

June 17, 2016

# Housing Update

## *Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation* **Lot development update**

Chief and Council have been working diligently over this past year to ensure the re-development of the community progresses in a smooth and timely fashion. The number of surveyed residential lots has been increased from last year with the final five lots completed this past May.

The completed survey has been submitted to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for ministerial approval and all lots comply with the Canadian Lands Surveying Record, as required by INAC. This was a necessary step in order for INAC to be able to register them to individual Band Members, by way of a

Certificate of Occupation, or a Certificate of Possession.

Road construction in the community site is almost complete. Grade "A" gravel is still required to finish the roads and the First Nation is arranging to have the material crushed in July 2016.



## Policy update

The Housing Policy is currently in the final stages of completion. A draft copy will be posted on our website for community review. Please take some time to provide us with your comments. The land survey is complete but is still awaiting approval from the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

The Housing Committee is pleased with the policy and believes it addresses the necessary areas of concern. It is hoped that the policy will grow and develop with our community and become the standard by which our community housing is governed.

We expect the allocation of lots to take place once everything is finalized with the policy.

The process will begin by sending out application packages to those individuals who have submitted their letters of interest. Approved applicants will then receive a lottery number and an invitation to attend the lottery draw.

This will be an exciting time for the First Nation and we want to ensure that the process of allocation is done in a manner that is fair and transparent to all. As such, we are seeking input on how best to proceed with the lottery process.

A questionnaire on the allocation procedures is attached. Your feedback will be used in deciding how best to move forward with the lottery process.

In every community there is work to be done. In every Nation there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it.  
 —Marianne

## Understanding certificates of occupation & possession

A Certificate of Occupation is issued by INAC to individual Band Members and grants a temporary right to occupy a surveyed lot. It must be accompanied by a Band Council Resolution BCR. It is effective for two years, allowing a two year time-frame to begin construction of your home or cottage.

The First Nation has agreed to extend the Certificate of Occupation an additional two years to members requiring more time for construction.

A Certificate of Possession grants lawful possession of a surveyed lot and is the highest form of property right that can be granted on reserve

lands. It can be sub-divided, leased, left to an heir, and sold to another person having a right to reside on that reserve. The First Nation will issue a Certificate of Possession once the requirements of the Certificate of Occupation have been met, as outlined in the Housing Policy.

## Drinking water and waste water systems

The First Nation is committed to rebuilding a community that is safe and sustainable. As such, Chief and Council have worked to secure funding to ensure safe, clean drinking water (wells) and waste water (septic) fields will be provided to all surveyed lots.

This is a huge advancement from where we stood last year at this time. The original plan to re-establish the community relied entirely on the home owner to cover the entire cost of home construction, including the costs of septic fields and wells.

