

Muskowekwan Chief and Council Meeting with Maurice Law

June 28, 2023

Maurice Law Office

Downtown Calgary Alberta

In attendance; Chief Jamie Wolfe, Council; Vanessa Wolfe, Cynthia Desjarlais, Vernetta Campeau, Dory Ochoo, William Pinacie Jr., Calvin Wolfe, Julius Manitopyes, Director Sheila Bigsky, Comm Nav Val Wolfe, recorder Diane Windigo, MLaw Ryan

Opening Prayer; Julius Manitopyes 10;25am start

Opening Comments; Chief Jamie Wolfe

Today is a milestone in Muskowekwan First Nation history.

There has been a lot of miscommunication in our community, people are saying we are spending our Cows and Plows but today will show where we are starting at.

We are here to listen to Canada's proposal we are making history here today.

We have our opportunity to have a higher settlement on one of our smaller claims.

This sets a foundation for Muskowekwan. This is our starting point for Muskowekwan.

So the mismanagement of Touchwood Agency Tribal Council will set the foundation for both.

We have to consider the offer from Canada.

Off reserve will want to carve it up but it has to come to the people, they have to ratify it.

I hope we come out with good news. As a collective we need to be aware, make sure we don't miss anything.

Ryan- Maurice Law

As with any Trust we need to know where the details are, we need to be comfortable with settling north of fifteen million anywhere seventeen million and up.

We made the offer to settle April 2021, now Canada has responded, they're looking at the nominal number, they're accepting the nominal number, they're giving us the band trust 100 percent compound interest, it might not be enough as we tabled thirty-five million.

Maurice Law is prepared to go to trial with this issue but we are likely going to get an offer

#1 put it in Trust, earn interest, invest, borrow against, you're growing it, maybe seven percent per annum in five years it could be twenty million.

Council question; if we get an offer, how long until Canada writes the cheque? The ratify, walk thru the process.

Ryan- Expectations, happy with the offer, formalise and get a mandate, assurance of an answer in three months, ratification in six months.

Chief- People will have their opportunity to say their stuff like you could have argued for more. The offer has to be spoken to we need to be as a collective on this.

Cynthia- We have a history on this whole process, this explanation will be included in the information given to membership.

Ryan- all information will be included for people to be informed, all claims well over one hundred million, ag will be over one hundred million maybe two.

Cynthia- actual claim not put on the table; relocation of Muskowekwan re; Long Lake 10 by 12 miles. Found in the archives in England, once data collection is finished, we will forward to Maurice Law, this is the original reserve.

Ryan- on the brink of settling a similar claim, we took a bit of a kick on this type of claim because we had to prove.

This file is setting a precedent, they will make a delay and not to pay all at once. Play by the rules Canada will get a result.

If we litigate a judge might make a terrible decision, we will have to take it to Federal Appeals Court maybe all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada.

So it would be better to settle rather than litigate, then push on time line.

On July 12, 2023 we will meet to settle railway claim. You have an agriculture loss expert, James Gillis, who will provide an accurate picture of value. Build our own report with him. You had a chance to profit from railway going thru the reserve, have to look at safety issues and loss of life.

It's odd that they use negotiators right away he zeroed in on the deal and had exaggerated dismay. With the details he might give an offer.

I can't put a number to it, but this guy, James is ready to negotiate

For the presentation today, when he comes into the meeting, be stoic, no happy faces

Ten minute break.

Reconvene all listed previous in attendance plus Canada negotiator, Matt Links

Ryan- you have an agenda

Matt- explained agenda, has a presentation on the Trust Claim and a proposal, maybe the Railway Claim.

Ryan- needs more time for the railway Claim, maybe next time we assemble if you want to show up in Regina,

Chief Wolfe, I'm not sure if you want to get hung up on that? Matt you can start your presentation.

Matt- I did prepare opening remarks for this, it shows your commitment at this important event. Thank you, Ryan for the history background.

I started in April, to move forward, my background I worked in Section 35 consultation, Trans, Suncor, pipelines, coal lines consultations.

I noticed there is a lot of reserves. Technically I visited your reserve before, Treaty Four, the All Nations Healing Hospital, *incredible facility, met elders, seen how they work with the community there. Pretty powerful to walk thru. I got a good sense and appreciate all of you.*

We'll move forward in a good way.

Trust Accounts Claim. Shared from screen

Crown Indigenous Relations

Claim Description

-Muskowekwan First Nation Capital and Revenue Mismanagement Specific Claim

Concerns of various unauthorised transactions from Muskowekwan First Nation capital and their assets from 1896 to 1984

-Canada breached provincial account monies held for Muskowekwan.

-the Claim was accepted for negotiation in March 2022

-Maurice Law presented the details of the Claim

-based on the report, \$438,856.00

-Maurice Law presented compensation proposal report

-Canada has accepted report face value

-Canada revised compensation report to 2023 at 17754.59

For a total of over 18 million

-Canada is asking that the claim be ratified by Council resolution, still need community information meeting

-Council resolution will expedite settlement and reduce costs.

'This is a way to make things move faster'

Currently in process to seek mandate.

Ryan- is this a formal offer?

Matt- a proposal not a formal offer, not ready to make a formal offer, we expect to do this in thirty days or?

After we receive formal letter we will do informational meeting for community

1) we would rather have formal letter

2) a time line- if we had a council resolution, how quick? This will help bridge the differences.

Matt- hesitant to say a definite time

Ryan- where does the settlement agreement stand in this?

Matt-I make an offer, we redo the paperwork.

Ryan- in 30 days table formal offer, then we table settlement offer, we have information meeting

Matt- after we have initial offer, take it to the minister

Ryan- faster, less than six months, if you have precedent agreement, table it now.

Matt- that would be a great start, edging toward a deal

Deal, community support, executive resolution, would rather have settlement agreement on hand.

This would help it move up the pipeline

Ryan- this would move it up?

Matt-hesitantly yes, not definite

Ryan- we don't want anything else to happen to the deal.

Council discussion

Chief- we took our time to get this worked on. Our elders have been dying off, they have been there since the start. We are trying to help our community heal. Its our people's money. We still have to present the offer to our people. We still have to talk with the people, we did not come this far to do it your way.

Deal with our legal. Time is of the essence, before we lose any more of our elders. This would help us help our people heal.

Matt- anything we can do to help move this on.

I do not have formal, to do it but I think I can move this forward.

Ryan- are talking put it in range or what?

Matt-we've been giving it serious consideration, there is risk all around if we don't move forward.

Matt- we're not going to get a significant rate

Vernetta- what about the impacts to our people? My grandpa had his farm taken away from him, then he had nothing, was that considered?

Our people that it impacted, this is what reconciliation is, our ancestors to get justice today.

I see Canada yet again going down the same pathway. Canada has to do better by us, people we lost, what they went thru.

Those impacts, they went thru, what was taken, left us with poverty we had nothing.

Canada has to realise we let them into our country to live side by side. They took.

This is not acceptable. Canada has to pull up their socks.

What was taken was opportunity to be successful for ourselves. They took it,

We have to start with dignity

Matt- thank you, its important, we need to hear it.

Ryan- range generosity, crystallises in your formal offer if there is more money, encourage you to follow that. Not much more to say about that.

Council roundtable

Vanessa Wolfe

Appreciate your words your proposal, as an advocate I feel how this has affected us generationally it has been taken away from us. The agreements have to be acknowledged.

Create better opportunities

Yes expedite the process

I realize the bureaucracy of red tape but this process has been going on for a long time

Important to take this to the people, I'm here speaking for our people

Have a meeting to see where you're at and where we're at

Our people are all over turtle Island we got to go out there to make this personal

Thank you for all the work that has been done.

Thank you Maurice Law

Within 30 days lets move forward

Cynthia Desjarlais

I have similar ideas, this has been a long-time process, we've managed poverty for many years,

We've looked hard for any funds, no one came to us and said here for your community

Thankful for Maurice Law to get us to this point.

We need to take this to the people, it impacted our people

We can't change the past we can move forward

I understand your message but you can advocate for us

Do what you can but we need to take it to the people.

Vernetta Campeau

We do need to take this to the people include in the process

Dory Ochoo

I do agree with this but it's been a long time, we need to move sooner, we are the voice of our people

Calvin Wolfe

It's been a long time, send your offer with Canada now is the time to think about this.

Lets get the ball rolling, its going to take time be patient, move forward

Julius Manitopyes

I'm the oldest one at the table, been a part of this for a long time, residential school, 60's scoop, water
Start with the elders, talked with a lot of them, appreciate Maurice Law thank you for your work
Get this going, get it done soon.

Managing poverty is hard.

People think we got the money, we need to meet with the people share information. Move along.

William Pinacie Jr

Today is good to have Canada at the table.

I understand there is a process, our bosses are the membership

The permit system, we have documentation on hand

There is still undocumented numbers our members had to trade for survival, we are still managing poverty today

Canada should take into consideration these items too, language barriers, hardships, racism if you want, we need to get to the place we are today, we are here for them

Also next generations

I prayed for today for good outcome

I acknowledge the previous comments

Thank you for your time.

Ryan- worthwhile good discussion, will look for a draft settlement agreement. You will do your best to give us a formal offer. Process is efficient

This is the beginning more to come, you need to consider AG benefit claim is around the corner

Matt- I would like to work on this next claim

Ryan- will send a formal letter to Matt asking him to be a part of next process. Hopeful the next process will be faster

Matt- I want to respond to all that was said, I appreciate hearing from you, not only on trust accounts but the impacts Canada imposed on your first nation.

Glad to be able to talk about this, for my team to hear this

I'm grateful to hear your story.

People on zoom- thank you, I am honored to be a part, great opportunity to meet you, thank you for sharing, we can convey the message.

Matt- my team members had the opportunity to hear your stories

Meeting closed at 12:14 lunch