



## MEMBERTOU GOVERNANCE BACKGROUND

Membertou First Nation was approached by the **National Centre for First Nations Governance (NCFNG)** as a leader in First Nations Governance and asked to participate in its **“Circle of Excellence”** program which culminated in a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** being signed between the two parties in December 2009. Both parties agreed to work cooperatively to document Membertou’s challenges and successes in implementing its model of governance. A Circle of Excellence video of Membertou was created and is currently available on the internet.

Afterwards, Membertou Chief and Council ratified the Terms of Reference for the Governance Committee and mandated the committee to work on developing land and citizenship codes for review and discussion within the community. Chief and Council sent out a call for community members to apply to sit on this committee. All thirty four people who applied were accepted. Resources were made available to establish the committee, to conduct governance workshops and to hire a Governance Coordinator to embark on this important initiative. Chief Terry Paul encourages the community to get involved in the Membertou Governance Committee and Workshops. He says *“If our community continues to work as a team, it makes success a lot easier to achieve.”*



**Membertou Youth Engagement Session**  
Dan Christmas, Caroline Sylvester  
and Pam Paul December 02, 2010

## ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Governance workshops were held on:

- Culture Traditions & Effective Governance – November 3 & 4, 2010
- Law & Policy—November 25 & 26, 2010
- Citizenship—January 5 & 6, 2011

Governance Committee meetings were held on:

- November 30th, 2010
- January 12, 2010

Governance Translation Committee was held on

- January 11, 2010

Governance Youth Engagement sessions were held on:

- December 2, 2010
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for Youth Jr. & Sr. High
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. for Youth ages 18-34 yrs.

## Accomplishments to Date

- Established a Membertou Governance website - which contains all relevant data on the Committee, Governance workshop materials, and schedule of events.
- Developed Governance Work plan and Communications strategy.
- Developed and ratified Governance Code of Conduct.
- Developed the Membertou Governance Logo.
- Advertised Governance Workshop and Sessions in Newsletter.
- Implemented recommendations from Workshops.
- Prepared monthly briefings on Governance Initiative for Chief and Council
- Worked with NCFNG to develop agenda for Governance Workshops & Engagement Sessions and to prepare meeting materials.
- Engaged Elders via 55 Plus Club to be part of this initiative.
- Developed a Governance Translation Committee to ensure all important documents are written in Mi'kmaw. The following individuals were appointed to sit on this committee: **Bernie Francis, Pauline Bernard, Jane E. Meader, Katy McEwan, Mary Ellen Googoo and Nelson Paul.** The first document to be translated was the **MOU** with **NCFNG**.
- Prepared a Mi'kmaq translation on the Circle of Excellence **MOU** which is currently on YouTube at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_6KndycuiCM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6KndycuiCM)
- Engaged the youth by conducting a Governance Youth Session.
- Engaged the University of Arizona and NCFNG to support our research initiatives—other universities will be approached.

- Approached Membertou area businesses to donate door prizes for community sessions.

- Distributed Governance Workshop and Committee Reports to committee members all of which are available on website.

## Next Steps

- Five year Governance Work plan.
- Implementing Governance Work plan.
- Developing Governance Newsletter.
- Translating Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct into Mi'kmaw.
- Finalizing Work plan & Budget for year 2011-2012 fiscal year.
- Implementing the Emerging Leadership Summer Program.
- Seek funding and support from government agencies. Rebuilding Nations program with NCFNG in the summer of 2011
- Meeting with Native Nations Institute, University of Victoria, and University of Arizona to discuss possible research projects.
- Coordinating the Social & Tea: Learning More About the Grand Council in partnership with 55Plus Club.
- Coordinating the Learning about Our Treaties - Social and Tea.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please contact Cheryl Knockwood at [cherylknockwood@membertou.ca](mailto:cherylknockwood@membertou.ca) for the latest schedule.

## Schedule of Upcoming Committee Meetings, Workshops & Engagement

Feb 23-24, 2011  
Strategic Planning Session  
Workshop at Membertou Trade & Convention Centre

March 1, 2011  
Community Engagement Session at Membertou Entertainment Centre

March 2, 2011  
Youth Session (Jr. and Sr. high) at Membertou Entertainment Centre

March 29, 2011  
Young Adult Session at Membertou Entertainment Centre

April 12-13, 2011  
Citizenship Engagement & Community Approval at Membertou Trade & Convention Centre

April 14, 2011  
Lands Management/Code Development Workshop at Membertou Trade & Convention Centre

May 3, 2011  
Community Engagement Session at Membertou Entertainment Centre

May 13-15, 2011  
Social & Tea - Learn more about the Mi'kmaq Grand Council  
Location To be determined

Please note the above dates are subject to change.

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