



Membertou hosts Second Annual Wikipaltimk Spring Gathering

Approximately two hundred people attended Membertou's second annual Wikipaltimk Spring Gathering held on April 27, 2013. The theme of the gathering was **Honoring Each Other**. The Governance Committee who organizes this event, took the opportunity to set up an information booth to share information on the work it is doing. The Governance Committee has been mandated by Membertou Chief & Council to seek community input on the development of Membertou laws on land management and citizenship. The Governance Committee is made up of band and community member volunteers. They meet once a month to develop these laws and to seek community input.

At the Wikipaltimk Gathering, participants were asked if they wanted to give input on these laws.



Second annual Wikipaltimk Spring Gathering: Jeff Ward, MC; Oonig Ward and Sgt. Reeves

Approximately 60% of respondents wanted input on the development of land laws, while 66% of respondents wanted input on the development of citizenship laws.

Participants were also asked "what is the best method to reach them for community engagement": 77% of respondents stated that facebook was the best way with the remaining stating either by mail or telephone.

The Governance Committee is currently working with Meko Nicholas, associate director of the First Nations Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre on the development of Membertou land laws. A community meeting will be held to encourage input on draft soon. For more information on the Governance Committee and its work, please contact Cheryl Knockwood, Governance Coordinator at 564-6466 Ext. 2520.



Honouring Citizenship Workshop: L-R Cheryl Knockwood; Jane Bernard; Lawrence Wells; Jeff Ward; Pamela Paul; Karina Denny; Cheryl Simon and Jennifer Martin

Membertou Governance Committee develops workplan on Citizenship Community Engagement

Membertou has a Memorandum of Partnership with Dr. Pamela Palmater (Principal Researcher), to undertake a joint research project.

Membertou has agreed to collect oral and/or written evidence from community members related to their views about Mi'kmaw identity and belonging and to collect oral and/or written evidence from community members related to their views of Membertou membership and/or Nation-based citizenship.

Dr. Pam Palmater has agreed to give an analysis of Indian Act membership criteria; an analysis of band membership codes on a national basis, including trends in criteria, decision-making, appeals and code development; an analysis of recent case law (legal research/regulations) in relation to Aboriginal and treaty rights specific to membership and/or citizenship; to compile information related to traditional governance (historical research) for Mi'kmaq generally; and to identifying possible legislative barriers and/or requirements in relation to membership and/or citizenship which comes from acts like the Canadian Human Rights Act, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Indian Act.

At a Citizenship Workshop held on March 18 & 19, the Governance Committee developed a workplan to engage community members on this important initiative.

Our first session with Dr. Palmater will be on July 25-26, 2013.

Schedule of Upcoming Events*

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 June 12, 2013
 Governance Committee
 Membertou Seniors Centre
 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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 July 10, 2013
 Governance Committee, Youth and Elders
 Kluscap Legends Tour
 All Day

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 July 11, 2013
 Governance Committee
 Membertou Heritage Park
 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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 Sept 9-12, 2013
 Land Management Workshop
 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Membertou Heritage Park

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 *Please note the above dates are subject to change. Please confirm meeting details with Governance Coordinator prior to event.

“KISITUTESNU PILEY KELU’LK NSTU’TA’SUAQN TA’N KNIJANNAQ KSITE’TTAQQ”

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 If you are interested in viewing the land management training sessions, each was video recorded and posted on the Membertou Governance website at www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com

**GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR
 CHERYL KNOCKWOOD
 CONTACT INFORMATION**

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