



2014 PROGRESS REPORT

COURAGE *to lead*

CONFIDENCE *to challenge*

COMMITMENT *to progress*



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.

TANSI!

My priority as Chief of Fisher River Cree Nation has always been creating a strong and sustainable community. Economic vitality is always at the forefront – the driving force behind the choices that we make because, at the end of the day, the ability to support ourselves and our community is paramount to our survival.

With the support of your leadership team, we are committed to building our economy by strengthening our relationships with all sectors, and spreading the message that Fisher River is the place to do business.

This year we have taken some significant steps in ensuring that our community is poised to take advantage of upcoming economic opportunities and that we can continue to capitalize on current projects. We have embarked on new endeavors including, the Sand Hills Casino project, where Fisher River will share in the profits along with the province's 62 other First Nations.

We are also looking at ways of reaping economic rewards from our rich natural environment by exploring progressive and fruitful business opportunities that stay true to our strong environmental principles. Furthermore, we are pursuing the establishment of a number of forestry based businesses with the intent of creating employment, contracts and business opportunities.

Speaking of opportunities, while we focus a big part of our work on economic development we have also been exploring opportunities and partnerships in other areas. We have worked closely with the University of Winnipeg on several projects and have signed a formal agreement that, in the future, we are committed to working on mutually beneficial projects.

We have also partnered with the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation and were successful in implementing a Right to Play Program in our community. Fisher River is the site of this pilot project which teaches youth leadership and life skills through physical activity. I am pleased to announce that the Right to Play Program has been renewed and will continue to operate in our community until summer 2015.

It is so important to instill and pass on strong values – not just cultural ones, but values of integrity, accountability, compassion and fairness to our young people.

As elected officials, it's our duty to lead by example. You might have heard about the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, a new piece of legislation that has caused great debate and controversy across the country. This law came into effect in March 2013, and requires First Nations bands to publish their financial statements and salaries of Chief and Council on the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's website. Participation is mandatory and those councils who refuse to participate will face a court order.

The federal government says this law is to provide First Nations people with transparency,

which will allow them to hold their elected leaders accountable. The word transparency is always thrown around in politics, but I sometimes wonder if we are all working with the same definition. To me transparency means honesty and openness.

In my view, transparent governments must make private documents and information public, release budgets, give community members access to closed door meetings or share the minutes of the meeting if the request is made. This way the people that we represent can get a clear understanding of who we are, what we stand for – see that we are acting in their best interest and in some cases it shows that we are in fact capable of doing the jobs with which we are tasked.

While I support the new transparency bill I am not sure that it is necessary – at least not in our community, because we already do this and have done for many years.

Additionally, for the past several years, we have worked with the First Nations finance authority and they require the same transparency as the new federal laws; we are used to posting our audits. You can find my salary and expenses as well as the salary and expenses for every member of council at the end of this progress report. We have also posted our detailed consolidated financial statements on our website – www.fisherriver.com.

A few years ago, the Frontier Centre for Public Policy recognized Fisher River Cree Nation for its good governance and transparency and we are very proud of this fact

Transparency, accountability and integrity are at the heart of all we do because this community is our home. In my opinion, we have a greater vested interest in how we manage our community because the decisions that we make impact our families, friends and neighbours.

Early on, I recognized that a good leader is not someone who makes spectacular speeches or is the most popular. A good leader is someone who listens, someone who brings the community together and someone who gets results. A good leader will take criticism and turn it into positive feedback.

Which is why I can't stress enough how much we welcome your participation and want you to hold us accountable for our decisions. We want to know that we are making the right decisions for our community.

Over the years, I have had the good fortune of benefiting from the guidance, knowledge and expertise of many community members, and I have been blessed with a team of council members that are hard working, dedicated and visionary. The ability of this team to work collaboratively has been one of the most crucial factors in the successes we have achieved for our community. I look forward to continuing to build on this strong and productive team relationship as we grow and progress as a community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chief David Crate

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INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Investments in infrastructure are vital to strengthening the economy, creating jobs and building a strong community in which the residents of Fisher River Cree Nation can enjoy a high quality of life.

Over the past year, FRCN Chief and Council has maintained their strong commitment to improving upon existing infrastructure, while seeking out opportunities to create new infrastructure in an effort to continue to build and strengthen the foundation of our community.

The following is a summary of projects that are currently underway. These projects were specifically chosen because they align with our community planning initiatives, goals and objectives. It is important to note that these projects are in a wide range of phases due to the time lapse between the submission of a proposal and the actual release of funds.



The arena re-pavement was completed in July 2014.



ARENA PARKING LOT COMPLETED

J.R. Cousin Consultants Ltd. has completed the design that will be used to upgrade the arena parking lot, and tendered the work in early spring 2014. Maple Leaf Construction was awarded the contract and will begin construction on June 16. The project was completed at the end of July 2014. The upgrades consisted of reconstructing the parking lot, placing asphalt pavement, improving drainage and installing islands to direct parking. The project budget was \$600,000.

ROAD UPGRADES

A few years ago, Chief and Council developed a long term road upgrade plan for the community. Five key roads were identified in this plan. They were the West Road, Murdock Road, Market Road, Landfill Road and Darryl's Road. Goldeye Lake Drive West was also slated to undergo construction in an effort to open up more land for residential construction. All together 15.5 KM of road was identified as needing upgrades or construction.

WEST ROAD UPGRADE PHASE 2

FRCN is currently waiting for funding to proceed with the construction phase of the West Road upgrades.

J.R. Cousin Consultants Ltd. has already completed the design of the West Road upgrade from PR224 heading east 3KM, which ties in to the Phase 1 upgrade.

The Phase 2 upgrade will consist of new gravel and a chip sealed surface. Drainage improvements and culvert replacements along the existing ditch are included in the works.

This project began on April 23, 2013 when a request for funding was submitted to the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC).

TOWNSITE LOOP UPGRADE

Additional Funding Approved

J.R. Cousin Consultants Ltd. completed the design of the Townsite Loop Road upgrade in March 2012. Hugh Munro Construction completed the construction of the West Leg- 800 m, of the Townsite Loop in summer 2012. The upgrade consisted of sub-grade upgrades, new gravel and drainage improvements with new culverts.

Funding was recently approved, under the First Nation Infrastructure Fund, for the development of the East Leg – 850 m, of the Townsite Loop Road. Once the East Leg is constructed, the chip sealed surface will be installed on the West Leg to complete the road upgrade.

Project Costs

Construction Costs
(Based on Class "A" Cost Estimate)

Townsite Loop Upgrade

\$660,745.00

West Road Upgrade

\$1,854,670.00

Sub-total

\$2,515,415.00

Non-Construction Costs

(Contingency, Engineering, Band Admin, Project Management)

Townsite Loop Upgrade

\$181,700.00

West Road Upgrade

\$473,000.00

Landfill Road

(Design, Survey, Environ. Assessment)

\$ 85,658.00

Sub-Total

\$40,358.00

Total Construction and Non-Construction Costs

\$3,255,773.00



(Dorothy A. Crate says a prayer

Veterans' Memorial gets facelift



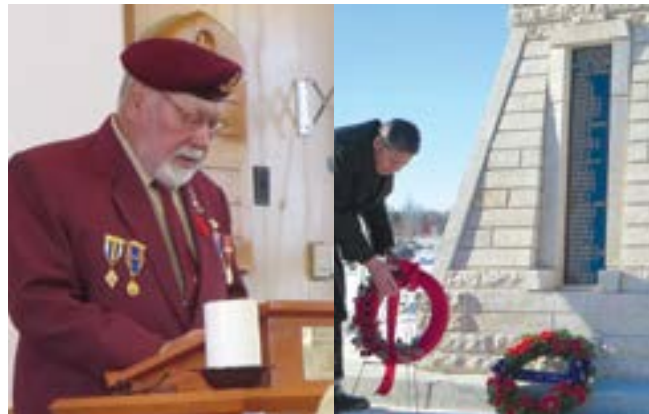
Last spring, FRCN put together a proposal, and submitted to Veterans Affairs, to restore the Veterans' Monument, located on the grounds of the United Church. The proposal was accepted and the monument has been restored.

The monument, erected in 1978, has always been an important part of our history, as it preserves and honours the memory of our community's First and Second World War veterans.

Over years, the monument has aged significantly to the point of where many of the names are no longer readable. Also, the ground around the monument requires building up with proper drainage to protect against on-going deterioration.

The restoration project included replacing and extending the name plaque and rebuilding the stone and mortar and concrete foundation.

The proposal was submitted to Veterans Affairs and one of the benefits of applying via this route is that once the monument has been restored, it becomes eligible for ongoing restoration funding through the Cenotaph/Monument Restoration Program. This will ensure that the monument is maintained for future generations.



(L) Arnold Sinclair (R) Allan Sinclair lays a wreath



SPRING FLOOD

Flood prone areas of the community were affected by flooding due to the fast melting of the snow, which caused the water levels to rise quickly.

One family was stranded in their home and was eventually brought to safety by volunteer fire fighter Dillon Sinclair, with the help and community members Nick Murdock and Daniel Monias.

A special thank you to these individuals for their assistance.

LEIGH COCHRANE MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTRE NEW STAGE DESIGN

Fisher River Cree Nation will soon have a new outdoor stage for large and small events and celebrations. The new multi-use stage is being designed as a component of the Leigh Cochrane Memorial Visitor Centre, located on lot 100 in Fisher River. Fisher River Cree Nation hired HTFC Planning & Design, a firm with a strong history of working closely with FRCN on planning and development projects, to design the new stage.

The new stage will replace the old timber stage and the temporary stages used for the annual celebrations at the Leigh Cochrane Memorial site. Subject to confirmation by geotechnical engineers on the design team, the new stage will most likely be located near the location of the old stage in the south-east corner of Lot 100. It will be large enough to accommodate professional musical acts, with a performance stage (front) of 30 by 40 feet. The new stage will also be of a unique and memorable design, with cues taken from Fisher River's culture and history. Once the new stage is in place, seating capacity of the outdoor site will be over 5,000.

USE AND BENEFITS

The main purpose of the new stage will be to provide a unique one of a kind backdrop to the Annual Community and Gospel Celebrations, providing economic development opportunities in concert with other FRCN initiatives. Another key use of the LCM Center, which will be supported by the new stage is cultural learning/teachings for tourists and visitor groups. In addition there are many special events and activities that take place at the site throughout the year that will benefit from the project, such as the AMC Annual Youth Gathering, Cree Gatherings, weddings, graduations and meetings to name a few.

PROJECT STATUS AND TIMELINE

The conceptual design was developed by HTFC in concert with FRCN representatives in 2011. HTFC was contracted in late spring 2014 to take the project forward into detailed design, through construction drawings and construction contract administration. A detailed site survey was conducted in July 2014 and a preferred location for the stage was determined. Geotechnical engineering analysis of the site will be conducted following the 2014 Treaty Days celebrations and concert. Once the results are in, HTFC

will work closely with structural engineers from Crosier Kilgour & Partners Ltd. and with FRCN representatives to develop the design and verify technical and material details. Construction drawings will be prepared along with documents required for the construction tender.

Construction is expected to begin this fall, beginning with concrete foundation work. The remaining construction will take place over this winter and next spring. The new stage is expected to be completed by early summer 2015, in time for the 2015 Treaty Days and Homecoming celebrations.

COST

Based on the conceptual design prepared in 2011, the new stage is likely to cost in the neighborhood of \$600,000.00, plus site development, professional fees, demolition of the existing stage floor and electrical power upgrades, if necessary.

CONCEPTUAL SKETCHES

Conceptual sketches, prepared in 2011, are attached to this update, showing front and side elevations. Note that the design will change to account for site conditions, structural engineering and material and cost considerations as the process moves from the conceptual phase through the detailed design phase.



FRCN GETS SERVER UPGRADES

Last spring FRCN submitted a funding proposal to AANDC for a new terminal/network server project.

These upgrades were recommended following the review and readiness assessment of the community's computer network infrastructure systems and identified as being particularly helpful in the administrative, financial, education and social offices. During the review outdated hardware and older technology were also identified as a hindrance to the community's technological advances.

The proposal focused on securing and implementing an upgraded network infrastructure for better programming networking ability. The upgrades would accommodate the current growing needs of the community with respect to financial networking, performing safe and secure financial functions and contributing to an innovative work environment.

The project is estimated to cost \$129,555, with 80 per cent of funding provided by AANDC and 20 per cent from Fisher River. The Fisher River portion of the funding will cover hardware, software and the professional fees of BDO, the company working on the project.

To offset the funding costs, FRCN applied to Tech Soup, a non-profit organization which provides reduced pricing for hardware, software and licensing.

We are happy to report that the server aspect of project has been approved. Phase One which consists of upgrading the current server to a new virtual server is almost completed.

Phase two of the project is awaiting funding and will involve:

- Integrating segmented accounting installations into one managed solution;
- Centralizing backup system with offsite solutions;
- Providing controlled DSL connections to homes and businesses throughout the community; and
- Utilizing 4G network to provide phone voice and data connections. There is a possibility of HD video as well, depending on the results of a site survey being conducted by a third party.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Regular updates on these initiatives will be posted on the Fisher River Cree Nation web site at www.fisherriver.com

FIRST NATION OWNED CASINO OPENS

Manitoba's third First Nations-owned casino, Sand Hills, located just south of Carberry, opened on Monday, June 23, 2014.

The 31,000-square-foot casino, on the Swan Lake First Nation just off Highway 5, houses 350 slot machines, several table games and a restaurant and lounge.

Fisher River along with the province's 62 other First Nations will equally share profits from the casino, which officials say has an annual payroll of \$5 million and, over 10 years, is anticipated to have a cumulative economic impact of at least \$150 million in the Westman region.

FRCN chief David Crate was on hand for the official opening and said, "This is a great opportunity for the people of Fisher River and a positive development that will benefit all

First Nations in Manitoba. We are very proud to be a part of this project." Chief Crate was appointed Chair of Chief Gaming Committee by the AMC executive council.

The casino has 175 full-time employees, 60 per cent of which are aboriginal.



Presentation by Chief Francine Meeches, Swan Lake host community, to Chief Crate, Council Member Carl Cochrane and Elder Dave Hart.

FISHER RIVER FOREST PRODUCTS INITIATIVE

Chief and Council are pursuing the establishment of a number of forestry-based businesses in order to create employment, contract and business opportunities for Fisher River Cree Nation. Fisher River's consultant Harley Jonasson is currently working with the Community Renewal Corporation of the University of Winnipeg on development of a business plan and funding application to AANDC.

Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh has committed Forestry Branch officials to work with Chief and Council on the business planning processes and assisting in their efforts to develop a sustainable forestry industry in the community, as well as help them build capacity to successfully bid on forest renewal contract opportunities.

Timber Operations

The Forestry Branch confirmed by letter, dated February 5, 2014, that a Commercial Community Allocation Timber Sale of 4,400 m³ of softwood, and a Non-Commercial Community Allocation Timber Sale of 600 m³ of hardwood would be issued to Fisher River Cree Nation. The final approval is expected in early August 2014 once Fisher River has inspected the proposed harvest sites identified by the Forestry Manager. The Forestry Branch has also committed to reviewing the Fisher River Forest Product's performance in one year, and make additional volumes available if Fisher River requires the volume and operations demonstrate utilization of the product.

Spruce Wood Loggers Sawmill, which is in reasonably close proximity to the Fisher River community, is able to purchase all the timber harvested by Fisher River Forest Products under its allocation, thus ensuring a readily available market.

Contract and Employment Opportunities in the timber harvesting area may include:

- Operators and/or Owner/Operators for forestry equipment (Feller Buncher, Delimber, Skidder, Slasher, Chipper);
- Truck Drivers; and
- Scalers (certified and licensed by Forestry Branch), and Chainsaw operators. Note: Manitoba Conservation provides scaling certification courses and chainsaw operator safety courses.

Forest Renewal Program

The mandate of Manitoba's Forest Renewal Program is to ensure that all harvested forests are regenerated to maintain the existing mix of forest types on Crown land. The principal components of the program include promoting natural regeneration, continued site preparation and tree planting, implementation of stand tending, competitive vegetation

management and intensive silviculture in renewed forests and plantations.

These objectives are carried out through three specific programs: the Forest Renewal Program, the Tree Improvement Program, and the Silviculture Surveys Program (Silviculture is the practice of controlling the establishment, composition, health, quality, and growth of forests).

Minister Gord Mackintosh committed to having Forestry Branch assist Chief and Council in their efforts to develop capacity to bid on forest renewal contract opportunities. The following forest renewal programs of Forestry Branch have been identified as potential areas of employment, contract and business opportunities for Fisher River Cree Nation members:

Site Preparation Contracts: Manitoba administers site preparation activities, including mechanical site scarification for natural regeneration, through contracts or equipment rental agreements. Scarification contracts require a skidder and qualified operator. Minimal training is required as the work involves driving a skidder towing barrels and chains back and forth across a harvested area to assist in the natural regeneration process.

Tree Planting Contracts: Forestry Branch tenders all tree planting contracts through Merx. A total of 600,000 trees are set aside for Aboriginal tree planting contractors only. The remaining 1.2 million trees are open to all tree planting contractors, including Aboriginal contractors.

Tenders are usually advertised in September on the MERX on-line tendering system and on the Forestry Branch website. Viewing of the planting sites is mandatory for all potential bidders and normally occurs in late September or October and mid-February. Contracts are awarded in December and March with planting scheduled from May to July.

Forestry Branch staff will provide Fisher River Forest Products employees with instruction and supervisory assistance during their initial contracts in order to help them gain the experience and expertise necessary to bid on higher level contracts.

Seed Collection: Sources of seeds for replanting a harvested area are taken from trees in that same area in order that the new growth trees are identical to those that were harvested. Cones are collected by topping trees in plantations that have been established by Forestry Branch, or they may be picked from trees that have been felled during harvesting operations. No specialized training is required to secure employment or contract opportunities in seed collection.

Forest Regeneration Surveys: Regeneration surveyors in Manitoba must be licensed by Forestry Branch. Although surveys are generally done by Forestry Branch crews, who perform approximately 2500 hectares of Free to Grow surveys annually, a forest company having a Forest Management Licence (FML) may conduct surveys as well.

Forestry Branch offers a training program for the licensing of forest regeneration surveyors. Although employment or contract opportunities are limited at the present, opportunities may arise in the future; either through contracts with the province or established forest companies that usually contract out the surveys.

Stand Tending Contracts: Forestry Branch is currently considering tendering a contract for manual thinning of a forest stand. This is being done on a test basis to determine whether it is economically feasible to do stand thinning on a regular basis. Although thinning requires a knowledgeable and experienced contractor, Forestry Branch officers would be able to provide full time supervision and instruction to Fisher River Forest Products employees for a successful bid on a thinning contract.

Vegetation Management Contracts: Opportunities exist for employment or contracts for vegetation management through herbicide application for site preparation on newly harvested sites, or release application on replanted areas. There may also be opportunities for manual control methods.

Manitoba Conservation Forestry staff will provide information and advice, and work closely with Fisher River Cree Nation on developing capacity to access these opportunities.

Other Forest-based Commercial Opportunities being evaluated in the current business planning process include Firewood and Biomass (wood chipping) Operations.

Manitoba Conservation's Fire Program is another area that offers employment opportunities for Fisher River Cree Nation members. The Fire Program division is responsible for the detection and suppression of wild fires, and works in close cooperation with other forest fire fighting agencies and jurisdictions. Trained initial attack forest fire fighters are hired at various locations on a seasonal basis each year from May through September. These employees are automatically recalled each May.

Fire Ranger 2 wages are \$16.71 - \$17.86/hr. plus remoteness allowance (if applicable), weekend premiums and overtime. Manitoba Conservation hires fire fighters on a regular basis. Interested applicants may apply at the district Conservation Office in Hodgson or Riverton.

RESOURCE TOURISM OPPORTUNITY – FISHER RIVER (OCHEKWI-SIPI) OUTFITTERS

On April 11, 2014 the Manager of Regional Wildlife Programs and Aboriginal Relations presented information to Chief and Council regarding outfitting. One of the items discussed was the allocation of non-resident hunting licenses to outfitters.

Under Wildlife Branch policy, a First Nation has the first opportunity to obtain big game allocations when they become available. The Wildlife Manager indicated that bear and deer allocations were currently available. This provides an opportunity for Fisher River Cree Nation to expand its

resource-based economy through establishment of a resource tourism or outfitting business. A Resource Tourism business would create employment opportunities such as guiding, and generate economic benefits for the community.

Chief and Council have applied for a Resource Tourism licence and non-resident big game allocations. A detailed business proposal is currently being developed for consideration by Chief and Council.

CROWN LAND AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES

Regular updates on these initiatives will be posted on the Fisher River Cree Nation web site www.fisherriverr.com

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

In 2013 Chief Crate and Council invited Chief Hudson of Peguis First Nation and Chief Traverse of Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation to participate in a joint request to the province to enter into an agreement with the three First Nations for the cooperative management of an extensive tract of Crown lands and natural resources surrounding the three First Nations. A joint request by the three Chiefs was subsequently submitted to Minister Mackintosh. The request was approved and Executive Director Robert Wavay of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs was appointed to lead negotiations for the province.

A draft cooperative management agreement prepared by Fisher River Cree Nation's consultant, Harley Jonasson, was reviewed and endorsed by the Chiefs and Councils of each First Nation, and legal counsel. The draft was also provided to the province of Manitoba.

Expected Outcomes and Benefits of the Cooperative Management Agreement

Fisher River, Peguis and Kinonjeoshtegon will be involved and have a strong voice in the decision-making processes affecting natural resources within the cooperative management area.

A proposed mandate of the board is to develop programs that provide community members with resource related training, education, employment and economic development opportunities.

First Nation community members can benefit from the knowledge, experience and support they gain from biologists, technicians and other professionals in government that they will be working with. In turn, Manitoba government staff will benefit from the knowledge, experience and support they gain through working with members of the three First Nation communities.

The agreement will enable the First Nations to exercise a greater degree of environmental and natural resource protection, stewardship and sustainability.

The close communication and streamlined processes that will result under a cooperative management agreement will provide for more thorough and speedier reviews of proposals or issues.

Key Principles of the Agreement

The joint management area needs to be determined by the three Nations. Fisher River Chief and Council previously identified their Traditional Territory Notice Area on a map during development of the Consultation Protocol agreement. Peguis and Kinonjeoshtegon will review the map and identify any additional areas that they wish to add to form the proposed joint cooperative management area.

The cooperative management area is an administrative area that the three First Nations have identified for joint management of natural resources, and is not to be confused with Traditional Territories and the Crown's duty to consult. Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are protected under the agreement. The agreement does not abrogate or derogate the duty of the Crown to consult with First Nations. The Crown will still have a duty to consult with any one of the three First Nations where a proposed decision or action may affect that First Nation's Aboriginal or Treaty Rights, regardless of any decisions or recommendations of the cooperative management board.

Under the cooperative management agreement, applications and other proposals will be reviewed by the board and committees at the beginning of the government review process, rather than late in the process as is happening now. Having the benefit of an early review by affected First Nations will be valuable information for the province when assessing potential impacts to aboriginal and treaty rights.

An affected First Nation will also benefit from the committee's information sharing and assessments of applications or proposals. The First Nation representative on the committee will be able to provide a detailed review of the proposal to the Chief and Council who will then be able to make an informed decision on the level of consultation that is appropriate for their community.

Chief and Council have proposed that the Board be made up of two members from each First Nation and two members from Manitoba. The recommended term of appointments is three years. Board responsibilities may include establishment of Stewardship Committees (e.g. Forestry Stewardship Committee, Water Stewardship Committee, Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Committee, etc.), review of applications, development of stewardship programs, economic initiatives, annual work plans, long-term plans, education and training programs and other responsibilities to be determined.

An agreement development committee will be created to finalize the cooperative management agreement and develop terms of reference for the stewardship committees. A funding request is also being developed.

TRADITIONAL LAND USE AND OCCUPANCY STUDY

The purpose of the Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study is to document the territorial range and scope of Fisher River Cree Nation's historic and contemporary land use and occupancy on an individual and collective basis.

Through archival, oral history interviews and map biographies conducted with Fisher River Elders and other members who have an intimate familiarity with the environment, this project will document historical and current land use and occupancy patterns, including but not limited to information relating to hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering areas; areas sensitive to wildlife (habitats, seasonal migration routes, moose/caribou calving areas etc.); fisheries (spawning grounds, changes over time etc.); sites traditionally used for medicine gathering, ceremonies, burial sites, and other significant sites. We will be studying and documenting the methods and equipment employed in these activities; traditional movement patterns and means of travel within the region; traditional camps and seasonal settlements; settlement patterns; social organization, family and kinship patterns; Cree place names; the making of tools and equipment such as snowshoes, canoes, knives, etc.; the preparation, curing, skinning and use of animals, and other matters that may be suggested by Elders.

This research will also document and map the various geographic areas where occupation was concentrated throughout different periods of time in the history of the Cree Nation, and will examine reasons for the change. The research will examine reasons leading to the creation of Fisher River Cree Nation Reserve and the move of families from Norway House in 1875; trade, travel and migration routes; location of trading posts and trade routes; and locations and sizes of previous settlements.

The study will provide opportunities for the sharing of individual and community stories, experiential histories and traditional knowledge, which together will help to support and inform decision making for Fisher River First Nation in relation to their current and future traditional land use.

This study will help to educate Ochekwi Sipi youth, students and the general public. It will help to preserve and sustain the Cree language, customs, traditions and history of Ochekwi Sipi Cree Nation. It will help to promote pride in the community and its heritage, and importantly, the research will provide documentary support for land and resource claims.

At the conclusion of this research, the community will receive a final report as well as maps and copies of the research. This body of research will help to create a community archive, significant for the community's future research endeavors.

The research process will be governed and sanctioned

by local protocols and research ethics standards (Tri-Council). Local protocols will be adhered to in the interview process. These may include pakatinasowin, which is the sharing of tobacco in exchange for stories, as well as prayers through which the researchers and the participants pledge to speak the truth and treat each other respectfully. As per local traditional protocols, participants will be presented with a small gift for sharing their stories. The exchange of gifts for knowledge is a long-standing traditional protocol.

All participants will be asked to give informed consent, either through signed consent form or through explicit oral consent. To address any concerns the interviewees may have about the interview, our communications with them and the consent forms release them of any obligation to participate in our study at any point.

Participants will have the right to choose not to answer questions as they see fit. They also have the right to remain anonymous or request confidentiality in advance of the interview, during the interview or afterwards. They also have the opportunity to edit, clarify, or withdraw the transcript of their interview. Their participation in all aspects of this project will be entirely voluntary.

The informed consent will be with the research participants directly. The knowledge itself belongs to the individual Elder and we will use it only with their stated permission. With the permission of the Elders we intend to make the research data (copies of the original recorded interviews and transcripts) available to Chief and Council.

The final results of this study will be shared with the participants, Chief and Council and the community. The participants will receive copies of any publications where their data is explicitly included. Likewise, Chief and Council will receive copies of any publications.

The interview materials will be retained electronically through digital audio recordings, in transcripts and maps throughout the duration of this research project. At the conclusion of the research, copies of the research, interview transcripts and maps will be provided to Ojibwa Sipi Cree Nation to serve as a community archive. Copies of edited recordings/transcripts will also be returned to the interview participants. With the permission of the interview participants we will also retain a copy of the recording and transcripts for further research with the agreement that any further use of their materials will require further consent. Where the research participants require confidentiality regarding their data those sections will be edited out of copies made publicly accessible.

Dr. Winona Wheeler and Harley Jonasson are co-project managers for this initiative. Potential sources of funding for the project have been contacted, and formal funding requests will be submitted to them. The interview process will begin in August 2014. Research, mapping and report writing will carry on throughout the fall and winter with expected completion by mid-summer of 2015.

FISHER RIVER CREE NATION PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS EXPANSION INITIATIVE

The Fisher Bay Provincial Park was established in 2011 through the joint efforts of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (CWS), Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN), and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS). At a meeting with FRCN Chief and Council and CPAWS in March of 2013, the Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship made a commitment to explore expanding the boundaries of Fisher Bay Provincial Park.

The Minister accepted the offer of Chief and Council to initiate discussions with stakeholder groups in collaboration with CPAWS and Parks Branch, in order to garner support for the proposed park expansion and attempt to address issues raised through the stakeholder group meetings.

To coordinate the process, the Fisher Bay Provincial Park Expansion Implementation Team was established. Its members include: Head of Park Planning & Ecology Jessica Elliott, Regional Park Specialist Tony Merkl, FRCN Chief David Crate, FRCN Councilor Dion McKay, FRCN Consultant Harley Jonasson, and Ron Thiessen, CPAWS.

The Planning Strategy

The boundaries initially proposed by FRCN and CPAWS for the expanded Fisher Bay Provincial Park considered bio-geophysical and cultural features as well as existing encumbrances, existing uses, and interests of other land users or potential land users. The proposed boundaries were of concern to numerous stakeholders in the 2010 review process and as a result a reduced area was designated.

The consultation process being proposed for the current proposal will employ a different strategy. Communities and stakeholders will be provided with maps of a large “study area”, and asked for their input as to which areas they would like to see protected, either through designation as a provincial park, wildlife management area, provincial forest or possibly some other protected area category.

The rationale for this strategy is that while one area may not be suitable or supported for a particular designation, it may be recommended for a different designation. For example, Forestry Branch and Quota Holders may be strongly opposed to designation of a particular area as a Provincial Park which does not permit logging, but may be strongly supportive of designating the area as a Provincial Forest or Wildlife Management Area, both of which provide protected area status but still allow timber harvest.

Each of the groups to be consulted has a vested interest in the area. Allowing these groups the opportunity to become directly involved in the process and have their interests and concerns considered will hopefully result in the groups reaching consensus on the final plan.

A draft planning document has been developed and consultation with the various interest groups is planned to begin in the fall of 2014.

THE CROWN'S DUTY TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE

As articulated on the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's (AANDC) website,

“Consulting is an important part of good governance, sound policy development and decision-making. In addition to good governance objectives, Canada has common law obligations to consult with Aboriginal groups.

The Crown has a legal duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate Aboriginal groups when it contemplates conduct that might adversely impact potential or established section 35 or Treaty rights of Aboriginal groups, as stated by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Haida and Taku River decisions. The legal duty to consult has since been reaffirmed and continues to be expanded upon by the Supreme Court of Canada through ITS decisions.”

Chief and Council recognize the important role the Crown-Aboriginal consultation process performs in protecting the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of its members and ensuring that the natural resources are sustainably managed and protected. They also recognize the benefits of closer working relationships that develop with the province through the consultation processes. Here are some of the consultation files that Chief and Council were involved in during 2013/2014 year.

MANITOBA-FISHER RIVER CREE NATION CONSULTATION PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

Under the Consultation Protocol Agreement Chief and Council receive requests from government departments on a regular basis to provide comments on applications and other types of proposals affecting Crown land or natural resources within the Fisher River Cree Nation

Traditional Territory Notice Area. Chief and Council identified two main issues with the provincial process:

1. Fisher River Cree Nation was not being circulated on all applications or proposals; and
2. The circulars usually had insufficient information to make informed assessments.
3. Chief and Council concluded that the issues could best be addressed through a general protocol agreement with the province of Manitoba – an agreement that would clearly identify processes and responsibilities. Steps were taken, immediately, to engage the province in negotiating the agreement, and on August 7, 2013, this historic Manitoba – Fisher River Cree Nation

Consultation Protocol was signed by the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Eric Robinson, and Fisher River Cree Nation Chief David Crate and Councilors Carl Cochrane, Dion McKay, Darrell Thaddeus and Barry Wilson.

What does the protocol signify?

Under the terms of the protocol agreement, Fisher River Cree Nation is to be informed of any application, proposal or decision being considered by the province of Manitoba that may affect Fisher River Cree Nation's traditional territory. This will eliminate or substantially reduce the likelihood of any dispositions or developments proceeding without consultation, as was the case in the past with peat mines.

The protocol agreement was also expected to facilitate closer working relationships between Fisher River and the province of Manitoba, and result in more effective reviews and decision-making processes. It includes commitments to pursue discussions about funding for a community consultation coordinator position at Fisher River Cree Nation, and to work together to provide assistance to Fisher River for their Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study and Mapping Initiative.

Results to Date

Since the Consultation Protocol was signed, Chief and Council have been contacted on a number of occasions regarding proposed activities in the area. The increased discussions and interaction with provincial officials and Ministers have already resulted in more respectful and cooperative working relationships. As a result, Chief and Council have negotiated a number of favourable considerations and accommodations with the province. These include:

Approval of a valuable timber sale allocation along with commitments to assist in accessing other forestry related training, employment and contract opportunities;

Commitment to provide technical and professional support from provincial GIS technicians, biologists, senior managers and committee members to assist Fisher River;

Commitment to provide technical assistance and a further commitment to consider a funding contribution towards a Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study;

Commitment to pursue funding for a full-time consultation coordinator at Fisher River;

Allocations of non-resident big game licenses for Fisher River in order to establish a resource tourism (outfitting) business currently under consideration by Chief and Council;

Agreement to develop a cooperative management agreement on all Crown lands, waters and natural resources within an area to be defined. The agreement would be between Manitoba and Fisher River Cree Nation, Peguis First Nation and Jackhead First Nation; and

Agreement to work jointly on expansion of the Fisher Bay Provincial Park, Moose Lake Wildlife Management Area, and possibly other protected areas.

CROWN CONSULTATION: PEGUIS FIRST NATION TLE SELECTIONS

Several parcels of provincial Crown land, selected by Peguis First Nation under their Treaty Land

Entitlement, are located within Fisher River Cree Nation's Traditional Territory.

In 2010, Chief and Council wrote to the Minister for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and to the Ministers for Manitoba Conservation and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs advising that the transfer of the selected lands would result in an impact, derogation and infringement of Fisher River Cree Nation's aboriginal and treaty rights.

Chief and Council were recently made aware that Canada will be undertaking consultation with First Nations affected by Treaty Land Entitlement selections in their traditional territories. A letter has been sent to the Regional Director General requesting information on the process and timelines as they pertain to meeting with Fisher River Cree Nation Chief and Council.

CROWN CONSULTATION: AGRICULTURAL CROWN LANDS

In an October 3, 2012 letter from Manitoba Agriculture, Chief and Council were asked to advise of any concerns regarding Crown lands that were to be advertised for agricultural leasing.

Chief and Council requested formal consultation prior to the Crown lands being advertised. A meeting subsequently took place at Fisher River Cree Nation on June 7, 2013 at which time the Agriculture representative advised Chief and Council that the advertising list had been cancelled, and that they would be notified and consulted on any new advertising lists in future.

Another agriculture related matter involved the Sylvan Dale Community Pasture that Canada had surrendered to Manitoba. Chief and Council contacted Manitoba Agriculture, who advised that they were in the process of entering into an agreement with a patron group to operate the pasture. The agriculture officials were informed that under the Consultation Protocol Agreement, they were obligated to provide appropriate notice and information to the Fisher River Cree Nation. The Agriculture representative indicated that they planned to schedule a meeting with Chief and Council as soon as they received information that was being prepared for the meeting. The meeting is expected to take place in September.

CROWN CONSULTATION: FOREST OPERATING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

On January 23, 2013 the Forest Manager for Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship requested a meeting to discuss their proposed 2013/14 Forest Operating Plan. A consultation plan and budget were developed jointly by Fisher River Cree Nation and Manitoba, and community consultation meetings completed on December 6, 2013.

On June 17, 2014 Chief and Council met with Minister Mackintosh and senior department officials. It was agreed that both parties would give priority to completing the 2013/14 consultation and beginning consultation on the 2014/15 operating plan and five year plan.

The Minister was very supportive of Chief and Council's current economic development and resource stewardship initiatives, one of which is the development of a forest-based economy in the community. He committed forestry staff to provide assistance to Chief and Council in developing employment and business opportunities, and designated an official from a high level government committee to provide further assistance to Chief and Council on this and other initiatives.

On July 4, 2014 Manitoba's Consultation team met with Chief and Council to review the remaining consultation issues outstanding. The concerns were addressed, discussions took place regarding final steps to conclude the 2013/14 consultation, and plans made to move forward on consultation for the 2014/15 Forest Operating Plan and Five Year Forest Management Plan. The new consultation is expected to be completed in September 2014.

A number of issues were identified as a result of the research and meetings with elders and community members. Manitoba and Fisher River Cree Nation will work closely together, through the Forest Stewardship Committee to be established under the Cooperative Management Agreement, to ensure all concerns are addressed.

Forestry Branch has a number of guidelines and best practices documents that describe how harvesting and other forest operations are to be carried out. These documents have been established mainly for environmental and conservation purposes, such as protection of fish and wildlife habitat, corridors, shelter, buffers, etc. Forestry Branch has provided Chief and Council with copies of all of the guidelines and best practice manuals.

Chief and Council and other community members will be working closely with Forestry Branch staff on plans for timber harvesting, forest renewal and forest management, as well as economic development. This working relationship will be further expanded once the cooperative management board and forestry stewardship committee have been established.

Through these close working relationships, Chief and Council will be able to provide greater oversight on activities within the Fisher River Cree Nation Traditional Territory and thus ensure their members' Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are respected and protected. At the same time, they will be in a better position to become aware of and capitalize on employment and economic opportunities that may arise for the community.

CROWN CONSULTATION: MANITOBA HYDRO APPLICATIONS FOR FINAL LICENSES

Manitoba Hydro was issued an interim license for Lake Winnipeg Regulation (LWR) on November 18, 1970 and a supplementary interim license on August 8, 1972. In 2010, Hydro applied to Manitoba for a final license under the Water Power Act. On March 24, 2014 Water Stewardship (WSD) staff met with Council to explain the proposal and discuss development of a consultation plan and budget. Manitoba Hydro staff also met with Council on May 2, 2014 to provide a more detailed technical overview of the proposal.

Manitoba's Position

WSD stated that issuance of the final licenses would not result in any changes from the way Manitoba Hydro has regulated Lake Winnipeg in the past, and was basically an administrative process. Hydro has been operating under interim licenses, which are conditional licenses that were issued until Hydro had met all the licensing conditions. Since Hydro has now satisfied the conditions, they have applied for the final licenses.

WSD advised that they would not be dealing with past effects in their consultation process. They were only interested in hearing whether the decisions to issue the final licenses would have any adverse effects on Fisher River Cree Nation's Aboriginal or Treaty Rights.

Fisher River Cree Nation's Position

Past adverse effects are relevant, otherwise the Minister of Conservation would not have issued Terms of Reference to the Clean Environment Commission that included the requirement to hear evidence regarding past effects. Furthermore, adverse effects experienced in the past may continue or occur in the future. The Minister can change, or apply additional conditions to the final licenses based on information regarding past adverse effects; therefore, past effects are certainly relevant and should be considered in the consultation and accommodation process. A consultation protocol, plan and budget are currently being finalized, and meetings with Water Stewardship officials planned for the fall.

CROWN CONSULTATION: PROPOSED NEW TRAPPING RESTRICTIONS

The Directors for Wildlife Branch and Parks Branch of Manitoba Conservation sent a letter to Chief Crate informing him of the province's intent to impose restrictions on trapping in and around provincial parks and recreational Crown lands. Chief and Council responded in a letter dated March 18, 2014 stating that many members of the community are involved in trapping and the proposed restrictions will infringe the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Fisher River Cree Nation. They requested the province enter into a consultation process as set out in the Consultation Protocol Agreement.

The potential infringement on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights is significant, contrary to the statement in the June 2 letter from the directors that they "anticipate impacts to rights-based trapping to be minimal." The June 2 letter advised that the directors would contact the Band

Office to schedule a meeting with Chief and Council to discuss the proposed restrictions. The meeting is expected to take place in August.

CROWN CONSULTATION: RESOURCE TOURISM (OUTFITTING) APPLICATIONS

On April 11, 2014 the Manager of Regional Wildlife Programs and Aboriginal Relations met with Chief and Council to present information on the resource tourism or outfitting program. The presentation also included general information on outfitting allocations and activities in Fisher River Cree Nation's Traditional Territory. Chief and Council informed the wildlife manager that they wished to be consulted on any new allocations planned for the Fisher River Cree Nation Traditional Territory Notice Area in accordance with the Consultation Protocol.

CROWN CONSULTATION: DRAINAGE LICENSES & OTHER WATER CONTROL WORKS

Chief and Council sent a letter on March 18, 2014 to Water Stewardship advising of their failure to consult as per the Consultation Protocol, prior to approving a drainage license in the area. On May 20, 2014 the Water Resources Management staff met with Chief and Council at Fisher River Cree Nation. An agreement was reached to work together cooperatively on all water related matters that may affect Fisher River Cree Nation.

FISHER RIVER MCBETH FISHERIES

Norway House sets the precedence

The issue in Robertson v. Canada was whether Mr. Robertson's and Mr. Saunders' (both members of the Norway House Cree Nation) income from their commercial fishing business was situated on a reserve.

The trial judge of the Tax Court of Canada, Hirschfield, J., allowed the appeals of the respondents Ronald Robertson and Roger Saunders from assessments of their income tax liability for the taxation years 1999-2004 for Mr. Robertson, and 2002 and 2003 for Mr. Saunders. He held that the Minister of National Revenue had wrongly included their income as business income they had earned in those years from commercial fishing and the employment insurance benefits they have received. The trial judge found that the respondents' income was situated on reserve and was, therefore, exempt from tax under section 87(1)(b) of the Indian Act (s. 87).

The Federal Court of Appeal (FCA) upheld the trial judge's conclusion. The FCA noted that the trial judge did not have the benefit of Bastien and Dube (Bastien Estate v. Canada, 2011 SCC 38 and Dube v. Canada, 2011 SCC 39) when he wrote his decision. Nonetheless, the FCA opined that the trial judge reached the right decision, in light of those decisions.

In arriving at its decision, the Federal Court of Appeal applied the connecting factors test as enunciated in Bastien and Dube, and in particular considered the following factors as being relevant to the determination of the site of the property:

- The boundaries and character of the Norway House Resources Management Area;
- The absence of manipulation;
- The purpose of section 87;
- The type of property;
- The nature of taxation;
- The residence of the taxpayer;
- The traditional way of life; and
- The location of the business activities.

The Federal Court of Appeal's Justice Evans, concluded that the business income earned by the fishermen from commercial fishing was situated on the reserve and was not subject to income tax by virtue of section 87. The role of the Co-op, an on-reserve institution, firmly anchored the business activities to the reserve. The commercial activities of FFMC were given no weight in the appeal court's decision and it was found immaterial that the ultimate customers (FFMC's customers) had no connection to a reserve.

Leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada was denied. The decisions of the Tax Court and the Court of Appeal were thus upheld which found that the respondents' income was situated on reserve and was, therefore, exempt from tax under section 87(1)(b) of the Indian Act (s. 87).

The Case for Fisher River Fishermen

The factual circumstances of the Fisher River fishermen are near identical to the facts in the Robertson case.

- The Fisher River fishermen are all Indians as defined by section 2 of the Indian Act. They are all members of the Fisher River Cree Nation, which in 1875 became signatory to Treaty number five (5).
- The Fisher River fishermen all live on the Fisher River Cree Nation reserve.
- In the taxation years at issue, all of the Fisher River fishermen were self-employed commercial fishermen. They own fishing licenses and fishing quotas as members of the Fisher River McBeth Fisheries (the "Co-op"). They generally reach the lakes by boat from the reserve after purchasing gas on reserve. The fishermen store and maintain their boats on reserve and maintained their nets and fishing gear on reserve as well.
- The Fisher River fishermen keep their books, records and other materials related to their fishing business on reserve.
- The Fisher River fishermen maintain their bank accounts on reserve.
- The Fisher River fishermen are members of their Co-op.
- The Co-op maintains its administrative office on reserve. The Co-op acts as a representative of its members in the sale of their fish to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) and assists by providing its members with fishing supplies on credit. The Co-op acts as an agent of FFMC, buying fish from its members and selling the fish to FFMC, for a fee which covered a portion of the Co-op's operating costs.

In light of the clear similarities of the Fisher River fishermen case to the Robertson case, the Fisher River Cree Nation has



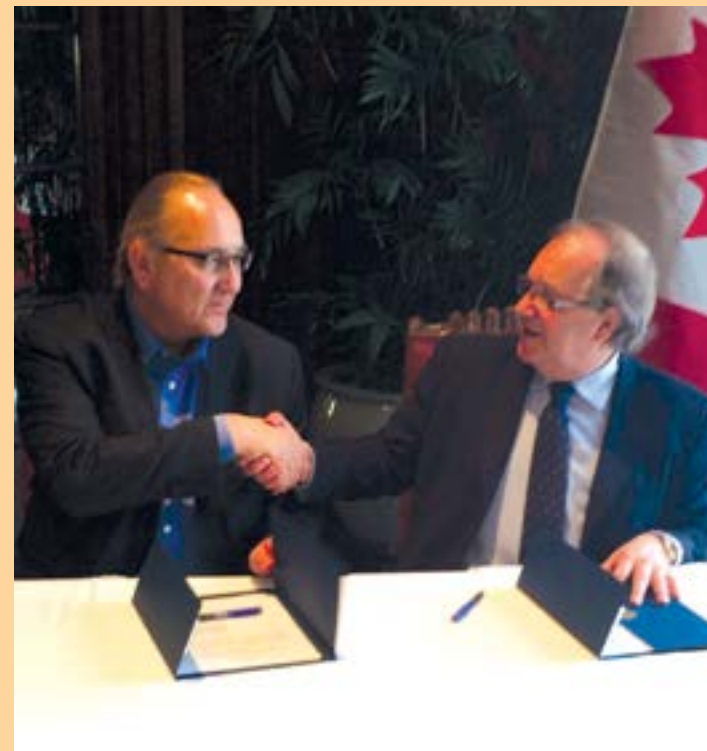
submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) that the Fisher River fishermen are entitled to a similar decision by CRA, that their income is situated on reserve and is, therefore, exempt from tax under section 87(1)(b) of the Indian Act (s. 87).

Current Status

Currently, Notice of Objections for many of the Co-op's members have been submitted to CRA. If the CRA agrees with the submission made by the Fisher River Cree Nation, then the commercial fishing activities of those Co-op members who have submitted a Notice of Objection would be tax exempt for their commercial fishing activities.

If the CRA does not agree with the submission of the Fisher River Cree Nation, then that decision would be appealed to the Tax Court of Canada.

FIRST NATIONS LAND MANAGEMENT REGIME



Last fall, Fisher River Cree Nation was selected as one of the 28 First Nations to receive entry into the First Nations Land Management Regime. The FNLM regime enables First Nations to manage their own land, resources and environment according to their own land codes, laws and policies.

FRCN joins more than 80 other First Nations across Canada who have the ability to opt out of 34 land-related sections of the Indian Act, giving them direct control over reserve land and resources.

The Regime opens up a host of new economic opportunities by strengthening entrepreneurship, increasing the value of First Nations assets and forging new and effective partnerships.

Chief Crate and The Honourable Bernard Valcour Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development sign First Nations Land Management Regime agreement.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

The following article, written by Staff Sergeant Andy Golebioski, from the Community Relations Unit of the Winnipeg Police Service was published in the September 2013 issue of First Nations Voice.

Fisher River Leading the Way

One community that continually seems to be receiving a lot of praise and recognition is the Fisher River Cree Nation. Whether it is in the area of public safety, economic development, or community pride, Chief David Crate and council seem to be working hard to better their community.

It was with this in mind that we were reviewing the FRCN website. Recently we learned that the Ada Wilson “Grey Cloud Woman” Powwow was taking place from August 6th-8th. We contacted Councilor Barry Wilson and he invited us to take part in their Grand Entry. We immediately accepted and on Wednesday, August 7th, four of us from our diversity leadership team made the two hour trip north.

Upon entering the FRCN, we were greeted by the band constable who gave us an escort to the powwow grounds. It was full of vehicles, tents, vendors, and of course, people. We arrived just in time to catch the end of a joint announcement between the Province and the FRCN on a new land use consultation protocol. We quickly learned that this was only the latest of their many accomplishments.

Our initial introductions were brief as we quickly had to assemble for the Grand Entry. During this time we were continually approached by other community representatives and residents who warmly welcomed us to Fisher River. This included children, teens, and elders. We immediately felt a sense of attachment to them.

Once the Grand Entry began, we entered the arbor along with over 100 dancers of all ages who circled around us, sometimes 3 and 4 rows deep. At one point I leaned over to Councilor Dion McKay and told him that next year we needed to bring a bus load of inner city kids into this environment to let them feel the power of this moment. He agreed.

After the Grand Entry, we had a lunch meeting with Chief Crate and members of council. We learned about their Vision for this community and the steps they were taking to reach it. They described their planning processes, investment strategies, and community engagement efforts. They didn’t care to spend a lot of time talking about what they can’t do. They preferred to talk about the things they are actually doing with the money they have. By the end of the meeting, our party agreed that these leaders possessed skills and commitment that any rural or urban community in this country would be lucky to have.

But as if this that wasn’t enough, we were then taken on a tour to see the results of their work. We saw their treatment plant, housing initiatives, new fitness center, cottage properties, youth camp and many other things they are working on. Everything they do is designed to benefit the community, encourage further growth, and provide a return on their investments.

It was almost too much to take in and there were a number of important lessons we brought back to Winnipeg. Not only do Chief Crate and his community dispel any negative perception about reserve management, they destroy it.

Add this column to the mountain of praise they continue to receive.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FRCN and U of W enter into agreement

The University of Winnipeg and Fisher River Cree Nation entered into an agreement to cooperate on any program offered at either institution that both sides think will contribute to the fostering and development of the cooperative relationship between the two parties.

Cooperation shall be carried out through such activities as:

- Exchange of faculty and/or staff
- Exchange of students

Joint research activities and publications

Participation in seminars and academic meetings

Exchange of academic materials and other information

Special short-term academic programs

Academic programs that may include arrangements such as dual degree, transfer agreements, 2 + 1, or 1 + 3.

Each party shall designate a liaison officer to develop and coordinate the specific activities agree upon.

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Fitness Centre Completed

Last year, as part of the Healthy Living Initiative, construction began on a fitness centre. The grand opening is expected in September 2014.

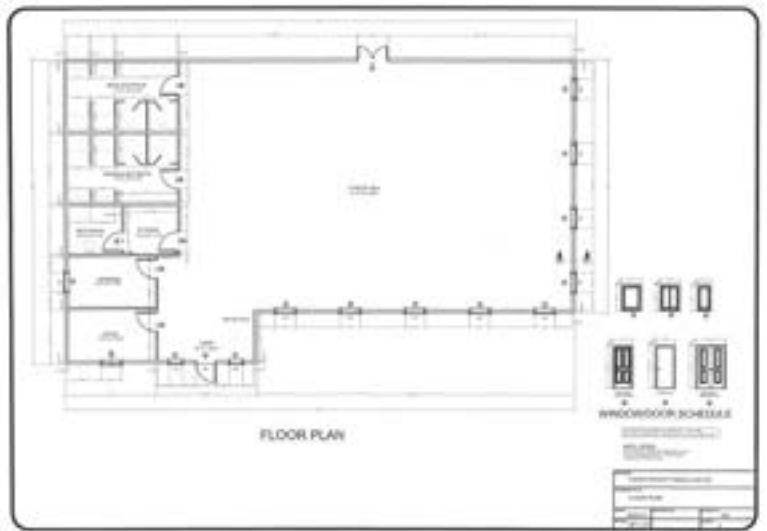
The 40'x80' facility has brand new commercial grade equipment and includes washroom and shower facilities and two office spaces. The centre is also heated/cooled using geothermal.

Programming is a key aspect of the centre and will be targeting many different groups, ranging from youth and elders to diabetes program participants and family centered sports team.

We are happy to announce that we have hired Dustin Murdock as our Fitness Centre Coordinator. He recently graduated from the U of W with a degree in Kinesiology. We are currently looking to hire two fitness centre personnel to assist in the programming.

In the future, we hope to have a massage therapist and dietitian visit the centre to coincide with members' work out plans, offering a rounded and full experience.

FITNESS CENTER FLOOR PLAN



RIGHT TO PLAY

Partnership with Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation

Last August Winnipeg Jets owner Mark Chipman visited Fisher River for a tour in the back of the band's van for a chance to see where the Jets' half of a \$250,000 contribution to a new on-reserve youth program was going.

The Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation donated the money to fund the Right to Play program at Fisher River Cree Nation. This program is the first of its kind in Manitoba.

Fisher River is a test case, a safe place to start the program before moving on to other, more remote and troubled reserves, a place where there is still need but also a good chance the new program will work.

Right to Play is best-known for its work in developing countries, but has been working in Fisher River on a program meant to teach young people life skills through recreation.

The program called PLAY (Promoting Life-Skills in Aboriginal Youth) is a pilot project to support positive emotional, physical, social and cognitive development



in the children of Fisher River. The program also aims to limit the challenges and build on the strengths of Aboriginal youth and their communities, while supporting the value of culture and identity. A key component of the program is the promotion of youth engagement through leadership activities, volunteer work and relationship building with other members of the community.

Right to Play is a global organization that uses the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing adversity in more than 20 countries. The Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation supports registered charities that focus on improving the quality of life for disadvantaged children and youth.

FRCN earns the Right to Play...again

Through successful youth programs such as youth lead events, youth hand drumming, after school programs and day trips, the Right to Play program has granted our community another year extension.

Justin Sinclair- Paul has assumed the lead role and is credited with the success of the Right to Play Program. He has built relationships with a core group of youth that are willing to come and participate, share, and be actively involved in planning and implementing their own uniquely designed programs.

Last summer, we had development clinics for various sports such as lacrosse and now we have four qualified coaches that will hopefully lead our youth into the Manitoba leagues next summer. We also had a hockey clinic which has helped enhance the already strong minor hockey program in our community.

Back to School Programs will begin in the second week of September. A two on two beach volley tournament is scheduled for September 13-14 at the Treaty Grounds.





FISHER RIVER HEALTH CENTRE RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

This year, the Fisher River Health Centre (FRHC) received accreditation through the Canadian Accreditation Council (CAC), an organization with more than 35 years of experience working with organizations in the human and health services sector.

FRHC will receive the official accreditation certificate in September, which will confirm the length of accreditation. Typically organizations are accredited for one to three years; FRHC is hoping for a three year term.

In order to meet the requirements of accreditation, the following standards were implemented and addressed by FRHC:

- Leadership & Governance
- Financial Management
- Information Management
- Support of Quality Improvement
- Ethics
- Rights & Individual Choice
- Health & Safety
- Administration & Management
- Service Delivery
- Home Care Program
- Culturally Specific Program

FRHC met the standards in record time; organizations are given a three year time limit to receive accreditation, but FRHC achieved the required standards in just one year.

CAC COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS

Over the years, CAC has worked with First Nations communities across Canada to help enhance programming through its accreditation process. Accreditation promotes and supports continuous quality improvements using pre-determined standards to assess and improve quality of health services within the FRHC Programs

The organization makes a point of ensuring that there is at least one aboriginal member of the review team conducting the on-site observation for reviews of organizations choosing to have an Aboriginal Enhanced Designation. This is to ensure that core values and culture are paramount in the service delivery.

As it stands, CAC is the only accrediting body that integrates cultural experiences into the evaluative process and has been involved in the accreditation of more than 80 Aboriginal programs, both on and off reserve.

CAC ALIGNS WITH FRHC'S MISSION

The CAC standards are in line with the FRHC's mission to create and deliver health services that utilize approaches to support and enhance the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of the individual, families, and community. According to the mission statement, approaches will:

- be culturally appropriate, respectful, and responsive to the community health needs;
- be considerate of traditional and western approaches to health well-being;
- enhance, empower, and support the individual, family, and community to take responsibility over their own health;
- promote and facilitate multi-sectoral community planning; and
- be innovate and create internal and external partnerships that are necessary to improve and ensure access to health services that support all FRCN members.

FRHC OFFERS PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES

The Fisher River Health Centre currently provides the following Primary Health Services

- Nursing Services
- Physician Services
- HIV/AIDS Program
- Diabetes Program/Clinic
- Dietician
- Psychiatric Nursing
- Well Baby /Infant Care Clinic
- Immunization Clinic
- Dental Services
- Optometrist Services
- Foot Care Clinic
- Home and Community Care Program
- Mental Health Program
- Addictions Program
- Environmental Health Program

In addition, FRHC recently received eChart and Telehealth capabilities and has been certified with obtaining Advanced Access with Manitoba Health.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCREDITATION

CAC accredits programs within organizations and programs that have demonstrated congruency to CAC Standards are granted accreditation status. A Peer Review Process, utilizing volunteer reviewers, is the means by which programs are evaluated against the standards, for accreditation.

The purpose of accreditation is to ensure that there is congruency between:

- Developments in excellent practice, changes in legislation, government policy and regulations and CAC Standard
- CAC Standards and written program policy and procedure
- Program policy and procedure translated into staff, contractor and volunteer practice
- Practice as described by staff, contractors and volunteers and the actual experience of persons served
- Persons served experience with the need to develop or revise standards



The indicators used in the CAC accreditation process are designed to overlay each other and provide the team with a complete picture from multiple perspectives. The indicators used to identify issues and check for congruency include:

- Review of documents, including policy
- Interviews of senior management, supervisors, front-line staff, contractors, students, volunteers and persons served
- Staff, contractor, student, volunteer and person served file reviews
- On-site observations

The process of accreditation involves a working partnership between CAC and the program to:

- Assist programs in becoming better service providers
- Enhance service delivery through an increased focus on structure, internal processes, outcome measurements and quality assurance
- Provide programs a stronger foundation upon which to build
- Provide organizations with both professional and public recognition of their achievements

Accreditation status is not transferable:

- From one program to another
- One location to another
- From one owner to another

Source: Canadian Accreditation Council, General Information



Understanding Advanced Access

Advanced Access is a training and implementation process designed so that patients can see a physician or other primary care practitioner at a time and date that is convenient for them.

How does FRHC benefit?

- Improved organizational structure – Advanced Access enables for better patient flow and access to services including primary care, treatment and emergency.
- More efficient use of staff – Advanced Access encourages your staff to use the full scope of their expertise, reducing overlaps and inefficiencies.
- More teamwork – Advanced Access encourages your clinic staff to function as a team and, as a result, experience more job satisfaction.
- Better clinical outcomes – Advanced Access enables your clinic to provide earlier diagnoses, improving your patients’ chances for treatments and cures.
- Better co-ordination and integration – Advanced Access builds more flexibility into your clinic operations, enabling your clinic to provide service to more patients and building your client base.
- Better communication and co-operation – Advanced Access strives to do today’s work today. This means your clinic does not have to redirect patients to emergency departments or put them on long waiting lists.
- Better use of financial resources – Advanced Access keeps your bottom-line costs down by eliminating unnecessary and duplicate services.

How do patients benefit?

Because of Advanced Access patients will:

- have better access to health care services;
- have decreased wait for and at appointments: be able to book appointments on the same day, within a few days or at a time that is convenient for them;
- have decreased visits per year: multiple issues will be addressed in one visit;
- be able to see their physician/provider of choice;
- experience more efficient appointments; and
- have health issues addressed earlier.

Source: Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors



YOUTH TRIP TO GUATEMALA

The World Indigenous Business Forum is an annual event, organized by the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, which aims to engage Indigenous people in global economic discussions. There are four main sectors that focus on Global Indigenous Economic issues; Community, Industry, Academic and Government. Leaders in these sectors are sought out to share their knowledge with delegates.

This year seven FRCN members will be traveling to Guatemala City, Guatemala to represent our community and nation at the event which will be held from October 28-30. Congratulations to Raiden Cochrane, Celicia Amos, Darian Mckay and Kaitlyn Murdock who have been selected to attend this important conference based on their academic standing, community engagements, and overall community commitment. They will be joined by Angie Cote, Justin Sinclair- Paul and Carla Cochrane who will be participating in the forum as presenters and community ambassadors.

This experience is a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase our community’s culture and rich history on the world stage and gain meaningful insight to the countless opportunities the world has to offer our youth. The Fisher River attendees will participate in the opening ceremonies at the Guatemala National Palace and will be showcasing local beadwork and artwork.

The first World Indigenous Business Forum was held in 2010 and 2011 in New York City, USA. Since then, WIBF has been hosted in Sydney, Australia 2012, Windhoek, Africa 2013 and now in Guatemala City 2014. The 2015 event will be held in Oahu, Hawaii.

SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Conceptual designs based on the three options were then developed, along with cost estimates. Option 2 – the construction of a new grade 7-12 school, with additions and renovations to the existing school to better accommodate the needs of K4 – 6 emerged as the best option.

The construction cost estimate for the project is \$37.823 million. The project schedule will be dependent upon the ability to secure funding.

At 42 years of age, The Charles Sinclair School holds the status of being the second oldest First Nations school in Manitoba. Despite its age, an assessment of the school found its structure to be intact, and recommended that it could be renovated to accommodate Grades K4-6.

The Fisher River Cree Nation School feasibility study, completed in November 2013, determined a projected enrollment of 508 students in the year 2022. This projection established the overall size of the required educational facility and resulted in the review of three options:

- 1** Build a new K4- 12 school;
- 2** Renovate, modify and expand the existing school to better serve grades K4-6, and build a new school for grades 7-12; or
- 3** Renovate, modify and expand the existing school to better serve grades K4-8, and build a new school for grades 9-12.



CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL SEASON!

HOCKEY

HIGHLIGHTS

It was another successful hockey season for all levels of Fisher River hockey. A big thank you to all the coaches/managers, parents and fans for making this year such a success. For some players this was their last year in Minor Hockey, we wish them the best and encourage them to continue their involvement in the sport. We look forward to another great season of hockey and wish the best of luck to the players that will be participating this year.



Ozzy Jones, Michael Spence and Kyle Cochrane played with their AAA 2003 Stars Team in the Brandon Source for Sports Excellence Tournament and the team placed Gold in their division.



Marcus Crate, Ozzy Jones, Michael Spence and Kyle Cochrane also played with the Mallard Stars in the Southeast Tourney and won 1st Place Champs!



Fisher River Midgets placed 1st in the Southeast Tourney.



Fisher River Midgets participated in the provincials, and had a great tournament.



Fisher River Peewees participated in a tournament in Gimli. Troy Cochrane and Kyle Cochrane both played hard for their team.



FRCN Elder Helen Cochrane comes to watch her grandson Ozzy Jones perform on the ice as the Atom Goalie and John Cochrane Sr. comes to watch his grandson Kyle Cochrane perform as Captain/Centre of his Atom team. The two Elders never miss a home game.

NEW!

Hawks land in FRCN

JUNIOR B HOCKEY TEAM

Fisher River Cree Nation has a new Manitoba Keystone Junior B Hockey League (KJHL) franchise. The Fisher River Hawks will start play in October for the upcoming KJHL winter hockey season, 2014-2015.

The team is currently recruiting players. If you are a hockey player who would like to play Junior B Hockey for the Hawks this upcoming season please contact Vince Crate (204.645.2895), Tony Bird (204.645.3426) or Carl Cochrane (204.645.2171) for further information.

Billeting for players will be available for players who need. Please note that you must not be currently affiliated with another KJHL hockey club.





SCOTT CAMERON

HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

FRCN member inducted into Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame

On October 5, 2013 Scott Cameron became the first band member from the Fisher River community to be inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame.

Cameron played on the Ile des Chenes North Stars Senior Men's hockey team 10 year ago, competing against the best senior hockey teams from across the country in the hopes of winning the Allan Cup, awarded to the Canadian Senior Men's National Ice Hockey Champions. In 2003, Cameron's team was successful in achieving this goal. They join him in the hall of fame induction.

Hockey has always been a passion for Cameron, and those who have watched him over the years say that this passion shines through when he plays. FRCN is extremely proud of Cameron's achievements. Congratulations!

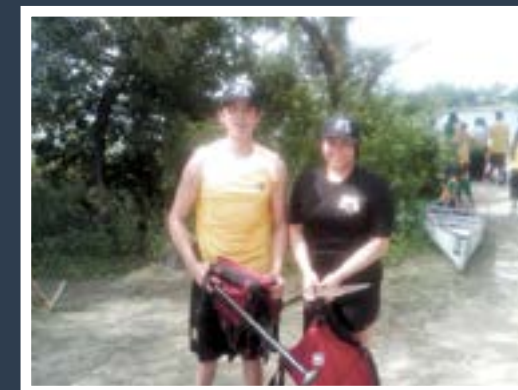


Allan Cup 2003 - Dundas

NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES



Fisher River Girls Jodine Thaddeus and Alyssa Cochrane win Bronze in the 6000 meters for team Manitoba at the North American Indigenous Games. The girls battled through pain and tears in this grueling long distance canoe race



Sabrina Cook from Fisher River and Kethan North from Oxford House win Silver for team Manitoba at the NAIG in the 1000 meter canoe race



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

This year's annual Treaty Days was another success. While the number of participants and spectators were not as high as in previous years, those in attendance had fun.

We had a tremendous amount of support from community volunteers that helped make all events run smoothly and on time. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated, with your help we were able to overcome the few setbacks and put on another successful event.

SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES – CHIEF AND COUNCILORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014 (UNAUDITED)



Management's Responsibility

To the Members and Chief and Council of Fisher River Cree Nation:

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying schedule of remuneration and expenses – Chief and Councilors, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the schedule of remuneration and expenses – Chief and Councilors, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of financial information.

The Chief and Council is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the annual report. The Chief and Council fulfils these responsibilities by reviewing the financial information prepared by management and discussing relevant matters with management and external accountants. The Chief and Council is also responsible for recommending the appointment of the First Nation's external accountants.

MNP LLP is appointed by Chief and Council on behalf of the members to review the schedule of remuneration and expenses – Chief and Councilors and report directly to them; their report follows. The external accountants have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Council and management to discuss their review engagement results.

July 31, 2014



Director of Operations

We are pleased to report that the FRCN leadership has made it a priority to provide these financial documents to all band members, many years prior to the establishment of the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. To view our Consolidated Financial Statements please visit www.fisherriver.com



Review Engagement Report

To the Members and Chief and Council of Fisher River Cree Nation:

We have reviewed the schedule of remuneration and expenses – Chief and Councillors of Fisher River Cree Nation for the year ended March 31, 2014. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, accordingly, consisted primarily of inquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the First Nation.

A review does not constitute an audit and, consequently, we do not express an audit opinion on this schedule of remuneration and expenses – Chief and Councillors.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the schedule of remuneration and expenses – Chief and Councillors is not, in all material respects, in accordance with the First Nations Financial Transparency Act.

Winnipeg, MB
July 31, 2014

MNP LLP
Chartered Accountants

Fisher River Cree Nation Schedule of Remuneration and Expenses - Chief and Councillors *For the year ended March 31, 2014 (Unaudited)*

	<i>Position</i>	<i>Number of Months (1)</i>	<i>Remuneration (2)</i>	<i>Expenses (3)</i>	<i>Total</i>
David Crato	Chief	12	87,838	28,387	116,225
Carl Cochrane	Councillor	12	75,685	20,689	96,374
Darrell Thaddeus	Councillor	12	73,935	24,474	98,409
Dion McKay	Councillor	12	70,300	26,247	96,547
Barry Wilson	Councillor	12	71,646	23,752	95,398
			379,404	123,549	502,953

(1) The number of months during the fiscal year that the individual was a Chief or Councillor.

(2) As per the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, "remuneration" means any salaries, wages, commissions, bonuses, fees, honoraria and dividends and any other monetary benefits — other than the reimbursement of expenses — and non-monetary benefits.

(3) As per the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, "expenses" includes the costs of transportation, accommodation, meals, hospitality and incidental expenses.





www.fisherriver.com

"As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows"