

FLY-IN COURT COMMUNITY READINESS

COMMUNITIES	PERSON CONTACTED	READINESS	COMMENTS
1. Muskrat Dam FN	Chief Gordon Beardy in person interview	Not Ready	Still concerned with covid. As well they have issues they feel need discussion with MAG prior to indicating they are ready
2. North Caribou FN	Chief Cornelius Benson and 2 of his council members which he did not name. Discussion by phone	Not Ready	They want discussions with MAG on community initiatives they have been doing with their membership on dealing with community conflicts that often land in outside courts but are not effectively addressed in a manner that resolves the conflicts. They would rather have their community initiatives empowered and supported to do this.
3. KI (Big Trout Lake)	Chief Donny Morris by phone	Ready as of July 1, 2022	They will also receive the Starlink Equipment offered by MAG
4. Kingfisher Lake FN	Chief Lot Sainnawap in person interview in Thunder Bay	Ready	Their first court session is June 26 and it will be a virtual session. They also will receive the Starlink Equipment offered by MAG
5. Wunnumin Lake FN	Chief Sam Mamakwa by phone	Ready	They would caution the court party to respect the community's covid protocols which are still in place and have not decided the date when these will be lessened. For information on these protocols have the court personnel contact the band office to speak with the pandemic manager(s).
6. Poplar Hill FN	Chief Howard Comber by phone	Ready	The court party is to connect with Eli Moose or Garry Owen at the Band Office for coordination of the court coming into the community.
7. Wapekeka FN	Chief Brennan Sainnawap by phone	Not Quite Ready	They are thinking in a month or two they will be ready to have the fly-in court come to their community. They are more concerned with the dangers presented by Covid.

8. Cat Lake FN	Chief Russell Wesley by phone	They will be ready by mid-July	Rita Gray is the contact person and can be reached at the Band Office. They will also receive the StarLink Equipment offered by MAG.
9. Bearskin Lake FN	Councillor Billy Kam on behalf of Chief Lefty Kam by phone	They are ready to have fly in courts again.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will have updated covid protocols by July 1 and these will be the ones the court people will follow when they come to the community • They also have the venue for the court to use • Bill Kaminawatamin is the community contact for the court. His email billykam@michikan.ca. He is familiar with the courts as he was a former employee of NAN Legal Services and has familiarity with the court and the people involved.
10. Deer Lake FN	Chief Leo Mamakeesick with subsequent discussion with Jeremy Sawanas all by phone	Hold off for now for in community court. Some issue with the venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are willing to have virtual court • Jeremy Sawanas will be the community contact. His cell# is 807-738-5292 • They will also take the StarLink Equipment
11. Kasabonika FN	Chief Tom Semple by text messaging and with councillor Mike Morris by phone. Subsequent phone discussion with Keith McKay NAN Legal Service Worker.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In fact, have schedule the first court for August 12 with pre-court activity for August 11. • The venue for the court will be the school as before • Keith McKay will be the community contact for the court. His contact cell# is 807-738-5808 • They've indicated they will take the offer of the Starlink Equipment. • Discussions with a band councilor indicated there is still concern for the covid pandemic. Mainly, the concern comes from the fact that 60% of the community population is unvaccinated.
12. North Spirit FN	-	Unable to contact Chief – no phone listed	
13. Keewaywin FN	-	Message left	

SUMMARY REPORT

- A Wawatay Radio Live Show by Douglas Semple was held on June 2, 2022, from 1pm-2pm; as an alternative to making communication contact to NAN Chiefs of Fly-In Courts of the northwest region.
- The two noted communities who are not ready to host fly-in courts indicate they want to talk with the government about radically changing how the justice system should work with them. They would like to see their efforts at managing community conflicts recognized and have some form of integration of these community efforts with the outside justice systems. The primary reason given for this thought is that they might be better at resolving these community conflicts than the courts which usually makes situations worse. Of course, they recognize they would have to have intervention of the outside systems when it comes to serious conflicts such as taking of life and violation of women. They want to take about how such a system might look like and how the outside systems could support them.
- Other consultants have focused on the existing fly-in courts such as it is and noted where efficiency improvements could be made. The communities I worked with most likely have the same concerns and would ask the province to adjust the factors causing such inefficiencies.
- I did face-to-face meetings with 2 chiefs here in Thunder Bay. The rest of the contacts I made were through phone discussions except for two communities which I found to be difficult to get in touch with. One never picked up their phone and never called back to my messages. The other had no personal phone that I could find and calls to the band office were of no value as I could not leave messages. Their mailbox was full. I will continue to try to reach out to find them.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Work with the communities identified here and another consultant's work to design an agenda for further discussion how they want their thoughts on community intervention and justice to be addressed. They need to be more specific on what they mean. The actual meeting could look at structure and process how such community dispute resolution could look like and work, and how Ontario might validate them in their justice system. After the meeting of the four communities who identified this as an issue, then a wider conference of the northern First Nations could take place.
2. Derrick Chum has pointed out that the communities he consulted with focused their feedback on efficiency issues with the current delivery of the courts into the communities. The communities I worked with may have the same concerns as well. So whatever work is done by MAG in addressing these efficiency issues will be welcomed by them.