

Community Meeting March 25, 2019

- I. Presentation by Norm Allard about the Wetlands Restoration and the Hunting Grounds Project.
- II. The Open Portion of the Community Meeting

Referendum on Treaty (opening remarks by Jared Basil)

Council has unanimously agreed to hold a Lower Kootenay Band referendum in respect to whether there is support for moving forward in the treaty process. Prior to a vote, there will be a number of information sessions to provide information to band citizens about the implications of treaty and the implications of abandoning the process.

Anne Jimmie – This has been a long process and it is important that the citizens find out what treaty means and what it means for their grandchildren. We must talk and ask questions.

Carol Louie – Chief and Council should invite Kathryn Teneese to the first of these information meetings. A set of questions should be prepared in advance of the meeting.

The issue of treaty should be a standing agenda item on the Council agenda.

Aaron Francis – This has been a long process. What are we getting out of treaty?

Jared Basil – We were in Stage 3 negotiations for 17 years; nothing but stagnation. Now we are into Stage 5 and the MOU has been signed.

QUESTION: Has LKB contributed any money directly to support the treaty negotiations?

LKB has not directly contributed any money to support the treaty negotiations. However, it is possible that money could have indirectly supported the negotiations through the Nation Internal Revenue Sharing mechanism.

Bereavement Policy (opening remarks from Josie Fullarton)

A draft of the proposed Bereavement Policy was circulated to the meeting participants and is attached as schedule "A." The whole of the community is invited to have input into the policy.

Carol Louie – It needs to be made clear that LKB will only cover funeral expenses up to the \$10,000 maximum with anything over and above this being the responsibility of the family to pay.

We need to remind citizens of the importance of having a will.

We need someone to come in and help individuals actually make a will.

Angie Louie – The funeral home should be approached to get an idea of the actual costs of a funeral.

Transportation (opening remarks from Jason Louie)

Band Council has approved the purchase of a small transport van. A regular bus schedule is going to be set up to drive community members back and forth to Creston. The current plan is to have a bus run three times a week with stops at Pealow's and Gleaners.

Out of town medical transport and local medical transport for our elders can still be arranged in advance through the Band Office.

Additional Medical Benefits

The Council has approved in principal, a one-year pilot project that would provide on-reserve band members \$500 for approved medical expenses not covered by FNHA.

Carol Louie – FNHA need to be held to their obligation to provide us with quality health care and this should be brought up at the next Caucus.

Funding for Trades

Michael Phypers – What funding is available to assist with the trades?

Answer: This has been an ongoing problem because trades have not been funded through the ISC Post – Secondary Program. There is some support available through the KNC Education and Employment Sector. It would also be a good idea to talk to Kootenay Employment Services in Creston.

Membership Clerk

Critical that some one get into this position as soon as possible.

Carol Louie: Carol recommends that two people get the membership clerk training at the next opportunity.

Upcoming Designation Referendum

Samantha Phypers – What is happening with the designation referendum?

Answer: Due to backlog at ISC, the information meeting and referendum vote has been delayed but not cancelled. As soon as new dates are scheduled, that information will be distributed to the community.

Elder's Committee

Anne Jimmie – It is essential that we get an elder's committee up and running. It could be the basis for a grievance committee and a restorative justice committee.

Answer: Council has recently approved in principal, the hiring of a Coordinator of Culture and Language. This person could be the lead in organizing an elders' committee.

Annual General Meeting

Carol Louie – She would like a two-day annual general meeting in which Council and staff would present their annual report. There should be time set aside for questions and answers.

Website

Carol Louie – The website needs to be updated and the Council minutes brought up to date.

Culture Camp

Aaron Francis – Aaron spoke of the importance of teaching the youth the cultural traditions. He is interested in bringing elders together to teach sign language and storytelling. He was encouraged to speak with staff to make such a cultural event happen.

Memorial Day

There has been a request from a community member to hold a Memorial Day for those in the community that have passed. Family members are encouraged to find photographs of those relatives that have passed so that a visual presentation could be put together for that day. (all photos could be scanned and immediately returned to the family) The day could be planned for the fall and include a feast.

Kitchen in the Gym

There are going to be new pots and pans purchased for the gym kitchen. This new equipment needs to remain in the kitchen.

Efforts are being made to find grant monies to help with an upgrade of the kitchen. Cupboard doors and the oven needs replacing.

LOWER KOOTENAY BAND BEREAVEMENT POLICY

Preamble

In 2019, Lower Kootenay Band Chief & Council passed a Band Council Resolution to implement the Bereavement Policy to assist and provide a maximum benefit up to \$10,000.00 (CDN) of financial support to cover and/or offset funeral costs and associated expenses, for all citizens of the Lower Kootenay Band.

The current funding available through Indigenous Services is inadequate in providing a deceased citizen and the respective family with the proper funeral arrangements indicative of respect and dignity. Lower Kootenay Band Chief and Council are committed to ensuring that grieving families are not additionally burdened by financial worries during this most difficult of times.

1.0 Definitions

“LKB citizen” - an individual identified on the Lower Kootenay Indian Band Indian Register list

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Lower Kootenay Band Funeral Policy (the “LKBFP”) is to financially assist with the funeral costs and associated expenses of LKB citizens.

Application may be made for up to a maximum of \$10,000 (minus any entitlement from Indigenous Services Canada) per deceased LKB citizen.

3.0 Eligibility

The family, estate trustee or next of kin of the deceased LKB citizen, is eligible to apply for payment of funeral costs and expenses as outlined in the LKBFP. The LKBFP is not applicable to non-citizens.

4.0 Procedure to Access Funding

4.1 The family, estate trustee or next of kin must submit the application form (Schedule “A”) as well as supporting documentation, to the Director of Operations for approval, processing and distribution of funds.

4.2 As condition of receiving financial support for funeral costs under the LKBFP, the family, estate trustee or next of kin must agree to Lower Kootenay Band retaining any Indigenous Services Canada financial support for funeral costs.

4.3 Depending upon the wishes and needs of the family, estate trustee or next of kin, the Director of Operations may:

- a. arrange for the Lower Kootenay Band to make a direct payment to the Funeral Director /Service Provider ;
- b. reimburse the family, estate trustee or next of kin for funeral expenses paid out of pocket; and /or

2.

- c. provide a cash advance to the family, estate trustee or next of kin, to pay for funeral expenses.

All such payments cumulatively will not exceed \$10,000.

4.4 In the event that the family, estate trustee or next of kin is provided with a cash advance to cover funeral expenses, they are under an obligation to provide the Director of Operations any and all receipts or invoices for these expenses within 14 days of the funeral.

4.5 In the event there is excess funds remaining after funeral expenses are paid from the cash advance, the family, estate trustee or next of kin shall return such surplus to the Director of Operations within 14 days of the funeral.

5. Funeral Coverage

Typical Services and expenditures which are eligible but not limited to for coverage would include:

- Funeral home services
- Embalming
- Clothing for the Deceased
- Casket
- Urn
- Cremation
- Clergy or officiate
- Transportation of the remains
- Transportation assistance for immediate family members
- Death Certificate
- Internment
- Community Feast
- Memorials/Obituary

5. Appeals

Where there is a disagreement with LKBFP, the final decision resides with Lower Kootenay Band Chief and Council.

SCHEDULE "A"



LOWER KOOTENAY BAND

830 Simon Road, Creston, BC V0B 1G2 Ph: 250.428.4428 Fax: 250.428.7686

Name of Applicant, Estate
Trustee, or Next of Kin:

Address:

Telephone contact

Name of Deceased

Deceased's Status Card #

1} Where reimbursement is to be made to the Applicant family member, estate trustee or next of kin, the following items are to be attached:

_____ Copy of Will (if applicable)

_____ Death Certificate

_____ Copies of eligible receipts

2) Where direct payment is to be made to the Funeral Director / Service Provider:

Name, Address and phone number of the Funeral Director:

_____ Invoice for Funeral Services

2.

The Applicant acknowledges that upon receiving LKBFP financial assistance that they forfeit any entitlement to financial assistance for funeral expenses from Indigenous Services Canada to the benefit of Lower Kootenay Band. The Applicant agrees to work with Lower Kootenay Band to have Indigenous Services Canada funeral expense compensation come to the Band.

The Applicant acknowledges that if they receive a cash advance to cover funeral expenses, they are obligated to provide the Lower Kootenay Band Director of Operations any and all receipts or invoices for these expenses within 14 days of the funeral.

In the event there is excess funds remaining after funeral expenses are paid from the cash advance, the Applicant agrees to return such surplus to the Lower Kootenay Band Director of Operations within 14 days of the funeral.

Signature of the Applicant

Date _____

Reviewed and Approved by: _____

Dated _____

Lower Kootenay Band, Director of Operations