

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 4/2/24 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Raymond B., Gerald W., Julie H-C.,

NEW BUSINESS

Quick recap

- Carol discussed enrollment criteria language for the Alliance, the violation of the Treaty of 1847, the impact of non-Indian members, MCT management of Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts, the importance of maintaining and controlling land, the need for each band to draft their local constitution, and the ongoing work on a reconstruction of MCT.

Next steps

- Gerald will send the original allotment numbers to members so they can compare them with their current land holdings.
- FDL will put on the inquiry list -What is MCT's involvement in the "Individual Indians Money" account
- Gerald expressed his concern about the tribe making all the decisions about land issues, stating that the people should determine it. Who should ensure tribal control over land does not compromise tribal members' land?
- Carol will request a sample "policy" from Marcie to assist in drafting.

Summary

- Raymond asked what the criteria were for setting RBC salaries and raises.

- **Alliance Enrollment, Constitution, and Referendum Questions**

Carol discussed the enrollment criteria and local constitution content. How is it different from the Alliance content? They decided that enrollment should be based on Lineal Descent according to the 1847 Treaty, and local constitutions should include a statement consistent with Article II of the Maamawiino Anishinabeg Nation (aka Chippewa) Alliance. Carol expressed concerns about the impact of non-Indian members. Regarding

the referendum questions, Carol stated that her opinion is that only one of the Referendum questions. Include the elimination of blood quantum. The second question is confusing and contradictory. The majority vote was against blood quantum. The lesser majority voted in favor of bands determining their criteria.

- **Treaty Violation, Tribal Sovereignty, and Identity**

Carol expressed concerns over the violation of the Treaty of 1847 and its impact on tribal sovereignty and self-determination, stating that the treaty should be upheld and any questions regarding them would be addressed at the next convention.

- Raymond also criticized the lack of respect for tribal sovereignty and the need for approval from Congress, arguing that it was limiting and undermined the tribe's sovereignty. The discussion also touched upon the issue of local constitution criteria and the concept of blood quantum in determining Chippewa identity. Gerald provided historical context, mentioning past injustices and the challenges faced by the Indian community in accessing government assistance. Raymond highlighted that many people did not show up to meetings due to their reluctance to receive government assistance.

Tribal Land Ownership and Treaty Violations

Raymond and Gerald discussed the historical injustices of tribal lands taken by the state and federal government without fair compensation. Gerald expressed concerns about the tribal government being given too much power and argued that the people should decide the rules for land ownership, not the tribal leaders. He also advised FDL members to obtain patents for their land to prevent the tribe from taking it. The discussion highlighted the ongoing issue of tribal land ownership, inheritance, and treaty violations, with a focusing on the impact of changing blood quantum. The conversation also touched on the ongoing fight of their ancestors for their land, which had been ongoing for over a century.

FDL Land Ownership and Refusal Rights

Gerald explained the rules and procedures for land ownership within the FDL community. He emphasized that FDL has the first right of refusal for any land that comes up for sale and the importance of obtaining a Trust Status Report (TSR). Gerald also clarified the challenges and procedures regarding the purchase of land, including buying land from other family members and the required documents.

Land Management and Tribal Control Discussion

Raymond and Gerald discussed the importance of maintaining and controlling land, with Gerald emphasizing the role of individuals in managing their own land. They also talked about the issue of tribal control and the need to ensure the government works for the people. Raymond mentioned the need to verify original allotment numbers and Gerald agreed to help with this task. Carol also shared a document on the Administration and Supervisory Council and discussed the need to address the Tradition and Customs Dispute Resolution. Lastly, they discussed the involvement of MCT in IIM accounts, with Carol agreeing put this on a list to look into.

Concerns Funds Management

Gerald and Raymond discussed the management of individual money, which is the beneficiaries of land held in trust by the government. Gerald expressed concerns about the current management of these funds, stating that the money was being used for purposes other than intended and not being distributed on time. The conversation also touched upon issues relating to the ownership and management of tribal land, with Gerald questioning the presence of the MCT on tribal land and the accounting of funds. Raymond agreed, suggesting that the situation might violate treaty terms.

FDL and Gerald's Work-Related Discussion

Carol and Gerald discussed various issues related to the roles and functions of MCT. They talked about potential violations, the functions of certain accounts, and the need to find the right people to ask questions of. Carol suggested that we have a meeting with the Executive Director and that Gerald should be present in the meetings to ask his questions. They also

discussed the formation of Local Constitutions and the Alliance document, emphasizing the importance of separation of power and the need for each band to draft its local constitution. Carol proposed that the Alliance document Article II Citizenship should only include a statement on the enrollment criteria. She also suggested that the Local Constitutions be based on separation of power and compliance with the articles and concepts of the Alliance and a statement that endorsed the Alliance.

Reconstruction Project Progress and Alignment

Carol discussed their ongoing work on reconstructing MCT and the efforts to involve other tribes in the Alliance. They also sought assistance from Marcie in drafting policies to ensure they aligned with the Alliance's goals. Gerald provided advice on requesting necessary documents using the Freedom of Information Act. Carol expressed satisfaction with the progress and encouraged the team to continue their efforts. She thanked Gerald for all his insight related to land issues.

Next meeting: 4/9/2024 at 6 PM