



MAUPELTU
TA'N TELSUTEKEK
MEMBERTOU GOVERNANCE

Maupeltu Ta'n Telsutekek - Newsletter

Nipk/Summer 2015 Edition

Membertou Elders and Youth Participate in Third Kluskap Legends Tour



(Elders ready to embark on Kluskap Legends Boat tour. Photo by Chris LaPorte)

On July 13, Membertou Elders were bussed to Mountain Vista where they boarded the Puffin Express, a 37-foot-long Cape Islander tour boat, at Bird Island Boat Tours in Big Bras D'or. The first stop was at Kluskap's caves where Membertou youth gathered at the shoreline after making the hour long hike to the cave location. The motor was then shut off and Shaylene Johnson played the hand drum and chanted a song. The next stop was Bird Island where Elders got to see grey seals, Atlantic puffins, razorbills, bald eagles, great blue heron, black guillemot, great black-backed gulls, herring gulls and black-legged kittiwakes. Information was given about each species by Captain Vince and his first mate Ian. The boat tour took approximately 2.5 hours from start to finish exploring both sides of Bird Island before returning to shore. After the tour, the Elders got on the bus and taken to Fitzgerald's Restaurant for supper. The weather was perfect for the outing which was enjoyed by all those who attended.

Winners of the Citizenship/Membership Survey Draw

The Citizenship/Membership Survey that was mailed out also included a draw for ten prizes of \$50.00 for those who completed the survey by the deadline. The draw took place at the Membertou Pharmasave. The winners were Arlene Christmas, Rhonda M. Johnson, Mary T. Doucette, Leon Rheal Plourde, Angie Doucette, Pius Marshall, Brittney Paul, Shannon Paul (Micmac Cres.), Nancy Paul, and Jeff Ward. Thank you on behalf of Membertou Governance for participating in this survey.

What is the Framework Agreement?

The Framework Agreement is a conscious effort to shed the legacy of the *Indian Act* land provisions, practices, policies and procedures. It gives the authority to govern lands and resources and is inherent and recognized. It cannot be amended without the consent of First Nations.

What is a Land Code?

It is a First Nation law that ratifies the *Framework Agreement*. It is developed by the First Nation subject to the *Framework Agreement*. It sets out the First Nation's powers and obligations for reserve land governance.



(Elders view of Membertou Youth Gathered on the Shore of the Kluskap Cave entrance.)

What changes after Membertou Land Code is ratified?

Under the Land Code, Membertou will be recognized by other governments with real legislative authority with laws enforceable in any court of competent jurisdiction. According to its own authority/approval, Membertou may: 1) Make Laws, 2) Administer Laws, 3) Enforce Laws, 4) Govern and manage Lands and Resources, and 5) Collect and expend its own revenues.

Under the *Indian Act*, First Nations are not governments; they are “wards,” “Ministerial Delegates,” and “administrators” with no law making authority. First Nations may only make legal decisions or certain bylaws that Canada approves of. Some bylaws not always enforceable. First Nations currently 1) Have no law making authority; 2) Can only create certain by-laws without Canada’s approval, 3) May make certain pre government approved administrative/ managerial decisions on behalf of Canada; 4) Manage DOJ designed licenses, leases and permits; 5) Under the Land Code, the content of the laws includes the development, conservation, protection, management, use and possession of Membertou reserve lands.

All Laws, policies, procedures, rules and legal instruments are all developed, approved and enacted by each First Nation according to its own Land Code, unique language and culture. Under the *Indian Act* laws, policies, procedures, rules and legal instruments made by Canada and must be followed by First Nations.

“Kisitutesnu piley kelu’lk nstuita’suaqn ta’n knijannaq ksite’ttaqq”

Upcoming Events

Governance Committee Meetings

- **Thursday, October 15, 2015**
- **Thursday, October 29, 2015**
- **Thursday, November 26, 2015**

All meetings take place at **Membertou Entrepreneur Centre Boardroom** from **10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Membertou Membership Code Input Sessions at Membertou Trade & Convention Centre (MTCC)

Monday, December 14, 2015

- Governance Committee, Noon – 3:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

- Women’s Session, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Youth Session, 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Community Engagement Session, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16

- Elders’ Session, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

Video recorded training sessions available at:
www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com

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