



### Your Input wanted on Membertou Land Code



#### **Governance Committee Participates in National LAB Meeting**

The Membertou Governance Committee has worked with community of Membertou since 2010 to create a Membertou Land Code. The Membertou Governance Committee is made up of community volunteers who want to make a difference in the future of Membertou. Because the Governance Committee wanted to ensure that community members were given as much opportunity to give input into the code, numerous engagement sessions were held in the last four years. Based on the input received, the Governance Committee drafted the Membertou Land Code suiting the needs of Membertou. A draft copy of the Land Code is available on the Membertou Governance Website at: [www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com](http://www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com). If you have the opportunity to review it, please do so and if you want more information on it or wish to give further input, please contact Cheryl Knockwood, the Governance Coordinator at 902-564-6466 at ext. 2520. Community sessions to discuss the Land Code will be posted soon on our website. We hope to host sessions both in Membertou and potentially in Halifax to reach off-reserve members. Continue to check our website for a finalized schedule.

### Membertou Land Code Vote to be set Soon



#### **Membertou Community Session Door Prize Winners**

Membertou hopes to hold a community vote on the Land Code in 2015. In order for the Membertou Land Code to pass, a majority of community members will need to participate in the vote and a majority of those voting in favor of the Land Code. If it passes, then it will not come into effect until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, which is Mi'kmaq Treaty day. If the community votes to accept the Land Code, it will provide the community the legal jurisdiction or the right to manage and make its own laws in relation to reserve lands. Currently Membertou reserve lands are under the authority and jurisdiction of the Crown by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada because of the *Indian Act*. Voting for the Membertou Land Code, means that Membertou will remove itself from 25% of the *Indian Act* that only deal with land management. The remaining sections not dealing with lands and land management will continue to apply. Voting for the Land Code also means that Membertou will have the power to make laws in respect of the development, conservation, protection, management, use and possession of Membertou reserve lands.



**Door Prize Winners at Membertou Community Session on Land Code**

**Looking for Membertou members to host Governance Committee members at your house to discuss the Membertou Land Code**

Community members have approached Membertou Governance Committee members asking questions about the Land Code. Governance Committee members have been told by some community members that they would prefer to have one-on-one sessions instead of attending community engagement sessions. If you prefer, a Governance Committee member and myself could visit your home to hear your input or answer any questions about the Land Code. Please contact Cheryl Knockwood, the Governance Coordinator if you would like to host a session for you and your family. Please contact her at [cherylknockwood@membertou.ca](mailto:cherylknockwood@membertou.ca) or at 902-564-6466 ext. 2520. Chief and Council want as much input on the Membertou Land Code before the ratification vote in 2015.

**Land Code Frequently Asked Questions**

Membertou is one of many First Nations in Canada to sign onto the First Nations Land Management Framework Agreement. The Agreement transfers authority and management of reserve lands from the Federal government to our own control, and removes us from roughly 25% of the *Indian Act*. But what does this really mean? To provide a better understanding of the *Act*, we have a compiled of some of the most common questions our members might have. We will include a few below and we hope to highlight more in Membertou's weekly newsletter.

**Q: What is a Land Code?** A: The basic land law of the First Nation. It will replace 38 land related sections of the Indian Act.

**Q: What is Land Governance?** A: Land Governance is the ability to make, administer and enforce laws as well as the day-to-day management and administration of Membertou lands & resources.

**Upcoming Events**

**Governance Committee Meetings**

10:00-1:00 P.M.

Entrepreneurship Boardroom

**January 22, 2015**

**February 26, 2015**

**March 26, 2015**

**April 23, 2015**

**May 28, 2015**

**June 25, 2015**

**July 30, 2015**

**April 25, 2015**

**Fourth Annual Wi'kipaltimk Spring Gathering**

Location to be determined

Please note above dates are subject to change, confirm details prior to event.

**“Kisitutesnu piley kelu'lk nstuita'suaqta'n knijannaq ksite'ttaqq.”**

**“Creating new memories in the minds of our children.”**

Video recorded training sessions available at: [www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com](http://www.maupeltutantsutekek.webs.com)

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