



Pic Mobert First Nation News Update

Important Updates for Members of the Pic Mobert First Nation

July, 2011

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Special points of interest:

- * Update on Band Operations until the August 2, 2011 elections.
- * Road upgrading project to commence in July
- * New Principal Hired—School to Reopen in September
- * 33 Students Supported for 2011/12 Post Secondary Funding Program
- * New First Nation Company created for Proposed Transmission Line Project

Important News Concerning Band Operations until the August Elections

Ahni!

As you will all know, the recent strike by Canada Post required a change to the date of our election to August 2, 2011.

According to the Indian Act, the term of the current Council will end on July 16, 2011. The delay in the election has therefore caused a very unusual and unprecedented situation where our First Nation will not have an elected

Council in place for ap-



proximately 17 days. On the back of this newsletter is a copy of a letter from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada that explains and confirms this.

We do not believe that this situation will have any noticeable impact on Band operations. All Band programs and services will continue to operate normally during this period. Council has made provisions to ensure that the Co-Manager is available to ensure that there are no disruptions to operations and routine payments such as payroll continue without any delays.

Also, planned events such as Community Week and the Pow Wow will proceed as originally planned.

Until the election results are known, no new major decisions, including financial commitments can be made. Also, the current Council will not have any legal authority to bind the Pic Mobert First Nation on any matter.

The retiring Council has, however, asked me to be available as a liaison in the event of an emergency or any situation outside of normal business, and I have agreed to be available if and when needed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these unusual circumstance.

Miigwetch!

Chief Johanna Desmoulin

Road Construction to Commence in July—Please be careful!

The long awaited road upgrading project will be starting up in the next two weeks.

The contract has been awarded to Provost Contracting out of Wawa. Some components of work will be subcontracted to the White Lake Resources Corporation, who will also be hiring contract labour for the contractors.

Please contact White Lake Resources Corporation at the Band Office if you are interested in working on this project.

The contractor will be working on all roads at some point over the next 4-6 weeks. There will occasionally be traffic delays. Please be aware of construction equipment and workers during construction.

The project also includes repairs to the bridge. This will require closing the bridge for a few hours on one or two days. We will provide advance notice of this so you can plan accordingly.

Please bear with us during construction and look forward to an improved road network by early fall!





Post Secondary Funding Approved for 2011/12 School Year

The Council recently approved the post-secondary funding recipients for the 2011/12 budget year.

This year, a total of 33 students were approved with a total of over \$480,000 in funding. In order to accommodate all qualified applicants starting school in September, the Council approved up to \$35,000 from the Casino Rama fund in addition to funds being provided by Indian & Northern Affairs Canada.

The programs that Band members are enrolled in this year include: marketing, education/teaching, social services, early childhood education, police foundations, social work, fine arts, personal support worker, environmental technology, aboriginal community advocacy, indigenous learning, athletic therapy, marketing, digital media design, forestry, native child and family services, pre-trades, accounting, nursing, psychology and college and university entry/preparation.

Funds are administered under the Post Secondary Funding policy which is available from the Education Department or on the Pic Mobert First Nation website, www.picmobert.ca

School News—New Principal Hired & Oil Spill Work to be Completed Soon

The Pic Mobert First Nation is very pleased to welcome Jacky (Gaudette) Craig as our new school principal.

Jacky is a Pic Mobert Band member and a very experienced educator with over 18 years of experience. We are very excited with Jacky's ideas and enthusiasm and hope that you will welcome and support her in this new assignment.

Jacky comes to us from Sioux Lookout where she has been working for much of her career.

Jacky will be completing the hiring of

the teaching staff over the coming weeks and we will then be announcing the staff team.

Jacky is yet another Pic Mobert Band member who is part of our management team, joining Theresa Bananish (Lands & Resources), Karen Gaudette (Community Development & Ontario Works), Shawn Desmoulin (Housing) and Chris Bananish (Water Works). We are proud to have our Band Members taking leadership roles in these important departments.

Work is also progressing on finishing

up work on the school following the oil spill that occurred during the winter. Tenders were recently called for the work and work should commence before the end of July, with a plan to have everything back to normal and operating for the start of the school year in September. Thanks so much to the staff, parents and students for their cooperation and patience during the past months. Special thanks too to Vern McWatch for making the extra long trips to White River.

Miigwetch!

New Company Created for Transmission Project

We previously reported on an exciting new initiative that is being undertaken by our First Nation, along with the Pic River, Michipicoten, Pays Plat and Red Rock First Nations. The First Nations have agreed to join forces with Great Lakes Power Transmission to pursue the development of a new high voltage transmission line between Wawa and Thunder Bay.

An important step forward was recently completed on this project, when the Council participated in the creation of a the Bamkushwada Limited Partnership, and the Bamkushwada General Partner Corpo-

ration, The Bakushwada Limited Partnership will be owned by the group of First Nations each holding an equal interest (# of shares). Wayne Sabourin has been appointed as the founding director on behalf of the Pic Mobert First Nation.

A ceremonial signing by all First Nations will be held on July 21, 2011 in Pays Plat First Nation.

Over the next few months, the Bamkushwada group will complete negotiations of a joint venture agreement with Great

Lakes Power. This will be presented to the Community before it is finally approved. The project is worth over \$600 million and will operate for at least 40 years.

It is important to note that our Council has negotiated arrangements with our private partners so that there is no cost to our First Nation to participate in this project. This is yet another major economic initiative that will benefit our Community for many years.

New Company Created!

Photo: Chief Johanna Desmoulin and founding Director Wayne Sabourin prepare to officially declare Pic Mobert's participation in the new transmission line project through the signing of the Bamkushwada Limited Partnership and the Bamkushwada General Partner Corporation.





Recruitment for Band Manager Begins—Financial Recovery on Track

The Pic Mobert First Nation has commenced recruitment for a Band Manager/Chief Executive Officer.

The Band Manager position has been vacant for the last couple of years due to the co-management agreement.

Council recently met with Indian & Northern Affairs Canada concerning our First Nation's progress on its financial recovery. INAC officials agreed that the community has made considerable progress and appears to be on-track to begin operating under a self administered management and

recovery plan. The draft audit for the last year was recently received and it appears that we will receive a clean audit which indicates a financial surplus. Approval of a revised recovery plan will be a first priority of the incoming Council.

Under a self-administered arrangement, our First Nation would no longer require the services of a co-manager. These funds will be reallocated to the costs of a Band Manager.

The Band Manager is the most senior position in the Pic Mobert First Nation

administration. Information on the posting can be found at www.picmobert.ca



Deadline for applications is August 2, 2011.

Update on Specific Claim Process—July 28, 2011

An update meeting on the specific claim process will be held on July 28, 2011.

This is an information meeting for the Band Membership.

The meeting will be held between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

During this week, interviews will be held with Elders, including several Pic

Mobert Elders who will be travelling to Mobert from as far away as Vancouver!

The lawyer on the specific claim, Kim Fullerton, will be attending. The researcher, Christine Deroi, will also be in attendance.

Please contact the Lands & Resources Office for further information or

assistance.

Specific Claim Update Meeting:

July 28, 2011

Pic Mobert Pow Waw Grounds

10 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Lunch will be provided

"Under Canadian law, specific claims must be settled within 6 years."

Minister of Natural Resources Approves Hydro Project

The Minister of Natural Resources, the Hon. Linda Jeffries, this week approved our hydroelectric project under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (PPCRA).

This approval is a major step forward for the project and was needed to complete the provincial environmental assessment process which has been underway for over 5 years.

Regional Power's Senior Vice President David Carter commended the Chief and Council for their leadership and effective strategies in bringing this major milestone to a long awaited close; this approval had been held up for several months due to ongoing and changing requirements of regulatory agencies.

The project is advancing very well now – detailed design is underway and tenders will be called in late August for the major construction contracts. Construction is planned to commence in 2012.

Further updates will be provided in August.

Norman R. Jaehrling



Pic Mobert First Nation 25th Annual Pow-wow

Pic Mobert First Nation

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We're on the web
www.picmobert.ca

Warm ups: Friday July 29,2011 7:00 pm
Grand Entry: Sat. July 30,2011 @
12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
Grand Entry: Sunday July 31,2011 @
12:00 noon

M.C. Jim Misquart Thunder Bay
Host Drum : White Tail Cree
Co- host : Thunder Mountain
Invited Drum: Craig McKay Sault Ste Marie
Invited Drum : open
Visiting Drums : Honorarium
Male Lead Dancer : Nathan Moses Thunder Bay
Female Lead Dancer : Tara Bananish Pic Mo-
bert
Invocations : Helen Porter Pic Mobert
Spiritual Advisor : Calvin Ottertail Lac La Croix
Invited Elder : Pat Green Sault Ste Marie
Invited Eagle Staff: Mike Eshquega Rocky Bay

Disclaimer : No Drugs or
Alcohol on Pow wow
Grounds
Pic Mobert first Nation and
Pic Mobert Pow wow com-
mittee will not be responsi-
ble for any theft ,damage or
lose of personal prop-
erty security will be pro-
vided

Directions: Pic Mobert is
Located along highway 17,
approximately,360 kms.
West of Sault Ste Marie
On. and 380 kms. East of
Thunder Bay On.

Rough Camping available
Signs will be posted near
pow wow site along high-
way 17

Contact : Godfrey Des-
moulin 807-822-9937



Baseball

Congratulations !!

Mobert Braves won the "A" Division in Garden River over the weekend.

Top right to left; coach Martin, Gerry Lesage, Frank Desmoulin, John Desmoulin, Christopher Bananish, Ross McWatch, Thurston Kwissiwa.

Bottom right to left; Warren Sabourin, Robert S, Brendon Shaganash, Orville McWatch and Louis Kwissiwa.

