

COMMUNITY REPORT

2010-2012



ESKASONI'S TWO YEAR REPORT,
HIGHLIGHTS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS



CHIEF AND COUNCIL ADDRESS TO COMMUNITY



As your current Chief and Council representatives for 2010-2012, we are happy to present the 2010-2012 Eskasoni Band Community Report. The community report is Chief and Council's on-going commitment in maintaining a transparent government through consistent communications by utilizing media, our website, videos, social media, ETV, newsletters and special publications such as this.

It was just a little over two years ago when our newly elected Chief and Council held a strategic planning session in Baddeck and set many goals before the next election year. Our goals at that time looked unattainable but with the great work from our staff and agencies under the umbrella of the band, it still amazes us how much we have accomplished in the last two years.

This community report highlights the current Chief and Council's achieved outcomes and highlights from dedicated front line workers, directors, managers, staff and of course our community members who are committed in making a difference for "Our Eskasoni."

Of course things are not perfect and of course we still face many challenges as a community but we are taking positive step for our community and our children. One of Chief and Council's primary mandate was to invest in our people and our youth.

In less than two years we have establish good working relationships with universities/colleges, companies and other First Nations that do want to invest in Eskasoni. The photo above is a picture taken with Valard Construction in June of this year when the newly formed Eskasoni Corporate Division entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Valard. This MOU is already producing results with 14 of our community members working out west with Valard.

Another goal of our current leadership was to have Eskasoni deficit free. With the profits made from gaming and fisheries, we officially paid off our 6 million dollar deficit as of April 2012. This was a collective effort and many sacrifices had to be made to reach this goal.

Paying off the deficit is a major achievement that we all should take great pride in. Being a deficit free community shows that we are a financially stable community which will encourage investors to invest in our community and our people.

In this report we have provided you updates from Eskasoni Corporate Division, Eskasoni's Cultural Journeys, Crane Cove Seafoods, Eskasoni Health and Mental Health and updates from band administration.

Enjoy, From Chief and Council



BAND FINANCIAL POSITION

What Does Deficit Free Mean for Eskasoni?



In 2002 the deficit was \$ 14.2 million and Eskasoni was forced to enter into a long term plan to eliminate the deficit. In order to pay it's bills and maintain programs the Band borrowed \$ 14 million from the bank under strict conditions provided by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada and supported by the Band bankers. It was a necessary step that had to be taken by the Band.

By 2008 the deficit had been reduced to \$ 8.7 million.

The Band Council is pleased to announce that as at March 31, 2012 the deficit has been eliminated and the finances are in a positive position. This reduction of the deficit was possible as a result of the hard work and dedication of the Chief and Council and Band staff and the understanding and cooperation of the Eskasoni community.

There are many benefits of having a firm control on the finances of the Band and some of those are:

- Allows the Band to obtain higher amounts of Ministerial Loan Guarantees which are necessary in order to construct new houses;
- Provides an increase in funds for programs such as housing repairs, youth programs and building construction such as the new gym for the high school; and
- Creates a positive business environment that makes investing in Eskasoni an attractive investment opportunity for companies such as Valard and Juwi.

Without the deficit and with sound financial management the Band will see more opportunities to create employment for Band members.

There will be improvements to programs with an emphasis on new house construction in the coming years. These new opportunities will benefit all Band members well into the future.

CRANE COVE SEAFOODS ESKASONI FISHERY

Funding received from Government (DFO) Sources:

- Fishers training \$86,825
- CCS management/staff salary cost recovery and ISO certification consulting expense for 3 fiscal years \$695,472
- 2 tractor trucks and 4 refrigeration trailers \$425,611
- 2 shrimp liscenes 1.2 million
- New Uncle Roddie Gould snow crab vessel currently being built \$575,900

Total funding recieved during two years \$2,983,808

Total of fishery profits transferred to the Eskasoni band in two years is \$10,775,000

Other CCS highlights:

- The new Charlie Joe Dennis snow crab vessel (paid for by the insurance recovery of the Bessie aq Wilfred and older vessel sale)
- Annually employing full time/part time over 140 community members.



Charlie Joe Dennis and Uncle Roddie Gould





The Eskasoni Cultural Journeys product has been developed over a five year period.

The concept of using Goat Island as a base for cultural tourism product was the initial catalyst for the Eskasoni Cultural Journeys. Goat Island and Eskasoni Cultural Journeys Business Objectives:

- Develop a Sustainable Market Ready Tourism Product for Eskasoni
- Create Employment for Eskasoni Community Members
- Build the Skills and Capacity Levels of the Community Members
- Create Lasting and Profitable Relationships and Partnerships \ Outside of the Community; and
- Create Direct and Indirect Impact on the Community of Eskasoni

Heritage Interpreters received Training in:

- Mentorship of Tourism Manager
- Development of Tourism Partnerships
- Goat Island Trail Development
- Goat Island Entrance/Sites
- Wigwam and Sweat Lodge Construction

Cultural Tourism Product Development

- Signage Development
- Refurbishing Eskasoni Fishing Vessels
- Regalia, Ribbon Shirts and Uniforms
- Marketing and Sales

Steps For Completion 2012-2013

- Interpretive Panels
- Village Concept
- Cruise Ship Tour Development
- Dock Expansion



CORPORATE DIVISION OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

On July 3 2012, Eskasoni Corporate Division opened their doors to business and development for our community. Many successful First Nations communities have been able to establish corporate divisions for the purpose of attracting businesses, development and partnerships with businesses worldwide. With stable finances and responsible administration practices Eskasoni has begun talks with major businesses and signed Memorandum of Understandings with Valard, the largest transmission line company in Canada and JUWI a leader in renewable energy.

Our Corporate Division has improved our current businesses such as the grocery store and gaming centre, making them efficient and sustainable for our community. As well the Corporate Division is seeking out opportunities to make our community a better place.

Our Corporate Division's plans is to make the Eskasoni Market area the commercial hub of Eskasoni were everything and any thing will be located in the near future.

Our Corporate Division is currently in talks with TD Bank, Subway restaurant and having a permanent a recycling depot station in Eskasoni.

Our Corporate division and its staff are also working to gain possible land acquisitions and the long term goal of having community energy with the possibilities of a continuous Windmill Project.

It is also a goal of our Corporate Division to work with other First Nations Corporate divisions on future partnerships in collaborations with talks underway with Joint Ventures with Membertou and Millbrook which have successful track records.



Eskasoni Health

A Growing Need for Our Eskasoni

- Eskasoni health secured temporary space allocation of new trailers for Eskasoni Mental Health and social work and Crisis Line and Eskasoni Headstart Program and Maternal child health-Mommy and me program to the mini mall.
- Eskasoni has secured commitment and construction of a Youth Health Centre in the high school, which will be staffed by a full time nurse from District Health authority.
- Eskasoni Health completed needs assessment to support Health Canada's commitment to increase facility expansion.
- Eskasoni health and mental health services support training and student placements for Medical students and residents, dieticians, nurses, continuing care assistants, social workers.



Eskasoni Mental Health

- Amalgamated all Mental Health Services into one unified and streamlined accessible community service in March 2010 and established NYPD-E, a volunteer committee comprised of all agencies and organizations involved with youth.
- Are providing services to Residential School Survivor's and cultural support Activities/services in each of the five Unama'ki communities
- As Co- Chair's of the NYPD-E, a volunteer committee comprised of all agencies and organizations involved with youth, assisted in the organization of the OUR Eskasoni Our Celebration, Our Hope events in January 2011 and 2012 and assisted in organizing the Goat Island Easter Egg Hunt on April 25, 2011 and April 2012.
- Four of our five programs were granted National Centre for Excellence in Youth Mental Health and Addictions Programming recognition and Eskasoni Mental Health Services was featured as a Best Practice Model in the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program's Renewal Framework and as a Best Practice Model in the Aboriginal Healing Foundations Tool Kit
- Crisis and Referral Centre staff and Chief Leroy Denny were selected as the recipients of the 2012 CB District Health Authorities Dr. Mian Award for their services/programs and efforts to improve the health and well-being of people with mental health needs!!

Eskasoni Housing

As part of the continuous dedication of the band to provide quality housing to address the backlog of housing needs, our community is proud of the following achievement:

- 14 unit apartment building to be completed within next 3 months;
- Completion of 13 housing unit project and 7 unit housing project;
- Construction start of 35 housing units;
- Plans are for the construction of 20 homes each year in the future.
- As well as the construction of a record 47 houses over the past two years

Capital and Infrastructure

Eskasoni continues to be one of the fastest growing areas of development in Cape Breton, as a community we continue to be one of the fastest growing demographics in Nova Scotia as well. With a large population we continue to seek out projects not only to ensure necessary services but also to keep our community working and thriving. Some highlights include:

- The Band has received funds for subdivision development at Denny's Lane and Logan Drive;
- Sod turning for construction of high school gym with construction tenders to close in mid October;
- Construction of weather station in Eskasoni in cooperation with Environment Canada;
- Completion of Teen Health Centre at high school;
- Completion of \$ 1.7 million retrofit of Dan K. Stevens Memorial Arena;
- The Band continues discussions for a new fire station and court house;
- Feasibility study for the construction of a new health centre.

Eskasoni Gaming Centre

- The Eskasoni Gaming Centre opened in August 2010 and since then has generated \$ 3.8 million in profits, of which \$ 3 million was used for community assistance and \$ 800,000 was used for new housing projects.
- Eskasoni Gaming has undergone major changes in the past few years, where we have been able to utilize our gaming dollars to its full potential, to ensure that our community maximizes benefits available to them. Under our new corporate management we continue to improve not only the amount of gaming dollars received but also plan on making improvements to ensure that it is accountable and transparent in the future. Gaming is operated under the jurisdiction of the Band in cooperation with the Province of Nova Scotia and we have continued to release our financial statements quarterly and are committed to stable and responsible administrative practices.



Economic Development and Training

Eskasoni Economic Development and Training has been consistently working on creating opportunity and employment in our community, we have restructured and are proud of the new establishment of Eskasoni Corporate Division that resulted in strategic partnerships with companies such as Valard and Juwi. Partnership with Valard has resulted in 14 jobs on sites out west.

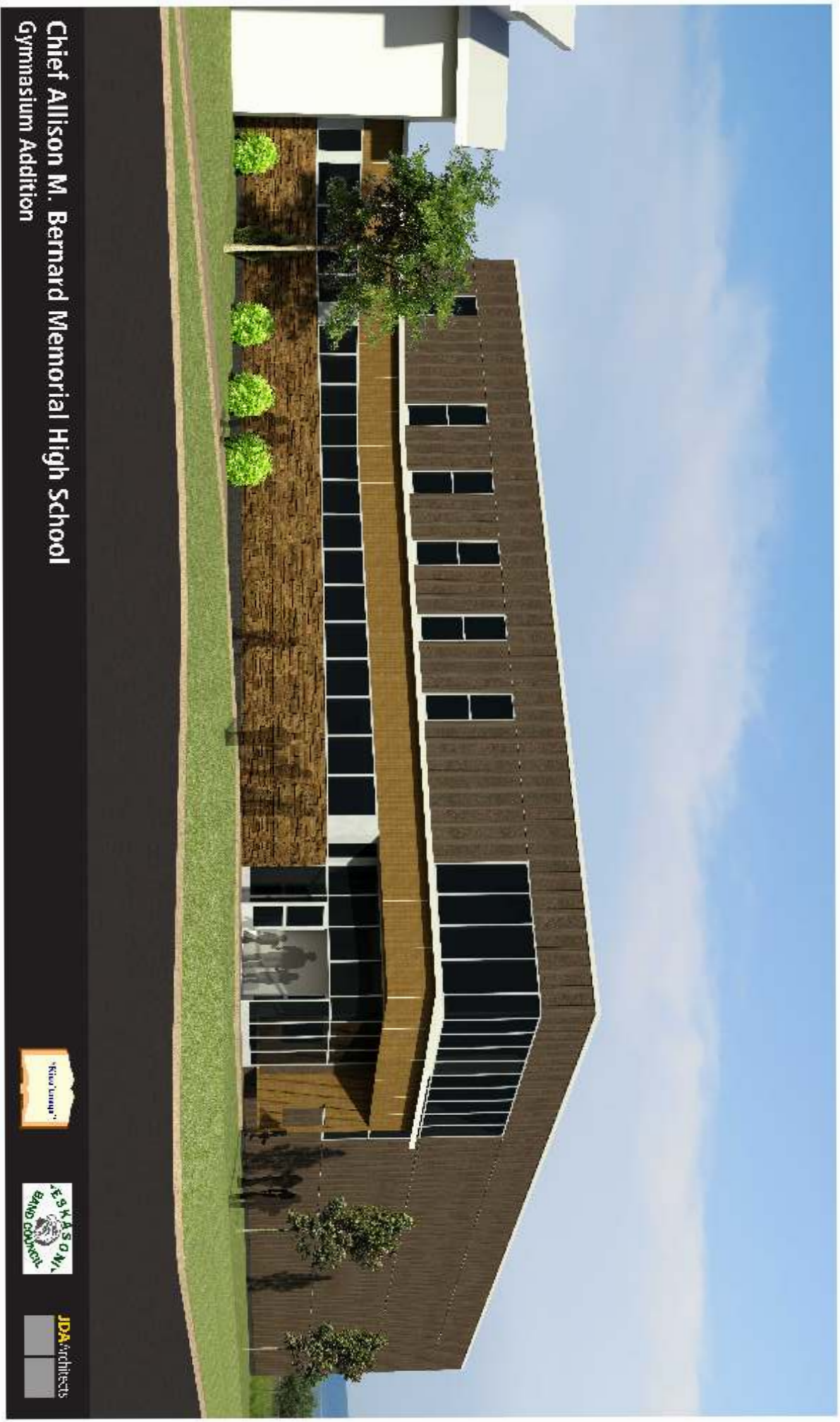
- Phase 1 development of Goat Island as a tourism project included the construction of a causeway and signage. Phase 2 of the project to begin in the fall of 2012.
- Various training and employment programs that total \$ 2 million over a two year period;
- Tourism training and employment project to establish the Eskasoni brand known as Cultural Journeys;
- Completion of environmental, plant and animal studies for the phase 1 development of the wind energy project in Eskasoni. The next phase of the project will be the construction of roads and negotiations are ongoing for funding for this project.
- Establishment of the Eskasoni Corporate Division Discussions regarding land purchase to increase the land base of Eskasoni.

Community Initiatives and Intangibles

Our community has begun a transition over the past 2 years, we have begun focussing on creating a positive atmosphere in our community. As Chief, Council, staff of the Eskasoni Band Council and all other agencies under the band, we believe in our community, we believe that as a community we can make a difference. We have ensured that as part of our ongoing projects and developments that we must make community building a priority. Together we asked community members to celebrate our achievements and continue to create a theme that it is **Our Eskasoni**, and we have celebrated our achievements. We have also seen the community join with us in inspiring hope such as the Buzz the Fuzz, or Mi'kmaq Run for The Cure and the Christmas Daddies telethons. We have seen our community put together one of the most organized and well hosted Mi'kmaq Summer Games in history and we glowed with pride as host. We were proud to see our community young and old take part in these healthy activities. We also saw major upgrades to our current facilities such as lights at the Castle Bay Field, and a renovation of our Apamuek Ball Field.

All these are community driven initiatives raises the morale of our community. As community members we should be proud of the volunteers we have in our community, and all those who work every day to create a positive atmosphere. Often many communities measure their success with profits and numbers and not on things that matter most such as happiness, sense of community, sense of family, sense of pride in our culture, our language and ourselves. We all have a shared responsibility to make **Our Eskasoni** the best place in the world for our children and grandchildren.





**Chief Allison M. Bernard Memorial High School
Gymnasium Addition**



**Conceptual 3D image of the future High School Gymnasium which will
be completed and ready for the start of the 2013 school season.**

ESKASONI
BAND COUNCIL

