



February 12, 2021



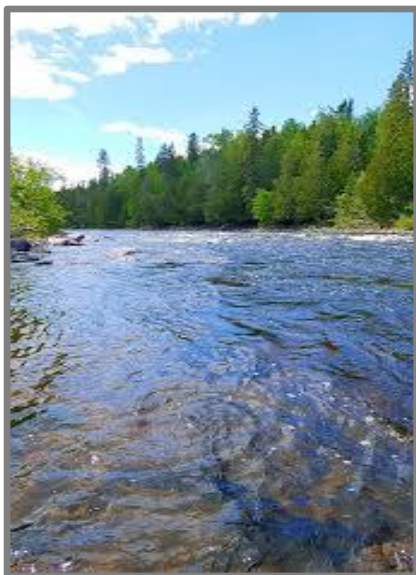
From the Desk of Deputy Chief Louis Kwissiwa
Re: Cannabis / Community Engagement

Boozhoo Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg:

Pic Moberg First Nation leadership and senior management have taken the month of January to examine the issue of cannabis. Our immediate priority is to reach out to you, so that we can achieve community-based decision-making when it comes to leadership setting direction.

As of February 8, 2021, we have retained the services of Bimaadzwin Inc., led by former First Nation leader Isadore Day, who is the CEO of the company. The reason for selecting his company – simply, the amount of expertise, networking, and his knowledge about nationhood models of governance gave us what we needed as a Council to procure his services.

What is Important as PMFN begins the Cannabis discussion?



The *Culture*, the *Health* and *Social Well-Being* of PMFN members, *Economic* and *Wealth* potential must consider the Spirit of our *Chi-Naaknigewin*, and we must make decisions on behalf of those that cannot yet speak for themselves. In beginning this discussion Elders are immediately clear, ***“we must consider our Children above anything we do.”***

We must find the right pathway when we talk about how *Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Laws* that we develop for our people today; and how the *Next Generation* will respond to the changes of laws on cannabis? How will we ensure that we keep our culture intact? What will PMFN do to ensure that our children and youth know healthy alternatives to addiction? What will we do if we are asked to consider moving forward with exploring opportunities in the cannabis sector? What type of education is needed to ensure that members are providing responses to questions to help make the right decisions? Where do we begin? That’s what we have been talking about.

We’ve set the next month to prepare for ***“Community Engagement - What***

do members from PMFN say about Cannabis?”

The next three months will be about three main outcomes:

- 1) Education, Awareness and Gathering Information on cannabis that will better inform PMFN membership in provide input.
- 2) An in-depth Community Survey that addresses a wide range of issues and perspectives of interest to PMFN; with a report on the findings.
- 3) A position that sets out the way in which PMFN addresses cannabis. The 3rd month of the process will review how a PMFN law could be constructed and what the steps would be to put a Draft PMFN Cannabis Law in front of the membership for consideration.



Key Dates / Schedule / Milestones for February

- February 8 – Pre-Engagement Development begins.
- February 12 – Work-Plan Presented to Steering Committee
- February 15 – PMFN Info and Reflection Pieces on Nationhood/Cannabis
- February 15-26 – PMFN Policy Discussions
- February 19 – Steering Committee Reviews Survey
- **March 4 – Survey Launch and Community Zoom and a Bingo** Detailed Information to Follow.

As the lead on this file, I will be working closely with EcDev and the CEO to ensure that Chief and Council are kept up to date on the process, as well, I will be sending this monthly update with schedule information and details on where the process is at. If you have questions or wish to provide input, please contact me at: 705-943-6958 or email me at: louiskwissiwa@gmail.com

Miigwetch for your guidance, support, and valued input.

Louis