

Q & A: ENROLLMENT PROCESS

- 1) How many Founding Members Lists will there be for the Qalipu Band?

There will be only one List. The 23 June 2008 Agreement made between the FNI and the Government of Canada does make reference to a First and Second Founding Members List. This does mean that there will be two Lists. Rather the reference to 'First' and 'Second' was made only to make it clear that there will be two stages in creating the List; the first before the Qalipu Band is formed and the second after it is formed. Once the Qalipu Band is formed, the List will be amended to add more names. A person's status as a Founding Member is the same regardless if they were added on the first list or afterwards.

- 2) Will I be on the First Founding Members List if my application was in before November 30th?

Not necessarily. Under the terms of the Agreement made between the FNI and Canada, only those Applicants considered by the Enrolment Committee prior to November 30th and have received notification from the Chair that they have met the eligibility requirements will be recommended for inclusion on the First Founding Members List.

- 3) Why wasn't my application dealt with?

Time was not available. The Enrolment Committee was formed on the basis that an estimated 12,000 applications would be received over a four year period. The number of applications received by the Enrolment Committee prior to November 30th is more than double that number.

- 4) When will the Enrolment Committee deal with my application?

The Enrolment Committee has reported that it reviews applications by region (i.e. Bay of Islands, Bay St. George and Central) on a rotating basis with the applications in each region reviewed in the order in which they were received. During the months of December and January the committee will be occupied with finalizing first founding list for submission to Canada and the FNI. As soon as the list is submitted the committee will begin reviewing applications again.

- 5) Why wasn't the number of applications foreseen?

During negotiations on the Agreement, the FNI funded a study by an independent consultant to estimate the number of applications the Enrolment Committee could receive from FNI members and members of their extended families, including those living outside Newfoundland and Labrador. That study estimated between 10,000 – 12,000 potential applicants, not all of whom would necessarily apply within the first year of applications becoming available. At the time another sizable aboriginal

organization on the Island of Newfoundland indicated that it would not participate in the process and instead proceeded with its existing Court case against Canada. That organization later reversed that decision and recommended that its members participate in the process negotiated by the FNI. No doubt that this has contributed to the increase in the number of applications received by the Enrolment Committee.

- 6) Can more people be hired to deal with the backlog?

More staff than originally contemplated was hired to assist the Enrolment Committee so as to free up as much time as possible to review applications. This has allowed the Enrolment Committee to review more applications than originally contemplated. The actual review of the applications however has to be done by the Enrolment Committee members – there are five – the Chair, two Mi'kmaq representatives and two representatives appointed by the Government of Canada. It is not possible to expand that Committee under the Agreement.

- 7) Will I be eligible to go on the First Founding Members List if the Enrolment Committee approves my application after November 30th?

Under the framework of the Agreement, you would not be eligible to go on the First Founding Members List. The Agreement provides for a Second Founding Members List that is to be submitted by the Enrolment Committee to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in three years. However; the Government of Canada and the FNI are working together to see how we can speed up the process of adding more names to the Founding Members List prior to the three year period.

- 8) Will I be a member of the Qalipu Band if the Enrolment Committee recommends that my name be added to the Second Founding Members List?

If you are recommended for the Second Founding Members List, you will become a member of the Qalipu Band once the federal Cabinet approves adding those names to the Founding Members List.

- 9) Will I be able to obtain benefits if I am not on the First Founding Members List but I receive my letter stating that Enrolment Committee has recommended that I be added to the Second Founding Members List?

You would not be able to access benefits solely available to Band members such as non-insured health benefits but you might be eligible for other programs and services offered to aboriginal people by the Government of Canada and/or the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, such as the current Employment and Training program delivered by the FNI.

- 10) Why isn't the completion of the First Founding Members List being delayed until all applications filed before November 30th are dealt with?

First extending the time for the completion and submission of the First Founding Members List still might not guarantee that all applications filed before November 30th would be dealt with by the new time limit.

Second and more importantly the Agreement contemplates the formation of the Qalipu Band following the submission of the First Founding Members List to the FNI and Canada. Delaying the First Founding Member's List will delay the timetable for the Band's formation. In that time, unforeseen issues and events may affect the federal Cabinet's timetable for passing the Order creating the Band.

- 11) What are the FNI and Canada doing to try to find a way to speed up the process for adding more names to the Qalipu Band's membership list?

A committee made up of three representatives appointed by the FNI and three appointed by the Government of Canada have been meeting to discuss options that might be available within the framework of the Agreement.