important program.

Canada has agreed to assist the First Nation with addressing gaps in infrastructure, housing, and social wellbeing. SFN will invest this extra money in housing for its citizens as we see this as our biggest gap in funding at the moment. These dollars will flow to SFN once a gap-closing plan has been filed and then, reviewed by Canada.

SFN is in a unique situation. Our government is responsible for everything from streetlights to major construction projects.

"We strive to improve the financial strength of our First Nation when we negotiate these agreements," stated Chief Nelson. The FTA is renegotiated every 5 years.

Council would like to thank our negotiators for the years of tough negotiations it took to get the new FTA done!

HOT LUNCH

The hot lunch program is back providing food to students, Elders, and citizens of all ages.

The Students of Eliza Van Bibber School are served breakfast and lunch at the school. **This is for students only.**

The Meals on Wheels for Elders and the Community Hot Lunch program for citizens will be served at the Link Building from Monday to Friday starting at the end of October.

COMMUNITY HALL, YOUTH CENTRE AND ELDER LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The youth of Selkirk First Nation have moved to the community hall. The youth and elders will now share the old community hall for recreational activities and the language program.

EDUCATION POST SECONDARY WINTER SEMESTER

If you wish to apply for funding, the deadline for **Winter Semester is November 15th, 2019.**

Contact Tara Roberts for additional info: E-Mail education2@selkirkfn.com Phone 867-537-3331.

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