



### Land Code Session with Membertou Staff a Success



**Membertou Staff Session on Land Code July 8, 2014**

The Governance Committee hosted two sessions with Membertou Staff working for the Band. These were held at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre (MTCC) ON July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The Staff were given draft copies of both the Membertou Land Code and Matrimonial Property Law. A presentation on both the code and the law was given by Membertou's lawyer Jeannie Lanine. When asked how many years a couple co-habiting in the same residence should be considered common-law and potentially entitled to a matrimonial home it caused a great debate. In the end, generally majority present felt 5 years was an adequate amount of time. Many present at the session wanted to know how they could protect their home from being considered matrimonial property subject to division in a breakdown of marriage. Jeanie Lanine stated that a couple could consider the option of signing a co-habitation, domestic partnership or prenuptial agreement whereby both parties agree that the "home" they live in will not be subject to Membertou's Matrimonial Property Law but only subject to what they agree to in the terms of the agreement.

### Membertou Youth Discuss the Land Code



**Membertou Youth Session on Land Code July 10 2014**

The Governance Committee hosted a session with the Membertou youth to discuss the Draft Membertou Land Code and Matrimonial Property (MP) Law on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The session went really well. The youth were given a copy of both the draft Membertou land code and Matrimonial Property law. Jeannie Lanine, a lawyer from Cedar Law gave an overview of both the code and the law and then facilitated a discussion with the youth. The Membertou youth generally want to ensure that those who care for the children of the marriage are entitled to the rights of the matrimonial home. This is a policy that Membertou Chief and Council currently practice and will probably be codified within the new law. Membertou also has an opportunity to determine how many years a couple living together should be considered common law under Membertou's own Matrimonial Property law. When youth were asked how many years they ranged in their response from 2-10 years. The majority of the youth however agreed 5 years should be the minimum term that individuals co-habitate before being considered a common-law marriage and potentially entitled to the "Home."



**Membertou Community Session on Land Code Door Prize Winner Shaylene Paul**  
**Community Engagement on Land Code & Matrimonial Property Law**

During the week of July 7, 2014, the Governance committee held another series of engagement sessions with the community, key staff, and Elders & youth on the Land Code and Matrimonial Property Law. In January, April and May, Membertou community members were given an opportunity to give input on and help develop a draft Membertou Matrimonial Real Property Law (MRP) and finalize the Membertou Land Code. The proposed MRP law will provide new ways to divide spousal interests in reserve land, upon marriage breakdown. The Draft Membertou Matrimonial Property law is available for review on line at the Membertou Governance website at [www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com](http://www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com) or at the Governance Coordinator's office now located the Membertou Entrepreneurship Centre. If you wish to give further input on the draft law or seek information or clarification on it please contact Cheryl Knockwood the Governance Coordinator.

**FNLAB will host next National Meeting in September at Membertou**

The First Nations Lands Advisory Board (FNLAB) will be hosting their next Annual General Meeting in Membertou from September 23-24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Membertou community members will be given an opportunity to host and meet with other communities who now manage their lands under the Framework Agreement on First Nations Land Management. If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Knockwood, Governance Coordinator at [cherylknockwood@membertou.ca](mailto:cherylknockwood@membertou.ca) or at 902-564-6466 ext. 2520. Chief and Council are always looking for your input on the Membertou Land code and Matrimonial Property Law before the vote.



Door Prize Winner Darlene Anganis

**Upcoming Events**

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**Sept 22, 2014**

**Governance Committee** 12:30-4:00 P.M.  
 Entrepreneurship Boardroom

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**Sept. 23-24, 2014**

**First Nations Lands Advisory Board AGA**  
 MTCC

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**Oct 16, 2014**

**Governance Committee** 12:30-4:00 P.M.  
 Entrepreneurship Boardroom

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

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 Video recorded training sessions available at:  
[www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com](http://www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com)

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