



MICHEL FIRST NATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

VILLENEUVE HALL

REGISTRATION 9:30 AM - MEETING 10:30 AM

CHIEF Gil Goerz

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COUNCILLOR Maureen Ligtvoet

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COUNCILLOR Celina Loyer - on leave from Council

COUNCILLOR Jessie Loyer - on leave from Council

Michel First Nation elected Chief and Councillors have volunteered our time over the past several years to represent Michel First Nation members to the best of our abilities. Chief and Council initiated discussions with Canada to regain band status and to resolve past injustices Michel Band #472 has endured before enfranchisement in 1958 and the injustices which continue after the enfranchisement. Over the past several months after mediation in December of 2018, we have been in contact with Minister Bennett and her staff to get clarification on the status of our file with the same and continued response that our file is currently under review.

Our file has now been moved from Minister Bennett's department, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), to Minister Seamus O'Regan's department which is Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Michel First Nation Leadership Team has written to Minister O'Regan with a cc to Deputy Minister Jean-Francois Tremblay requesting a response on the status of our file and next steps on moving forward. The Leadership Team is continuing to work together to urge Canada to make a decision and provide us with a response either way.

We have invited the Honourable Minister Seamus O'Regan or his representative(s) to this AGM.

Chief Goerz and Council would also like to work with Canada to identify a fulsome citizenship list and develop an election code that is fair, legal and representative. We remain committed to advancing the interests of all Michel First Nation citizens, Status and Non-Status, and descendants. Our election was deferred last year in the hope that we would be in discussion with Canada already with our new codes in place, but this has not happened. As a result, we will have an election for Chief and Council in the traditional way of the past with registered Michel First Nation status members participating in the vote.

Our sincere hope is to come together as one voice, to get to the table with Canada and start meaningful discussions. We will need to work with Canada on establishing a membership code that is inclusive and not exclusive. A new membership code will have to be ratified by the majority of ALL members in order to be accepted by Canada. Then the membership and elected leaders can determine our options moving forward and bring the decision back to membership to vote on. Every member has a voice and the right to be heard, but the majority will determine our direction forward. There will be dissenters, just as there were in 1958.

We have now received a letter of rejection for our funding request. Chief and Council/FMS applied for funding through the Indigenous Nation Rebuilding Program on April 15, 2019 and clearly identified working with DMFNA & MFNC on developing our membership and bringing Michel First Nation together. The reason given was the Department determined that the applicant does not meet the recipient eligibility requirement as per the Program Terms and Conditions. This again is disheartening but not totally unexpected. We have asked for further clarification and if there is an appeal mechanism.

Chief and Council would like to thank you for your patience during this challenging time. Chief and Council are continuing to do meaningful work in our local communities that inspires and educates all community members to embrace and celebrate the Michel First Nation people. We hope the future will bring us all together to work for the common good of all Michel People and advance our cause of Band Reinstatement.

We will be providing lunch at this AGM and will be requesting a free will donation if you can kindly assist, to help with costs.

We have also produced mapping of the Michel Indian Reserve #132 with the history of the land by the surrenders and transfers. This will be on display at the meeting and smaller versions in 11 x17" will be available for distribution. All of the Canada Lands Surveys Records (CLSR) surveys completed on the reserve will also be on display.

We participated in a flag raising ceremony on Treaty Day August 23 at the Sturgeon County office in Morinville and in Edmonton. We have ordered flags with our enhanced logo on a white background. If you would like to order one, we will take orders at the AGM with pre-payment required. The cost is \$99 plus tax and mailout or shipping if not local.

Details on our activities for the past year will be provided at the AGM. An information package will be provided upon registration.

We look forward to seeing you again and thank you for your continued support.

Chief and Council
Michel First Nation