

**Energy Efficiency and Community Energy Systems  
Indigenous Technical Session Discussion Summary**

**Monday, October 17, 2016**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Métis Settlements General Council Offices**

**#101 10335 172 Street, Edmonton**

- Some members of the Métis Settlements General Council were happy to learn that Justin Trudeau will implement carbon tax on provinces that don't have one. Every government has a role to play.
- Much of the conversation was directed towards the delivery of granting programs for councils and their facilities. Members wanted to know if the LTA is a grant or not. There was a desire from the room to access money for the solar programming.
- Geothermal was desired by some members of the group. One Settlement has an administration building that is currently run on geothermal and it is very efficient.
- It was also noted that Settlements have the potential to get lost in engagement. Some jurisdictions are not eligible for the existing grant program.
- Message for Indigenous Relations: keep Métis communities at the table, especially since they are one of the largest landowners in Alberta collectively. The \$2.5 million pilot grant program do not include Métis communities; however potential programming from Energy Efficiency Alberta could reach everyone across Alberta, including Métis communities and individuals within them.
- Métis Settlements are the largest landholder in the province. There is no representation on the panel. Why? If we don't get our voice heard at the beginning, chances are that once the agency is established, our voice won't be heard. Indigenous Relations is a vast department. The Settlements are unique, they have some issues, would have liked to have gone down this path years ago. Environment and sustainability is important. Some of the burdens on communities could be eased. Where is Métis representation in the panel?
- The Climate Leadership branch just started, and is really just at the early days. The climate leadership branch is here to learn. How should engagement occur with the Métis Settlements and what programming would settlements like to see from energy efficiency?
- Members from Métis communities said that they should have been at the table one step ago. They "want to be included before the car is built."
- Some of these programs cannot be just for communities - individuals need to be eligible for programming. It is crippling if individuals and individual houses are not going to be eligible for programming.
- There are qualifiers at the municipal level that will work for Métis Settlements, and they will also work for the non-profit sector. Whatever the programs are, the Métis Settlements should qualify – a diversity of criteria for applicants should be considered. Some Settlements do not find it acceptable that some Settlements are identified as municipalities by the provincial government.
- Municipal programs overlap. There are qualifiers that will work in the municipal setting and then there's the administration, then there's the individuals. Métis Settlements need to qualify in a variety of ways. Métis Settlements have to meet the needs of community members.
- A number of First Nations that have solar and green energy probably have shaped the conversation on programming so far. All settlements would be represented in activities like this.

**Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel  
Technical Stakeholder Workshop – Indigenous Communities – October 17, 2016**

Ultimately, settlements get their direction from the communities and need representation from all communities

- Settlements do not want to be lumped into the same category as a municipality. They don't follow the Municipal Act. They are not a municipality, and never will be.
- Executive office for the MSGS could be used as a go-to for coordination, as it gets direction from communities, fills in on their behalf and reports back to them.
- As of November 1, 2016, the provincial building code will be adopting the national building code. It was desired by the communities that the language will be made into clean language. The Energy Efficiency Agency is expected to provide capacity for communities in this transition. Energy efficiency development services will be within the mandate of the agency.
- \$645 million is a piece of the funding collected from the carbon levy, it's been allocated to the agency for the province over 5 years. They will be looking to spend these funds across a number of groups. There is a long list of whom and what will be eligible to access these funds.
- The current state of the economy has affected communities drastically. How will future programming affect industry, and will grants be extended to industry? Will industry have any incentive to stay in the province? The Climate Leadership Program extensively involved industry representatives and participation. Industry has further provided submissions to the Energy Efficiency library which will further shape recommendations to government. It is worth noting that large emitters are subject to the specified gas emitters regulation. Methane regulations are also being developed.
- The Coal Communities Task Force has been tasked with engaging with communities affected with the transition. The Coal Association of Canada is aware of the ongoing work.
- Geothermal and well conversion technologies are currently being explored, and a pilot program is currently underway in Leduc. Many of these communities are interested in geothermal power.
- Many communities are looking at how they can upgrade their housing. Energy efficiency should go hand in hand with grant programming for recycling. The communities are entering a cycle in the housing program where many of the houses need to be replaced. The building code applies to the Métis Settlements.
- A complete audit of communities (not just houses) needs to be complete, and would likely be the first step. Communities manage energy efficiency assessment. Some communities have recently performed energy efficiency upgrades and would like to be compensated for previous upgrades.
- Education is a fundamental component for any program. Documents sent out to the mail would help, but programming through General Council. Recycling programs could be the model to base off of.
- Communities do not desire technology that is out of date. It is expected that communities would not be on the bleeding-edge of technology. It is also important that technological upgrades are put in place in a home which is poorly insulated.
- Later servicing of energy efficiency upgrades is important to communities where there may not have capacity to do so. It may be under the mandate of the energy efficiency agency to support an energy-services industry which can complete energy efficiency audits. It is important to encourage communities and industry to work hand in hand to increase efficiency.

**Barriers for energy efficiency programming**

- Communities need to hear directly from public servants regarding programming, not politicians from the official opposition. Many politicians are putting the carbon levy in a bad light which disincentives communities from uptake.

## Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel

### Technical Stakeholder Workshop – Indigenous Communities – October 17, 2016

- The MSGC has a role to play in delivering educational programming for communities. Content from the government could be provided to the MSGC, which they in turn could leverage. Social media plays a large role as a large percentage of population is youth. Elders do not find ideas to be innovative. Context appropriate information for the proper demographics is necessary to assist in programming. A strong information campaign with the right timing is important. Meeting with Elders is still a crucial component. Story-telling vs. technical engagement may be a better method for connecting with Elders. Once connection with Elders is made, support and buy-in from the MSGC will be created.
- Large opportunity for youth, could be a part of curriculum for possibly a live web chat. Live sessions for students in K-12 schools on Facebook could be used. Hard-copy communications provided to administration offices on communities could be widely disseminated. Every Settlement has a form of newsletter where content could be shared.
- The actual economic impact of reducing emissions needs to be promoted to individuals to incentivize behaviour. It may be the case where wood-burning stoves will be switched out, resulting in culture change.
- Increased operating costs due to the climate levy may not have been accounted for in municipalities and Settlements. Revenue will also be constrained for Settlements due to the drop in oil prices and the lack of drilling activity.
- How do we accomplish the biggest impact, how does a senior take advantage? The government can come up with a bunch of grants, but what about a culture change? Métis Settlements and other communities will try to take wood stoves out of seniors' homes and replace it with a shiny new energy efficient furnace. How does this change the overall culture of the community?
- The MSGC has been a major stakeholder in the oil and gas sector, and the situation is awful. Future opportunities for energy efficiency are welcome. Work with the Energy Efficiency Advisory Panel is complementary as new pipelines will get approved if we have higher environmental standards.
- Ensuring applicant criteria is suggested to be broadened for future grant programs. It was also suggested that longevity of programming to help with sustainability.
- Eligibility for the existing grant program is currently being discussed, and further communication on eligibility will be provided.
- The MSGC has the opportunity to be an ally with the provincial government as it carries out its climate leadership plan.