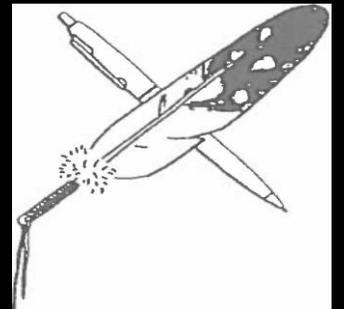


Legislation Development

BEARDY'S & OKEMASIS CREE NATION



Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation

The nation is named Beardy (Kamiyescawesit, “one who has little beard” and Okemasis (okimasis), “little chief”. Together they led two thirds of the Willow Cree Band and settled 5 kms west of Duck Lake prior to signing of Treaty 6 in 1876. With adjoining reserves, the two bands have since merged into a single First Nation.

- ▶ Cree from the Treaty 6 Territory
- ▶ Total population 3538 (On-reserve 1354/Off-reserve 2184)

Governance – We are moving forward

- ▶ Governance Planning committee was established by a motion of Council in August of 2014 to guide and oversee the Governance process for the BOCN.
- ▶ **Priorities** – We've engaged community members, youth, elders and leadership, and have hosted several community consultation sessions on the development of our Constitution and several pieces of key legislation.
- ▶ **Vision** – Guide our community towards reasserting our Nationhood.
- ▶ **Mission** – Work together to strengthen and share our traditional knowledge, values, beliefs, and customs; we will nurture our identity by teaching our people our way.
- ▶ **Objective** –
 - ▶ 1. work together, help and support each other to realize our mission and vision;
 - ▶ 2. Engage and communicate with community, elders, youth and leadership;
 - ▶ 3. Create a foundation for our laws;
 - ▶ Create and support opportunities for people to share and teach traditional knowledge and teachings.

BOCN Governance

- ▶ Constitution
- ▶ Election Act
- ▶ **Executive Act**
- ▶ Financial Management Act
- ▶ Policies
 - ▶ Housing Policy, Health polices, Education and Post Secondary Policy , Personnel Policy, Hiring Policy (Draft), Drug Policy (Draft) and Justice Policy and Emergency Response Plan.
- ▶ What's next?
 - ▶ Draft/approve revisions for the Elders' Advisory Council Act
 - ▶ Draft/approve revisions for the Youth Advisory Council Act
 - ▶ Draft/approve revisions for the Membership Act
 - ▶ Draft/approve revisions for the Matrimonial Real Property Act

Policy-making an Act may involve a number of steps and requires council to:

- ▶ identify an issue that needs to be dealt with
- ▶ reach agreement on the facts of the issue, making sure the objectives are met
- ▶ engage members of the public on the issue and consider their feedback
- ▶ Take into account demands on time, funding and other issues
- ▶ make a decision based on the best course of action available and adopt a policy
- ▶ direct staff to implement the policy
- ▶ work with staff to evaluate the policy and to update or amend it as required
- ▶ Our Constitution details the exact method to develop legislation and policy within BOCN. BOCN members have direct control over this process.

In practice, however, policy-making is sometimes less orderly because of:

- ▶ the lack of time to identify all possible alternatives and to conduct detailed research and analysis
- ▶ the legal and financial limits on what council may do
- ▶ the complexity of implementing policies and developing ways to monitor and evaluate them

Responsibility of policy/act development

- ▶ Council is the primary policy-making body. Staff can provide information and advice to help inform council's policy development.
- ▶ Staff are responsible for implementing policies approved by council. As a result, the council may wish to develop appropriate reporting mechanisms so that council can follow implementation progress.
- ▶ There is a fine line between council's overall stewardship of the band and the administration's management of day-to-day activities. Generally, council monitors the implementation of its approved policies and programs, but the practical aspects of its implementation and administration are a staff responsibility.

Stewardship role

- ▶ Council's objectives are to ensure that the financial and administrative resources are being used as efficiently as possible.
- ▶ There is a fine line between council's overall stewardship of the band and the administration's management of day-to-day activities. Generally, council monitors the implementation of its approved policies and programs, but the practical aspects of its implementation and administration are a staff responsibility.
- ▶ The Chief Executive officer is a discretionary position whose responsibilities are set out in our Constitution (living document).

Stewardship role cont..

- ▶ This approach, if chosen, can help separate policy making from policy implementation, with council concentrating on policy making and the CEO and others implementing the policy.
- ▶ Before council can monitor and measure the band's administrative effectiveness and efficiency, it may wish to become familiar with policies currently in place. With input from band staff and membership, council can determine whether the act is functioning well or if changes are necessary.

Stewardship Cont..

Establishing and following such policies and guidelines helps council leave the day-to-day details for staff to manage. Council is free to deal with exceptional situations, ensure that policies are current and listen to issues raised by the public to represent the broader community interest.

Council-staff relationships are important

- ▶ All band's should recognize the importance of council-staff relations. Some councils have established programs that require employee input into operational policies and procedures. Programs like this recognize the experience and expertise of staff and encourage communication between management staff and council.
- ▶ Councils and their administration have different roles within the band, but their roles have common goals and purposes.
- ▶ The relationship between council and staff is a vital component of an effective band government. Staff and council rely on one another to move the band forward. Both staff and council provide leadership; council provides political leadership, while staff provide leadership in implementing council decisions.
- ▶ The relationship between staff and council is intertwined and it is important for council members and staff to respect one another's roles so that they can serve the public in an effective and efficient manner.

Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation (BOCN) implementation process:

- ▶ Recognizing the need for the Executive Act
- ▶ Consultation with
 - ▶ Leadership
 - ▶ Legal
 - ▶ Elders
 - ▶ Community Members
 - ▶ Staff
- ▶ Readings
- ▶ Referendum - May 2017
- ▶ Living document – First term