



**ʔAKISQ'NUK FIRST NATION**  
**Band Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2023**

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: ʔakisq'nuq First Nation Band Hall, Windermere, B.C.

Present:

**Councillors**

Chief Donald Sam (Chairperson)  
Councillor Janice Alpine  
Councillor Darcy Fisher

**Staff**

Joseph Khan, Senior Administrative Officer  
David Bach, Fiscal and Economic Director  
Christy Baker, Member Services Director  
Vijay Akkapeddi, Comptroller  
Bob Cotterall, Project Manager  
Karen Vargas, Executive Assistant

**Regrets:**

Councillor Allan Nicholas  
Councillor Lillian Rose

**Membership:**

Katherine Sam	Derek Lapierre
Darla Nicholas	Leona Daniels
Eldene Stanley	Skyla Sam
Gayle Michel	Barbara Fisher
Gina Clarricoates	Danny Burgoyne
Mary Jimmy	Lola Nicholas
Pete Sanchez	Stephanie Sam
Anna Hudson	Glynda Joseph

Theresa Kains

# **?akisq̄nuk First Nation**

## **March 20, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

- 1. Opening prayer**  
Said by Chief Donald Sam

- 2. Adoption of agenda**

- 2.1 Approval of Agenda**

**2021/22 Motion#: 1**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The March 20, 2023 Band Meeting agenda is approved.

**MOVED:** David Bach

**SECOND:** Lola Nicholas

**CARRIED**

- 3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

- 3.1 Minutes from December 5, 2022**

Amendments:

- Ensure Mary Jimmy is on the attendance list.
- Fix spelling mistakes
- Moving forward the minutes should be more summarized.
- Include action items and business arising.

**2021/22 Motion#: 2**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The December 5, 2022 Band Meeting minutes are approved with amendments.

**MOVED:** Councillor Stephanie Sam

**SECOND:** Councillor Lola Nicholas

**CARRIED**

- 4. Council Reports**

- 4.1 Councillor Allan Nicholas**

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Councillor Allan Nicholas sent his regrets. No report was submitted.

### 4.2 Councillor Darcy Fisher

- His Father recently passed away.
- Has been spearheading the work regarding the Membership Code. The next in-person session will be in April to finalize the language and cultural aspects of the code.
- Is the ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation representative at the Traditional Knowledge and Language sector at KNC. This is still a small sector but they are working on lots of programs.

### 4.3 Chief Donald Sam

#### Report highlights:

- Has been in Council for one year.
- Focusing on governance and empowering staff.
- On the organizational level, AFN continues to be understaffed, which affects the amount of services being provided.
- Chief and Council have had an increase in the number of ad hoc meetings, including meetings with FNHA regarding funding, and the Columbia River Treaty amongst others. For this reason, Council is looking at full-time Chief and Council positions as well as raising committee honorarium amounts.
- At the National level, the Ktunaxa Leadership meets monthly to address the issues surrounding operational frustrations at KNC.
- ʔakisq̓nuk will now receive funding from FNHA directly instead of going through KNC. This means that ʔakisq̓nuk will now be responsible for health services directly to the membership.

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- A video released on social media by our Neighboring Band, spoke of Ktunaxa Traditional Territory as if it belonged to another Nation. Chief and Council met with the funders of this video and let them know how disrespectful the video was and are holding them responsible.
- A parcel of land beside the Reserve was recently purchased and logged. Several community members raised concerns about the way this happened. ʔakisq̓nuk staff worked with the landowner to take care of some of the concerns that we had with the plans.
- Committees currently participating in: Housing Committee, Elders Committee, Building Steering Committee.

### **Questions:**

- What kind of funding arrangements are being made regarding the potential separation of KCN? KCN will still offer services, but at the same time, ʔakisq̓nuk is working on increasing staff capacity for AFN to work alongside KCN to provide services.
- Regarding the issues that happened in 2020 with the then Executive Director, has this been solved, if so what was the result, and what procedures have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again? Additionally, Council members should be held accountable for bullying staff, and political interference in organizational operations needs to stop. Mary Jimmy urges Council to listen to the Elders and address the issues that have been brought up, including the desire to keep the arbor as it has a significant history for the community, and the need to focus on increasing resources for vulnerable community members. Before moving to a full-time Chief and Council, the benefits of the full-time Chief position need to be assessed as well as the needs of the community.

### **4.4 Councillor Janice Alpine**

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### **Report Highlights:**

- Started tenure with Council on February 15, 2023 and has attended three Council meetings since then.
- Council has been dealing with Human Resources issues but she is confident that Council will do what is best for the community.
- Has attended the KNC leadership meetings.
- Is the representative for the Social Sector at KNC.
- Attended the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Bill C92 meeting on Mar 10.
- Participates in the Housing Committee.

### **Questions:**

- Is the Housing Committee the same as the Housing Authority? When the Housing Authority was discussed, it was found that it took a different turn than what was intended, and the committee is looking at revising that.
- Regarding the full-time Chief and Council, ʔAkisq̓nuk First Nation should look at what other communities are doing.

### **4.5 Councillor Lillian Rose**

Councillor Lillian Rose sent her regrets. No report was submitted.

## **5. Department Report**

### **5.1 Senior Administrative Officer Report**

#### **SAO Report highlights:**

- Working on strategic priorities identified at the Council Strategic Planning session.
- worked on supporting the by-election process.
- Worked on developing the 2023-2024 budget and work plans.
- FMB certification, working on meeting the certification criteria.

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### **Communication:**

- The Communication Assistant has been working on publishing bi-weekly newsletters, updating the website, communicating through Facebook and social media and assisting with community events and meetings.

### **Project Management:**

- Has been working on the design of the multi-purpose building, which encompasses the new health center, atrium, and renovated administration building. The most important part of the project is community participation. There is a building steering committee in which community members can participate. The architect for the project is Unison Architecture.
- Mary Jimmy reiterates the importance of keeping the arbor and its historical significance to the community.

## **5.2 Member Services**

### Report highlights

#### **Education:**

- Education has been working on the Local Education Agreement with SD6.
- Education is working on gathering data to serve the community better, to do this the staff needs parents to fill out a survey available online.
- Several programs are being offered, including career cruising and education funding.

#### **Health:**

- Health Manager Resumed role in Health Department as part-time in January 2023. Will be back to full-time in April 2023.
- The Health team has been working on accessing funding from several sources to offer different programs, including harm reduction, domestic violence awareness, and grants to support the "good food box". Additionally, work is being done to receive funding directly from FNHA for health services.

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- Children and youth are encouraged to participate in the Spring Break Circus Camp opportunity, from March 20 to March 24, 2023.
- "No One Left Behind" meeting happening on March 17. To create a strong community.
- The Recreation Center will now be under the Economic Development Department.

### **5.3 Fiscal and Economic Report**

#### Report Highlights

##### **Fiscal update:**

- The finance team has been working on updating the financial reporting and preparing the budget and work plans for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Reconciliations are now up to date, and actuals have been provided up to December 31, 2022.
- Continuing to work on achieving the FMB certification.
- Once the budgeting process is complete, the team will focus on developing a cash management/investment policy.
- Chief and Council selected FNB as the Trustee for the minors trust, and the staff will now be working with FNB to set this up.

##### **Economic Development**

- Lisa Cannady has been hired as the new Economic Development Specialist.
- The economic team, working with Council, has identified a need to develop and implement a "Development Corporation" for the Nation to carry on its business activities outside the political operations. The staff will be reaching out for community input and involvement as this work progresses.

### **5.4 Lands, Resources and Infrastructure Report**

- The Lands, Resources, and Infrastructure Director sent his

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- regrets. Chief Donald Sam read the report.
- no questions

### **6. New Business**

#### **6.1 Firewood Policy**

- As some community members had concerns regarding the unfair distribution of firewood, Chief and Council directed the Member Services Director and the Lands Resources to create a policy addressing the ambiguity in the distribution of firewood. The policy is not meant to replace Ktunaxa tradition of wood gathering and distribution but is meant to be used for the wood that ʔAkisq̓nuk receives as donations.
- Community members suggest adding a stipulation as to where the wood will be kept in the policy.

#### **6.2 Community Connectivity - Questions & Answers**

Shane Stewart joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

- KNC has been working on bringing free Internet (fiber optics) to all the communities, this work is expected to be completed at ʔAkisq̓nuk by the end of summer. Community members can apply for the subsidized internet by filling out an application. Once all on-reserve internet is set up, the next priority will be off-reserve members. Shane Stewart is available to answer individual questions via email or phone call.

#### **6.3 Door Prices**

Winners:

- Derek Lapierre
- Barbara Fisher



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- Glynda Joseph

**7. Adjournment**

Barbara Fisher adjourned the meeting with a prayer at 9:14 p.m.

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*Meeting Chair*

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*Senior Administration  
Officer*