

Mississauga First Nation

Year End Report – March – December 2022

Chief Bob Chiblow

Introduction

We're always learning as Council. Most of you realize authority as Council is collective, I will support members as the need allows though. It is our job to bring our experience to benefit the community. The people we meet during our travels are always teaching us something we didn't know, or, providing a different perspective on issues, this is a good thing I'm learning. What you do with this gained knowledge is what is most important. Our community will benefit from what we all bring home to share.

Council and staff are doing good considering the systems we have to work within. I realize and I hope you do to, that we have limited authority. This realization will not satisfy everyone, I accept that. Don't take silence as inaction, we are always working to help you where we can.

This first year has been an opportunity to gauge where our community is and what is possible. I feel comfortable with moving to address areas where we have identified a need. We've already started in some areas. Of course, we must credit and trust our staff for implementing our vision. Nothing is as simple as it seems, so, we must continue to support and be patient with our staff as they navigate colonial systems.

Health

Our health centre is undergoing a restructuring. The amount of responsibility has grown to where we need to create separate health services and social services director positions. We will provide the continued good services you demand. Our health and social services staff will help in every area they can. Like everywhere, our staff can get overwhelmed, but still, they will continue to work hard for you.

Child Well Being

Mississauga is exploring options to take back care of our children. We also recognize that we are in a system which, in certain circumstances, are out of our control. We care and strive to do everything within our power to support our members. We'll be bringing child well being choices to the community in the near future.

Housing

Like every community in Canada, our housing stock is limited. We are exploring several avenues to increase our housing here, including high density housing and possibly off-reserve potential.

Homelessness is a nationwide issue, we have our share here and we know that, hence our attempt to be creative with financing more housing stock. We must recognize that most people on the housing list are an emergency case, we hope our plan can alleviate this dilemma. We must appreciate Monica, Kelly M. and the housing committee for the difficult decisions they must make. We're trying our best to rectify our housing issues.

Niisonag Partnership - Residential School Survivors

My first day in office I received notice that we have been approved for the Niisonag Partnership, a Spanish residential school initiative. Niisonag is a three phase project looking into the story of the Mississaugi, Serpent River and Sagamok residential school survivors time in Spanish. This is a survivor led initiative which has had two gatherings to collect our stories to share with following generations. This project is important to ensure this part of our story is never forgotten.

Recently, our initiative proposed a recognition of all survivors, nationwide, through a pin and ceremony. We got a 'recognition resolution' passed at the AFN Fall Assembly. I am ecstatic to have gotten this done and our communities should be proud. We are one of the leaders in the residential school research area. Crystal Chiblow is doing a great job as our Community Coordinator for the Niisonag Partnership.

Treaty Annuities

Our Treaty Annuities case is still in the courts and is going to be heard in the Supreme Court in the coming months. We hoped our wins in both lower courts would have been sufficient for the province to recognize the need to negotiate a settlement of this resource revenue sharing case, apparently not. We will keep you updated as this case progresses. Early in the new year we will bring in a representative from RHT Annuities/Wiindamaagewin to update us.

Anishinabek Nation (AN)

We continue to work with our own Chi Gimaa, Reg Niganobe and initiatives the AN brings to the communities. I'm on the Harvesting, Governance and FACT Steering Committees, although I've only been able to participate in a couple meetings I see some good opportunity to move our treaty rights forward in a few areas.

Ontario First Nation Policing Agreement (OFNPA)

MFN has our two officers (Bob & Ty) under this agreement. They are based out of the BR OPP detachment with an office at the band office. Our relationship with the OPP is a good one, our community is never without police coverage. If you need immediate emergency assistance call 911, our guys or OPP (when our guys are off) will be dispatched. We had a great presentation from various OPP units at the National Addictions Awareness Week, they explained what services they provide for our community.

Ontario First Nation Limited Partnership (OFNLP)

This is our Casino Rama partnership where 132 First Nations receive 1.7% of all gaming revenue from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG). We use our distribution to support many of the programs, equipment, and development initiatives in the community.

Ontario First Nation Sovereign Wealth Fund (OFNSWF)

This is our collective shares in Ontario Hydro. Approximately 8, or so, years ago First Nations in Ontario bought shares into Hydro One, through a loan from Hydro One. This made First Nations the 3rd largest shareholder (2.4%, I believe). As part of the loan agreement, we couldn't sell shares for 10 years, a certain part of that could/should be used to repay some of the loan from Hydro One. The stocks have increased in value and our FN's will only benefit through this investment. I'll keep the community updated as things progress.

Economic Development

Creekside Cannabis is producing better than planned. They've been profitable a couple years ahead of schedule. Good job to Paul and staff over there.

Chiblow Lake Lodge also turns a profit, but we still need significant investment to improve and maintain this property and unlock the potential it has. Meegwetch to Nanny and Rick.

Our community has the aqua-culture initiative progressing, covid and financing have affected progress but hopefully we can have shovels in the ground this spring. We had to downsize our original plans but that's OK, we will grow because the void of wild catch salmon is being replaced by farmed rainbow trout. We will supply some of that demand. Jon and Paul will keep us updated as things progress, Meegwetch guys.

Early-stage partnerships include Sky Canoe, a drone delivery service/depot, and a new transmission line partnership/venture. We will communicate details of these new potential ventures as they grow.

Chi-Naakinagewin

We are still in the process of getting our laws recognized by the justice system. The First Nation Lands Management Act allowed us to make our own laws, but no mechanism to enforce or recognize them in the provincial system. This not only our struggle it's a nationwide dilemma. We are working on a strategy to, possibly, force recognition of these.

The Restorative Justice program has been developing well and we've had a couple successful justice circles. Mike has done well recruiting circle members and having them trained for this very important role in the community. The long-term goal is to offer an alternative/diversion option to our members subject to the provincial justice system.

Community Safety/Emergency Management

Our emergency management plan is being updated and will address the community concern about communication with the community during emergency situations. An emergency alert app. will be our primary communications system which be available to the community which has 'amber alert' and landline dialing capabilities. This communication system should be rolled out in the coming weeks. Any active emergency situations you must call 911 to initiate an emergency response. Meegwetch to Amanda C. for the work on revising our emergency plan.

Education

Debbie, Shelly, and staff are doing a great job with our education and daycare. Anytime I don't receive emails is a good thing. We will soon be exploring the pros and cons of working within the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) and we might be bringing this decision to the community in the new year. Meegwetch to the education staff for a good year.

Mississauga Nation

We continue to meet with our Mississauga cousins. Shawna Boyer is our liaison and has been recently working to gather information on our story through a survey of knowledge holders in our communities (Mississaugi, Scugog, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville & New Credit). We have our economic development officers meet regularly, our past WeedMD investment and the Sky Canoe partnership are some results of these exchanges.

North Shore Tribal Council (NSTC)

Our community will continue to work with the NSTC in the areas of technical services, Niigaaniin, Koognasewin (Child Well Being Law Development), ISTEP (labour market strategy, employment support), Emergency Management (food security, communications app), education (advisory/advocate services) and the Robinson Huron Treaty/Waawiindamaagewin, formed in 2019, the goal is to have a collective Anishinaabe decision making body progressing the interests and inherent rights of our people.

Chiefs of Ontario (COO)

COO, an advocate, supports all First Nations in Ontario as we assert our sovereignty, jurisdiction, and our chosen expression of nationhood.

Assembly of First Nation (AFN)

AFN, an advocate, it aims to protect and advance the aboriginal and treaty rights and interests of First Nations in Canada, including health, education, culture, and language of primarily status people.

Chief Meetings/Events:

I have attended (in-person & zoom) the following meetings/events:

Regular Meetings not listed include Council, ECG and various committee meetings, also, meet daily on a variety of issues as they arise.

March

- NSTC School Board - zoom
- COO Leadership Election Strategy – zoom
- Mississauga Nation (2) – zoom
- Niisonag (4)– zoom
- CCEA – zoom
- Mississagi Parks - zoom
- OFNPA (2)– zoom
- NSTC – zoom
- Cameco (2) – zoom
- Pipe Ceremony – cultural centre
- COO – UNDRIP – zoom
- NSTC – budget – zoom
- Community Mtg
- CCS - consultants

April

- Niisonag (4) – zoom
- Nogdawindamin – council chambers
- Strategic Planning Session – Soo
- Cameco – council chambers
- Mississauga Nation – zoom
- Lake Huron Regional Chiefs Mtg – zoom
- OFNPA – zoom
- Jesuits – Niisonag – Montreal
- NSTC – Quarterly Board Mtg – zoom

May

- Niisonag (4) – zoom
- Strategic Planning – council chambers
- NSTC – special Chiefs mtg – school board
- Education – Feasibility Study – ISC/CCS – zoom
- C&C/OPP – several
- Mississauga Nation – Hiawatha

- Hiawatha Pow Wow – Grand Entry/Opening Words
- Health Fair
- Anishinabek Nation – Thunder Bay

June

- Anishinabek Giizhigad – zoom
- Niisonag – Spanish Site
- Eagle – presented with eagle by MNR
- COO – Special Chiefs Assembly (SCA)– Toronto
- Kim Murray – Interlocutor Residential Schools - Introduction – Toronto
- Cameco – council chambers
- Meet Bishop – cultural centre
- Child Well Being – various
- OFNLP – AGM - zoom
- AFN – zoom
- Anishinabek Nation – FACT steering committee
- Pride Flag raising – Band Office
- Eaket – Graduation Ceremony
- Thessalon Pow Wow – Grand Entries/Opening Words

July

- AFN – Peyton/Denise attended
- Niisonag (4)
- Transition Planning – Child Well Being
- Garden Dome – opening
- Mississauga Pow Wow – Opening/Grand Entries
- Sky Canoe Presentation – council chambers
- NSTC – Leadership Circle - zoom
- Jays Care – first pitch opening
- Nogdawindamin – council chambers
- Anishinabek Nation – FACT Steering Committee
- NSTC – Quarterly Board – zoom

August

- Mississauga Park – council chambers
- Wiky Pow Wow – Grand Entry
- Genobijiing Pow Wow – Grand Entry
- Child Well Being -various
- Mississagi Park – Meet Min Puccini – Ottawa
- NSTC – child well being – council chambers
- Benbowapka – Grand Opening – BR

- Garden River Pow Wow – Grand Entries/Opening Words
- Thessalon FN – Nursery Site Tour – Thessalon
- NSTC-Koognaasewin - council chambers
- Rama Pow Wow – Grand Entries/Opening words
- Justice Circle – youths
- Anishinabek Nation – FACT Steering Committee – zoom

September

- Niisonag (4) – zoom
- COO – assertions – zoom
- Lands – Pow Wow grounds
- Child Well Being – various – zoom
- MNP – consultants – zoom
- NSTC – Board – zoom
- NSTC – Orientation – Rama
- Jr Jays – Tournament – Curve Lake
- Anishinabek Nation – FACT Steering Committee – zoom

October

- Fall Harvest – Chiblow Lake Lodge
- AN – Lake Huron Chiefs – Little Current
- Niisonag (4) – zoom
- Service Ontario – Grand Opening – Serpent River
- Child Well Being – various
- Niigaaniin – Open House – MFN
- Niisonag – Gathering – Soo
- Boom Camp Trail – Awards – BR

November

- Niisonag (4) – zoom
- AN Fall Gathering – Sudbury
- Mississauga Nation – Interview – office
- Member Meeting – BR
- Teaching Lodge – planning meeting – cultural centre
- Treaty Week Presentation – Soo Students – White Pines – Soo
- Fish Feast – NAAW – sports complex
- Remembrance Day – BR Legion/Speech & Ceremony – BR
- COO – SCA – Toronto
- Child Well Being – RBFN - zoom
- Cameco – council chambers

- NSTC – Board Meeting – Soo
- Niisonag – Interlocutor Gathering – Winnipeg

December

- AFN – Fall Assembly -Ottawa

Summary

This year has been a good year for our community, considering we came out of a pandemic (still a concern) and try to get back to some sense of normalcy. This year has also revealed your strength and resilience, I've seen you grow and help each other when needed. We have been considerate of opposing views and that makes a strong community, just because we don't agree on an issue doesn't make us enemies, it makes us diverse. Like all other communities, we still have members that require support in many areas. Council and staff care and we will strive to help you all. We wish you all a Happy Holiday. Let us make 2023 a great year. I'll be doing this report monthly in the new year, to much backtracking and recollecting otherwise. lol

Baa Maa Pii. Chief Bob Chiblow.