



*Chief Ochapowace*

*Kakisiwew*

*Ochapowace*

Community Planning

Communication Note # 1

February 23-24, 2015

## *DID YOU KNOW!*

We are a sovereign NATION, meaning, we have the right to determine our own destiny and how we will govern ourselves. Our forefathers entered into Treaty exercising all the powers of sovereignty and nationhood. Her majesty's representatives negotiated Treaty on behalf of the Crown carrying the full authority to establish an international Treaty. We have been autonomous (*self-ruling*) and connected to our territories since time immemorial. This is confirmed by our oral history, our Elders teachings, our traditions and customary practices. Only Nations can enter into treaty.

Chief Kakisiwew (Loud Voice) signed treaty on September 15, 1874 at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. It must be noted that the treaty was understood to be nation to nation. Queen Victoria in Right of Canada guaranteed certain rights and promises to Kakisiwew and his People. Some of these rights were never documented in Ottawa and today are fading away slowly, like the tax exemption to products and services off reserve and certain health benefits.

In November 1876 surveyor William Wagner was given instructions to survey a site which had been selected by Chief Kakisiwew, land that was originally located further north across the round lake valley to near the town of Stockholm. Elder, Ivan Watson remembered steel pegs with the mark I.R. indicating Indian Reserve boundaries atop the northern valley.

Kakisiwew was our original name it was eventually changed to Ochapowace who was the son of Kakisiwew, the name change was influenced by the Indian agent.

Chacachas selected land on the east side of the number 9 highway and south of the Qu'Appelle river system. Both Kakisiwew and Chacachas are both signatories of treaty and both had land designated to them and their people.

We are told, after the new reserves were formed, Chief Chacachas requests Chief Kakisiwew to look after his people while he goes south to Montana to bring some of his people home. Chacachas never returns as he dies in Montana, his people eventually join Kakisiwew with the assistance of the Government who eventually take their land away. Today, the legal battle continues as Ochapowace along with Kakisiwew and Chacachas representatives work toward reinstating the lost lands.

March 3, 2015

Tansi, My People,

I am pleased to announce that, once again, we have embarked on a long term comprehensive community planning journey.

As you may recall, it all began with a major milestone, the Ochapowace Strategic Plan of 1992. There has also been community planning work done in subsequent years with our people. Just looking back at the developments over the years, as a Nation, we have completed identified community initiatives and priorities; however, there's still much work to be done in other areas.

The community plan will offer a future direction for our Nation that will help strengthen our community through a roadmap to sustainability and self-sufficiency. In continuing this work, the community plan will reflect the needs, desires and direction of the Ochapowace people and the planning process will be steered by our people, both on and off reserve, so that it becomes the people's plan.

Once completed, we would monitor and evaluate the community plan to ensure it reflects our Nation's Vision and continues to meet the aspirations and changing needs of our people.

We look forward to your valued input and feedback. Together, we can make our community a place that we can all be proud of.

Chief Margaret Bear

# *Meet The Planning*

## *Team:*

Chief: Margaret Bear  
Councillors: Petra Belanger  
Shelley A. Bear  
Shea Watson  
John Still  
Tim Bear  
Les George

### Staff:

Director of Operations:	Brenda Stevenson
Finance & Administration	Darlene Bear
Human Resources	Brenda Bear
Economic Development	Dennis Bear
Lands	Brian Scribe
Health	Audrey Isaac
Social Development	Mary Ramstead
Education	Marion Still
Housing	Sheldon Taypotat
Culture	Calvin Isaac
Multiplex arena	Morley Watson
Recreation	Andrew Daniels
Summer Games	Sheldon Watson
Urban Member	Rod Belanger
Urban Member	Joe Bear
Urban Member	Wes George
Youth	Rebecca Sanquais
Elder	Evelyn Isaac
Elder	Grace Bear
Facilitator	Valerie McLeod
Facilitator	Carlan Bigsnake

Revisiting our drafts, we will define the following modules:

VISION- The future, how we see it, where we see our community in the future.

MISSION- What our organization does, who we serve and what we do

VALUES- Our guide to how we conduct ourselves on a daily basis in our community

SWOTS- identify our community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

STRATEGIES- The means to the end result, a plan of action or policy designed to achieve a major or overall aim.

KEY FACTORS- A way we can measure our progress, failures our successes

COMMUNICATION- how we share community information

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION- How we manage our change, evaluate, take action

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE- How we manage ourselves to get the jobs done

BUSINESS PLANS- Our daily, monthly and annual work plans, program to do lists, all programs will have annual plans/budgets.

### **Three main premises**

Main premise #1: planning and change are the primary job of leaders. (let them know why change is the primary part of the job)

Main Premise #2: people support what they help create. Speak with entire membership on and off reserve, get feedback and implement the plan.

Main Premise #3: use systems thinking to focus on outcomes that serve the customer. Start with big picture and then work on the details.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

We reviewed our draft Vision from 1992-2006

“Our vision is to be an independent, proud, prosperous, and unified Ochapowace Nation with our own culture, values, language and land.”

“**Based upon**” means go with  
“**With our**” means to keep going

*Updated Vision: Draft One: February 24, 2015*

*We are a unified proud and prosperous  
Sovereign Nation*

### **Future Picture: definition of key words**

Unified- families working together, strengthen one another, preserve in harmony and balance with the self, family community, nation, co-existence, innovative

Proud- to be a Neyhiyo, proud of community, leadership

Prosperous- enterprising, self, family commitment, nation, high quality service, strong people proactive, thriving, entrepreneurs,

Sovereign- self determined governance process, respected by other nations, independent, nation hood, recognition, having the authority and the right to govern itself, pre-contact, inherent,

Mandates: every department has a mandate that ties to the vision and mission.

\*back in the day, the elders say, that with Treaty signing, never gave up the sovereignty.

Every five years, update the vision, go back and measure what was achieved, did we reach the measures, continue to reach the goal of the vision?

Visions need to be directed towards all groups, political, grass roots, etc.

Troubled, historical information, band was called Kakisiwew, then forced into amalgamation, today, now it's confusing because of the past mistakes. Forgetting the ancestral law of Wahnkoti (kinship), the structure of family and based on relationships, today's way of thinking needs to be reprogrammed to back in the old days of Wahnkoti.

**\* We have/need a Vision in Cree**

### **IMPORTANT CONCEPTS and IDEAS TO HAVE IN A VISION.**

- Family units, before economic development, the old ways, boys help with men jobs, girls help mom around the house, today nowadays the old ways of the dynamics is not there, need to strengthen the old way family ties. Provide for their own family. Healthy families
- Sovereignty, connection with mother earth, land is important
- Prosperous free nation, professional organization, good governance, values,
- Sovereignty means to practice what the people want to practice, no external authorities to tell us what to do. Making laws is vital in order for sovereignty to work. Culture.
- To get to the visions and statements, need to work towards working with each other; for example such as the language. Teach everyone (community, the people) the vision to achieve its success.
- Wahnkoti (vision in Cree) constitution in the vision
- Independent: prosperous: Unified:

- Citizens, not members or band members, we are citizens, Rights, should be included in the vision.
- Proud and respectful, it's who we are
- Ochapowace Nations: today with Kakisiwew/Ochapowace
- Challenging the Harper Government, use a STRONG word to get to the point
- Culture
- Language, it's our identity
- Accountability/honesty
- Values and honesty
- Cree version and English version,
- Unified: *election act divides the community every three years, need to be more unified.*
- Re-educate the people on words that are hard to understand
- Sovereignty, values, culture, language, laws,
- Vision statement reflects on our identity, language, culture,

### **1992 Vision Statement**

"Our vision is to be an independent, proud, prosperous, and unified Ochapowace Nation with our own culture, values, language and land."

**"Based upon"** means go with  
**"With our"** means to keep going

### **Group Visions: we need to make one statement that best describes our ideal future**

*Our vision is to be a sovereign nation our own culture, values, language and land as Treaty Ayisisnimaw Peoples.*

*Our Wapahtamowin is to be a sovereign, proud, prosperous and unified Ochapowace nations based on our culture, values, language and and connections with Turtle Island.*

*Our Vision is to be a self-determining independent, prosperous \_\_\_\_\_ all nation in accordance with Ochapowace nation constitution 2015.*

*Our vision is to be a self-determined, proud, prosperous and unified, Kakisiwew Otayisinimia with our own culture, laws, language and land.*

*In order for independence, be proud and prosperous as a Unified Nation with our own Culture and values, language and land. Our vision for Kakisiwew Otayisinima is self-determination to our customs and traditions.*

Create Draft Vision:

*Kakisiwew Wahkotwin, continue to be proud and prosperous, strengthen the Family ties, revive the language and strengthen economic development relationships to achieve Sovereignty and self-reliance.*

### **CRITICAL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED**

Critical issues list:

What are the 5-10 most important critical issues facing you in your roll today?

What things or thoughts that keep you up at night when it comes to strategic planning?

critical communication, organizational chart, time management, delegation, training, accountability, budgets, action plan, on-going funding-government or generate income, policy and procedures to operate, Culture and language: the essence of being Cree, trust: trust staff and employees. External distractions, government policy: controlled by the government, sustainability: factor or issue in FN people, collective mentality don't leave nobody behind, learn to be self-sustainable, taking each other in the same direction in order to sustain the ability. Educate the people and funding to

bring the people back home. Overwhelmed with workload, internal change, will the people accept, there will be some resistance. Distractions, criticise of ideas, unrealistic goals, the buy in of the strategic plan by the people, lack of team work, lack of commitment, lack of financial resources, lack of participation, lack of communication, time frame> rushed>be flexible with time, lack of feedback, youth issues >school>careers> represent the future, educate the young people that education is important, they are the future, get out of the what's good for us mentality(government), Treaties, procrastination, identity "who we are", existing constitution, bill c 27, sovereignty and jurisdiction, fail to plan,

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

MISSION: WHY we are together, services and goods we produce, who we serve

### **Ochapowace Mission 1992**

To ~~serve current and future citizens~~ of Ochapowace Nation through an independent government and our own professionals who provide:

- High quality services
- A profitable economic base
- Leadership in fulfilment of our Treaties

We do this to ensure achievement of our Vision!

- ~~\*instead of Citizens, use Peoples, citizens sounds to individualism,~~
- ~~change Treaties to sovereignty~~
- ~~our way of life~~
- ~~independent~~
- ~~responsible~~
- ~~accountable~~
- ~~transparent~~
- ~~advancement of identity thru our languages, culture, customs and traditions~~

- *protection of way of life*

### **Mission statement draft one: feb 24, 15**

To serve our citizens, thru an accountable and transparent government and our own professionals, who as a team provide

High quality services, a profitable economic base, protection of our inherent rights and way of life and guidance in fulfillment of our Treaties

### **Definitions**

**Citizens**: people of our Nations, (add legal definition from constitution,) people who live on reserve,

**Transparent**: good communications, fiscal transparency with our people, open with business, not hiding

**High quality service**: attitude and services are high quality, care about people,

**Protection of our inherent rights and way of life**: "what are our inherent rights? Language, culture, self-Determination, values, connection to our land, values and traditions. Right to participate in decision making at all decision making levels

**Fulfillment of our treaties**: original relationship with the crown, portability of rights, we are responsible as individuals and take advantage, treaty education, treaties are nation to nation relationship,

Mission Examples:

The Osoyoos Indian Band is committed to be one of the major economic generators in the South Okanagan by increasing is self-Generating revenue by 50% to 27%-#0 %



million per year, while further focusing on capacity building in the Development Corporation and general Band. The Osoyoos Indian Band will achieve this by being entrepreneurial, prudent investors, educators, and mentor to its membership of the Osoyoos Indian band community and business community, while being viewed as professional practitioners, who are good business people and hard working.

2. Leadership will strive to improve the FN quality of life through prosperity, partnerships and FN (way of life)

3. "Our mission is to provide economic prosperity for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe by managing the Tribe's businesses effectively, building new businesses prudently, and investing its money wisely. We provide analysis and advice to the Tribal Council on the Tribe's business and financial affairs, and we provide the day to day executive management of the Tribes business enterprises"

Next session we will be doing Values and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

To our members, please feel free to comment on any part of the Vision or Mission statements. Your input is valued and important to our development.

This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> of 8 communication notes we will be sharing with the community on our community development planning.

## **COMMENTS**

Quotes from the Group:

Andrew Daniels "Happy to be a part of the team, and why it's important, knowing we can't sit back, we need to move forward.

Marion Still "glad I came, very interesting the vision and mission, it's about time we change it.

Rod Belanger " as an urban member it helps me feel more connected and sense of belonging, see how Chief and Council are working towards this.

Councillor John Still: "all comments were interesting we listened to former leaders and well educated people. Feels good to hear and have input into this planning. Thankful to all I heard. Proud to be from Ochapowace need something for the future

Joe Bear: the importance of why we being here. Thank leadership for taking this step. As a nation member, I can see prosperity and unity for all nation members and our future members

Brenda Stevenson: program managers more real to them, knowing what the mission and vision is. We need something for our future and feel confident.

## **Team Member Comments:                      March 22, 2006 planning session**

Mabel George- *What we started here is good, we have to encourage more people to attend, I talk to a lot of young people who come to my house, and we have to spread this out to the community. It's hard some of them are negative, there's going to be stumbling blocks. We can carry on without*

*perdiem's, keep doing what we're doing, people will come around.*

*Mike George Sr. - Good presenters, hope we can carry through for a better community and school. If we are going to put out quality students, we need quality teachers. We have to work as a team for the betterment of our community.*

*Eunice Delorme – I sure learnt and found out a lot about Ochapowace. (Derrick Eunice's partner) I hope it's carried through I sure learnt a lot also.*

*Ruth Henry – It opened my eyes, I sure learnt a lot, I'm beginning to understand what it's all about.*

*Lorenda Bellgarde – I would really like to learn my language*

*Laird Allary – If you really want it, you will find it. I.e. treaties. Gain knowledge voluntarily, read. We need to be armed with as much knowledge when we fight for something like the treaties. It's a sacred thing, the Creator was there when signing the treaties with Great Briton.*

*Grace Bear – Brings back memories like the way it was, good to see us meeting and working together.*

*Terrance Assiniboine – I am learning a lot, and would like to pass this on to the younger generation and to my nephews.*

*Emma Pratt – Coming here I learnt so much. I now know who I am, I learnt to appreciate people, friendship.*

*Sam Isaac – I thank the elders, facilitators, sure learning a lot. It's a learning process for all of us. I hope to be around to see some of it go up (Strategic Planning activities). This is for all our children unborn.*

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## NEXT PLANNING SESSION MARCH 23-24, 2015

For further information about the planning, please contact the Chief and Council or any Director or Manager.