

Submission to the Anishinabek News – September 2009 Issue

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Intergovernmental Affairs

Ipperwash Task Force Moving Forward

The Ipperwash First Nation Task Force (FNTF) met September 9 and 10 to evaluate progress on the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry priority areas – Treaty Implementation, Lands Rights and Interest, First Nation Jurisdiction, and First Nation Capacity. Ultimately, these steps will be taken to enhance the process: strategic planning sessions with First Nation leadership and the FNTF, implement the overall communication strategy to engage First Nation citizens and determine the scope of activities that are possible and achievable for the next 6-12 months.

The FNTF is coordinated by Chiefs in Ontario and includes participation by the Union of Ontario Indians. Its role is to provide First Nation leadership in Ontario with the opportunity to address the issues and concerns with Crown governments related to topics within the Ipperwash Inquiry and equip leadership with the tools required to address the issues. In addition to assessing the overall approach to Ipperwash implementation, the FNTF also reviewed the current status of each of the 7 sub-groups:

Resource Revenue Sharing (RRS):

- A number of resource development companies wrongfully interpreted the \$30 million announcement from the Premier of Ontario as diminishing their responsibilities to compensate First Nations. The Ontario Regional Chief drafted a letter to the Premier encouraging Ontario to take action to correct this misinterpretation.

Treaty Commission in Ontario (TCO):

- Information gathering is essentially complete: the expert forum (July 28-30) produced a series of power point presentations prepared by the experts; a video of the forum including presentations from the Elders; and a Common Discussion Paper, which is designed to be a starting point for First Nation leadership in the potential development of a TCO.

Consultation and Accommodation:

- The sub-table is assessing the information base, including a Chiefs in Ontario toolkit on consultation and accommodation, and anticipates developing a community engagement strategy to raise awareness on consultation and accommodation among First Nations.

Dudley George Reconciliation Fund:

- The New Relationship Fund will be in operation until 2010. The sub-table will explore options for the transition to the Dudley George Reconciliation Fund

Policing:

- The sub-table hosted a significant information gathering and sharing event: an expert Forum on First Nation policing which was held on May 12-13, 2009. Next steps are being considered.

First Nation Jurisdiction and Reconciliation:

- In order to organize the issues more effectively, an internal First Nations paper has been drafted.

Heritage & Burial Sites:

- The sub-table is tasked with clarifying existing practices/requirements/policies for First Nations, Aboriginal organizations and the public and developing appropriate policies and legislative and/or regulatory amendments.