



The Key
First Nation
306-594-2020 | NORQUAY, SK

November 8, 2017

Chief's Report

As Chief of The Key First Nation I remain focused on working hard on behalf of our Members. I am very thankful for the Directors and every Staff Member for their dedication and hard work. I continue to express gratitude to The Membership for electing me to be Chief of The Key First Nation. I am very thankful to the Council who come together striving for excellence also having to make tough decisions, as we know growth comes with challenges. Since Elected as Chief there has been significant challenges but nevertheless there has been significant increase. I would like to briefly highlight some of those areas;

Finance/Administration

Our Finance Department is currently being modernized with updated software as well the hiring of professional chartered accountants to assist and ensure the finance department is operating to full capacity. As Chief I am very pleased that our Finance/Administration is focused on being professional; up-to-date, while utilizing the updated software. Currently the Account Payables are kept up-to-date and the Loan for the Yorkton Land Purchase is made on time without delay. The challenges do vary when it comes to financial assistance for members. We do have Policy for Assistance but sometimes we all know that help is required suddenly and sometimes more than expected. I believe in our Staff and I believe we must empower and encourage each other. I am very thankful for our Director of Operations and the Support Staff, keep up the good work.

Economic Development

Proud to announce that The Key First Nation created and established a Financial Management Board, which will over see the Operations and Maintenance of The Key First Nation Gas & Confectionary and do the hiring of the Manager for the Store which is currently being built. The Gas Station is currently being built and this will provide a convenience for goods and fuel for our Community as well as Employment.

Another development is we had just signed an MOU for Federal & Provincial Dollars for the Purpose of developing our Yorkton Land. The plans for the Land will include; Residence Lodging; Daycare and Urban Office Space for First Nations. The Land in Yorkton is a non-commercial zone, which leaves our options limited for business, however there is excellent opportunities within the current designated zone.

Also we are presently in negotiations with Enbridge Pipelines discussing the possibility of a Major Contract, which will provide business profits as well as Employment for our Members.

Health

I would like to recognize Health Director Sharon on her awesome efforts on applying, and being approved for a grant for upgrading the Daycare with Renovations. Also we have just filled our Mental Health Position, I would like to introduce and welcome our very own Band Member Gilda Dokuchie to The Health Team as she will do great. She has been contracted for the last few weeks but was hired on this week.

Also I am very glad to announce with great joy that The Key First Nation been awarded an On-Reserve Detox Centre. Our Land is very beautiful land, which makes a comfortable atmosphere. The battle our people have with prescription pill abuse is alarming but there is always hope and already throughout the Summer and last couple of Months I have seen people looking better and feeling better. More people are getting tested for HIV, HEP C or any possible diseases due to the prescription pill intravenous use. I see our First Nation becoming healthier in the last couple of Months and as Chief I will continue to empower and support our people.

Lands

I am glad to share that with our new land lease The Key First Nation is receiving \$80 per Acre making it top dollar per Acre in our area as well as in our entire lease history. Furthermore to add to that; we have freed up 3500 Acres which we will be Farming in Spring 2018, with the goal of Farming all of our Approx 9000 Acres. We have also been preparing to plant 800 Acres of Organic Potatoes and the plans for the Farming is completed. The Land Dept. had received a good report from INAC also stating a 60K increase to our Land Dollars due to good reporting.

We have submitted our Land Claim for the 1909 Surrender; as soon as we get notice that the Government of Canada received it, we will meet and address the Membership. The duration of Land Claims under the Liberal Government is 3 years, which is good news considering some Bands waited years.

The Swan River Haylands Claim has been delayed due to lack of commitment from some of the Bands involved as well as an important document referred to as the original "Order in Council" document, which for whatever reason due to a fire was moved from Swan River to either Ottawa or Winnipeg. The Key First Nation has contributed our part to have a researcher locate the document, however some of the other involving Bands haven't contributed yet. The unique difference with The Swan River Haylands Claim is that there is more than one Band involved and 2 of those Bands being from Manitoba, makes it a challenge.

We have moved forward with a Lawsuit against Ducks Unlimited for intentionally draining water into The Key First Nation for 20 years. The lawsuit for claim was

submitted October 2017. This had serious consequences for some homes, roads and agricultural lands. I will inform the Members on the status of the Lawsuit.

Thank you Councillor O' Soup, for your dedication and time committed towards these critical objectives.

Pee Paw

On November 1, 2017 I attended the Legislative Building as I had my own concerns over the conversion of Pee Paw Lake into a Provincial Park. As of today The Key First Nation has not gave any consent, nor do we approve of this. I was asked to give a interview but with media they can easily cut, edit or twist and take it as consulting, so Wisdom told me to decline a interview until I meet with the Neighboring Chiefs as there is 4 other Bands other than Key that utilized Pee Paw for many years.

Housing

Currently we are doing our best to renovate every home and keep up with the demand of upgrades and repairs. We had just completed full renovations to 6 homes making them like New. Also we are near completing 2 Brand New Homes, which brings the total of move in ready units to 8. Many of the Units are receiving New Appliances and will be receiving New Appliances.

Education

Our Post-Secondary Director Felicia continues to do excellent work. Along with her Committee she makes tough decisions but they make them according to Policy.

The Key First Nation Education and Training has been very active. In April 2017 through a Partnership with Parkland College and YTC, The Key First Nation delivered a Carpentry Maintenance Course on The First Nation, which enrolled 13 Students with 4 Graduated and 2 furthered Education and 1 has secured Full-Time Employment. In Sept 2017 commenced a 4 Month Hospitality & Tourism Training Program on the First Nation. This Program enrolled 17 Students and was possible by a Success of a Proposal submitted by our First Nation for \$134,000.00. Adding to that we had the only successful application in our Region.

A big thank you to Councillor Desjarlais for submitting the Proposal as many Members will benefit from this Program.

Recreation

Rec has also increased in many areas; such as on and off Reserve financial assistance for Recreation Fees for Sports & Dance Arts. And our very own Key Basketball Team did Awesome and took 2nd Place in The Yorkton League; Congratulations on such an Achievement. We also built a Brand New Ball Park with 2 Diamonds; the Main Diamond will have lights and digital score board. This will give our Children; Youth

and Men's & Ladies Teams the ability and luxury of having their League Games right at Home in the Community. Its exciting to know the Children and Youth will have their very own teams and our Community Members will have their own Teams to cheer for right at home. This Summer and Fall The Key First Nation Fastball Team has Won 5 Tournaments including the Big Treaty 4 Tournament and also the Wadena League Champions. Recreation is positive and continues to grow in our Community.

Also thank you to Councillor Keshane for completing another Grant allowing The Key First Nation the ability to purchase a Brand New Diesel Van.

The Key First Nation also purchased a Brand New \$50,000.00 Playground for our Children.

We also purchased a NHL sized Hockey Rink Boards and Lights. This is another new exciting addition to our First Nation. The rink is paid for and will be delivered within 2 weeks. It will be set up and ready to go for our children by December 5, 2017

Conclusion,

As Chief, it is my desire to see us a Strong & Healthy Nation, and to prosper in Love, Respect and Kindness. It takes a lot of work and commitment, but I believe we are going in the right direction and the progress is evident. As Chief and not only a Leader, but also a Servant. It's important I lead a good example for our Children and Youth. As a Leader the most important thing is to be a good example and not only by words and deed but by lifestyle. As Chief, another one of my goals is; that one day I will look back and know that I took full advantage of this opportunity as Chief to better The Key First Nation. And until that day, by The Grace of God I will continue to do my best and remain positive, hopeful and optimistic.

Respectfully,

Chief Brass

Key First Nation

Office: 306-594-2020

Fax: 306-594-2545

Cel: 306-620-5777

Email: rodney.brass@keyband.ca