



FISHER RIVER CREE NATION
2016 PROGRESS REPORT

*New Possibilities.
Real Leadership.
Vibrant Community.*

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OUR MISSION

It is the mission of our leadership to provide quality services and programs that are coordinated and responsive to the needs of our people. All services and programs will be aimed at making our community progressive and self sustaining, while recognizing that our treaty relationship is paramount.



MEMBER PORTFOLIO



Chief
David Crate



Councillor Carl
Cochrane



Councillor Darrell
Thaddeus



Councillor Shirley A.
Cochrane



Councillor Vince
Crate

Chief David Crate

Finance
Capital Projects
Land Claims
Drug Strategy
Employment & Training
Emergency Preparedness
Inter-governmental Relations
Day Care/Headstart/ECD
Economic Development (FRED)
Gaming
Heath Services
Land Management
Natural Resources/Environment

Councillor Carl Cochrane

Finance
Policy Development
Capital Projects
Land Claims
Drug Strategy
Employment & Training
Emergency Preparedness
Inter-governmental Relations
Gaming
Justice/Policing
Natural Resources/Environment
Public Works
Sports & Recreation
Day care/Headstart/ECD
Education
Healing Centre
Economic Development (FRED)
Land Management
Youth/Jr. C&C
Housing Authority

Councillor Shirley A. Cochrane

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Capital Projects
Land Claims
Drug Strategy
Employment & Training
Emergency Preparedness
Inter-governmental Relations
Child & Family Services
Education
Health Services
Healing Centre
Personal Care Home
Land Management

Councillor Vince Crate

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Gaming
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Natural Resources/Environment
Public Works
Sports & Recreation
Child & Family Services
Health Services
Social Development

Councillor Darrell Thaddeus

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Day care/Headstart/ECD
Public Works
Personal Care Home
Sports & Recreation
Land Management
Social Development
Youth/Jr. C&C
Housing Authority



Fisher River
CREE NATION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

TANSI, WELCOME!

The last 12 months can be summed up as a time of drastic change. After a decade of Conservative rule, Canadians voted overwhelmingly in favour of change. The new Liberal government has promised more inclusivity, more accountability and improved services when it comes to First Nations. We have noticed changes in some areas, but other areas remain the same. We are however hopeful that for the first time, in a long time, the government in place will indeed consider our people, our culture, our history and our way of life and work collaboratively with First Nations to improve the lives of our people.

Similarly, at the provincial level, we welcomed a new government. It has been 16 years since Manitoba last had a Conservative government. What will this mean to our community? It's easy to speculate that there will be funding cuts. The province has reported a \$1 billion debt. However, in fairness, the government has not done anything to date, so we will wait and see and hope that our good relationship with government continues, regardless of who's in power.

The downside to a change of government, at either level, is that progress that has been made in certain areas will be lost as will the relationships forged over the years. We will essentially be starting over from scratch. However, we remain positive and look forward to working with both new governments on initiatives to benefit our community.

As always, with everything that we do, we are always striving to better ourselves and improve

the lives of those who have entrusted us with the honour of leading. We look to the future, ask ourselves where is it that we want to be, what are some of the things that we want to have achieved, and then we focus on what it takes to get us there, as a community.


While the road ahead might not be as clear as it once was due to the new political climate, one thing remains certain - we cannot succeed without your support, your participation and your counsel. When we stand together, we are stronger and when we are strong the possibilities are endless.

We are honoured and humbled by your continued support, and for that we are most grateful.

Sincerely,

Chief David Crate
on behalf of FRCN leadership





INFRASTRUCTURE AND MORE

Housing Update

The new committee began their term on April 1, 2016. They are Stewart Cochrane, Violet Sinclair, Pam Lapensee, Stephen Murdock and Fred G. Sinclair. They are tasked with guiding and directing housing administration, enhancing the level of accountability and reporting to the community.

New Units

Fisher River has been conditionally approved by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for four single family units, with construction scheduled to begin in 2016.

Once the Ministerial Loan Guarantee (MLG) is approved by Indigenous and Northern Affairs of Canada (INAC), the project will be considered fully approved.

Eight housing units were approved during the 2015/16 fiscal year and will be completed shortly. The selection process has been completed for these units.

Is your application current?

It is extremely important that your housing application is kept updated with the most current information because the selection process will be completed prior to start of construction.

You can update your housing file by meeting with the Housing Manager and reviewing the file. You then have the opportunity to make any necessary changes before the Housing Authority reviews and rates your eligibility.

Applications can be picked up at the office and is available on our website www.fisherriver.ca



Staff Updates

Candace Garson, Housing Assistant for the past four years, is now the new Housing Manager. She is currently taking on-line courses to obtain her First Nation Housing Manager Certificate.

As of June 2016, Cyndi Asham has taken over the role of Housing Assistant.

The two youth terms, funded by CMHC, ended in March 2016. Jordan Murdock, the housing data base entry clerk, has completed his task of entering the basic standard information needed for each housing unit. The housing database will have information entered on a daily basis, from work completed, to daily work orders, to future work that may be needed.

The other youth position was filled by Alex Murdock, who was a light maintenance worker working with the Fisher River Builders. His duties included doing basic maintenance, especially for our Elders. We have submitted an application, for similar positions, for this year.

Monthly Meeting Structure

The Housing Authority has scheduled monthly meetings to discuss, review and approve various requests and issues.

The structure is the same for each monthly meeting. During the morning session, The Housing Authority meets with community members who have requested meetings to address their concerns. Once their concerns are heard, more discussion or detail may be needed before the issue is addressed. In the afternoon, the Housing Authority reviews and discusses business matters.

Cost Sharing Program

The number of homeowners using the cost sharing program has increased significantly this year. If you would like to access the Cost Sharing Program please submit a written request, listing specific details, along with estimates for both material and labour expenses.

The request will be reviewed at the following scheduled monthly meeting and homeowners will receive a response letter in the mail about the decision. For more information, please contact the Housing Department.

Street Naming and House Numbering Project and the 911 System

In the new fiscal year, the street naming and house numbering project will start up again, which will be in connection with the operation of the 911 system.

Community meetings were held for the project to inform and obtain feedback from community members in regards to the street naming.

We are in the process of obtaining more information from suppliers to complete the first phase, which will be to finalize the signs, in English, and have them put up. More notices will be posted as progress is being made.

First Nations Market Housing Fund

The Housing Authority met with Fund representative, Gail Joe, in January to go over the revised agreement between the Fund and FRCN to determine whether any changes were needed.

She also came out to the community to do a presentation for members at the housing workshop on May 25, 2016, about the options available.

Community members may utilize this program for new housing and any major renovation, after going through a credit check with one of the bank's lenders.

More information will be given once the agreement is finalized. Notices of meeting dates will be posted and all community members will be encouraged to attend.

GEOTHERMAL UNITS

In total, 161 housing units have had the geothermal technology installed through the PAYS (Power Smart) program. Since 2014, all 12 new units constructed, have been equipped with geothermal technology. Any homeowners interested in having the system installed are to call the band office and leave their name with the housing department.

Hydro Direct Install program

We have installed approximately 120 energy efficient kits into homes in the community. Any homeowners interested in receiving the energy efficient kits are to call the band office and leave their name with the housing department. We can have them installed or homeowners can pick up the kits after signing a form.

Stay in the loop

On May 25, 2016, a housing workshop was held, and it is our intent to hold as many workshops as possible to keep community members informed and receive feedback.

In the near future, community meetings will be held to inform members about the major issues in housing. The housing policy review is still in the revision process and once completed, members will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback.

Sharing information with each other is the best knowledge to keeping us strong.

Looking ahead

The Matrimonial Real Property Act still needs to be addressed with our community members. Since this is such a complex issue, it is expected that it will be a lengthy process. Research is already being conducted by the housing manager as well as networking with other communities who have already started this process.

The Matrimonial Real Property Act came into place in December 2014 and Fisher River Cree Nation will continue to fall under these regulations until a Fisher River Matrimonial Real Property Law is approved by the community.

Chief lobbies Ottawa for housing project

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June 8, 2016*

Fisher River Cree Nation Chief David Crate believes he has a solution to Manitoba's on-reserve housing crisis.

Crate was in Ottawa this week to lobby the federal government to help fund a national centre of excellence for on-reserve housing, which is to provide training for reserve residents on sustainable home construction, housing operations and maintenance.

"This could have a really positive impact," said Crate after two days of meetings with politicians and staff.

The plan would be to partner with Atco Sustainable Communities Inc. to build a training centre in Fisher River. It would provide a classroom setting to train band members in better housing management systems, as well as maintenance schedules and work, to prolong the life of on-reserve housing.

A second component would have band residents build modular homes in Fisher River, which would be shipped back to their home reserve for installation.

About 40 people would be hired to do the training, and 150 homes could be built in the first year.

Fisher River and ATCO are seeking funding for the training. Crate said they have their own resources for the construction of the centre.

A federal report last year concluded Manitoba reserves have the deepest deficit of housing in any province, with \$1.9 billion needed to address the issues of overcrowding and uninhabitable housing. Only \$50 million was budgeted for housing on all Manitoba reserves this year, and \$150 million nationally.

Almost one-third of Manitoba's indigenous people live in poor quality housing. Crate said his community – considered one of the better ones in Manitoba – needs 200 new homes. This year they will be lucky to build 10.

Roads and More..

Townsite Loop Update

Phase 1 of the reconstruction of the Townsite Loop was initiated in summer 2012. Phase 2 of the road reconstruction was completed in fall 2014, with the exception of the to surface chip sealing. In summer 2015, the Townsite Loop reconstruction project was finished with the final application of the chip seal surface treatment. The overall project budget was \$1.27 million. The project successfully allowed for significant involvement and training of Fisher River Cree Nation community members.

Landfill Road

JR Cousin Consultants Ltd. has been retained to complete the design of 3.7 km upgrade of the landfill road. The design will include a full depth reconstruction of the road with a chip seal surface treatment. Drainage improvements along the road will also be undertaken, including ditch regrading and culvert replacements. The survey work has already been completed and the design of the road will be ready for a spring tender should funding become available for construction.

FRCN Motel

A new motel on the Townsite Loop is underway. The design and construction of the motel is being completed by ATCO Sustainable Communities. The parking lot and site servicing design, and project management is being undertaken JR Cousin Consultants Ltd. Construction of the motel is scheduled for early spring 2016.



TRADITIONAL TERRITORY & STEWARDSHIP

The Journey to Expand Fisher Bay Provincial Park

The quest to add additional protected areas to FRCN's Ochiwasahow or Fisher Bay provincial park will be entering the next phase in the coming months when we begin a community and stakeholder engagement process. We aim to reach out to all interested in sharing their knowledge and desires for the lands and waters within our Traditional Use Area (see map).

“the park provides core protection for the Fisher Bay region but is not large enough to capture the regional diversity of environmental features.”

When the Fisher Bay provincial park was first established at our request in 2011, the boundaries FRCN proposed with our partner, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), were not honoured by the province and as a result the park is much smaller than what we asked for. Covering 840 square kilometers, or twice the size of Winnipeg, the park provides core protection for the Fisher Bay region but is not large enough to capture the regional diversity of environmental features. Based on ecological and economic studies and analysis of cultural values in the region, the current boundaries fall short of those needed to protect nature (including healthy populations of moose and other wildlife), culture (including traditional use of the land) and opportunities for Fisher River Cree Nation to continue to develop sustainable economic opportunities that are rooted in a healthy boreal forest ecosystem. >



Both rights-based and non-rights based hunting are allowed in the existing park and the intention is to maintain this for any protected area expansions. Greater habitat protection will bolster the region as a stronghold for wildlife populations that are under growing threat elsewhere in the Interlake and beyond. Adding lands protected from industrial developments, which also limit road development, will strengthen these forests and wetlands as a breeding sanctuary for local wildlife and a reliable source of traditional food and medicines. All traditional activities are encouraged in the existing park and will be in any additional protected lands.

Protecting additional landscape in the region will help greatly with Lake Winnipeg recovery efforts. The waters that flow through the Fisher Bay region are filtered by the peat rich forests and wetlands before entering the lake. This helps to reduce excess nutrients (namely phosphorus) that cause the mass algae blooms that plague Manitoba's largest water body. Without ensuring adequate protection



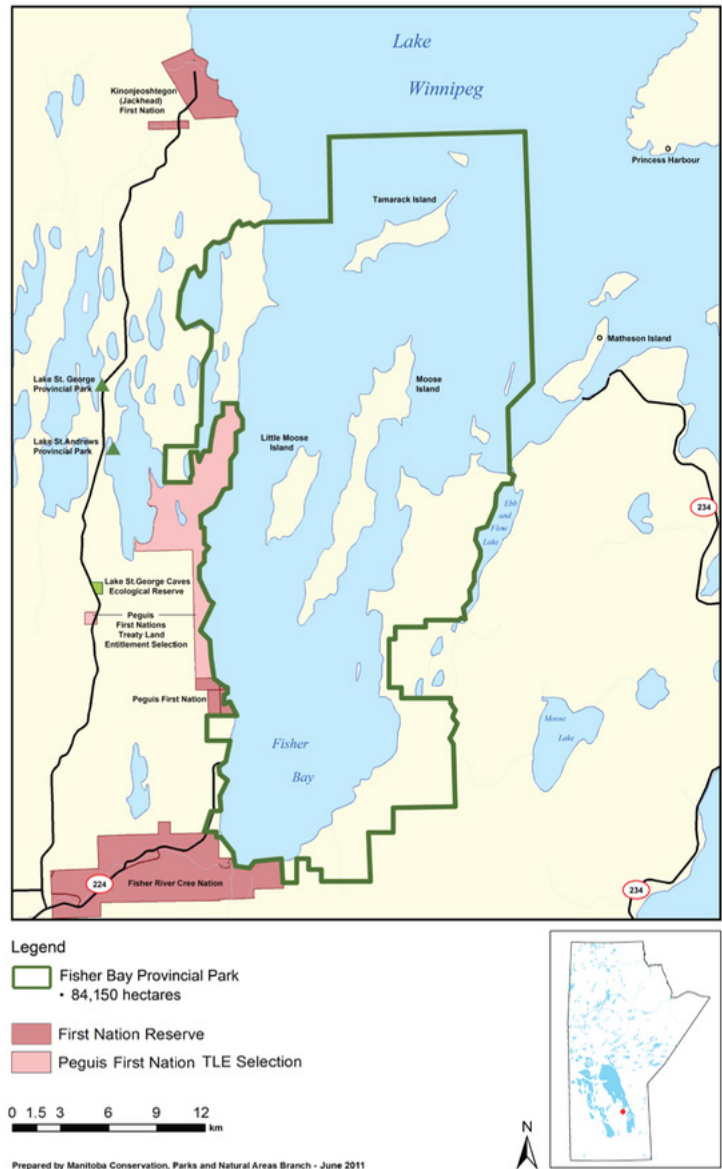
Photo credit: Ron Thiessen, CPAWS

Located within the Interlake region of Manitoba, the land surrounding Fisher bay is remarkably undisturbed despite its relative short distance from urban, industrial and agricultural development.

for the boreal forest and wetlands in the region, the provincial goal to reduce excess phosphorus entering Lake Winnipeg by 50% will be increasingly difficult to achieve. Protecting the land protects the waters and the species and fisheries that depend on it.

The approach we are undertaking is to gather as much knowledge and as much information about the interests of local people. After this step, we will assemble what we have learned and develop a realistic proposal to the Manitoba government for expanding protections in the Fisher Bay region. This may be in the form of adding provincial park lands or other protected area designations that would serve the same purposes.

Every shoreline provides glimpses of the thriving biological diversity found here. Expansive beaches line both mainland and islands. Fresh tracks are left in the sand by wolves, moose, foxes and bears passing in and out of old growth forests. Water birds continually wing by, traveling from nesting colonies to feeding grounds while songbirds bring the canopy to life with their calls. The lands and waters offer habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species including little brown bats, piping plover, Golden-winged warbler, shortjaw cisco, swamp pink, round-leaved bog orchid. Expanded protections in the Fisher Bay region would maintain much needed habitat for moose; a species that has seen significant declines throughout the southern portion of the province, including in the Interlake region. Habitat availability is one factor that will ensure the opportunity for sustained harvest into the future.



“Every shoreline provides glimpses of the thriving biological diversity found here”



Peat Moss Update Sunterra Horticulture

On March 23, 2015, Sunterra was granted Environment Act License Number 2288RR for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a peat mine within Fisher River Cree Nation ("FRCN") traditional territory. Through the direction of Chief and Council, Boudreau Law via letter dated April 15, 2015 and pursuant to Section 27 of the Environment Act, appealed the licensing decision.

Fisher River Cree Nation will be affected by the issuance of the license and may be qualified to proceed with the appeal. In addition, the director's decision to not recommend a public hearing pursuant to section 10(7) of the same act was also appealed.

On April 24, 2015, former Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship Gord Mackintosh acknowledged FRCN's appeal and indicated that a response would be forthcoming.

Nothing further was heard from the Manitoba Government. On February 19, 2016 Boudreau Law wrote to Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship Tom NevaKshonoff requesting why there has been such an inordinate delay in hearing the appeal. To date, no response to the latest letter has not been received.

Due to the April 19, 2016 Provincial Election, Chief and Council are awaiting the swearing in of a new Minister and after that a letter requesting movement on the appeal will be sent forthwith.

Specific Claim

The Case Management process continues. Last summer, Canada requested, and was granted an opportunity to engage an expert to undertake analysis of historical acreages of the Southwest and Southeast Additions to the FRCN Reserve. This expert report was served upon FRCN in December 2015. Canada's expert makes some assumptions that are not necessarily on point and Council expects to challenge some of the assumptions relied upon by Canada's expert. Chief and Council have recently engaged the services of Stevens Surveys along with HTFC Planning & Design to provide a Reply Expert Report. It is anticipated that this work on the expert report should be done by the end of summer 2016.



On July 7, 2015 Chief and Council enacted the Fisher River Cree Nation Tobacco Retailers By-Law (By-Law No. 1). The By-Law sets out the requirement that all retailers must not deal in, sell, offer for sale or distribute tobacco products on the Reserve until a Tobacco Tax Agreement has been entered into with the Fisher River Cree Nation. A copy of this By-Law is available for public viewing on FRCN's website.

At present, ten (10) draft By-Laws have been provided to Chief and Council for their review and consideration to date. Those draft By-Laws are as follows:

- FRCN Animal Control By-law
- FRCN Business By-Law;
- FRCN Trespass By-Law;
- FRCN Solvent By-Law;
- FRCN Recreational Access By-Law;
- FRCN Noxious Weed By-Law;
- FRCN Noise By-Law;
- FRCN Littering By-Law;
- FRCN Disorder By-Law;
- FRCN Parental Accountability By-Law;

Work is also underway on three additional By-Laws requested by Chief and Council. Those By-Laws include:

- FRCN Daycare By-Law and Regulations;
- FRCN Traffic By-Law (2016);
- FRCN Residency By-Law;

Once the By-Laws have been reviewed and finalized to Chief and Council's satisfaction, it is anticipated that community sessions will be scheduled to present the proposed By-Laws to the FRCN membership.

Cemetery Project

Over the past several years Carole O'Brien has been working with Fisher River on mapping old burial sites. She visited Fisher River last summer during which she met with several people who helped locate approximately 20 unmarked burial sites.

O'Brien provided them with maps showing the marked and unmarked graves that were created from the geophysical survey that was done in September 2014, as well as an information sheet explaining how the archaeology work was done. The document also contained information about the new cemetery design.

As the team worked, they discovered inconsistencies between the archaeologist's map and what they could see on the ground. Following this, the maps were corrected and made more user friendly.

In January 2016, O'Brien met again with the archaeologist (David McLeod) to go over the new maps and he suggested that the 'old section' of the cemetery should be scanned. He believed this would help clarify some of the inconsistencies in the maps.

With a green light from Chief and Council, O'Brien submitted an application to Heritage Manitoba to do this work. The application was accepted and funding was received.

The old section was scanned on June 23 and the the archaeologist is currently analyzing the data.

NEXT STEPS

- Finishing the maps
- Updating the database to add the names of the previously unmarked graves
- Updating the FRCN burial register and find the grid location of as many of the names as possible in the register



CROWN CONSULTATION ON PEGUIS TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT SELECTIONS

Peguis First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement (PFN); In 2006, PFN signed its Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreement with Canada and Manitoba.

Since the signing of the agreement, PFN have selected several parcels of Crown land within FRCN's Traditional Territory, which is outlined on the interim Traditional Territory Notice Area map that forms part of the Consultation Protocol agreement entered into by Manitoba and Fisher River Cree Nation on August 7, 2013.

Legal Obligations Of The Crown Regarding Consultation: The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the Crown has a legal duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Metis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of an aboriginal or treaty right.

This duty to consult applies to the setting aside of land under TLE, a fact that both Canada and Manitoba have acknowledged.

Requests for Crown Consultation: Considering the fact that the FRCN Reserve is a very close neighbor of PFN, it should have been obvious to the province that FRCN must be consulted during the drafting of the Peguis TLE Agreement. This, however, did not happen.

Furthermore, FRCN still has not been consulted by the Crown (neither Manitoba nor Canada) regarding the Crown lands selected by Peguis after the TLE agreement was signed.

Several of the TLE selections are located within the areas traditionally and historically used by the FRCN in the exercise of their aboriginal and treaty rights. Chief and Council have concluded that the setting aside of these Crown lands will infringe on FRCN's aboriginal and treaty rights.

In letters dated May 13, 2010 from Chief David Crate and Councillors Vincent Crate, Carl Cochrane, Dion McKay and Darrell Thaddeus to the Honourable Charles Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs for Canada, and to Manitoba ministers Honourable Bill Blaikie, Minister of Conservation and Honourable Eric Robinson, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA), Chief and Council informed the ministers that FRCN members hold aboriginal and treaty rights in their traditional territory in which PFN TLE selections have been made, and that the transfer of the selected lands to Canada for the use and benefit of only PFN will result in an impact, derogation and infringement of FRCN 's aboriginal and treaty rights.

The letters further requested that government officials immediately meet with FRCN to establish a Crown consultation process and agreement, and to provide information regarding implementation of the PFN TLE Agreement.

Minister Strahl provided a letter of response dated August 4, 2010 in which he expressed assurance that regional officials would exercise due diligence with respect to “the Department’s Additions to Reserve Policy (which) requires that other claims asserting Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights must be considered in all cases as part of INAC’s due diligence in assessing lands to be set aside as reserve.”

Minister Strahl’s letter also noted that Manitoba has a role in making Crown land available for selection by treaty land entitlement First Nations.

No letters of response were received from either Minister of the previous government of Manitoba.

Meeting with Province and Second Request for Crown Consultation

On April 2, 2012 Chief and Council met with representatives of MB Conservation’s Lands Branch, and ANA. At the meeting it was once again requested that the province begin the consultation process, beginning with development of a consultation plan, budget and agreement as outlined in the province’s Crown-Aboriginal Consultation Participation Fund policy.

MB’s Director of Lands, advised that they would first need to determine if consultation is required, which would require provincial staff to do an assessment to determine if the TLE selections would adversely impact FRCN’s Treaty and Aboriginal rights. In order to carry out their assessment they would need information from FRCN as to specific concerns for each site.

The director was advised that Chief and Council had already concluded that transfer of the lands to PFN would adversely impact FRCN’s Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and that this was communicated in a letter to the Minister. She was further advised that the purpose of MB’s Consultation Community Participation Program was to provide resources for the community to identify specific areas of concern and potential impacts, which often includes site visits.

It was emphasized that Chief and Council could not provide site specific issues until a consultation process was undertaken for the purpose of determining those potential site specific impacts.

A letter was sent a short time after the meeting, on May 9, 2012, to the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of ANA describing how the selections would adversely impact FRCN’s Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. Chief and Council requested:

- a) that MB immediately undertake a meaningful consultation process with FRCN;
- b) that MB contact FRCN without delay to schedule a meeting to begin the consultation planning process;
- c) that MB work with FRCN to develop a consultation plan, agreement, budget and application for funding.; and
- d) that MB provide the previously requested information and other relevant documents regarding all TLE selections within the FRCN Interim Consultation Area.

Chief and Council did not receive a response from either of the provincial cabinet ministers. In early 2014, ANA advised FRCN that they believed Canada would be leading the Crown consultation process. A letter from Chief and Council to the Regional Director General of AANDC was sent on March 24, 2014 requesting confirmation. No response was received to that letter.

Failure of the Crown to Consult

In spite of the legal and moral obligations of the Crown to undertake meaningful consultation with FRCN, MB government officials have chosen to delay the consultation process since 2010.

Since the 2012 meeting, any hoped-for progress has not materialized; there was no action the first two years as Conservation and ANA debated who should lead the consultation, and for the past two years FRCN has been waiting for Canada to contact them to begin consultation, as ANA had informed them would occur.

Consultation Protocol Agreement

The Manitoba – Fisher River Cree Nation Consultation Protocol was signed by Manitoba and Fisher River Cree Nation on August 7, 2013 at a special ceremony at the FRCN Treaty Grounds.

Development of the Consultation Protocol Agreement involved considerable research and participation by Elders, Traditional Knowledge Holders, Healers, Hunters, Trappers and Fishers from the community.

A primary purpose of the protocol was to provide a clearly defined set of obligations, and processes to be followed by the parties with respect to any proposed decision, disposition, activity or action of the Crown that might affect the Area outlined on the FRCN Traditional Territory Notice Area Map. Section 4.3 of the Agreement relates to normal types of notices. Where a formal Crown consultation process is required, as per 4.2, the process is set out in greater detail in section 5.

- 4.2** Except where Manitoba decides to initiate consultation about a proposed decision or action in accordance with section 5, Manitoba will provide notice to Fisher River of any contemplated dispositions, allocations or authorizations respecting Crown land or resources in Fisher River's Traditional Territory.
- 4.3** The notice provided under subsection 4.2 will include:
- (a) Information on the contemplated Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization;
 - (b) A summary of comments relating to the Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization as identified by Manitoba during its internal processes;
 - (c) Subject to availability, an orthophotogrammetric based map of the site of the proposed Crown resource disposition, allocation or authorization along with a key map; and
 - (d) any other information or documents that the Parties may consider helpful in evaluating the proposed Crown land or resource disposition, allocation or authorization

Violation of Consultation Protocol Agreement

One of the obligations of Manitoba under the Protocol is that they notify FRCN regarding any proposed activity, disposition or decision affecting FRCN Traditional Territory. This has not happened with regards to TLE Selections. Manitoba, through the actions of MB Conservation Lands Branch officials, has blatantly ignored the terms of the protocol agreement and reneged on commitments made to Chief and Council.

In March Of 2016, the Director of Lands Branch was asked to provide a list of any TLE Selections that had been made in FRCN Traditional Territory since the list provided in 2012. The selections list was finally provided on April 8, 2016. It contained 76 selections, whereas the 2012 list contained only 25. There are no details on the list other than the site name and legal description of the land.

At the 2012 meeting with Fisher River Cree Nation Chief and Council, the Director had agreed to circulate FRCN for their comments on any new TLE selections that were received for Crown land in FRCN Traditional Territory. This was not done for the additional 50 or so Peguis TLE selections on the 2016 list that was provided in April of 2016.

Current Status: As of May 28, 2016:

- Chief and Council have received no communication from Canada regarding Crown consultation on the Peguis TLE selections;
- Chief and Council have not been included in the circular review process for TLE selections within their Traditional Territory Notice Area as required under the Consultation Protocol agreement, and as promised by the Director of Lands, and as believed by Chief and Council to also be a requirement under government policy;

In summary, there has been virtually no progress on this file since Chief and Council's initial letter of 2010 to Conservation Minister Blaikie, in which they informed him that the transfer of Crown lands selected in FRCN traditional territory would constitute an infringement of FRCN's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, and requested the province to begin a meaningful consultation process immediately.

Chief and Council are considering next steps, which may include meeting with the ministers of the new Manitoba government to explain their issues and seek their assistance in resolving them.

Crown Consultation and Accommodations:

Manitoba Hydro final licenses for Lake Winnipeg regulation and Jenpeg Generating Station

BACKGROUND

Manitoba Water Stewardship's Background Information Sheet states that the Lake Winnipeg Regulation (LWR) project was developed to achieve three main purposes: flood reduction on Lake Winnipeg, low water level support on the lake and enhancing power production on Nelson River.

On November 18, 1970 Manitoba Hydro (Hydro) was issued an Interim Licence for LWR, and on August 8, 1972 they were issued a Supplementary Interim Licence. In 2010 Hydro requested that Manitoba issue them a Final Licence for LWR.

Chief and Council explained to the MB staff that FRCN's traditional territory extended over the entire Lake Winnipeg and surrounding areas, including Norway House and north to York Factory, and that the map attached to the Consultation Protocol is an interim notice area for the vicinity of Fisher River; it does not represent FRCN's entire traditional territories.

Council described the adverse effects of high waters of Lake Winnipeg on FRCN members, and once again described an engineering study that determined a high percentage of the Reserve to be flood prone. Community members insist this had not been the case prior to the 1970s, and original fence posts still exist that show the lands that were historically used for hay and pasture lands.

Chief and Council reiterated their position from a previous meeting, that they would be requesting a considerable number of acres of Crown land to compensate for the loss of lands that are now flood prone, as there was a dire need for developable land for community expansion purposes.

Development of a consultation protocol, plan and budget were also discussed, beginning in 2014 and eventually signed by both parties in November 2015.

On December 4, 2015 a special consultation meeting was held at Fisher River Cree Nation with Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders, followed by a general meeting of community members. Due to the lack of information that the province was able to provide at the those meetings, the provincial representatives were requested to attend a second meeting with Elders and the community, and to also have representatives from MB Hydro and Water Drainage sections attend.

On December 17, 2015 a follow-up consultation meeting was held at Fisher River Cree Nation with Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders, followed by a general meeting of community members.

FISHER RIVER CREE NATION'S TREATY AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

At all consultation meetings, Manitoba representatives were reminded that FRCN members have treaty, Aboriginal, and inherent rights in respect of natural resources and waters on Crown lands and on FRCN Reserve lands. These include rights in most if not all of the area that would be impacted by Manitoba's approval of MB Hydro's applications for final licences for Lake Winnipeg Regulation and Jenpeg Generating Station.

MB has a duty to uphold the honour of the Crown and to consult in good faith in a meaningful way when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of FRCN members.

MB also has specific responsibilities with respect to consultation, as stipulated in the Consultation Protocol Agreement signed by MB and FRCN on August 7, 2013. Although the Agreement is intended to apply to an area that is outlined on the map on the right titled Traditional Territory Notice Area, the Notice Area does not nor was it intended to represent the entire traditional territory of FRCN. Its main purpose was to identify the area of immediate concern to FRCN due to resource use and extraction activities (peat mining, drainage works, timber harvesting, agriculture, etc.) that were impacting the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of the FRCN members.

The geographic area traditionally used and occupied by the Cree Nation encompasses a far greater area. There is an abundance of documented research that confirms FRCN members have Aboriginal and Treaty rights encompassing the entire area affected by the proposed LWR, and FRCN members reside in many other communities affected by LWR.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LWR

Although the main focus of the consultation was the Lake Winnipeg/Jenpeg final licence applications, the issues of overland flooding, poor water quality, and excessive drainage systems into the Fisher River were repeatedly raised by FRCN members. As all the water related issues are inter-related and fall under the jurisdiction of the MB Conservation and Water Stewardship, they have been included in the draft Interim Consultation Report.

While it is clear from the comments and feedback from FRCN members what the primary issues are, and that the basic underlying causes lie with MB's overall management of its water resources, MB's responses were not specific as to whether it is MB Hydro operations, the LWR, local drainage activities or other water control works that are the causes.

Chief and Council recognize that this is a very complex situation. Regardless, the fact remains that it is the Crown's duty to undertake meaningful consultation with FRCN and accommodate FRCN accordingly for adverse impacts affecting their Aboriginal or Treaty Rights, and that duty includes providing clear and relevant information regarding potential impacts.

MAIN ISSUES AND POTENTIAL CAUSES

Concerns consistently raised by FRCN membership are as follows:

Frequent Flooding from Lake Winnipeg:

Believed to be caused by MB Hydro's Lake Winnipeg Regulation and Jenpeg Generating Station operating regimes; as well as excessive rates of inflow into Lake Winnipeg resulting from the vast network of drainage channels and water control works developed or authorized by MB.

Frequent Flooding from Overflowing of the Fisher River:

Believed to be caused by a) excessive numbers and designs of drainage systems emptying into the Fisher River, land clearing, peat mining, and draining of wetlands, all of which result in greater volumes of water draining into the Fisher River and at a much faster rate than would be experienced under natural conditions; b) illegal construction of drains and inadequate enforcement resources, c) high water levels on Lake Winnipeg that prevent the outflow from the Fisher River at times, thus causing the river to back up and overflow its banks.

Frequent Overland Flooding:

Believed to be caused by excessive drainage of lands, drainage system designs, clearing of forests (forests slow the spring run-off from melting snow), peat mining (destruction of peat bogs which act as natural reservoirs for water), draining of bogs and wetlands.

High Rates of Erosion:

Lakeshore erosion believed to be caused by high water levels on Lake Winnipeg exacerbated by high winds, and riverbank erosion believed to be largely due to accelerated flows of water as a result of excessive numbers of drains.

Prolonged Periods of High Water Levels on Lake Winnipeg:

Believed to be caused by natural occurrences to a certain extent, with MB Hydro's operations of the Lake Winnipeg Regulation and Jenpeg Generating Station also having an effect.

Poor Water Quality:

Believed to be caused by a combination of overland flooding, flooding from the Fisher River and flooding from Lake Winnipeg, all of which carry contaminants originating from agricultural and industrial sources as well as other jurisdictions. Additional causes could be peat mining and other activities that impact aquifers that supply fresh water to the community.

Deteriorating Health of Marshes and other Wetland Ecosystems:

Lake Winnipeg Regulation impedes the natural fluctuations of Lake Winnipeg that are critical to marshes and aquatic ecosystems. This has affected hunting, trapping and medicine gathering that have traditionally occurred in the marshlands and bogs.

Changes in Lake Winnipeg Currents and Fish Spawning Grounds:

Lake Winnipeg Regulation and construction of the two mile and eight mile channels have affected the currents of Lake Winnipeg notably in the North Basin but possibly in the south basin as well. This has resulted in the formation of new reefs and shoals, blocking of natural harbours that had provided safe havens for fishers, changes in fish spawning grounds, fish habits and areas, and erosion issues.

Lake St. Martin Channel:

The recent construction of an emergency outlet channel that was built during the 2011 flood to drain flood water from Lake St. Martin and Lake Manitoba has had serious effects on Lake Winnipeg waters and the FRCN members who fish in the area.

Numerous members from Fisher River Cree nation and other First Nation communities have complained about the excessive amount of dirt and debris in their nets, and the lack of fish in that area where there used to be good fishing.

Safety:

Issues created by hanging ice, silting of channels, loss of natural harbours, erosion etc., all resulting from the change in the natural freeze-up and break-up processes of Lake Winnipeg.



GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS AFFECTED

Fisher River Cree Nation Community including: the developed residential and business areas situated near the Fisher River, as well as roads internal and external to the community;

Farmlands including: thousands of acres of land within the Reserve that were once farmed but are no longer suitable for agriculture due to flooding and prolonged periods of high water that prevent haying or cultivation of the lands;

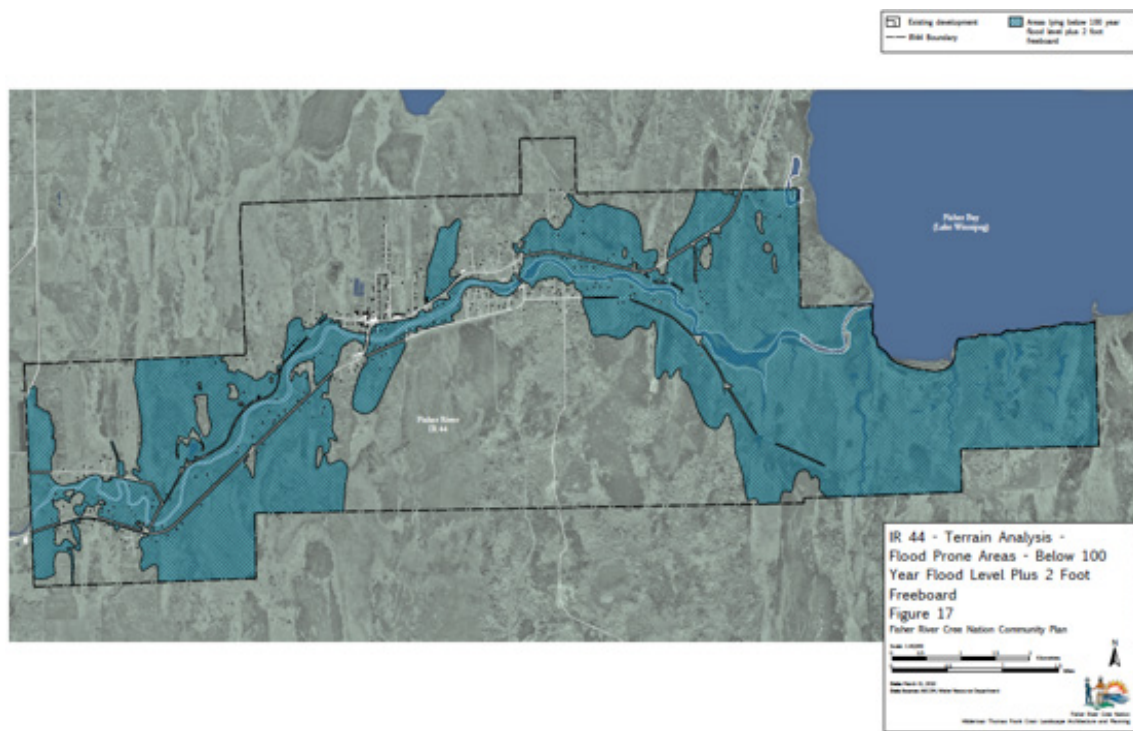
Fishing Grounds including: all of the North Basin of Lake Winnipeg, L. Winnipeg Narrows, Fisher Bay and Hecla-Grindstone area in the South Basin.

Recreational Lands including:

- FRCN's Bay River Subdivision;
- The extensively used Youth Camp located south of Bay River Subdivision;
- Other traditional summer camp sites.

Camp Sites for Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering including:

- the camp site on the east shore of Fisher Bay;
- numerous camp sites used for fishing, trapping, hunting, gathering and other traditional pursuits, located along the shores, islands and tributaries of Lake Winnipeg; particularly throughout Winnipeg North Basin, Fisher Bay, Washow Bay and Hecla-Grindstone areas;



ACCOMMODATIONS

The problems experienced by FRCN are unique due to the community's location along the Fisher River where it empties into Lake Winnipeg. Floodwaters may come from one or more of three different sources: Lake Winnipeg, the Fisher River and or overland flooding. Most of the Reserve lands are below the 100-year flood level of 722 feet Geodesic Data of Canada: this is clearly illustrated in the map created by Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram Landscape Architecture.

It is unrealistic for Manitoba to expect FRCN to be able to identify the cause of any specific adverse impact. In any case, it is the responsibility of the Crown to do so as part of its fiduciary responsibilities to the Fisher River Cree Nation people. It is the general opinion of the community however, that the majority of the adverse effects result from the Lake Winnipeg Regulation and Jenpeg Generating Station operations, the extensive drainage and other water control works developed by MB over the years, and or the various land use activities that impact water storage and release rates e.g. peat mines, agriculture, clearing etc.

To accommodate or compensate FRCN for the adverse impacts, one option that Chief and Council is considering is a request to the Manitoba government to grant FRCN a large tract or tracts of Crown land of suitable elevations and quality to provide a base for future economic and residential expansion for their community.

Other options being considered by Chief and Council include:

- shoreline protection works in areas of the youth camp, Boiler Bay camp, Bay River subdivision and possibly other areas where there are serious erosion problems;
- funding and resources to carry out studies on the impact of LWR to wildlife, fisheries, water quality etc. with the involvement of Fisher River Cree Nation members; and
- a financial compensation component.

FISHER RIVER FOREST PRODUCTS

Fisher River Cree Nation Chief and Council are working in close cooperation with officials from Manitoba's Forestry Branch to develop a forest-based industry that will generate jobs and economic benefits for the community.

Fisher River Cree Nation Timber Sale Community Allocation

A timber sale community allocation is a direct award granted to a community to provide economic and other benefits to the community. They can range in size but are generally up to 5,000 m³. They can be larger, based on wood availability and a sound business plan, and may require an Environment Licence.

Chief and Council applied for a Community Allocation Timber Sale in December 2013. A Commercial allocation of 4,400 m³ of softwood, and a Non-Commercial allocation of 600 m³ of hardwood was awarded to Fisher River Cree Nation in late 2014.

The Community Allocation Timber Sale of 5,000 m³ provides Fisher River Cree Nation with an asset that would likely cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000 if equivalent quotas were purchased on the open market. The community allocation cannot be sold however.

Potential for Allocation Increases

Manitoba Forestry Branch has committed to review Fisher River Forest Product's performance after one year, and make additional volumes available if Fisher River requires the volume and operations demonstrate utilization of the product. Fisher River Forest Product's performance in filling their 5,000 m³ allocation is therefore very important to demonstrate Fisher River Forest Product's need for additional allocation and support their request for an increase.

Implementation of Timber Harvest Operations a Priority

The first priority of Chief and Council is the implementation of harvesting operations for their current 5,000 m³ timber allocation. A timber harvesting business could create seasonal work for heavy equipment contractors and operators (feller buncher, skidders, delimiters, slashers); chainsaw operators; logging truck drivers or owner operators; and possibly scalers.

It is important that FRCN's allocation is harvested without delay and that a high standard of performance is maintained in the harvesting and remediating operations.

- Successful harvesting will help to ensure that the timber allocation is not cancelled;
- Ongoing harvesting will establish Fisher River's presence in the region as a major logger, and thus may discourage other loggers from accessing the area;
- Efficient harvesting operations and a high standard of quality in workmanship will provide strong support for future requests by Fisher River Cree Nation for increases to the timber quota allocation;

Market for Timber

Spruce Wood Loggers Inc. confirmed in May of 2016 that they are interested in purchasing softwood logs from Fisher River Cree Nation. They are also prepared to buy in tree length form.

If FRCN wants to sell logs cut to length, then the price is higher but FRCN then has the problem of what to do with the approximately 50% of the tree that is only good for fuel wood or pulp.

No timber dues are charged for community use. Therefore, fuel wood produced for the community would be exempt from timber dues.

Timber Harvest Contract Proposal

Chief and Council are considering entering into an agreement with a local contractor or contractors to harvest FRCN's timber allocation.

Under the proposed agreement, the contractor would be responsible for all operational aspects related to the harvesting of the timber and hauling to the mill.

A major benefit from contracting out the timber harvesting is that it will enable the business to harvest its full quota in the short term without having to purchase heavy equipment and hire operators. It will also allow the business time to plan and develop other business divisions.

A second benefit is that there are loggers in the Fisher River area with a wealth of experience and expertise in the logging industry, several of whom have the equipment needed for timber operations. This option opens the door to good contract opportunities for these individuals.

Some discussions have occurred with interested contractors, and it is hoped an agreement or agreements can be reached to begin harvesting by the fall of 2016.

Fisher River Cree Nation's legal counsel is presently preparing a draft timber harvesting contract.

Timber Sale Agreement (TSA) and General Deposit

The following TSA's have been prepared for Fisher River Cree Nation by Forestry Branch:

- TSA # 4339 - Non Commercial = 300 m3 hardwood and 300 m3 softwood
- TSA # 4338 - Commercial = 300m3 hardwood and 4100 m3 softwood.

The volumes within the TSA's are set and cannot be exceeded. The volume of each TSA must be identified and scaled separately. Potentially 50% of pulpwood (2200 m3) could be produced from the commercial TSA. This volume must be utilized and dues paid even with limited markets.

A general deposit of \$1,070.00 is required for a commercial TSA and it is based on the volume allocated in the TSA. There is no general deposit required for non-commercial timber sale.

Scaling Plan, Operating Plan and Work Permits

A Scaling Plan states the source, destination, commodity, volume, species and scaling method. Separate scaling plans are required for each TSA.

An Operating Plan gives the authority to harvest timber, which requires a scaling plan and payment \$20.00 fee for each TSA.

Work Permits gives authority to work on Crown land based on the operating permit authority. There is no fee for work permits

Fisher River Cree Nation - Manitoba Signing Meeting

A meeting to sign the necessary Forestry Branch documents will be scheduled once Chief and Council have entered into an agreement with a contractor or contractors, and all start-up requirements have been met.



FISHER RIVER OUTFITTERS

In 2014 a Manager from the Manitoba Wildlife Branch met with Chief and Council to discuss resource tourism (outfitting) in the Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) Traditional Territory to explain the process by which non-resident hunting licenses for big game, and specific game hunting areas were allocated to outfitters.

He advised at the time that there were a number of non-resident hunting licenses allocations available for black bear and white-tailed deer. This was a unique situation as historically non-resident big game license allocations have been available only through the purchase of an existing outfitting business having the allocations.

After reviewing information on the resource tourism or outfitting industry, Chief and Council concluded that this type of business could be an important addition to their economic development plans and overall objectives, such as:

- The Fisher Bay Provincial Park Expansion could be an important marketing tool in developing an eco-tourism market for Fisher River Outfitters. Eco-tourism packages could provide work for the guides and additional revenue for the business in between hunting seasons during the summer and possibly the winter months;
- Current vacant lots at the Bay River Cottage Development could potentially be used to generate additional revenue and at the same time fill a need for camp sites and possibly rental cabins for both the outfitting business and campers;
- Fisher River Forest Products could potentially

supply the logs or lumber required to build rental cabins or outcamps for the resource tourism business. This would create additional employment and business opportunities for community members.

- Outfitting clients would provide business for the new motel, and other businesses in the community would benefit from the purchase of food and supplies for the outfitting operations.
- Establishment of an outfitting business would provide a visible presence of the Fisher River Cree Nation throughout its traditional territory, which would further strengthen their rights and interests in this area.
- Establishment of the outfitting business would deter or restrict other outfitters from operating in Fisher River Cree Nation Traditional Territory.
- The business will create guiding jobs for other local individuals, and contribute to the local Fisher River community economy through spin-offs and spending by both the business and the clients. The start-up plan is to hire five guides.



Resource Tourism Permit, License and Allocations

In view of the significant benefits that could be achieved from a resource tourism business, Chief and Council decided to proceed with the initiative. An application for a Permit to Establish a Resource Tourism business was submitted and approved by the Manitoba Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC) in 2014.

Fisher River Outfitters was subsequently granted a Resource Tourism License to Operate, and to offer the following hunting and fishing experiences:

- Resident and Non-resident Black Bear: GHA 21; GHA 21A and GHA 25
- Additional Area for Resident Black Bear: GHA 25A
- Resident and Non-resident Deer: GHA 21; GHA 21A; GHA 25A
- Additional Area for Resident Deer: GHA 25
- Resident Moose Hunting: GHA 21 and GHA 21A
- Resident & Non-resident Game Bird & Waterfowl: GHAs 21, 21A, 25 & 25A in GBHZ 3
- Non-resident and Resident Angling: Lake Winnipeg and Fisher Bay

Non-resident White-tailed Deer Hunting Moratorium

As a result of a serious decline in white-tailed deer populations in 2013/14, a moratorium was placed on the issuance of new allocations for non-resident deer licenses. Thus, although Fisher River Outfitters is licensed to provide non-resident deer hunts, at the present time they have not been allocated the non-resident licenses that will allow them to do so. Fisher River Outfitters has been assured by Wildlife officials however, that they will get priority to receive the allocation once deer populations recover and the moratorium is lifted.

Business Start-up

One of the challenges that Chief and Council faced once the Resource Tourism License was approved was the business start-up. A number of additional approvals were required, business decisions regarding budgets, management

and administration needed to be made, and an experienced outfitter needed to be hired before the business could become operational.

Chief and Council were concerned that they would lose their non-resident license and hunting area allocations to other outfitters if they did not get Fisher River Outfitters up and running as quickly as possible. In addition, Fisher River Outfitters business possessed a number of valuable assets that would potentially be lost if the business did not become operational soon. Some of the benefits included:

- Resource Tourism Licence to offer hunting packages for big game, waterfowl, upland game birds; as well as fishing experiences;
- Allocations of 12 non-resident black bear licences;
- Provincial commitment to receive 12 white-tailed deer tags when moratorium is lifted and the Fisher River Outfitters business is up and running;
- Exclusive black bear hunting areas for non-resident clients;
- The Game Hunting Areas (GHA) for which Fisher River Outfitters is licensed cover vast areas of wilderness areas with healthy populations of black bear and other big game.



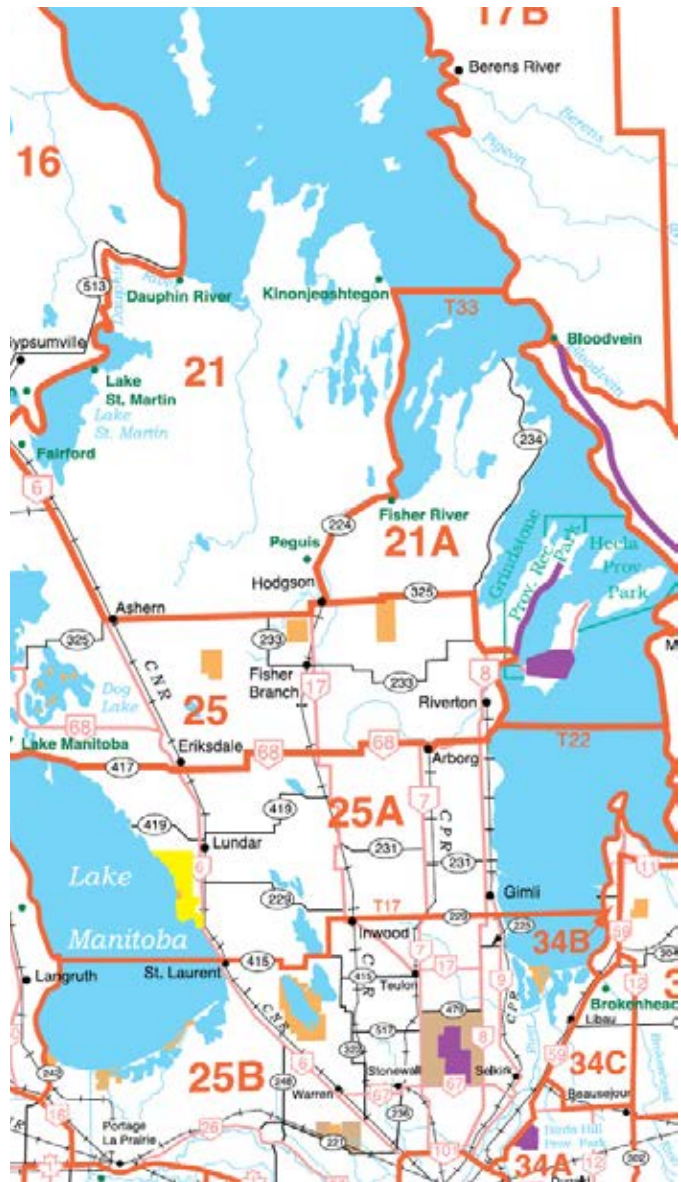
- The Game Bird Hunting Zones (GBHZ) for which Fisher River Outfitters is licensed includes extensive wetlands and marshes that offer excellent waterfowl hunting. The current moratorium on new waterfowl outfitter licences, and the upcoming policy that will limit the numbers of outfitters in a GBHZ could result in an increase in the value of Fisher River Outfitters waterfowl outfitting licence.
- Licensed to offer resident and non-resident sport fishing in Fisher Bay and Lake Winnipeg;
- Licensed to offer resident and non-resident upland game bird hunting (prairie chickens, ruffed grouse etc.) in several game bird hunting zones;
- Licensed to offer resident bear, deer and moose hunting in several Game Hunting Areas.

The development of Fisher River Outfitters' business and client base will increase the value of both its overall business and its resource allocations. It will allow the business to expand through acquisition of additional bear and deer allocations, and additional Bear Hunting Areas.

There are also additional opportunities to further increase the value of the business through acquisition of other wildlife and fishing allocations, expansion of hunting and fishing areas, potential partnership arrangements, expansion of recreational facilities (cabins, campground, boat rentals, etc.) and addition of off-season experiences (eco-tourism, ice fishing, snowmobiling etc.).

A management contract is currently being prepared by Fisher River Cree Nation's legal counsel. The contract being negotiated will be between Fisher River Outfitters Inc. and a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation who is an outfitter with years of experience in the outfitting and guiding business.

Right: Manitoba Game Hunting Area Map



FISHER RIVER CREE NATION SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY PERMIT

In the past an application for a Casual Quarry Permit (QP) has normally been approved within a two or three-week time period.

Under the terms of the Peguis Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreement however, any application for Crown land, which includes mines, minerals, sand and gravel, that is within the area around Fisher River Cree Nation, must be circulated to Peguis First Nation.

The review process can take up to 180 days, which effectively delays approval of the QP for six months, and can put the community at risk if there is not sufficient aggregate for road repairs, and flood protection works. It also delays other critical public work projects that require sand and or gravel.

Chief and Council decided to apply for a long-term (10 year) renewable quarry lease in order to avoid the annual delays. Areas along Jackhead Road would be the preferred quarry site areas, as they are readily accessible without having to go through the highly populated areas along PR 224, and the shorter distance would reduce the cost of hauling.

The appropriate provincial managers were contacted and the issue explained in greater detail, with emphasis on the fact that the purpose of the request was for public purposes, and that a long-term lease was needed to ensure that a steady and accessible supply of sand and gravel was available to FRCN for public works and flood protection in their community.

In May 2016, Chief and Council were informed that the application reviewing agencies were prepared to support FRCN applications for quarry permits, but not long term leases.

Upon review of the Mines Act, it was found that Mines Branch could issue a Quarry Permit (QP) for a period of up to three years. A request was then made to Mines Branch to either approve a three year QP or accept a QP application a year in advance, which would resolve the delay issue.

Mines Branch advised they were considering three-year QPs, but the roadblock was their computer system, which was set up so that only one-year QPs can be issued, and applications could not be entered or processed prior to Nov. 1 of each year for the following year's QPs. A major reprogramming of their systems would therefore be required before they could issue a three-year permit or accept a permit application prior to Nov. 1 .

It was suggested that applications be submitted promptly on November 1. The maximum time to process them, unless selected under TLE, would be six months. The QP could then be issued at the end of April or sooner.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Chief and Council shall apply for a Quarry Permit each year promptly on November 1.

Applications will be in the name of Chief and Council, and provincial staff will be instructed to not black out the applicant's name "Chief and Council of Fisher River Cree Nation" on their circular in order that Peguis First Nation and other circular recipients will be aware of who is applying.

Chief and Council may enter into service contracts for the quarry material extraction and hauling once they receive the Quarry Permit.

Service contracts are to ensure that pricing does not include royalties, as FRCN is exempt from paying royalties under the Mines Act regulations.



ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

Bay River Cottage Lots

The Bay River cottage lot subdivision is one of Fisher River Cree Nation's many economic development initiatives.

In efforts to sell more lots, Fisher River Economic Development Corp. implemented a revitalization and marketing project. The Cree Drive lots have been brushed out and the lake is now viewable from the road.

A cottage show home will be built to be sold along with the lot. To date, one has been sold, but there has been an increase in the number of interested parties since the brushing has been completed.

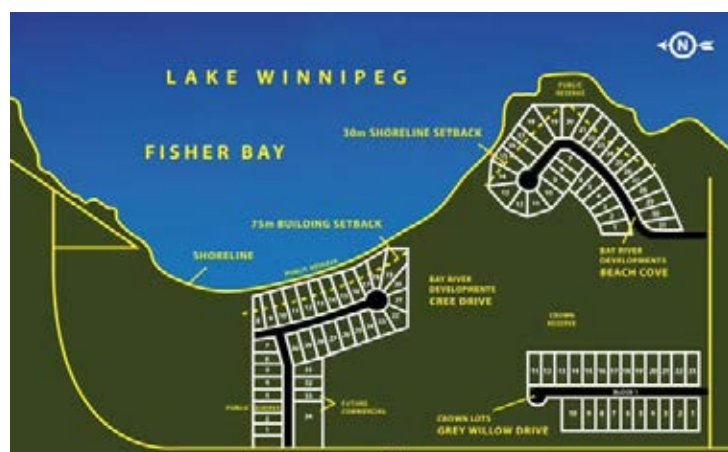
The Bay River cottage project is part of the Fisher Bay Provincial Park initiative, which was established in 2011 under the Provincial Parks Act after years of determined efforts by Chief and Council of Fisher River Cree Nation, working closely with the Minister of Manitoba Conservation

Lake Front Lots:

\$46,000 each (18 lots)

Back Row Lots:

\$14,000 each (35 lots)
and \$30,000 (3 lots)



Map from bayriver.ca



Castle Building Centre Gets the Go Ahead

Over the past three years, Fisher River has spent an average of \$1.1 million on development projects and anticipates spending a similar amount, if not more, in up coming years.

Based on this fact, FRCN proposed constructing and operating its own building supply centre, giving them the ability to buy directly from the building suppliers and keeping the \$1.1 million in the community.

FRCN approached Castle Building Centre, a reputable Canadian lumber and building material buying group, with the proposal of purchasing shares and becoming a member of the Castle Building Centre.

The business plan and application were submitted and we are pleased to announce that FRCN has been accepted, making Fisher River Economic Development and Fisher River Cree Nation official members of the Castle Buying Group.

The retail store is expected to break ground soon and will occupy 2,500sq.ft. of retail space, with a 2,500sq. ft. heated warehouse and a 2,500sq. ft. of non-heated storage. Additionally, the Castle Project would offer home hardware supplies to the community and surrounding area. There is a potential for up to 10 new jobs to be created.

Castle Building Centre has 295 locations across the country, achieving annual sales of \$1.5billion.



Motel Project Takes Shape

The Fisher River Motel Project involves the construction of a 12 room motel which will include a conference and meeting room as well as a VLT Lounge, on Fisher River Cree Nation.

By constructing a motel, and entering into the hospitality industry, Fisher River Cree Nation is providing a quality, alternative accommodation option to travelers. Travelers to this part of the province are a diverse group, ranging from employees of construction companies and government departments to hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

According to research conducted by the Fisher River Motel Project, the hospitality industry is healthy and vibrant in Manitoba. The highest number of visitors come to the Interlake for pleasure (50%), while visiting family and friends is a close second at 41 per cent. The Interlake accounts for 12 per cent of Manitoba's visitors - or 1,317,000 visitors who travel to and through the region. They spend \$74.6 million, or five per cent of all tourism spending in Manitoba.

Based on our research findings, our target market for the Fisher River Motel Project are short term visitors (sports tournaments, local gatherings and events), and corporate customers (construction companies, government employees and agencies). Local groups and organizations will be targeted to promote the motel's state of the art conference and meeting room. Local and area citizens will be the primary customers of the VLT lounge.

Motel Amenities

The Fisher River Motel and Conference will be located a short distance from all major cultural and historical attractions, surrounding municipalities, First Nations and economical centres.

The motel will have four suites that include a fridge, stove, and microwave. As well, the motel will offer eight regular rooms (two beds) that include a fridge and microwave. There will be a meeting/conference room available for organizations to utilize for meetings, training, or other activities.

Attached to the motel will be a VLT lounge with 20 VLT machines, offering the latest electronic gambling games.

Job Opportunities

A full time office manager will be hired to handle all inquiries, scheduling, management and sales and marketing activities for the Fisher River Motel Project. The office manager will supervise the staff of the motel, including two full time reception/front desk employees, one part time reception/front desk employee, and two full time housekeeping employees.

Staffing and operation of the VLT lounge area will be handled by Tony Bird, the Manager of the Fisher River Gaming Centre. He will hire and train the staff required to operate the VLT lounge, following all MLLC guidelines and standards.



GROCERY STORE GETS OVERHAUL

The Fisher River Grocery underwent major renovations which included:

- New store layout
- New shelving
- Updated aisle signage
- New flooring
- Meat and deli counter
- New check-out counters

The store, which commenced operations on December 13, 2004, was initially established to provide a retail outlet for gasoline, groceries and confectionery items to the members of Fisher River Cree Nation. Today, it has grown to include an ATM terminal, as well as the local post office.



Laundromat and Car Wash

Fisher River Economic Development (FRED) and Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) opened its doors to a laundromat and coin-operated carwash that will service FRCN and its surrounding communities.

The carwash/laundromat, located on the main access road between the water treatment plant and fitness centre, consists of two interior wash bays and one exterior wash pad for larger vehicles and buses. Each wash station is equipped with a high pressure wand, foam brush and vacuum. All equipment is coin-operated.

The laundromat consists of 10 coin-operated washers and dryers and two industrial washers and dryers. Vending machines stocked with soap, dryer sheets and snacks are conveniently located in the laundromat. There is also complimentary Satellite TV, coffee and WIFI(Internet).

This project created approximately six new employment positions in the community.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Saturday:
8:30am to 10:00pm
Sunday: 8:30 am to 9:00pm.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Hockey Future Stars



Introducing, the Fisher River initiation team! The team, made up players from ages three to six, participated in nine tournaments throughout the Interlake region and Winnipeg. Special thanks to the coaches Trisha Murdock and Kristen Murdock, along with the Minor Hockey Association, and all the parents and the community for their support.

Fisher River Hawks Junior B Hockey Team



Fisher River was granted a Keystone Junior B Hockey League (KJHL) hockey franchise in the 2014/2015 hockey season. This fall will mark the team's third season in the KJHL.

Although the team needs players from outside the community, it was established for the benefit of local area, especially for players who may or may not get the chance to play after the midget age level, providing you're a player who can handle the level of play required.

The team is presently looking for a coach and general manager for the upcoming hockey season. The hockey franchise is also looking for people who would like to be part of the board which governs the team. If anyone is interested in helping to fill these positions, please submit your name.

As always, we will be counting on the commitment and support from community members as the team gears up for a successful season.



Fisher River Fitness Centre

The fitness center has been operational since October 2014, and has already undergone some changes. In the last few months, there has been the addition of new pieces of equipment including an exercise bike, a glute-ham raise machine, a fitness tree and a few pieces of smaller equipment to better meet the fitness needs of the community.

Improvements to the building and the grounds, which will include landscaping and drive way improvements will also be occurring in the near future.

Membership prices have been adjusted to increase revenue for the fitness center. The increase in membership cost has not deterred community members from joining. In fact, the number of active memberships have been increasing, as well as overall attendance. On average, the facility is used by 110 members on a monthly basis, which is up from 65-85 members around this time last year.

A beginner fitness program was also launched as a way to help ease new members in to a fitness routine. Once staff certifications are completed, more programs will be made available.

Check out the fitness centre!





PLANS UNDERWAY FOR A NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Fisher River Cree Nation is hoping to construct a community centre that will house a 600 seat general community hall, funeral lounge, 60 seat VLT lounge, and cultural centre for historical artifacts and displays.

This project will utilize off-site construction in the form of modular and pre-engineered construction techniques (or a sprung facility). The process of off-site construction offers significantly less material waste, less site disturbance, and limits the exposure to inclement weather.

In addition to being a much greener way to construct, off-site construction provides improved quality, safer work environment, and 30-50 per cent overall reduction in the construction schedule. The project will be designed and constructed by a single industry partner. The design build engagement ensures an overall consistency in project delivery and allows for value engineering through the project. A single contact point simplifies and strengthens the project team's communication to the community.

The industry partner is ATCO Sustainable Communities, a company focused on providing design build services to Indigenous groups across Canada. ATCO has the ability to offer complete design build services under a fixed contract, to reduce project cost escalations. ATCO also strives to engage their clients through sub-contracts, training, and utilizing nation resources to deliver projects.

ATCO has already provided the floor plan, costing, scope of work, and preliminary schedules. This project was developed based on the community's need and will serve the community in multi-capacities of recreation and culture development, enhancing the overall well-being of community members.

Wellness Team Expands Hires Community Psychologist

FRCN has expanded the services offered by the community wellness team with the hiring of a local community psychologist, Dr. Stan Bird.

In partnership with FRCN Education and FRHC, Dr. Bird works four days as the school psychologist and four days as the community psychology, along with the mental health therapist and local mental health support worker.

Panorama Project Pilot: Fisher River Cree Nation

Fisher River Cree Nation Health Services was chosen to pilot Panorama, an electronic public health record system that will be used to manage information for:

- Immunizations
- Vaccine inventory
- Communicable diseases and outbreaks

Panorama will replace the current provincial immunization registry (MIMS) and other paper based systems and will be used by all public health providers in:

- Regional health authorities
- Manitoba Health
- Nursing stations
- Community health centres

This marks the first time that a Panorama implementation, in Canada, has included First Nations in the same pilot as other organizations.

FRCN's participation will help identify issues and requirements necessary for Panorama to be successful in First Nations Communities.

York Boats

A part of our tradition

Fisher River's history with york boats goes back to the time when our ancestors first arrived here back in 1875. York boats were the means of travel as well as and a way of transporting goods and freight.

They are very heavy vessels, but can move surprisingly fast if handled properly. Years ago, beside rowing, our ancestors would attach a sail to most york boats to help propel the boats forward.

In the 1800s, all york boats were wooden, but today they are all aluminum. A big advantage to an aluminum boat is that it is much lighter and will not rot.

While we no longer depend on york boats to get from one community to another, or to transport goods, the boats have now evolved into a sport.

Today, york boat teams compete in races. On a typical team, there are eight rowers and one helmsman who coordinates steering. There is also one person at the front who is tasked with monitoring the rowers' timing and coordination. It takes a tremendous amount of strength and endurance to row a york boat for a considerable distance.

Currently, york boats races are held up north in a few communities like Norway House and Cross Lake. Fisher River maybe one of the only communities in the southern part of the province to hold york boats races annually, during the Fisher River treaty races.





EDUCATION

Innovation Fund helps with costs of new school

Early this year, Canada's Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Carolyn Bennett, announced funding support for nine projects that will result in new school facilities for more than 20 First Nations communities across the country. Fisher River was one of two Manitoba recipients. This funding will help with the construction of a new school for the community.

"The building of a new school is crucial to the development of our young people, providing them with the foundation they will need to pursue their dreams," said Chief Crate said. "Although we still have work to do to raise the necessary funds for this crucial project for our community, today's announcement represents a vital first step, and we are grateful to the Government of Canada for the lead role it is playing."

The projects will incorporate innovative approaches to school construction such as bundling projects and contracts, employing modular and pre-fabricated construction and using alternative financing measures.

Quick Facts about the Innovation Fund:

- INAC's Innovation Fund provides funding to First Nation communities to build school facilities that are innovative, promote educational reform, and use industry best practices.
- Created in 2012 as an additional source of funding under the Education Infrastructure Fund, the Innovation Fund includes a total investment of \$50 million over six years commencing in 2016-2017.
- Recipients are eligible for a maximum \$10 million investment from the fund.
- Other school projects across the country are considered under the core Education Infrastructure Fund.
- Funded in part by INAC's New Paths for Education Program, the National First Nation Directors of Education Forum is the first opportunity for First Nation Directors of Education from across the country to gather and share successful practices in education amongst themselves and with partners from government and the private sector.

Source: Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Government of Canada

The MDP program

A future built on respect and understanding



The Master's in Development Practice: Indigenous Development program (MDP) at the University of Winnipeg and Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN) enjoy a strong relationship of mutual respect and reciprocity. Students in the MDP learn about sustainable development through a lens of reconciliation.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, faculty and staff come together to learn Indigenous ways of knowing, practice and values to transform the ways in which we imagine and co-create our collective good life. Fisher River Cree Nation plays an integral role in shaping this learning journey.

FRCN has hosted students for their required three-month Canadian field placement. During this time, students live and work in FRCN, guided and mentored by community leaders. One student, for example, assisted with the creation of a community cookbook while others worked alongside Chief and Council to implement the Healthy Community Initiative. Students were warmly welcomed into the community and generously guided. They in turn were invited to contribute their energies, efforts and skills to the community's initiatives.

Since the MDP's inception in 2011, FRCN has served as the host for the program's critically important orientation. After having spent a week in Winnipeg learning about the history and contemporary story of Canadian Indigenous-non-Indigenous relations, incoming students spend three days being in FRCN. These three days spent together in community are packed with fun, experiences and teachings. They are essential to building connectedness between students and staff and centering the upcoming two-year learning journey.

As said by one student, "The whole experience at Fisher River was invaluable. An amazing way to start the program...a great beginning to link everything we learned from Fisher River to the academic world we'll be in for the next two years."

Generously welcomed by FRCN, students learn from traditional knowledge keepers and elders, Chief and Council, community leaders, youth, men, women, mothers, fathers, grandparents. Stories are shared of the importance of language, the courage of survivors of Indian Residential School, the wisdom of traditional medicine. Students participate in the sacredness of ceremony. They learn about the community's collective vision for itself, its programs, projects, innovations and strengths. They nourish their bodies with the delicious food at Loretta Lyn's and sleep soundly at the Youth Camp. It is in Fisher River Cree Nation where students and staff, for the first time together, begin to practice how to care for one another as a community.

This time spent together at FRCN, on the land, on the water, in ceremony and in learning, builds the foundation for the MDP community.

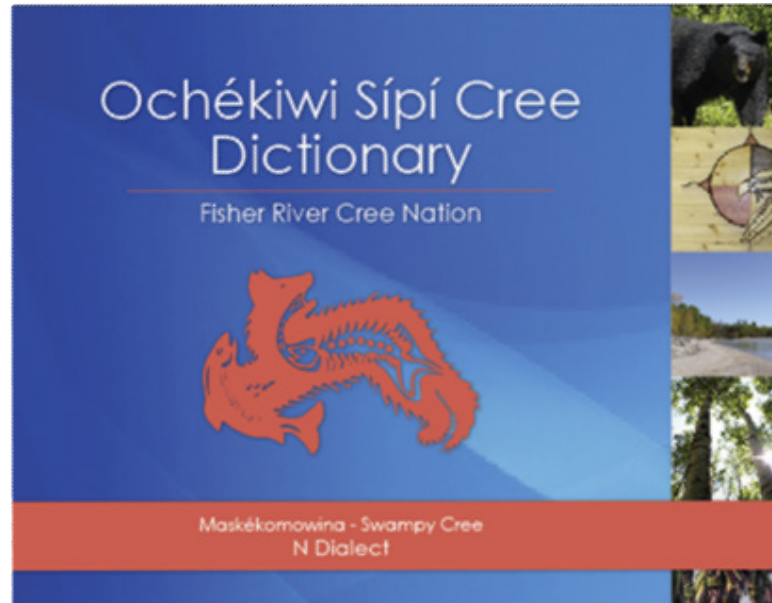


A Special Visit: Sisler High School

Students from the Global Issues class at Sisler High School visited the community during spring break. They met with students at the Charles Sinclair School to discuss their educational needs, hopes and wishes. They ended the visit with a generous donation of new books for the school library.



Cree Dictionary



The first edition of the Ochékiwi Sípi Cree Dictionary was published in 2005 and FRCN recently released a second edition.

In the new edition, words were made into four columns: English, Roman Orthography, Phonetics and Cree Syllabics. It also includes more words such as names of insects and animals. In fact, over 30 pages have been added since the first edition.

The dictionary also includes memory pages to pay tribute to those contributors from the first edition who have passed on, as well as a prayer dedication.

The dictionary is Available at the Board of Education office and Charles Sinclair School

A special thank you to the 2015 Cree Dictionary committee:

Dorothy Ann Crate
Doreen Bowers
Leslie McKay
Nora Murdock
Matilda Mallett
Emily Travers
Melody Dumas

Davin Dumas
Ada Smith
Joy Conway
Dorothy Frances
Crate
Delores Bouchey
Warren Woodhouse
Julianne Grovette

Emily Murdoch
Irene Roberts
Emily Favell
Allan Sinclair
Harriet Amos

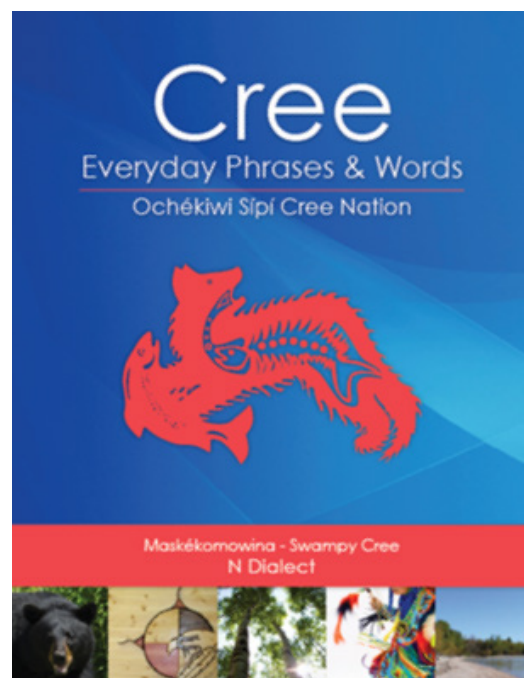
Cree Phrases and Everyday Words

A smaller pocket sized booklet with room for writing notes was also published in the Maskékomowina / Swampy Cree N Dialect.

The 40 page booklet includes words and phrases dealing with things from virtues and feelings to nouns, verbs, days of the week, time, shapes and much more.

Thank you to the committee for their hard work in ensuring the survival of our language for future generation.

Dorothy Ann Crate	Joy Conway
Dorothy Frances Crate	Melody Dumas
Davin Dumas	Nora Murdock
Emily Murdoch	Steve McKay
Harriet Amos	



The phrase book is also available at the Board of Education office and Charles Sinclair School

