



Minutes of the Upper Nicola Band (UNB) General Band Meeting (GBM) held on June 25, 2025, at 6:00pm PST via Zoom and at N'Kwala School Gym.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Chief and Council**

Chair: Chief Dan Manuel

Councillor Matt Manuel

Councillor Jeanette McCauley

Councillor Stuart Michel

Councillor Craig Shintah

Councillor Scotty Holmes

Councillor Kevin Ned

**Regrets:**

Councillor Brian Holmes

Councillor Ira Tom

Councillor Dennis MacDonald

**Band Transfer Candidate**

Cheylyne Manuel, Kaleb Manuel, Kylee Manuel – Band Transfer Candidate

**Guests:**

Sean Strang and Charlene Joe; City of Merritt – Flood Mitigation update.

Quinn Ellerbeck, Lacombe Ventures, Dan Rink, CEO, iTel Networks Inc. - iTel/Bell Canada AI Data Centre

**Staff:** Jamilynn Viviers, Roberta Michel, Diana Boston, John Adebanjo, Lovepreet Singh

**Members:** Harvey McLeod, Carol Holmes, Midge Stewart, Jackie Chillihitzia, Sandra Biccum, John Chillihitzia, Rob Manuel, Casey Holmes, Seraphina Stewart, Chenoa ?, Carol Biccum, Carol McCauley, Thelma Chillihitzia, Justine Manuel, Rita Manuel, Skye Manuel, Collette Sunday, Linsey Ernst, Jarvis Manuel, Tedra Tork, Maureen Nelson, Tim Manuel, Matty Chillihitzia, Loretta Holmes, Leteesh Archachan, Cliff Chillihitzia, Gracelynn Nelson, Charlotte Ned, Opan Charters, Trudy McLeod, Jessica Sheena (after vote), Debra Manuel (after vote)

**1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

Chief Dan Manual called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and Councillor Matt Manuel provided the opening prayer.

**2. Item 1: Adoption of June 25, 2025, Agenda.**

The agenda for the June 25, 2025, General Band Meeting was reviewed:

Motion to adopt the June 25, 2025, agenda as presented.

Moved: Stuart Michel

Seconded: Jeanette McCauley

Motion Carried.

**3. Item 2: Review of General Band Meeting Minutes from May 28, 2025.**

Governance Executive Jamilynn Viviers reviewed the meeting minutes from May 28, 2025, General Band Meeting

Motion to accept the May 28, 2025, General Band Meeting Minutes as presented.

Moved: Jeanette McCauley

Seconded: Matt Manuel

Motion Carried.

**4. Item 3: Band Transfer to UNB – Member Vote**

IRA Roberta Michel provided membership with an overview of the Band Transfer policy and presented Cheylyne Manuel, Kaleb Manuel, and Kaylee Terbasket, currently members of Lillooet Band to transfer to Upper Nicola Band.

Cheylyne verbally requested to membership her desire to transfer to Upper Nicola Band and provided her reasons, family ties to the band.

Instructions were provided to membership on how the voting would take place using the Zoom polling and in-secret ballot for those members in-person at the meeting.

The 37 members in attendance voted unanimously in favor of Cheylyne, Kaleb, and Kaylee to transfer to Upper Nicola Band.

Next steps will be for Council to confirm the member vote via a BCR to ISC to being the process for Cheylyne, Kaleb, and Kaylee to transfer to Upper Nicola Band.

**5. Item 4: City of Merritt Presentation – Flood Mitigation work**

Guests Sean Strang, Director Flood Recovery & Mitigation, and Charlene Joe, Indigenous Communities Engagement Lead provided a presentation to membership on the current flood mitigation work currently underway in the City of Merritt.

The City of Merritt's five-year plan for further flood mitigation is currently underway which includes a naturalization project (rewilding of specific areas within the city).

Upper Nicola Band currently does not have a representative on the Stuwix Steering Committee; an Indigenous based group that provides input for the ongoing work.

Every second Monday of each month is an open house at NVIT for anyone wanting information regarding the flood mitigation work.

**6. Item 5: iTel / Bell Canada Information Session – AI Data Centre on Lot 95 & 96 IR 1**

Quests Quinn Ellerbeck of Lacombe Ventures, and Dan Rink, CEO of iTel provided an information presentation to membership regarding the proposed AI data centre on Lot 95 & 96 Nicola Lake IR1.

The presentation included comprehensive information that included environmental risk reduction, milestones, and the next steps in the project as well as the potential benefits to Upper Nicola. The proposed project is for 300 MVA, the largest within Canada.

Adopted October 1, 2025

The potential environmental concerns for this project have been studied and there is little risk to the environment as the project uses little water, does not put out any radiation into the environment and will use clean energy. The one major output from the project will be heat from the computers which could be used for other uses.

Canada is closing in on data sovereignty and the need to ensure data produced within Canada remains within Canada. Currently, most data centres are in the US and are therefore subject to US laws, including the right to review material at any time. As well, AI produced in the US are also taking on US culture, values, and knowledge. With AI Data centres within Canada will create a more balanced AI product.

Prior to operations, Bell Canada will pay market values rent to UNB and once in operation, UNB will receive 5% off the top from revenues generated, so there will be no cost to UNB

Member voting for the proposed data centre is currently open online. In-person voting will take place on July 7, 2025 at the Band Office and Quilchena Church.

**7. Item 6: UNB Animal By-Law**

Diana Boston, UNB Communications Coordinator provided a presentation on UNB's Animal By-Law development and member in-put for the by-law.

The goal is to create a by-law that ensures the community remains safe from animals including dogs and horses. Upper Nicola Band is looking for members to help create the bylaw.

**8. Next General Band Meeting & Other Announcements.**

The next General Band Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2025.

The ONA AGA is scheduled for July 24-25, 2025, with Upper Nicola Band hosting.

UNB AGA is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at the N'kwala school gym.

**9. Meeting Adjournment**

The June General Band Meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm following the closing prayer by Opal Charters.

Adopted October 1, 2025