

COMMUNITY REPORT

2012-2014



ESKASONI'S TWO YEAR REPORT,
HIGHLIGHTS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS



Eskasoni Band Council

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014

	Percentage of Actual	Actual to July 31,2014	Budget to July 31,2014
Revenue:			
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	38.10%	\$ 6,021,796	\$ 5,992,359
Eskasoni School Board - MK and other	30.05%	4,750,115	4,741,962
Health Centre - Health Canada and other	12.47%	1,970,293	1,944,409
Service Canada (Mets)	2.60%	411,528	411,528
Other programs (Rent, UNSI, etc.)	0.87%	137,635	132,448
Province of Nova Scotia	1.05%	166,400	166,400
Transfer from commercial fishing	9.49%	1,500,000	1,500,000
Eskasoni Tobacco operating profit for progra	3.54%	559,044	550,115
Eskasoni Gaming operating profit for progra	1.83%	288,796	280,000
Funds available for programs	100.00%	\$ 15,805,607	\$ 15,719,222
Expenditures:			
Social development	31.61%	4,991,107	4,973,719
Education	30.04%	4,743,474	4,723,070
Community Health	12.46%	1,967,539	1,943,632
Housing and capital	3.06%	482,535	396,644
Fire and environmental protection	0.95%	149,979	127,208
Public works (sewer,water,roads,buildings)	3.22%	508,382	525,204
Band administration	2.09%	329,725	368,840
Economic development,employment,training	4.52%	714,105	727,580
Corporate division	0.63%	100,185	108,939
Policing services	0.60%	94,493	97,800
Eskasoni Rink operating loss	0.39%	61,785	58,747
Cultural Centre operating loss	0.14%	22,792	21,108
Fitness Centre operating loss	0.25%	38,937	32,563
Recreation program	0.44%	68,930	71,097
Projects funded by commercial fishing	9.50%	1,500,000	1,500,000
Other programs	0.11%	16,875	42,787
Funds used for programs	100.00%	\$ 15,790,842	\$ 15,718,938
Surplus for the period		\$ 14,764	\$ 284

The actual surplus for the period ended July 31, 2014 was \$ 14,764 as compared to a budget of \$ 284. The Band is on target to meet its targeted surplus of break even for the year ending March 31, 2015.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL ADDRESS TO COMMUNITY



We are happy to present the 2012-2014 Eskasoni Band Community Report. This report is Chief and Council's celebration of our community's achievements and our front line workers who are committed to serving OUR ESKASONI.

These last two years have been some of our best periods to date. With the core of councilors maintaining their seats, we have been able to stay focused on our vision to providing the best opportunities and training for our people.

In our financial statement on page one, we are happy to announce that the band is on target to meet its targeted surplus of break even for the year ending March 31, 2015. What this shows to investors is that our government finances are stable and will encourage outside businesses to partner with our community.

One business partnership which has come to fruition was when Subway officially opened at Eskasoni Foodland in December of 2013. Another new partnership that offers great economic potential is our partnership with Membertou to form a company called Memski. More detail on other partnerships can be found in the Economic Development and Corporate report.

Another economic development potential came as a generous gift when our beloved Doctor, Dr. MS Virick presented the community parcels of land he owns in Benacadie and a commercial building on George Street in Sydney. The photo above was taken in April of this year when Chief and Council presented Dr. Virick a gift in appreciation of his generous gift. In the words of Dr. Virick as to why he gave this amazing gift he said, "Because you are my children."

One of Chief and Council's mandate is to invest in our youth. Providing our youth with all the opportunities will only create great leaders for OUR ESKASONI.

One such investment is the completion of the new high school gymnasium. Chief and Council were on hand to take part in the official grand opening of the gym on May 29, 2014 and 2014 High School Grads were the first group to have their graduation ceremonies at their own gym. It was a special evening of first.



Speaking of first, Chief and Council would like to recognize our very own Joe B. Marshall for receiving many honors these last couple of years. Joe B first received the Donald Marshall Senior Award, the ABMHS Role Model of the Year, the Bertha Wilson Alumni Award then to top it all off, he was selected into the Order of Canada. Wow! You are truly an inspiration Joe B.

If you look through the pictures of this community report, there is one common theme, "Celebrating our Achievements." The successes of our people are an inspiration for our own community members to achieve greater. There are many success stories in our community that are too numerous to mention, from sports, academic, to beating cancer and to overcoming addictions.

One such inspiration Chief and Council want to welcome back home is Bubblo Gould. After a 7 month stay in Toronto for a double-lung implant surgery Bubblo finally came back home May 11. Bubblo could testify that power of prayer and family is very strong in our community.

Despite our achievements we also have many challenges as a community and as your leadership. Housing will always be priority for Chief and Council. With our growing population the demand for housing grows every year. Housing is delayed by vandalism of new homes in which allocated housing money is used for repairs and forced to hire security. These acts of vandalism have delayed completion of new homes.

Another big concern for Chief and Council is the drug abuse in our community. Our community has already witnessed the repercussion of drug use and addiction through acts of robbery and violence. Chief and Council will continue to work with the authorities and focus our drug awareness campaign with our youth and help those who need our help.

On a final note, Chief and Council are in talks in bringing a Tim Hortons franchise to Eskasoni and we were honored to announced in early October that a commitment was made to begin development of a new fire hall. A new fire hall has long been overdue for our volunteer firemen and the security of our community.

Please Enjoy Our Community Report





OUR HOUSING

The housing department and Chief and Council are committed to providing quality housing for our people. Because of our growing population there is a great backlog of residents who need housing. Last 4 years over 70 new families moved into their new homes but the need for housing is still a priority for Chief and Council.

This year 12 new units will be constructed, while 20 more units from 2012 are still under construction with 6 of those units already occupied. We are also crossing our fingers to have people move into the 14 unit apartment building (Old TEC) anytime soon, pending on electrical inspection.

Another on-going concern that affects the budget of the housing department is the vandalism of the new houses being constructed. The cost and delays associated with vandalism only hinder those who are in need of new homes. Security had to be hired from money from the housing department to make sure those homes were safe.

Another costly hindrance in which we had no control was the damage caused by this spring's severe weather with numerous homes being flooded. Total cost from flooding this year was almost 100 thousand (\$ 99,513.22).

Despite our challenges we are optimistic about our future housing developments and the current Chief and Council know that housing is a priority in our community.

On that note the Eskasoni Housing Department and Health Canada have partnered and are developing a video on house maintenance and health and safety preventative measures.

The students at the Allison Bernard High School (our future generation of home owners) have over the last semester completed a draft and this school year will be completing this project. Hope to see the video soon!



OUR GAMING

Eskasoni Gaming Center continues to be profitable and we have utilized our gaming dollars to continue to support community programs and projects. The Gaming Center continues to seek improvements to create more revenue and continues to be accountable and transparent.

Referring to our financial statement, our revenue has gone down by \$130, 000 in comparison to last year. In the past couple of years we have noticed revenue and play going down. This is because the VLT gaming industry as a whole in Atlantic Canada has been decreasing. Our decrease at the gaming centre is below the NS average. So we are pleased with that and will continue to do our best to keep the place a clean and friendly place to visit.

Despite the declining revenues, management continues to promote the gaming center with promotional incentives to bring more people to play. Watch for our Future promotions.

Eskasoni Gaming Center staff is also proud to play a role every year for the Eskasoni Christmas Telethon. Last two years staff of the Eskasoni Gaming Centre has donated 2000 dollars from staff donations and recyclable bottles collected all year.

The Eskasoni Gaming Centre employs 15 full and part time employees plus 8 security personell. Applications for employment can be picked up at the Gaming Centre. Just ask any employee for assistance.



Wi'kapa'lut
Honoring our Mi'kmaq Grand Chief
Kji Saqmaw
Gabriel Sylliboy
March 4, 2014



Eskasoni Gaming Centre

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014 with comparitives for the prior period

	April 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014	April 1, 2013 to July 31, 2013
Revenue:		
Video lottery terminal net revenue	\$ 772,795	\$ 902,609
ABM commissions	7,307	2,586
	780,102	905,195
Less share for Eskasoni Gaming Commission	(412,206)	(388,635)
Less share for Atlantic Lottery Corporation	(122,383)	(125,100)
Net revenue	245,513	391,460
Expenses:		
Salaries and employee benefits	110,089	101,633
Rent	28,000	28,000
Security	60,545	63,657
Office and telephone	1,385	2,170
Building operation	8,299	33,837
Administration	8,000	8,000
Cash courier	6,213	6,157
Advertising and promotion	3,659	6,291
Coffee and tea supplies	7,662	7,601
General	5,153	9,385
Transfer for new housing	-	120,000
Total expenses	239,005	386,731
Profit for the period	\$ 6,508	\$ 4,729

ESKASONI SCHOOL BOARD

Our staff is comprised of over 180 team members. Staff positions include: Teachers, Teacher Aides, Early Childhood Educators, Guidance, Social Counselor, Speech Language Pathologist, Janitors, Bus Drivers, Maintenance, Principals, and Office Administrative Staff.

The primary focus of the schools within the board is the promotion and strengthening of the Mi'kmaq language. With fluent speaking principals in each school, there is a revitalized energy for preservation and revitalization of the language and culture which is a foremost priority for our board.

2014 will come down in history as one of our greatest years, with history being made in several ways. One of the highlights of the year for our school and our community was the grand opening of the new gymnasium at ABMHS. This ceremony was widely attended and put the central focus on the successes and talents of our students.

Another cause for celebration is that the plan to move the music program to the high school has finally come to fruition. For the first time, the band program will continue through high school.

History was definitely made at the Allison Bernard Memorial High School with regards to graduation for two primary reasons. This year, we had the honour to celebrate the accomplishments of a record 69 graduates from the high school, including 13 students from the first class of immersion in our schools. It was a moment of history in the making, which featured also a documentary "The Trailblazers" which was made with the original immersion students who discussed the significance of their language education, interviewed elders and actually animated the film as well.

The teen health center is also operational within the Eskasoni School Board in partnership with the Cape Breton District Health Authority. We are pleased to welcome Lindsay Sylvester to the center as the full time nurse.

Making the news at ABMHS, the INTERACT group at the school has received a national award for being the first First Nations Interact group in Canada. The amazing students in this group commit to serving their community through volunteerism to make the world they live in a better place. Eskasoni schools have played host to the Mi'kmaq Speech and Language Festival, The Show Me Your Math Fair, and an exciting book launch in conjunction with CBU Press. Launching "Our grandmothers' words: traditional stories for nurturing."

Purchase of 3 new buses to replace existing vehicles, and to expand the services of the special needs bus. Implement new board-wide cell phone and social media personal use policies.



CORPORATE

The Eskasoni Corporate Division has been steadily providing progress in targeted sectors such as energy, commercial and community. Our goal is to increase the business profile of Eskasoni First Nation through business development and seeking investment opportunities. The purpose of this goal is to help create employment for the community members by fostering and growing the economy of Eskasoni.

We are proud to say that Eskasoni's company Kitpu Security Ltd. has been successful in securing contracts, the Truro Heights Project is under construction and will be commissioned in the near future. Another accomplishment of our division is the success forming a business relationship with Membertou establishing our company Memski Projects Inc. Our vision is to help with the long-term sustainability of the community of Eskasoni and help make Eskasoni the place to visit by all.

Highlights of Activity

- The Eskasoni Corporate Division's Truro Heights Project is under construction. The 4.4 MW wind energy project expects to be commissioned in November. The project is under the COM-FIT program and will allow Eskasoni to receive favorable rates within the power purchase agreement. This investment will provide a 25-year revenue stream, which will help build capacity and spin off employment opportunities.
- ECD has been working closely with the Health Centre to lobby for a long-term care facility for our community elders. The facility could provide a culturally sensitive environment for our elders while creating economic and employment opportunities.
- Eskasoni and Membertou continue to collaboratively seek opportunities with major projects in Nova Scotia through Memski Projects Inc. A database was launched to help harness the varied skill sets of both communities as a tool to work with partners to ensure participation of Mi'kmaq in major projects.
- Under Memski Projects Inc. partnerships and working relationships have been built with various companies seeking to engage with Aboriginal on Major Projects. As a result of the working relationship we currently have Mi'kmaq from the two communities of Eskasoni and Membertou working on the Site Preparation contract for the Maritime Link Project. There are also discussions with other companies who have been awarded contracts of the Maritime Link Project to further implement their commitment to diversity and working with Memski Projects Inc. to hire Aboriginals from our communities.
- Another effort of Memski Projects Inc. has been to seek funding for a training program for Crane Operation. Memski looks to train 6 individuals with the Operators Training Institute of Nova Scotia and has been working with the local union to ensure employment once training is completed.
- The Eskasoni Corporate Division is seeking to attract new business to the area and has met with business owners to invite them to visit the community and potentially bring their business here.

Business Soars in Eskasoni!



SPORTS & RECREATION

Eskasoni Sports & Recreation had a very productive year in offering youth programs in collaboration with the Mental Health Youth Support Staff as well as partnering with other organizations within Eskasoni. Here are some of the main highlights from this year.

- Partnered with Hockey NS and conducted a Mi'kmaq Youth Hockey Program, which is a first of its kind in Canada for youth ages 5-13.
- Assisted in the Organization/Delivering of the 2014 Annual Our Eskasoni, Healthy & Active Living, Our Celebration, Our Hope Event.
- Part of the Youth Health Committee & BAM Groups at the High School (Both groups painted the Elementary School Grounds with Hop Scotch & Four Squares for the younger children)
- Delivered the Aboriginal Coaching Certification for our Volunteer Coaches
- Organized with the Mental Health Youth Staff, March Break Activities.
- Assisted in the "Andrew Antle Jeddore Memorial Relay"
- Took part in NAIG, North American Indigenous Games 2014 as Mission Staff and Coaching Staff which were held in Regina
- Organized and Delivered the Mi'kmaq Youth Surf and Lifesaving Camp which was held weekly at the Point Michaud Beach in Partnership with Surf Association of NS, Lifesaving Society of NS and the Department of Health & Wellness.
- Assisted our community with the 2013 and 2014 Mi'kmaw Summer Games Registration along with providing all Eskasoni Athletes & Community Members, food and shelter during the week long games at our community tent.
- Helped Mental Health Organized and Deliver the Annual Cultural Camp held at Camp Carter for 25 Children
- Helped Organize & Deliver with the Mental Health Youth Crew the week long Eskasoni Summer Fest which included Mr Eskasoni.
- Produced a Get Active Video with George Paul to help promote Healthy Active Living
- Partnered with the RCMP, NACADA, Mental Health & the Eskasoni School to deliver a Bike Safety Course.
- Partnered with CB Regional Minor Football to bring Eskasoni our very own Minor Football Program for Children ages 7-10
- Helped Coordinate the 2014 Competition Powwow & Outdoor Concert with the Powwow Committee which drew record crowds
- Helped create and maintain Mental Health's Community and Traditional Garden
- We have Mi'kmaq representation from our Department that holds a position on the NS Recreation Board of Directors.
- Arranged a Awareness on the Negativity of Drug & Alcohol Abuse and how Physical Activity & Healthy living can improve a person's life Presentation in collaboration with NADACA.
- In the Process of developing an Aboriginal Coaching Association for NS
- Partnering with Sport NS, Health & Wellness, National Aboriginal Snowboarding Association & Membertou to conduct a learn to snowboard for youth.
- After School Programs at the School Gymnasium.



CRANE COVE SEAFOODS



Crane Cove Seafoods is having another successful year and as of February 24, 2014, Crane Cove Seafood's is now certified under ISO 9001:2008.

To be ISO Certified means that Crane Cove Seafoods is a reputable business who has high business standards and that business operations are as efficient as possible. Having ISO certification will provide greater business opportunities worldwide.

CCS has transferred a total of \$ 3,630,000 in profits to the band for the last two fishing season and have employed 96 captains and deck hands and 31 processors with total wages paid out for the two year period of \$ 6,768,973.

The new 50'x27' snow crab vessel, Dr. Albert aqq Dr. Murdena has already been out to sea and is being captained by Aubrey Paul. Total Vessel cost is \$810,000 of which CCS management was able to receive \$616,000 from DFO as a non-repayable grant. The balance of \$194,000 was paid for by CCS.

The Uncle Roddie Gould. It's 55 feet by 27 feet, can carry up to 80,000 lbs of snow crab. Captain of the vessel is Shawn Stevens

Our CCS trucks and 2 drivers kept on trucking these 2 years and have travelled all across Canada and USA. Our hauls went to cities such as Boston, Jacksonville, Chicago, Toronto, Montreal and of course around Atlantic Canada. CCS trucks and of course our drivers have established strong relationships in trucking and seafood for the transport industry.





NADACA AND MI'KMAQ LODGE

Eskasoni Chief and Council are honored to have NADACA and Mi'kmaw Lodge Treatment Center in this year's community report.

The relationship between NADACA/Mi'kmaw Lodge and the community of Eskasoni has a great history and has been very beneficial for both groups.

NADACA began in 1971 as a program of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians. NADACA has grown from a few part time field counsellors to a full complement of field and office staff as well as two treatment facilities.

Today NADACA is a vital component in our day to day lives in Eskasoni that sometimes we forget how fortunate our youth are to have such programs available in our community.

When the illicit drug and the solvent abuse problem surfaced in the eighties, NADACA quickly moved to education and prevention. NADACA had to reach people before they became addicted and greater emphasis on education, especially among our youth.

NADACA staff now devotes their time to educational workshops, school visits, diversion activities, and working with the youth of their communities.

Our most well know diversion activities are of course NADACA's youth prevention programs like ballet and Inkin bus. These programs are run by Dawna Prosper and Inkin Young.

With the full support from Chief and Council, NADACA has been able to sustain a number of long term prevention activities that have played an instrumental part in our children's lives.





Every day we see the results of their accomplishments by how much they are giving back to our community in such big ways.

This year's programs are up and going and focus remains on long term programming.

A Band bus is now available to aid Inkin in the delivery of shared programs and other Community activities including: Wally Bernard, St. Ann Mission, Stars on Ice, Camp Carter, Parents Against Drugs, High School Memorial Run. Programs run mostly from September to the first week of June and others are seasonal. Ex: Seasonal: cultural day camps – sweet grass harvest, clam digging, eel spearing.

Learn to Skate Program, Ski Program, Culture Camps, Weekly Parents Meetings, Family Swim, Dome Night, Movie Nights, Eagles Hockey Games, Youth Sweats, Fright Nights, Floor Hockey & Golf.

Inkin would like to thank the following; Flo Young, Mary B. Toney, Janna Toney, Tracey Burns, Chloe Young, Dave Morris, Lisa Googoo, Duma Bernard, Lisa Dipietro, Eldon & Sherise Gould, Dawn Stevens, Vivian Basque, Nadine Bernard, Cassandra Stevens & Shane Stevens. All of your support is greatly appreciated. Also a special thanks to our good friend the late Antle' Andrew Jeddore who spent many hours driving the bus when I was not available. Wela'lin

The Learn to Dance Program this year has Over 120 Youth. Annual School Bike Rodeo took place in June - sponsored by NADACA, Community RCMP Duma Bernard & Jay Marshall, Eskasoni Middle School, Levi Denny & staff of Sport and Recreation.

Thank you to all the Parents & NADACA Peer Helpers who volunteer their time to help.

Other Weekly Long Term Programs supported by NADACA, Community & parents include: Learn to Swim. Life Saving, Lane Swim, Peer Helpers, Traditional Crafts. Contact Dawna.

To learn more about NADACA Men & Women's programs or other youth programs contact Field staff: Manager - Vincent Stevens, Lottie Johnson or Josh Whittall. 902-379-2262.

Eskasoni Chief and Council take pride in supporting NADACA's community diversion programs and we will continue to support these programs.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEV

Eskasoni Community Economic Development has been consistently working on creating training opportunities and employment for our people. In the last two years ECED has trained over 140 and found employment for many of our people. ECED will continue to create opportunities through partnerships.

To date we have partnered to deliver the following programs in 2013-2014, Ironworker, Bricklayer, Wind Energy, Pre Employment, Oil and Gas, Sheet Metal, Flooring, Roofing, Security Guard, Power Line Labourer and Metal Fabrication

The new named Mi'kmaq Economic Benefits Office of Nova Scotia (MEBO) formerly known as the Unama'ki Economic Benefits Office expanded its mandate to serve all 13 NS First Nations.

The Assembly recognizes the importance of taking a collaborative approach to engaging large industry, especially companies like Irving Shipbuilding and Emera-Newfoundland Labrador. ECED works in partnership with MEBO to ensure community members are aware of upcoming opportunities.

Last two summers we had great success in placing our summer students with jobs that they have an interest in. For a lucky few they were able to get part time work after their job placement. This summer we were able to hire 15 University Students were hired for 10 week job placements and 59 High School students were hired for 4 week job placements.

As everyone has noticed, Goat Island has gone through many upgrades in the past few years. We will continue work on the development of Goat Island infrastructure and trail development, interpretive panels have been installed and construction of our visitor center and washrooms are in their final construction stages.

We have upgraded the marina with 4 new docks installed at the fisheries to enhance Goat Island and promote tourism opportunities. We are still looking to have a restaurant and have created a business plan and have met with funding partners for potential development.

One of our greatest tourism successes has been the Eskasoni Cultural Journeys. Our 9 heritage interpreters have been very busy with their tours. We had great feedback from all walks of life from visiting schools, government organizations to people from all parts of the world. We will continue to market Cultural Journeys to provide economic benefits for our people.

We are continually looking for funding and support to improve the Stations of the Cross for the elderly and disabled and progress is being seen in the development of the St. Kateri Tekakwitha garden located at the old bridge road.

Unamaki Tourism Association (UTA) was formed this year to support the development of an Aboriginal Tourism Association for Cape Breton. This organization will help increase education and awareness, product development and marketing for Aboriginal tourism operators in Unamaki.

Future business plans and proposal for ECED include a business plan for the Fitness Center and in the process of developing a senior program. We are also looking at proposing a much needed second hand store in our community.



OUR HEALTH MATTERS

When it comes down to what really matters; it's our health. Eskasoni is proud to be a First Nation leader in health care and remains dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of all community members. We have three full time doctors and we are committed to having programs and workshops to better educate our people on healthy lifestyle choices.

Priority areas for us in health programming continue to be diabetes prevention and management, education around non-traditional tobacco use, healthy weights / healthy lifestyles and healthy pregnancies. We are continuing to work on all these areas, and to do what we can with the funding available.

High rates of diabetes in Aboriginal communities nationwide have been described as epidemic. Eskasoni is no exception. Overall, we are making progress in education and awareness about diabetes. In addition, the Diabetes Program continues to support and service those diagnosed with diabetes and their families.

At the Health Centre, we have emphasized healthy weights and healthy lifestyles as a key priority area and have been focusing on community wellness efforts. Participation in events is high and many programs have been recognized by leadership as being very effective including the workplace wellness programs, Biggest Loser challenges, and the Girl Power and Lifestyle Challenge Retreats.

The Eskasoni Health Centre more broadly has begun to integrate healthy lifestyle concepts into other programming such as mental health, diabetes, and prenatal care. The Health Centre supports a number of outdoor recreational activities including snowshoeing, the Goat Island Walking Program, Learn to Sail Program and the Learn to Run Program. The Health Centre is also working closely with the schools to support healthy lifestyle choices and activity among youth. Early healthy habits are recognized to have positive long-term implications on adult health.

Eskasoni Health Center is happy to have in our team RN Catherine (Teedaze) Paul who is now the new diabetic nurse and we are pleased to announce that RN Julie Francis will be working with Barb MacNeil, Prenatal/postnatal care (PT) and community health (PT), also welcome Erin Rudderham, RN to community health.

We are pleased to Welcome Dr. Lauren Brodie to our team, who began working in July, 2014 and has taken over Obstetrical care for Eskasoni. We hired Selena Cremo, as the new Maternal child health home visitor and children oral health program.

Eskasoni's success has been built with the support of partners, strong Band leadership and an unwavering commitment to community health. Our work will have a legacy in promoting health and wellness in the community, improving health surveillance and data management systems, and establishing Eskasoni as a centre of health care excellence.

**Eskasoni Health centre is on Facebook, look for information and updates and request to be our friend on Facebook.



MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health means striking a balance in all aspects of your life: social, physical, spiritual, economic and mental. Reaching a balance is a learning process. Your personal balance will be unique, and your challenge will be to stay mentally healthy by keeping that balance.

Eskasoni's Mental Health Department is committed to offering services to maintain that balance. These 2 years Eskasoni Mental Health had an action packed, successful, productive and exciting 2 years!

We organized, facilitated and implemented several large scale community-wide events, including the Annual "Our Eskasoni" celebration (1,100+ participants), the Annual Family Easter Egg Hunt (400+ participants), the Drug Utilization Prevention and Promotion Community Education session (203 participants), Eskasoni Annual Powwow (400+ participants) and the Unama'ki Summer Games (590 participants).

Smaller scale ongoing activities include our Parenting program, Mothers Helping Mothers program, Two Wolves, Men's Family Violence Intervention program, Restorative Justice Circle participation, Family Circle Interventions, Sweat Lodge, Sacred Fire, Seven Sacred Teachings, Pipe ceremonies, created the Peace Park a Traditional Medicine Community Gardens and Orchard development.

This fiscal year we co-located with the newly formed Eskasoni Sport and Recreation Department to complement our Community Mental Health service delivery model with our "phased in" Mind-Body-Spirit holistic wellness initiative. This approach grants our Mental Health workers access to youth, and the community at large, on a continuous basis in a "non-clinical and stigma-free" atmosphere.

This approach has had significant impact on our ability to "meet youth where they are" and engage in rapport building that has increased the number of community members who seek out mental health services for life challenges, mental health and addictions concerns.

We co-facilitated/organized:

- After School Fun Day (300 participants)
- Cultural Camp (33 participants)
- Learn to Sail (13 participants)
- Learn to Surf (48 participants)
- Gold Fundraiser (34 participants)
- Winter Healthy Lifestyles youtube video
- Summerfest / Mr. Eskasoni
- Weekday After School Healthy Lifestyles programs

More than anything, it is necessary to acknowledge and express my sincerest appreciation to all the Mental Health staff. We are continuously amazed and in awe of the fact that each of you continuously rises to any challenge placed before you and your commitment, dedication, patience, compassion and enthusiasm is unparalleled!



ESKASONI FOODLAND

Eskasoni Foodland continues to grow moderately in overall sales in both regular product lines and seasonal goods. In the past quarter many new lines of product have become available to our customers with the weekly flyers keeping our customers coming back .

With the new addition of Subway the overall customers visiting our store continues to grow. Subway has proven to be a great addition to our list of services and we would also like to thank our customers for respecting the reopened drive thru which enables Subway to offer a more efficient service.

In relation to the Foodland banner, Eskasoni Foodland consistently scores high in delivering to its customers expectations. Our community Foodland store maintains to be a banner store for the Sobey's chain. During our regular annual review Eskasoni Foodland remains to be one of the banner stores that are experience a small growth in sales and customer service standards.

The staff at Eskasoni Foodland wish to thank its customers for their continued support. We look forward to serving your needs during the next few months which is traditionally our busiest time of the year. Please drop in and support your community Foodland Store!

SOCIAL PROGRAM

On November 4, 2013 we notified community members that the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and other First Nations communities in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, were successful in their case against the federal government on changes to the social assistance policy on-reserve.

Assisted over forty students in various programs through Economic Development. Programs include flooring, pre-employment, bricklayer, metal fabrication, roofing, oil and gas skilled labourer, sheet metal program and the power line labourer program. Many of these student acquired permanent employment after they completed the programs.

Dale Sylliboy recently graduated from the MMBSW program with a Bachelor of Social Work. Two caseworkers, Elizabeth Johnson and Dawn Johnson have been accepted into the 2014-2017 MMBSW program.

Continuously exploring the budget and expenditures to see if more areas of Social could be improved. Ongoing efforts to increase services to our clients.

Limited funding available that we have to work with. Continuous negligence and abuse with heat and lights tremendously affects the welfare budget.

Working with Economic Development and Native employment to provide community members new training opportunities and to assist financially whenever possible. Explore the budget to improve assistance to low income families. Make efforts to improve living conditions with our clients who reside in rental units.



ESKASONI FISH & WILDLIFE

The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) program has been funding EFWC activities since 1991. The goal of the AFS is to ensure there is a Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery for the community.

The AFS program is currently the core funding for the activities of EFWC, which include distribution of tags, science, habitat restoration, environmental monitoring, working in collaboration with other Mi'kmaq organizations and government departments.

The last two years EFWC Guardians have taken part in numerous projects to monitor our rivers and the Bras d'Or Lakes. Some highlights from the last two years include monitoring invasive species, collecting samples local Gaspereau fishery, monitoring temperatures in Qamsipuk to get information about the health of the river, Guardians also responded to environmental concerns such as runoff, removal of sand from local beaches and shoreline erosion.

The Eskasoni weather station project was completed in June of 2013. Eskasoni's weather will be available for access through the Environment Canada website. This is the first weather station set up in a First Nations Reserve across Canada.

CAMP (Community Aquatic Monitoring Program) took place once per month from June to September and lets us see what aquatic species call the shores of Eskasoni home.

CABIN – Qamsipuk was sampled using CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) methods to assess the health of the river. Samples have been sent to Environment Canada for further information.

EFWC received funding through the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) to study the striped bass that have been seen around the Bras d'Or Lakes. If anyone has any information about this fish or if anyone has caught one recently, please contact the Guardians.

EFWC has received funding for stream restoration in Qamsipuk. This year 6 wing deflectors will be placed in the river in an effort to provide better passage for fish.

EFWC received funding for a cod project. Guardians will be taking samples of cod throughout the Bras d'Or Lakes. Monitor development activities within Eskasoni and work with those involved to prevent disruption of fish or fish habitat.

EFWC attend meetings and provide support to committees such as the Bras d'Or Lakes Biosphere Association, the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Planning Initiative and the Collaborative salmon Initiative. Meetings with DFO and other departments to discuss fishery related issues and pursue avenues of funding.





This Band Community Report is in Honor of my dad, Keptin Ryan Paul.
My dad loved election time.
PR George Design