

KOPIT LODGE

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"PROTECTING OUR LAND, WATER, AND RIGHTS
WE ARE PRESERVING OUR CULTURE."



CANADA TABLE

UPDATE ON ELSIPOGTOGS TABLE
WITH CANADA

Elsipogtog is continuing to meet with Canada as part of our exploratory table to discuss the possibility of negotiations based on the recognition of Elsipogtog's Aboriginal title, rights and treaty rights as members of the Mi'kmaq Nation.

Due to the ongoing restrictions on travel imposed by COVID-19, our last few meetings with Canada have taken place by telephone or video conference. The last call took place on February 18th, 2021. Elsipogtog and Canada are looking to establish an inclusive and effective process to discuss issues of importance to the Mi'kmaq in general and Elsipogtog specifically. The next meeting will virtually take place March 26th, 2021.

MORE UPDATES

Land use

Jeff Cook had prepared an updated work plan for work that could be accomplished this fiscal year. Given that we are now close to the end of the current fiscal year, it may make sense for Kopit Lodge to consider what work it would like to accomplish on the land use planning project for the upcoming fiscal year.

Liberty Utilities

Liberty Utilities Zoom Call held on February 24, 2021. We discussed the draft for the contribution agreement tabled by Liberty Utilities. Liberty explained that the contribution agreement was meant to provide more details to be included with the work plan to be attached as 'Schedule A' to the engagement agreement. As next steps, Liberty will provide an updated work plan with the agreed upon details included. Liberty will also provide their input on the engagement agreement itself. Any concerns identified by Liberty will be discussed at the next meeting.

Premier Tech

Premier Tech Engagement Agreement Meeting Zoom Call (meeting number 3) held on February 26, 2021. There is a huge language barrier when dealing with Premier Tech. At the last meeting we went through the work plan and the wording in the document was not meeting our terms. Kopit Lodge raised concerns with Premier Tech's deletion of all references to revenue sharing and partnership opportunities from the potential benefits to be negotiated as part of a future benefits agreement. Premier Tech explained that it was not opened to exploring a joint venture with Kopit Lodge but was open to other partnership and profit-sharing opportunities. Premier Tech will provide further revisions to this part of the agreement. Premier Tech obviously does not understand our land title rights.

In addition, Kopit Lodge agreed to review certain parts of the work plan and budget relating to the funds required to start benefit agreement discussions. We will be meeting again to review the update agreement and work plan.

CULTURAL COORDINATOR UPDATE

BY LORRAINE CLAIR & OASOEG
MILLIEA

Kopit Lodge is working on identifying the Clan Mothers in our community. This will include visiting our Elders in our community and finding out what they know.

Lorraine is uncovering a lot of information about our Ceremonies and History. Lorraine is making a lot of new contacts with knowledge keepers in Mi'kma'Ki territory. Bringing back our ceremonies to our community, for our youth is very vital, our children need to know where they come from.

So far, we've had two zoom meetings with knowledge keepers of Mi'kma'ki. I had scheduled another Zoom workshop for March 11th, 2021. This workshop will be shared with the members of the planning committee, Kopit Lodge staff and Board members. The topic of this workshop will cover Clan Mothers of today, their roles and responsibilities in our communities.

Lorraine is taking part in other zoom workshops and sharing those on our Kopit Lodge Facebook page. She will continue to update the Kopit Lodge page with information on teachings and any other zoom meetings when she becomes aware of them.

Tobacco ties and bundles will be made. Once these bundles are completed, Kopit lodge staff will start to deliver the letters and offerings to our Elders and start to schedule interviews. Keeping in mind we are still living in this pandemic and depending on the color of our zones, Kopit Lodge will continue with recommendations of our Chief and Council and the Covid-19 Emergency Response Team, on how to move forward.

Lorraine is also now sitting on the Community Planning Committee which is hosted by Child and Family and she will be representing Kopit Lodge.



Kopit Lodge Environmental Impact Assessments

☒ Bay Du Nord (Oil)

(Pending Assesments)

- Liberty Utilities
- Premier Tech

Upcoming Events

Oetjgoapeniag Elnoei Family Services Prevention Program coordinator and Kopit Lodge will be co-hosting a Women's drum night 2 nights a month. The first one is to be March 18, 2021. Then April 1st and April 22nd, 2021 @ 6pm - 8pm (every other week after that.) These sessions will be held at the Child and Family building in the activity room.

March 22nd, 2021 we will also be co-hosting a Water Ceremony honoring World Water Day. We will keep everyone updated through our Facebook pages.