



An Update from Chief and Council regarding the 35%-20% Trial

April 28, 2008

Jeff Craik, current Vice President of Marketing for Casino Rama, testified on Monday, March 31 and Tuesday, April 2, 2008. He gave evidence about his involvement, as Rama Mnjikaning's Manager of Finance in the casino project, particularly in late 1994 and throughout 1995.

He spoke about the development and submission of Rama Mnjikaning's proposed revenue sharing formula in November, 1994. He elaborated about his understanding of Rama Mnjikaning's entitlement to 35% of net casino revenue when the community's proposal to host the casino was accepted by the Selection Committee.

Arnold Ingersoll, former Councillor for Rama Mnjikaning First Nation, began testifying on Wednesday, April 2. He gave evidence about his background, involvement in First Nations' politics and witnessing of the signing of the Statement of Political Relationships. He spoke about his first awareness of the casino project, as a Band Councillor, as well as his first awareness of a proposed revenue sharing formula.

Mr. Ingersoll testified about his own efforts to understand the draft revenue sharing formula, and the implications of that formula for the First Nation.

Mr. Ingersoll recalled his memories of the selection of Rama Mnjikaning as the host First Nation, and the meetings with government officials, the Chiefs of Ontario and other First Nations that followed. He also testified about the establishment of the Chiefs of Ontario Bothwell and McCue Committee.

Mr. Ingersoll gave evidence about developments towards implementation during 1995 and early 1996, particularly with respect to discussions and planning regarding financial issues. He testified about his meetings with government Ministers in early 1996, both before and after the construction shutdown in February 1996. Mr. Ingersoll gave evidence about his meetings with other First Nations after the shutdown and once construction resumed.

His testimony was completed on April 10th.

Dennis Martel, former Communications Director with RMFN from 1996 to 1998, took the stand on April 10 and the afternoon of April 11. He testified about his involvement in the First Nations Casino Site Selection Process in 1994,

during which time he worked with the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin on their proposal. He explained his understanding of the Site Selection Process and the role that revenue sharing played in that process.

Mr. Martel gave evidence about his work for Rama Mnjikaning in 1996, when construction of Casino Rama had been halted. He spoke about his role in assisting Rama Mnjikaning with negotiations with the province and the other First Nations regarding revenue sharing issues in 1996. He recalled events and discussions at the All Ontario Chiefs' Conference (AOCC) at Saugeen in June, 1996 and the declaration supporting Rama Mnjikaning's claim for 35% of the net revenues.

Mr. Martel testified about the revenue sharing meetings he participated in after the June 1996 AOCC with respect to positions and understandings of Rama Mnjikaning, the other First Nations and the Province. He testified about the position of the NAN First Nations and the 1997 AOCC.

Mr. Martel completed his testimony on Monday, April 14, 2008.

Former Chief Lorraine McRae began her testimony in the afternoon of April 14, 2008. Former Chief McRae gave evidence about her personal background and her decision to seek election as Chief of Mnjikaning First Nation in 1994. She testified about her initial opposition to the casino project. She recalled the Site Selection Process in 1994 and the community meetings that were held at Mnjikaning during that process.

Former Chief McRae spoke about the plebiscite in September 1994 and the expression of community support for the casino that emerged. She also spoke of the November 1994 visit of the Selection Panel to Rama Mnjikaning and the revised revenue sharing formula that was presented to the Panel at that meeting.

Updates will also be posted on the RMFN website as they become available at www.rmfn.ca Chief and Council attend this trial as often as is possible and will be happy to address any questions you may have regarding these issues.