Tuesday November 14, 2017

Chair: James Arreak
Recorder: Richard Cywink

Presenter: Robert Potts

Introduction of Mr. Robert Potts: He is a practicing lawyer in the process of treaty making at the moment, between the Department of Indian Affairs (INAC) of Canada and the Algonquin of Ontario. The Algonquin are presently in a land claim action suit for unceded territory not only in Ontario, but also in Quebec. The location includes status and non-status Indians; however they (the Indians) must prove their lineage back to 1762, and declare they are Algonquin beyond a doubt.

Why so long? Modern treaties go back to the Royal Proclamation of 1763; however, most land encroachments only go back as far 1777 for petitions. The consensus is that Algonquin territory spans beyond just Ontario and Quebec in the context of pre-contact Europeanism. The Algonquin claim they have been forcefully removed from their territories against their will, through land encroachments of the past.

Two hundred and fifty years have passed without any treaties on the Algonquin lands. We make note that there has been a three million dollar transfer of money to the Algonquin of Ontario, along with one hundred and seventeen million acres of land. This includes migratory birds, wild-life, non-taxable fishing rights and harvesting rights.

The consensus is that the Algonquin would like to be more visible to the public, where reconciliation can be the restoration of friendly relations with the Canada and the government. However; we cannot forgive and forget with the government to be on an equal par.