



Nłāshēdàl (People Gathering Together)
 2016 Annual General Assembly
 July 22-24, 2016
 27-Mile Aishihik Road, Yukon
Draft Summary Minutes

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Attendance

Dän nätthe dätth'I (Chief and Council)

Dän Nätthe Ada Chief Steve Smith
Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers
Elder Councillor Carol Buzzell
Councillor Rose Kushniruk
Councillor Kathleen Van Bibber
Councillor Leslie Walker
Youth Councillor Nicole Nicholas-Workman

2016 General Assembly Delegates:

NàKhū/NàKhū

(Takhini/Kusawa):

Elder: Jack Jackson Sr.
Youth: Dallayce Smith
Sheila Smith
Sally Jim
Donna Smith

Lu Ghā/Shawshe/Deisha

(Klukshu/Shawshe/Haines):

Elder: Chief Paul Birckel
Youth: Nicholas Williams
Barb Joe
Lee Clayton
Fran Peterson

Shadhāla/Ch'yenā Key

(Champagne/Hutchi):

Elder: Florence Griffith
Heather Hougen
Michelle Dawson-Beattie
Lance Fraser
(No Youth Delegate)

Ashèyi/The Yänlin

(Aishihik/Canyon):

Elder: Margaret Workman
Youth: Chase Smith-Tutin
Lena Smith-Tutin
Lorraine Allen
Lorraine Stick

DaKwäKada/K'ùā Mäan

(Haines Junction/Kloo Lake):

Elder: Virginia Allen
Youth: Ashley John (Friday)
Youth: Azriel Allen-Charlie
(Saturday/Sunday)
Barb Allen
Amanda Workman
Larry Joe

Tágà Shäw

(Whitehorse):

Elder: Marie McLaren
Youth: Cherie O'Brien
Anna Fraser
Janet Van Bibber
Debbie Workman

General Assembly Coordinator

Brenda Asp

Chairs

Victor Mitander and Jamie Joe-Hudson (Youth)

Guest Speakers

Dr. Kathryn Michel

Khäsha (Stephen Reid)

Äshäw Dän nätthe dätth'i (Elders)

James Allen

Rose Billy

Fred Chambers

Chuck Hume

Paddy Jim

Agnes MacDonald

Eileen Miersch

Martha Smith

Donna Thibodeau

Percy Allen

Kathy Birckel

Wayne Fromme

Doris Hume

Mundy Joe

Dayle MacDonald

Bertha Moose

Phyllis Smith

Rosalee Washington

Kathryn Baker

Sadie Brown

Barb Hume

John Hume

Babe John

Judy McKinnon

Daisy O'Brien

Vivian Smith

Luke Williams

Shäna (Youth, Young People)

Johnny Abel

Keinen Boss

Damien Griffith

Jacob Griffith

Savanna Griffith

Tiara Johns

Lauren McKinnon

Madelyn Mock

Cameron Sidney

Ethan Smith

Shadunjen Van Kampen

Toosis Abel

Braden Gleason

Denise Griffith

Kathleen Griffith

Jayden Hume-Berry

Austin Kirk

Annie Mock

Natane Primozic

Dayna Smith

Shyenne Sparvier-Kinney

CAFN Staff and Summer Students

Marlon Allen

Denise Beattie

Josephine Boyle

Jacquie Chambers

Rob Fendrick

Liz Gladue

Fran Asp

Darlene Blair

Roger Brown

Kim Chambers

Mauy Fraser

Chris Gleason

Paula Banks

Graham Boyd

Rita Burns

Kyra Chambers

Trish George

Lenette Graham

Sheila Greer
Paddy Jim Jr.
Lawrence Joe
Dorothy John
Tracy Kane
Florence Kushniruk
Andrew Moore
Marion Primozic
Terry Rufinage-Holway
Lilly Smith
Diane Strand
Angie Wabisca
Doreen Williams

Frederick Jackson
Tamara Jim
Millie Joe
Sheila John
Jocelyn Kinney
Venesa Lutz
Vera Owlchild
Lisa Rawlings-Bird
Sean Sheardown
Richard Smith
Shawna Strand
Sandy Wabisca
Vera Williams

Mike Jim
Juanita Joe
Nadia Joe
Brittney Johnson
Sheyanne Kinney
Amy McKinnon
Ranj Pillai
Ian Robinson
Harry Smith
Sharol Smith
George Van Sickle
Jon Widney

Citizens and Others

Derek Abel
Brittney Au
Troy Barnaby
Darrel Birckel
Patti Boss
Elaine Chambers
Val Chambers
Valerie Fromme
Natalie Green
Carmel Griffith
Erik Hoenisch, Crowe MacKay LLP
Kim Hudson
Jenny Jackson
Wayne Jim
Sheila Joe
Cody Johnston
CYFN Grand Chief Peter Johnston
Wes Kinney
Alexa McKinnon
Blanche Miersch
Candace O'Brien
J.T. Papequash
Curtis Reich
Elizabeth Smith
Kala Smith
Fred Stick Jr.
Jonah Todd
Libby Walker
Ed Workman

Willie Asp
Gail Barnaby
Kevin Billy
Rosemarie Blair-Smith
Lance Bratt
Steve Chambers
Shirley Dawson
Ryan Gleason
Sophie Green
Liz Hanson (NDP Leader)
Jessie Hudson
Wade Istchenko (MLA for Kluane)
Heather Jim
Wayne Jim (Bertha)
Colleen Joe-Titus
Ella Johnston
Silas Johnston
Robert Matthew
Ken McKinnon
Kelly Mock
Simon O'Brien
Dale Peterson
Dixie Smeeton
Freda Smith
Rick Smith
Len Thibodeau
Kevin Tutin
Shannon Walker — STTC
Sally Wright & spouse

Gopher Buddies

Sean Barnaby
Kassius Green
Erin Jim
Troy Johns
Tehya Kinney-Johns
Graham MacDonald
Douglas McKinnon
Tristen Primozic
Arlow Walker
Delilah Workman

Jasmine Burns
Alea Griffith
Dakota Jackson
Kyra Jones
Harmony Lutz
Marshall MacDonald
Frankie Moose Jr.
Jordana Scurvey
Isabelle Walker
Drake Workman

Trenton Dolsen
Anya Jim
Nevada Joe
Marley Kinney
Justus Lutz
Rorie MacDonald
Nints'ia Murphy
Adrianna Sidney
Michael Wally

Cooks

Amanda Billy
Bonnie Chambers — Head Cook
Darlene Jim
Jaylene Owlchild

Lawrence Blake
Claude Herman
Maryanne Joe

EOP Crew

Dion Billy
Lydia Jim
Riley Jonathan
Jared Owlchild
Cody Smith
Raymond Stick

Earl Darbyshire
Alec Joe Sr.
Kathleen Jones — Coordinator
Eddi Shorty
Edward Smith

Legal

Dave Joe
Alexa McLaren

CAFN Trust

Angelica Green
Nathan McGowan — Chair
Clint McQuaig
Frances Oles

Day 1: Friday, July 22, 2016

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Chief Steve Smith called the Assembly called to order at 9:30 a.m. **Lorraine Stick** opened the Assembly with prayer.

2. Welcoming Remarks and Moment of Silence

Chief Steve Smith said he always looks forward to seeing everyone, no matter how many GAs he has attended in the past. He said, “You get to hang out, argue a little bit — just what families do. You get tired of one another by Sunday and you say, ‘Okay, see you next year.’”

Part of the strategy of having the General Assembly at Aishihik was to show Yukon Energy and ATCO Electric in particular that CAFN is tied to the area, will fight for it and do everything to protect it. This is the kick-off year of the Aishihik Lake relicensing procedures that will culminate in a new licence in 2019. He noted that it also enables a better opportunity to attach to one another and connect where the kids get to play together and build that connection.

The past year has been busy. CAFN are the lead litigants on Bill S-6. Council has spent a lot of time trying to rework the administration to make it more efficient and effective. A major consultation on Citizen services and programming was undertaken. There were good turnouts and a lot of feedback was received.

He said that the majority of his meetings are internal CAFN meetings. Attending outside conferences and meetings can demand time but he has made a conscious effort to focus on his work for Champagne and Aishihik.

There was a Moment of Silence observed for those who have passed.

3. General Assembly Business

(a) Introduction and Acceptance of Chair/Youth Chair

- **Chief Steve Smith** introduced the **General Assembly Chair, Victor Mitander**.
- **Jamie Joe-Hudson** said she was honoured to serve as the Youth Co-Chair.

General Assembly Motion 2016-1 To accept Victor Mitander as Chair and Jamie Joe-Hudson as Youth Co-Chair of the 2016 General Assembly.

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Chief Paul Birckel
Decision: Passed by consensus

(b) Review and Approval of Agenda

- **Chair Victor Mitander** reviewed the Agenda.

General Assembly Motion 2016-2 To accept the 2016 General Assembly agenda as presented.

Moved by: Lena Smith-Tutin
Seconded by: Barb Allen
Decision: Passed by consensus

(c) Review and Approval of General Assembly Rules of Order

- **Chair Victor Mitander** reviewed the 2016 GA Rules of Order.
- Regarding camping areas, **Sally Jim** requested that operation of four-wheelers be shut down at 10 p.m.
- **Lee Clayton** requested clarification on whether it's the Chief or the Chair who would provide a tie-breaker vote. **Chair Victor Mitander** responded that the Chairperson does not have a vote. The Chief would provide the tie-breaker.
- **Lee Clayton** inquired whether quorum was 30 Delegates and 40 members for a total of 70. **Chair Victor Mitander** confirmed that quorum is 40 Citizens.

General Assembly Motion 2016-3 To accept the 2016 General Assembly Rules of Order as presented.

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Marie McLaren
Decision: Passed by consensus

- There were roundtable introductions of the Delegates and Chief and Council.

(d) Resolutions Procedures and Deadline

- **Director or Capacity & Policy Development, Fran Asp**, reviewed section 24 of the *Constitution of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations 2012* regarding the mandate of the General Assembly; as well the General Assembly resolution process.
- **Lee Clayton** inquired as to whether passed Resolutions have a sunset provision on how long they remain in force.
- **Chief Steve Smith** responded that generally there is no time limit on them.

The Assembly adjourned for a Health Break at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:48 a.m.

(e) Appointment of Resolution Committee

General Assembly Motion 2016-4 To appoint Kim Hudson, Ashley John, Ian Robinson, Sheila Smith and Janet Van Bibber to the Resolution Committee with Alexa McLaren and Dave Joe providing legal and technical support.

Moved by: Sally Jim
Seconded by: Heather Hougen
Decision: Passed by consensus

(f) Review and Approval of 2015 General Assembly Minutes

General Assembly Motion 2016-5 To accept the minutes of the 2015 General Assembly as presented.

Moved by:	Lorraine Stick
Seconded by:	Larry Joe
Decision:	Passed by consensus

(g) Resolutions Update from 2015 General Assembly

- **Executive Director, Ranj Pillai**, reviewed the current status of the 2015 General Assembly Resolution directives. Hard copies were made available.

➤ **Resolution 2015-01 Bill S-6 Amendments to YESAA**

- CAFN was a leader over the last year in this challenge. Staff have invested considerable time and energy in leading a coordinated approach with nine other self-governing First Nations in challenging Bill S-6.
 - \$40,000 was allocated for legal expenses but only \$22,000 was spent.
 - CAFN reached an agreement with 10 self-governing First Nations repealing Bill S-6 during the Intergovernmental Forum.
 - The court challenge remains in effect until Parliament passes an amending bill — which may be tabled this fall — and other YESAA matters are addressed.

➤ **Resolution 2015-02 Traditional Language Strategy**

- The Draft language mandate, strategy and backgrounder are developed.
- Mandate and strategy will be discussed with Elders prior to Chief and Council's acceptance.
 - Developed with the assistance from Language, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee and key staff, Citizens and other experts.
 - Additional \$50,000 budgeted this year to support further language efforts. Some efforts are already underway such as the week-long all-Citizen language lesson pilot.
 - Traditional territory signage is ready to be installed; development of more signage is also included in the strategy.
 - Southern Tutchone dictionary is nearing completion and will form the foundation for development of a computer application.
 - Citizen registration form includes a space for traditional names.

➤ **Resolution 2015-03 Education Support**

- Education department reviewed all student files; they identified 17 students in 2012-13 and 24 students in 2013-14 who had Yukon Grant amounts deducted from their living allowances.
 - The amount was approved in the supplemental budget, Chief and Council approved the repayment and students were reimbursed in February 2016 in accordance with the Finance Policy.

➤ **Resolution 2015-04 Constitution Review Committee**

- There will be a review of the *Constitution* and a committee will be established this fall under the direction of Chief and Council.
 - There was an approved budget allocation in 2016-17 to undertake this work.

- CAFN will conduct this review and present it to General Assembly in 2017 to be consistent with the current constitutional amendment process.
- That each community was to have their own “mini-committee” that would do their work over the past year and then provide direction was not followed through on.
- The recommendation now is that before Chief and Council identify the Constitution Review Committee, there would be consultation sessions held in each community.

➤ **Resolution 2015-05 Status Cards**

- When CAFN signed the land claim agreements, they became non-eligible in the Yukon to be tax exempt, but if a person ordinarily lives outside of the Yukon for more than three months, they can be tax exempt. Canada is issuing status cards stating that CAFN is no longer exempt.
- A letter drafted by Governance and signed by the Chief has been sent to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to seek clarification and make correction to the existing status cards, if required. They are awaiting a response.

➤ **Resolution 2015-06 Aishihik Village Infrastructure and Maintenance**

- Assessment by Property Services occurred on August 3.
- Roof repairs on Treatment Centre in October 2015; repairs to the Treatment Centre and cabins scheduled for 2016.
- Improvements to the road in Aishihik Village April 2016.
- Landfill was decommissioned.
- Commitment from the Yukon government to repair bridges on Aishihik Road in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

➤ **Resolution 2015-07 Location of General Assembly — *defeated***

➤ **Resolution 2015-08 Protection of CAFN Traditional Territory**

- CAFN will have this as summer student project to develop a brochure for their Traditional Territory and a plan for signage.
- CAFN Government is currently engaging with Yukon government concerning an updated Intergovernmental Accord. One of the priorities of the accord is the impact of bison hunters. Potential output from the talks will hopefully increase funding to be used to support a CAFN bison hunting communication strategy.

➤ **Resolution 2015-09 — *defeated***

➤ **Resolution 2015-10 Water Protection and Preservation**

- \$240,000 in federal funding to develop the CAFN water strategy and CAFN will be working with Yukon College and the University of Saskatchewan on the two-year project. Nadia Joe and Jocelyn Joe-Strack are contracted to work on the water strategy. Both have Masters degrees with a focus related to water.
- Initial work on water legislation is in the current year’s work plan and CAFN has signed a protocol agreement with Yukon Energy Corporation regarding the re-licensing of the Aishihik dam and establishing a community advisory committee.

- Exploring further funding and partnership opportunities to implement the CAFN water strategy.

➤ **Resolution 2015-11 No Alcohol at Da Ku Cultural Centre**

- The CAFN Government has respected the Resolution; there has been no events with alcohol since the 2015 GA.

➤ **Resolution 2015-12 Increase CAFN Housing Stock**

- Purchase of the Habitat for Humanity tri-plex in Takhini River Subdivision is being negotiated and funding options are being evaluated.
 - The Property Services work plan and Capital budget includes construction projects to be funded with external funds i.e. CMHC, Building Canada, INAC and applications are pending.
 - Planning for a supported living facility has been passed in the budget for 2016 with construction for 2017.
 - Planning for four small homes in 2016 with construction in 2017.

➤ **Resolution 2015-13 Support for Diabetes**

- Foot Clinics: the nurse engaged to do the work is in the process of obtaining insurance under another nurse who has the coverage. Insurance is needed due to the nature of the work involved.
 - There is support to stay with the nurse involved because she is a CAFN Citizen and because of her connection with Citizens and Elders. She will also offer an educational component through a workshop or one-on-one sessions with clients.
 - The money is budgeted for the fiscal year to complete this work.

➤ **Resolution 2015-14 Educating CAFN Citizens on the Implications of Their Vote**

- Sue Edelman, Chief Returning Officer for Haines Junction, reported that the number of votes at the beginning of the election was 678 and the number at the end was 703 and registrations were 25.
 - An e-mail sent to Communication Manager, Amy McKinnon commended the First Nation on the high turnout for Citizens; the results were related to CAFN Citizens' efforts.

➤ **Resolution 2015-15 Self-Reliance Through CAFN Community Development**

- There is support for any community to form a community association; to date, there has been one application from Takhini River Subdivision. The nominal registration fee that is to be paid to Yukon Corporate Services can be covered through the Executive Council Office. It was emphasized that the CAFN Economic Development Officer is committed to helping interested community leaders/organizers with navigating the process of building a community association. The community development fund can be accessed by community associations.
 - CAFN has provided opportunities to a number of youth and adults to attend the Pursuit of Excellence training in BC earlier this year. Although it may not be looked upon

as “traditional” leadership training, Pursuit of Excellence training builds healthier, more focused individuals which is a foundation for leadership.

- Lands and Resources department is planning to complete community plans for Takhini and Haines Junction this year. Consultation has been occurring in both communities and feedback has been received. Documents will hopefully be tabled by November. This will result in CAFN government having identified the appropriate lands for increased residential and commercial development.

- There are two routes very close to being completed for the registration of self-governing lands: one being led by Yukon government with Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the other system that includes CAFN and a number of other self-governing First Nations.

- The plans for Champagne and Klukshu are being reviewed and updated. Citizens have requested that lands not being developed are reallocated.

- CAFN Government hired three Citizens to write proposals for the National Indian Brotherhood for the Indian Residential School Education and Wellness personal funding. Successful applicants will receive these funds to engage in educational and cultural activities. Each application was up to \$20,000; 32 applications were submitted for a total ask of \$640,000.

- Settlement land planning is underway with the support of a three-year INAC contribution agreement.

- Champagne Aishihik Community Corp (CACC) has purchased lot 52 — fee simple land — adjacent to Da Ku. Colliers International, a national commercial land planner, will be looking at best practices to develop the property.

- Business development: small businesses have been supported through Entrepreneur Equity Fund (EEF) and Business Employment Enhancement Fund (BEEF); support for bidding and contracting by small businesses

- Support for Artists

- Trades: exploring Blue Seal program for Citizen journeymen and working with Property Services to launch contractors into business; purchase of trades equipment and vehicle

- Cultural and Economic Opportunities in the Traditional Territory for Citizen entrepreneurs.

- Re-establishment of the CAFN Source List

➤ **Resolution 2015-16 CAFN Citizen Hire** — *Removed as preferential hiring policy already being implemented.*

➤ **Resolution 2015-17 Whitehorse Office Closure** — *Withdrawn*

➤ **Resolution 2015-18 CAFN to Oppose Fracking**

- It's important to be responsible for future generations in how emissions and by-products of fossil fuels are managed.

- CAFN Government supported the 2013 Council of Yukon First Nations Resolution to ban fracking in the Traditional Territory and CAFN Government will uphold the 2015 CYFN General Assembly Resolution to oppose fracking.

- **Resolution 2015-19 Economic Development**
 - All of the economic development work at a grassroots level is referenced in the update on Resolution 2015-15: Self-Reliance Through CAFN Community Development.
 - The Community Corporation undertook the completion of the contract from Wildfire Management. Now that the corporation is in a positive and stable situation financially, it will be moving forward to complete the direction in the Resolution.

- **Resolution 2015-20 School Bus Transportation**
 - The previous contractor providing school bus services to Yukon government was released due to performance and safety concerns.
 - There is a contractor in place and no complaints have been received.

- **Resolution 2015-21 No Smoking at Old Champagne Hall — *Withdrawn***
- **Resolution 2015-22 Management Committee Restructuring — *Defeated***

- **Resolution 2015-23 Health and Medical Care**
 - No formal research for a medical board or authority was completed. The negotiation team said that the population size, insurance, capacity, ability to recruit and retain a doctor are all considerations in assuming responsibility of a health centre or clinic. Due to these issues, it would only be possible in collaboration with the Yukon government.
 - There will be further investigation into Kwanlin Dün First Nation's health care infrastructure and resources.

- **Resolution 2015-24 Trails and Historic Villages in CAFN Traditional Territory**
 - CAFN Government is developing a trail policy in 2016 that will identify and give direction for use of traditional and publicly used trails in CAFN settlement lands.
 - Historic villages will be addressed as part of the land use planning process that is currently underway.
 - It is hoped that feedback from Citizens will assist Lands to develop a culturally informed policy.
 - A future CAFN Heritage Act may also include heritage designations.

- **Resolution 2015-25 CAFN Youth Van**
 - The request was submitted in the 2016-17 budget; it was moved to Capital purchases within gas tax funding where an application was submitted to Yukon government for approval.
 - A summer student has been working with youth from Whitehorse and Takhini. There were several field trips, including Kusawa and Pine Lake. The student is assisting with the science camp being held at Takhini, chaperoning Our Voices at Kathleen Lake and helping Lands recruit youth for First Hunt and First Fish.
 - Further activities include river rafting and a finale get-together.
 - During the winter months, Community Wellness staff and Education staff partner and plan weekly activities.

- One challenge with the purchase of the van is ensuring that someone with a Class 4 licence is always available.

Questions/Comments:

Lee Clayton: Regarding diabetes funding [Resolution 2015-13], will that be available on an annual basis?

Ranj Pillai: Absolutely. This is something that I believe that the Community Wellness department is committed to. Part of our challenge is making sure we navigate the issues of insurance and liability.

Lee Clayton: Regarding the Resolution for providing health and medical care for First Nation people [Resolution 2015-23], I wonder if this weekend we shouldn't have the committee get together and discuss opportunities or options because I think it's a really important issue and it needs further discussion.

Ranj Pillai: If there is direction tabled by the General Assembly to do so, we'll take that direction and navigate through a consultation process. It is happening in different parts of the country where you have culturally specific hubs but they're also recruiting health care professionals to come to the First Nation.

Margaret Workman: For years, we have been coming to General Assemblies and asking about the treatment centre at Aishihik and who owns it. It sits right in the middle of our Traditional Territory. We have a summer cultural camp a couple of miles down from it. Last year, they were trying to get students housed there. At that time, they told us they can't do that because we don't have the key; we have no access to it. Now they have vandalized that building; they have taken the door and all the kitchen appliances. Somebody took a big van in there and hauled all of it out. We don't know who did it. They left the freezer behind because I guess they couldn't load it on. We were planning to ask politely to see if we could use that building this year but now it will be too late. The public thinks nobody cares.

Ranj Pillai: I'll work with [Director of Property Services], George [Van Sickle]. I know there's a history where there was a non-profit organization and that seems to be the confusion. Without overstepping my authority or responsibility, it makes sense to me that that infrastructure is in place, properly secured — which was what we tried to do last year so there wasn't more damage — but also accessible to the Citizens in the community who live there. We will make a commitment, over the next 30 days, to do an assessment of the building and then we can talk through Lawrence [Joe] because he has a community advisory group that's working on the water relicensing so we can report back to the advisory group. We'll go back to Chief and Council about access to the asset to figure out what happened to the assets that were in that building.

Chief Steve Smith: In the last year, we've talked about it. We have two camps: one at 29-Mile and one at the end of the airport. We need some direction from the Assembly. I propose that you put a Resolution on the floor for giving us direction. If we get your support in this, then we can start to get those items that we do have left moved to the camps that we already have.

Lorraine Stick: The Culture Camp is happening July 28 to August 3 at Aishihik. My husband was just in there this past weekend. He was a bit concerned about two bridges at 60-Mile and Big Tree Creek. The water was getting higher; therefore, the bridge was being affected to the point where it's not usable. If they're still going to have

the culture camp, we have to ensure that the road and the bridge has been checked before anyone goes there, especially if we're taking big loads and hauling four-wheelers.

I wanted to talk about the Indian residential school education program that came forward where people put in an application for \$20,000. I am a product, you could say, of residential school, but a survivor. I didn't even know about this; therefore, my children and I didn't have the opportunity to put in the application. Is that going to come back on the table again?

Ranj Pillai: I'm not sure if the individual funding pot is coming back to the table. There may be group funding. Diane [Strand] is attending a potlatch but she'll be here in Sunday and I'll speak with her about that.

Debbie Workman: The cultural centre also includes those cabins. Every year I ask: Who has control of the cabins? Who has the keys? Why do people get to use it but we don't seem to have access?

There seems to be a communication problem. That Pursuit of Excellence thing [update on Resolution 2015-15] that happened when the students went south — a lot of us never heard a thing about it until the kids were leaving town.

Like Lorraine [Stick] mentioned about accessing funding, how do we know what's going on? If you don't own a computer, basically you're out of the loop.

Ranj Pillai: I'll have a discussion with the Director of Community Wellness. Our Communication team is extremely strong. We will get advisement from you on how you feel we should be making sure we communicate. I will get back to you from an accountability perspective on how we table the information for that opportunity and find out if you have individuals in mind that we should have communicated with — and we didn't.

Barb Allen: I want to comment about NIB [National Indian Brotherhood] funding. I helped a couple of non-Champagne and Aishihik people fill it out because they didn't qualify under Champagne and Aishihik. There are limits put on the people who were filling them out. They could only fill out for certain areas; another one was only for Elders. The person who was actually advertising that she was doing it had to turn people away and kept telling them, 'go to this person', 'go to this person.' When they did, they never got access to that person; they never got their application in. If you're going to do it that way, maybe you need to have a person in each community. Another way to do it is to hire a couple of students and phone your membership. We did that before with Aishihik relicensing; it worked fine; it got people out. There are other ways of advertising because not everybody checks CAFN website all the time and if you don't have connections with who's doing it, you don't have access to it, you miss a lot of people.

I want to talk about Self-Reliance Through CAFN Community Development [Resolution 2015-15]. With the leadership training, we need to offer more than just Pursuit of Excellence because not everybody is into that. There has to be other types of training.

My last one is about the Health and Medical Care [Resolution 2015-23]. We should be able to have a joint venture with Yukon government or even the local nursing station. In the past, we had a registered nurse who worked at Champagne and Aishihik

as well as at the health station. You should be able to negotiate where that nurse could travel to the different communities to meet with Elders or people with diabetes.

Ranj Pillai: I think the phone bank is a great idea especially for reaching out to people one-on-one and it's an opportunity for students.

Going back to what you said about the nursing station, I want to have some discussions. With regard to leadership, you're right; there are other things besides Pursuit and we can look at other ideas.

Lee Clayton: I wanted to follow up on the concern about the bridge. I wonder if the Canadian Rangers could initiate an exercise where it's part of their training to look into those types of things.

Ranj Pillai: I think every GA in the last 20 years has talked about the Aishihik Road. The challenge is the obligation to maintain it to a certain level because there's a territorial campground. For the road itself from the Alaska Highway to the Village, there has been a push and pull between it being the responsibility of the Yukon government and at the same time, the people in Aishihik and also the Citizens of Champagne and Aishihik who are also there using the services having access to it. It continues to be a hot potato. If the Rangers come in, part of our challenge is that once something happens, who will have the responsibility? [Director of Lands and Resources], Lawrence Joe was in discussion with the Deputy Minister, Angus Robertson and the Yukon government has purchased three bridges but they're not going to put them in until next year. We need to have a discussion with the person who preps the road for the GA about what we can do in the short-term for the bridges to make sure they're in proper shape. The Aishihik Road and bison hunting are two of the top-three items that are on the Intergovernmental Accord.

I want to thank all the Directors, Managers and the staff. I'm proud of our responses today. There has been a tremendous amount of work done. We keep in mind that we're working for the people here at the General Assembly.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 12:09 p.m. and reconvened at 1:13 p.m.

4. Review and Approval — CAFN Financial Audit

- **Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers** referenced the document: *2014-18 Vision and Priorities — Self-Governing to Self-Reliance* and one of the initiatives of Better Government is “ensuring financial resources are used effectively.” As a result, there was the creation of the Finance Standing Committee which has been in place for a year.

- Composition: Chief Steve Smith; Chair, Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers; Executive Director, Ranj Pillai; Finance Director, Trish George; and Fran Asp, Director of Capacity and Policy Development.

- Chief and Council approved the committee's terms of reference which highlights a number of areas that will be focused on, including duties and responsibilities. One of the main objectives of the committee is to ensure that Chief and Council is fulfilling their oversight responsibilities with respect to CAFN's financial matters.

- The committee developed a strategic priorities document that highlighted eight focus areas:

- i. Roles and responsibilities i.e. Chief and Council, Directors, Management Committee and staff.

- ii. Finance function and structure: ensuring that other departments that do finance functions such as Education, Community Wellness, Housing are connected and working with the same policies and procedures.
- iii. Using financial systems and reporting to ensure that financial statements are done on a timely basis and projects are running within the approved budgets.
- iv. Continue to develop First Nation capacity and education of financial responsibilities government wide.
- v. Improving budget processes; using consistent templates and drafting budgets at the management table to present to Chief and Council.
- vi. Asset Management, e.g. Houses, tents, trucks, ski-doo's, artwork, computers
- vii. Accounts receivable continues to be an issue for Champagne and Aishihik.
- viii. Project management to ensure contribution agreements and projects are done on time and within budget.

Chief Financial Officer, Rob Fendrick reviewed the financial statements. The auditor, **Erik Hoenisch** of Crowe MacKay LLP was also on hand to answer inquiries. Rob Fendrick noted the work of the **Finance Director, Trish George** and the Department of Finance in order to have the financial statements completed in such a timely manner.

Questions/Comments:

Barb Joe: I have a question about Note 6, Accounts Receivable on page 14. Can I get an explanation about the Loans, Rental receivables and Receivables from other governments?

Director of Finance, Trish George: The Loans and student support receivables — there were some old loans from years ago that have just sat there.

Rental receivables is rent paid from within Champagne and Aishihik housing.

Receivables from other governments and funding agencies are contribution agreements from Government of Canada and YTG.

Barb Joe: Are the loans from individuals going to stay on the record forever? Is there any action taken to try to get the loans back? I was at a GA maybe 10 years ago and this was still an item on the financial statements.

Trish George: We have payroll deductions and honoraria deductions. One of the priorities of the Finance Standing Committee is looking at different processes to collect from outstanding receivables.

Barb Joe: Does that also include housing arrears?

Trish George: Yes.

Barb Joe: Does that include small claims court?

Trish George: It is an option and also reporting to credit agencies.

Heather Hougén: Can you give a breakdown of Allowance for doubtful accounts? Does that come from the loans and student support?

Erik Hoenisch: It is an estimate of all receivables that are out there; how many of them will be collected and how many are likely not to be collected. The amount has not changed from 2015 to 2016. We as auditors go through the list of receivables, we talk with management and we look for their explanation as to why they think some older receivables are going to be collected and the ones that aren't collected — we make an

allowance for them. That is an area that auditors spend a lot of time on; it's basically on a person-by-person basis.

Heather Hougén: Do you have an indication of how much of that is, say, rental receivables. Where does that specifically come from?

Erik Hoenisch: That is all rental.

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: This continues to be an issue for every Chief and Council. Rental arrears continue to increase. That will be discussed in the Housing Standing Committee's presentation.

We don't offer a loans program anymore. It's a continuation of old, outstanding loans. If a student goes to school and then drops out but doesn't tell us and we continue to give them living allowance, we have to write that down as a receivable. That's a very small percentage each year. Our Education department is very active with our students so that has drastically slowed down. Rental receivables are the main driver in this case.

Lee Clayton: What percentage of sampling is in the audit?

Erik Hoenisch: One thing we look at is the concept of materiality; in other words, how important is a particular account to the overall financial statements. If the account has some very large balances or transactions, we would look at those for sure and then we would take a sample of the ones below that. The amounts of the sample are based on formulas that have been determined and they're randomly chosen so it's not biased. If there's a population of 100, and the formula says we have to pick 10, we pick every 10th item and then we focus on that one as we look for the support for that. There are a variety of different auditing tools that can be used — not only sampling but also looking at what you would call an "analytical review" where you would look at the balance from last year, you look at this year and if there's a big difference, you follow up as to why there's a difference.

Lee Clayton: Your percentage of sample is adequate to uncover any possible exceptions in the audit?

Erik Hoenisch: Yes. The audit report states that the "financial statements present fairly, in all material respects." That's a key point because it's material. If I'm looking at a balance and it's \$100,000 and they have a \$500 error in there, I'm not going to get too excited about it. But if I found a \$10,000 error on a \$15,000 transaction, that's something to follow up on.

Lee Clayton: How many corrections were recommended in this last audit?

Erik Hoenisch: As part of the audit, we prepare journal entries and adjustments. I don't have the number off the top of my head, but those are sometimes brought to us by the Finance Department as they're cleaning up their books at the end of the year. The audit actually goes very smoothly because while the books aren't perfect, they are pretty close. If they weren't, I wouldn't be sitting here right now because the audit would not be finished.

Barb Joe: On page 12, Note 2, Segmented Information — contract services and professional fees. How does Champagne and Aishihik go about doing contracts? Do they have a bid process, a tendering process, an RFP process? If you want to make Citizens self-reliant and if you want Citizens applying for contracts, how do they go about getting access to contracts? Between contract services and professional fees, it's probably \$1.2 million. I notice on the Champagne and Aishihik website, First Nation

Citizens are able to provide information to a database. What is that database used for and how does it relate to the bidding, tendering and RFP process?

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: Just to clarify, professional fees are lawyers and audits. We usually put the audit out for tender every year.

Ranj Pillai: For legal this year, we advertised for the summer GA. It was granted to the Citizen who was interested and had a legal background which was Dave Joe. We haven't hired any legal this year. We haven't had consistent legal which we've had in the past for Chief and Council meetings. We're trying to decide how we can continue to keep our legal costs as low as possible. We have used Jocelyn Barrett who has worked with the First Nation for the last number of years; she's a labour lawyer.

How Citizens get opportunities is a challenge. When I started in February of last year, at the time, our Capital Manager had adapted a process from Yukon Housing as well as Yukon government for an RFP process. Our request for proposals normally would be focused on work opportunities for construction — maintenance contracts for housing or buildings that we have or even work that we would want done in, say, Aishihik which was one that we put out last year.

We want to make sure that we're managing projects effectively, on time and with proper costing. We've reduced our projects for 12 months to make sure that we had a good system in place and we don't have any cost overruns. Secondly, there is an understanding, at least with this Chief and Council, that we should be outsourcing to as many contractors who are CAFN as possible and reducing the amount of work that's done in-house. Any new builds for houses or larger structures will all be work that we're tendering out.

To make sure our RFP process is accountable and has integrity, we've adapted processes from other governments. But the challenge is that the RFP process has been really failing us in that it's so stringent; it turns some of our Citizens away from applying. On other projects where we tried to reduce the stringency, we've had contractors who are Citizens get upset and feel it's overbearing when we ask for a budget. We're running a government and we need to get a budget from a contractor.

We had two contracts last year — one in Haines Junction and one in Aishihik — where instead of doing an RFP, we did an expression of interest which is not as legally binding and not as cumbersome for the contractors who are Citizens and we can get an idea of who wants to do work. Our challenge in at least one or two of those was we received extremely high proposals. We don't want to pay 300 percent over the cost to do something. We don't want to spend \$27,000 patching holes on a roof. Then we're stuck in a situation where we strategize and then we end up employing our own journeymen to do this work — which we don't want to do.

What I see as a solution: as you'll see on our website, there's a posted position for a Capital Manager. The two main goals of that position are asset management — you're paying for that position through funding from Yukon government to assess our assets. Also, that person's job is to properly assess things that need to be done and to put that work into the hands of other people, primarily Citizens.

What I see us doing is one side of the organization is putting tenders out in a way where it's not cumbersome but it's accountable; and on the other side we have our Economic Development Officer who works with those contractors to make sure that the information they submit is appropriate.

Barb Joe: You specifically answered under Property Services; you didn't talk about Lands and Resources, Language, Culture and Heritage, Community Wellness or the Executive Office that have other contracts listed here under Contract Services.

Ranj Pillai: Chief and Council were adamant that we not go into a sole-source situation. There were contractors — Citizens or non-Citizens — who seemed to be hired year after year. Within our first year, we did a request for proposal that was led by Lands and Resources and Language, Culture and Heritage. We identified a series of different specialty areas and we posted that. For the last year, we made sure that individuals would have had to respond to that listing. That's how we went through the bulk of our contracts last year. We have hired people to do small contracts for specific tasks where they were experts. For a data project, we just signed a contract for an economist, Paul Kishchuk.

We need an updated list of contractors and their specialty. Part of our negotiations with a resource contract right now is potentially using external funds to pay for that process to happen. In the meantime, we want to have a call-out for people who want to help in specific areas.

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: Along with the tendering and bidding process that we're working on, there will be a preferential component for Champagne and Aishihik Citizens who apply.

Sally Jim: What happened to Kilrich and Castle Rock?

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: As Erik [Hoenisch] presented here, Champagne and Aishihik has to do a consolidated version which means the Trust and Dakwakada although we are not directing the operations of how that is being done. That's why we requested that the Trust comes here today at 6:00 p.m. to provide an update to the Citizens about the decisions. Chief and Council can't answer those questions here.

Janet Van Bibber: If somebody doesn't know how to write bids, is there someone who can assist them with that? Can somebody access previous bid amounts to get an idea of what is a reasonable amount to bid?

Ranj Pillai: For the first question, support would come from the Economic Development office. Speaking about previous bids, accountability and disclosure is something that we strive for — spending money in the government is transparent. But with regard to a specific situation, we have to understand legally what we're allowed to do.

Janet Van Bibber: There are bids put in to clean buildings or housing maintenance in Takhini.

Ranj Pillai: We can provide the costing of what we spend on maintenance and what we spend on contracts. With regard to disclosing exact amounts to contractors that we currently use, I'm going to defer to Dave Joe about the legal ramifications.

Dave Joe: My advice to Champagne and Aishihik is that you should not provide that because you are in breach of the terms of your contract. They can give general guidelines, but not address the specificity of the actual amount in each of the contracts.

Larry Joe: In working with governments, you can pick up this information anywhere. I think it's shared information — a list of contracts, how much they were given for and to who.

Janet Van Bibber: On page 13, I would like an explanation for departments with deficits like the Da Ku Cultural Centre.

Trish George: It's just a comparison. Page 12 is the last fiscal year; page 13 is the financial information ending in 2015. If you look at page 12, there's none, other than the financial trust which is just basically amortization.

Elaine Chambers: We have [accumulated surplus] \$74 million, and in our [long-term debt] we only have \$488,000 owing in mortgages. Some mortgages expire in 2018. There are so many housing demands by our Citizens so this should be one of the priorities that the First Nation needs to look at. Our houses are paid for by 2018. I hope these questions will be answered at the housing discussion.

What's happening with home ownership? A lot of these homes are paid for and people are still paying rent. If there are things that need to be repaired, get those houses fixed. Give homeownership to the people so they can maintain those homes themselves.

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: We will be discussing that tomorrow. On page 18, Note 13, most of our mortgages are coming due in the next two and a half years.

Janet Van Bibber: Further to my question, if you look at March 31, 2016 on page 12, can you explain the deficit for Elders' Benefits?

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: You can see Financial and Trust Activities /Elders' Benefits. The audit lumps all of those activities together. Underneath, you will see a \$5-million deficit — loss — and if you move over to the left, that's due to the Investment. There was a large unrealized loss in the Trust this year. The markets dipped and the value of the Trust went down. But we didn't cash out so we didn't lose so that's why it's called "unrealized"; but in terms of accounting, that shows the loss. Again, because we're consolidated, Champagne and Aishihik has to report on the Trust and Dakwakada.

Barb Joe: On page 27, number 25: Is there an explanation for contaminated sites assessments?

Erik Hoenisch: A number of years ago, the Public Sector Accounting Board required that a government disclose if there are environmental issues that need to be addressed in the future. Right now, we have been informed by management that there are some sites that might require a liability that need to be reported at a contaminated site. If the First Nation knows that there is a site that needs to be cleaned up — when maybe that cleanup doesn't need to happen for the next 10 or 20 years — you have to set aside money for it or you have to account for it today. We say in here that that assessment hasn't been done. Perhaps after the assessment is done, there is no contamination that needs to be fixed, but right now we don't know.

Chief Paul Birckel: About the Agent Orange that was sprayed on the pipeline right-of-way, especially in the Klukshu area, one of the documents I received was that you can get Parkinson's from it. Seeing as I was diagnosed with Parkinson's recently, I wonder if it's a liability or if there are ways of getting tested to see if that's the case.

Director of Lands & Resources, Lawrence Joe: We originally conducted some research at Klukshu that looked at contamination of herbicide applications back in the 1950s and I think you were Chief at the time. We did a number of environmental studies

and soil sampling. The next step that's still outstanding is conducting lipid or fat sampling.

We also have filed a specific claim. Dave [Joe] has recently had some correspondence; the feds think it's a closed issue. More discussion is required so it's not concluded from my perspective and it's something that needs further investigation.

General Assembly Motion 2016-6 To accept Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 as presented.

Moved by: Lee Clayton
Seconded by: Lorraine Stick
Decision: Passed by consensus

- **Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers** directed particular attention to the charts on pages 24 to 28 reflecting budgeted revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2016-17 in the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations 2015-16 Annual Report*.

5. Community Roundtable and Feedback

➤ Łu Ghą/Shawshe/Deisha (Klukshu/Shawshe/Haines)

Barb Joe provided a list of community concerns and a “wish list”.

- There should be a large outdoor shelter built outside the Community Hall so meetings can be held outside; similar to the structure that's located at Airport Lake. Some meetings do not need to make use of the big hall and its exorbitant rental costs.
 - The water hose should be connected as soon as the snow melts.
 - A community well for potable water. Look at the geology of the area to see if a well is possible.
 - Cellphone service. This could be a negotiated agreement with U.S. Homeland Security as they may want to ensure cell service/phone service along the Haines Road as well. Land lines are not very well coordinated with Northwestel. It's hard to get phone service, repairs and connections. There are a number of people there in the summer and for emergency purposes, it makes sense to give that consideration.
 - There should be signage at the front entrance of Klukshu and a “No Dumping” sign.
 - House numbers and street names.
 - The community garbage container has brush growing over the access. There are small trees growing in the road. Large trees are growing across the creek and may impede salmon spawning grounds.
 - Annual FireSmart of community lands.
 - Pump-out toilets and garbage containers. No need to hire Champagne and Aishihik staff to come down to do the work; the garbage container can be contracted out to a local resident to empty on an as-needed basis.
 - A helicopter landing zone for emergency purposes.

- Need for a new cemetery in the Klukshu area.
- Champagne and Aishihik hired someone from Haines Junction to come to Klukshu to clean the Klukshu Community Hall. It makes sense that a local Klukshu resident be hired to do the cleaning as needed.
 - First aid training: train residents on how and when to use the defibrillator that's located in the hall and how to access it.
 - Summer students in Klukshu to provide community clean-up, brush clearing, and learning survival skills.
 - Annual spring clean-up of all yards. Some yards had large amounts of debris following the spring melt which could eventually attract bears.
 - Tourism: explore making Klukshu a stop-in point, including discussions on the Golden Circle route; Holland America and Carnival Cruise Lines —packaged tours developed on a controlled basis. Promotes First Nation culture.
 - Recommend archaeology survey with locals who have the skills and understanding of archaeology and heritage to be included.
 - Formation of a non-profit society or a community association where the locals get together to determine plans for the community rather than from a top-down approach.
 - There should be an advocate for Elders with an assessment of ongoing Elders' changing needs; programming should not be rigid. Needs of Elders fluctuate daily, monthly, yearly.
 - Job interview process: there was one qualified Citizen who applied for seven different jobs and hasn't been offered a job from Champagne and Aishihik.
 - When Chief and Council attend meetings Outside, there should be a report on what they learned and how it benefits Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. It should be made available on the website and in the newsletter.
 - Summer student program: one was in Dakwakada and he/she had nothing to do except simple tasks like filing. There should be a training plan set up so the summer students have something at the end. As well, someone was yelling at a summer student and it was felt this was not a good way to train students. They can become discouraged and may not want to work for the First Nation.
 - One Citizen wanted to do a Resolution on follow-up for treatment programs. People go to residential treatment centres but when they come back to the community, there's no aftercare.
 - There is almost \$900,000 spent on social assistance. What are some of the community health and wellbeing programs? How are they working? Are we doing an evaluation of the community wellness program?
 - Klukshu lots: Previously, as per a GA Resolution, people could choose where they wanted to build their cabins. But not everybody built within the three-to-five-year timeframe. There are seven lots that people still haven't built on and that's not fair to people who want to build cabins. The lots should be opened up to the lands allocation process that is done in Champagne and other communities. Barb Joe said, "It doesn't make sense to hold the Klukshu Citizens hostage to this mapping process."
 - Barb Joe asked what Champagne and Aishihik is doing in terms of model development for adjudication and law enforcement under the Administration of Justice negotiations as noted on page 7 of the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations 2015-16 Annual Report*: "Main table AJA negotiations have resumed."

- As well, she asked if there was any political activity regarding increasing Aboriginal employment in the government public service from 13 or 14 percent where it should be 23 percent as referenced on page 13 of the Annual Report.

- Page 6 of the Annual Report referred to Dual Citizenship and a question was posed on whether that was actively proceeding.

➤ **Ashèyi/The Yänlin (Aishihik/Canyon)**

Lena Smith-Tutin reported on community requests:

- Replacement of signs of interest along the road.
- For safety reasons, brushing along the road, especially when school kids go down for bison hunts.
- Having a permanent GA site like some Yukon First Nations with a good kitchen for cooking and also Elders' cabins on site.
- Expansion at *Shäkāt Kų* as there are larger cultural activities with more families.
- She reiterated earlier remarks about the equipment from the treatment centre; to move to *Shäkāt Kų* and 29-Mile.
- Gravel around *Shäkāt Kų* building to lessen the dust and to the edge of the airport.
- Do soil contamination tests for Agent Orange at *Ashèyi* airstrip and at four open wells. In the past there were 3,000 Air Force personnel stationed there.
- Cabin dwellers would like to see some FireSmart.

➤ **DaKwäKada/K'üā Män (Haines Junction/Kloo Lake)**

Elder Virginia Allen, Barb Allen and Amanda Workman cited community concerns:

- Single persons and Elders living off the land sometimes need help. Some have health issues. In the past, everyone helped each other, especially the Elders, but it doesn't seem to happen. Some staff have a hard time with Elders; reason is because the Elders are from an older generation where the way they got things done was through anger and calling people down. They cannot communicate otherwise. There were no programs like they have now. It's difficult to confront an Elder when their needs haven't been met. Some workers have gone to workshops in Whitehorse and there are ways of talking to Elders to calm them down and find out their needs.

- Some people on social assistance can't get jobs anywhere, including with the First Nation.

- Issue of alcohol and drugs in the community; there are conflicts. If you report to the police, the individuals will try to get back at you and get upset. One Elder was very stressed and had to see the nurse. Virginia Allen said, "I don't think that Elder should have been pointed out the way she was; she was verbally abused. I come in between talking to both groups and it's very difficult and stressful. I help the best I can."

- The community says Wellness isn't working. All the things that are continually brought up are in the 2015 resolution. There is no aftercare system for people trying to quit drinking after they return from treatment. When children came back from residential school, they were strangers to their parents and vice versa which led to drinking and

violence. She said, "Let's do something about alcoholism. We have to start healing our people somehow. It's very stressful."

- People on social assistance requested that cheques be given to them before holidays.
- Bring back youth celebration at Christmas.
- Need to take care of Champagne and Aishihik houses by painting and renovating them; cleaning the chimneys.
- Smaller houses needed for single persons, young couples and Elders.
- Address partying in the community and noise after 11 p.m.
- Dog issues: barking at people, chasing vehicles; dogs in heat.
- Animal safety: bear sightings every day; FireSmart to remove brush.
- Issue of CAFN GA Delegate selection.
- CAFN staff should only be paid for statutory holidays instead of a closure for two weeks.
- Allocate a budget for Delegates to have community meetings before a GA.
- Request update on whether Champagne and Aishihik still plans to build a store on the old Madley's General Store lot as the Little Green Apple store is costly.

➤ **Tágà Shāw (Whitehorse)**

Debbie Workman informed the General Assembly that they didn't even attempt to have a community meeting in Whitehorse because they are so poorly attended.

- She suggested a phone list might be helpful for people who don't have a computer but they can still keep in contact with what's going on.
- She cited a real need for an assisted-living facility in Haines Junction that would provide help for those with addictions or coming out of treatment and those who are homeless.

➤ **Shadhāla/Ch'yenā Key (Champagne/Hutchi)**

Heather Hougen said they had two community land meetings on May 29 and June 12 that were well-attended. Concerns were brought forward by Citizens on the community land use plan, land application and the land application process. There was also an impromptu meeting on June 12 between Delegates and Citizens in attendance.

- Recognition of the hard work of Harold Johnson and Meta Williams at *Kwāday Dän Kenji* or Long Ago Peoples Place. They were interviewed and a video was produced on their business by CBC Northbeat.
- The new system at the Champagne transfer station is working well. The site is clean and organized. Caretaker, Mike Maloney, continues to FireSmart for bear safety and fire safety. People are starting to recognize it is a transfer station and not a dump.
- Community workshops were well-received and more are planned for winter.
- Want to enforce no-ATV use for hunting.
- Hunting by non-CAFN members on traditional land and within the community boundaries: Citizens would like to report these concerns but they want a guarantee of anonymity.

- Even though Resolution 2015-08 on Protection of CAFN Traditional Territory is being dealt with, there is still a concern that needs to be addressed of travellers on the Dezadeash River using family cabin sites for camping, building fires, using the wood, defecating in the yards and items have gone missing. She suggested there be signage that it is private land.

- Environmental and esthetic concerns about derelict vehicles and junk in yards. She noted: "It applies to all new land applications; it should apply to existing land selections."

- No ATV use across the river from Champagne. The area is pristine and they would like to keep it that way.

- Monitor the harvesting of trees for firewood and building of cabins within the Champagne community. Trees are being cut down randomly. They're creating roads and leaving debris.

- Continue FireSmart of the community.

- Protect the big hill as it is an iconic image of Champagne. It has been torn up by motorized vehicles and it needs to be communicated what it's doing to the land. Need for signage and even block access.

- The outdated land use plan: Champagne Citizens don't want to wait any longer. There is a need to develop more lots as the demand exceeds the current plan. More people want weekend cabins.

- When land applications come forward for a comment by Citizens, a better description of the location is needed. E.g. the location as "Champagne" is vague.

- Signage at the entrance to Champagne stating that it is a CAFN community, it is private land and it is not a campground. It may alleviate random travelers driving through.

- Speed signs at the entrance to Champagne as people are driving highway speeds in the community.

- Champagne Road upgraded, graveled or using calcium to alleviate the dust.

- People want to be part of the planning and design process for the expansion of the community hall. It would be good to have the old hall renovated.

- Service contracts provided to Champagne residents for general community maintenance: plowing of the roads, wood delivery to the hall, cleaning of the hall, water delivery.

- Lock the community hall and have community key holders: things like toilet paper and garbage bags are being taken; items like tables and chairs that have been loaned out have not being returned or have been substituted with lesser-quality items. The fully stocked kitchen is now bare.

- Set up Wi-Fi at the hall as there has been abuse of the Internet and the computer.

- Train several community members so action can be taken in the event of an emergency while waiting for Mendenhall fire department to arrive.

- Boat landing at Three Mile: concrete pads to allow easier access into the river but also because people have slipped on the mud.

- More activities for Elders on Fridays and weekends.

- Aishihik as a General Assembly site: it is not accessible to everybody; not everyone has a trailer or a tent. Some people don't want to bring their cars due to the poor road conditions. It is a small site and it's not easy to find a place to stay.

➤ **NàKhū/NàKhū (Takhini/Kusawa)**

Sally Jim reviewed community concerns:

- Sign needed for the hall, Mundessa Kų.
- Native names for streets have been submitted but the streets are still not named.
- Skating rink still has not been cemented; it could also be used for broomball, floor hockey, basketball.
- Need for single-person housing to free up homes for families.
- Old vehicles should be cleaned up.
- A refrigerator that was borrowed last year by the GA hasn't been returned.
- As per the 2015 community report, a bottle drive was undertaken; just under \$900 was collected to buy the community barbecue.
- Further funds from a bottle drive will be used to purchase a freezer and have two fire pits in front of the hall and the smokehouse.
- Request for picnic tables.

Questions/Comments:

Lee Clayton: I wanted to respond to the concern that the Elder brought up earlier regarding Elders' visits to the doctor or nurse and the treatment they receive. A lot has to do with culture and the way that medicine is administered anymore; you have a matter of seconds or minutes.

Maybe Champagne and Aishihik could put together a budget so that they could have cross-cultural sensitivity training so that Elders would get a lot more benefit out of that visit and it wouldn't be such a barrier and conflict.

Sally Jim: They started the treatment centre in *Ashèyi* in the 1980s and that worked out pretty good for four years. That was the last time that place was used. They should bring that back up to par again. You send people down south where it costs thousands of dollars for treatment for one person. We should look at having the treatment centre to start up again in the Yukon without sending them Outside.

With the Alcohol and Drug workers who are supposed to be working for us, there should be more input in this area where there is follow-up for Citizens who go through treatment programs.

Amanda Workman: Speeding is a big concern in Takhini. It needs to be addressed as there are many youths in the community and it's very dangerous. It's also very dusty.

Loose dogs are a concern; also getting the water tanks tested annually; identify an after-hours emergency on-call person.

The community hall doesn't fit our needs and doesn't have adequate space. The maximum capacity to dine in the hall is 56 people and there are about 100 people in the community.

Lee Clayton: I suggest that Champagne and Aishihik put out an RFP for those heavy rubber speed bumps that can be spiked into the ground and place them strategically where there are speeding issues.

Barb Allen: I just want to clarify about the health care issue that Lee [Clayton] commented on. It was an Elder in our community that was harassed by our community members and was so stressed that she had to go to the nursing station.

I realize we have a First Aid tent here and we have three different people on three different days. Who do we contact after hours if somebody gets hurt? We have kids on four-wheelers with no helmets. Who has the satellite phone if there's an emergency?

Sally Jim: We have requested a community hall in Takhini for many years and we're still waiting.

Britteny Johnson: Is there a housing policy for abandoned homes?

Lorraine Stick: The sign going into Aishihik is starting to fall. My husband made a note telling me that "Next time we go down there, we're going to fix that sign." I don't expect Champagne and Aishihik workers to come all the way down to Aishihik to just fix that sign.

I wanted to say a big 'thank you' to Chief and Council and all the staff because I don't think we just don't give enough credit to these people who have put themselves out there, to do all this work for us. I don't live on traditional land but I have a cabin in Aishihik. I do get support from Champagne and Aishihik through my business so for that I am really grateful for everything that you have done — and go out of your way to do for us. Kudos to you for hanging in there and doing an awesome job.

The Assembly adjourned for a Health Break at 3:26 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

6. Resolutions of the Day

- **Resolution 2016-01 — Social Assistance Deduction Repayment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly ("GA") requests that the Government work to ensure that every CAFN Citizen who had amounts improperly deducted from their SA payments has been properly identified and reimbursed.

Moved by: Barb Allen
Seconded by: Lena Smith-Tutin
Decision: Passed by Consensus

Submitted by: Barb Allen

- **Resolution 2016-02 —After-Care**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Chief and Council investigate options to assist citizens to continue on their healing path after they have received treatment, while they are in transition.

Moved by: Lee Clayton
Seconded by: Larry Joe
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Barb Allen

- **Resolution 2016-03 —Healing Our Communities**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government provide resources for counseling, healing and support, including programs for CAFN Citizens in their communities.

Moved by: Barb Allen
Seconded by: Lorraine Allen
Decision: Passed by Consensus

Submitted by: Barb Allen

- **Resolution 2016-04 — Programs and Services — *tabled***

Moved by: Debbie Workman
Seconded by: Barb Allen
Decision: To be redrafted

- **Resolution 2016-06 Purchases From Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (“CAFN”) Owned Businesses**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government develop a policy to ensure that CAFN departments purchase goods and services from CAFN Citizen-owned businesses on a preferential basis.

Moved by: Lorraine Stick
Seconded by: Lee Clayton
Decision: Passed by Consensus

- **Resolution 2016-07 Klukshu Lot Allocation Process — *tabled***

Moved by: Chief Paul Birckel
Seconded by: Lee Clayton
Decision: Pending

- **Resolution 2016-10 Aishihik Treatment Centre**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GA requests that the Government have the Centre assessed for health and safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government make the Centre and cabins available for programs for CAFN families attending the cultural program camps and for other associated purposes.

Moved by: Debbie Workman
Seconded by: Lorraine Allen
Decision: Passed by Consensus

Submitted by: Lorraine Stick

The Assembly adjourned at 5:30 p.m. **Elder Councillor Carol Buzzell** offered the closing prayer.

Day 2: Saturday, July 23, 2016

7. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Chair Victor Mitander called the Assembly to order at 9:05 a.m. **Lorraine Stick** offered the opening prayer.

8. Opening Comments/Announcements/Recap of Day 1

Chair Victor Mitander reviewed highlights of the previous day’s discussions.

9. Business Arising — CYFN Grand Chief Peter Johnston

- **Chief Steve Smith** introduced the newly acclaimed Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations, Peter Johnston.
- Grand Chief Peter Johnston, a Citizen of Teslin Tlingit Council, said it was an honour to address the General Assembly. Three weeks into his role, it has already been a journey but it has been overwhelmingly positive. He spoke of his wish to bring CYFN back to a place where people have a sense of dignity, honour and pride. He looked forward to the next three years of being able to roll out a mandate that is “reflective of where our governments are today.”
- He cited the importance of connectivity, not only between the members of CYFN but more importantly, among all the Yukon First Nations — bringing the organization back to a collective “because all together, we are very much stronger than we are as a fragmented nation.” He noted how the role and opportunity was huge but he wanted to have fun at the same time. So much energy has been expended to implement self-government agreements over the past 20 years.
- He thanked Chief Steve Smith and Council for the opportunity to speak and looked forward to working with them. He said great things will be done.
- **Chief Steve Smith** said the Southern Tutchone law is to take care of the Grand Chief and his family while they are there and make sure they go back home safely with good stories.

10. Chief and Council Vision/Priorities Update and Overview

- **Chief Steve Smith** identified the progress in the three areas.

➤ **Self-Reliance:**

- Reinvigoration of EOP (Employment Opportunities Program) last year.
- One of the goals of the program is to rebuild self-esteem for those who work. It feels good to go to work and have a measure of autonomy. He said, “We want to rebuild our people — build up our Citizens and hear their stories. You’re going to see this as a thread that goes through almost everything that we’re trying to do.”
 - CAFN provided Dakwakada Capital Investments with funding for seven student jobs last year. This year’s student employment program has been modelled after it.
 - Economic Development: Funding was received for a feasibility study for a property at Kathleen Lake. There have been discussions with Kwanlin Dün and Carcross/Tagish about joint venture economic development opportunities because of the many trails that connect the First Nations. That will add to the tourism potential, especially with regard to mountain biking. As well, tourism can be a first step for young people as it’s a healthy lifestyle.
 - Champagne and Aishihik Community Corporation: After three years of unprofitable work, the corporation is now experiencing a small profit. Struggle with attracting good people to sit on the board.

➤ **Connecting:**

- Established BEEF (Business Employment Equity Fund) program that offers financial support to any business within CAFN Traditional Territory that hires CAFN citizens.
 - Dän K’e — “our way of life”: New programs or initiatives are established with the lens of “How did our people do it before? What were the guiding principles that guided our people in something that was similar to this?”
 - Commitment of funding to Southern Tutchone Tribal Council whose number-one goal is to bring Southern Tutchone people together.
 - Push for CAFN departments to establish culture camps to get people on the land. First Hunt and First Fish camps help young people re-establish connections with the land, the Elders and the spirits of the animals.

➤ **Better Government:**

- Capacity and Policy Development department was established with Fran Asp as Director.
 - Reason for hire of a Chief Financial Officer: position responsible for the overall financial management of Champagne and Aishihik; helps establish policies that ensure funds are spent effectively and efficiently. The Director of Finance responsible for the Finance department.
 - Bill S-6: CAFN took the lead in fighting the proposed amendments. Litigation is currently in abeyance. If Canada agrees to the conditions, lawsuit will be rescinded.

- Standing committees were established to take the place of Councillors' having portfolios: Finance Standing Committee, Citizen Services Standing Committee and Housing Standing Committee. They look at policy and assist Chief and Council in their decision-making. Future standing committees: one for youth to be chaired by the Youth Councillor; and one for economic development.
- Council is committed to making changes. He said, "We owe it to the next generation. Peter[Johnston] and I were the 'tomorrow'. Now we're 'today.' The kids are our 'tomorrow.'"

11. Citizen Services Standing Committee

- **Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers**, Chair of the Citizen Services Standing Committee, told the Assembly that the committees do not get involved with administration and directing of staff but hold an advisory role and provide recommendations to Council.
 - Important community concern: the health and wellbeing of Citizens; that the vulnerable and sick get the best support, services and programming.
 - Some departments didn't work well together — were in silos — and were getting in the way of what was best for Citizens — hence the creation of the standing committee. It brings three departments together: Community Wellness, Education and Property Services — a one-window approach for case management.
 - Mary Jane Jim and Tim Cant of Duu Chuu Management Consulting looked at community needs and gaps within the government for programming and services. During the fall and winter of last year, they did a number of community consultations that resulted in a 146-page report that will be one of the foundational documents of the standing committee.
 - Task of the committee is to make the structure, government and policies work for Citizens. As per page 9 of the *Champagne and Aishihik First Nations 2015-16 Annual Report*, income assistance expenses have increased by \$150,000 since 2012-13; as well, a graph reflects demographics of income assistance data. This will inform future policy and programming needs. CAFN has been self-governing for 21 years but Yukon government policy and rates are still being used.
 - The redeveloped EOP (Employment Opportunities Program) is meeting the priorities of self-reliance, better government and connecting. E.g. smokehouses built at 29-Mile and Takhini.
 - CAFN is proud of the post-secondary and trades education programs but they also require a policy review by the standing committee.

Questions/Comments:

Lee Clayton: Where I think we could show some improvement would be the response time when a Champagne and Aishihik Citizen makes an inquiry to a department, or to Chief and Council. Perhaps we should have a rule or a policy that says 48 hours or 72 hours you must get back to us — even just to acknowledge that we've made that inquiry.

Lorraine Stick: What is in place to help the individuals who are on income assistance who may need to further their education or get treatment and follow-up so they can contribute and stay employed? Even if it's six months out of the year. I'd like to

encourage the government to really look at alternatives to keep them employed so that our numbers come down because for me, this is nothing to be proud of.

Traditionally where I was raised in Aishihik, our number-one thing every day was survival: we had to make sure there was enough wood and enough water and this had to be done manually. But this helped some of us continue to be employed or go on to further their education.

My daughter is three courses short of getting her degree in psychology. She approached Champagne and Aishihik and she was turned down. She has a learning disability so it takes her longer to complete her education; there are probably a lot of people like her who fit into that category. The government has to do everything to help our Citizens as education is a number-one priority. That's the way it is today; if we don't get an education, we don't go very far in this world. The more we can get our people to get educated and get degrees in different areas, the better equipped we will be down the road.

I appreciate your report and your update; I'm grateful for that.

Chief Steve Smith: Thank you for that. The only way we learn is if somebody tells us that we're doing something wrong. I didn't see anything in our post-secondary support policy about learning disabilities. To be honest, that wasn't on my radar and I have people in my family with that. I will make sure [Director of Education] Paula Banks and [Executive Director], Ranj Pillai follow up on how our policies can support those individuals.

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: One issue is that the policies of both programs of income assistance and post-secondary are the DIA model. This is another reason that after 20 years of self-government, we need our own policies for our own people, based on what they need.

Barb Allen: Every culture camp that kids attend, they have to sign a waiver. I have really big problems with releasing Champagne and Aishihik from negligence in possible death. I believe I don't have the right to sign my granddaughter's life away. I don't think it even needs to be in there. If one of the staff is negligent, and your kid gets killed, it's like saying that's fine.

I raise my granddaughter and I get \$430 a month from SA to raise her; I appreciate that. I tried to put her in school in Whitehorse last year and I asked for a top-up from Education and they said 'No. It's our policy. You get SA — that's it.' I said, 'Policies aren't law. They can be flexible,' and I never heard from them again. We talk about education and the future for our youth, but when we ask for support, we don't get it. This is not a new thing; this has been going on for years. It depends on who is in that department — and I hate to say it — but whether they like you or not. With the previous director, I was able to work something out when my other granddaughter was in school and they gave me a top-up.

What are the changes that were made with education?

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: We changed the intake dates; the application date was pushed up to ensure the students received approval earlier so they could go to their institute. Also, there are now solidified amounts of living allowance for people who are taking non-traditional courses. We are committed to making fundamental changes in the upcoming year. With regard to the post-secondary

education policy, Chief and Council want the committee to talk to existing students and past students about their challenges.

I know Lorraine's [Stick] concern about her daughter being three credits short. I was approached by another Citizen here with the same issue. We need to look at how we ensure that funding is provided to people who graduate but also ensure there are standards attached. People can't take five years to do a one-year program but we need to ensure their personal issues are considered, like a learning disability.

Larry Joe: We've been going on 21 years in self-government. I have a strong background in forest management. To me, it seems this First Nation government is moving at a snail's pace from where I come from in B.C. where the Indian Band was incorporated in 1998 and they've way surpassed us in business and looking after their people. My question to you: Why is this process taking so long? It doesn't take rocket science. Why are we not in the forefront like everybody else and trying to gain some of this economic development that's around us? To me, there is a lot of work in forestry; we're going to have a lot of forest fire issues on our hands. Preparedness is the way to go.

Lorraine Allen: A young girl from Whitehorse is in same boat as what Lorraine Stick was talking about. She's short a few courses to complete her social, child care degree. She told me Champagne and Aishihik just cut off her funding. She has a child and she needs to finish her degree. She wouldn't say it herself so I'm saying it on her behalf — so you could possibly do something for her to finish her degree.

Lorraine Stick: Shadelle [Chambers], you said, 'We don't want a student to take five years to finish.' I can see where you're coming with that. But on the other hand, it does take students with learning disabilities a little bit longer. Yukon College expects you to take three to four courses in one year, but that's too much for her; she's better to take two courses and get a really good mark and take the other courses later.

I got her a recorder so she could record what was being said in class. She doesn't retain all the information but she can learn by hearing it over and over again. For people in this situation, we need to set up a mentor or someone to assist them. It would definitely help them in the long run.

Dayle MacDonald: I see a lot about the delivery of programs and services or working to help our Citizens improve. One area of self-reliance for our Citizens is in better government. When we talk about traditional government, a long time ago, our Citizens were more involved from our traditional territories — they were called 'tribes' or 'family groups.' I encourage the government to look at that again. Around the table, we have representatives from these areas. I'm interested in seeing what Aishihik has done this year and this was one area in the relicensing of the dam. They had an advisory board that worked with the Lands committee. I don't see any mention of that in the report. I would like to see this expanded where other areas have these community advisory boards. These advisory boards could work more directly with Chief and Council.

Chief Paul Birckel: My grandson went to Yukon College to be a mechanic. He spent two or three months on the program; but when he went to work, the companies said they wanted fully trained people. In my day, the companies hired you and they trained you. Now the companies expect the schools and trade schools to train them fully. Companies have the responsibility to train and develop their workers. You can't

really get a fully trained person because what you learn in school may not be what the company really needs.

Another situation is that we need to develop ways of getting information out there so we know what you're doing. E-mail is one way but a lot of people don't have computers. Maybe we can get a brief newsletter to find out what is happening.

Councillor Les Walker: I want to respond to the training of your grandson. The purpose of the BEEF (Business Employment Enhancement Fund) program is for companies to hire our Citizens and train them. 'Here is some money; you're going to train the Citizen so that when they come out of it, they have some skills.' It's a win-win. It takes reciprocity: If the First Nation is going to help our people, then we need to work with our First Nation to help too. We need to take every opportunity to work with our families when they're going to school; sit with them and study. Like our Chief said, 'It's not like everybody gets the same amount of help; it's everybody gets the help they need to be able to make it on their own.'

Lorraine Allen: I want to respond to Dayle's [MacDonald] question about the Aishihik power dam committee. Six people from Aishihik are on that committee because they have the knowledge of the history around it. This committee is to put together a case to help us with our compensation in 2017. We're gathering literature. We have a fish biologist helping us to collect data. We're looking at bird habitat and nesting areas. We're looking at downstream effects like the flooding of lands below the power dam where the turbines are. We're looking for pictures for log jams.

Brittney Johnson: We hear a lot about focusing on community wellness. The General Assembly should be focused on our traditions and our culture in being an alcohol-free event.

The Assembly adjourned for a Health Break at 10:48 a.m. and reconvened at 11:19 a.m.

12. Housing Standing Committee

- Chair of the Housing Standing Committee, **Councillor Rose Kushniruk** spoke on behalf of the committee that is also composed of: Director of Lands and Resources, Lawrence Joe; Chair of the Citizen Services Standing Committee, Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers; Director of Community Wellness, Diane Strand; and Director of Property Services, George Van Sickle.

- She said, "This Chief and Council is a pretty tough bunch to work for because we want to see stuff happen. We're like you. We've been hearing some things over and over for how many years and we just really want to get things done — resolve some things once and for all."

- Standing committees are to give a boost — to give broad, general direction. They're not there forever and they will disband. Standing committees will bring in experts that include knowledgeable Citizens.

- Political members are responsible for the overall direction and ensure policy is being followed. Administration (Property Services) is in charge of enforcing policy and carrying out duties for housing. Housing Committee is responsible for allocations.

- At the last meeting, members of the Housing Committee — Marie McLaren, Marie Martin, Kathleen Brown (Jones), Debbie Workman — were invited to attend. The allocation process only meets social needs primarily. The standing committee wants to develop a team approach in solving issues.
- The Housing Standing Committee will be making recommendations to Chief and Council. Policies and procedures that overlap need to be brought in line.
- Home ownership promises and what it really is: need to provide answers and proper paperwork and land allocations with the house; go through records for the individual potential homeowner. Statistics are collected on each housing unit: what a person has paid into the house, renovations, how much SA has gone into the house.
- Number-one thing people want with homeownership is a way to pass it on. Home ownership means paying your own expenses. A session on homeownership is recommended.
- Rental units: repair requests are prioritized.
- Supported living is a big priority. There is concern over paying hundreds of dollars a month to a non-Champagne and Aishihik-owned business to house a Citizen.
- Some people want to live on settlement land — allocation and application process is needs based. Having people live on settlement land is beneficial: helps grow the communities and helps economically in creating a larger tax base.
- Elders and young families living off settlement land need help.
- Some people are abandoning their units and policy hasn't been followed in dealing with it. Takhini had 18 to 22 applications for one house.
- People are moving in with family and taking over the houses which isn't fair.
- There are rental agreements with some and not others. Some people phone Chief and Council to try to change work orders or housing allocations which is bypassing the process and isn't fair.
- Housing arrears: people who owe a few dollars and those who owe more. Need to be sensitive and work with individuals' situations.
- Young people trying to find a place to rent in Whitehorse: first and last month's rent required.
- Make today Ground Zero: nothing can be done about the past. Mistakes have been made by previous administration and leadership. There has been unfairness. Policy hasn't been followed. 'If we did, we wouldn't be in this situation.'
- Slogan: Providing an opportunity for Citizens to call a place 'home'.
- Importance of: people, processes, policies, property and lands.
- Three important areas: Safe, adequate, and appropriate housing options; fair processes that consider individual, unique Citizens' needs; enhancement of economic growth.
- Cannot do things in isolation: Citizen Services Standing Committee is about meeting with individuals and taking the time to find out how their needs can be met.
- There will be changes to the housing policy and it needs to be enforced.

- **Negotiations Analyst, Ian Robinson**, explained the financial resources allocated for housing through the financial transfer agreement.
 - There are currently 40 subsidy CAFN homes. The program was under Indian Affairs where individuals were assisted with a so-called “subsidy”. That program was never included in the financial base of the First Nation because it wasn’t a First Nation-type program but was to assist individuals. He said, “When you have a program of Indian Affairs or any actual department of the government, where we have not taken that program into the base of the First Nation — Citizens of CAFN or any other Yukon First Nation — have the right to access that program from the federal government.”
 - When CAFN negotiated its first transfer agreements, Capital was a program of Indian Affairs. An amount of money was transferred to the First Nation; it still sits in the FTA base and it has increased a bit. It’s up to Chief and Council to decide what it’s to be used for but for but it has to be used for every other capital requirement the First Nation has — i.e. every tent, truck, house. Yesterday, the Chief Financial Officer said the First Nation is in a positive cash flow position this year but there’s also amortization — assets depreciate each year — where an amount is taken off statements for that. That amount of money — over \$1 million — is not covered anywhere and is decreasing value of all assets. That alone is more than the capital amount in the base. There is a need to negotiate a higher capital amount in the base in order to replace assets that are depreciating as it’s not sustainable. He concluded by saying, “Capital is arguably the most important financial consideration at this point because you do have a big base of assets and we’re going to have to work on replacing them as they depreciate.”
 - **Councillor Rose Kushniruk** continued with the presentation. The policy needs to distinguish between social, supportive housing and market housing.
 - Evictions and arrears guidelines do not offer options for those dealing with mental health or addictions issues.
 - No ability right now for departments to share important information about applicants with each other. More support, training and resource people are needed for the Housing Committee.
 - Rents have increased in some cases but policies have not been updated to be in line with the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*.
 - Services are a huge effort with over 5,000 water deliveries a year.
 - Rental records have improved, but some Citizens still don’t trust them as there were a lot of discrepancies in the past where payment of rent wasn’t recorded properly.
 - Need for visitation by Champagne and Aishihik staff or reps to identify actual needs of units and tenants.
 - Over \$600,000 in rental arrears in 60 units; 75 percent of that amount comes from 20 units.
 - Need to follow up on Housing Committee recommendations.
 - Need to update policies to reflect current rental rates.
 - Consider audit of rental records in order to build Citizens’ confidence and trust.
 - Address arrears on a case-by-case basis and work with individuals.

- First Nations Market Housing Fund presentation: clarity required on what happens in the case of a default and also the land aspect.
- Enforcement of the housing policy, including moving forward on rental arrears, will be difficult and staff need help and support as they are the frontline workers.

Questions/Comments:

Lee Clayton: Because a lot of the folks in the Housing department are taking a lot of the heat from the members, we should consider hiring a management company and charge them with the responsibility for collections. They can be the ones at the frontline and it would help provide a buffer to the staff.

Barb Joe: If housing arrears are not paid, what effect will it have on the First Nation? Does that mean it comes out of the other categories that Champagne and Aishihik gets funding for?

Ranj Pillai: It's taking away from other programs that we can deliver. If somebody is in a situation where they are having arrears and we third-party it out like Lee [Clayton] identified, it takes the onus off of Chief and Council and the senior directors and in some cases, the people might be asked to leave their unit. The problem is, that same individual will come back to see us and they're going to need us to provide them with support. Then we may be paying a third party like we do in Haines Junction for a hotel room for that person to live. Instead of not receiving that \$575 in monthly rent because they can't keep up with it, we're now paying \$900 to somebody through our social programs. The complexity is massive because we have housing and social obligations.

Barb Joe: In the Annual Report, it mentions repairs to subsidy units. How many repairs are happening because to me, if people were given the money at the very beginning to build a house, we shouldn't be paying for repairs to those houses. Also, under Work Orders by Community [page 10], I notice Klukshu. I didn't know Champagne and Aishihik had rental units or social housing in Klukshu. Whose houses are getting repaired in Klukshu?

Director of Property Services, George Van Sickle: Property Services also maintains government and community buildings; all the roads and sewer and water systems on settlement land. The work orders for Klukshu are for the Community Hall.

With respect to the subsidy units, this relates back to the complexity of our housing situation. The housing policy has no mandate for Property Services to work on subsidy houses. At the same time, some of these houses are not in good shape. When we become aware of a critical health and safety need in a subsidy house, we will step in. The first thing we try to do is offer consulting services and send our staff out to evaluate the situation. If there's not an ability to pay or to get a new furnace or replace the chimney or whatever it is, on occasion we will step in and do the work.

Rose Kushniruk: With subsidy units, money was given to people so in a sense it's like you're a homeowner. We've been like the lenient parent — 'We'll still help you, even though we gave money for you to build your own house and look after yourself.' True homeownership in the future is 'don't come knocking on the door.' Maybe we need to think about a different type of homeownership.

Barb Joe: We heard today Housing and Capital is going in deficit. I don't think we should pay repairs for a person who has lived rent-free for 20, 30 years. If they're

able to pay, there should be a deal worked out where they have to pay back depending on their income. We're striving to be self-reliant. We have to be strong with this.

Janet Van Bibber: Champagne and Aishihik has been supporting long-term debt by allowing Citizens to stay in the units for extended periods of time. This is doing a disservice to those Citizens; it's not helping them. It's putting them in a position where they will have bad credit. It leads to depression and they get into this hole they can't get out of. For people in that debt — if it's exceptional circumstances — maybe they can access the emergency fund to cover the cost. If not, I agree that the housing should be reallocated so that debt is not allowed to continue.

There's a supported living apartment complex run by YTG in Whitehorse. It is independent living but there is support they can access. It would have to be a joint effort between Housing and Wellness. It's an option we investigated so there is paperwork on that.

Barb Allen: Are there any lots available for Citizens to put trailers on? For future use, an idea is to access all the different types of housing — even Habitat for Humanity. We definitely need tiny houses for single people. It's not just one-size-fits-all.

I want to comment on Ian's [Robinson] remark about having lots of assets; 100 houses and buildings for 1,200 people is not enough.

With the subsidy homes where they were given money, because we don't have a program to renovate those houses, we should be assisting them to access loans to renovate their own homes.

For our deficit of \$600,000 for 20 units, that's \$30,000 for each. If we can't deal with that through offering people counselling treatment — a way to get out of it — we have to stop it; we're just piling more on top of them. A person told me that you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel so why throw more in there? Remove them from that situation and offer them some kind of assistance somewhere else to help them restart and repay.

Debbie Workman: I've been involved with the Housing Committee. Hopefully assisted living can help. We're talking about small single-level housing in the future. We're trying to discourage people on assistance from moving to Takhini River since it's isolated. It puts extra pressure on the community for people that need help to do their shopping or their daily living. We don't want to add an extra cost to the community.

Sally Jim: There's a home in Takhini. She does not live there but it's taken. Maybe you could do something about that. She lives in Carcross. There are two other people keeping houses — both three-bedroom houses for one person. There are a lot of family who are couch-surfing. Maybe our government can do something about this. Let's start putting up single units. In Haines Junction, I know there are non-Citizens staying in some units.

I hope we help people with addictions. You're always talking about self-reliance. How do we help our people? Not by cutting them down. When you send one person down south for treatment, it's thousands of dollars. It's probably going to cost us less money to get the treatment centre at Aishihik fixed up. Our people don't belong down south; they feel alone. Let's start here with our own people. Let's unite as one.

The Assembly adjourned for the lunch break at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:58 p.m.

Brittney Johnson: When you said we need to start brainstorming ideas, we need to draw the line on arrears as it's not fair. People with the big arrears need to make at least a minimal commitment of some sort of payment because it's obviously prohibiting the rest of us from moving on and getting houses. Maybe they need more staff in housing to enforce these policies if we make them.

Heather Hougen: A Citizen with two children applied for housing at Takhini since 2008. This person still has not received any housing with Champagne and Aishihik. She lives in Haines Junction in Yukon Housing. She has a disability but really wants to be on Champagne and Aishihik settlement land and be with her people and get assistance from them. When you review these policies, what are the priorities for housing? How do you determine who gets housing?

Azriel Allen: How many non-Citizens live in our units? When I was living in Dawson City a couple of years ago, there was a support centre for people who were having trouble paying their rent or having a hard time getting a job. They could take different workshops or courses and that would help them. It would be nice if we could do something similar for our people.

Lorraine Allen: We hear about this housing issue every year. The abandoned houses — people must be living somewhere else — so that should be looked into and give the families who are waiting on the list a chance for a three-bedroom home.

The housing is unfair to Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people. Those who are waiting on the list and willing to pay rent shouldn't be penalized because Housing can't do anything about arrears and abandoned homes. I suggest building homes where it's needed. The bottom line is: our people need homes to live in. A home base is really important to families and their social welfare and how they feel about themselves and their community.

Lorraine Stick: It's a concern that we're so much in arrears. If I was late on my mortgage payment, the bank wouldn't care if I was on the street. As long as we keep allowing our Citizens to be behind in their rent payments, we're not doing them any favours. Our vision statement is to be self-reliant. Are we teaching them to be self-sufficient? I don't have an answer on how to collect arrears other than something very rigid has to be put in place to ensure we get that money. It hurts to see that we've allowed this to go on for a long time.

Rose Kushniruk: I wrote down your ideas and your concerns. Hopefully a Resolution will help us move forward. When we're back next year, I hope we have one big thing resolved and keep plugging away at it. We're not going to get everything done in one year because we need to do it together. The standing committee has a good group of people and we want to get things done. We really want people to support our Housing staff when they start moving on things. We have 199 members who are benefiting from housing in some way and we want to make it more. We also need to think about our homeless with supported living.

13. General Assembly Policy Discussion

- **Director of Governance, Denise Beattie** and **Director of Capacity & Policy Development, Fran Asp**, reviewed the presentation: *Discussion Document for GA Delegates* regarding the selection of delegates and their roles and responsibilities at a General Assembly; and an improved process for dealing with GA Resolutions. A

General Assembly Delegate Questionnaire was also distributed. Input received will be incorporated into a draft policy which will be brought back for approval at the next General Assembly.

- GASP (General Assembly Strategic Planning) committee: Denise Beattie, Fran Asp, Amy McKinnon, Angie Wabisca and Doreen Williams.

Questions/Comments:

Heather Hougen: We had a youth delegate but at the last moment, she got a job and wasn't able to come so we were short one person. Would an "Alternate Delegate" cover that position?

Denise Beattie: It would be up to your community to decide and recommend. We would note it and put it in our policy.

Lorraine Stick: I would like to see more of our Citizens and young people involved at the General Assembly. I struggle with the term of a Delegate being three years. I would like to see it changed every year because they come in with new thoughts and ideas about moving forward.

Debbie Workman: We have tried getting more people involved. When you have meetings, they don't show up; that has been going on for years. When you do get new people in, they don't know what we've already discussed the year before and that's why a lot of it keeps coming back up. Sometimes you need continuity.

Barb Joe: During the Elders Senate meeting, I heard from some Elders about how the discussion at the General Assembly is too focused on business; the Chief talked about time; somebody mentioned it's adversarial. The General Assembly has to make some hard decisions — like with housing. How do we get balance between understanding the old ways that our people made decisions and yet doing the business?

Margaret Workman: I think staying with a three-year term is good for trying to deal with Resolutions. We have the same problem with attendance at Delegates' meetings.

Barb Allen: I think a two- or three-year term. Also, you have to put a lot of training into your Delegates. Some bring in controversial Resolutions when in fact they're speaking for someone else. That's the system we're operating under. Membership feels that if they put their name out there, there will be repercussions. People don't want to become involved to be ridiculed and put down. It's our government. At one point or another, we're all going to bring something controversial here but we're here to make good, sound judgments so give us as much training as you possibly can. When we look at the financial statements, we should be able to go right through it. I bet a good 75 percent of us don't know it.

We need a budget in the communities. We need better communication. I thought if I ran as a Delegate, I would run for Aishihik as that is my First Nation. At the Haines Junction meeting, they didn't have enough for Delegates, so I accepted it. They said, 'If you vote here, you can't vote in any other community.' I went to observe at Aishihik and then something completely different was said, 'Oh, yeah, you can vote.' We need consistency; it has to be the same in every community.

Denise Beattie: When you fill out the questionnaire, identify some of the things you may need for training — finance training or how to draft resolutions. Inconsistencies

will also be dealt with in policy; we will have rules and orders that will be straight across the board for everybody.

Lorraine Stick: Maybe we could have one person stay on for three years; another for two years so when a new person comes in, they can be trained on what has been happening. Instead of having the five members with the same term, they can have it staggered. We may be able to get more people out. I was disappointed to hear what Barb [Allen] said that people don't want to sit at this table because there was a fear of being ridiculed. We talk a lot today about how we need to respect one another. Healing and change starts with you and then it blossoms out.

Lee Clayton: One option to explore is a two- or three-year term. They then have a break where they're unable to serve for a couple of years and rotate that way. So, you establish a limit and it allows others to serve.

Fran Asp: The Chief has suggested that we possibly could have a special administrative General Assembly in the fall just to deal with this policy.

The Assembly adjourned for a Health Break at 2:48 p.m. and reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

14. Resolutions of the Day

- **Resolution 2016-04 Housing Services Off Settlement Lands — *revisited***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly ("GA") requests that the Government develop a program for CAFN Citizens who live off CAFN Settlement Lands to provide housing services to them.

Moved by: Barb Allen
Seconded by: Sally Jim
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Barb Allen

- **Resolution 2016-05 Assisted Living Residence in Haines Junction**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly asks that the Government investigate the feasibility of an Assisted Living Residence in Haines Junction to meet the needs of CAFN Citizens in respect of safe housing and integrated daily support programming.

Moved: Azriel Allen
Seconded: Amanda Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Debbie Workman

- **Resolution 2016-07 Klukshu Lot Allocation Process — *revisited***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests the government to follow the process set out in the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN) in respect of allocations of land at Klukshu Village where the CAFN Citizen to whom the land was allocated failed to meet the terms and conditions provided in the allocation and revoke the allocation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA requests that the Government, once allocations with unfulfilled conditions have been revoked under the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN), allocate available land at Klukshu Village in accordance with the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN).

Moved by: Chief Paul Birckel
Seconded by: Lee Clayton
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Colleen Joe; Barb Joe

- **Resolution 2016-09 24-Hour Health and Medical Care Facility in Haines Junction**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government seriously consider the viability of, and options for establishing a 24-hour health/extended medical care facility in Haines Junction.

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Lance Fraser
Decision: Passed by Consensus

Appended: Resolution submitted by Chief Ray Jackson

- **Resolution 2016-11 Klukshu Specific Claim**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government consider the options available to CAFN to appeal Canada’s rejection of the environmental use part of the Specific Claim to Klukshu Reserve. Specifically, this GA asks that the Government undertake a legal review of the environmental use aspect of the Specific Claim for the Klukshu Reserve and consider appealing Canada’s rejection of the environmental use part of the Specific Claim to the Specific Claims Tribunal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government consider doing whatever medical and environmental testing of Klukshu and Klukshu residents that may be necessary to strengthen CAFN’s appeal of the environmental use part of the Specific Claim.

Moved by: Barb Joe
Seconded by: Larry Joe

Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Chief Paul Birckel

- **Resolution 2016-12 Champagne Lot Allocation Process**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government to follow the process set out in the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN) in respect of allocations of land at Champagne where the CAFN Citizen to whom the land was allocated failed to meet the terms and conditions provided in the allocation and revoke the allocation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA requests that once allocations with unfulfilled conditions have been revoked under the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN), Government allocate available land at Champagne in accordance with the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN).

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Seconded by: Azriel Allen

Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Heather Hougen

- **Resolution 2016-13 Post-Secondary Education for Students With Disabilities**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government work to amend or add to the existing Policy to better address the needs of students with learning disabilities and to ensure that such students do not suffer from a suspension or a termination of their financial support provided under the Policy simply because of their learning disability.

Moved by: Larry Joe

Seconded by: Dallayce Smith

Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Lorraine Stick, Aishihik

- **Resolution 2016-16 Reusable Cups at the GA**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that at all future GAs, the delegates be provided with a reusable cup that would be left at the meeting tent and if need be, a deposit could be collected.

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Seconded by: Sally Jim

Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Michael Beattie for Graham MacDonald and Douglas McKinnon

The Assembly adjourned for the day at 4:30 p.m. **Lorraine Allen** offered the closing prayer.

Day 3: Sunday, July 24, 2016

15. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Chair Victor Mitander called the Assembly to order at 9:22 a.m. and **Lorraine Allen** led the Assembly with the Lord's Prayer in Southern Tutchone.

16. Opening Comments/Announcements/Recap of Day 1 and 2

- **Chair Victor Mitander** reviewed the agenda. An amendment was made: Director of Lands & Resources, Lawrence Joe, would provide a brief presentation on the Aishihik dam relicensing process. The Chair also reviewed highlights of the previous day.
- **Executive Director, Ranj Pillai**, informed the General Assembly that Elder Paddy Jim was recovering from dehydration in hospital. He had been scheduled to speak on the Language Journey with Khāsha (Stephen Reid).
- **Chief Steve Smith** talked about the Council of the Federation meeting that was held in Whitehorse and the gala that was hosted in Haines Junction for the 13 provincial and territorial Premiers. He made special acknowledgement of the work of **Communication Manager, Amy McKinnon**.

17. Champagne Aishihik Community Development Corporation Update

- **Chief Steve Smith** said there have been two applications to sit on the Board. He encouraged people who are business minded and have previous Board experience to put their names forward. The current Board is comprised of three members of Chief and Council and the Executive Director.
- In the 2015-15 fiscal year, the corporation had a \$177,000 deficit; through diligence and the work of the part-time manager, the 2015-16 year closed with a modest profit of \$7,500. Revenues also increased.
- Four CAFN fire crew members were hired.
- Strategic Metals has been doing work on the Hopper property on Aishihik Road. The community corporation has been given a mandate to negotiate an exploration agreement where the First Nation will be kept informed of any work.
- Strategic investment of Lot 52 — fee simple land— between Da Kų Cultural Centre and the new Willow Acres Road that was originally negotiated by Chief James Allen. Champagne and Aishihik transferred a shareholder's loan to the community corporation and the purchase has been finalized.

- Chief Steve Smith said, “I truly believe that Da Ku should be the actual driver of the economy within Haines Junction.” An application has been made to the Regional Economic Development Fund for lot development that could include a playground and where locals can showcase their arts and crafts. As well, he said there are non-Champagne and Aishihik businesses that would like to invest and be partners.
- The Board made the decision to try to sell the house on Rainbow Street as they cannot find a use for it and there has been no interest in renting it at the market rate. The shareholder’s loan would be repaid.
- Moving forward, he reiterated the biggest need is for competent Board members to run the corporation.

Questions/Comments:

Lee Clayton: Are Strategic Metals’ activities on settlement land?

Chief Steve Smith: No, they haven’t approached us on settlement land. When the original claim was put forward, Champagne and Aishihik strategically placed an A block right close to it to either stop further development or maybe take advantage of further development.

Lee Clayton: I really like the business concept for that land in Haines Junction and I think it would be wise to follow up on that. Is there a mechanism to transfer fee simple land into settlement land?

Chief Steve Smith: No, at this point. When we were having small surpluses coming out of our spending policy, rather than transfer it back to the trust, I thought we should be strategically buying land. In 50 years, those negotiators will be long-gone. If we hassle them enough and if we have enough money that dictates who’s the real boss, I think they would go, ‘Oh yeah. Have the Indian land. We don’t care. Don’t bother us anymore.’ In southern Canada, governments routinely transfer lands to Nations and give them full title. First Nations Bank bought land in downtown Saskatoon for their head office and it was fee simple land. They made the request and the government went, ‘Okay, it’s Such-and-Such Nation’s reserve land’ so they just transferred it. We see our aboriginal title being impeded upon by all the spot-land applications. Paddy Jim always talked about trap lines and how spot-line applications impede on our inherent rights.

Lee Clayton: Would the meetings of the Community Corporation Board be teleconferenced?

Chief Steve Smith: Yes.

Barb Allen: Is the House on Rainbow Street going to be sold to the public or could it be sold to Champagne and Aishihik where it could be used as a transition home?

Chief Steve Smith: No, Champagne and Aishihik actually purchased that property. We go offside and contravene the self-government agreement when Champagne and Aishihik Government owns anything that’s not on settlement land, so that had to be transferred to the Community Corporation. The Community Corporation has the same guiding principles as Dakwakada Capital Investments — increasing shareholder value. We can’t be subsidizing rent at a loss because then we have to make that up somewhere else. We don’t get a yearly allocation from Champagne and Aishihik or anything like that so it’s not an option.

Lorraine Stick: How many Board members are you looking for altogether? I'd be happy to put my name forward again as a member but not as the Chair.

Chief Steve Smith: Five or six; we are looking for another two or three. For those who are interested, contact our Board and Committee Coordinator, Angie Wabisca.

18. Business Arising —Update on Aishihik Dam Relicensing

- **Director of Lands and Resources, Lawrence Joe**, spoke to the issue.
- The first Water Board hearings were held in the early-1970s but the decision to build an Aishihik dam had already been made before the hearings began and a water licence was issued.
- Champagne and Aishihik had to live with the consequences of the impacts of the Aishihik dam for 25 years until the water licence expired.
- To go forward for a full water licence renewal, things had to be done differently without “public scraps” being played out in front of the Water Board.
- A technical advisory group was created and Champagne and Aishihik representatives tried to give advice on how to conduct studies. Yukon Energy Corporation tried to manipulate the process and control the studies to ensure that all the impacts of Aishihik dam were not fully considered.
- It all culminated with Yukon Water Board hearings in the early-2000s and the water licence was renewed in 2002 for a 17-year period — due in 2019. Yukon Energy spent millions of dollars trying to refute Champagne and Aishihik’s allegations of a whitefish study in 1990 that showed that when the water level goes down, whitefish don’t spawn.
- Last summer, Ranj Pillai, Sean Sheardown and Lawrence Joe took YEC’s President, Vice-President, and the senior Director of Operations to meet with the people of Aishihik Village. They were shown how the Aishihik project impacted Aishihik people. They went to where the community organized a language camp and were served a lunch of whitefish soup. Lorraine Allen said, “This is what I want to talk to you about” and she pulled out a plate of deformed whitefish guts.
- That tour and that connection had an impact on Yukon Energy as it was the first time ever in 40 years that they talked to Aishihik people in their own environment.
- The previous administration signed a protocol on renewable energy opportunities with the Energy Corporation but it was subsequently determined that the focus should be on the relicensing strategy. A protocol was negotiated on how to work together. The protocol is based on shared decision-making.
- In January 2016, Chief Steve Smith signed the protocol with Andrew Hall, President of YEC. This new relationship of sharing decisions is based on a certain element of caution and it’s an experiment as it’s unknown if it’s going to work.
- A Steering Committee that is co-chaired by Lawrence Joe and YEC Vice-President, Michael Brandt was created to oversee the implementation of the Protocol Agreement.
- The Aishihik Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Manager of Environment & Resources, Roger Brown, was also created, made up of several representatives from various regulatory bodies and stakeholder groups that give advice on how the studies are going to proceed.

- A CAFN Community Advisory Committee was also created which is composed of eight knowledgeable people from Aishihik.
- Work has begun on studying water fowl, downstream impacts, hydrology, permafrost, groundwater flows.
- He said it was interesting that none of Champagne and Aishihik lands downstream of the project are subject to water licensing. Those lands are subject to Champagne and Aishihik's water legislation and authority. In his view, "Champagne and Aishihik will get a regulator under the decision body, YESAB," and he was optimistic with the process and that it will have a positive outcome.
- There will be communication strategies and plans developed.

In advance of the language discussion, Amanda Workman did an interactive language exercise of the song, *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* in Southern Tutchone with the Assembly.

The Assembly adjourned for a Health Break at 10:28 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

19. Language Discussion

- **Chief Steve Smith** spoke of the *Dákwänje Nàts'ùal Act (Language Act)* that was passed in 2014 and the development of a language mandate that means, "Talking our language our way; stay hungry for it; really want it." For people to learn the language, they need to be hungry for it; when you are hungry, you will have a drive to satisfy that hunger.

- **Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers** said that in addition to the mandate and legislation, there was also the need to establish key priorities and strategies. There were five priority areas identified to support the *Language Act* and language revitalization:

- i. Establishing a Language Nest pilot program.
- ii. To ensure that we have all-Citizen language lessons in the communities.
- iii. Language domain pilot.
- iv. Celebrating our language; being proud of it and seeing it within our community such as creating permanent labels within buildings, washrooms and kitchens.
- v. Developing a certificate program in language revitalization under a master apprentice program.

- Section 8(2) of the *Language Act* legislates that "...reports are provided to the General Assembly by the departments... for their activities taken under the authority of the language mandate." The Department of Language, Culture and Heritage and Management Committee created an annual report which was available to the General Assembly. Highlights of departments' initiatives included:

- **Executive Council Office** (includes Chief and Council): Most meetings start with a prayer in Southern Tutchone.

- **Governance:** Proposed Enrollment Act is in *Dän K'e* words. Administration of Justice agreements include negotiations of language. Tradition and culture is always a part of the key talks within the department. Staff are encouraged to attend language lessons and events.
- **Community Wellness:** Supporting programs and camps. Staff are encouraged to attend language lessons and events. Component of EOP (Employment Opportunities Program) is attendance at a week-long language program.
- **Property Services:** Ensuring that all buildings, particularly in Haines Junction, have Southern Tutchone names. Traditional territory signs in English and Southern Tutchone will be set up this summer. Work has been started on creating road signs in Southern Tutchone.
- **Education:** Developing language competency for daycare workers and the Education Support workers. ESW, Luke Campbell, took a three-week program at the University of Alberta.
- **Lands and Resources:** Support language camps on the land with field activities and providing equipment and the facilities to the camps.
- **Language, Culture and Heritage:** The strategy and mandate have been developed. Language programs: *Ashèyi* family language and culture camp; sewing nights; staff lessons; taking part in master apprentice program through the Department of Education which is an accredited program through the University of Alaska. Finalizing the mini *Dákwanje* dictionary which will eventually lead to the development of online language learning and a language app. Several resources have been developed: a number of CDs, books and nursery rhymes.
- **Capacity and Policy Development:** Examine all policies to ensure they're culturally relevant and support language as much as possible.
- **Finance:** Encouraging staff to attend language lessons and to incorporate the language as much as possible.

Questions/Comments:

Sally Jim: Very few speak the old traditional language. An Elder in Takhini, Norman Adamson, speaks fluently. We need someone like him to teach us. Would he get paid to teach us? He would be willing to do it but we need some funding for him.

Deputy Chief Shadelle Chambers: The second priority of the language strategy is "to ensure that we have all-Citizen language lessons." Takhini has been an area where we've had difficulty in finding a language instructor and for sure, there is funding available.

Margaret Workman: I started teaching language back in 1979 in Haines Junction and moving to Whitehorse where I taught in every elementary school. I taught in high school and at the University of Alaska. It doesn't really matter what dialect people speak. The main thing is to encourage the young ones to pick up the language. When they're very young, they're very easy to teach and they pick up the language very fast and they help their peers. Don't ever discourage your child by saying, "You're not speaking the way I speak." You have to be a fluent speaker for you to say that and I don't think any of you are fluent speakers that are discouraging your little children from learning. I advise you just to help them any way you can, even if it's just "*Dännch'e*." Use the language when they talk to you.

Barb Allen: I'd also like to see where I could go on the Heritage site and download a ringtone. In our new phone system at the office, I'd also like to see our song on there because when I phone, there's elevator music. If we're going to promote our language, at least put it on something like that. I'd like to see more than just the sewing lessons offered — something different — because we've been doing this sewing and language for years. If we just jazz it up a little more, maybe you'll get more people.

Lee Clayton: We have a CAFN member who has a degree in computer animation and is currently in southern California helping out a company. That could be a resource to develop interactive animation where younger people might be hungry for it.

Barb Joe: The signs on the table could be in Southern Tutchone as a start. When I was in New Zealand, the Maori people intersperse Maori with English and I was starting to pick some of the Maori words and I was only there 10 days. We need to start recognizing words; we need to hear it more often. The GA Coordinator should maybe work with the Language people to see where we can have some Southern Tutchone in the stuff that's handed out. In New Zealand, they handed out water bottles in their language. One of the logos in Maori was: "Speak Maori to me." We're not all going to be fluent but some of us may know a few words here and there and we may start picking it up as we hear it more. We can also introduce ourselves through our First Nation names.

Chief Steve Smith: Delegates, take out a piece of paper right now and write down two or three suggestions of the small things we have to change with our General Assembly like the signage. It would be nice to gather them up for the final report. We should have our names put on our chest as well.

Lorraine Stick: We started a dance group includes lots of little children. I drag my grandson along. I may think that he's not learning, but he sings quietly to himself in the background. At least he's picking up on the language. My husband is French so my grandson is not only learning French; he's also learning Southern Tutchone. Our young people pick up the language really fast. Encourage and support them, even if they make a wrong pronunciation. Don't laugh at them. When I went off to residential school as a child, and I came back, there were certain words I wasn't saying properly and people were laughing at me and I got really discouraged. I just wanted to get back to speaking my language again. I encourage as many people as possible to get your children involved in the dance group. We may not understand the words that are being sung but that's okay; you will learn.

Amanda Workman: A few years ago when I helped with the GA, I was able to get Willie Kane to make traditional place names in *Dän K'e* and I don't see those labels out here. Maybe it's finding the things that have been done.

Sally Jim: Are you putting up signs in the Takhini area? We were asking about putting a sign up for Mundessa Kų. If somebody got hurt in Takhini, how will the ambulance find the place when we have no street names?

Azriel Allen: I have a suggestion about changing our Resolution process and rewording it using our language and possibly having a language gathering of some sort every couple of years with other Southern Tutchone Bands.

Chief Steve Smith: One of the mandates of the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council is to bring us together and talk in Southern Tutchone. That's a good suggestion.

(a) Language Journey

- **Chief Steve Smith** introduced Khāsha (Stephen Reid) who just graduated with a Master's degree in Indigenous Language Revitalization.

- **Khāsha (Stephen Reid)** spoke in Southern Tutchone. He said, "Don't quit learning our language. It's time we start speaking what we already know. A lot of us know *Dān K'e*. We know lots of little words. I was very happy to hear [Chief] Steve [Smith] say: 'I don't know if I can say this right, but I'm going to try.' That's the attitude we all need to take. We have to try even when we make mistakes. We have to let ourselves make those mistakes. It's using the language that drives learning the language.

- "For years, I learned *Dān K'e*. I would go home and practise by myself; meanwhile, my kids aren't hearing anything. I knew a lot but I wasn't speaking it. A lot of us know lots of *Dān K'e* but why don't we speak it? When we see each other, why do we say, 'Good morning,' 'Hi,' 'How are you.' Even those simple things we could speak our language."

- He spoke about some of the second language methods: total physical response; neurolinguistics approach; Paul Creek method; the Rassias method; and accelerated second language acquisition. He said while they are great, they don't have the integration from the classroom into the home.

- He referenced one of the priorities of the mandate of reclaiming domains as a way of bringing the language methods and making an external motivation to speak in the home or on the land. He said, "You want to reclaim your boat? You have to start by learning 'boat,' 'fishing rod,' 'hook,' 'fish,' 'lake'. You want to reclaim your kitchen? You start there but we have to make that step. But before we can make that step, we need to know why as a nation we should even bother speaking and passing this language on in the first place." He cited several reasons:

"Speaking our language connects us to one another. It connects the younger people to the older people. Getting out on the land and berry-picking, going fishing, hunting, potlatch ceremonies — it brings us together. It reminds us that we don't live by ourselves in these houses but we're a community and we're a Nation.

"It gives us insight into our world view which is completely different than how we think in English.

"People look up to those who try to speak our language. They raise their hands up to them. It wasn't too long ago that I was pretty sure I was a dumb little kid. I thought that. But for some twist of fate, I started getting involved in the language and people respect that.

"Learning the language — it feels good to speak in the way that our ancestors spoke 200, 300 years ago. It connects us to a way that is much older than even our oldest Elders; so the words we're saying were the same words that our ancestors were speaking and it connects us into a way of thinking that our ancestors thought and there's a lot of wisdom in that.

"Learning the language will help us become better hunters, fishermen, weavers, sewers, carvers, toolmakers, spiritualists. There are lessons in the language that are harder to learn in English and pieces get left behind.

"Learning our language is evidence of our sovereignty as a distinct people. Without that language, we aren't distinct from other people. With each successive

generation that speaks English, we become more English and the English culture begins to take over. Look at our great-grandparents; look at our grandparents; look at our parents; look at our children.” With each successive generation, without *Dákwanjè*, so too goes our connection to our worldview and our culture.”

- He talked about his mentorship with Elder Paddy Jim. Since 2006, he has recorded about 180 language sessions with the Elder. He would write out what he wanted to ask or show a picture and the Elder would give him the phrase. The Elder is hard of hearing but he can lip-read and knew if he wasn't saying it right, just by how his mouth moved.

- In 2015, on Elder Paddy Jim's 83rd birthday, the book, *Dezítàtà*, was released and a copy of all the recordings were given to Elder Paddy Jim's children. He is working on a process whereby everyone would be able to access the recordings. He noted what he has learned from Elder Paddy Jim: songs, spirituality — Doòli, family history, tools, patience, hard work, hunting, gaffing, laughter and teasing.

- The mentorship program parallels the First Nation values of Elders teaching the youth. Mentorship is an immersive methodology where the ideal situation is staying in the language with the Elder.

- He said, “So many of our people have language knowledge but it's largely untapped. It's untapped because the foundation is missing and that is trying to make ourselves whole human beings. I've seen a lot of good language learners but their lives are in chaos so they don't stick with it. We need strong people in the language game. Language and wellness goes hand in hand. I truly believe that making us whole is on our land; it is with our people; gathering foods; bringing our ceremonies back; bringing our stories back. We all have to step up to speak our language. We have to bring our younger people into it. Make them feel proud about it. Don't ever put down their language, like Margaret [Workman] said. Don't worry about dialects. I'm learning from so many. We can't get fussy about where we're learning. 'I'm going to learn from Ta'an; I'm going to learn from Kluane.' We're at the end. If we don't work hard, we're losing lots here. We can't worry about the dialects. It's not hard to switch it over to your other dialect. *Kwaänaschis*.”

Questions/Comments:

Chief Steve Smith: Really powerful words and it's actually quite inspiring to listen and see one of our young people really take this upon themselves. We have language classes within Champagne and Aishihik. We actually had Citizens say, “I don't have time to go a language class.” That's the kind of thing we have to fight.

I had a non-Champagne and Aishihik staff member say, “Why would I go to language class? I'm not going to be able to learn your language.”

I told her, “You have Champagne and Aishihik kids. When you go to language class, you instill something in your kids without telling them something: that our language is important. You make it okay for your kids to learn the language.”

Just like when we are alcoholic and we drink in front of our children, we make it okay for our children to drink. On the positive, if we go to language class, if our children see us perform song and dance, we make it okay for our kids to want to learn and speak the language; to live the language.

The young ones will save our language because it comes the easiest to them. We have to think about it in our own context: How do I support the language even though I can't speak it? Encourage and focus on the little ones. We can say, "Äjü" — you just say "no" to them when they're speaking English. Every one of the kids that I asked for water, I said, "Chu. What did I say?" They say, "water" — so they know.

I'm going to come to you before the end of my mandate and ask you for your support for a lot of money for language. Our language ties everything that we do together from our social ills to our economic opportunities.

My dream has always been that our kids will be speaking here. Our old people are always worried about the kids. 'Are they going to be okay?' 'Are they going to have a warm place to stay?' 'Are they going to have food in their stomachs?' I truly believe if we give them our language, they will have those things. Our Elders then can relax and not worry. Everybody in this tent has committed to lead our nation. Our language and our culture will save everybody here from all of the troubles that we go through and that we see on a daily basis. I believe saving our language will build a strong Haines Junction. We're going to draw people to Haines Junction because they're going to want their kids to go to our school and our daycare.

Lorraine Allen: The language will keep you safe from the wolf and the bear. You have to be able to talk to them. The old people are wondering if the people are going to survive. If they don't know the language, they can't talk to the elements around you.

I talk to the water too because our life will be saved by it. I have lots of respect for the wind. If that wind decided to blow really hard and blow everything down, blow the fire across the land, we can't do anything about it; it's going to happen. If that water decides to flood and carry everything away, you're not going to stop it. That's what the Elders teach us.

I asked Uncle Sam one time, 'Why don't we have Indian doctor the way we used to — to heal people? He said, 'Grandchild, the young generation are too crazy now. You can't pass these kind of words around to them; they might use it in a different way. It's going to stop right now. It's halfway stopped already. You never hear anybody tell you any words about anything?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'That's why.' They used to heal people with their hands — that's how powerful their language was.

Some words your family might know; they might pass it to you. They're going to tell a story to you; it's up to you to pick the words up from that story.

(b) Language Nest

- **Chief Steve Smith** introduced **Dr. Kathryn Michel** from the Adams Lake Indian Band which belongs to the Secwepemc Nation in the interior of B.C. Her slide presentation was entitled "The Power of a Dream."

- She started her presentation by speaking her native language. She said, "You have so much power here in your territory, on your land. But within these walls here, you have everything you need to keep your language alive. I feel that power and I hope you feel it too. Half of it is just from a dream — the power of a dream — and that's what's going to keep you going."

- Her "language awakening" began in 1987 when she attended a World Indigenous Peoples Conference at UBC. She was graduating with her first degree and students were asked to volunteer at the conference. She was assigned to a Maori workshop to

take notes. She was particularly impressed by a young woman speaking Maori for quite a length of time. The young woman translated what she said. Her first sentence was: “A year ago, I couldn’t say a word in Maori.” She and her child learned Maori from a Language Nest — Te Kohanga Reo — in New Zealand. Children from birth to five years old are immersed in the language by fluent Elders.

- She talked about the “magic” that was involved after attending the conference. She appreciated what she learned but as she had a young child, she went on with her life and forgot about it. About 10 days later, there was a knock at the door where a young man about 10 years old was holding an ugly, artificial fur jacket that he said was a gift to her from a Maori Elder. He handed it to her and quickly left. She thought perhaps somebody had lost it, so she talked to people at UBC but no one was missing a jacket. She hung it up in her closet. Every night, she closed her closet door; in the middle of the night, her closet would be open and she would see a piece of the jacket sticking out. After about two weeks of this happening, she shouted at the jacket, “All right, I’ll do it.” This sparked her dream to move back to her reserve to start a Secwepemc Language Nest.

- She and another young mother did two months of fundraising. They had no program at first so they just started improvising in engaging the children in different activities. But the strict rule was: stay in the language; no English.

- The reality was that change was slow and there didn’t seem to be much community support; however, even though the Elders didn’t understand the program, they were very patient and gave encouragement. Her advice to Elders: “No matter what, try to support any type of initiative because you never know which one is actually going to be the one that works.”

- The Secwepemc Language Nest led to the development of the Chief Atahm School primary immersion program in 1991 for preschool to grade 3; adult language immersion; community language classes; teacher training programs.

- The Maoris explained that language immersion isn’t throwing somebody into frigid cold water without them knowing how to swim; immersion is “gently bathing them in your language; gently placing them in nice, warm water and getting them to get used to it and adjust to it.”

- Learning a second language makes children smarter as it uses more of their brain. They become very adept at moving between both worlds of English and their native language. Learning their language helps develop a child’s sense of self in relation to their community. Having a strong identity is critical to achieving success in life and being a strong leader.

- Within an immersion environment, no English is used. Strategies used to help communicate with children include: body language; visuals; hands-on activities; exaggerated facial expressions; expressive voice — keeping it in the language requires creativity, patience and a sense of humour.

- Prepare the language environment: find people who can speak the language and who enjoy younger children and playing with them. Team fluent speakers with one or two younger people who love babies and who are passionate about learning the language. Fluency only needs to be strong for words that happen at the Language Nest — very simple and nurturing with a lot of repetitive talk. One strategy is to designate

someone to be the “language cop” who will monitor and give gentle reminders to speak the language.

- She noted that very little infrastructure is needed for a Language Nest. Having smaller pods in different spaces is better than one big pod as the environment is more conducive for one-on-one nurturing of the children. The days are structured with familiar routines. To keep the focus on the language and the Elders, have a simple, uncluttered environment with no open access to toys. Students are drawn into using the language through songs, chants, art, meaningful repetitive phrases and sensory cues.

- She concluded by saying, “Remember that we have successfully raised children into adulthood without any intervention and without use of English for thousands of years. We have to change our mindset that learning has to occur in English. While your Elders are still willing to offer all that they can, just jump off that cliff and go into the Language Nest.”

Questions/Comments:

Dayle MacDonald: As an Elder, I don’t know the language. I think what you’re saying is really exciting. To me, what seems like a gap is when the children go back home, they don’t have people to talk to in that language. I wonder if there was some thought to deal with that or if it was enough for them to go to the school.

To make something normal in a community, “normal” has to start with leadership. It might be good to have a requirement that Chief and Council take the language and use the language more to be good role models for the rest of the community.

Dr. Kathryn Michel: I know what it feels to grow up without having a language but it truly is possible for adults to learn it. We have successfully done adult immersion by implementing the same curriculum and strategies being used with children.

There is a gap when the children go home because it’s an English environment they’re going to. We used to mandate that parents of the students in the school had to take a language class. So, we offer community classes where everyone is encouraged to come. We found we had more buy-in when we didn’t make it mandatory.

Chief James Allen: I’ve always supported language and culture in our First Nations. I’ve always said that if you don’t have the language, then you’re losing your culture as well. I’m proud of Stephen Reid here who’s trying to do a lot in saving our language. Learning the language can be done. It isn’t impossible; we make it impossible because we give up too easy. I’ve always voiced that we need an immersion school. Saying it is easy; getting it going is harder. There are negative people. What hinders it also are the funding agreements. The government has allocated a certain number for native language in schools and that’s it.

The only way I see it happening is if somebody in our community starts it like you did. We have to start somewhere. Language and culture has to permeate through the whole government.

Chief Steve Smith: If it’s important to us, we pay for it. How important is our language if we’re not encouraging our young people to actually go into language programming as a viable means to further their education? This Council is wholeheartedly behind starting that first step.

He presented Dr. Kathryn Michel with the book by Paddy Jim and Khāsha (Stephen Reid, *Dezítátà*).

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1:00 p.m. and reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

20. Resolutions of the Day

- **Resolution 2016-08 Harm Reduction**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the CAFN government adopt a Harm Reduction Approach rather than a punitive approach and offer training in Harm Reduction;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED continue to provide support for CAFN land based programs and employment opportunities.

Moved: Janet Van Bibber
Seconded: Debbie Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Janet Van Bibber

- **Resolution 2016-14 Housing Deficit — Collection of Rental Arrears**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly requests that Government take immediate measures to enforce the CAFN Housing Policy, including establishing repayment plans, and developing and implementing a strategy - to collect rental arrears and service charges owed to the Department by tenants.

Moved by: Azriel Allen
Seconded by: Chase Smith-Tutin
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Barb Joe

- **Resolution 2016-15 Housing Subsidy Units**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly asks that the Government review the Policy to ensure that the 41 Subsidy Houses are specifically addressed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government enforce the Policy to ensure that individuals who have a Subsidy House and who are able to pay are made to cover the costs of those repairs.

Moved by: Lee Clayton
Seconded by: Sally Jim

Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Barb Joe

- **Resolution 2016-17 Lands Policy Review**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government review the Policy to determine how it can be improved, and in particular that the Government review the following aspects of the Policy:

- (1) the application process (11-1030);
- (2) the review process (11-1040);
- (3) the decision-making process (11-1050); and
- (4) the appeal process;
- (5) increasing the number of Lands Committee meetings held annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that as part of the review process, the Government consider including a protocol to encourage communication and good relationships amongst neighbours;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that after a review of the Policy has been completed, the Government move to make whatever changes are necessary to the Policy and to associated legislation/regulations to create a fair, open, consistent and transparent process for land allocations with the objective of encouraging good relationships amongst neighbours.

Moved by: Deborah Workman
Seconded by: Amanda Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Dayle MacDonald (Champagne)

- **Resolution 2016-18 Community Advisory Committees**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government work with each community to determine whether it is feasible to create independent non-profit community associations under the Societies Act in each CAFN community.

Moved by: Azriel Allen
Seconded by: Amanda Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Dayle MacDonald (Champagne)

- **Resolution 2016-19 Holistic Wellness Program — Long-Term Support**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly asks that the Government work with Citizens, including those with the challenges, communities and various departments towards an integrated and holistic and long-term vision and ongoing programs and support for wellness for CAFN Citizens who have addictions or other social/psychological challenges.

Moved by: Virginia Allen
Seconded by: Janet Van Bibber
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Dayle MacDonald (Champagne)

- **Resolution 2016-20 Champagne Aishihik Trust/DCI Accountability**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government ensure that the MOU is fully implemented;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government ensure that the Board of CAT and the BOD of DCI complies with the Reporting provisions of the MOU, including a presentation of the current financial position, of DCI;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government undertake a review of the reporting provisions in the MOU to make sure that the reporting provisions achieve the goal of ensuring an open and transparent relationship between the BOD of DCI, the Trustees of CAT and the Beneficiary (CAFN).

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Lorraine Stick
Decision: Passed by consensus

Submitted by: Lena Smith-Tutin (Aishihik)

21. Closing Remarks

Chair Victor Mitander thanked the Delegates and Chief and Council for allowing him to chair the General Assembly. He looked forward to further working with the Council.

Youth Co-Chair Jamie Joe-Hudson was grateful for the opportunity to serve as Co-Chair. She met a lot of great people and learned a lot about her First Nations. She expressed special thanks to the Chair, Victor Mitander.

Chief Steve Smith said that even though a lot has been done, there is still a long way to go. He pointed out that next year, Canada will be celebrating 150 years of governing but they’re still questioning their own existence — constitutionally and otherwise — and he cited the political situation in the U.S. where the country is trying to figure out where it’s headed.

Special congratulations were in order as it has been the only General Assembly where resolutions didn't go to a vote. It showed the Assembly is taking the time and talking through things. He acknowledged that Council challenges the Directors. He said, "This is a Council of mostly women who really push things forward all the time." He commended the Assembly for their support and trust for not only him personally, but Council as a group. He expressed his view that it had been one of the best — if not the best — General Assemblies that had taken place. "We disagree but we spent a lot of time as well being together."

He noted how the end of a General Assembly is always a little melancholy and the spirits of the old ones are saddened as well when everyone leaves. "To me, it's the one time of year that we actually do get together and although we do have disagreements, we still take the time to re-entrench who we are."

He especially wanted to thank the coordinator for the fun activities. He noted how the Resolution put forward by two young men on reusing cups at the General Assembly set the mood for the evening. Everyone was happy and feeling good.

He was happy to see how everyone was so engaged in the language discussion. He spoke of the challenges in social services, housing, education, economic development, the land, language and culture. He commended those who put their names forward to serve as Delegates; for sharing their thoughts and wisdom. Everyone — from the EOP (Equal Opportunities Program) staff, janitors, educators, administrators and leaders — everyone has an important role and can contribute something to contribute to Champagne and Aishihik. The overall goal is to create a better tomorrow for the children; one that is free as it can be of trauma, hurt and despair; physical, mental, chemical, and alcohol abuse; and one that includes a healthy land, healthy animals and fish and pure, clean drinking water.

He thanked everyone involved in the coordination of the General Assembly — the departments and staff. He also gave a big thank-you to the Chair, Victor Mitander and the Youth Co-Chair, Jamie Joe-Hudson for their guidance in the discussions. He concluded by thanking the General Assembly Coordinator, Brenda Asp and all the Citizens who came out.

Lorraine Stick spoke of the importance of using social media — Facebook, Instagram, Twitter— in marketing small business. She suggested that Champagne and Aishihik members with small businesses meet every two months to exchange ideas and assist one another as there is the desire for every Citizens' business to succeed.

Lee Clayton said it was a really awesome General Assembly as it was overwhelmingly positive. He cited his entrepreneurial background. His wife is from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians which is one of the most successful tribes in the United States. He extended an invitation to Champagne and Aishihik to visit that Band and perhaps have an exchange of ideas at an economic development summit.

22. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The Assembly adjourned at 3:50 p.m. **Chief Steve Smith** offered the closing prayer.

Summary Motions

General Assembly Motion 2016-1 To accept Victor Mitander as Chair and Jamie Joe-Hudson as Youth Co-Chair of the 2016 General Assembly.

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Chief Paul Birckel
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly Motion 2016-2 To accept the 2016 General Assembly agenda as presented.

Moved by: Lena Smith-Tutin
Seconded by: Barb Allen
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly Motion 2016-3 To accept the 2016 General Assembly Rules of Order as presented.

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Marie McLaren
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly Motion 2016-4 To appoint Kim Hudson, Ashley John, Ian Robinson, Sheila Smith and Janet Van Bibber to the Resolution Committee with Alexa McLaren and Dave Joe providing legal and technical support.

Moved by: Sally Jim
Seconded by: Heather Hougen
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly Motion 2016-5 To accept the minutes of the 2015 General Assembly as presented.

Moved by: Lorraine Stick
Seconded by: Larry Joe
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-01

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE DEDUCATION PAYMENT

WHEREAS Yukon Government (“YG”) improperly deducted amounts from social assistance (“SA”) payments made to Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) Citizens receiving SA by taking into account amounts received by those Citizens for family allowance (the “improper deductions”);

AND WHEREAS the issue of the improper deductions from SA payments to CAFN Citizens was identified by CAFN and addressed by YG approximately three (3) years ago;

AND WHEREAS YG has been working to ensure that CAFN Citizens who had amounts improperly deducted from their SA payments are reimbursed in the amount of those improper deductions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government work to ensure that every CAFN Citizen who had amounts improperly deducted from their SA payments has been properly identified and reimbursed.

Submitted by: Barb Allen

Moved by: Barb Allen
Seconded by: Lena Smith-Tutin
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly Resolution

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-02

AFTER-CARE

WHEREAS there are Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) Citizens on a healing path;

AND WHEREAS there is insufficient after-care for people coming out of treatment within the community of CAFN making transition back into regular life less likely to be successful;

AND WHEREAS CAFN places a high priority on the treatment success and wellness of CAFN Citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Chief and Council investigate options to assist citizens to continue on their healing path after they have received treatment, while they are in transition.

Submitted by: Barb Allen

Moved by: Lee Clayton
Seconded by: Larry Joe
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-03

HEALING OUR COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) has some Citizens who are traumatized and are in need of counselling, healing and support;

AND WHEREAS there are limited services or trained staff to assist CAFN Citizens in our communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government provide resources for counseling, healing and support, including programs for CAFN Citizens in their communities.

Submitted by: Barb Allen

Moved by: Barb Allen
Seconded by: Lorraine Allen
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-04

HOUSING SERVICES OFF SETTLEMENT LANDS

WHEREAS Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) is a self-governing First Nation;

AND WHEREAS CAFN provides housing services to CAFN Citizens who live on CAFN Settlement Lands;

AND WHEREAS the housing services available to CAFN Citizens who live on CAFN Settlement Lands are not available to CAFN Citizens who live off CAFN Settlement Lands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government develop a program for CAFN Citizens who live off CAFN Settlement Lands to provide housing services to them.

Submitted by: Barb Allen

Moved by: Barb Allen
Seconded by: Sally Jim
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-05

ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE IN HAINES JUNCTION

WHEREAS there are Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (“CAFN”) Citizens who require assistance because they are living in unsatisfactory housing and lack support structures;

AND WHEREAS these Citizens need safe housing and integrated daily support programming of the sort that could be provided at an assisted living residence in Haines Junction;

AND WHEREAS the Government is working to change its approach to the delivery of Citizen Services so that it will be more in line with CAFN culture and tradition;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly asks that the Government investigate the feasibility of an Assisted Living Residence in Haines Junction to meet the needs of CAFN Citizens in respect of safe housing and integrated daily support programming.

Submitted by: Debbie Workman

Moved by: Azriel Allen
Seconded by: Amanda Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-06

PURCHASES FROM CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS (“CAFN”) OWNED BUSINESSES

WHEREAS several CAFN Citizens own businesses that could supply goods and services to CAFN Government;

AND WHEREAS the purchase of goods and services from these Citizen-owned businesses will contribute to business success and the self-reliance of citizens and their families;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government develop a policy to ensure that CAFN departments purchase goods and services from CAFN Citizen-owned businesses on a preferential basis.

Submitted by: Lorraine Stick

Moved by: Lorraine Stick
Seconded by: Lee Clayton
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTON 2016-07

KLUKSHU LOT ALLOCATION PROCESS

WHEREAS connecting has been identified as a core principle of Champagne and Aishihik (“CAFN”) people in the 2014-18 Vision and Priorities: Self-Government to Self-Reliance document (the “Vision Document”);

AND WHEREAS some of the land at Klukshu Village has been allocated to CAFN Citizens;

AND WHEREAS the allocation of the land at Klukshu Village was subject to specified conditions that were to be fulfilled within a specified timeframe;

AND WHEREAS some of the Citizens to whom land at Klukshu Village was conditionally allocated have not fulfilled the conditions of their allocations within the timeframe required;

AND WHEREAS under the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN), section 19 (Revocation of an Allocation) the First Nations Council may revoke an allocation of land where the CAFN Citizen to whom the land was allocated fails to meet the terms and conditions provided in the allocation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests the government to follow the process set out in the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN) in respect of allocations of land at Klukshu Village where the CAFN Citizen to whom the land was allocated failed to meet the terms and conditions provided in the allocation and revoke the allocation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA requests that the Government, once allocations with unfulfilled conditions have been revoked under the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN), allocate available land at Klukshu Village in accordance with the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN).

Submitted by: Colleen Joe; Barb Joe

Moved by: Chief Paul Birckel
Seconded by: Lee Clayton
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-08

HARM REDUCTION

WHEREAS many Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) Citizens have and continue to experience the negative, inter-generational impacts of residential school which included an authoritarian, punitive environment;

AND WHEREAS health professionals have proven a direct link between self-medicating practices (substance abuse) and trauma due to abuse and neglect stemming from the intergenerational impacts of residential school;

AND WHEREAS a Harm Reduction Approach recognizes ‘Free Will’ (freedom to make personal choices) of individuals and involves accepting their lifestyle choices and assisting them minimizing the harm incurred when they are self-medicating (engaging in addictions);

AND WHEREAS when people are offered the opportunity to access healthy options that support inclusion into the community such as being provided with an opportunity to improve their self-esteem and increase their self-confidence through land-based camps, employment opportunities (including the log building project in Klukshu and the restoration of the house in Champagne) have been shown to spend less time self-medicating (abusing substances);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the CAFN government adopt a Harm Reduction Approach rather than a punitive approach and offer training in Harm Reduction;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED continue to provide support for CAFN land based programs and employment opportunities.

Submitted by: Janet Van Bibber

Moved by: Janet Van Bibber
Seconded by: Debbie Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-09

24-HOUR HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE FACILITY IN HAINES JUNCTION

WHEREAS there is currently no 24-hour health/extended medical care facility available to Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) Citizens (elders or others) in need of care in Haines Junction;

AND WHEREAS currently, CAFN elders and other CAFN Citizens in need of 24-hour care have no choice but to seek out a health/extended care facility in Whitehorse (Copper Ridge Place, Macaulay Lodge, or Thomson Centre) if 24-hour care is required;

AND WHEREAS it would benefit CAFN elders and other CAFN Citizens and the CAFN community as a whole if they could access a 24-hour health/extended medical care facility in Haines Junction;

AND WHEREAS a 24-hour health/extended medical care facility in Haines Junction would also provide employment and training opportunities to CAFN Citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government seriously consider the viability of, and options for establishing, a 24-hour health/extended medical care facility in Haines Junction.

Submitted by: Florence Griffith

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Lance Fraser
Decision: Passed by consensus

Appended: Resolution submitted by Chief Ray Jackson

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-10

AISHIHIK TREATMENT CENTRE

WHEREAS there is a treatment centre and cabins (the “Centre”) at the historic village of Aishihik (at the airport);

AND WHEREAS the Centre is not currently being used for treatment and is under lock and key and unavailable to the program coordinator for Aishihik;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GA requests that the Government have the Centre assessed for health and safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government make the Centre and cabins available for programs for CAFN families attending the cultural program camps and for other associated purposes.

Submitted by: Lorraine Stick

Moved by: Debbie Workman
Seconded by: Lorraine Allen
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-11

KLUKSHU SPECIFIC CLAIM

WHEREAS Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) filed a specific claim for the Klukshu Reserve on September 16, 1991 (the “Specific Claim”);

AND WHEREAS the Specific Claim was for (1) wrongful use and (2) environmental damage of Klukshu Reserve;

AND WHEREAS Canada accepted the Specific Claim for negotiation;

AND WHEREAS Canada and CAFN resolved the wrongful use aspect of the Specific Claim through negotiation and CAFN accepted \$500,000 as compensation;

AND WHEREAS Canada did not offer compensation for the part of the Specific Claim that relates to environmental damage of Klukshu Reserve;

AND WHEREAS CAFN did not release the environmental claim to the Klukshu Reserve when it settled the wrongful use part of the Specific Claim;

AND WHEREAS Canada rejected CAFN’s environmental claim to Klukshu Reserve in September, 2011: the environmental use part of the Specific Claim is therefore still unresolved;

AND WHEREAS CAFN has a right to appeal Canada’s rejection of the environmental use part of its Specific Claim to the Specific Claims Tribunal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government consider the options available to CAFN to appeal Canada’s rejection of the environmental use part of the Specific Claim to Klukshu Reserve. Specifically, this GA asks that the Government undertake a legal review of the environmental use aspect of the Specific Claim for the Klukshu Reserve and consider appealing Canada’s rejection of the environmental use part of the Specific Claim to the Specific Claims Tribunal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government consider doing whatever medical and environmental testing of Klukshu and Klukshu residents that may be necessary to strengthen CAFN’s appeal of the environmental use part of the Specific Claim.

Submitted by: Chief Paul Birckel

Moved by: Barb Joe
Seconded by: Larry Joe
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-12

CHAMPAGNE LOT ALLOCATION PROCESS

WHEREAS connecting has been identified as a core principle of Champagne and Aishihik (“CAFN”) people in the 2014-18 Vision and Priorities: Self-Government to Self-Reliance document (the “Vision Document”);

AND WHEREAS some of the land at Champagne has been allocated to CAFN Citizens;

AND WHEREAS the allocation of the land at Champagne was subject to specified conditions that were to be fulfilled within a specified timeframe;

AND WHEREAS some of the Citizens to whom land at Champagne was conditionally allocated have not fulfilled the conditions of their allocations within the timeframe required;

AND WHEREAS under the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN), section 19 (Revocation of an Allocation) the First Nations Council may revoke an allocation of land where the CAFN Citizen to whom the land was allocated fails to meet the terms and conditions provided in the allocation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government to follow the process set out in the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN) in respect of allocations of land at Champagne where the CAFN Citizen to whom the land was allocated failed to meet the terms and conditions provided in the allocation and revoke the allocation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA requests that once allocations with unfulfilled conditions have been revoked under the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN), Government allocate available land at Champagne in accordance with the *Lands Act* (CAFN) and the *Lands Policy* (CAFN).

Submitted by: Heather Hougen

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie
Seconded by: Azriel Allen
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-13

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) has a Post-Secondary Education Policy (the “Policy”), which was approved on June 12, 2015 and was updated on June 24, 2016;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the Policy is to assist eligible students to gain access to Post-Secondary education and to help students to graduate with the skills and competencies required to pursue their individual careers and contribute to the realization of CAFN self-government and economic self-reliance;

AND WHEREAS to this end, CAFN, through a Student Support Program (the “Program”), offers financial subsidization to cover certain costs associated with pursuing post-secondary education;

AND WHEREAS the Program contains eligibility criteria and includes requirements for academic achievement and requires that students comply with the Program eligibility criteria to be eligible for post-secondary funding under the Policy;

AND WHEREAS the Policy does not specifically address the issue of learning disabilities or consider how learning disabilities might impact upon the ability of students to meet the criteria of the Policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that the Government work to amend or add to the existing Policy to better address the needs of students with learning disabilities and to ensure that such students do not suffer from a suspension or a termination of their financial support provided under the Policy simply because of their learning disability.

Submitted by: Lorraine Stick, Aishihik

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Dallayce Smith
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-14

HOUSING DEFICIT – COLLECTION OF RENTAL ARREARS

WHEREAS the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) has a Housing Policy (the “Policy”), which is administered by the CAFN Housing Department (the “Department”);

AND WHEREAS the Department is in a deficit and is predicted to continue to be in a deficit for the next several years;

AND WHEREAS the Department plans to reduce its deficit through rent, service charges and arrears collections, which are addressed in the Policy (section 9-1040);

AND WHEREAS if the Department cannot reduce its deficit through rent, service charges and arrears collections, the Government will be forced to reallocate resources from other important programs and services to reduce the Department’s deficit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly requests that Government take immediate measures to enforce the CAFN Housing Policy, including establishing repayment plans, and developing and implementing a strategy - to collect rental arrears and service charges owed to the Department by tenants.

Submitted by: Barb Joe

Moved by: Azriel Allen
Seconded by: Chase Smith-Tutin
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-15

HOUSING SUBSIDY UNITS

WHEREAS at one time the federal government of Canada (“Canada”) had a program under which individual CAFN Citizens could apply for a grant to assist them to build a home on CAFN Settlement Lands;

AND WHEREAS 41 CAFN Citizens obtained a grant under Canada’s program and used it to help them build a house on CAFN Settlement Lands (“Subsidy Houses”)

AND WHEREAS the CAFN Housing Policy (the “Policy”), which is administered by the CAFN Housing Department (the “Department”) does not specifically address the 41 Subsidy Houses;

AND WHEREAS there is currently a need for repairs to some of the Subsidy Houses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly asks that the Government review the Policy to ensure that the 41 Subsidy Houses are specifically addressed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government enforce the Policy to ensure that individuals who have a Subsidy House and who are able to pay are made to cover the costs of those repairs.

Submitted by: Barb Joe

Moved by: Lee Clayton
Seconded by: Sally Jim
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-16

REUSABLE CUPS AT THE GA

WHEREAS the delegates are occupied in the meeting tent where gopher buddies are hired to increase the efficiency of the General Assembly (“GA”);

AND WHEREAS these efficiencies are diminished when delegates do not have a vessel to hold liquid of their desire leaving a gopher buddy to search for a vessel or request the delegates to scrounge for pocket change to purchase bottled water from the separate vendors;

AND WHEREAS this is hard on the environment and the wallets of the delegates;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) requests that at all future GAs, the delegates be provided with a reusable cup that would be left at the meeting tent and if need be, a deposit could be collected.

Submitted by: Michael Beattie for Graham MacDonald and Douglas McKinnon

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie
Seconded by: Sally Jim
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-17

LANDS POLICY REVIEW

WHEREAS the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) has a Lands Policy dated November 15, 2012 (the “Policy”);

AND WHEREAS the way we use the land has evolved over time and now some aspects of the Policy are not working and are creating tension and miscommunication amongst neighbours;

AND WHEREAS it is important to maintain good relationships amongst neighbors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government review the Policy to determine how it can be improved, and in particular that the Government review the following aspects of the Policy:

- (6) the application process (11-1030);
- (7) the review process (11-1040);
- (8) the decision-making process (11-1050); and
- (9) the appeal process;
- (10) increasing the number of Lands Committee meetings held annually;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that as part of the review process, the Government consider including a protocol to encourage communication and good relationships amongst neighbours;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that after a review of the Policy has been completed, the Government move to make whatever changes are necessary to the Policy and to associated legislation/regulations to create a fair, open, consistent and transparent process for land allocations with the objective of encouraging good relationships amongst neighbours.

Submitted by: Dayle MacDonald (Champagne)

Moved by: Deborah Workman
Seconded by: Amanda Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-18

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

WHEREAS an Aishihik relicensing process is ongoing;

AND WHEREAS as part of that process, an Aishihik First Nations Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) was put in place to encourage communication and input into the process from CAFN Citizens from Aishihik;

AND WHEREAS the Committee has encouraged participation, self-reliance, and capacity building and incorporating both scientific and traditional knowledge to protect fish, wildlife and our waterways amongst CAFN Citizens of Aishihik;

AND WHEREAS every year as part of the General Assembly, communities bring forward resolutions asking Government to address issues impacting their communities;

AND WHEREAS the process in place now does not allow for inclusion, monitoring and feedback on the implementation of the resolutions in each community with community members throughout the year to ensure that resolutions are in fact moving forward (i.e. between GAs);

AND WHEREAS there may be a benefit to using a similar model to the one that was created as part of the Aishihik relicensing process so that community members can participate on a committee to monitor and work towards the implementation of resolutions in their community and to provide feedback on the implementation of the resolutions to the Government between each GA (i.e. on a quarterly basis rather than immediately before the date of the next GA);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government work with each community to determine whether it is feasible to create independent non-profit community associations under the Societies Act in each CAFN community.

Submitted by: Dayle MacDonald (Champagne)

Moved by: Azriel Allen
Seconded by: Amanda Workman
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-19

HOLISTIC WELLNESS PROGRAM – LONG-TERM SUPPORT

WHEREAS Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (“CAFN”) Citizens who have addictions or other social/psychological challenges are often marginalized;

AND WHEREAS the wellness programs available to Citizens now, such as land based camps, are short-term solutions;

AND WHEREAS many Citizens who have addictions or other social/psychological challenges require long-term solutions (addictions for example, plague some Citizens 365 days of the year);

AND WHEREAS CAFN is losing too many people to addiction or other social/psychological challenges because the short-term programs available to Citizens now are not working: CAFN does not have continuous and long-term holistic) supports in place to help our Citizens (employment support and opportunities; housing; education/training; counseling; treatment and after-care);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly asks that the Government work with Citizens, including those with the challenges, communities and various departments towards an integrated and holistic and long-term vision and ongoing programs and support for wellness for CAFN Citizens who have addictions or other social/psychological challenges.

Submitted by: Dayle MacDonald (Champagne)

Moved by: Virginia Allen
Seconded by: Janet Van Bibber
Decision: Passed by consensus

General Assembly

27-Mile Aishihik Road, 2016

RESOLUTION 2016-20

**CHAMPAGNE AISHIHIK TRUST (“CAT”) ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES –
DAKWAKADA CAPITAL INVESTMENTS (“DCI”)**

WHEREAS the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (“CAFN”) established the Champagne and Aishihik Trust (“CAT”) by a deed of settlement dated the 25th day of March, 1999 (the “Deed”);

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the CAT is to hold all of the investment assets and business assets of the Beneficiary Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (the “Beneficiary”);

AND WHEREAS the Deed transfers all the property set forth in the Trust to the Trustees (the “Trustees”) who are appointed by the First Nations Council;

AND WHEREAS the Trustees have the power and authority under the terms of the Deed and in law to:

- (1) invest money constituting part of the trust property in investments in the name of the Trust, and
- (2) acquire shares in a corporation;

AND WHEREAS the Trustees of CAT, using their powers under the Deed and in law, wholly acquired DCI for CAT;

AND WHEREAS the mission of DCI is to create economic wealth for CAT by investing in active businesses both within and outside Yukon and by assessing, developing and participating in business and economic development opportunities as they arise;

AND WHEREAS DCI is overseen by a Board of Directors (the “BOD”) who are accountable to the Board of Trustees of CAT;

AND WHEREAS a Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) between CAFN and the CAT dated January 16, 2003 and revised March, 2011, sets out the relationship between CAFN and the CAT with the intent to ensure clear, concise and effective communications and decision-making and to ensure that the First Nations Council, the CAT Board of Trustees, corporate board members, and employees, understand the corporate governance obligations under which they are to seek and receive instruction and direction;

AND WHEREAS the MOU also speaks to the relationship between the Chief and Council, the Trustees of the CAT and the BOD of DCI;

AND WHEREAS the BOD of DCI has reporting requirements to the Trustees of the CAT and to the Beneficiaries of the CAT, which are set out in the MOU as follows:

- (1) to have an annual meeting with CAFN Citizens to summarize DCI activities with opportunities for feedback from Citizens,
- (2) to report to the CAT Board of Trustees semi-annually or more frequently, as requested, and
- (3) to have an annual meeting with the CAT Board of Trustees to summarize DCI activities;

AND WHEREAS some CAFN Citizens are concerned that the BOD of DCI is not fulfilling their obligations to report to the CAT Trustees or to CAFN Citizens or allowing for CAFN Citizen feedback as required in the MOU;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly (“GA”) asks that the Government ensure that the MOU is fully implemented;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government ensure that the Board of CAT and the BOD of DCI complies with the Reporting provisions of the MOU, including a presentation of the current financial position, of DCI;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GA asks that the Government undertake a review of the reporting provisions in the MOU to make sure that the reporting provisions achieve the goal of ensuring an open and transparent relationship between the BOD of DCI, the Trustees of CAT and the Beneficiary (CAFN).

Submitted by: Lena Smith-Tutin (Aishihik)

Moved by: Larry Joe
Seconded by: Lorraine Stick
Decision: Passed by consensus