

Senate Meeting Minutes
Kelowna, B.C., February 12-13, 2011
Best Western

Senators Present: Ron Snider, Philip Gladue, Margaret Penner, Betty Hoogendoorn

Administrative Assistance: W.I. (Bill) Thibeault, Senate Clerk

February 12, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER, at 09:00 hr. Chair – Senator Snider.
2. OPENING PRAYER – Senator Gladue
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: *That the agenda be approved.*

Moved by: Senator Penner

Seconded by: Senator Gladue

Carried

4. MEET WITH BCMANR

We need to appoint a committee to meet with BCMANR on discussion of the appeal system for harvest registry decisions, to provide direction on how the Ministry of Natural Resources Tribunal and the Senate Appeal Process will work collaboratively to reduce costs. The plan is to have a meeting before the end of the fiscal year (end of March).

Committee previously appointed was Senator Edkins and Senator Thibeault. With W. Thibeault no longer a Senator, there is a need for another individual to be appointed to the committee.

ROD – 001 – The committee will be Senator Edkins and Senator Snider. Alternates will be Senator Penner, with second alternate Senator Hoogendoorn.

The Clerk will be in communication with BCMANR and provide information to the committee on meeting plans.

5. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Senate agreed that there is a need to update and strengthen the Ethics section of our Policies and Procedures. We should also look at developing a Mission statement in future to define what we stand for – ideas such as always speak truthfully, no conflicts and service to our citizens and our children – our future.

Look at calling an Ethical Code. Start with Preamble and then have three sections – (1) Code of Ethics, (2) Code of Conduct, and (3) Cultural or Traditional Values section (in many business Codes there is a code of practice section). Our Culture is what brings us together and we need to differentiate ourselves as aboriginal people in our Code. There is a need to balance the educational and professional part with connection to our heritage.

In Traditional Values section need wording on practical knowledge is respected, and on the concept of life and balance – the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual sides. Note that seeing the altar when entering along with saying our opening prayer prepares us mentally and



spiritually for our sessions. It allows us to energize and to connect. Preparation for a session is important, it provides a “grounding” and helps define who we are and what we are doing. The Senate also needs to demonstrate cultural aspects, such as the use of our languages. We need to live who we are in all aspects of our lives, not just when we meet as a Senate. In general, we expect the people of our Nation to be held to a higher code of conduct than is seemingly the norm in society today.

Keep Ethical Code as part of Policies and Procedures, if it is a stand-alone document, there was concern that we may not review on a regular basis, and Senate feels we need to do that on an ongoing basis.

Areas to consider

- Develop separate Oath of Office for Senator specific wording – cover areas of duties, obligations, responsibilities and traditions
- How do we “turf” a Senator who breaches Code – repercussions of not adhering to Code
- Treat all men and women equally
- Learn from both sides of our culture
- Cross reference Code to MNBC legislation for Senate
- No inappropriate political activity

February 13, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER, at 09:00 hr

2. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DISCUSSION (Cont'd)

ROD – 002 – The Clerk will incorporate the items of discussion into the Ethical Code section of our Policies and Procedures and bring a draft document to the next meeting for discussion.

3. SENATE UPDATE

The Clerk informed the Senate that a new Senator has been appointed for Region 5. He will be contacting the incoming Senator, (H. A. Desmarais) and ensuring he is aware of meeting plans for March.

4. OTHER

Clerk will ask if anything further in regard to Senate chambers at school in Abbotsford.

Need discussion on clarification (better definition) of regions for MNBC.

The Clerk is directed to put a version 3.2 of Senate Policies and Procedures on the web-site based on updates approved at our session in December, as proposed at October sitting of the Senate.

5. IN-CAMERA

Discussions on possible Senate letter to MNBC office in Surrey. Clerk to work on draft for next meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senate will be the quarterly sitting of the Senate.

Plans for the quarterly meeting: Travel March 17, meet March 18 and 19 to work on Policies and Procedures follow up from discussions over last two days, travel home March 20. May have to set up a session before the meeting for the Chair, Agent and Clerk to meet with incoming Senator for indoctrination to Senate aspects.

Citizenship appeals: Travel March 27, appeals March 28, 29, 30, travel home March 31.

ADJOURN 15:30

Approved: _____
Senator Gerald Pope , Senate Secretary