

**MANITOBA COMMERCIAL INLAND  
FISHERIES FEDERATION INC.  
(MCIFF)**



**REPORT ON  
ELECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NOVEMBER 9 & 10, 2005

Canad Inn – Polo Park  
1405 St. Matthews Ave.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

**MANITOBA COMMERCIAL INLAND  
FISHERIES FEDERATION INC. (MCIFF)**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly  
Canad Inn Polo Park  
Winnipeg, MB  
November 9 & 10, 2005

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**1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly  
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**Record of Assembly**

**DAY ONE: November 9, 2005**

Assembly convened at 9:30 A.M. preceded with an honor song by drum singer, Chris Esquash.

Opening Prayer by Elder Lawrence Smith

Overview of Agenda and Changes: Sam Murdock, Conference Chair of the Assembly:

- Change on agenda in Day One Opening Comments - Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship to attend at 12:00 Noon.
- Honourable Geoff Regan unable to attend and sends his regrets.
- Stan Struthers, Provincial Minister of Conservation to send a colleague on behalf of his department.
- Moses Okemow, appointed Electoral Officer to explain elections, rules and procedures.
- Change on agenda for Legal Counsel, Murray Trachtenberg - to introduce the By-Laws and Articles on Incorporation before lunch.
- Change on agenda for keynote speaker - Due to agenda shift for opening comments by Steve Ashton, time slot for Keynote Speaker, Robert Hand, President of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation will be changed.
- Nominations may have to be moved forward.
- Social evening at 7:00 PM with entertainers "*The Breeze*" to perform.
- On Day Two, at 9:00 AM Chair (Sam Murdock) will provide a recap of Day One.
- Possibility that Dr. Sydney Garrioch may not be in attendance of Day Two of assembly due to conflict with MKIO conference on November 8 & 9, 2005.

- Elections to be held on Day Two followed by introduction of new Chairperson and Board Directors.
- New Board of MCIFF to deal with outstanding resolutions under agenda item, old business.
- New Board of MCIFF to deal with any new business arising.

(All motions listed as Appendix “A”)

**Motion # 1**

Motion called to adopt agenda with recommended changes.

Moved by: Allan Gaudry

Seconded by: Dan Dumas

Question called

0 Abstentions

0 Opposed

All in favor of the agenda as presented

Motion carried.

Invitation and introduction by Chair for host organizations to provide opening comments:

**Opening Remarks: Grand Chief Chris Henderson, Southern Chiefs’ Organization Inc.** {Verbatim}

Good Morning Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good Morning to Elder Lawrence Smith, Grand Chief Ron Evans, President David Chartrand, Chief McIvor, Council members, fishermen and invited delegates.

My name is Chris Henderson and I am the Southern Grand Chief of Manitoba representing 36 First Nations in southern Manitoba. At this time, if you would, I would ask for your indulgence and your observance. For those of you who may not know, yesterday was November 8 and that day was recognized and proclaimed as National Aboriginal Veterans’ Day. So perhaps, at this time, I would ask you to stand and observe a moment of silence for our Aboriginal veterans and their comrades who have served us in both world wars and the Korean War. So, I’d ask for a moment of silence at this time.

I am going to make my comments brief. You have a lot of business to tend to over the next couple of days. But before I offer my opening remarks, I want to acknowledge and thank Mr. Sam Murdock and the Interim Executive who oversaw and coordinated and organized this forum as was mandated by the fishermen or fisherpersons, sorry, back in April of earlier this year in Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation.

It is by no means an easy feat to try and bring together so many diverse peoples when it comes to such a challenging profession. So I believe that Mr. Murdock and his Interim Executive deserve a round of applause for trying to bring everybody together.

As I stated earlier, this meeting was borne out of the discussions that you held back in April in Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation. I'd like to thank Chief Irvin McIvor who at that time played a key role in bringing together First Nations, Métis and non-First Nation fishermen to talk about the commercial inland fisheries. It's no secret that there are many challenges confronting this industry and your livelihood. You all know what they are and your challenges and your issues have been conveyed and communicated to me. And there has been some concerns regarding the establishment of this federation. As in any democratic society, you will not have 100% buy-in by all those affected individuals and those people who have a key role or a key interest when it comes to the issue of fishing. But no one can deny that when it comes to unity – if we can start from that base of coming together and reaching that common understanding, that common ground - great things can be achieved and I believe that was the central idea that spawned the creation of this inland federation.

It has been communicated to me by some of our inland fishermen who possess Treaty they were concerned of the fact that this newly formed body would erode and diminish the Treaty Right to fish. To those Indian fishermen, let me give you my assurance and commitment that we will not let that happen. I believe it's about giving the power to the people, giving them the power to represent themselves adequately when it comes to the protection and enforcement, recognition and implementation of the Treaty Right to fish – we have that mandate, I have that mandate. So let me give you the assurance that this body will not take that away from you. And although, perhaps in your view, perhaps the train has left with regard to the establishment of this body. But you also have that right to get off that train, should you wish. Should you desire that this body is not the appropriate mechanism or vehicle for you, nobody will force you to remain on this federation.

Back in Sandy Bay, on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year, we had close to 500 fishermen who gathered in Sandy Bay. And there, many of you placed the President of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation on the hot seat and I applaud you for that because many of you expressed strong concern about that corporation and borne out of that concern, that's why many of you had agreed, I believe, by consensus that there was another vehicle that was needed to try and represent the interests of the fishermen. All of you did adopt a resolution and that resolution was regarding the establishment of the Manitoba Commercial Inland Fishers' Federation. Many of you have this resolution with you in your package. And perhaps as a reminder, I would like to remind you all of that resolution and it states..... (Grand Chief reads out resolution).

Well delegates, I am pleased to inform you that those two tasks have been completed for your consideration over the next two days. The By-Laws have been drafted and later on this afternoon you will have that opportunity to nominate this new Executive to oversee the operation of this federation. And I think there is a key word or key words in that resolution; it is "the will" of the fishermen. So whatever your will is or will be, that will be respected regardless of the differences that each and every one of you possess. But

you all share that common practice, that is fishing. So in conclusion, I wish you a successful two days. I wish you well over the course of your deliberations. And I wish the potential candidates for this federation the very best. And remember to our Indian fishermen, our Treaty fishermen, you have every assurance that your rights will not be eroded or diminished in any way whatsoever. You have my commitment. You have our Chief's commitments. With that, thank you for your attention. And once again, I want to thank the Interim Executive and the Interim Chairperson for pulling together everybody for this two-day conference. It's by no means an easy feat and therein lies the challenge. I look forward to seeing you tonight at the social, I look forward to hearing Chief McIvor's band "*The Breeze*" perform some good old time country music. So with that Meegwetch, Thank you and I look forward to seeing you and visiting with you as these two days unfold.

**Opening Remarks: David Chartrand, President, Manitoba Métis Federation**  
{ Verbatim }

Thank you very much, Sam. I would like to, first of all, start off by thanking the elder for the prayer this morning. I think it's always customary for us as Aboriginal people that ensure that there is spiritualism or certain religions, that we always ensure that we start off our meetings with that practice and we continue to advance that tradition. I think it's very important that we never stray from that. But I would also like to acknowledge some of the elders, the crowd today, but more importantly, all the delegates, the movers and the shakers of the fishing industry that has come together.

As the President of the Métis Federation, I want to make it very clear and firstly, I want to apologize to my people. I want to apologize on the basis that I don't have enough money - I don't have enough money to bring my fishermen here from across this province. They should be here by the hundreds and by the thousands. Because each and every one of you are affected in different ways throughout our communities and we see it happening. I see our communities eroding; I see our entire infrastructure falling apart. You go to any community today and you'll find even stores are shutting down. What kept them alive was the fishing community. It was prominent, everybody was working, people had money and people could buy. Today you travel, you see despair, you see tragedy happening in our back yards and I feel very, very bad. And I want to commend Sam and all of them for trying to have this meeting with what little they have and what little we have been able to put together as leaders to try and help with our little budgets. It may sound like lots but they are just strictly set aside budgets and we can't just take money from Child and Family Services for instance and bring it here. I can't do that or they would take away all my funding from me if I tried.

But it really pisses me off, when I hear that the invitations to invite the politicians to be here - provincial, federal - to come and show their respect to each of you in this room. Each of you that pay taxes, each of you that work to provide for your families and each of you that keep the community alive. Because without you, how would a government operate, how would a government run? Governments can't without their tax dollars, without the population actually working and contributing to society. But are they here? I

guarantee you if I had a cattle ranch association meeting here, they would be begging to come and speak here in front of you. If we had a farmers' gathering here, the Canadian Wheat Board and all its members, you would see the Premier coming here. But this is how they treat you as fishermen because they don't believe you have power. That my, friends, is the answer to your problems. They believe you don't have any authority or power to make a change. But they are wrong. They are absolutely wrong. What you are doing here today, you are going to see, if you stand like you said in April, if you stand committed to stand together whether you're First Nation or Métis secondary when it comes to a fishing community - but if you stand together as fishermen, and you make it very clear, I don't care if it's Freshwater, provincial or federal, you're going to stand up to protect yourselves, your family and your industry, and if they see you doing that and they see you coming to the polls, they'll listen and they'll become scared. Because you're going to make change.

You're actually making change today when you elect a new body that will actually become now an entity. You stand up and protect that body, no matter what. I'm serious about that, it's absolutely fundamental that when you elect the people here today, whether you like them or not, you stand up and protect them. Because that association that you're creating is no different than the creation of the Manitoba Métis Federation of 1967 when a few hundred people got together and said "We're going to make a difference, we're going to stand together, we're going to stand and protect the Métis people, we're going to create a government. And today, we have a very big organization, it's growing. But it started off very tiny and very small but change has gradually happened and you have to do the same. You've got to stand together, you've got to help us fight the fight. Because I'm only one voice, I'm an elected President but I'm only one voice. When we are going to have a rally, if we're going to fight for fishermen, then you guys should come, no matter what. Bring your family and bring your children. Because it is absolutely bullshit how the government is treating you today.

I just came back from Europe on the veterans' trip. And I'll never forget the emotions I've gone through and watched the veterans as they were crying in the graveyards through out Europe, both First Nations and Métis, telling the stories as they did their prayers while thousands of Europeans watched. But I'll tell you something, the pride that they have, the pride that these veterans had when they came back and the struggle that they face today is a struggle they must continue and we will help with that fight and we will help them. But I'm telling you here, as the fishermen, you need to go down that same path as your veterans did, to work together as brothers and sisters and stand together firm. We will have our differences, me and the Grand Chiefs on different political issues, but that's secondary, that's politics. You leave that out of this particular vision. Right now we need to set forth a process.

When I came home and I listened to the news in Ottawa, I was just dying for news, I was so hungry because everyone speaks French over there and I don't speak French. The only thing I knew is "Pardon", that's the only thing I could say. But I was hungry for English and the news in Canada. And when I put on the TV and I hear in the news that thousands of pounds of pickerel are being thrown away in one of our northern reserves because

Freshwater says "Hey they're not part of me, they went on their own, too bad for them". Well for damn sake, you own that damn industry, you own those freezers - those fish should have been flown out and frozen, in seconds they would have been frozen and they would have been preserved and protected. What does your industry do? - it leaves you on your own. Tells the poor guy there, he's inexperienced, a few Chiefs give me some political pressure so I had to give that guy the license. Blame the Chiefs, now. Blame the fishermen - but it's your dollars that keep that industry alive, it's your dollars that own that building, it's your dollars that own those freezers- and why in the hell didn't they protect that fish and bring it in and freeze it, then feed our families. Why in the hell would they keep that and start putting the blame on you. Because they think they can do it and they think they can get away with it.

They've got to know that you are not going to be pushed around. They've got to know you are going to be standing together. Just like the Canadian Wheat Board, it went through hell. They gathered, but look at today, today you have 15 people that sit on the Canadian Wheat Board, five of them appointed by government, used to be all appointed by government, now there's five appointed by the government, ten elected by the farmers. That's what you have to do; you have to take over Freshwater. You've got to elect the people and they should be accountable to you for every damn cent that's spent in that industry, because it's your money.

Remember something, farmers in other industries are subsidized, that's damn well welfare like any other industry that's out there. But they don't give you one penny in your industry. Once in a while you may get lucky, you get a free net here and there but they do not subsidize your industry. They do not go out of their way to find solutions. They blame each other; they point the finger everywhere, except in their own faces, they don't look in the mirrors. If you look, for instance, at what's going to happen to you today. They're breaking you apart. They're telling some of you in the south of Winnipeg, we'll buy your pickerel at a higher rate and other people we'll give you this. For Lake Winnipegosis - well this summer, we'll buy your mullet but I can't do it this winter. I'll buy from Lake Manitoba to please them for awhile but I won't buy from Lake Winnipegosis, now. I'll calm the differences of the fishermen; I'll split and divide them. That's exactly what they're doing to you; they're breaking you apart, piece by piece, lake by lake. And it's important that we find a way to end that atrocity that's happening to you.

We've got to come and take over an industry that, actually, is yours. Why in the hell don't you have a say for an industry you pay for. You pay 100% for Freshwater; government doesn't put out a penny. And if there are people hungry today with all these health issues we talk about and I heard my Premier speak once, in fact at the Round Table in Ottawa, he talked about diabetes. Well damn well, if they're that serious about diabetes, we know one of the solutions is having certain types of nutritious foods and one of them is fish. So why aren't we buying fish from our fishermen as government and then giving to people to eat fish and subsidize the people that can't afford it. That's one way, that's creativity, plus it's your money, it's your tax dollars. They're doing it for cattle; they're doing it for the wheat farmers. Why in the hell aren't they doing it for



you? Because they believe they can monopolize you, they can break you apart and you're not going to be standing together, that's what they believe. And you've got to make sure that day is over.

Remember what happened to the other organizations - AMC, MMF. We started small but today they are a political, powerful voice. And so will you be if you stand together. But you need to stand together, you need to work together, you need to find ways to help each other. And I'll give you the rules of fishermen, all of you know it. If you have a fisherman that's broken down in the middle of the lake, are you going to drive by and say "I'm sorry you're on your own". None of you would do that, never in a million years would any of you do it. You'd stop and help that fisherman. If you see a skidoo broken down as they're fishing, you would go and help them. And look at what Freshwater did to that First Nation community, blamed them for not selling their fish and saying "Oh, I issued them a license and they wanted to go on their own, they're on their own". That's bullshit. So we've got to find a way, my friend to make change and the change will only happen, if you make it happen. We will be there, I guarantee you from the Métis side, I'll be there.

I'll be fighting this vigorously and I have been pushing this issue for years now. And I talk about it proudly because I'm proud of it. I spend over \$100,000 a year cleaning up rivers and creeks. We do it every year because it makes sense, it's logical. Fish need help and the water needs help. I thank Grand Chief from SCO for having his water conference. I think it's fundamental we start to look at this whole issue of water. But we spend, in the last five years; you know what the government has given me in the last five years - \$10,000 from the provincial government. I want to thank Mr. Gaudry who is sitting here today. We had a plan. We had money in training; in fact, we had to do heavy equipment training. But we thought; let's take our money because if we apply to government, they'll say no to us. Let's out-trick them, what we'll do is, we'll have construction training which we need anyway, but we'll use it to build a rearing pond and we actually are building a rearing pond. We're finishing it off right now in St. Laurent right now for Lake Manitoba. We took our heavy equipment operators, instead of building roads or whatever; we made them build a rearing pond for us. That's where they got their training; they got their certificates from Red River. But we built the rearing pond on our own. And that rearing pond one day will be subsidizing the lakes with the pickerel we desperately need. But we shouldn't always be banking only on the pickerel. We should be banking on every species of fish. And there should be no excuse by anybody that they can't find a way to solve and sell these products that you have out there.

So my friends, I'm going to tell you, because I could go on as a politician like crazy. You're probably saying; when is this guy going to shut up, but clearly from my perspective and I want tell you how serious this issue is. I come from Duck Bay and I'm proud of it. But when I go home and I see my community the way it is today versus the way it was when I was a teenager. It hurts; it hurts to see a community in that state.

When the east coast was suffering, you seen despair, you seen people going crazy, you seen suicide, you seen people leaving, you seen the entire community breaking apart. What did Canada do, they spent billions of dollars out there and I applaud them. I applaud them for going all the way to the east coast to help the fishermen. When you're falling down on your knees and finding ways to try to find even a little bit of money to pay your gas to go out and fish. Are they knocking on your door? - No they're not. Because they don't think they have to and they think they can get away with it - that's the issue here and we've got to make them accountable. And I encourage my fellow leaders here that we stand together on this issue. We may have our differences but this issue should be united and we should stand firm to protect our fishermen and work together to make sure this industry - and you take over Freshwater. You appoint those people and make sure they account to you. How they spend your fish and you buy every damn fish that you can, once you take over. And you help your fishermen; never forget where you came from.

So with that my friends, you stand firm, you stand proud today and you elect a board. And I will support that board whether it's First Nation, Inuit or Métis that becomes the leader or the Acting President or the President of that corporation. And I will stand and do whatever I can to help the industry because we need to. If we don't, there is no future. This is part of our heritage, my friends, let's protect it. Thank you very much.

**Opening Remarks: Grand Chief Ron Evans, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs**  
{ Verbatim }

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sam. Tansi, Boozoo, Ho. I want to first of all acknowledge, the leaders up here that I shared the podium with this morning, Grand Chief Henderson and President David Chartrand. I'd like to thank the elder, Lawrence Smith for the opening prayer, also to Chris for the honor song. And acknowledge that Chief McIvor was here and some of the Council members that are here from various First Nation communities, and to the elders and also to all of you the fishermen, my fellow fishermen and also to the organizers for organizing this time. On behalf of the First Nations Chiefs of Manitoba and the staff at AMC, I extend greetings to all of you. And to all the citizens and to all who have vested interests in the issues that are impacting our First Nation commercial fishers.

Commercial fishing is an important sustainable industry in Manitoba. For over 100 years Manitobans have been actively involved in this industry which contributes over \$30 million per annum to the provincial economy. Recently this industry has experienced significant challenges and is struggling to survive due to rising costs, political pressures and the frequency of uncooperative weather during the commercial fishing season. As well, there are now new concerns concerning our commercial fisheries with the recent completion of the Devil's Lake Diversion Project. Lake Winnipeg which is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest freshwater body in the world and home to one of the largest commercial fisheries in the province is now receiving water from Devil's Lake which has water quality which is much different from Lake Winnipeg. It is not known how this foreign discharge will affect the quality of water on Lake Winnipeg, nor do we know the full impact that it will

have on our commercial fisheries. It is imperative, that if further research be conducted on an on-going basis, to monitor the potential impact that water from Devil's Lake could have on Lake Winnipeg fisheries.

In Manitoba, there are approximately 866 fishers who have been encountering their share of challenges and these challenges have long-term impacts on the livelihoods and self-sufficiency of many families and communities. Many of these challenges were discussed during the Manitoba Commercial Inland Fisheries Conference held in April in the Sandy Bay First Nation. Some of these challenges include the rising price of gas and oil, the boat regulations being imposed similar to those placed on motor vehicles, algae problems, the industry high cost of nets, taxation imposed on our First Nation fishers and the high Canadian dollar which is detrimental to the export business because the approximately 67% of fish sales goes into the U.S. market.

In response to these issues, the Inland fishers in Manitoba have united to address the various obstacles faced in maintaining their livelihood and protecting their interests and planned strategies to overcome challenges. As the Grand Chief of the AMC, my role is to advocate for the preservation, the protection and implementation of the sacred treaties and special relationship between the First Nations and the Crown. This duty must be consistently balanced concurrently to respect and honour the autonomy of First Nations decision-making powers. First Nations leadership, at both regional and national levels, have by resolution supported First Nation inland harvesters and processors to pursue commercial fishing enterprises. As mandated by resolution, I support the First Nation entrepreneurs. I am reminded by Chiefs, however, that we must proceed with caution to safeguard our First Nations fisher's unique interests that are based on our Treaty and Inherent Rights which are separate and distinct. Any collective strategy development must ensure that our Treaties are not displaced and must recognize and respect the unique interest and rights to fisheries of First Nations and ensure viability of this industry for our future generations. As First Nations, we assert our inherent right to exercise and affirm the Treaty Right to fish for food, economic, societal and ceremonial purposes. We will remember, honour and practice the traditional knowledge and laws that inherently guide our people since time immemorial.

At this time, I want to encourage the Province and the federal government to work very closely with the Manitoba Commercial Inland Fisheries Federation Inc. to ensure that our commercial fishers continue to provide sustainable economic opportunities for Manitobans in the future.

At this time, I just want to reiterate as well President Chartrand's comments as it relates to organizing or getting ourselves organized, getting yourselves organized as fishers. As well as participating at the polls and the importance of being involved, to be able to organize ourselves so that the voice can be strong. One of the things that I've learned in many of the readings that I have done over the years in several books and about other leaders. Where Bill Clinton once wrote in a book, that politicians tend to listen to the organized minority. An organized minority has more clout than a disorganized majority. So if there is many of us, but if we're disorganized, we don't have a voice, we can't bring

our voice together. So if we organize ourselves and make that voice strong, then that is the way we can bring our issues to the forefront.

As well as participating in the elections, that is very important, that is one of the things that I have always pushed for. I've always encouraged those around me to get involved in the political processes in this country and this province. That's how we bring our voice, that's how we get our voice heard and we need to organize ourselves in such a way as you have done to bring our commercial issues to the leaders. Without your support, without an organized form of support, it makes it very difficult for us to advance and bring those to the table so it can be addressed in a manner that will benefit all of us in the fishing industry. And so with that, I just want to support the comments made by my colleagues up here as well and I want to thank the organizers once again. And the commercial fishers, all of you that are here today who provided us the opportunity to speak and bring greetings on behalf of our organizations and behalf of our leadership. I wish you the best today and tomorrow and I also want to encourage and hope that we can become strong and address the many issues that are confronting the industry. With that, thank you very much for listening.

**Chair announced the following:**

- Need to move forward with agenda into the housekeeping item - adoption of assembly rules and procedures.
- He will provide an overview and purpose of assembly.
- The By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation will be moved from 1:30 p.m. to 10:30 am on Day One agenda.
- Electoral Officer, Moses Okemow will introduce the election rules and procedures.

Before proceeding, the Chair extends an invite to the Grand Chiefs and President Chartrand to feel free to make any comments or suggestions.

**Comments and Questions from the floor (for point specific purposes, verbatim text not used):**

**David Thomasson, South Basin, Lake Winnipeg:**

After thanking the speakers and the Chair for their opening remarks, he indicates that he is also speaking on behalf of his community in regards to the desire to speak as a united voice for commercial fishermen in Manitoba.

He voices the concern that commercial fish issues and problems such as water, marketing, prices, Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. need to be strictly dealt with by the new federation as issues of a common nature. He informs the assembly that the political

redress of specific groups' rights need to be dealt with by their affiliated organizations and he hopes it remains separate from the commercial fishing issues.

He makes the point that he is happy with the one fisher/one vote concept.

For purposes of lobbying, he request clarification of the boundary zones so that they (fishers) know which areas their nominees belong to.

**Response by David Chartrand, MMF:**

States that he is in agreement with Mr. Thomasson's comments. He explains that the ultimate goal of the federation is to take over Freshwater so that they can have a say over an industry they pay for and there will be small key politics but matters have to be dealt with. On the topic of Rights Based issues, he agrees that it is the job for the leadership; however, if, for example, the Métis feel that their interests are not being served well, he wants to ensure that the Province and others know about it. In terms of Rights Based, it will be the fundamental principle of the industry itself to have the ability to survive, the ability to make money and the ability to provide for their families. He states that he does not want to see it as an organization fighting with the Grand Chiefs and himself over rights based issues.

**Chief Irvin McIvor, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation:**

After thanking and acknowledging key individuals, Mr. McIvor expressed gratitude on the speed at which events occurred. He reminded the assembly that former Grand Chief Francis Flett was very instrumental in bringing about the federation.

He makes a specific request for the leadership to take the province to task and finds it insulting that they are not present. He asks the leadership to write a joint letter expressing their dissatisfaction with their absence.

Mr. McIvor praised the efforts of Mr. Gaudry in sharing his vision of unity for all fishermen and for also contacting him to host the conference in Sandy Bay.

**Bruce Benson, South Basin, Lake Winnipeg:**

Mr. Benson informed the assembly that as Chairman for the National 30 Advisory Council, the federal government's response to their repeated requests for money for harbors in the north basin of Lake Winnipeg, is "This land is owned by First Nations, we're not going to give you money for a harbor". Mr. Benson told the assembly that "a fisherman is a fisherman; it does not matter if he is First Nation or not, he deserves a harbor". He further added that there is no mention that you have to be First Nation or Métis to belong to the federation and that it is essential that everyone belonging to the federation must be a "bona fide commercial fisherman" and everyone is equal.

**Norman Traverse, Lake St. Martin:**

Mr. Traverse thanked and acknowledged all in attendance. He pointed out that with the momentum created, caution is necessary so as not to accidentally cast a stone at someone. He stated that he respects the rights of First Nations and fishermen regardless of background. He said that he has never used his identity as a First Nation with Treaty Rights and has no problem working with other ethnic groups - basically once a fisherman always a fisherman regardless of background.

**Chair's response to Chief McIvor's request for a joint letter:**

Mr. Murdock informed the assembly that the leadership is in agreement to signing a joint letter that is currently being drafted. The letter will be shared with the assembly once completed.

**Norman Campbell, Wabowden:**

Informed the audience that a Task Force was set up in the North and was to report back. Task Force was created to address the situation with Freshwater. The northern situation has always had more difficulties than fishers in the south. Just before Sandy Bay conference, the north wanted to set up a northern fishing association - it did not work out.

Closed his comments with a statement that even though he came to the conference as a commercial fisherman, the non-status should not be forgotten

**Councillor Charles Bushie, Pine Creek First Nation:**

Councillor Bushie expressed concern over FFMC not buying mullets from fishers in Lake Winnipegosis. He explained that cost factors - capital, expenses, loans, hired men, EI - FFMC does not look out for the best interests of fishers. He went on to say that Lake Winnipeg was booming in the 50s and 60s- where is FFMC today to get community input. Mr. Bushie supports MMF's comments and concerns over the lack of ministerial presence at assembly. Fishers' issues and voices are not being heard - fishers should start filing court injunctions to protect livelihoods. Regarding the Treaties - he is willing to put that aside and not point finger at Métis brothers. Mr. Bushie explained that as a Pine Creek First Nation he is willing to work together. He informed the assembly that they have a plan with other countries (China, Japan) who are willing to buy all forms of rough fish. He closed with the comment "We must put agenda forward and shove it down the throats of all politicians".

**President David Chartrand, MMF:**

Stated that he would like to speak with regard fishers in the north, forming other associations would create fragmentations of all groups and it is not the solution. E.g. Transport licenses - the province can develop policies and enforce them whenever they want. Bureaucracy unable to develop policy to assist in funding but it will always find

the money to pay for people to charge you. Explained that with the amount of paperwork involved to have a transport license, fishers may as well have briefcases with them when they come in from fishing. When the province was questioned on the Transport licensing they said the fishermen wanted it but they were unable to identify who the individuals were.

Mr. Chartrand cited examples of what the province is doing to ensure their policies are being adhered to; otherwise the fishers are being charged. With respect to these new rules, they say they consulted with fishermen but they will not tell you who they consulted with. Fishers are being charged and there is no logic to it.

Mr. Chartrand told the assembly that these are the challenges they must face if they are fragmented. The province takes advantage of the situation.

**Reminder by Chair that there was time for one more speaker before next agenda item - election rules and procedures.**

**William Dysart, South Indian Lake:**

Informed audience that he has been in the fishing industry for the past 40 years and was at the Sandy Bay Conference. Stated that although they have always fought with government and have clout they are not recognized as producers. If industry collapses - we need to be recognized as having higher expenses because of location - because of high level of water the fishers lost out. He stated that he thinks that this body will on the lobbying and political advocacy side. He also said that he attends every conference in fishing and therefore, recognizes there is economic value in this body.

He requested a clarification on the zone boundaries on the map.

**Assurance by Chair that time will be set aside to discuss the zoning issues.**

**Rules and Procedures: Moses Okemow**

Mr. Okemow informed the assembly that the rules and procedures would be displayed on two large screens on either side of the podium.

He began by introducing himself and providing some background on himself, including his identification with the commercial fishing industry through his father.

Mr. Okemow advised the assembly of the need to adopt the rules and procedures (rules and procedures attached as Appendix "B").

The Electoral Officer read out the rules and procedures followed by points of clarification on the heading 'Official Delegates' where he pointed out that you must be a member and you must register. He advised the assembly that Legal Counsel, Murray would speak on the rules of being a member as described in the By-Laws.

Registration continues from now until the next day, just before the voting starts (noon). He again pointed out that you must register and pay \$25.00 to be a member before voting as he noted that some members were registering but not paying their membership.

After the reading, he advised that the rules and procedures should be adopted to ensure the meeting was kept in order.

**Chair requests a mover to adopt rules and procedures.**

**Motion #2**

Motion called to adopt rules and procedures along with incorporated changes.

Moved by: David Thomasson

Seconded by: Ken Campbell

Question called.

All in favor

0 Absentions

0 Opposed

Motion carried.

Chair announces that after review of the resolution passed in Sandy Bay by Legal Counsel Murray Trachtenberg, there is no need for an amendment as was initially thought.

**Introduction and Overview of By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation: Murray Trachtenberg, Legal Counsel for MCIFF**

Mr. Trachtenberg announced that he had to be in court in the afternoon and thanked the Chairperson for accommodating his schedule.

Mr. Trachtenberg explained that the organizing of a province-wide voice for all fishermen requires the development of legal vehicles to operate and with that comes certain rights and obligations. His role, as Legal Counsel, is to assist MCIFF in defining that process. He stated that the message of “unity and organizing a province-wide body with one voice” by the leadership tied in well the federation’s choice of vehicle and that was to become incorporated. The incorporated body is usually the method of choice advised by lawyers when associations

He clarified that the agenda proposed an amendment to the resolution passed in Sandy Bay, however, on further analysis he recommends that this will be necessary. He went on to explain that the resolution provided an overall picture of what the entity should be and that the one fisher/one vote concept was crucial to the heart of the resolution. This



principle means that no one group will have a bigger clout or no one organization can steer the entity into a direction other members do not want to go.

Mr. Trachtenberg went on to describe the differences between incorporated and unincorporated associations. Under incorporated bodies, there are a number of advantages such as:

- Limited liability - members' assets are not at risk, neither are the Directors' assets at risk.
- Governments, banks and suppliers would rather deal with incorporated bodies.
- The corporation will continue to exist regardless of who comes and goes on the Board.

Corporations come in different forms- "not for profit" - view is to carry out certain activities for the benefit of all and there is no financial gain. If the corporation wants to move into a "for profit" status - then there is a potential for financial gain. This corporation as it is set up is not at that stage but could become so if commercial activity is undertaken.

Corporate law has many distinctions as to what they can and cannot do. The Corporation Act must have provision for different situations therefore the drafting of By-Laws. The purpose of the By-Law is to set out basics of structure, board meeting and conducting business.

Articles of Incorporation in Manitoba are filed at the Woodsworth Building - once the activities are accepted, the entity is created. When drafting the By-Law the description of activities was provided on purpose of article. Mr. Trachtenberg cited in the articles the clause that states the entity acts as a representative body for all commercial fishermen and is there to advance the interests of anybody in the inland industry- thus the organization will represent a very broad scope of the inland industry.

Mr. Trachtenberg explained that his role as a lawyer is to give advice on the law, to highlight issues that need to be dealt with, to give options and to provide recommendations if asked. He stated that he does not make decisions but to take instructions from his client, the Board of Directors. This led up to the incorporation and drafting of By Law as directed from the Sandy Bay resolution. As it stands, the Board is currently Interim Executive- three individuals became the operating board once the entity became incorporated. As was required and stated by the resolution, the process was followed and led up to the adoption of the By-Law.

He went on to state that now that the entity is incorporated with a By-Law they needed to set up a way of who could vote, set up meetings with banks and set up a fee for membership. They agreed that it would be wise and fair to allow membership to allow people to register and become members today so that you could become voting members

up until the time the election starts. Therefore, if you are not a member, as of today, you will not be able to vote. This is the difference in what occurred at Sandy Bay, at that time you were a delegate and not a member. When the voting begins tomorrow, you are a member and only members will be allowed to vote.

The Board also agreed to appoint an “Elder’s Advisory group” at some point and appointed me as their legal counsel.

Mr. Trachtenberg indicated he would go over the By-Laws and highlight areas as he went along. At this point, some questions were being raised as follows.

**Questions and Comments (summarized as points of issue):**

**Administrative Costs:** Matter raised by Charles Bushie: Raised the question as to where the funding came from to cover administrative cost.

**Chair response to question:**

In response to the question of where funding was coming from to cover administrative costs, Chair identified four organizations, namely the SCO, AMC, MKIO and the MMF and that they were jointly involved in the coordination of the assembly.

Interim office is located at SCO however the official mailing address for business purposes is at the lawyer’s office. For legal purposes, once the entity became incorporated business must be conducted with the taxman and different agencies. The Chair informed participants that once the Board is in place, it will be up to them to determine where their office will be situated and they will have to find a means of accessing further funding. SCO developed a proposal for capacity building and funding has been committed in the amount of \$100,000.

**Elder’s Advisory Group:** Matter raised by Walter Menard

Mr. Menard’s question was directed to legal counsel to explain why the Elder’s Advisory group was not reflected in the By-Law.

Legal counsel responded by saying it was not compulsory to incorporate into By-Law, however, once the Board is in place it could be enshrined into the By-Law. He added that it would also be up to the members to elect people into those positions.

Mr. Menard asked that the Elder’s Advisory Group be inserted into the By-Law while the assembly was taking place because there is the opportunity to appoint people who have a lot of experience and wisdom.

**Mr. Trachtenberg’s response to question:**

At this point, there exists no mechanism in the By-Law to do this, however, the board could identify those people and develop a formal or informal advisory board. The By-Law does not necessarily have to say that but the board could do that. What you are asking is for the assembly to do this and that mechanism is not in place right now.

**Mr. Menard:**

Mr. Menard asked legal counsel if he could incorporate that mechanism into the By-Law.

**By-Law:** Clarification point offered by John Parenteau

Mr. Parenteau stated that he sits on the Interim Board and explained that the By-Law was set up as it is so that outside parties such as the Canadian Wheat Board could not come in and take over the federation. He further stated that the Board will take into consideration all recommendations.

**Point of clarification:** Legal Counsel

Legal counsel advised that the By-Law must be reviewed and at some point it must be adopted. According to the law, once it is ratified, it remains in effect until next Assembly. The status of the By-Law right now is that it has been adopted by the Interim Board and it can be amended or adopted by the next meeting such as now. Those options are there, including throwing it out, but that would not be recommended because the members would have nothing to work with. The By-Law was drafted to maintain one cardinal issue and that is - it is to be run by licensed commercial fishermen for the purposes that were discussed and that people who weren't licensed or quota holders could run it. They may have an interest and they may have opinions but they would not be the people who control how the organization runs. This key point is on page two, Article II.

**Moved to Adopt By-Law:** Chair intervened in the move by Louis Genaille's move to adopt the By-Law by stating that the review process has yet to be completed. That stage has not yet been reached as they are just in the process of reviewing.

**Necessity of Adopting By Law:** Comment by Reg Meade

Mr. Meade pointed out that the By-Law needs to be adopted as they stand today so that MCIFFF could move forward. Any changes can be addressed in the next annual assembly. He added that, at this point, nothing is written in stone. There are still a number of fishermen who are not here. He further added that the business of forming the federation has been completed and it is now time to begin doing the legwork.

**Conflict of Interest:** Matter raised by Ernie Turner, Grand Rapids

Mr. Turner stated that he is an Interim Board member and asked why there was an absence of a "Conflict of Interest" clause in the By-Law. Legal counsel advised that the speaker was right and there is no section addressing it. He added that By-Laws can be

amended from time to time and provisions for it could be developed for the next assembly. He went on to say that in the absence of the clause, corporation laws automatically kick in and just because it is not stated in the By-Law there are provisions by law for the Board of Directors or officers and these are imposed by the Corporation Act. Mr. Trachtenberg indicated he would make note of it and prepare some changes, however, for the sake of ratifying the By-Law, there would not be time to make immediate changes. He stressed that the Board would have to adhere to the Corporation Act with respect to conflict of interest situations.

**Mr. Turner:**

Mr. Turner stated that as an example, if the new federation received one cent a pound to fund the corporation they could one day have \$500,000 or more to run and staff the organization and this is why rules are needed so that directors cannot hire friends and relatives, give out contracts to friends, and so on.

**Legal Counsel response:**

Agrees that it is necessary to have the clause in place but in the interim, the fact that it is not there does not mean the Board can do whatever they want. They still have obligations under the Corporation Act. Some of the issues such as hiring could be dealt with through a hiring policy.

**Elder's Advisory Group:** Clarification question posed by Walter Menard

Mr. Menard indicated that he did not receive an answer to his previous question on elder's advisory board. He then asked if the Board created the Advisory Committee, when and how are they chosen. How do they participate? Mr. Menard asked that the issue be clarified.

**Legal Counsel response:** Legal informed Mr. Menard that he was not sure but was aware only that it was passed as part of the resolution. He is not aware if the particulars were flushed out but again it was part of the resolution and the Board agreed that they would act on it.

Mr. Trachtenberg proceeded into highlighting areas of the By-Law beginning at Article II

**Article II** - Legal counsel stated that the noted reference in the By-Law clearly describes what membership and the voting rights are. The number one requirement is that you must be a licensed or quota entitlement to be a member. There was quite a discussion on how this would disentitle a number of people in the industry from becoming a member. That is what the Board ultimately agreed on and it is being presented for ratification.

2.02 How do you become a member? You fill out the application, you pay your membership fee and you become a member.

2.03 How do you lose your membership? As in any organization, if you want to join you also have the right to resign.

2.04: Key areas:

- (a) you have the right to resign
- (b) can not have voting members in arrears, not fair to others who pay on time, Board will set deadline.
- (c) membership ends - this ties back to how you become a member
- (d) this tries to address a member who runs into problems with government and their license is yanked - that is why the term “involuntarily ceases to hold their license” was used.

2.05: Expulsion - the Board tried to build in a fair process that would allow a member to be given the opportunity to address charges that they may be facing.

**Article III - Membership -** Not less than 3 (Corporation act) 13 maximum number of members to tie in with zones.

### **Question from the floor**

**Licensing of fishers’ helpers:** Matter raised by Ron Spence, Nelson House

Mr. Spence asked that the issue of membership be resolved because there are too many affected such as some elders, fishers’ helpers who do not hold a license but do have a vested interest. He explained that there are many who are involved in the industry but do not have a license, they should be given the opportunity to have a say and to provide input into this process. Their ability to provide input would also benefit the federation by making it stronger.

**Chair:** Mr. Murdock stated that he would like to address the matter through a vote and there would be opportunity for this after the legal review is completed.

**Zones and Voting:** Clarification by Legal

Province is basically divided into 12 zones with the idea that each zone would have one vote and one director and that each member would be entitled to say who will represent them.

### **Term**

Three-year term - you must assure that elections occur during an assembly in 3 years to date - grace period of 90 days is very important otherwise you will not have a board after the deadline. This is why a 90-day grace period is identified.

No multiple votes - one vote/one member - you cannot vote more than once.

- 3.05 Qualifications for a director, you must be a member, the other ones are basic corporate members who must live in the province and be 18 years of age. Unfortunately, anyone who is in the process of bankruptcy or not quite finished with the bankruptcy process is normally not qualified to be a director.
- 3.06 Addressing the issue of vacancies by allowing the board to appoint a vacancy if there is still a year or more to go before an election. It is a cost saving issue.
- 3.08 The concept of alternate directors came about to ensure there is representation for a zone area if a Board member is unable to attend a meeting. At the top of page five, where it states “shall” - this means it is mandatory by law. If an alternate attends a meeting with the Director it is acceptable as long as they are there only as observers. In that case, they are not allowed to vote.

#### **Article IV**

Notice provisions - basically standard stuff.

- 4.02 Directors shall hold at least one quarterly meetings - this does not mean they cannot meet more than that - this clause ensures that there are regular meetings to deal with issues.
- 4.05 Deals with a quorum - if there are vacancies you must make sure you count that in it is basically standard - need to ensure there is a majority of directors at any given meeting to conduct business.
- 4.08 Guarantee built into the By-Law that will ensure any member can go to any Board meeting unless you are dealing with personnel issues and you have to do deal with the issue in-camera.

**Article V**, On pages 6, 7 & 8 outlines the duties of officers such as the Chairperson, Secretary, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer.

**Article VI**, refers to remuneration of officers, Directors and employees. Some officers will be paid employees and they should be paid differently from officers who are serving as elected Directors only. Half way down the section, it specifically states that no remuneration, including fees or honorarium shall be paid to any director. There are other organizations where directors are allowed to take fees to compensate for their time invested; however, this board agreed that this would not be the case for the federation. You will note, however, that there is allowance for travel expenses such as gas, meals and hotel. There is no compensation for time invested because the Directors’ time is considered a donation.

**Article VII** is standard if the Board wants to undertake any business that is out of the ordinary, they must consult with the members.

**Article VIII** addresses the protection of Directors, officers and others in cases where they may have to prove innocence for misdoings. The clause entitles individuals to be indemnified meaning that they are entitled to be paid back any legal costs or exposure resulting from any judgments against them. This would be arranged through application of insurance.

**Article X** on quorum at members meetings was set low (25) so that numbers required to have a quorum at meetings would be easier to achieve.

Mr. Trachtenberg concluded his presentation.

**Chair: Announced that an amendment and/or a vote would follow once a mover and a seconder identified themselves.**

**Lake St. Martin:** Matter raised by Walter Menard

Mr. Menard asked that since Lake St. Martin was not mentioned in the zones, did they have a representative.

**Response by Chair:**

Mr. Murdock answered that he did speak with the representatives and they are included.

Mr. Murdock announced that before voting on the By-Law a discussion would be required for the membership as raised by Mr. Spence.

**Unidentified individual:** Raised the matter of Mr. Spence's concern over helpers' and others working in the industry, however, his understanding is that the assembly was for the purpose of forming a federation for inland commercial fishermen and that the assembly should stick to the "script".

**RATIFICATION OF BY-LAW:** Matter raised by Reg Meade

Mr. Meade stated that he agreed with the previous speakers' statement and that they need to draw the line as to who should become a member. If it is for everyone in the industry including union people working in Freshwater, then control will not be maintained by commercial fishers. He added that trying to change the membership criteria at this point will only delay the process and improvements for membership definition can be worked out later.

He recommended a motion be made to adopt the By-Law and proceed to the elections with Sam Murdock as the Chairman.

**Motion #3**

Motion called for the development of a resolution to adopt and ratify By-Law #1 of the Corporation as passed and adopted by the Board of Directors on August 3, 2005.

Mover: Louis Genaille  
Seconded: Lawrence Smith

Question called.

All in favor.  
0 Abstentions  
0 Opposed

Motion carried.

**END OF AM SESSION** - announcement by Chair of the arrival of Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship who is to address Assembly during the lunch hour.

**NOON:** Elder Lawrence Smith called for a blessing on the food.

**COMMENTS:** Steve Ashton, Provincial Minister of Water Stewardship

Minister Aston began his speech by introducing Cliff Evans who has been appointed as liaison networking for commercial fishermen and province.

He stated that the Province must begin recognizing the commercial fishing industry as the backbone of economic activity and must get the respect it deserves at all levels of government

He indicated that he would like to sit down with the Executive after meeting to address immediate issues and on-going day- to-day issues. He also made mention of the young people's future in fishing.

He also announced that he would be contributing \$10,000. toward the assembly and wants to develop a working relationship.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Robert Hand, President of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

Robert Hand explained that the purpose of his presentation is to provide a perspective of what the new association could expect from an overall picture of the fishing industry.



Mr. Hand pointed out that there is an issue with whether or not the FFMC is appointed or elected and in his view and from a management perspective, it doesn't really matter as long as they are qualified and working in the best interest of the corporation. He further stated that it would be very difficult to change the Freshwater Corporation Act for the purpose of getting an elected board in the near future. He added that it would not be impossible but it would be a time-consuming exercise. He stated that on the other hand the federation may have some influence on the government as to who they appoint and they may be able to, in that way, find the effect they are looking for.

Mr. Hand offered four points of advice for the federation:

1. They will need good candidates for the Board of Directors.
2. Funding is required to cover the cost of operations.
3. They will need to focus on the things that unite and stay away from things that will divide them.
4. Clarify goals and objectives and prioritize them.

He delivered the rest of his speech using a slide presentation entitled *Fisheries Overview* (please refer to handout).

Mr. Hand quoted the following two newspaper headlines to support his statement that the freshwater industry is a tough market for selling with the level of competition:

- Highliner Foods Inc. warns of another income decline in turn quarter – Globe and Mail, October 2005.
- Clearwater Seafood units plunge on distribution halt – CBC, October 2005.
- FPI earnings fall; company suspends dividends –CBC, October 2005.

Mr. Hand said that a major producer of one of the great lakes he spoke with said that it was a matter of survival for the industry because of oversupply of fish. He explained that FFMC share those same problems, including the exchange rate.

Mr. Hand told the assembly that FFMC is addressing the problems through strategic initiatives on the marketing and cost side. The route lines in Sandy Bay which involve whitefish, the values of the production, northern pike, finding new markets for mullet, lake trout, new products and new markets, market diversification, improving quality with bulk, ice systems. On the cost side, they are looking at upgrading the filleting machines, increasing plant augmentation, revising product standards, using a freeze guard to prevent dehydration and drip loss, new production control system and dealing with agency problems.

New customers and new sales in Iran, Russia and Poland Sales of whitefish are up by 350,000 lbs. or 550% over 2003. The whitefish market is starting to increase with a major new customer for small pickerel. Administration costs have been reduced. The processing labour efficiency is going up.

Mr. Hand concluded his presentation by telling the assembly they are doing everything they can but their plan will take time. On a final note, he told them that final payments will be mailed next week.

## **QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD**

### **LIMITATIONS ON MULLET MARKETING:** Matter raised by Charles Bushie

Mr. Bushie explained that the limitations set by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. in regard to the sales of mullets is affecting the livelihood of fishermen yet the FFMC appears to be profiting. He told Mr. Hand that mullets are all they have on their lake and they should buy all of them. He pointed out that the problem with the marketing of mullets is with the ineffectiveness of FFMC staff and their marketing strategies. He closed his comments by demanding the President's resignation.

### **SHUT DOWN OF FISH STATION IN WATERHEN:** Raised by George Dano

Mr. Dano asked why Dennis Giesler is threatening to shut down the fisheries in Waterhen and if it is actually the President himself threatening to close it. He said that they have been hanging on for the last five years despite threats that it would be shut down because the freight costs are so high. Mr. Dano stated that it is not far from Winnipegosis, so why couldn't FFMC send a truck. It is a long drive for the fishermen after fishing all day.

Mr. Hand replied that he didn't have an answer to the question and promised to look into it.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY OF FFMC:** Raised by David Chartrand, MMF

Mr. Chartrand bluntly indicated to Mr. Hand that he should respond to the questions of the fishermen because he (Mr. Hand) works for them. He added that the slides and presentations on progress of FFMC have been around since 1969 yet the problem of selling fish has not been resolved. There has not been any process yet developed by FFMC to resolve the issue of the marketing of fish species. He questioned why the focus was on the U.S. market when trying to scare the fishermen. He questioned why Mr. Hand was advising the assembly that electing members for the FFMC was a waste of time. Mr. Chartrand stated that in his view, FFMC should be acting as a lobby group for fishers and be accountable to them rather than to Ottawa. He quoted Mr. Hand's statements made in Sandy Bay that "as a corporation his hands are tied because of government rules". Mr. Chartrand told Mr. Hand if that was the case; there is obviously something wrong with the way they are set up as a corporation. Mr. Chartrand stated that he believes the President is wrongly advising the assembly because FFMC does not want

fishermen to have control over their industry. He cited that in any industry, (even his own) individuals are fired if they cannot find solutions. He advised Mr. Hand that at the moment, he (Mr. Hand) has the upper hand. In an accountable system, if it were to come down to it, the fishers would not be asking him to accept a resignation, they would be firing him. He reiterated that Mr. Hand as a CEO must be accountable to the fishermen because they are the reason he receives a pay cheque.

**TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN LAKE ST. MARTIN:** Raised by Norman Traverse

Mr. Traverse identified concerns over the inability of fishers in Lake St. Martin who had no means of transporting their fish since the closure of Lakeside Agencies. This has impacted more on those young fishers who are just starting out. Mr. Traverse requested that the message to re-open Lakeside Agencies be taken back to the staff at FFMC, in particular the field representative, Dennis Geisler.

**DUAL MARKETING:** Dan Dumas, North end of Lake Manitoba

Mr. Dumas asked if there was room for dual marketing and added that the question was also raised at the Sandy Bay conference with no adequate explanation.

Mr. Hand replied that he would not stand in the way if the fishermen did not want single desk marketing function, however he believes that the system is serving the fishers well.

He said that he believes private industry would only buy the fish when it meets their needs. When the price is down and there is no margin in it - they're gone. Private industry does not have the ability as FFMC to withstand difficult marketing conditions. As mentioned in his presentation there are problems from coast to coast with the industry. When private companies get squeezed, they squeeze the fishermen first because they are beholden to banks and they must bring down prices when there is lots of fish. FFMC has the ability to deal with these situations because they can take loans from the government until the markets improve.

Dual marketing and single desk cannot co-exist. If FFMC was one of several buyers they would have to buy what others do not want to buy. You would also have the uncertainty of not knowing what volume you would have in a season because you would not know where the fishermen are going to sell their fish. FFMC would have a difficult time opening and maintaining facilities trying to buy fish from everywhere if they didn't know the volume that was going to go through. It would be a matter of time if FFMC would fold because it would have the obligation to have the high cost operations the obligation to buy from fishermen as an avenue of last resort. FFMC would not have the advantage of coordinating and marketing and processing in one location. This is similar to what happened with Saltwater Fish Corporation that was set up by the government in Newfoundland. It was similar to FFMC back in the 60's and 70's. They were buying salt fish from fishermen and the fishermen were allowed to sell to other non-salt fish operators. They were buyers of last resort and ended up with high cost operations with none of the advantages of consolidate supply and market and they went out of business.

Mr. Hand advised the assembly that if they wanted to get out of FFMC, that would be the better way to go then saying you want to go into marketing and try to keep FFMC at the same time. He reiterated that the two could not exist (dual and single desk).

**LICENSING:** Raised by unidentified individual

Speaker told Mr. Hand that applications are made for export permits but they receive no answers. He asked why the fishermen aren't allowed to sell in other markets.

Mr. Hand replied that all applications are reviewed and in the last 2 ½ years, 12 new licenses were issued for the sales of new market species.

**OPEN MARKET:** Raised by unidentified individual

Speaker wanted to know who makes decisions for open marketing.

Mr. Hand responded to question by informing speaker that the decision is made by the federal government through the Freshwater Fisheries Act.

**DEVELOPMENT OF FISH MARKETING STRATEGIES:** Raised by Walter Menard

Mr. Menard reminded Mr. Hand that FFMC had all summer to save the sales of fish and asked what was being now planned.

Mr. Hand responded that for the sale of whitefish they promote boneless products, restaurants, tradeshows, new machinery, etc. For the sale of mullets, he explained that they are considering selling to China and other opportunities but it takes time to develop the markets.

Mr. Menard then requested Mr. Hand to recommend to the provincial and federal government to appoint half of the FFMC board members from commercial fishers.

Mr. Hand indicated that he would have no problem with recommending appointments or an elective board. He stated that there are currently six members on the board who are Aboriginal and he believes they are representative of the fishers. Mr. Menard replied that, in spite of their numbers, it still wasn't working and suckers are not being sold.

Chair concluded this portion of the Assembly - advised Assembly that they would reconvene at 1:45 p.m. Before closing he thanked Robert Hand for the \$3,000. contribution from the FFMC toward the luncheon.

**2:04 P.M. ASSEMBLY CALLED TO RECONVENE**

**Chair advised the 29 members who pre-registered the previous evening to pick up their ballots.**

**ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES:** Moses Okemow - Electoral Officer  
(Appendix “C”)

Mr. Okemow invited participants to provide feedback on the election rules after he reads them out. He advised members to refer to the screens beside the podium (refer to Appendix).

He pointed out that with respect to holding a license or quota entitlement; there is no way to verify as FFMC does not issue cards. Mr. Okemow explained there was little time to straighten out this part of the inauguration. He asked those who do not have licenses to ensure they are eligible by paying their membership application. Paying up means that you are “in good standing”.

Explanation of ballot booklet:

- Ballot book - pink for chairman
- Regional Director - green
- Mark Region # on ballot
- Each member gets only one ballot book, it is important not to lose it because there will not be more than issued to each member.

Dave Thomasson asked the electoral officer that in the event of a tie between the final two candidates does the electoral officer vote or is there a run-off. His second question regarded the clause stating that nominees could only run for one position and could it be changed because he feels that it is unfair for an individual to be out of the organization if they were unsuccessful in winning.

The electoral officer explained that regarding a tie break it could be either of the two depending on what the assembly recommends. He also advised that the Assembly could make the decision of allowing nominees to run for more than one position.

Chair explained that the zones as displayed on map were designed for voting purposes, needed to be set up as such because some fishers fish in more than one place. It does not affect where you fish. The Assembly can make some mild alterations if they wish.

Changes election rules requested by Assembly:

- Candidate may run for both Chairperson and regional director simultaneously but only hold one position.
- Elect chairperson first then Regional Director after.

**Motion #4**

Motion called to adopt Election Rules and procedures with the recommend changes as outlined below:

- Candidate may run for both Chairperson and regional director simultaneously but only hold one position.
- Hold the election for the chairperson first then the election for the Regional Director after.
- Each region to designate an alternate.

Moved by: Fred Fitzner, Wabowden

Seconded by: Louis Genaille

Question called.

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

Chair announced that the nominations for Chair could begin immediately. Electoral Officer requested nominators to identify nominees on the mike. Results as follows:

**Motion #5:**

Motion called to nominate Sam Murdock as Chair of the MCIFF Board of Directors.

Moved by: Reg Meade, Wabowden

Seconded by: Norman Campbell, Wabowden

Question called

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

Elector Officer asked Mr. Murdock if he accepts the nomination. Mr. Murdock declined due to other commitments. He stated that to whoever does become Chair and to the new Board of Directors, the organization is prepared to work with them.

**Motion #6**

Motion called to nominate Ken Campbell as Chair of the MCIFB Board of Directors.

Moved by: Lawrence Smith

Seconded by: Dave Tomasson

Question called

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

Mr. Campbell accepted the nomination.

**Motion #7:**

Motion called to nominate Allan Gaudry as Chair of the MCIFB Board of Directors.

Moved by: John Parenteau

Seconded by: Louis Genaille

Question called

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

Mr. Gaudry accepted the nomination.

**Motion #8:**

Motion called to nominate Reggie Meade as Chair of the MCIFB Board of Directors.

Moved by: Norm Campbell, Wabowden

Seconded by: Ernest Bittern

Question called

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

Elector Officer asked Mr. Meade if he accepts the nomination. Mr. Meade declined due to other commitments. He thanked Mr. Murdock for the great work he has done.

**Motion #9**

Motion called for nominations to cease

Moved by: Reggie Meade  
Seconded by: John Parenteau

Question called  
All in favour  
0 Opposed  
0 Absentions

Motion carried.

Nominations ceased with two candidates running for chairperson, Allan Gaudry and Ken Campbell.

Electoral Officer instructed members to fill out the pink ballots for Chair and deposit into the ballot box.

Chair Sam Murdock announced that due to the poor weather conditions, many fishers were unable to travel. He suggested holding off the election for the chairperson to allow other fishers who are still to arrive a chance to cast their vote for the nominees.

**Motion #10:**

Motion to hold nominations for directors at 11:00 AM, November 10, 2005 and for the voting to take place thereafter, including keeping the polling open for Chairperson open until 10:00 AM followed by the counting.

Moved by: Reg Meade  
Seconded by John Parenteau

Question called  
All in favour  
0 Opposed  
0 Absentions

Motion carried.

Chair announced the reconvening of Assembly for 9:00 AM, November 10, 2005.

Meeting adjourned.



## **DAY TWO, NOVEMBER 10, 2005**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair, Sam Murdock

Recap of Day One provided by Chair

Electoral Officer - Introduction of nominees for Chairperson

At 9:59 A.M., Chair announced that nominations were about to close for Regional Directors.

The Electoral Officer instructed the scrutineers for both nominees to watch the count. Scrutineer for the two candidates was Ed Isfeld for Ken Campbell and John Dessorie for Allan Gaudry.

### **BALLOT COUNT FOR CHAIRPERSON CONDUCTED BY ELECTORAL OFFICER AND DISPLAYED ON SCREEN FOR MEMBERS TO FOLLOW**

**Results: Ken Campbell – 110 (Confirmed by both scrutineers)  
Allan Gaudry – 55 (Confirmed by both scrutineers)**

### **KEN CAMPBELL – SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRPERSON (3 YEAR TERM)**

**Two spoiled ballots – both marked for Sam Murdock who declined the previous day (total of 167 ballots).**

The new chairperson for the MCIFF Board of Directors was invited to the podium to make a speech. He encouraged people from the south end of Lake Manitoba to nominate Allan Gaudry as a Director. He praised the leadership for their talents as speakers and for their support. He thanked the organizations for their assistance in coordinating the assembly and preparing the seeds for developing the federation. The Chair expressed his disappointment that only one government representative made his appearance at the assembly and commended Minister Steve Ashton. He closed with the statement that he would do whatever is necessary to ensure that the federation fulfills its mandate.

Mr. Gaudry was invited to address the assembly. After his brief comments he requested a motion to destroy the ballots.

**Motion #11**

Motion called to destroy the election ballots for the MCIFF Chairperson.

Moved by: Allan Gaudry

Seconded by: Reg Meade

Question called

0 Abstentions

0 Opposed

All in favor

Motion carried.

Chair Sam Murdock acknowledged the Interim Board and read out their names as follows: Ken Campbell, Allan Gaudry, Henry McKay, Fred Fitzner, Ernest Turner, Ron Spence, Reg Meade, Kevin Mason, Dan Dumas, Helgi Einarrson, Louis Genaille, Richard Harris, John Parenteau, George Munro and Donald Catcheway.

Sam Murdock, Chair acknowledged the new Board of Directors and read out their names. He also acknowledged that his role as Chairperson for the Interim Board is officially over.

Mr. Murdock then introduced Chief John Muswagon as delivering a message on behalf of Grand Chief Sydney Garrioch who was scheduled on Day Two of the agenda. Chief Muswagon's message from the MKIO Grand Chief was prepared in writing and shared with the participants (please refer to handout).

Before delivering the message Chief Muswagon shared his background and knowledge of the fishing industry through his experience as a game warden for nine years. His advice to the fishers is to remain united and not make the issue a First Nation, Métis or Non-Status issue because it won't work. He cautioned the fishers that the FFMC is not there for them and that the fisheries trade is controlled by either the United States or the Canadian government.

Chief Muswagon commented on the five key areas addressed by Grand Chief Garrioch's message (please refer to handout).

Mr. Muswagon also spoke of his grandmother who told him that no one has the authority to come along and try to improve on the Creator's creation and this is what science attempts to do with its scientific data yet the Cree translation for science is "the best guess through numbers".

Chief Muswagon encouraged the fishermen and fisherwomen to work together along with other organizations. He also introduced Michael Anderson, Director for MKIO's

Natural Resources Secretariat who could be available if the MCIFF requires technical assistance. He has a wealth of information that you cannot access from the governments. He conveyed the message that Grand Chief Garrioch vows to work with the fishers through the MCIFF in addressing issues.

He concluded his remarks by telling the assembly not to let the United States or Ottawa tell them what is wrong with their lakes because the fishers are the ones who know the lakes better than anyone else.

## **ELECTIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Election Officer clarified how the election for the Directors would proceed. He then instructed them to move into their respective regions on the assembly floor to begin the nomination process.

After the Directors for the Board were elected, their names along with their alternates were posted on the screen (please refer to Appendix “E” for list of directors).

**ISSUE: Change of Zone’s Boundary** (refer to handout – boundaries on map)

MCIFF Chairperson intervened at this point to state that it was important to deal with the resolution at hand because it would affect the voting. He then read out the resolution and asked the mover and seconder to speak on it.

Secunder Dan Dumas indicated that when the Directors sat down and agreed on their boundary lines they included all of Lake Manitoba, the north end lake basin and Lake Waterhen in Zone 9. The request is that the current map’s boundary lines show a split in Lake Manitoba and the speaker requests that it be corrected.

<b>RESOLUTION: (LISTED AS RESOLUTION #4, 2005-11-10)</b>
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<b>Change of Zone’s Boundary</b>
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Moved by: George Dano
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Seconded by: Danny Dumas
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## **CONTINUATION OF ELECTIONS**

The Election Officer clarified that the term zone should be “region”. He instructed the regions to appoint an individual to accept nominations and forward the names of the nominees to him for announcement. That will be followed by the balloting using the green ballots. The system was set up as three ballot boxes numbered Zones 1-4, Zones 5-8 and Zones 9-12. He reminded the members to mark the number of their respective region on the ballot. Each region will have their own individual nomination process; if there is only one nominee he will declare that nominee as elected. He also reminded them to designate an alternate.

# RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

(Shown on screens for assembly)

<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	<b>Ken Campbell</b>	
	<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>ALTERNATE</b>
<b>REGION 1</b>	Ron D. Spence	William Spence
<b>REGION 2</b>	No Names Were Forwarded.	
<b>REGION 3</b>	Fred Fitzner	Warren Mallet
<b>REGION 4</b>	Matt Sinclair	Alex Constant
<b>REGION 5</b>	Allan Mowatt	Ernie Turner
<b>REGION 6</b>	Helgi Einarsson	Lloyd Sinclair
<b>REGION 7</b>	Ivan Grimolfson	Ryan Kramer
<b>REGION 8</b>	Charles Simard	Norman Hudson
<b>REGION 9</b>	Norman Traverse	Derrek “Sonny” Gould
<b>REGION 10</b>	John Parenteau	Louis Genaille
<b>REGION 11</b>	Richard Harrison	Charlie Boucher
<b>REGION 12</b>	Allan Gaudry	Kevin Mason

The Electoral Officer announced the above names. He pointed out that there were no names submitted by Region 2. Mr. Okemow announced that this concludes the election process and his part on the agenda.

The MCIFF Chairperson announced that the Assembly would reconvene after lunch and that the Directors could make speeches at that time.

Meeting adjourned for lunch.

## **ASSEMBLY RECONVENED AT 1:30 PM.**

The Chairperson and the Board of Directors were invited to the podium to provide speeches. Immediately following the speeches, the Board agreed to conduct business.

<b>RESOLUTION: (LISTED AS RESOLUTION #1, 2005-11-09)</b>
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<b>Adoption of By-Laws</b>
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Moved by: Louis Genaille  
Seconded by: Lawrence Smith

**Purchase of Roughage:** Offer by Chief BillyJo DeLaRonde, Pine Creek First Nation

After congratulatory remarks, Chief DeLaRonde informed the MCIFF that Pine Creek is meeting with investors. He offered to buy the roughage from the fishers if the meetings go well and his community will pay double, even triple than what FFMC pays. He advised them not to worry about legalities and stated “We have everything in place”.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chairperson, Ken Campbell informed the participants that a number of resolutions were developed as a result of the Sandy Bay conference. He stated that the resolutions were numbered and would be forwarded to the assembly for ratification. The Chairperson read the title of the resolutions and recommended they be adopted as one package.

Mover: Lawrence Smith states that he attended the conference in Sandy Bay and it was requested at that time to bring the resolutions to the first Annual Assembly of the MCIFF. He informed the fishers that all the resolutions were passed by the Chiefs and fishermen who were in attendance. The concerns identified in the resolutions are concerns for all fishermen and were raised long ago; they started as far back as 1969/70 when Lake Winnipeg was closed. Freshwater Fisheries closed the lake to build its facility.

Seconder: Derrick Gould indicates that he supports the comments of Lawrence Smith. He added that he wants to see more young people, both men and women, in the industry.

Reg Meade moved that a blanket resolution to include all those resolutions be passed.

**RESOLUTION: (LISTED AS RESOLUTION #6)**

**Adoption of Resolutions from Manitoba Commercial Inland Fisheries Conference**

Moved by: Lawrence Smith

Seconded by: Derrick Gould

Chairperson concluded old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

New resolutions introduced from assembly (attached as appendix “D”):

**ISSUE: Rejection of Proposed Lake Manitoba Northeast Basin Fish Enhancement Project**

Mover Derrick Gould stated that RM of Grahamdale did not consult with First Nations in the development and creation of a proposed project geared toward the support of sport fishing. The lack of consultation is an outright insult because the proposal threatens the livelihood of First Nations and non-commercial fishers who consider fishing as a way of life. Mr. Gould stated that he can't agree with what is taking place and wants this new organization (MCIFF) to look into the matter. He further added that according to the Whitetail and Walleye proposal (as it is called), there will be a bigger impact, however he does not agree. He concluded by saying "these people should not think they have federal jurisdiction over our water".

Seconder Frank Kenyon stated that this issue has been raised just in time. He declared that his rights as a fisherman are being threatened and now understands why First Nations fight for their rights. He added that at one time he was envious of First Nations because he believed they had lots of rights, he now understands differently. He concluded by stating "keep fighting for your rights - if you give them up you will not get them back".

Walter Menard addressed the resolution by stating he supports the previous two speakers and that the lake area is "our jurisdiction". He added that municipalities have no real responsibilities with respect to this area. This is a situation where we have to let them know that we are going to put a stop to it.

**RESOLUTION: (LISTED AS RESOLUTION #2, 2005-11-10)**

**Rejection of Proposed Lake Manitoba Northeast Basin Fish Enhancement Project**

Moved by: Derrick Gould

Seconded by: Frank Kenyon

**ISSUE: MCIFF Membership for Fishers' Helpers**

Mover Ron Spence indicated that the issue was mentioned earlier through a question on the floor from Reg Meade and it is understandable about the concern. He indicated that he represents his supporters and stressed the fact that all fishers need helpers. Mr. Spence would like the MCIFF to define a way to include helpers in the membership. He pointed out that it would also benefit MCIFF to include them as members as it would create a stronger voice and larger membership.

Reg Meade addressed the Assembly and stated that anybody in the commercial industry should be in the membership. He emphasized that he agreed that producers are and he

needs to draw the line when it comes to producers. He indicated his support and agreement on the resolution and wanted to clarify this, in case, his earlier statements were misunderstood.

David Thomasson indicated he agreed with Meade's comments and would support the resolution provided there was a record keeping system in place for all of Manitoba.

Norman Campbell inquired if the helpers would then be allowed a vote.

Ron Spence stated that wording could be changed and clarified that membership voting for helpers is the key question. He indicated that the resolution could be reworded to ensure everyone is satisfied.

Norman Campbell stated that the resolution would need to clarify that they do have a right to vote.

Chairperson Ken Campbell stated that if the resolution was passed, the changes would be incorporated.

A motion was put forward to amend as follows:

Mover and seconder both approved changes.

Ernie Turner commented that he was glad Dave Thomasson reminded him of record keeping because there are records kept by fishers who employ helpers. It is for the purpose of Employment Insurance (EI).

**RESOLUTION: (LISTED AS RESOLUTION #3, 2005-11-10)**

**MCIFF Membership for Fishers' Helpers**

Moved by: Ron Spence

Moved by: Ernie Turner

Norman Traverse commented that the resolution will help fishermen by promoting and providing an initiative to become a member and encourage the possibility of helpers working in all three seasons.

**ISSUE: Recreational Use in Traditional Fishing Areas**

Mover Dan Dumas informed the Assembly that he was previously on the Board for Association of Fishers. He explained that when the government wants to do something

they do not bother consulting with the fishers. There is no means for fishers to contest the plans that committees develop. He cited the issue of algae as an example where dead minnows and sewage seeps into the lake thereby posing a threat to fishing and water quality. This is further compounded by the development of cottages on lake shores which creates even more demands for exclusive recreational use of the lakes. He hopes that this elected Board can help the situation.

Walter Menard stated that governments do not meet with fishermen as stakeholders when they develop policies. Fishermen are a low priority for government and we shouldn't have to chase the government down to express that we are strongly opposed to tourism, recreational fishing because fishermen make a living from the lake.

**RESOLUTION: (LISTED AS RESOLUTION #5, 2005-11-10)**

**Recreational Use in Traditional Fishing Areas**

Moved by: Danny Dumas

Seconded by: George Dano

**ISSUE: Inclusion of Fishers in the Disaster Assistance Program**

Mover Reg Meade stated that while everyone is worried about Devil's Lake, fishers should not have to go through a separate process to negotiate compensation. In reality, this is a natural disaster and it should be acknowledged as such. He requested that the Assembly put the board to work on addressing the issues.

Walter Menard explained that the water tables are high in Manitoba. Although commercial fishing was good for some people, other fishers seen their costs rise. There is no fund in place to assist fishers when times are difficult.

Secunder Dan Dumas said that fishers are treated commercial fishers and therefore need to be compensated as a commercial industry. He added that Reg Meade covered all bases on the resolution.

**RESOLUTION: (LISTED AS RESOLUTION #7, 2005-11-10)**

**Inclusion of Fishers in the Disaster Assistance Program**

Moved by: Reg Meade

Seconded by: Danny Dumas



New business concluded.

Chairperson Ken Campbell informed the Assembly that he would be in contact with officials to arrange meetings and begin implementing the resolutions.

**CLOSING COMMENTS:** Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson

Grand Chief Henderson acknowledged and thanked the Interim Chair and Board, technical support, fishermen and candidates, new Chairperson and Allan Gaudry.

{ Verbatim }

I want to reiterate and restate the position that I have taken with regard with how the political leaders will react, interface and interact with this federation. At no time, have we ever stated that it is the will of the Chiefs or the Grand Chiefs to see the fishermen come together. What spawned this federation came from the ground up or the water up. It came from the fishermen themselves. As I said yesterday, it was your desire to establish this province-wide body, to create that united voice, to protect your interests and to try and overcome the challenges you face. This being said all of the work and all of the activities that you mandated this newly formed executive to oversee and undertake is all subject to the will of the fishers – those are the key words, the will of the fishers. It is no different than what cattle producers have or pork producers. It is up to you to give that direction, it is up to you to give that consent, and it is up to you to give that authority. And you have spoken, you've spoken loud and clear and the industry as well as the government, the political leaders, First Nations and non-First Nations, we've heard you and we thank you. We thank you for putting aside your historical and contemporary differences to try and unite and speak as one. So we thank you for that.

And once again over the course of 2, 3 or 6 months or the next year, if you need our assistance do not hesitate to pick up the telephone or drop by. Our doors are always open. And I guess as a first order of business, since you passed a resolution asking for our intervention, we will definitely set up that meeting and get the ball rolling on addressing your concerns with regard to the North East Basin project.

This portion agenda concluded.

Norman Traverse made a request for Sam Murdock to make a few closing statements.

Sam Murdock, Chair thanked everyone for their support. He stated that before accepting the position for Interim Chairman, he needed to get the green light from the Executive Chiefs and Grand Chief Henderson, his boss. It took a lot of discussion and debate which required putting differences aside and working on a common agenda to create one voice. He acknowledged that although the Board was given 18 months to pull it off, it took less than 6 months.

Chairperson Ken Campbell offered an acknowledgement and thanked Chief Irvin McIvor for his willingness to host the conference in Sandy Bay.

Conclusion of remarks and assembly.

**CLOSING PRAYER** - Elder Lawrence Smith

**Assembly adjourned at 3:00 P.M.**

**APPENDIX “A” - List of Motions**

**Motion # 1**

Motion called to adopt agenda with recommended changes.

Moved by: Allan Gaudry

Seconded by: Dan Dumas

Question called

0 Abstentions

0 Opposed

All in favour of the agenda as presented

Motion carried.

**Motion #2**

Motion called to adopt rules and procedures along with incorporated changes.

Moved by: David Thomasson

Seconded by: Ken Campbell

Question called.

All in favour

0 Absentions

0 Opposed

Motion carried.

**Motion #3**

Motion called for the development of a resolution to adopt and ratify By-Law #1 of the Corporation as passed and adopted by the Board of Directors on August 3, 2005.

Moved by: Louis Genaille

Seconded by: Lawrence Smith

Question called.

All in favour

0 Abstentions

0 Opposed

Motion carried.

## APPENDIX “A” - List of Motions

### **Motion #4**

Motion called to adopt Election Rules and procedures with the recommend changes as outlined below:

- Candidate may run for both Chairperson and regional director simultaneously but only hold one position.
- Hold the election for the chairperson first then the election for the Regional Director after.
- Each region to designate an alternate.

Moved by: Fred Fitzner, Wabowden

Seconded by: Louis Genaille

Question called.

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

### **Motion #5**

Motion called to nominate Sam Murdock as Chair of the MCIFF Board of Directors.

Moved by: Reg Meade, Wabowden

Seconded by: Norman Campbell, Wabowden

Question called

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

**APPENDIX “A” - List of Motions**

**Motion #6**

Motion called to nominate Ken Campbell as Chair of the MCIFF Board of Directors.

Moved by: Lawrence Smith  
Seconded by: Dave Tomasson

Question called  
All in favour  
0 Opposed  
0 Absentions

Motion carried.

**Motion #7**

Motion called to nominate Allan Gaudry as Chair of the MCIFF Board of Directors.

Moved by: John Parenteau  
Seconded by: Louis Genaille

Question called  
All in favour  
0 Opposed  
0 Absentions

Motion carried.

**Motion #8**

Motion called to nominate Reggie Meade as Chair of the MCIFF Board of Directors.

Moved by: Norm Campbell, Wabowden  
Seconded by: Ernest Bittern

Question called  
All in favour  
0 Opposed  
0 Absentions

Motion carried.

**APPENDIX “A” - List of Motions**

**Motion #9**

Motion called for nominations to cease.

Moved by: Reggie Meade

Seconded by: John Parenteau

Question called

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

**Motion #10**

Motion to hold nominations for Directors at 11:00 AM, November 10, 2005 and for the voting to take place thereafter, including keeping the polling open for Chairperson open until 10:00 AM followed by the counting.

Moved by: Reg Meade

Seconded by John Parenteau Question called

Question called

All in favour

0 Opposed

0 Absentions

Motion carried.

**APPENDIX “A” - List of Motions**

**Motion #11**

Motion called to destroy the election ballots for the MCIFF Chairperson.

Moved by: Allan Gaudry

Seconded by: Reg Meade

Question called

0 Abstentions

0 Opposed

All in favour

Motion carried.

MANITOBA COMMERCIAL INLAND  
FISHERS FEDERATION INC. (MCIFF)

**APPENDIX “B” - Rules and Procedures**

**1. OFFICIAL DELEGATES**

- 1.1 a member must register and be in good standing at the time of registration to be a delegate.
- 1.2 a person may purchase a membership at anytime before the close of registration.
- 1.3 subject to the discretion of the members present only official delegates may speak on an issue or resolution

**2. REGISTRATION**

- 2.1 members may register each morning beginning at 8:00 a.m.

**3. CALL TO ORDER**

- 3.1 the chairperson shall call the annual assembly to order
- 3.2 the chairperson shall follow the agenda as adopted by the members

**4. DUTIES OF CHAIRPERSON**

- 4.1 the chairperson shall:
  - a) keep the meeting in order
  - b) recognize speakers
  - c) decide on questions of procedure
  - d) adjourn the meeting

**5. QUORUM**

- 5.1 a quorum shall consist of fifty per cent plus one of the registered members present when the Chairperson calls the assembly to order.



5.2 a simple majority of fifty percent plus one of the members present shall make decisions.

## **6. RESOLUTIONS**

6.1 the chairperson shall entertain resolutions moved and seconded on the topic being discussed by members

6.2 subject to the discretion of the Chairperson, members may speak to the resolution for only five minutes

6.3 the Chairperson shall declare a resolution passed when a simple majority of members adopt it

6.4 the Chairperson may close discussion and put the resolution to a vote

6.5 the Chairperson shall call a vote when any member calls for a vote

## **7. ELDERS**

7.1 upon the request of any member the Chairperson may recognize Elders to speak

7.2 the Chairperson shall recognize an Elder who asks to speak

MANTOBA COMMERCIAL INLAND  
FISHERS FEDERATION INC. (MCIFF)

**APPENDIX “C” - Election Rules**

**1. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The members of the Federation shall elect the Directors at an annual assembly for a three year term.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL OFFICER**

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Electoral Officer on or shortly after setting the date of the election.

**3. DUTIES OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER**

The Electoral Officer shall:

- i. inform the members of the election rules and other relevant information;
- ii. conduct the nominations;
- iii. conduct the election;
- iv. appoint and supervise others to assist in conducting the elections;
- v. obtain from the Board of Directors the necessary resources to conduct the elections.

**4. ELIGIBILITY**

- a) A person who is:
  - i. a member in good standing; and
  - ii. is a registered delegate;may vote, nominate or second a nomination.
- b) A person who is:
  - i. a member in good standing;
  - ii. eighteen years of age and over on the date of the nominations;

- iii. a resident of the Province of Manitoba;
- iv. not an undischarged bankrupt; and
- v. a registered delegate

may run for Director of the Board.

**5. NOMINATIONS**

- i. the Electoral Officer shall call for nominations from the members present at the annual assembly;
- ii. only registered members shall nominate or second a nomination;
- iii. nominator may speak to the nomination for at least five (5) minutes;
- iv. after accepting a nomination each candidate may speak for at least five (5) minutes;
- v. the Electoral Officer shall keep the nominations open for at least a half-hour or until the members pass a motion to close nominations.

**6. ACCLAMATION**

The Electoral Officer shall:

- i. if there is only one nominee for Chairperson declare that nominee elected.
- ii. if there is only one nominee in a region declare the nominee elected.

**7. WITHDRAWALS**

A candidate may withdraw no later than one hour before the opening of the poll.

**8. VOTING**

- i. voting shall be by secret ballot;
- ii. members who hold a fishing license in more than one zone shall vote in only one zone;
- iii. each candidate may appoint a scrutineer;

- iv. the Electoral Officer shall declare elected the candidates who receive fifty per cent plus one of the total number of ballots cast;
- v. the Electoral Officer shall eliminate candidates from successive ballots who receive the least number of votes;
- vi. the Electoral Officer shall announce the results of each ballot;
- vii. in the case of a tie the Electoral Officer shall cast a vote.

**9. APPEALS**

- i. the sitting Directors shall set up a Committee of three members of the Federation to hear appeals;
- ii. within forty-eight (48) hours after the election, a candidate who has reasonable grounds to believe that there were irregularities or who wishes to dispute a decision of the Electoral Officer may file a written notice of appeal to the Committee setting out the grounds of appeal.

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

In s. 8(iv) if the rule is the candidate who receives the most votes wins the wording will be as follows: the Electoral Officer shall declare elected the candidates who receive the most votes.

In this case there will be no need for successive ballots if the E.O. is allowed to break the tie. If there is a tie in this case perhaps there can be a run-off to break the tie.

I assumed that the voting will be by elimination process as outlined. It depends on how democratic the members want to be.

MANITOBA COMMERCIAL INLAND  
FISHERIES FEDERATION INC. (MCIFF)

**APPENDIX “D” - List of Resolutions**

Hard Copy Available On Request:

**RESOLUTION #1, 2005-11-09**

Adoption of By-Laws

**RESOLUTION #2, 2005-11-10**

Rejection of Proposed Lake Manitoba Northeast Basin Fish Enhancement Project

**RESOLUTION #3, 2005-11-10**

MCIFF Membership for Fishers’ Helpers

**RESOLUTION #4, 2005-11-10**

Change of Zone’s Boundary

**RESOLUTION #5, 2005-11-10**

Recreational Use in Traditional Fishing Areas

**RESOLUTION #6**

Adoption of Resolutions from Manitoba Commercial Inland Fisheries Conference

**RESOLUTION #7, 2005-11-10**

Inclusion of Fishers in the Disaster Assistance Program

MANITOBA COMMERCIAL INLAND  
FISHERS FEDERATION INC. (MCIFF)

**APPENDIX “E” - Election Results**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly  
November 9 & 10, 2005

<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	<b>Ken Campbell</b>	
	<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>ALTERNATE</b>
<b>REGION 1</b>	Ron D. Spence	William Spence
<b>REGION 2</b>		
<b>REGION 3</b>	Fred Fitzner	Warren Mallet
<b>REGION 4</b>	Matt Sinclair	Alex Constant
<b>REGION 5</b>	Allan Mowatt	Ernie Turner
<b>REGION 6</b>	Helgi Einarsson	Lloyd Sinclair
<b>REGION 7</b>	Ivan Grimolfson	Ryan Kramer
<b>REGION 8</b>	Charles Simard	Norman Hudson
<b>REGION 9</b>	Norman Traverse	Derrek “Sonny” Gould
<b>REGION 10</b>	John Parenteau	Louis Genaille
<b>REGION 11</b>	Richard Harrison	Charlie Boucher
<b>REGION 12</b>	Allan Gaudry	Kevin Mason



Manitoba Commercial Inland Fisheries Federation Inc.  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly  
November 9 & 10, 2005