



# AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION Band Council

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Boozhoo Aamjiwnaang Membership,

I am writing today to provide a few updates for our community.

I would like to start with an update on Covid-19. As of today, there have been no confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the community, and two known cases outside of the community who have recovered. Our staff have done an amazing job adapting to their working conditions, with only a few impacts to the community. Following Stage 3 of the Provincial Guidelines, our offices are now open but with certain restrictions, so please call ahead for an appointment to help assist staff with the guidelines.

Next, I would like to provide a brief update on our Clench Claim. As you are aware, in July 2015, Canada presented a Global Settlement Offer, for funds misappropriated by Crown Agent J.B. Clench, in the amount of \$28,174,249 with an apportionment to be determined between Aamjiwnaang and Kettle and Stony Point. In July of 2018, Aamjiwnaang presented an offer of 50% to Kettle and Stony Point which was not accepted. In October of 2018, Aamjiwnaang withdrew its offer and opted for mediation. In May 2019, both parties entered into a Final Settlement Agreement which resulted in a 52% - 48% split, with Aamjiwnaang receiving the larger portion.

On July 16, 2020, Canada presented a new Global Settlement Offer in the amount of \$35,728,354, which resulted in an increase from \$14,087,124.50 to \$18,513,445 based on the percentage offered in 2018 and the final percentage negotiated in 2019. All legal costs, research costs, negotiation fees, and ratification costs are paid for by Canada outside of our Settlement Offer. Council agreed to the new Global Settlement Offer last week through a signed BCR and will next select a date for ratification which would be a minimum of 30 days. Please continue to watch for notices posted by our Community Information Officer on this important vote.

This year saw the development of 3 Capital Projects in various stages. The 6-plex apartment building was completed earlier this year, and the addition to the Health Centre is nearing completion. The Health Centre expansion project has been a very successful project to date as a self build project, where we used our own members to build. The third project is the proposed Cultural/Heritage building. This building has been in the planning stages for a while now and supports the work done in the Comprehensive Community Plan, and from input for cultural space at the Community Centre. The funds for this project are earmarked from our accumulated Gaming Revenue dollars, which replaced Casino Rama revenue. The concept drawings are out for your feedback from the Project Team lead by Carole Delion. Your feedback is encouraged.

On the Corporate side, a deal is being finalized on a new Wind Farm Project which along with the other two, will ensure revenues are steady for the next few decades to continue to meet the challenges of community development.

Currently underway is a long-awaited drainage project along the Highway 40. This work will redesign the drainage along the highway and divert it to Talfourd's Creek and away from the Maness Ct. and White Circle subdivision. After years of discussion, the Ministry has agreed to cover all costs for this project.

And lastly, it is a time of transition here at Aamjiwnaang. Rose has retired from the Finance Department, and we are fortunate to welcome back Natasha Goulais as our new Finance Coordinator. Also, after several years serving in three different roles for Aamjiwnaang, June Simon has retired after spending the last four years as the Band Manager. We will miss June's dedication to her position and to our community. Well done June, you have earned your retirement, and we offer you Best Wishes and thank you for the difference you have made!

A replacement for June is in process and will be known to the Community as soon as possible.

Miigwetch, and please feel free to contact myself or any of our staff for any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



Chris Plain