



Cowessess First Nation #73

Office of the Chief

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TO: Citizens, Cowessess First Nation

Re: Delegated Responsibilities

It is with great honour I was provided a forward-thinking Council. Over the next four years, we have the opportunity to gain insight, understanding, and implement growth to levels Cowessess First Nation knows we can achieve. This can be done by team work, trust, integrity, and inclusion.

When one views the past 40+ years of Council responsibilities, Cowessess First Nation internal systems were trying to run ourselves with systems and institutions that were imposed by someone else or that simply did not fit us or our challenges.

One of the areas I would like us to focus on is on citizen buy-in. Departments and boards have to be viewed by citizens as their institutions, not someone else's. If citizens view the organization of authority as somehow violating their values or the principles of governance, they believe in, then our departments and boards are doomed to be overturned, ignored, or abused.

As Council, we can help refocus the Nation's energy on building societies that work-economically, socially, culturally, and politically. We shall continue to empower staff to arm with talent and the information needed to hold the Nation's standards to levels other First Nation's and non-First Nation governments enjoy working with. As we achieve this goal, we must remember self-governance means accountability.

Boards/Trusts/Committees

1. Finance and Administration Committee

Within Section 12 of the Governance Policy and Section 7 of the Finance and Administration Bylaw, Council shall provide overall macro responsibility to operations. This is the closest Council get involved in operations. **Councilor Pat Sparvier** brings experience, sternness, and a sense of understanding governance from administration.

2. Oversight Committee

In the Housing Policy, a dispute mechanism lays out a process to address appeals. I believe it is time for Cowessess First Nation to use this dispute mechanism and use for minor and major complaints as well appeals of decisions. **Councilor Denise Pelletier** has background in dispute resolution mechanisms and can chair a committee of nine individuals to address complaints and

appeals.

3. Ventures LP

In 2018, Cowessess Ventures was created. It is the driver to Cowessess First Nation achieving economic self-sustainability. It is at the growth stage and the board along with CEO Jessica have the expertise to drive growth. I would like to remain Chair of Ventures Board and appoint **Councilor Gary Sparvier** to fill the Councilor seat. With Gary's background in business and experience in learning other Nation's growth, he would be an asset to the Board.

Little Child Board which oversees Store One and Store Two is a sub-board under Ventures. The existence of Little Child Board is questionable and will be decided by Ventures Board. Until direction is given, **Councilor Gary Sparvier** will hold the elected official seat.

4. Little Child Community Development

In 2018, Little Child Community Development was created. It is the driver to the Inherent Right to gaming. It is still at the introduction stage and has the ability to lift the levels of gaming. **Councilor Curtis Lerat** can use his experience in being one of the longest serving Chairpersons of the Powwow Committee and be the Council's representative.

Along with Little Child Community Development comes Painted Hand CDC position and **Councilor Curtis Lerat** can learn capacity and help implement within the Little Child Community Development board.

5. Treaty Land Entitlement

In 1996, Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) was signed. Since then, Cowessess First Nation have become the successful TLE First Nation. With forward thinking Trustees, the TLE can continue to seek quantum. **Councilor Malcolm Delorme** can assess land along with Trustees for purchase and assure investments are getting fair returns.

6. Housing Regime

Cowessess First Nation has the opportunity to implement a Housing regime. It will create an incorporated housing structure accountable to the tenants and staff. **Councilor Jon Z Lerat** can work with funders and citizens to launch at a future time.

The Housing Policy is strongly dependent on a committee. The committee will consist of Program Managers. Until a Housing Regime is implemented, **Councilor Jon Z Lerat** will Chair and **Councilor Denise Pelletier** will co-chair the Housing Committee to assure policy is followed, staff are supported, tenant challenges are heard, and enforcement is happening.

7. Affinity Credit Union District 9 Board

Affinity provides a First Nation to be a part of decisions and growth of Affinity. There are funding options for Cowessess First Nation. **Councilor Damon Delorme** provides experience and the understanding to grow and also, assure Cowessess First Nation receives our fair share.

8. Land Claims/Legal Cases

Legal cases require team effort but some require individual leadership to enhance. The Day Scholar Court case, 1907 Land Surrender, potential Cow and Plow claim, potential Cypress Hills eviction land claim, and more must be enhanced. **Councilor Richard Aisaican** will provide

enhanced research to help the Nation heal and hold accountable what has been wronged to our ancestors.

Operations has ten departments and over the past years, have held committees to provide recommendations. Truly effective programs are more likely to emerge when decision makers are held accountable to and by those whose lives and living conditions are at stake. Program committees were meant to address accountability, fear, worry, and new ideas. To fully custom programs to the Nation's needs, committees will be replaced with Community Engagement sessions; the ones who can participate will be able to provide input as a committee would. Presentations would include challenges, opportunities, cases to learn from and more. Each department would be required to hold an engagement session minimum every two months. This would create more understanding and more ideas to create more opportunities from individuals whom receive the services in each department. Council would oversee from the Finance and Administration committee.

Nation Rebuilding Portfolios

1. Stewards of the Land

Industry, Government, and more are continually making decisions which effect our surroundings, impact our future generations, and potentially infringe on our rights. **Councilor Richard Aisaican** will continue in this area he has ran with this in the past and provided detailed work and program.

2. Citizen Enhancement

Cowessess First Nation is embarking on the 6th and 7th generation since signing Treaty Four. We have two mindsets, survivors and dreamers. One cannot dream when surviving. Our history has deep rooted challenges which some require help in better preparing minds to be a dreamer. Categorizing into age difference: under 21 require higher learning, keep busy, mentorship; 22-54 require training, jobs, family support; 55 plus require security the Nation is going to help and be there. **Councilor Damon Delorme** can use his experience to assess programs, governance, and external stakeholders to find more opportunities on behalf of the Nation.

3. Governance

Cowessess First Nation will continue to strengthen our governance. In early 2019, the Constitution was ratified. This provides all opportunity to build upon with Custom laws: Lands Act, Governance Act, Financial Act, and more. **Councilor Denise Pelletier** will lead this area to assure progress is being made and results are happening.

4. Inherent and Treaty Rights

Cowessess First Nation is a rights holder. Citizen Inherent Rights were provided from Creator and the rights to political sovereignty, rights to economic self-sustainability, sustaining a quality living and more shall continue to be strengthened. Citizen Treaty Rights were agreed to between the Crown, Cowessess First Nation, and the Creator. These rights include cunning of the whiteman (education), medicine chest clause, exemption of taxation, and more. **Councilor Curtis Lerat** will find ways to assure Cowessess First Nation continues to assert our Rights and agreements are Treaty based.

5. Decolonization

Cowessess First Nation are majority Salteaux and Cree people along with Nakota and Metis people as well. We have less than 10 fluent language speakers, our history stories can be

stronger, and more. Seniors with knowledge ready to share more of their teachings as well institutions like SICCC, we will continue to decolonize our administration and governance. **Councilor Jon Z Lerat** will lead this area and find more ways to decolonize for a future with more culture, pride, and more.

6. Special Projects

Cowessess First Nation has plans for many projects. The Heritage Centre, low pressure system throughout the entire Nation, potential Lake Front Property, and more. **Councilor Gary Sparvier** will find ways to bring forward thinking plans to assure these projects come to reality.

7. Community Planning

Cowessess First Nation home lands have potential for growth. With potential Sask Polytechnic Remote Campus coming, potential Lake Front Property coming, more citizens seeking to move home, Cowessess First Nation has to prepare for growth. The 2009 Community Planning Book is about to be updated and the cosmetics of the Nation can be enhanced. The Volunteer Fire Department, grave site revamp, and more fall within community planning. **Councilor Malcolm Delorme** will lead in assuring community planning is forward thinking and as much voices are heard in the planning.

Cowessess First Nation is in the midst of an extraordinary growth. We will continue to assert our rights to govern ourselves and do it in our own way.

Sincerely,



Chief Cadmus Delorme
Cowessess First Nation