



AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION Band Council

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Boozhoo Community Members,

I wanted to provide a short update with some of the developments Council has been discussing and setting direction on.

First, I want to thank everyone who displayed patience during the Pandemic with relation to our operations. We know the challenges for some with our staff working from home for the most part, and we are grateful to our staff for making their best effort to minimize the impacts to our members. As we move forward, we encourage community members to still exercise caution to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 variants that continue to spread.

I want to acknowledge various departments for providing continued services to the community in addition to alternative types of programming. Public Works, Finance, Early Learning (Daycare), Health Services including PSW's and vaccine clinics, are services that continued without working from home. Ontario Works, Child Welfare, Education, Community Services, Communications, Housing, and various programs offered by the Health Centre were able to efficiently serve the community and clients to deliver programs beyond expectations, given the circumstances. Economic Development and the Environment Departments were still able to work on their files and keep the council informed and to create opportunities for advancement despite the challenges of working virtually. I think we should applaud all the staff for their commitment and dedication to the members of Aamjiwnaang, and the creativity to provide alternative programming in place of large community gatherings. Job well done!

Moving forward, if restrictions stay lifted, Community Services is planning on hosting our 59th Annual Powwow June 18th and 19th. Watch for flyers with details coming out soon! We are hoping to resume Solidarity Day without any restrictions as well. Council also expects to resume in-person meetings starting in April. Let's hope the worst of this virus stays behind us!

Council has approved a new monument dedicated to those who attended Residential School as well as Day School. Notices are going out looking for community artists to contribute to this project. We expect it to be a beautiful addition to our community, and we hope it will provide a place to reflect on this legacy and build on our resiliency. Contracts have been signed and we will be moving forward with this project soon. We are grateful to the Economic Development staff for putting a task force together to design this project and present the concept to Council.

Council has approved a recommendation from Public Works for a new multi-sports pad facility. This project will be funded from our accrued surplus of revenue from our gaming agreement (formerly Casino Rama agreement). This project was identified in our Comprehensive Community Plan and will add a much-needed outdoor recreation facility in our community. Contracts have been signed and construction will begin soon. This facility will replace the current basketball court at the ball diamond area. Plans are also underway to upgrade the larger ball diamond for use by community teams and decommission the existing ball diamond.

Once the current ball diamond is decommissioned, plans are being developed to construct a new Child and Family services building and increased parking area, to serve the new building as well as the large ball diamond. The new Child and Family Services building will house the staff currently sharing space in the old daycare and provide them with a building that will allow for more programming in addition to providing a sense of privacy for their clients. Council has approved the design drawings and we have submitted the project to the funders for approval.

Council has approved road resurfacing projects in addition to the west end of Williams Drive, and Virgil Ave repairs which have been completed. Part of DeGurse and Vidal Street South will be completed this year, and we will look to plan for additional resurfacing projects in the next fiscal year which starts April 1st.

Finance will be providing another Food Security payment to members out of Covid funding received from the Federal Government. This will be the fourth Food Security payment offered to the membership for a total of \$700,050. All of our Covid funding received has been spent on Covid related expenses to assist the membership, and none has been spent on Band Operations or Council expense. I expect our audit to show any funding received to reflect this, including funds received by Administration, the Health Centre, Education, and Ontario Works.

Community member Matt Stone has signed a contract to assist our Lands Department with issues related to Right of Way agreements including pipeline and transmission agreements. Matt will also be able to assist other departments such as Environment and Economic Development with any legal matters they face.

Housing has secured funding for the construction of a triplex for additional housing for our seniors. The department is in the process of obtaining the design and quotes for construction. We look forward to movement on this much needed project.

Finally, the last item I want to report is that Council has engaged with researchers on outstanding issues related to our community and potential claims. Although this work is on-going, we feel confident that we will be moving forward soon on a claim that has been researched and we expect to commence with the final stages of claim submission in the near future. Please watch for notices to share this information with the community.

As always, Council and Staff are here to serve the community of Aamjiwnaang, and we encourage you to reach out with any concerns or further information related to any communications that are shared on any of our official Facebook sites, website, or the Tribe-Une. Miigwetch.

Yours In Unity,



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