



**TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC
GENERAL BAND MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014
MOCCASIN SQUARE GARDENS**

APPROVAL DRAFT – VERBATIM MINUTES

CHAIRPERSON:

Chief Shane Gottfriedson

COUNCIL:

Councillor Rosanne Casimir
Councillor Katy Gottfriedson
Councillor Ed Jensen
Councillor Jeanette Jules
Councillor Richard Jules
Councillor Colleen Mosterd-McLean
Councillor Fred Seymour

GUESTS:

Jana Chouinard, Recording Secretary
Winterswan Casimir, Community Member

REGISTERED MEMBERS: 28

1	<i>Baptiste, Marie Carol Clydellia</i>	11	<i>Fraser, Nickole Kyle</i>	21	<i>Leonard, Russel Ralph</i>
2	<i>Baptiste, Narcisse Douglas</i>	12	<i>George, Nacoma Aaron</i>	22	<i>Manuel, Charlotte Faustine</i>
3	<i>Blank, Thomas William</i>	13	<i>Gottfriedson, Katy Elizabeth</i>	23	<i>Manuel, David Troy</i>
4	<i>Campbell, Angelina "Irene" Christiana</i>	14	<i>Gottfriedson, Lyndsey Dessa</i>	24	<i>Mosterd-McLean, Colleen Ann</i>
5	<i>Campbell, Howard William</i>	15	<i>Gottfriedson, Shane Wiley Charles</i>	25	<i>Seymour, Frederick August</i>
6	<i>Casimir, Dorothey Edna Nancy</i>	16	<i>Hazelwood, Marie Agnes</i>	26	<i>Thomas, Darlene "Dolly" Yvonne</i>
7	<i>Casimir, George Evan</i>	17	<i>Jensen, Edward Gerald</i>	27	<i>Thomas, Denise Arden Roanna</i>
8	<i>Casimir, Rosanne Joan</i>	18	<i>Jules, Janet "Jeanette"</i>	28	<i>Vincenzi, Shane William</i>
9	<i>Eaton, Barbara</i>	19	<i>Jules, William "Richard" Joseph</i>		
10	<i>Fraser, Joyce Susan</i>	20	<i>LaRue, Jules Fletcher-Lynd</i>		

**Quorum Confirmed: 23 Members
24 Members**

**5:16 pm
5:39 pm**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT
(RSBC 1996) CHAPTER 165

THESE MINUTES WERE FORMALLY ADOPTED BY MOTION OF CHIEF AND COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, XX, 2014.

5:39 P.M.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

What do we have for numbers? Thirty four? Thirty four or twenty four? Oh, twenty-four. Ok. According to our Rules Governing General Band Meetings, we do not have a quorum for tonight. We've waited a little over half an hour, an extra ten minutes hoping that our people would come but we do not have quorum for a General Band Meeting tonight. I know some of the issues on the Agenda tonight were Matrimonial Real Property, the Membership Code, Taxation, Custom Election Regulations, KGHM Ajax. I think we will look at pushing this item for our next General Assembly which is scheduled for September 24th. Just an FYI for everybody, if you look in the newsletter; there's a number of things in the back with the Work Search Centre. It also has a thing in there about Aboriginal Day, which is June 21st. There's a Fashion Show so if you want to be a model in the fashion show, just get a hold of Nacoma. On the Agenda is going to be a family fun, dry event, live performances, face painting, bouncy castle...so all you elders can get in that bouncy castle and have some fun in there. Howard's going to be supervising too. *<inaudible comment from audience>* That's why Howard will stand on one end, Fred will be on the other. *<laughter>* We're also going to have a Lahal tournament, fireworks, and pit cooking demonstration. There's also going to be the Moccasin Mile that day as well. So we're doing something different when it comes to Aboriginal Day instead of just having a big meal and people come and eat and go. We want to look at going and having live performances from musicians and talent show and it will be a fun day. Hopefully we'll see everybody back. There's also another Challenge going, it's a Back to the Land Challenge. I think our community is going to register. What happens is...it's a First Nations Health Authority Initiative, we can win up to \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) for Community Food Security grant. It challenges all Bands in the Interior region: Ktunaxa, Syilx, Secwépemc, Nlaka'pamux, St'át'imc and Dené to get Back to the Land based practices that kept our peoples healthy and brought our communities together since time immemorial. Anyway, the rule is just basically we go out, and our elders need to get involved. So we get points when our elders are involved. We also get points for food or medicine harvests or preserved. So each person that goes out, you got to take an elder. An elder gets one point and a youth gets one point. Basically it gets by harvesting and preserving activities, minimum two different age groups required. For example, grandmother, parent, child go root digging. Child reports via video equals five points. I think canning is involved in that too. I know somebody cans here. Irene? You don't can? I know my mom cans. I'm going to get my mom to bloody can. But if you can, this is the whole idea: get a video with yourself, your daughter, your grandchild. There's a heck of an opportunity for our community, like \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) for our own community activity. So this is really sort of something that I think a lot of people have gardens and go out and hunt and go out and pick medicines and berries and stuff. I'll also put...Nacoma put my recipe in the back here, with the World's Best Lasagna. Just kidding; my lasagna isn't that good. Also if you want to golf at Sun Rivers there's some of their rates. The other thing too is that there's a lot of things that are happening when it comes to safety. I think the Justice Department put something in, talking about cell phones and texting while you're driving. And then a list of all the GBM Schedule. The other thing that I want to report out to you is that the Shuswap Gathering and the PowWow. Some important dates for the nation as well that are not on the Agenda or in the book. We got a First Nations Grad that will be on the 25th of June; our Education Banquet is going to happen. Sk'elep School has their assembly and awards from one o'clock on the 18th. Little Fawn has their grad; the nursery kids are grading at eleven on the 18th. On the 20th there's SNTC (Shuswap Nation Tribal Council) Youth Lahal Tournament, in the evening on the 20th at the Arbour. So if you guys want to go down and hang with the youth and play stick games, that's an SNTC initiative. Aboriginal Day on the 21st. And we are looking for people; you can sign up with Nacoma, if you'd like to go on the Canoe Journey which is July 2nd to the 11th. We're looking for people. But you got to go for the whole journey; it's a huge commitment. So you can't just say you're going to go...and it's in Victoria, the Canoe

Journey. And it's in July the 2nd to July the 11th. We've got transportation, we're looking after your registration. Your meals are all taken care of. Drug free and clean event. I don't think they even allow smoking, do they? Do they?

NACOMA GEORGE, COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS COORDINATOR, ADMINISTRATION:
Yes.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:
Well you somke, eh?

NACOMA GEORGE, COMMUNICATIONS/EVENTS COORDINATOR, ADMINISTRATION:
Yes.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:
So yes, smoking is allowed I guess. <laughter> But it's a really good event. Last year we participated. How many people remember the twenty-one canoes floating down through our territory? Powerful. We're in. We're going. I think so far there's me, Nacoma, and my two sons. We can only take about fifteen people so it's on a first come first serve basis. <inaudible comment from audience> Yes, it's the same time as the Elder's Gathering because the Elder's Gathering is from July 7th to the 9th in Penticton. But if your grandkids want to come or if Alex wants to come that'd be...

DARLENE "DOLLY" THOMAS, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:
Alec.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:
I call him Alex. He gets mad at me, but I call him Alex. But we need some of our young people to come; some of our strong young people. The other thing too is the Kamloopa PowWow is going to be August 1st to the 3rd and the other thing that is happening is the Shuswap Gathering. August 15th to the 17th in Neskonlith, so it's not too far away. You guys can hitch hike or if you need a ride, we'll set it up. I don't think I've hitch hiked to Chase in a long time myself. And other than that, that's sort of the highlights for the summer. I know the Indigenous Games are taking place in Saskatchewan from July 21st I think until the 26th of July and we've got some of our band members participating in the Indigenous Games. Elder's Gathering the 7th to the 9th; I don't know where they sign up. With you, Denise? Denise? Elder's Gathering? Do they sign up with you?

DENISE THOMAS, MEMBERSHIP/ELDERS WORKER, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:
Yes.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:
How many spots left? Five?

DENISE THOMAS, MEMBERSHIP/ELDERS WORKER, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:
Yes.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:
You always say five, that way everybody will come, right? <laughter> I think there's a bus being chartered and hotels and everything's going to be looked after. So in Penticton I hear they've got a really nice activities planned for the elders. And that goes for all the rookie elders too. Dolly, Marie...you guys are rookie elders here. Four years? Oh you're already a veteran elder then. Dolly you're a rookie elder this year? You just turned sixty? Dolly?

DARLENE THOMAS, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

No, I'm sixty-one.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Oh. <laughter> Well you're in then.

COUNCILLOR FRED SEYMOUR:

Say that loud and proud. <laughter>

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

So other than that, I just want to again let everybody know too the Flea Markets happen every Sunday from eight o'clock to about two down at the PowWow Arbour. And we are going to be trying doing some...taking some of the elders up here on the land here over the next couple of months. The first one here is scheduled for July the 23rd, going to take the elders up on some of the land. So we're going to go...and youths? And youths and elders.

COUNCILLOR ED JENSEN:

And I'm driving.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

And I think Richard's going to be driving as well. And we're going to try and do a series of trips with the elders with all of Council. I think Ed and Richard are going to take the first group up and then maybe on another date a couple other Council will take some other elders up. Where this idea came from, Richard, Jeanette, myself and Jim McGrath and Freda were up looking around going...on the land, and Richard came up with the idea that "boy it would be great to take some of our elders up here" because of changes. Our land has changed quite a bit since the strawberry hills fire. It has. The first time I've been up there it's really beautiful, it's green, the watersheds are in, there's s'xusem up there, there's berries up there, there's a lot of activity. So the land has come back to life. So we want to bring the elders up there and have you take a look around. Spend the day driving around on the mountains and enjoying the land, having a picnic up there and hopefully you won't get lost. Bring your bow and arrow. Shoot something. But yep, that's the other thing. And we also have the Sun Dance. The dates of the Sun Dance are July 9th to the 13th. And that's all the notices that we have. I guess that's it for our Band Meeting. We got no quorum, so thanks for coming.

MARIE BAPTISTE, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

Yes, we've got some important items on the Agenda tonight, and would it be possible to do a summary of what you guys are wanting in the referendum and send it out to the membership so we know what's being planned on that? And the other thing I'm concerned about is the lack of quorums at our GBMs, and if we can have some incentives or whatever to get people out. The one things I'm sort of suggesting is the website should be updated on your events calendar to make sure it's noted there and on your Facebook page. Maybe have some of the Department Heads do some presentations around the circumference, like on Housing and different things that the band is planning displays. Maybe some snacks, because every meeting I've ever been to, there's not only coffee but there's snacks or something for the people. And there was one other suggestion I had. Door prizes. Because I'm getting concerned that the lack of band members coming out to the membership meetings is showing a lack of confidence in the leadership to listen to the people. So maybe each of you should take a responsibility and ask your family members to attend the meetings to show the support that the people have for you as governing Chief and Council members. That's my concerns.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Well I don't necessarily share the same view with you about people not supporting or believing in this leadership, but I think one of the things that we do as a Council is that we put out a quarterly newsletter, we put out an Annual Report. I think as far as the transparency and accountability of our Council is very open. We've tried a lot of things as a Council. We've had many different Departments do presentations at General Band Meetings. We've had...we used to have a fantastic dinner. We used to have door prizes. We used to give away iPods, computers, coffee makers, you name it. Alls people would do is they'd come, they'd eat and they'd leave. And I always think that when we talk about...and we talked about this today at Council. When you look at the quorum as an issue, is that we were talking about what really constitutes Council to be able to change the quorum? And I think one of the things was talking about doing a rescind and replace motion to lower the quorum so we could actually get on and do our Band Meetings. I think that when you look at some of the issues that we do put on the Agenda, we put a lot of thought into them. And these notices? They go out thirty days prior. People get them thirty days prior to a General Band Meeting, according to our Rules Governing General Band Meetings. And it's like that old saying, like my grandpa used to say, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink". You know? We can't force people to come here. We can't force anybody to do anything that they don't want to. All we can do is follow the Rules Governing Band Meetings. We also talked about that today at Council; that each one of us should look at bringing ten people to a band meeting. That was brought up. But there's nothing stopping you guys too from bringing ten people to a band meeting as well. You know? And for us, I just want to let everybody know, as far as the Administration goes of the Band, the band is in a very I think stable place right now, both financially and operationally. I think that when you look at in our community that we grew really fast in a short period of time. I think that we have a lot of things that are moving forward. We have a very strong strategic plan that we presented to the General Assembly at our first band meeting. We have a strong financial policy that we presented to the community that is head and shoulders above a lot of other First Nations. I've travelled and heard a lot of people talk about leadership and talking about a number of things and I think the position where our community is at, yeah there's some community issues that we need to deal with, yeah there's some social issues that we need to deal with, but from a point of...the direction from the community is going in, I think there's a lot of stability in knowing that we have some strong governance and we have some strong policies that govern the organization. And it doesn't matter who sits up here. You know? It doesn't matter who sits up here. Ever since I was old enough to come to a band meeting, there's always been issues with quorum. And it's not just this Council, its other Council's as well. And it's not just me as a Chief, it's been other Chief's as well that's struggled with quorum issues. And what's the answer? I don't know. But I know one thing: we talked about that today and even before you made your recommendation, we said, "Look, let's try and bring ten people". Even if we could bring five people, that would be something. But you know, I don't want to force people to do things that they don't want to. And I think that one of the common things I hear from a lot of people, they get tired of hearing the same old getting up, talking about the same old thing. And when we start talking about business and initiatives, then they'll like to be able to come back. But there's still the issue surround what's on our Agenda tonight about the Matrimonial Real Property. It's a real issue. We're developing our own Matrimonial Property Law and that is owned by us and adopted by the membership. So we're going to be developing that, right, Rosanne? I think you're heading that up?

COUNCILLOR ROSANNE CASIMIR:

Yes.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

And as far as the Membership Code, well everybody knows it falls under Social Development. Colleen is heading that up. I sat on the Social Development last term. Went through thirty-seven drafts and I don't know how many committee meetings. Forty plus meetings, and it got really ugly and it got really bad and it got really personal. I think what kind of rejected our membership code was four key questions that were

just...from a past employee that was presented and there was the fear that if you had a criminal record you're going to be kicked off the band. There was a whole pile of things that...so Colleen is taking the leadership. I know that Denise and Sandra are going to be going to another conference in October on membership and I know Colleen has went as well as Ed and Jeanette. They're going to be bringing some information forward and I know that as far as our Membership Code, we really need to get our own Membership Code because what is happening is that you got is we have a lot of people who have no ties to our community that are becoming band members by applying through Indian Affairs through the Indian Act. And is that right? No. But can we do anything about it? We can't do nothing about it because we don't have a membership code. So I think in the next six to ten months, we're going to be working on developing sort of a membership code that we own by our people and I know we've allocated some money out of this year's budget to have a community engagement on that. So that's going to move forward. As far as Taxation goes, we're going to be fully moving forward on trying to tackle a number of areas on taxation. One is Property Transfer Tax and the other one is the Tobacco Tax jurisdiction. With the Property Transfer Tax, is basically that the Province collects that money that's generated from homes that are sold within Sun Rivers, businesses that are sold within the Industrial Park, trailers that are sold in the Park...so that's sort of an area that other First Nations have been collecting the property transfer tax. I know Richard is heading that up. And I'm working with Richard in trying to exercise our jurisdiction with government to collect property transfer tax. When you look at some of the homes that are up at Sun Rivers, they're not two, three hundred thousand dollar homes. And the property transfer runs probably anywhere from what, two percent to three percent? So if you do the math on that, 1% on the first \$100,000 and 2% on anything over that, so we've got some homes up in Sun Rivers that are over a million, \$1.8Million, \$1.5Million, you know? The minimum up there is about \$450,000 (four hundred and fifty thousand dollars) for a home. And a lot of those homes are being flipped and that's revenue that could come back to the band. We do have our own property tax that we can collect so we're trying to occupy that area as well.

As far as Tobacco goes, we're trying to work with the Department of Justice in the Province to have the jurisdiction to collect...to have control over all of our tobacco quota, instead of everybody else having the quota. We want to occupy that jurisdiction. Maybe open up our own smoke shop and have jurisdictional control over that and basically make some money. Create a few jobs for our people. And at the end of the day, that's pretty well where that's at.

Custom Election Regulations: I think that when you look at the Custom Election Regulations there's a few I think recommendations that came out of the last election through the scrutineers that there's some upgrades that need to be made to our Custom Election. I think our scrutineers do a very good job at their job and they make recommendations to the Electoral Officer, and the Electoral Officer then does a report back to Council and then every year there's always room for improvement. I think that how the polling stations were set up last election, opened up for a lot of questions including, of course, our legal challenge that was put forth by Marie in the last election as well. I think there's always room for improvement with any of our laws and our elections is one as well.

As far as KGHM Ajax, we did have an Exploration Agreement with KGHM four years ago. Close to four years ago. It did expire. We have been in discussions for four years trying to work on an Exploration Agreement with the company. We're very close to looking at an Exploration Agreement only. I think there's a number of things that I think for us that the membership needs to take comfort in. For us, before we bring anything to the membership, we want to make sure that we have all of our information and basically our homework done so that when we do present the project that the membership will have a say in whether that project moves forward or not. That project is night and day from the New Gold project. The New Gold project was a bonspiel mine, which didn't require an environmental assessment. This project here, they're talking about blasting a hole in the ground about 2.5 kilometers wide by 3 kilometers long. We've done a cultural heritage impact study over the area for the last year and three months. That

report will be brought forth to the membership for your review, but there's a number of other things that we have to do in this next calendar year from March 31st on an Exploration Agreement. We have to do some more engagement with the company on the level of environmental impacts including the impacts on the watershed, cultural impacts, wildlife, the lake. So there's a number of triggers that I think we're very cautious about. We've been towing the line pretty damned good, to be honest with you. I think that if you were sitting in our chair, you'd do the same thing that we're doing; insuring that the cultural and environmental work is being looked after. I think there's one thing that we do have is a lot of experience in dealing with these mining companies. I think we've learned a lot from our Participation Agreement with New Gold that gives us strength to negotiate the Exploration Agreement; that we haven't budged an inch. We haven't compromised on any of our interest in relationship to the impacts on our land and now it's kind of coming to the point where we're wrangling over a couple legal words, and then we're going to sign off on an Exploration Agreement that's going to be good until March 31st 2015 which will give them less than a year. But there's also a number of other things that are required through the company that I'm not going to speak for them, and that's why we're going to be having a series of community engagement sessions with the membership so you guys can ask the tough questions. What's the impact going to be on our water? What's the impact going to be on our land? Because one thing that we found in our discussions with Ajax, is that the footprint, which they call the mine area, has changed so many times and it's very frustrating for us because they figure that we should just sign off and they should be able to do whatever they want. That's not the case. Media plays things up to the fullest and where'd they get in? I mean I'm not just giving you lip service. I think we know what we're asking for and why we're sitting at that table.

Other than that, those were the items we were going to report out on tonight. I know when it comes to each single one of those items, those are five big items. So if you guys could go back and tell your family or friends that, "Hey, these five issues are hot and heavy for this community for the rest of this term". Those are the five big issues when it comes to community interests. As we get moving along, we're going to be doing a call and notices for representation for committee members because there's been a lot of talk about "Oh, we're not doing committees" and "There hasn't been a committee on this" and "There hasn't been a committee on that" but we are governed by our committee structure and our community structure and we're going to continue to look at these interests very seriously. And I know I give Colleen a hard time, "What's going on? Where are we at? What's happening?" on the Membership Code. And it's the same with the Matrimonial Property Rights. So as far as our other issues, we've got a lot of things that are happening. Our reports are in the newsletter and I think that we're going to be looking at, if we have to, we'll call a Special Assembly as required. Chief and Council have that ability to call a Special Assembly on some issues because I think there's other issues that I think we need to also be ready for as well in relationship to some of the issues around our business and our economic development. I think there's some things that I know was passed at a General Band Meeting, looking at when we start a new business to get the approval of the membership, but I think some things have changed in the way of accountability and transparency in our Financial Admin Law (*TteS Financial Administration Law, 2012*) that gives light to actual business planning and I know Howard's going to be presenting something at the next Assembly to talk about some of the opportunities when it comes to business. We've got a clear mandate from the membership to...by way of land designation, and a mandate to develop certain areas that are designated by way of referendum. So we've got a mandate to do that, but then again we're also a little bit restricted when we want to form a new company or a new corporation, and that's something that we're going to bring back to the membership to look at some amendments on how we're business ready to be able to move forward, because one of the challenges is we have eight corporations and basically all these eight corporations are fulfilling their obligation and then if we want to start a new business, we've got to bring back a resolution to the membership and when we do that we want to make sure that we have a business case brought to the membership where you'll understand truly what the business is about, what the financial impacts are, and hopefully we'll get your support because every time we start a new business it goes into our social programs for the band. So what we're trying to do is create more businesses so we

can create more jobs and also bring revenue to the community to help fund our elders so we can start getting our elders trips going again. Maybe we could increase our medical funding. Maybe we can start opening and sending more kids to Post Secondary and University. Maybe we can develop more of our language and culture. So we've got to be sort of creative on how we create more revenue for the band. Every time we've started a business, I think that's what we try to do. And I think our gas station, when you look at our gas station, and when that motion was presented it was supported overwhelmingly and you know what? It's good to see our members support our own businesses because I think it's been a big change in our business with the gas station. Before we were just barely making it and since we flew under Petro Canada and got a new Manager in, I'm really looking at the efficiencies in how the gas station is run. It is a very profitable business now. We are not buying gas from a middle-man anymore. We fly under the flag of Petro Canada and we are probably one of the top producing Petro Canada's in British Columbia in this region right now. Just so you guys know that. Our businesses that we run I think are quite successful. Some are struggling, but for the most part, the majority make money. I think the Ranch is struggling and of course Mount Paul is struggling as well, but those are sort of title and rights land based issues that we have to look after because that will always be a band interest. I want to report that out to the membership on those issues so you guys know what the plan is and what's happening. And maybe you can go back to your friends and your families and your aunties and your uncles and your cousins and report out on that. Sorry to keep you waiting.

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

That's ok. I have a question. The Grandmothers. I'm going to offer tobacco. *<provides Chief Shane Gottfriedson with tobacco offering>* Some of the elders in our community, we've been having—we've been talking about having circles like our Grandmothers of the past. And we came up and we were talking about it and we wanted to meet with one of the Social Development workers, with Veronica Green about it. Because we feel that we have our own community. Why do we as women have to go to the other side to form a circle? Why can't we form a Grandmas circle here in our own community? It doesn't cost the band nothing. It doesn't cost Department Head or staff anything. All the Grandmothers wanted to do was get together and collect some history of our Grandmothers and how we were raising our children and how we could share that wisdom and knowledge with our children with each other and to support each other when our children were in trouble and come up with some solutions and some answers. Because we were told that if we wanted to form a circle that we had to go to the other side of the river. Why do we have to go to the Friendship Centre? Why do we have to go to White Buffalo? Why do we have to go on that side of the river to have a circle when we have our own community here? A lot of the Grandmothers are asking me to speak up on this, because we did have a circle and we were talking about a lot of things. We were having—we did it potluck style, we were getting our crafts back in sight. We were doing crafts and we were talking about different things that we needed to talk about and we would have a four-hour circle with each other. We were going from house to house doing this, and then it was put a stop to it. And I don't understand why because the women—all the Grandmothers that were involved really believed in this circle and really wanted to push forward with this circle. And it wasn't costing the Social Development anything. And I want to know why we can't have our own circle in the community with our Grandmothers or our Grandfathers. Because that Grandmothers circle was open to anybody that wanted to come, whether it was a youth or a grandpa or—we just wanted to come together and start sharing some of the stories of our Grandmothers and our Grandfathers and how they raised us up and that. So is it possible for us Grandmothers to continue and get this circle going once again because right now it's at a standstill. And I don't know why we can't have a special place to have our meetings. You know? It's just so that that because these Grandmothers, they have so much wisdom and knowledge that they want to share with each other and they can't do that because they say we're not allowed to have a circle here of our own.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Who says that?

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

I won't mention names.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Okay.

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

But I don't think that's right. We have our own community and I really feel that our Grandmothers—my grandmother Faustine, my auntie Mildred, my mom, Nettie Leonard, and I can name a lot of women and some of the grandpas that had a circle in our own community. And that circle carried on right up until my generation and the younger ones younger than me that wanted to keep the circle going. And it's really sad that we can't continue what our Grandparents had started. And we were recruiting other women in the community to it and it was getting really going good and Jan Derrick helped us set that circle up. And after it fell apart we were lost. And so that's why I wanted to come to Chief and Council, that's why I offered tobacco on behalf of the Grandmothers, to say: can we have permission to form a circle here? Do I have to write a letter to you requesting that permission?

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

I don't think so. You just offered us tobacco.

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

You know? Because I would like to take a message back to the women that are involved in the circle in this regards.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Are you thinking about once a month, or quarterly, or what?

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

Well we were thinking about once a month or twice a month just to keep it alive. You know? Like it wasn't costing Chief and Council or anybody any money, you know. We were just potlucking—whatever we could bring we just brought. It was always healthy anyhow, in what we shared with each other.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Does anybody object?

COUNCILLOR ED JENSEN:

I encourage that. I mean—I think it's a great thing.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE JULES:

I don't know how anybody could say anything if you were doing it by yourself and the Grandmothers were getting together and inviting other people. Nobody has the right to say, if you're going and doing things within your own home, to tell you, "You can't do that". And for me, I support it and I think it should be encouraged and if we're going to be going and having people going and saying, "Oh no you can't do that" I know I'm going to talk to some other people and I know that they will go and say, "We'll try to do some support in some way" because passing on our culture and our traditions and those knowledge? That's a part of who we are. That's who we are, is Secwépemc people. And for somebody to go and say, "You can't carry on with these meetings" and if there is extra support, then I think we, as Council, should be encouraging that extra support on what needs to be done.

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

The other thing that we wanted to do was to support the young ones that came out of Treatment, because we were starting to have the younger ones come and that and we wanted to support them. What happened was we had a group of women who requested a room over at the big building here at the far end and we just wanted it for a couple of hours. And they okay'ed it for us and when we went down there to meet, the person came out and said it wasn't going to happen and she stopped the meeting right there. So I felt bad and so all the women just gave up right then and there.

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Well we could donate our Chief and Council Chambers too. I mean, it's nice and cozy in there too. So just to answer your question, yes you can meet. You have our blessing. You let us know what dates and time and when you'll be in and we'll try and work with you to book a facility within the community. Okay?

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

Yes, because I mean we weren't out to cause problems or trouble for anyone. We just wanted to meet and give each other support because a lot of the women were either widowed or single grandmothers and we had married ones coming too but it was just a group of women that just wanted to meet with each other and get to know each other in the community. It was Secwépemc women that were coming together and included even the ones that didn't have Secwépemc blood that were band members. So with your blessings can I inform the others that it's okay to have the meetings?

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

Yes.

CHARLOTTE MANUEL, ELDER AND BAND MEMBER:

Okay. Thank you very much. We really appreciate that, thank you. You're all my witnesses. <laughter>

CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON:

It's on video too. Okay, well I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight and hopefully when we call our next Special—I think we will be calling a Special Assembly before September, but if not, then the next scheduled GBM is going to be September and you guys hopefully have a good summer and hopefully you get your canning done. Remember that Back to the Land Event. I challenge you guys to make us win that prize. Okay, thanks for coming everyone.

6:25 P.M.

NEXT GENERAL BAND MEETING:

- **TUESDAY, September 24, 2014 at 5:00pm – MOCCASIN SQUARE GARDENS (MSG)**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT
(RSBC 1996) CHAPTER 165

For further information please refer to the digital recording of this Meeting, stored in secure electronic file
as:

Jun 10 2014 Rec-GBM Mtg