



MEMBERSHIP CODE – COMMUNITY MEETINGS

ROLL UP REPORT 2015

Community Meeting #1: April 16, 2015
Community Meeting #2: May 9, 2015
Community Meeting #3: June 6, 2015

1st COMMUNITY MEETING: APRIL 16, 2015

Opening Prayer: Committee Member, Donna Debassige provided an opening prayer to open the meeting.

Introductions: Councillor Linda Debassige introduced MFN Membership staff and Membership Committee. There was representation of staff, committee members, community members and elders. Committee Member Donna Debassige and elder, Lewis Debassige provided translation services.

Purpose of Community Meeting

The Community Meeting was an opportunity for band members to meet and discuss issues, concerns and ideas surrounding the current Membership Code.

Backgrounder

The Chief and Council of MFN accepted and approved the amended Band Membership Code which was approved as a result of the Referendum held at the M'Chigeeng Community Complex, Saturday, September 25, 1993.

On November 5, 2013, Chief and Council authorized 60-day public posting of 19 membership applications.

On November 26, 2013, Band Member addresses Chief and Council on petition of membership applications. Council informs Band Member that this item is deferred and that any changes to the membership code must go through a Referendum per Section 10.

On December 16, 2013, Legal counsel presented to Chief and Council and made recommendation to review the Membership Code. It has been 20 years since its last amendment and full review of how many have applied, been accepted, been rejected and what resources of the FN are being utilized. A discussion with the community should take place to garner comments and recommendations for consideration of Council towards amendments required. On an immediate basis, the process should be more transparent which means that the full applications should be posted, deadline dates should be apparent and sponsors must comply with Section 5 of the Code. Chief & Council approved to commence the process of amendment of the application process of the Membership Code of the MFN.

On December 19, 2013, protest/petition received at the Administration Office.

On January 14, 2014, verbal opposition received by Band Member and acknowledged by Chief and Council.

On February 4, 2014, THAT, Chief and Council agreed to post for a Membership Committee.

Further, Chief and Council recommended an appeals and protest's process, term of reference and procedures be developed.

Further, Chief and Council recommended the Committee be responsible for preparation of referendum for amendment in the Membership Code.

On April 1, 2014, Chief and Council appoint Membership Committee members and acknowledged draft procedural process and direct Membership Committee to review and amend.

September 5, 2014, two protest letters received at Administration Office.

March 10, 2014, Chief and Council accepted and approved the Membership Referendum Timeline as presented.

March 31, 2014, Notice of community meetings to review the Membership Code was posted.

Timeline of Referendum

Apr 8	Finalize documents for distribution
Apr 16	Community consultation
May 9	Community consultation
May 13	Referendum Update Meeting
June 6	Community consultation
June 10	Referendum Update Meeting – formulate recommendations for review by C&C
June 23	C&C meeting – review recommendations and forward to legal counsel for review
June 27	Referendum Officer will send out notice of referendum
Aug 4	Back to C&C to finalize – final to Referendum Officer for vote
Sept 12	Referendum Vote

Community Meeting Recommendations

Information was provided to band members including the current membership code. The band members were split into three working groups facilitated and recorded by the Membership Committee members. Four questions to guide facilitation were used to obtain comments, feedback and suggestions:

1. What changes do you think should be made to the Membership Code?
2. What do you think should be added to the existing code?
3. What do you think should be deleted to the existing code?
4. Does anyone have anything else to add (general comments)?

The following recommendations were provided by band members and are placed in the following categories in no ranking order:

Process

- Too much paper, this process belongs to the non-natives principles/thoughts
- Start thinking about using sage for opening and use the circle so each person has input into the process
- A child under 18 there should be a faster process - two tier process for children; length of time change for children 0-18 yrs. Old – shorten so children are not losing out on anything
- Have clearly defined process, more detailed and/or use minimum
- Regulations process
- How applications are managed
- Band members more involved in procedural process
- Bring draft processes that have been created by the Membership Committee to the next meeting. This would allow time for the community to have input into the design

Section 1

- Needs formatting
- The MFN Membership Code requires:
 - Purpose of code
 - Administration of the code
 - Answer the Who, What, Where, When, Why

Administration

- Any grandchildren can be, add the Mclvor decision to the code, what is the change?

Persons Entitled to Membership

- “Registered Indian” should refer to any band, not just M’Chigeeng.
- Does not speak about customs, should not divide people

Application for Membership

- Include family tree – list more family names
- Include character reference letter
- Application form and the code should be together
- Request CRC and Vulnerable Sector Screening – add to code
- CRC should not contain criminal activity – any illegal activity (sex crimes, drugs)
- Ask for band number of parent(s) – see Band List; what if you don't have access to parent information?
- Add space on application form for knowledge
- Prove to me who you are? Ask questions about applicant's status (5W's)
- Ask what do they know about M'Chigeeng?
- Ask what they can offer to M'Chigeeng and its people that are positive, this should be the first question
- What can they bring to M'Chigeeng (what, why, when, who and where), list of skills on application form
- Ask do you have a job? Do you intend on working? Ensure new member can work
- Ask how is the individual supporting themselves now?
- Disclose previous history of where they lived , do background check - employment, education, welfare, etc
- We should charge an application fee (ie: passport) minimum \$250 – if applicants are seniors, they will pay
- Should there be a credit check
- Application form should also have consents added
- Application form should be similar to passport/Canadian citizenship application
- Should be two applications – 1 for Adults and 1 for under 18 years of age
- Term Application Based on age
- List benefits – individual – band members

Acceptance of Application

- We should not accept people based on money but by spirit
- Membership Committee review AGM #'s (Attendees) for stats to ensure majority
- Community decide on applications at annual majority of attendees (community vote) – 50% plus one at attendance at annual general meeting
- Community votes (must be #) to approve application or deny
- Mail-in ballots for applicant's acceptance/denial
- Review applicants once a year including mail in ballots, at the AGM, listing of who they are, post list to website minimum 2 months prior to AGM, mail to community before AGM (yearly report and yearly review)
- We decide yes or no if you can stay here
- Have a welcoming ceremony – where is connections?
- Welcome all First Nations from different bands

- Have a formal celebration
- Create community connection to welcome people back to the community new community members
- Have a ceremonial event to welcome community members. (Add to CCP)
- Accepting of membership of common law and marriage

Rejection of Application

- Process of rejection of application - use a flow chart to show the process. We are visual people and a chart would be useful
- Great grandchildren were rejected from the elder in the community, the applicants should be get a valid reason for not being accepted
- Rejection needs written letter
- Is the person rejected based on CRC?

Appeals or Protests

- Appeal – one time do they have to?
- If applicant appeals one time, can they appeal again?
- Clearly define valid reasons for protest. Is the protest clear?

Renouncement or Transfer of Membership

- A process to renounce
- A lists of what a person is giving up should be provided if a member chooses to renouncement
- There should be no questions or application process for band members transferring
- There should be a probationary period. People may want to transfer to another First Nation because of personal issue without fully thinking of the consequence.

Rights of Members

- Expand on this section 8
- More clearly defined rights of the members

Amendments to the Code

- Annual review and amendments need to occur on a regular basis. Code should be changed when it is necessary
- Membership Code should be reviewed on a yearly basis
- Should be an annual review of Membership Code for amendments

Sponsorship

- Sponsor should know the individual
- At least 4 members of the same family should sponsor not just one
- The sponsor should be higher than 18 years old and they need a good reason
- Sponsors should not gain any benefits; would we always know if they did? Sign a waiver saying non-receipt of gain; Membership could be rejected if gains were discovered
- Sponsor must provide detailed knowledge, customs, traditions, treaties, by-laws and history (5W's)
- Sponsor letter should be more in depth – should it be in writing?
- Have a clear guide for the Sponsor and the Individual applying for sponsorship

Public Posting

- Post in more places (newsletter, facebook, Health Centre) not just Post Office and Band Office
- Posting of non-M'Chigeeng, include family they come from and connection to community
- Post to website – keep website update
- Applications should be put to community meeting as not everyone sees forms at Post Office
- Newsletter update regarding the applicants when publicly posted rather than just the post office
- Is 60 days public posting enough time?

Adoption

- Adoption - non-native shouldn't be able to adopt to have child listed; would a native child be able? Loophole - anyone can adopt a child, non-native child, that non-native child would be adopted and become a member of the community
- Have age limits for adoption and application
- Adopted children must be status
- Adoption – Any non aboriginal who is adopted by a band member shall be entitled to be a status Indian and band member of M'Chigeeg
- Consideration is required under the MFN Child Law that M'Chigeeng has adopted
 - Protection of the people in the 60 Scoop
 - Adoptions
- A child was a full member of M'Chigeeng because of adoption this child may lose her status
- Adoptive mother is a member of MFN, adoptive father is a non-native
- Children should not have to lose their membership
- Children should not lose their status because of adoption or customary care

Knowledge of Culture, Customs, Traditions and Language

- Applicant must have commitment to language heritage
- Must have blood ties, problem with people who have no blood ties, we should have the right to say Yes or No
- On consent form, preservation of language (language is leaving)
- Ask elders for help
- Use the language – E-debendaazijig (members of this band – use throughout)
- M'Chigeeng, Ojibway, Anishinabek – concern there will no longer be Ojibway, Anishinabek
- It will be ideal if we could listen to elders view but we have to use this process so that we can help others
- There is no color or race in the spirit of our people – Nmnido-oughtzawin (we are all the same)
- Get rid of terms “Indian”, use First Nation or Anishinabek in the code “M'Chigeeng Anishinabek”
- Important is our Culture
- Restore our traditional practices/customs
 - Old ways of community adoptions
 - Customary Care
- Definitions of the Rights: History, Customs, Traditions, Culture
- Focus on M'Chigeeng First Nation traditions/language
- We need to go back to looking after our families
- Words losing meaning, we need to protect our language
- Our language and culture should be in schools
- Our parents didn't teach us (residential school) how can we expect children to learn the language?

Conditional Membership

- Applicants should have a probationary period
 - Live here for a year or two before membership is approved but does not guarantee acceptance
 - Term of residency of Non-natives (MRP protection)
 - Residency that they know they are not going to take what little land there is
 - Probationary period – term of 2-5 years based on age – this should be researched on how other codes deal with this
- We should look at revocations at child abusers/sexual assault/rape – probationary period of 2 years – if screw up, denied
- Membership can be revoked for crimes: child molesting, selling drugs, rape; we don't want to bring in more problems

- Should allow non status individuals to apply for M'Chigeeng band membership ie if a MFN band member marries a non status individual – also if the relationship breaks down have clear measures for this
- If they want to be part of the community, it would be nice to see them come to the community

Reporting

- Annual Reporting to the membership at large
- In the MFN Annual reports
 - Identify # of Transfers
 - Deaths in the community
 - New members (c-3, c-31 etc.)
- Yearly report of member additions

Off Reserve Membership

- Collect feedback from all Band members (on/off)
- Engage Off Reserve band members
- Inform off reserve for input

Other Comments

- Indian Affairs approves status, it's up to MFN to decide membership
- If no desire to live in M'Chigeeng, why live here? Shouldn't get membership
- We have to be careful about this code
- Members need time to read the current membership code in order to have input into any changes – 2 elders to review and provide their input
- Any ties to the community “matrimonial”
- Define customs and principles and clearly define what s. 5 means
- Define what the benefits are to the band member and define what are the benefits to M'Chigeeng for having this band member
- Do not use money restrictions and should not be an argument if we are administering our own membership code
- Children who lose status at 21 years of age – if they have status they should never lose it
- Status Indians – those who do not qualify to be status Indians – go after AANDC or use the wind turbine and shendwin teg revenues to ensure these members have the same rights as status Indians who are M'Chigeeng First Nation band members
- Residency vs. Citizenship vs. band membership
- Identify what is the benefit to the people who register?
- Strong emotions towards using blood quantum
- Entitlement

- Unify the community
- Identify the benefits of the M'Chigeeng Bands and to be First Nation
- A clearly identified role of AANDC should be in the code
- Visit other communities & see how their membership code
- Jordan's principal should rule - serve kids needs first
- "Why am I a member?"
- Is directly from the Indian Act including the application form in Toronto and Indian Affairs
- New immigrants know more than the average Canadian, we need to bring our education system along
- People were accepted into the community that were squatters and non-native people into band membership as far as in 1951
- People do have roots but are not aware and want to come here and be part of community in a positive way
- They don't want to move to MFN, they have never lived here but they want to be a M'Chigeeng band member?
- If blood ties to M'Chigeeng, should be allowed to live here
- Applicants looking for free ride
- We can't approve people who ask for stuff
- Land base is small, housing shortage, employment shortage, invest time and money in a business
- Protest our rights of our own and grandchildren
- Biggest problem, let's not add anymore, look after future, protect our future, not much thought given to it
- North Shore has an application process, the community has to vote and a number is identified
- Band members saying MFN has a better education or build a house
- Final report needs to go to community
- We are the resource to advise our families
- We shouldn't question other status Indians who want to be members here – we should just let them in
- C-3 post-secondary allocations based on the populations that are submitted.
- Allocations of Funds - 5 year block funding
- Attract more people to community meeting – draws, raffles, etc

Other Questions

1. *Of all members to M'Chigeeng, how many have been of use or benefit to M'Chigeeng?*
2. *Is our culture being taught to our little ones?*
3. *What is "spouse" of members? Definition in existing code. Does spouse get automatic membership?*
4. *What is #1 problem of acceptance of people?*
5. *Who else do I want to be a band member here?*
6. *Can we video tape language speakers and post on website so it's accessible?*
7. *Can anyone apply to post from other First Nation apply?*
8. *Will they have to have blood ties?*
9. *What is the application process?*
10. *Blood quantum – what is it? Do we use it? How much are we asking?*
11. *Can they apply as a whole in each family or do they apply for each child?*
12. *How do we stop the fake band cards?*
13. *Do we have the numbers of individuals who have applied in the past 5 years? Do you know if they have been positive (incarceration, burden to community)?*
14. *Is there a part on the application where they have to write what they know about M'Chigeeng instead of just the sponsor?*
15. *Do we know our treaties? Should this be in our education system?*
16. *Will they be taking our jobs?*
17. *There are some who can't stay here or live here: Adopted out or 60's scoop (child welfare law) How do we repatriate our citizens?*
18. *What are rights and responsibilities?*

19. *What is INAC/AANDC's authority over our Membership Code?*
20. *Where is this information going to go? So it will be brought back to next meeting?*
21. *What opportunities are there for off-reserve members to express their opinions?*
22. *Letter was sent to a community member stating that the child is not accepted. How many letters were sent (17?)*
23. *Why would a person apply to become a member of MFN, when the list is maintained at AANDC?*
24. *Persons entitled to make application, does it make a difference if you live on or off reserve?*
25. *What happens when a marriage breaks up? There were concerns that women may lose their property.*
26. *Is there a guide for sponsors?*
 - *What is their role?*
 - *What is required by the sponsors?*
27. *Is 60 days enough time for public posting?*
28. *Who has the right to protest and membership?*
29. *What happens to the applications after the appeal occurs?*
30. *After the appeal to the applicant have to re-post?*
31. *What happens if a parent want to enroll their child back into MFN? As it stands a parent cannot do this? Is this right?*
32. *What is a citizen?*
33. *What is the definition of: Rights ?, Customs ?, Traditions ?, Culture?*
34. *What is INAC's authority in our code?*

Next Steps

1. Present recommendations at the next community meeting – MAY 9, 2015
2. Provide answers for the questions from the April session for the May session
3. Full Legal Review of the code after recommendations have occurred to ensure that MFN is not leaving themselves exposed

PRESENT:

Charles Beaudin, Band Member
Christine Migwans, Band Member
Ian Corbiere, Band Member
Dennis Corbiere, Band Member
Jessie Debassige, Band Member
Lynn Migwans, Band Member
Caroline Corbiere, Band Member
Jolene Hare, Band Member
Molly Migwans, Band Member
Victor Migwans, Band Member
Sheila Panton, Band Member
Basil Panamick, Band Member
Steven Corbiere, Band Member
Lewis Debassige, Band Member
Debbie Ense, Band Member
Isadora Bebamash, Band Member
Susan Hare, Band Member
Dawn Debassige, Band Member
Oscar Corbiere, Band Member
Mary Lou Debassige, Band Member
Shirley Ense, Band Member
Justin Sweeney, Band Member
Sheldon Migwans, Band Member
George Corbiere, Band Member
Joe Panamick, Band Member
Barb MacIntyre, Band Member
Sam Debassige, Band Member
G'Mewin Migwans, Band Member
Penny Corbiere, Band Member
Jeanine Debassige, Band Member

Membership Committee

Linda Debassige, Council Liaison
Winnie Panamick, Committee Member
Patricia Panamick, Committee Member
Donna Debassige, Committee Member
Marilyn Debassige, Committee Member
Tom Hare, Committee Member
Peggy Simon, Committee Member
Kim Aelick, Committee Member

Staff: Sally Hare, Interim Lands Assistant

Appendix

Information distributed at the meeting:

1. Community Meeting Notice
2. Timeline of Events
3. Membership Code
4. Application for Membership Form
5. Historical Legislative Summary of Indian Membership, Status and Registration
6. Questions to Guide Facilitation

2ND COMMUNITY MEETING: MAY 9, 2015

Opening Prayer: Committee Member, Donna Debassige

Welcome/Opening Remarks: Council Liaison, Linda Debassige

Community Meeting Recommendations

Inactive Register

- Individuals name that is applying for inactive registry, can be identified

Acceptance/Rejection of Application

- The acceptance/rejection of individuals should be up to the community

Sponsorship

- Sponsors should be 21 or 25 years old – level of maturity
- Sponsors should also submit a CRC
- Sponsors should be of good character

Criminal Reference Check

- There should be a meeting/discussion/process in place who have CRC or a record
- The severity of the crime needs to be realistic/reasonable

Changes

- Remove probationary

Blood Quantum

- Blood quantum is presently being used when crossing the border with certain objects (ceremonies)
- This is required in order to access Social Security number in USA
- In order to preserve Anishinabe, Ojibway, we have to seriously consider blood quantum

Conditional Membership

- Individuals need to live with us
- Individuals should live on reserve 1 year or more

Residency Code

- Residency code should also be identified and reviewed

Off Reserve Membership

- Need to consult with off reserve membership

Other Comments

- Concern for my grandchildren, we need to make it easier for our own family and work together
- We need to be aware of the needs of all community members
- Be mindful of what is being put on paper
- Make sure our grandchildren are recognized within code
- Need to list the purpose on the existing membership code, can it be more clearly defined
- Code should be fluid = amend and grow
- Need a simple process to ensure there's a sense of belonging
- Individuals who are native feel racism
- We need to show kindness to all people
- We need to be cognizant of our limited land base, education, jobs
- Money is provided to MFN for all 181 numbers
- Determine the rationale as to why they want membership not just privileges

Other Questions

1. Will there be other conditions or process that individuals go through?
2. What percentage of blood quantum going to be?
3. Will we use Mclvor?
4. What is Mclvor decision?
5. If we can't keep our grandchildren on our reserve, where do they go? Who takes care of them?
6. If grandchildren are rejected, can we adopt?
7. What if non-native and native are in custody battle and native wins, will child gain status with custody order?
8. What is the purpose of the Membership Code? Is it for the government or to preserve anishinabe?
9. Constitution is being developed at this time, should it follow the same timeframe?
10. When is it going to Referendum?

11. What changes will be made?
12. How is residency going to affect membership?
13. Even though my grandchild is not a band member, how can I ensure their rights are protected?
14. Is it membership or a community who determines who are native (blood quantum), is it going to be 50% or 10%?
15. Are we losing community/family members?
16. Are we being rejected?
17. What should be the minimum (10%)?
18. What do unceded communities do as far as membership codes?
19. Clarify the difference between inactive register and active register in definition section.

Next Steps

1. Present recommendations at the next community meeting – JUNE 6, 2015
2. Provide answers for the questions from the May session for the June session

PRESENT:

Barb MacIntyre, Band Member
Connie Hare, Band Member
Roger Corbiere, Band Member
Molly Migwans, Band Member
Victor Migwans, Band Member
Cherity Morrison, Band Member
George L. Corbiere, Band Member
Jessie Debassige, Band Member
Andrea McGraw, Band Member
Shirley Ense, Band Member
Ryan Migwans, Band Member
Ryland Migwans, Band Member
Pierre Debassige, Band Member
Sheldon Migwans, Band Member

Membership Committee

Linda Debassige, Council Liaison
Kim Aelick, Committee Member
Donna Debassige, Committee Member
Marilyn Debassige, Committee Member
Tom Hare, Committee Member
Patricia Panamick, Committee Member
Peggy Simon, Committee Member

Staff: Sally Hare, Interim Lands Assistant

Appendix

Information distributed at the meeting:

1. 1st Community Meeting Roll Up Report
2. Membership Code
3. Questions to Guide Facilitation

3RD COMMUNITY MEETING: JUNE 6, 2015

Opening Prayer: Committee Member, Donna Debassige

Welcome/Opening Remarks: Council Liaison, Linda Debassige

Community Meeting Recommendations

Definitions

- Need to be clearly articulated and quote specific action areas of the Indian Act within definitions

Administration

- Section 2(c), “shall” as opposed to “may” – important to have a membership committee

Application for Membership

- What can you contribute to MFN? (applicant)
- Passport should/could be utilized, example (3) references
- Application fee \$1000
- Should that application fee be refundable or not upon membership
- Applicants must pay a \$1500 application fee (this goes for everyone no matter the age so that people don't apply who aren't serious). Guardians can pay or sponsors can pay
- Applicants should express what it is about them that embodies the code
- Questions should be asked of applicants: what can you bring MFN? How can you improve MFN?
- Every membership application must be reviewed by M'Chigeeng Membership Committee
- If wrongful information is submitted by an applicant or from AANDC or by any other means, membership will be revoked immediately (according to due process)

Acceptance of Application

- All new members should be recognized by community to support our First Nation community rights

Appeals or Protests

- State that protester must provide a valid reason for protest of applicant.
- Appeal process should include a fee every time an appeal is launched

Renouncement or Transfer of Membership

- No transfer of membership from another First Nation community (if both First Nations should stick with one First Nation)
- If both First Nations, there is a fee, they can make that decision which First Nation, important to know what the individual is giving up when they transfer membership

Public Posting

- Public posting should be 6 months or 180 days

Sponsorship

- Make sponsorship section of code stronger – should require more than one sponsor
- Sponsor and individual applying should have all knowledge (customs) (5A), history, family, where they came from treaty sign
- Access to historical information should be available to community members who desire revocation clause for sponsorship
- Four sponsors at least
- Sponsors shouldn't be limited to family only (2 family members/3 others for sponsor = 5 sponsors)
- Applicants must have 4 sponsors from the same family
- Sponsor should know that individuals for at least 10 years
- Sponsors to be held responsible for actions of applicant
- Sponsorships/membership should be revoked/removed if contravention occurs
- Sponsor should have a connection to applicant

Criminal Reference Check

- Current criminal reference check must be provided with the application

Knowledge of Culture, Customs, Traditions and Language

- The language is important, it should be spoken
- Using Anishnabemowin in wording makes more meaning to document, it should have a backbone

Adoption

- Native couple adopt a non-native child, the child should not gain status as child would have no blood quantum – blood quantum must be a requirement (a percentage)
- Blood quantum should be taken into account re: adoptions
- Adopted children should have 50% blood quantum
- No status for non-native children adopted

- No adoptions of non-native children into membership – must look long term, we will lose our bloodline
- Add custom adoption to membership code
- Specify custom adoption – age limits
- Custom adoptions must keep principles in mind not let technicality get away
- Should be developing a customary adoption laws as approved by Chief & Council and/or community
- The whole idea of adopting is so people/kids can get status

Conditional Membership

- The ability to revoke membership
- Probationary period of 3 years if action/criminal, membership should be revoked
- If revoked, any holdings including property will be transferred to a M'Chigeeng band member who has resided in M'Chigeeng for a period of 10 years or longer, if an existing band members is not available or willing to receive property, the holdings will be transferred to M'Chigeeng First Nation in their entirety
- Applicants must live here for 2 years before membership is granted
- Applicants must sign a mandatory work in/for M'Chigeeng to apply for/access/receive education dollars
- New M'Chigeeng members must sign a declaration saying they will not bring drugs into this community or commit any other illegal activities while a member here

Residency

- Need a residency code
- If applicant's spouse/children/common law are non-native and reside in M'Chigeeng, must \$5000 per year fee to M'Chigeeng First Nation for using our infrastructure. Existing band members should not have to pay for non-members to reside here
- fee should be used
- Non-band members should be taxed including cottagers on CP property for water fees, dump fees, road maintenance
- Non-band members harassing band members shall be removed and charged

Off Reserve Membership

- Utilize other forms of communication for off reserve membership (website)

MFN Vision Statement

- Vision statement should be visible in all band affiliated offices – painted on complex walls, lakeview school, put in code, post to website, letterhead, arena – people need to see it
- Applicants should be able to express what it is about themselves that reflects MFN vision statement

- Eligibility should reflect MFN’s vision statement

Other Comments

- Change membership code title to “Debendaazigig M’Chigeeng”
- Important to database information to ensure consistency
- Unique needs have an opportunity to be reviewed and enhanced
- Membership committee has to be unanimous, no discretionary powers
- Should tracking First Nation children who are in child welfare
- We need to protect our membership
- If the individual (child) is raised in our community, they have a right to feel part of their community
- We need to educate our families and children regarding 6(1) a-f and 6(2)
- Add to school curriculum
- Non-band members (community members) is not the same as a M’Chigeeng Band Member
- USA First Nations increase 50% quantum
- Individuals who are on leased land, would/should they be considered as living on M’Chigeeng community member (they wouldn’t be fast tracked)
- Composting should be added to Capital Projects
- Corporations shouldn’t be identified as legally entity
- M’Chigeeng is in support of custom adoption, eligible for status
- Reserves are for Indians

Other Questions:

1. Where do individuals get access to inactive registry?
2. What is the individual’s commitment to the community?

Next Steps

1. Membership Committee to formulate recommendations for review by Chief and Council
2. Chief and Council to review recommendations and forward to legal counsel for review
3. Referendum Officer will send out notice of referendum
4. Finalized membership code for approval by Chief and Council
5. Final membership code to Referendum Officer for vote

PRESENT:

Susan Hare, Band Member
Andrea McGraw, Band Member
Forry Hare, Band Member
Jessie Debassige, Band Member
Marko Debassige, Band Member
Barb MacIntyre, Band Member
Mark Debassige, Band Member
Ross Armstrong, Band Member
Sheldon Migwans, Band Member
Martin Panamick, Band Member

Membership Committee

Linda Debassige, Council Liaison
Kim Aelick, Committee Member
Donna Debassige, Committee Member
Tom Hare, Committee Member
Patricia Panamick, Committee Member
Winnie Panamick, Committee Member

Staff

Sally Hare, Interim Lands Assistant
Terry Debassige, Indian Registration Administrator

Appendix

Information distributed at the meeting:

1. 1st and 2nd Community Meeting Roll Up Report
2. Membership Code
3. Questions to Guide Facilitation