

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS – TALKING POINTS

1. Limited role of Chief and Council.

- Council has only been included in decision-making where necessary. It is not practical or possible for Membership to vote on every small issue. For example, Council appoints the first Membership Committee so that a committee can be formed soon after the Code is ratified – it is not practical to ask Members to vote on Committee Members right after they just went through a voting process regarding the Code itself.

2. This Code is never going to please everyone – but the 2004 Code needs to change soon.

- There are currently more than 30 membership applications waiting to be considered under the 2004 Membership Code. It is not fair to these applicants to keep them waiting with another year-long moratorium, and almost all Members agree that the 2004 Code is not a good option either.
- **Whether you support the Code or not, VOTE!**
- If the 2004 Membership Code is ever going to change, MLIB needs to get a sense of whether or not the community is generally in favour of this Code. If nobody votes one way or the other, it will make it more difficult to understand how Members want to move forward on Membership issues.

3. We drafted the Code to balance feedback from Members, legal advice, and the desire to maintain a strong Membership base for generations to come.

- Consider the Code in light of the fact that these three concerns each pulled the membership committee in different directions. For instance, while feedback from Members wanted to limit the rights of Severalty Members, legal counsel advised that too many restrictions may be unconstitutional. As another example, while Members want to make it extremely onerous to become a Member, some concessions had to be made, otherwise MLIB may end up with a significantly depleted Membership base in years to come.

4. The Code and Manual are living tree documents, but with different amendment processes.

- It is important to make it clear that the Code and Manual can be amended, but keep in mind that the Code cannot be amended very easily, and the Manual can only be amended by BCR. NOTE: there is no formal mechanism by which Members can vote to make changes to the Manual.

5. Keep meetings focused on the Code and Manual – concerns regarding specific housing policies, the current Chief and Council, and personal disagreements with other Members need to be set aside.

- The Code is not intended to be used for the next 5-10 years, it is intended to be used for generations. As such, remember that personal disputes and present-day concerns with other political issues within the Band need to be set aside when considering the Code.

- 6. Purpose of the community engagement meetings is to report process and work done on the Code and Manual back to Membership and explain key aspects of the Code and Manual.**
- Legal issues regarding the Code and Manual have been reviewed by legal counsel. Lawyers are at the meetings to explain how the Code and Manual work together and how it should be interpreted, based on questions from Membership.
- 7. Operating under its own Membership Code gets MLIB out from under the Indian Act pursuant to Section 10 of the Indian Act.**