

City of Kenora M i n u t e s

**Of a Committee of the Whole of Council
(Meeting with the
Honourable Brad Duguid,
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs)
Monday, October 19, 2009
3:30 p.m.**

Present:

**Mayor L. Compton, Councillor W. Cuthbert, Councillor C. Drinkwater,
Councillor D. McCann, Councillor R. McMillan, Councillor J. Parson,
Councillor Van Walleghem.**

Staff:

**Karen Brown, Manager of Finance and Administration,
and Joanne McMillin, City Clerk.**

Mayor Compton opened the meeting and thanked Minister Duguid and his staff for attending today's meeting, and read the Minister's Biography. Minister Duguid introduced the following Members of his staff: Deputy Minister Lori Sterling; Nancy Johnson, Sr. Advisor; Saga Williams, Sr. Advisor, and Pam Wheaton, Director, Aboriginal Relations and Ministry Partnerships.

Minister Duguid thanked Council for the invitation to attend today's meeting, noting that while Councils have a tough job it is also rewarding, as he related his experience of 9 years on the City of Toronto Council.

Minister Duguid commended Council for the good work being done specifically in building partnerships with the First Nations Communities and he encouraged Council to continue to work and strengthen those partnerships. He referred to the tough economic times that we have been facing and that we have to be at our best when we come out of this recession and he referred to the opportunity for some exciting times to build strong partnerships on a forward basis.

Mayor Compton referenced the armed standoff at Anicinabe Park in the 1970's and that times were tense then, but Kenora got through it without injury and since then, and in the last few years there has been a move afoot to cooperate with the First Nations communities given the number of communities surrounding the City of Kenora. Mayor Compton explained he was at the White Dog sod turning ceremony the other day for their new school which they have been waiting on for more than 10 years. He also referred to the cooperative Tunnel Island Project and that these are things that did not happen thirty years ago.

Mayor Compton then gave an overview of the Tunnel Island Project, explaining there are 375 acres held in Trust on a 50/50 basis with Treaty Three and that a conservation organization has been established for this purpose as a result of the property being transferred to the City by Abitibi Consolidated.

He noted this historic property needs to be preserved and we have to move forward with the First Nations communities to ensure that happens.

Councillor McMillan then provided the Minister with an update on the status of the project and various things that need to be addressed. Councillor McMillan advised that Kenora will keep Minister Duguid's Ministry updated on the 'common ground' initiatives and he also mentioned the bonds that have been formed with the Elders. Another project is the CURA partnerships between the City, Treaty Three and the University of Manitoba and Councillor McMillan explained how the program works.

Reference was also made to the recognition of Treaty Days in cooperation with Treaty Three in appreciation of the First Nations communities coming to Kenora for education and to use our services and resources. He noted the 3 or 4 day event is planned for next year in June. It was agreed Kenora has developed very good relationships in this regard, and Councillor McMillan noted that particularly Mayor Compton has been instrumental in continuing to build on these relationships with the First Nations' communities.

Minister Duguid recognized Kenora's dedication to move forward and the number of "first times" that have occurred with the First Nations communities, both in Kenora and other areas of the province. Minister Duguid referred to the reconciliation that has taken place over the years and the process of making stronger communities with First Nations, noting that he is very optimistic. He further noted that Kenora is setting a wonderful example that can be used as to how it is possible to build relationships with First Nations.

In closing, Minister Duguid expressed his thanks to Council for their invitation and that it has been inspiring to meet Council and see the Kenora community.

Mayor Compton thanked Mr. Duguid and his staff for coming to Kenora and that we look forward to a delegation with his office again at the Ontario Good Roads Conference, and also looking forward to seeing him next year at AMO.

The meeting closed at 4:05 p.m.
