

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMITTEE

Date: 11/28/23 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Raymond B., Julie H-C, Clair G.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Raymond brought up a concern about each reservation determining their citizenship criteria. It will make transferring citizenship from one reservation to another almost impossible. It will depend on who on the reservation is making the decision.
2. Dual Citizenship
 - a. No federal law prohibits it.
 - b. Resource issues
 - c. Keeping track of the citizens
 - d. It will be more challenging to keep the Census accurate.
 - e. It is difficult to determine funding based on population.
3. Talked about the minutes of TEC Meeting on 7/8/2019, excerpts from Pages 8-9 of 2019.

Article II – Enrollments: Address historical injustice, consider reform, initiate Clan Mothers

First, as related to Article II, Resolution 31-15 includes First Nation Anishinaabe blood and Resolution 32 15 includes other verified federally recognized Anishinaabe/Ojibway/Chippewa blood, both to be brought forward for a Secretarial Election ballot decision by MCT Tribal members. As I engaged several Tribal Leaders, many believed that the issue of enrollment reform is long overdue. Some also thought that these Resolutions were a step in that direction.

Beginning with elections last year, the matter of enrollment reform has been placed on the shelf for a few reasons, which includes providing an opportunity for Constitutional delegates to discuss the matter and for Tribal Leaders to consult their individual Bands.

Since the EIR was initiated, which directly affects Article II and Resolutions 31-15 and 32-15, the scope of enrollment issues have compounded due to recent discoveries. For example, an initial EIR summary has identified major issues associated with the 1901 Allotment List that wrongfully listed 1,089 individuals who lost full blood status.

Of the 1,089, a sampling of 5 Blood Quantum Corrections resulted in 1,963 individuals impacted. While an exact estimate of individuals negatively affected may never be

known, a basic estimate, if divided equally among the sample size, would show that up to 427,541 Blood Quantum Corrections may be required. At a minimum, tens of thousands can be expected. Based on the current sample, the Blood Quantum Corrections affect every Band.

Because Article II is severely affected by the 1901 Allotment List—in which case many other rolls are not included in the EIR estimate but most certainly would increase the amount of Blood Quantum Corrections on top of the rough estimate of 427,541 individuals—the feasibility of implementing Resolutions 31-15 and 32-15 becomes questionable. The inclusion of outside blood does not mitigate the issues presented by current blood rolls. Resolutions 31-15 and 32-15 may complicate present and future Blood Quantum Corrections. Including outside blood will not fix the mistakes of the past—intentional, malicious, or otherwise. However, all hope may not be lost if proper analysis is conducted.

To further examine this issue, at the conclusion of this statement and in conjunction with other matters presented, a series of motions to assess each matter more deliberately will be made. Whatever any analysis and assessment reveals, the issue of who belongs to the Tribe—the family—was traditionally decided by women. Therefore, Clan Mothers should be at the center of Article II - Enrollment.

Bottom line, we need to assess Article II with Resolutions 31-15 and 32-15, and the EIR for possible enrollment reform and Constitutional implementation. For those concerned with the possible rise in enrollment numbers, the answer to this concern is both pragmatic and values driven. A historical injustice occurred against our People. We have the freedom to choose its outcome by ending the injustice or allow the issue to carry on.

The injustice was the displacement of People, blood and identity for land. An injustice against one is an injustice against all. The truth is, if we cannot run from our past, we will not escape our future: continued displacement.

Depending on their laws, nations may die slowly and sooner than they think. If there is great concern about the issue that may stall Tribal Leaders from presenting it to the People for decision, questions must be asked:

- Have we reduced ourselves to what's best for the few is better than what's best for the whole?
- Does rabid self-interest supersede public interest?
- As Tribal Leaders, what will you do to fix this?

We are burdened with knowledge that hundreds of thousands of people are affected by enrollment. The issue will persist until its presented to the People for decision.

4. Citizen Council

- a. We kept it simple, only three goals.
- b. Three enrolled Citizens from each reservation on each council
- c. We determined the age of each council member, 18 years or older, for Women's, Men's, and Off-reservation. Age 55 years or older for Elder council

members and 8-18 for Youth Council, which needs to be discussed a little further.

5. There are Urban offices in the Cities and Duluth. We will need to view the website to see what they offer.
6. We will need a combination of Judges and General Council members to make up a panel to recall or remove a judge. The committee was not comfortable with an all-judge panel.

Next Meeting: 12/ 5/23 at 6 PM.