

OUR ESKASONI

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May 2011 - September 2011

Our Celebration Our Hope Our Future

Community Band Quarterly Report



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The Perfect Storm with a Perfect Ending

The Eskasoni Crew Speaks of their Crisis in Sea

Exactly what sunk Eskasoni's communal fishing vessel, "Bessie aqq Wilfred" is still under investigation but that is insignificant compared to what could have happened if the crew went down with the vessel.

The community was in a state of panic when they heard about the sinking of "Bessie aqq Wilfred," but were grateful to hear that Captain Shawn Stevens and his crew were safely on land on the morning of July 10, 2011.

Our story begins on July 8 when the fishing crew of "Bessie aqq Wilfred," set out for snow crabs with Captain Shawn Stevens on the helm with deckhands, Frances (Gubble) Stevens, Maynard P. Young Sr., Jonathan (Jon) Johnson, George Denny and Charles (Chuck) Francis.

The crew began hauling traps at 3am the following day and worked 11 hours straight with no time for rest and hauled what they said was a record catch in such a short time. In less than 12 hours, "Bessie aqq Wilfred," was full to capacity with over 30,000 pounds of snow crab.

The long voyage back to Petit de Grat began and the crew was now able to relax after an amazing day.

During that evening a storm began but it was not a major concern for the captain and his crew. Deckhand, Jon Johnson took his shift at the helm late in the evening and just made sure to monitor the radar and keep his coordinates towards home. Jon was well into his shift when about 1:05am he noticed a major problem. The engine was at full speed but it was only going 4 knots. We he looked back at the deck and he noticed snow crab everywhere, under 3 feet of water.

Jon immediately woke up the Captain and the entire crew. Maynard began passing out the survival suits and Shawn called out mayday at approximately 1:15am. Captain, Jibby Paul of "Dr. Granny" responded but the signal was going in and out but Shawn was able to give his coordinated to Jibby.

"Bessie aqq Wilfred" was bringing in water. Captain Shawn said our boat was literally half submerged, with only the front moving forward. Deckhand, Maynard cut the cord on the life raft and deckhands, George and Jon deployed the raft. At this time the crew called out to the captain, "This is it skip!" but Shawn didn't want to leave his vessel. "This is it skip!" the crew yelled again and Shawn finally radioed "Abandon ship" to the Coast Guard at approximately 1:30am and the entire crew of "Bessie aqq Wilfred" jumped in the life raft.

With all the chaos that was occurring, the entire crew said we were all in control and we never panicked.

Once the crew was all in the life raft, within a half an hour, the coast guard's Hercules plane flew over them. Jon lit up a flare to indicate the life raft's location. Moments later the plane threw down flares in the water so that the coast guard chopper could easily find their location.

For three hours, the last crew of "Bessie aqq Wilfred" floated aimless in sea only about 17 kilometres northeast of Canso. But the crew knew they were safe.

At approximately 4:20am the coast guard chopper located the crew and everyone was hoisted up to the chopper. Once everyone was safely on board, the chopper headed to Halifax because of the unsafe weather conditions in Cape Breton.

The Canadian Coast Guard chopper landed at the Halifax International Airport before 6am with Deployment and License Supervisor, Leon Denny of Crane Cove Seafoods and RCMP Constable, Gaetanne Stevens waiting to take them home.

Looking back, the last crew of "Bessie aqq Wilfred," said all they could think about on the life raft was to be home safe with the family. Most of the last crew of "Bessie aqq Wilfred" are already back at work and all of them agreed that they are more prepared to work now because they have been through it and they know that their safety training will kick in if ever a crisis situation where to happen again.

Chief Leroy Denny

Hello everyone,

Please enjoy our September Report as part of Eskasoni Chief and Council's commitment in keeping our community informed and updated as to what is happening in our community and our band.

Since we are getting close to Remembrance Day I felt it was only appropriate that I share this picture with everyone. This picture was taken during Treaty Day Celebrations in Halifax and I had the honor of standing next to two of our communities Korean War Veterans, Abram Doucette and Al Oakley. On Remembrance Day make sure to say thank you to our veterans.

In this July Quarterly report you will see financial reports from our band and gaming center. We are also working more effectively with all band managers to include all reports from each department.

In this report we also included some stories from our communications officer. Also I would like to apologize to the Eskasoni Health Center for not including their report in the last issue. As promised I gave the Health Center centre spread for the great work they do for our community.

With that said we must update our community on an important matter we received from the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) during the Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) - All Chiefs meeting in Moncton in July.

The APC Chiefs were told AANDC plans to implement a **NEW SOCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY** and rate structure change starting on November 1, 2011 in all Atlantic aboriginal communities. This new social assistance policy requires all First Nations to begin using provincial rates. If these new rates were to be implemented on the said date our social assistance program would be drastically cut by almost 40 percent.

The APC Chiefs out right rejected the new social policy change and we are currently fighting to stop this new policy and have requested an immediate meeting with AANDC.

Our Chief and Council held a special meeting and made a Band Council Resolution to totally reject this new social policy and are dead set against it. We assure the community that as your leaders we will fight with all our hearts not to allow these new provincial rates to be implemented in Eskasoni.

AANDC main reasons behind this new social policy change, as they say, is to break to cycle of poverty and make sure that the Canadian tax dollars are spent appropriately.

Of course we all want what is best for our community and of course we want to break the cycle of poverty in our community. But by forcing our community to cut our social assistance by almost 40 percent will not solve the cycle of poverty it will only create bigger issues.

Another growing concern that needs great attention in our community is our power bills are sky rocketing. Our power bills are the biggest financial drain on our social assistance program. Stats show that native communities consume double the amount of electricity compared to an average Nova Scotia household. Right now Eskasoni's social assistance pays around **1.8 million a year** just on electricity alone. We all need to play an active role in reducing our energy cost.

I should end off with good news for our community. It's official everyone! Our High School will be getting a new gymnasium. This is great news for our students and great news for our community. Also as the new Chair of Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey our Chiefs officially signed a new 5 year agreement with INAC and the province. This long term agreement is great news for Eskasoni and our education programs.

Our next report will be out in December. Please check out our monthly video reports on our website at

www.eskasoni.ca

Wela'liq,

Chief Leroy Denny



Eskasoni Band Council

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

April 1, 2011 to July 31, 2011

	Percentage of Actual	Actual to July 31, 2011	Budget to July 31, 2011
Revenue:			
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	42.75%	\$ 5,618,167	\$ 5,508,929
Eskasoni School Board - MK and other	38.72%	4,976,338	4,988,930
Health Centre - Health Canada and other	9.43%	1,215,440	1,215,440
Service Canada (Mets)	3.18%	438,585	410,310
Other programs (Rent, UNSI, etc.)	0.59%	76,144	76,144
Province of Nova Scotia	1.71%	220,000	220,000
Eskasoni Tobacco operating profit	2.50%	351,637	322,000
Eskasoni Gaming operating profit	1.12%	144,000	144,000
Funds available for programs	100.00%	\$ 13,040,311	\$ 12,885,753
Expenditures:			
Social development	35.68%	4,522,757	4,563,679
Education	38.49%	4,909,938	4,922,530
Community Health	9.41%	1,209,561	1,203,440
Housing and capital	2.31%	374,871	295,463
Fire and environmental protection	0.81%	145,818	103,690
Public works (sewer, water, roads, buildings)	3.34%	549,970	427,030
Band administration	2.98%	390,953	380,584
Economic development, employment, training	4.80%	561,078	613,350
Policing and Ambulance services	0.52%	69,239	66,138
Contribution to Eskasoni Market for operations	1.31%	168,000	168,000
Eskasoni Rink operating loss	0.17%	47,000	22,000
Cultural Centre operating loss	0.11%	11,419	13,512
Interest on bank operating loan	0.08%	-	10,000
Funds used for programs	100.00%	\$ 12,960,604	\$ 12,789,416
Surplus for the period		\$ 79,707	\$ 96,337

The actual surplus for the period ended July 31, 2011 was \$ 79,707 as compared to a budget of \$ 96,335. The Band is on target to meet its targeted surplus of \$ 875,000 as required under its Remedial Management Plan (RMP) for the year ending March 31, 2012.



Eskasoni Economic Development

Director/Manager: Tracy Menge

Current Staff:

Economic Development Officer- Megan Gillis:
 Native Employment Assistant - Bree Menge:
 Financial Clerk- Mary C. Marshall: Mi'kmaq IT – Ben Marshall
 Part time Tourism Staff: Pat Marshall, Audrey Francis, Mickella Gale and Giselle Stevens

- Continued work on Tourism Infrastructure for Goat Island - Ongoing
- Summer Student Employment Program
- Emera Training Program – 9 participants
- New Page Training Program – 2 participants

Departmental Setbacks this Quarter:
 No setbacks this quarter

Departmental Issues and Trends:
 Working with Partners to ensure Eskasoni is represented in future projects.

- Departmental Goals for next Quarter:**
- Hire an additional Economic Development Officer in September 2011
 - Establish an employment resource center at the Eskasoni C@P site space in September 2011. This center will have free computer access, job postings, resume writing assistance, training opportunity postings and workshops.
 - Youth Workforce program to start in the fall – pending final funding approval
 - Increase Apprenticeship in Eskasoni



Departmental Highlights/Accomplishments this Quarter:

- Combined the Economic Development and Native Employment & Training Departments to better serve the community through the development of business opportunities and training opportunities for our clients
- Approval

- received for a Heritage Interpreter/Storytellers Training program for 20 participants. Program starts in August 2011.
- Eskasoni attended Saltscapes – a tourism trade show in Halifax to promote Eskasoni Cultural Journeys. www.eskasoniculturaljourneys.ca
- In the process of completing a feasibility study for dollar store and coffee shop. Work will be completed in September 2011.
- Complete monthly newsletter - Ongoing



Departmental Issues and Trends:

The Eskasoni School Board has worked collaboratively with Eskasoni Band Council Departments other Mi'kmaq School Boards, as well as local non native school boards and institutions to bring beneficial programming and services to our students and community. We have used innovative methods to ensure that staff is able to receive professional development with fewer shut down days. We have taken action to preserve our Mi'kmaq language and culture by continued support of programs such as Mi'kmaq immersion, the TLE center and Mi'kmaq language and cultural programming. Our schools also participate in provincial assessments at the grades 3, 6, 9 and 12 levels for English Language Arts and Mathematics. By monitoring student performance in these assessments, we can tailor instruction to ensure our students are meeting outcomes set forth by the Province.

Departmental Goals for next Quarter:

- Grand Opening of Youth Health Center at Chief Allison Bernard Memorial High School

- Hire administrative positions for Eskasoni Elementary and Middle School: Vice Principals,



Eskasoni Social Development

Director/Manager: Dale Sylliboy

Current Staff:

Ian Isaac, Elizabeth Johnson, Dawn Johnson, Annette Bernard, Sharon Johnson, April Julian, Rhonda Jeddore, Bridget Denny, John Isaac

Departmental Highlights/Accomplishments this Quarter:

- Two staff members accepted to St. Thomas University for the MMBSW program.
- The social deficit has decreased significantly.
- Currently exploring the budget and expenditures to see if more areas of Social could be improved.
- Access to Social Development has improved.
- Exploring the option of having Social assistance cheques to be direct deposit or a debit card as an option.

- Continuously making great efforts to increase services to our clients.
- Departmental Setbacks this Quarter (if Any):** Ongoing problems with the new operating system for Social. Limited funding available that we have to work with. Short staffed.

Departmental Issues and Trends: Very limited funding. A very large deficit. Ongoing issues with operating systems.

Departmental Goals for next Quarter:

- Job posting for a clerk and also for a receptionist before September.
- Working with Economic Development and Native employment to provide community members new training opportunities.

Roselita Retires after 40 plus years

For over 40 year, one of Eskasoni's original registered nurse (RN), Roselita Herney decided it was time to start a new career and focus her career more on rest and relaxation.

The staff of the Eskasoni Health Center held a special retirement party for Roselita Herney on July 18, 2011 at the Eskasoni Fisheries Boardroom. Family, friends and staff of Eskasoni Health Center were on hand to congratulate Roselita and just to say thank you for helping the community of Eskasoni for so many years.

Roselita was born in Waygobah and one of nine (9) children of Simon and Mary Sylliboy. The family moved to Eskasoni and grew up in extended family of Grand Chief Gabriel Sylliboy. The influence of living with the Grand Chief encouraged her in her future years to help people and choose nursing as a career.

She graduated from St. Joseph High School in Mabou where she enrolled in the Nursing school at St. Rita Hospital in Sydney and graduated in 1970.

After receiving her RN she worked at the Union of NS Indians as Health Liaison Officer. She enjoys working for her people and always had her interest in working with them. She has worked as a nurse in hospital, medical services and is currently

working in Eskasoni as community Health Nurse since 1992.

In the past she has volunteered as nurse in Eskasoni. When she finished her nursing, there was limited health emergency care, such as ambulances available. She has also worked with the police of Eskasoni when the program started especially in emergencies, which were interesting and unforgettable.

She is a proud Mi'kmaq woman and wants to encourage others to be proud of their heritage, culture and language. She has two sons and four grandchildren.

If given the time, the stories and the changes Roselita has seen in Eskasoni would probably fill a novel. She has seen drastic changes in Eskasoni's health care system and she say most have been all positive.

Roselita said the health care services has grow and the living conditions in our community have improved drastically, especially in the areas of clean water, sanitation and children's health. The Eskasoni Health Board and members of Eskasoni Band Council are pleased to recognize Roselita Herney for her dedication and service to the community of Eskasoni.

Eskasoni Housing Department

Director: Darlene Marshall

Current staff:

Housing Technicians: James Simon
Marshall Marshall
Donald Francis

Housing Clerk: Mary Bridget Toney
Kylie Young

Departmental Highlights/ Accomplishments this quarter:

The housing department has would like to inform and welcome Donald Francis, Technical Assistant and Kylie Young, Housing Clerk Assistant who have been hired in term positions.

A working housing group continues to review, prioritize and strategize for the short and long term planning for our housing department to meet our community needs. This committee will be recommending to Chief and Council a diverse housing program to meet the needs of existing and proposed housing initiatives.

The housing department and CMHC in partnership with Atlantic Policy Congress will schedule HQI workshops available for community contractors and members to participate, enhance their skills and obtain information to assist them in respect to housing renovations or maintenance.

Dates to be announced, upon scheduling 2011-12 workshops.

An information workshop with Roxanne Harper, Turtle Island Associates with Chief and Council and housing staff was held on April 26, 2011. The topic was Housing Authorities and Home Ownership.

An information session with Debra Taylor, First Nation Market Housing Fund, Ottawa was held on May 26, 2011. To discuss the potential programs and opportunities our community could access upon eligibility.

Allocation:
Our community has been allocated nine (9) units

for the 2011-12 fiscal year. 301 application, Environment site assessments, land clearance and BCR to be submitted.

Applications for eight (8) RRAPs have been submitted to CMHC for approval.

Departmental Setbacks this quarter: (If Any):

- 1) Vandalism
- 2) Approval pending from Indian Affairs for Ministerial Guarantee to begin construction of new homes.

Departmental Issues and Trends:

Vandalism continues to be a costly concern for the housing department due to the limited budget administered. We are currently reviewing our options and will introduce and implemented in the new fiscal year.

The housing department in the new fiscal year, commencing April 1, 2011 will no longer be excepting invoices submitted for members who run out of oil and require assistance bleeding the lines. If required, the invoices will be the responsibility of the tenant. If on actual cost the invoice will be forwarded to the Social Assistance department for payment. It is the responsibility of the tenant to maintain and inform the SA department when fuel is required in advance.

Departmental Goals for next Quarter:

Develop strategy for:
With the participation of the working housing group collectively will be reviewing the housing program to develop a proactive and productive program that continues to promote innovative projects to enhance the existing units and acquire additional units.

Training/Information

The Housing Department in partnership with

Eskasoni School Board

Director: Elizabeth Ann Cremo

Board Members:

Chief Leroy Denny: Ex-Officio
Chair: John F Toney

Members:
Ann Denny Tom Sylliboy
Bridget Smith Harriet Marshall
Sarah Doucette Walter Denny
Peggy Dennis Connie Dennis
Sheila Morris Ernest Johnson
Loli Johnson Andrew Lafford



Staff: Our staff is comprised of over 180 team members. Staff positions include: Teachers, Teacher Aides, Guidance, Janitors, Bus Drivers, Maintenance, Principals, Vice Principals, and Office Administrative Staff

Departmental Highlights/ Accomplishments this quarter:

- First annual Graduate Honoring Ceremony in conjunction with Eskasoni Band Office departments to honor Eskasoni students graduating from post secondary and diploma programs organized in conjunction with band office departments also graduating students.
- Post Secondary early registration for CBU students held in community in July with CBU professors on site for course counselling
- Students from the first immersion program class graduated from grade nine.
- Graduations ceremonies held for daycare, Kindergarten, Grade three immersion, grade nine, grade 12 at Chief Allison Bernard Memorial High School and Unama'ki TEC

- Teachers certified for Mi'kmaq Immersion through program offered through St. F.X.
- Early Childhood Educators certified through programs offered through NSCC
- Construction started on youth health center in Chief Allison M Bernard Memorial High School
- Commitment to continue immersion program into grade 4, making grade 4 the transition year for English language
- School Board members create sub committees to focus on Mi'kmaq language preservation, anti bullying strategy and student referral
- Staff retirements: Marjorie Johnson, Helen Dennis, Anita Tatlock, Evelyn Toney, Patrick Johnson,
- New Mi'kmaq language instruction position created to ensure students have more time for Mi'kmaq language/cultural instruction
- New hires for grade 6, grade 2, grade 4 immersion transition, kindergarten english and immersion, learning centers.

Departmental Setbacks this quarter:

No setbacks to report this quarter



Eskasoni Gaming Centre Highlights

The Eskasoni Gaming Centre opened on August 17, 2010. And represents a significant step by Eskasoni to take control over the community gaming Operations.

Site Manager – Keith Burchell
Site Assistant Manager – Margaret Poulette

The Eskasoni Gaming Centre has been open now for over a year. Over the past year the gaming centre has been concentrating a lot on advertising and promotions to spread the word that we are open.

A few different ways we advertised were:

- Taking out an Ad in the Cape Breton Travel Guide
- Creating rack cards and distributing throughout the area in Provincial Information Centres.
- Creating a poster and distributing them in local business
- Newspaper Advertising.
- Radio advertising, on several local radio stations.

- Sponsorship advertising.
- Hog Rally, including advertising and donating \$500 to the Children's Wish Foundation
- Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge, Advertising and we held a bike rally at the gaming centre where we hosted about 70 bikers in an afternoon visit.

A few different promotions were also held.

- Mother's day Promotion, giving away a patio set.
- Father's day Promotion, giving away a barbecue.
- 1 year anniversary, giving away two lap top packages. We had a cake cutting celebration with food and cake. And a Saturday night pizza party.
- The Gaming centre recently had two door signs installed to the outside of the doors which included our hours of operation and "OUR ESKASONI" logos. There is also a lighted sign

being put together now and we hope to see it at the bottom of the road attached to the Foodland Sign soon.

- The gaming Centre is maintaining about 24 full and part time Jobs including Security Jobs.

October is Responsible Gambling Month in Nova Scotia. Some staff will be attending a Responsible Gambling Conference in Halifax in early October. Responsible Gambling is a very important part of this industry. And as professionals we need know and share the myths and facts about Gambling. There will also be Responsible Gambling Training for all staff. And also a Customer interaction day will be held at the Gaming Centre for anyone who would like to learn a little more about the myths and facts of responsible Gambling. This will be advertised on ETV.

Eskasoni Gaming Centre			
Statement of Revenue and Expenses			
April 1, 2011 to July 31, 2011			
		August 17,2010 to March 31,2011	April 1,2011 to July 31,2011
Revenue:			
Video lottery terminal net revenue	\$	1,710,982	\$ 1,006,546
ABM commissions		11,706	6,294
		1,722,688	1,012,840
Less share for Eskasoni Gaming Commission		(799,398)	(473,715)
Less share for Atlantic Lottery Corporation		(111,883)	(59,117)
Net revenue		811,407	480,008
Expenses:			
Salaries and employee benefits		152,833	86,176
Rent		48,000	24,000
Security		114,405	61,628
Office and telephone		17,394	1,835
Building operation		16,525	8,926
Administration		16,000	8,000
Cash courier		8,990	5,966
Advertising and promotion		5,724	6,998
Project development costs		19,427	2,880
General		17,784	5,411
Renovations, furniture and equipment		392,785	-
Total expenses		809,867	211,820
Profit for the period	\$	1,540	\$ 268,188

Central Bldg Supplies and suppliers have sponsored information sessions for our local contractors to upgrade their knowledge on products and proper installation.

The following information sessions were held at the EFWC.

- Atlantic Windows - April 11, 2011
- Ico Roofing - May 24, 2011
- Mitten Vinyl Siding - June 15, 2011

Upcoming workshops/sessions will posted on ETV and our website.

Construction:

Ministerial Loan Guarantees have been approved for the Fourteen (14) single unit project and Five



(5) split entries. Construction will commence within the next couple of weeks.

Pending Ministerial Loan Guarantee for duplex.

Eskasoni Tobacco Wholesale

Director/Manager: Levi Denny

Current Staff:

- Lisa Denny, Administrative Assistant
- Charlotte Young, Store Clerk
- Roger Stevens, Inventory Assistant

population increase, the quota for tobacco also increases.

Departmental Goals for next Quarter:

The goals of the department are to maintain the youth programs currently supported through this department, to provide a service to the community, and to reduce the deficit.

Departmental Finances:

Departmental finances are as per audit findings for this quarter.

Departmental Highlights/Accomplishments this Quarter:

This department continued to provide financial support the NADACA Boys and Girls Club (the dance program) and to Inkin's programs which includes movie night, skiing, community dances, and the swim program. This has been on-going for approximately 11 years. The community rink is supported by revenues generated through this department.

Departmental Setbacks this Quarter (if Any):

There are no setbacks experiences during this quarter.

Departmental Issues and Trends:

Tobacco quota is based on population. As the



Eskasoni Mental Health Services Crisis & Referral Centre and Tui'kn Case Management/Mental Wellness/RSS Teams

Director/Manager: Daphne Hutt MacLeod

Current Staff: Leta Bernard, Tom Sylliboy, Sandra Gouthro, Mallery Sylliboy, Dion Denny, MR Gould, Daniel Morris, Jeannine Paul, Semisel Stevens, Ruby Paul, Bridget Denny, Bernice Marr, Michael R Denny, John Denny Sylliboy, Jai Lewis, Noella Fitzgerald, Norma Gould, Veronica Bernard, Jane Francis, Arnold Sylliboy. Practicum students: Carrie Paul and Lindsay Bernard

Departmental Highlights/Accomplishments this Quarter:

- As Chair's of the NYPD-E, a volunteer committee comprised of all agencies and organizations involved with youth, organized the Goat Island Easter Egg Hunt on April 25, 2011.
- Participating in the Internationally recognized Dalhousie University Resiliency Project
- Sought and received funding for two new trailer portables for Mental Health and Aboriginal Head Start Departments following the condemning of the old facilities.
- Health Canada will assume responsibility for demolition of existing unsafe trailer portables
- Presented locally, regionally and nationally on the new Tui'kn Case Management/Mental Wellness Team and the amalgamation of Eskasoni's Mental Health Services (including the First Nation's Mental Wellness Working Group on April 12, 2011 and the National 12Th Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Care Conference in Halifax on June 24th, 2011)
- Continue to operate and provide Community-based Case Management/Mental Wellness/Residential School Survivor's Teams in each of the five Unama'ki communities with participation from approximately 120 on and off community based agencies/organizations
- Assisted with discussions regarding the New Health Centre for Eskasoni.
- Assisted with securing a Youth Health Centre for Eskasoni Youth. To be located in the current Allison Bernard High School. Renovations to the existing

- library are currently underway.
- Met with 13 Nova Scotia First Nation's Chief's, Premier and Tripartite Official's regarding short and long term strategies to address mental health services.
- All Mental Health staff attended Privacy training held in Eskasoni as part of a Tui'kn Partnership initiative.
- Participating on the organizing committee for the national Pro Social Rehabilitation Conference being held in Membertou on September 26th-29th, 2011
- All Mental Health Staff were re-certified in St. John's Ambulance First Aid
- Participated in organizing and providing support services to the CBU Residential School Survivor Art Gallery Exhibit 'Where are the Children event on June 1st and 2nd, 2011.
- Participated in the Eskasoni Drug Strategy Planning session (June 20, 2011 and July 25th, 2011)
- Supervised the written examinations of potential new St. Thomas University BSW students
- Participating as part of the organizing committee in the National Mental Wellness Team Conference being held in Victoria British Columbia on October 17th -19th, 2011.
- Interviewed by the National Centre for Excellence in Youth Mental Health and Addictions Programming.
- Are in discussions with National First Nation's Inuit Health Ottawa office regarding a Pilot Demonstration Project regarding mental Health Assessment and validation tools.
- Assisting ECRY, Band Staff, and summer students in the organization of teams for the Summer Games.
- Participated in providing staff and funding to the Eskasoni Warriors...Championship winners for the second year in a row in the Dragon Boat Festival in support of Breast Cancer.
- Provided support to Miss Teen Cape Breton/Miss

Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission

Director/Manager: Thomas Johnson

Departmental Highlights/Accomplishments this Quarter:

- Environmental Monitoring – Eskasoni First Nation is in negotiation with Environment Canada and the NS Department of the Environment to establish a weather station within the community. The weather station will provide accurate weather for the community as well as the East Bay portion of the Bras d'Or Lakes. This will be the first weather station set up in a First Nations Reserve across Canada;
- Developed the AFS agreement based on the new DFO template; no changes to the agreements content were made;
- Gaspereau fishery sampling provides age and size information that help the fishers maintain a sustainable fishery;
- CAMP (Community Aquatic Monitoring Program) takes place once per month from June to September and lets us see what aquatic species call the shores of Eskasoni home;
- Training – Completion of CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) training which provides information about the health of rivers in the community.
- Committees and workshops - Attending meetings and providing support to committees such as the Eskasoni Environmental Sustainability Committee, the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Planning Initiative and the Collaborative salmon Initiative.



Meetings with DFO and other departments to pursue avenues of funding; and
- Monitor development activities within Eskasoni and work with those involved to prevent disruption of fish or fish habitat.

Departmental Setbacks this Quarter (if Any):

No Setbacks this Quarter

Departmental Goals for next Quarter:

- To follow the work plan developed for the 2011 – 2012 AFS agreement. This includes continuing monitoring fish habitat, assist in sampling of the Gaspereau fishery, and distribute tags and gather catch information.

Departmental Finances:

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.



Eskasoni Commercial Fishing

Director/Manager: Leonard Denny

Second quarter from Crane Cove Seafoods

Snow Crab
3,185,998 lbs - 100% landed

Note: all crab was landed 2 months ahead of season closure

Shrimp
2,159,068 lbs - 87% landed

Note: Set to land balance of shrimp prior to December 31st 2011

Ground fish
2,155,544 lbs - 100% landed

Government Grants/Projects Received April 1st to Sept 30th - 2011

Component 2.3 of ACIFI \$274,682

Covered Salaries and benefits for CEO, CFO, Operations Supervisor and cost of ISO Certification
Total Fishermen salaries April 1st to Sept 30th 2011 - \$3,100,000

Transfers to the Eskasoni Band Council from April 1st to Sept 30th 2011 – Total \$4,100,000

New Vessel being built in Yarmouth for the coming 2012 snow crab season – Vessel is 55 feet by 27 ft and can carry over 70,000 lbs of snow crab

Eskasoni's Grapplers Light up Las Vegas

In Las Vegas, Nevada, it was headlined as the "BEST GRAPPLERS IN AMERICA'S WEST COMPETE THIS SATURDAY IN VEGAS." For three local boys from Eskasoni it was a chance of a lifetime to compete with the best in their category in the field of Mix Martial Arts (MMA).

On July 9 2011, Grapplers Quest hosted the 20th West Grappling and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Open. The event featured 300 amateur and professional MMA's.

Preparation for Las Vegas was a total commitment that took 4 months. Eskasoni's MMA Amateurs, Thomas Johnson Jr., took two youths, Merle Marshall, Gerard (G) Francis, under his mentorship and trained them aggressively in the skill of MMA.

The one thing the boys lacked when they began training was a place with heat. Gerard's father, Sheldon was so proud of his son's commitment that he resolved that issue quickly when he used his own resources to convert his old MacMooney's Store to now the MacMooney's Gym.

Sheldon told his son Gerard, "I'll do anything for you to pursue you dreams but promise me to stay drug and alcohol free."

The intense 4 months of preparation, through 4 hours of training, proper diet and exercise prepared

the Eskasoni grapplers for amazing results even they were not prepared for.

Tom Johnson lost out in the bronze medal while Merle Marshall blames a stupid mistake for losing out in the gold medal match but took home silver.

Gerard Francis came home with gold when he beat his opponent in the first round with a bare naked choke. The Boys and acting coach Sheldon wanted to thank the community for their support and a big thank you also goes out to Eskasoni Chief and Council and all the sponsors.

Sheldon said, "MacMooney Gyms will always have its door open for those who want to lead an active, healthy, drug and alcohol free lifestyle." He added, "With the success of our boys maybe someday we will have a permanent place to train future MMA's."



Teen Nova Scotia – Erica Stevens in her participation in the Miss Teen Canada World's Pageant held July 9-15, 2011.

- Participated by providing staff for the Mr. Eskasoni and Summer Fest activities.

- Are exploring the possibility of seconding a MA Clinical Therapist from the Cape Breton District Health Authority to join the Tui'kn Residential School Survivor Team.

- As part of a contractual agreement, we organized and facilitated a UNSI Youth Gathering for 120 youth from each of the 7 UNSI bands. This event was held on July 19th and 20th, 2011 at Dundee Resort.

- As part of a contractual agreement, provided Mental Health First Aid and ASIST training in each of the 7 UNSI Bands

- Provided and completed a Men's Intervention program in Eskasoni in collaboration with the Family Treatment/Healing centre

- Five staff members approved for LEAD training...offered locally in collaboration with Tracy Menge's department and NSCC

- Have representation on the CBU Board of Governors, Cape Breton District Health Authority Board of Director's and the NS Mental Health Strategy

- Concluded four practicum BSW students from Dalhousie and St. Thomas University

- Are continuing to conduct and receive referrals for Case Management/Mental Wellness Team clients.

- Are providing services to Residential School Survivor's in each of the five CB FN communities

- Are providing Cultural Support activities/services to local schools (Provincial and Band)

- Are continuing to explore a request from the CB Regional-Victoria School Board to provide mental health support services

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to Eskasoni Youth enrolled at Iona school.

- Two staff members providing a Parenting Program in Eskasoni .

- Two staff members collaborating with the CB Regional hospital staff to put on a 12 week Strengthening Families mental health and addictions family program

- Currently planning the 7th Annual Youth Culture Camp.....Stay tuned for dates and details!

- Departmental Setbacks this Quarter (if Any):

- Continued funding challenges (being addressed) Departmental Issues and Trends:

- Exploring feasibility of provincial roll out of Crisis and case management services to all 13 First Nation's communities

- Exploring opportunities to create more youth programming opportunities and events that will have dedicated sport/recreation support staff

- Engaging in a community awareness campaign regarding services and programs available to community members.

- Initiating a "mental health disorder" anti-stigma and educational campaign

- Attempting to attract partners to promote our Mental health database program.



Eskasoni Health Center



Director/Manager: Sharon Rudderham

Current Staff: Eskasoni Health Centre

Departmental Highlights/Accomplishments this Quarter:

- Eskasoni Health staff and community members participated in numerous training sessions
- Privacy training
- Harm Reduction training- workshop on Hep ABC 101
- Workshop on HIV, Hep C and blood borne pathogens
- Nurses Immunization Conference
- Workshop on Pharmacology and drugs of abuse and how they affect the Brain
- Healthy Living Challenge camp for young girls in Eskasoni
- Asthma Camp for Unamaki children with Asthma



- Presentation on the development of Eskasoni Community based Pap Resources and pamphlets to the National Community Health Nurses Conference, Halifax.
- Womens Pap Wellness Day on May 18
- Cardiologists Dr.Martin Gardner and Team from IWK community clinic
- Participation at AFN national injury prevention meeting
- Participation FNIH Strategic Planning session
- Participation in the identification of community priorities that will be addressed in the roll out of Health integration funding in collaboration with DHA's and provinces. The top issue: Mental health
- We are pleased to announce the Hiring of Julie Poulette-Francis as our new community health nurse.
- We have hired several summer students, they have been focussing on providing health education and awareness for the community newsletter and supporting fundraising for the Dragon Boat Event for Breast Cancer and the Eskasoni-Mikmaw Crisis Line.
- We have secured funding from Health Canada to support the rental of 2 trailers that will house mental health services and head start programs for 2 years.
- We have secured commitment from Health Canada to support the development of conceptual designs for the construction of a new health centre.
- We have secured funding for Unamaki communities to support additional education around HIV and Immunization.

- The Eskasoni Health Advisory Committee has been established, a volunteer board of health professionals and community members to address priorities and issues related to the health of the community.
- Eskasoni and the other 4 Unamaki communities leadership in June signed a historic Data sharing agreement with the province of Nova Scotia to allow our first nation communities access to provincial health data that will allow us to better plan and measure impacts or prioritize health services and programs for our community.
- Nurses have successfully modernized and synthesized all Immunization records for improved access and use.
- Diabetics were invited to participate in Retinal eye screening clinic by Dr.K. Mayer.
- Health staff participated as resource presenters and planning of UNSI Youth conference in Dundee, which was a great success with over 150 youth participating.
- Injury prevention- car seat safety and measurement clinic.
- Completion of Annual reporting requirements for FNIH- Health Canada
- Completion of Renovations for Immunization and Home Care Programs office spaces and relocation of Mch-home visitor program and IT.

Departmental Setbacks this Quarter (if Any):

- Cost overruns in Medical transportation
- Funding commitment Issues for Crisis line and case mgmt.
- Health and safety issues for Early Intervention-Child and me programs.
- Demand and wait times for Eskasoni children being referred to Early Intervention program.
- Need for improvement with follow-up hearing and speech screening for children.
- Need for the completion of an Evaluation of the Crisis line and Case management for proof of the effectiveness of these programs and services, in order to secure sustainable funding commitments from govt.
- Increase awareness in community of 811- nursing help line
- Increase awareness of 1-888-379-2099 of Mikmaw –Eskasoni Crisis line.
- Need for Ongoing renovations to address space issues and mechanical issues in health centre.



Departmental Issues and Trends:

- Improving Nurse charting and access to the Electronic Patient Record/chart for the Home and community care nurses.
- Finding a new location for the Mommy and Me program, early intervention parent and tot program and the Judo program. (portables destruction)
- Collaboration with Healing our Nations on Sexual Health Survey.
- Collaboration with Dalhousie and CBU on pain research project, related to Nursing and management of pain.

Departmental Goals for next Quarter:

- Implementation of streamline data entry into our electronic patient record/chart
- Implementation of Wound care mgmt and supplies data collection tool.
- FASD conference being planned for Sept.9
- Women Wellness Pap Day being planned for Sept. 10
- Cholesterol and Blood pressure Clinic being planned for Sept.8
- Development of Eskasoni Community Health Plan and revision of program work plans.
- Unamaki Youth Cultural Camp
- Eskasoni Drug Strategy Planning and implemtation
- Coordination and staffing of Potlotek Nursing Cabin- mission weekend.?

OTHER ITEMS:

- Chief and Council and the Staff of the Eskasoni Health Centre recognized Roselita Herney for over 20 years of service and dedication to our community with her retirement as Community Health Nurse.