



Head Office - Reserves 22A1/22A2

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## FEBRUARY – MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

**Boozhoo to our Membership and Families!** Hoping that this Newsletter finds all of our membership and families in good health following the Winter and Holiday Season and an extremely cold beginning to 2015! We are hoping our friend the Groundhog was correct and that we see an early and warm spring.

We wanted to take this opportunity to inform the membership of some important initiatives that the Administration is working on and of some of the upcoming events that are planned for this year.

**LDMLFN COMMUNITY CULTURAL COMPLEX** - As we move ever closer to the realization of the vision and journey of re-establishing our Community on Reserve 22A1, we are very pleased to inform the membership that our Complex construction is completed save and except for the decking in the front of the building. As of last fall the contractors had the foundations for the decking installed but had to stop work due to the arrival of cold weather and will return this spring to complete the construction.

As reported in the fall Newsletter the Complex has been used on two occasions this winter by students from the Kenora District School Boards and is presently booked for 8 more week-long sessions between now and May 2015. Chi Miigwetch for all who helped make this a success!

**Note to our Elders:** Please contact Councillor Irma Churchill for your reservations for this spring and summer. We look forward to our Elders being the first ones back on the land, and enjoying all that the Creator has provided for us.

**COMMUNITY RE-ESTABLISHMENT (LOTS)** - Chief and Council are more than pleased to inform the membership that we have received 47 Letters of Interest from members who would like to apply for a lot and construct a home on-reserve. Last fall we were able to complete the surveying of a total of 52 lots for housing starts and we have begun construction of the community road system that will provide access to these lots. Allocation of lots to interested members will not take place until after the June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 election process is completed.

This will allow time for the spring thaw to take place and the newly constructed lot access roads to dry up and have a layer of gravel applied prior to heavy use of them with the transportation of building materials. We respectfully request the co-operation of our membership in this matter and ask that they refrain from entering the area during the spring thaw as any traffic on these newly constructed roads during that time will only cause damage to them. Traffic in this area will also serve to hinder the clearing and building process. All co-operation is respectfully appreciated and required at this time.

Our Housing Committee is working very hard at completing the Housing Policies for our Community and we are hopeful that they will be completed in the near future.

**ELECTION YEAR - JUNE 2015** - As dictated by our Custom Leadership Selection/Election Code, there will be an election for all Council positions of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation in June 2015. All members of legal voting age who have their mailing addresses on file will be receiving notification from an Electoral Officer of the Election call. The Administration would like to request the assistance of members in ensuring that our mailing list is as up to date and as accurate as possible, as this list is given to the Electoral Officer to send out the packages. Please call Honey at the Administration office with any address or mailing changes.

**Note:** As our membership is now over 600 members, we will have 5 Councillor positions and 1 Chief position open for this election.

**Additional Note:** Council wishes to advise the membership, as per past practice in previous election years, we will not be reviewing member's personal requests for assistance during the election process period. That is not to say that Chief and Council will not act on situations that are deemed to be extreme emergencies. All requests received during the election process will be held on file and dealt with following the completion of the June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 election.

**2015 POW-WOW** - The dates for this year's Annual Pow-Wow are *June 19, 20, 21st*. Those interested in volunteering on this Committee are asked to contact Michael Ignace.

**2015 ELDERS GATHERING** - Over the past several years we have hosted our Elders Gatherings where we have supported and respected each and every one of our Elders on an individual and shared basis. These gatherings were a time filled with re-connecting and re-establishing our families and relationships. It has been an integral part of our Community coming together.

We have had our past gatherings in the spring, and also in the summer which were combined with our pow-wow. This year, we are experiencing scheduling issues with hotels being filled a year in advance. Last year, our Elders expressed the desire to have the pow-wow and gathering separate, therefore we lost our bookings for the gathering in June 2015. The only available date that is open at this time, at a hotel that has the space to accommodate, is in September. The Elders Council will be discussing this at their next regular scheduled meeting and notices will be sent out as soon as a date is agreed upon by the group.

**LDMLFN SKILLS INVENTORY** - In an effort to ensure that the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation is prepared for calls regarding employment and contracts, our Administration continues to develop a Skills Inventory for our Community. Our First Nation has been gathering information on the specific education, certifications and qualifications of Community members that have sent in their resumes. We are requesting that any band/community member(s) who may have an interest in employment opportunities that we become aware of, forward their information to our Education & Training Director - Mark Berkan. With such an Inventory on-hand, we are able to contact and notify interested members when opportunities for training and/or employment are brought to our attention. Whether you are presently employed or not we would still like to include you in the Inventory for our Community. This keeps your name in our database and helps to ensure you do not miss out on potential employment.

**Note:** the Skills Inventory will also be of great importance in the re-development of our community infrastructure on 22A1 and/or First Nation building projects. The First Nation asks for all qualified, interested members to send in their resume or curriculum vitae. Also, any skilled trades, services and contractors are invited and encouraged to send in their information.

## **FLOOD CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS –**

**\*\*THIS INSERT IS TAKEN FROM OUR NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER\*\***

“As reported to the membership our negotiations are moving ahead in a very positive manner. We would like to remind our membership that these types of claims are very time consuming. **Here are some key points to keep in mind:**

- a. In the group of 13 or so Flooding Claims remaining in the Treaty #3 area, we are the farthest advanced in our negotiations.
- b. We entered into negotiations in 2009, focused on getting our “evidence” and worked very hard and diligently in completing all of our studies and research by the end of 2013.
- c. Some First Nations in this group have barely started collecting their evidence.
- d. Some First Nations in this group have left the negotiation table.
- e. We assembled the very best negotiating team with renowned experts in their fields.
- f. We have commitments from both Canada and Ontario. *“Canada noted that this claim is a very complex claim and is a high priority and at the forefront of the Treaty #3 flooding claims. Canada is working with Ontario towards a joint offer being made during the fiscal year 2014-2015.”*
- g. *“Ontario noted that the LDMLFN has that commitment from Ontario. It is already a high priority in the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs”.*

It is important to remind our people that we are bound by confidentiality agreements at the negotiation table, and can only release limited information. This assists the First Nation in protecting its membership and claim. Unfortunately, we were informed that a few of our Band members have been calling both the Federal and Ontario Negotiators trying to solicit information and/or giving potentially misleading or damaging information that may be detrimental to our claim. To those that are doing so, you need to stop in these actions, lest you are found to be responsible for causing our claim to be declared of lesser compensation or value.

Please remember that once an offer of settlement is put on the table, it will go through the Referendum Process for Acceptance and Approval by our Membership. The Negotiation teams will be meeting at the end of November. It is our goal that the Crowns will finally have reviewed all of the findings/evidence at that time, and will be in a position to start putting “numbers on the table.”

Chi Miigwetch for your continued patience and support! We are all looking forward to a positive and acceptable settlement to this flooding claim and to moving forward.”

**FLOOD CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE** – As reported in our previous Newsletter (*see above*) your Negotiation Team met with the Provincial and Federal Governments in late November 2014. Both the Federal and Provincial Government Negotiators came prepared to talk **“actual numbers for compensation.”** Considerable progress has been made to date, despite the Christmas break shut-downs and staffing issues within the Federal department.

Following the November 2014 negotiations session, the LDMLFN has met with numerous top-ranking officials within the government both at Queens Park and at their respective Ministerial offices. We are pleased to report that much progress has been made during these extended Negotiations. We have also met with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and he has stated and given direction to his Ministers and staff that he wants this claim settled in the near future.

We would also like to report that subsequent weekly discussions, by way of conference calls, with the Federal and Provincial Negotiators have been positive and continue to move forward. We have just recently been informed that they are looking to be prepared to come back to the Negotiation table at the end of April 2015, to present an update on numbers for our settlement.

Please keep in mind that these Negotiations are highly confidential in nature. We are making every attempt to being accountable to our membership, along with moving ahead in a positive, proactive manner. We acknowledge that our membership wants this claim settled. We believe we are nearly there at the end stages of negotiations. We do not want to jeopardize any of the hard work and efforts of the team and are taking every precaution to get the very best possible settlement for our members.

We do not wish to see these discussions or negotiations derailed or put on hold. If we continue on the same path we are now on, we will see this claim settled shortly. We are hopeful, given what the Provincial and Federal Governments have told us, that we may soon be in a position to come to the membership with an acceptable settlement offer. It will then be up to our People to decide if they accept or reject the offer.

Chi Miigwetch to all members of our Negotiation Team for their dedication in seeing that this claim is settled and to righting the wrongs done to our First Nation and People!

Chi Miigwetch to all of our membership and families for their continued support and patience!

We are confident that we will have negotiated the very best possible settlement for you and your families!

**WEBSITE UPDATE** - Please remember to check out our “Official Web-site” at [www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca](http://www.lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca) This is where you will find up-to-date and accurate information regarding your First Nation Community, job postings, initiatives, endeavours, etc.

Check out the Picture Galleries, and see for yourself what is happening in your First Nation. It is said that *“pictures speak a thousand words...”* We update these galleries as new events occur, so there are always new pictures to see of your family and friends of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation.

Should you not wish to receive a paper copy of our Newsletters, please speak to our receptionist Honey Chicago. You will still be kept informed via the web-site. Miigwetch

# Communications Officer

(Contract Position – Part time)

The Communications Officer's primary responsibilities will include writing, concept design, editing, internal outreach and preparing media materials for distribution for the First Nation.

## *Duties & Responsibilities*

- Maintains a working relationship within the FN with regards to the preparation of communications related products;
- Co-ordinates the display and printing of advertisements;
- Researches, prepares and distributes media-related material, news releases, media advisories and backgrounders.
- Other duties as assigned.

## *Required Skills & Attributes*

- Post-secondary degree or diploma in public or media relations, corporate communications, journalism, or related field or equivalent, relevant work experience.
- Knowledge of media relations and corporate communications.
- Advanced technical skills including photography, advertisement and graphic design.
- Awareness and sensitivity to the realities of First Nations People and Communities.
- Must be willing to travel as needed.

**Note:** Please submit a job related resume along with three work related references by Friday, March 20, 2015 – 1:00 p.m. to:

Quentin Snider, Band Administrator  
email: [quentinlaptop@tbaytel.net](mailto:quentinlaptop@tbaytel.net)

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.