

## KEY POINTS/TOPICS – Chippewas of Rama First Nation, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### TIMELINES AND BEING KEPT UP TO DATE

- Add a timeline for resolution. Have a pre-dispute timeline and then the actual dispute resolution date to make the issue complete.
- There is a lot of activity and then things die down and people don't know what's happening. It's important during this critical time that we are kept up to date.

### SENSE OF URGENCY – RESOURCES NEEDED NOW

- What can we do to get policing quick? We have pretty serious problems because we have no police.
- I don't know how we can provide security and police to our community in the next year and a half – we're just looking for options. I don't see these options as feasible for us.

### FIRST NATION REPRESENTATION

- It's important to have First Nation representation in the oversight bodies.

### RECOGNIZE UNSEEDDED LAND

- We're not a self government, we are an unseeded community and that's not recognized in the legislation.

### FUNDING NEEDS

- Body cams, computers in the police cars, there's no funding for administration staff. There should be a budget line for administration staff.
- The way we communicated funding to date it hasn't been understood. We are wanting to talk about it more holistically. We want to move away from the cost per officer conversation.

### REVIEWING AGREEMENTS

- We are going to be the first ones to know if we don't have the right amount of funding. The way technology has played a role in policing, when you have a stagnant funding agreement that does not compliment those technologies, then the policing is out of date.
- Need formal processes where we sit down at the table, to reopen agreements to look at the changes in needs within the community.

### STRONGER LANGUAGE

- When we have community needs that aren't inside agreements, we have to get that in there so with this one, we need strong wording for formal negotiations.
- Police Constables should be called Police Officers. The term is now First Nation Police Officer.
- We need stronger language, explicitly saying all First Nations Police will guarantee the funding to each service. Stronger language will provide more in terms of bringing this to a more equitable place.
- It almost seems this is a modern-day treaty. We need stronger wording.
- There's two words I would take out: "Voluntary" and the word "may". Change those words to "shall", this is more binding for compliance.

### ENFORCEMENT OF BY-LAWS

- We need those laws to be enforced - if we have no enforcement, there's no way to enforce them. We have a lot of bylaws but we can't enforce them right now.
- The bylaws, as long as they're enforceable, can be enforced. It is more how the bylaws are set and where to prosecute the bylaws. There were changes that were made by Indian Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), where bylaws would be reviewed. This was removed when they removed the signing of the minister.
- There needs to be a ticketing regime where the bylaw would be prosecuted.

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- There are several initiatives in terms of supporting First Nations on prosecution of their first nation bylaws. It needs to have full support from the justice system.
- If you call 911 they come but we want somebody in our community all the time. And the bylaw thing is not enforced.

### EQUALITY

- While we are negotiating for all these things, how can we ensure our standards are met, that our officers have the same things the OPP have.
- It all comes down to how we're defining equity. That dialogue is really important in terms of the First Nation, particularly the needs and priorities for the community.

### SUSTAINBLE FUNDING

- What's the point of funding a safety initiative if you only have funding for 2-3 years.

### RECOGNITION OF JURISDICTION

- This seems to be a common trend in these conversations - is recognition in jurisdiction and making our own laws.
- I don't like the fact that we call our laws By-Laws. This is about jurisdiction in my views. When we put things in place, I hope we will not be calling our laws By-Laws and we will not consider jurisdiction with the province of Ontario.
- I want to see the jurisdiction issue raised, because some of our issues are not involved in this. As our nations, we have to have some sort of co-jurisdiction, as there are missing links.

### INDIGENOUS LEAD

- First Nations will only follow legislation if leadership opts into the services.
- Meaningful negotiations usually happen at the eleventh hour. Most First Nations feel the same, always the last hour to try to resolve. It's been the attitude of "we know what's best for you" from the federal government.
- Let's make it a negotiation instead of an allocation.
- We have been very clear about it being indigenous lead, but we have not yet been involved in any of these issues from the floor up. This is our challenge. It's crafted and given to us, not crafted together. Our people should be sitting at the table, right from the start of "pen to paper".
- Got to be based on First Nations needs not on a government formula.
- Our indigenous police service should reflect our people, and for our people. We need to feel comfortable with them, as they are warriors for us.
- Things have been challenging in the past as the way the funding works. It should be First Nations explaining to the government what they need, and then the government being able to provide that once they get the funding in order.

### PREVENTION

- One thing missing is being proactive and addressing crime prevention. We need a budget for crime prevention.

### PARTNERSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS

- There has to be something to make sure the partnership is entrenched within the act, so police services understand that they have to provide adequate support to indigenous services if needed. My fear is that if a First Nation police service opts into the act, but then the mainstream police service says that you're on your own. I think there needs to be a relationship between the two.

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- If you go into addressing these issues, it has to be a meaningful negotiation, which means all three parties are at the table at the same time.
- It's important that if a First Nation police service calls upon a municipal service, that they shall provide that service they're calling on. The OPP and First Nation police services relationship is very strong and important.
- If you want to be sincere about what you are committing to, come meet us halfway. Maybe with that guidance you would have the means to be successful.
- Everyone sitting together and deciding a better path for that individual.

### RECOGNITION

- We haven't been recognized for our service and efforts. We have done so much with a lot less. There should be some recognition for our officers.
- Some retired OPP that are First Nations are not applying to come to our reserves as officers because there is no recognition.

### DATA COLLECTION

- We need to do a study on how we evolved in police service, and use that study as a way of improving.
- Has the government ever done a study of equity loss between First Nation policing and non-indigenous policing service?
- It would be good to come up with some data to look at expanding funding in certain areas. Ex. The CSO has potential growth but it is out of this realm of the legislation.
- When it comes to policing data, what are the mechanisms to help utilize that data? I don't think there's anything in our tripartite agreement that talks about this, broadcasting it within the national police statistics. Our call columns are through the roof. I don't know if our data makes it anywhere.
- The First Nation police services records management system get's recorded – is it being used? It could be used to target resources.
- I think this can be a mechanism to join a national effort for creating the space for national data sharing. Example: Human trafficking programming, it's not a jurisdictional thing, it's a national thing. I think this could breathe life into a national joint initiative, to come up with a mechanism with smarter ways to use data.
- When we need additional funding resources, we can use the data to say we need this amount of dollars for this particular need.
- Because of our history, a lot of our calls go unreported. How do we capture the resources we need for the calls unreported?

### EDUCATION

- With respect to implementation, everyone needs to be educated on it. The chiefs of police, the communities, and officers.
- I think when people feel informed, they feel more confident in making decisions that affect their community and community policing is very important.
- Dedicated public FAQs - it's so hard to find information on the federal websites. It helps us to have one website that is dedicated to this information. Dedicated online resource.

### COUNCIL OF ELDERS AND CEREMONIES

- One thing that could be considered is a council of elders. I really feel as though we are guided when we take part in ceremonies, sweat lodges, coming together, etc. Coming into a circle of trust will include their understanding of where who we are and where we are going.

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- The western views need to experience our culture. Where in the police training, they are offered a chance to go to a ceremony.
- Have people participate in the ceremony, so that we can share ideas in a different good way.

### **GBA+ REFERENCE POINTS**

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