Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat

Executive Director Report 2010-2011

The past year was a very exciting year for the many key issues facing the Chiefs and all the First Nations communities. All the staff at APC continues to remain focused on the key priorities of the Chiefs in the areas of economic development, housing and infrastructure and health services to ensure the federal government continues to be aware of the issues which directly impact the citizens of all the communities. Many of the communities have done a great deal to move forward on the key issues and do their best to improve the lives and well- being of all the citizens of all the First Nation communities. APC continues to work closely with the leadership and all of the organizations across the region to ensure the issues of importance are highlighted and brought forward to the national focus through the ongoing positive relationship with the Assembly of First Nations. APC continues to align the work being completed to ensure the issues highlighted are consistent with the national agenda and the key concerns raised by all other regional groups and organizations in the country. APC has established strong links to other regions to ensure the Atlantic perspectives are clearly understood at the national level. Working closely with the regional AFN Chiefs and the staff of AFN, APC has been able to link to many of the items of focus of the new national Chief Shawn Atleo.

In November, the sudden tragic death of a friend and leader in the Mi'kmaq community Noah Augustine shocked all people involved in the fight for justice and fairness for the entire Nation and region. His involvement and vision in leadership and his aspirations to build the tools of government and a sustainable economy to move our people from dependence to economic independence was a vision for all to follow and to aspire to. The vision and the inspiration need to live on to inspire all the youth and leaders in all the communities to continue the hard work to make words and actions a reality.

Over the year, the APC staff produced regular monthly updates of all key activities in regular newsletters sent to all FN leaders and all the organizations in the region to ensure the work being done is focused on what the leadership sees as most important and to help identify issues before they directly impact the communities and the citizenship.

In the past year, the APC executive has met 8 times and provided critical ongoing direction on the work being undertaken by staff at APC. The Chiefs Executive as well as other key committees such as, Audit & Finance and Personnel helps guide the ongoing work of the APC staff. At the All Chiefs level, they have met 3 times over the past year - May 19-20, 2010 September 29th, 2010 and January 25 - 27, 2011 at the APC headquarters in Cole Harbour. APC held its annual session with the Chiefs and all Councils Forum on September 28, 2010. At the All Chiefs Forums a total of 18 resolutions were adopted. All resolutions provide the needed direction to the APC for action and follow-up. All resolutions have produced correspondence, meetings and actions to be taken by the leadership and the staff to highlight and address key issues brought to

the Chiefs for their attention and actions. It must be clearly noted that all the resolutions are adopted by full consensus of the Chiefs at each all Chiefs Forum. This helps ensure clarity of actions and direction related to many issues brought before the Chiefs requiring support and action. A complete report on all resolutions is provided at each All Chiefs forum to ensure all the resolutions are actioned in an appropriate manner.

Detailed below is a complete listing of all the resolutions adopted by the Chiefs over the past year.

May 2011

APC Resolution 2010-08 – LDF - John E. Paul APC Resolution 2010-09 – Community Economic Development (CEDP) Position Paper APC Resolution 2010-10 – Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy Steering Committee (AAEBS) APC Resolution 2010-11 – Bill S 4

Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) APC Resolution 2010-12 – Community Based Project Impacts Study (CBPIS) Position Paper

September 2010

APC Resolution 2010-13 - Change to APC Secretariat's Corporate Name APC Resolution 2010-14 - Audited Financial Statements and Appointment of Auditor APC Resolution 2010-15 - Atlantic FN Help Desk's Application for CRTC Non-Dominant Carrier Status

APC Resolution 2010-16 - Canada Games Mikmaq Maliseet Culture for Future Excellence

January 2011

APC Resolution 2011-001 - Snow Crab Area12 Compensation

APC Resolution 2011-002 - Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP) Funding Renewal APC Resolution 2011-004 - APC participation in the planning of the TRC National Event in the Atlantic

APC Resolution 2011-005 - First Nation Accountability

APC Resolution 2011-006 - Donald Marshall Jr, Trust Fund Replacement Trustee APC Resolution 2011-007 - Support for Inquiry into the detention of the late Victoria Paul

APC Resolution 2011-008 - Comprehensive Climate Change Impacts Study APC Resolution 2011-009 - Co-Management of The Mi'kmaq Maliseet Health Board (MMAHB)

APC Resolution 2011-011 - Support of Mary Paul, Esgenoopetij First Nation

Election of APC Board Members

In September of 2010 the bi-yearly election of the new APC executive was conducted with the election of 2 new Co-Chairs - NS Chief Morley Googoo Waycobah First Nation and NB Chief Candice Paul of St. Mary's First Nation as well as 8 board members and appointed Executive officers.

2010-2012 APC Executive Committee Members



John G. Paul, Executive Director.

10 Voting Members:

- Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's First Nation, APC Co-Chair (NB)
- 2) Chief Morley Googoo, Waycobah First Nation, APC Co-Chair (NS)
- 3) Chief Darlene Bernard, Lennox Island First Nation (PEI) - Treasurer
- 4) Chief Gerard Julian, Paq'tnkek First Nation (NS)- Vice-Chair
- 5) Chief Deborah Robinson, Acadia First Nation (NS) Secretary
- 6) Chief Freeman Ward, Metepenagiag First Nation (NB)
- 7) Chief Joanna Bernard, Madawaska First Nation (NB)
- 8) Chief Mi'sel Joe, Miawpukek First Nation (NF)
- 9) Chief Roger Atwin, Oromocto First Nation (NB)
- 10) Chief Terrance Paul, Membertou First Nation (NS)

These Chiefs will serve a term to September 2012.

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First Nation Election Reform

A major area of discussion and dialogue with the Chiefs and the communities in the past year related to First Nations Election Reform. Over the past year, the APC staff had undertaken an effort to secure input on the development of potential changes needed in the First Nation Election Reforms which would help improve the First Nation Election System and attempt to address the many issues and concerns about the current Indian Act process. Using a discussion paper, workshop sessions, APC facebook site and an online survey, the First Nations people responded overwhelmingly to the idea and proposed a range of issues which needed to be addressed if new FN election reform under a new piece of optional federal legislation were developed. At the same period, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs also were working on the same issue and developed a plan for proposed legislative changes to allow First Nations election reform. In the fall, the APC and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs coordinated efforts across the country to secure input and feedback on the proposed First Nations election reforms which were to be presented to the federal government for action. Our Chiefs approved the approach and proposals at the All Chiefs Forum early in 2011 and work continued with the government on the development of proposed legislative change.

Housing & Infrastructure

In housing and infrastructure, the staff continue efforts to ensure all the First Nations were aware of all the requirements to apply for funding for the second year of the Canada's Economic Action Plan which provides additional funding for housing and infrastructure for various communities based on a formal application and approval process set out by CMHC and DIAND with very strict timelines for completion of all work.

Water and Wastewater

Another major area of change related to Infrastructure development is a potential regulatory regime for water and waste water. Over the year, the APC worked closely with all organizations regionally and nationally as well as all the First Nations to ensure all key issues and concerns were highlighted. APC through the work of the Housing & Infrastructure network and the various committees worked to help clearly detail the potential gaps and possible impacts in the regime to be developed. At the same time, considerable work was done by DIAND to look at the condition of all the infrastructure systems in the region and nationally. A national engineering assessment was conducted by DIAND over the year and the APC worked closely with Tribal councils and the First Nations to ensure all the data developed was for the most part accurate and reflected the real conditions and costs in all the First Nation communities in the region. Later in the year, the government introduced legislation S-11 concerning safe drinking water. The legislation proposed a detailed regulatory regime without funding for implementation in each of the provinces in the country. The APC detailed the need for greater clarity of the regime and the need for an evidence based approach to the development and implementation of a comprehensive regulatory regime which was expected to replace the patchwork protocols which are part of the FN funding regime which are followed by all the FN. Serious issues over consultation and the lack

of identified funding were serious concerns raised by all the FN groups in the country. Various amendments were proposed for the legislation and it was set aside based on the federal election.

Emergency Management

Considerable effort also was focused on emergency management training and education in the region. Efforts to build strong relationships with provincial partners were key to improve ongoing communication links and collaboration to ensure all First Nation communities were protected in the event of any emergency situation.

Fisheries

Early in the year, the Minister of Fisheries made a drastic decision to reduce the Snow crab quota by 63%. The decision was made without First Nations input or consultation with the impacted 13 First Nation communities across the region. The 11 First Nation communities mostly impacted were in PEI, NB and the Gaspe Bay of Quebec region were most severely impacted by the decision. APC in cooperation with the Chiefs and other fisheries organizations in the region worked on a strategy to highlight the impact of the decision on the communities and called for action by the federal government to compensate and assist the impacted communities. These efforts included meetings and advocacy to Ministers of Fisheries and DIAND and all other federal agencies and the provinces to take actions to assist the First Nations and people seriously impacted by the decision. After many efforts to take actions, the federal government provided a very modest response to assist the communities which included some additional funds for First Nation fisheries capacity and the announcement of the new DIAND Strategic Partnership Initiative Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Diversification Initiative. Additionally, some funding was provided to the communities to assist in efforts to focus activities and reduce costs for fisheries operations. The DFO admitted the decision was made without consultation and there was a great need to improve the co-management processes in the region particularly starting in the Snow crab sector. This effort and dialogue began with a comprehensive joint workshop in September 2010 between the DFO and all the impacted First Nation communities. Out of the workshop, flowed a number of ideas and recommended actions toward greater direct First Nation inclusion in the management decision process from start to finish. Work was started to fully engage the communities and the leadership. This work is still developing the efforts and has started an open and frank discussion of many of key issues with senior DFO fisheries staff and First Nation fisheries staff across the region in Snow crab. A complete report of the workshop including recommendations is available for review.

In early 2011, at the All Chiefs forum, federal officials from the DFO and DIAND were provided an opportunity to directly hear from the Chiefs their many concerns about treaty rights and treaty implementation as well as the lack of a mandate from the federal government to take action. Chiefs detailed many concerns and issues including the issue of Snow crab compensation for the impacted communities. Chiefs expressed many concerns about the need for government to act on treaty implementation, support increased First Nation access, and a FN

treaty based management regime and full implementation of co-management in all areas in the Atlantic Fishery. The Chiefs expressed concern over the lack of federal focus and actions over the past decade to realize rights and to earn a moderate livelihood. Many stressed the time delays were not acceptable and an action approach was needed or a number of First Nations indicated they would move on treaty implementation and a Treaty license regime without the federal cooperation. Federal officials detailed they would take the strong messages back to the government and expected to get a clearer mandate of treaty in the near future for all the negotiation tables in the region.

In fisheries, the ongoing development of knowledge and capacity to operate the First Nation commercial fishery was supported by efforts of the Ulnooweg Business Development Team. Additionally, APC staff worked with all the communities in efforts to allow the full implementation of the Fisheries Management System which was designed to identify and track key business performance indicators for each community. The APC worked to develop and move from the data base system for Fisheries Management System (FMS) to a new more extensive web based secure platform to allow more user access and use of the data gathered by each of the First Nations. The development of the web based system had progressed steadily in the last part of the year and implementation and the transfer of all data to the new web based system had begun at the end of the fiscal year. APC fisheries staff also continued to have strong ongoing relationships with all the First Nation various Fisheries organizations regionally and First Nations coordinators including a Coordinators meeting at the end of March 2011. Staff had also worked with all the First Nations in the ongoing development of mentoring training in each of the First Nations and appropriate deployment of staff to increase wheelhouse capacity in each of the First Nations.

A new training program was developed with the First Nations fisheries coordinators to move toward a long term goal of full certification of the work and skills of all the First Nation coordinators. Two training sessions were undertaken in cooperation with the Nova Scotia Community College to allow the development and certification of the First Nations coordinators. At the end of the year, APC staff began work on the development and implementation of a First Nations awards program which will be rolled out in the new fiscal year to recognize the contributions of the First Nations staff to highlight this important fisheries work in all the FN communities.

On March 29-31, 2011, a National Aboriginal Fisheries Forum which APC partnered with both national and other regional organizations involved in fisheries to have an event of national focus. The event provided a solid forum for all to look at the commercial aspects of fisheries and to look forward on what were the real tangible opportunities for the communities. The session detailed the state of the fisheries in Canada and the world as well as highlighted the need for all the communities and fisheries to look forward to the development of sustainable fisheries and new market and development opportunities which would create more jobs and opportunities for communities. First Nation leaders for east, west and the north shared a common vision and approach to development which was centered in the development of

wealth and jobs for the communities. The need for ongoing development of markets and value added activities and aquaculture as future actions were seen by the participants as the way forward. All expressed the need to work and support each other in the efforts.

Economic Development

Early in the year, the new Aboriginal Economic Development Framework was the focus of a regional workshop which all groups provided direct input to the development of key priorities and the ongoing efforts for program redesign of the DIAND programs. Many stressed the need for more funding and greater flexibility as well as a reduced paper burden and reporting regime for projects funded from the various programs. The participants focused on the work which had been done in the region related to the key goals of the Chiefs strategy and the need for the programming and investments to produce tangible results and outcomes for all the FN. APC staff in cooperation with the FN continued to work on all elements of the Chiefs economic strategy as well as provided ongoing training and professional development training to EDO's across the region as part of the last year of a 3 year training program.

Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP)

This was the final year of funding of the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program. The efforts continued in the participatory community based research projects in partnership with the various University partners and researchers. The final 4 research projects were completed over the year and were tabled at the regional conference held March 16-18, 2011. A major focus of the conference were the research projects with a special emphasis on work which had been carried out with Elders across the region to Honour Traditional Knowledge. A video was

produced which highlighted the best practices and efforts needed to focus in the future to ensure research is inclusive of the Elder's perspectives and traditions of all the people in the region.

At the conference, the APC in partnership with all the university partners signed an MOU to help support the efforts of the project and to eliminate high overhead costs charged by the universities for projects undertaken via the AAEDIRP. The MOU supports the continued development of capacity both with First Nations in the universities to ensure First Nation capacity is established in each of the university partners.

Health

The work of the health staff continued during the year under the new leadership of Amanda Peters who was selected as the new replacement for Phyllis Harlow who had returned to Health Canada at the end of June 2010 after her secondment arrangement. The APC health staff have worked to ensure the development and focus of the MMAHAB co-management structure and the various committees which operate under the structure are involved in all health key issues and concerns. Considerable effort had been made to ensure the Directors of health from each First Nation have a direct say and input to all activities and decisions made by the MMAHAB and its various committees. Over the year, a complete evaluation and strategic planning process to better inform the MMAHAB process was conducted with all key parties involved in health and all activities. The process was expected to better inform the priorities of the Chiefs and the strategies which emerged and to focus on the meaning and intent of the relationship between the Chiefs and Health Canada to clearly focus the meaning and intent of co-management and the limitations.

Ongoing efforts to improve access to service from health Canada was key focus of actions. The ongoing changes and limitations in

Non-Insured Health Benefits and funding limitations for the various communities has not contributed to improved levels of services or better outcomes. Many are still frustrated by the limitations in services and funding to fulfill the growing basic demands and needs of each of the FN communities.

For youth, the APC staff has continued to play an important role to support the ongoing efforts of the Mikmag Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council. A regional conference and later at a workshop organized as part of the Canada games in Halifax allowed the youth to discuss important issues as governance, their culture, language and values. A number of key note speakers came in to speak and inspire the young people to become active in all aspects of their communities.

Residential Schools

Staff at the APC continues to work very closely with all regional survivors in all aspects of services and support efforts including the participation and involvement at the national event in Winnipeg. Ongoing communication efforts to build a strong relationship and voice with the Truth & Reconciliation Commission have had serious challenges and concerns. In particular, the development of a National event for Halifax next fall with limited input of Atlantic leaders and survivors has created serious concerns about the Truth & Reconciliation Commission. Staff continues to provide outreach, education and support services to survivors and families and is a key contact between all the communities, survivors and the Chiefs. They continue to support the regional committee to conduct ongoing efforts of the communities and survivors to provide assistance as required.

More details are provided in the detailed reports completed by each of the staff.

AICFI Component 2.2 Fisheries Management System

The Fisheries Management System (FMS) was designed to provide an affordable, integrated software application that will assist the Atlantic First Nation Communities to manage various aspects of their commercial fishing enterprise. The FMS provides the availability of detailed information about the Communities fishing operation to help ensure the business remains economically viable in a time when margins are small, costs are increasing and there is an emergence of new demands from customers, government and employees.

FMS is available at no cost to all Atlantic First Nation Communities. (FMS is a prerequisite for participating in AICFI component 4)

In 2010 the decision was made to re-develop FMS, using current technology and the WEB. The redevelopment of FMS started in September of 2010.

The FMS 2.0 development team was assembled by The Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) and consisted of 2 contract developers and a project leader from APC. Later in the project a third report developer was added. The team went through constant changes from the beginning which stalled the completion of FMS 2.0. The FMS team has overcome these barriers and have FMS 2.0 .net, a web based application ready for implementation.

28 Atlantic First Nation Communities are currently using various versions of FMS.

FMS 2.0 .NET (A web based application):

FMS Release 2.0 is a web based application which includes the same functionality that is available in the current version of FMS (FMS 1.2) that will capture complete information about all aspects of a fishing operation; including vessel & crew data, trip costs, licensing & quota data with fishing seasons and fishing zones, and catch data. The major benefits of using FMS 2.0 will be:

- Greater accuracy and profitability.
- Maximize use of fishing assets.
- Monitor costs.
- Comparative historical data.
- Online crew information & qualifications.
- Online vessel specifications & maintenance information.
- Tracking of licensing & quota data.
- Can be accessed via the WEB.
- Maximize employment of Community members on the vessels and as support staff.
- Greater Flexibility in ability of support team to respond to end user requests.
- Reduced chances of data loss from hardware
- Improved reporting to Chief & Council.

Included features are tools that will help the users manipulate existing FMS data. These added features were developed to accommodate and meet the requirements to track the mid-shore gear sectors.

In order to ensure FMS is secure and has a high level of availability we have implemented a number of security features:

- In order to access the system every user will need an ID & Password.
- Users will only be able to access their own Communities data and reports.
- Each user's security level will depend on their role within FMS.
- The set-up of all users will require a "security Signoff Form" approved by the Fishing Coordinator. There will be no exceptions.
- The FMS data base will be backed up nightly and the back-up will be stored off site.
- The data center where the FMS server is housed is secure and has limited access.

Current Status:

2011 initiated extensive testing of FMS 2.0. Testing was done before the start of implementation and continues today.

Implementation of the new FMS 2.0 started March 29, 2011 with four First Nation Communities who attended a demonstration of the FMS 2.0. The communities had the opportunity to see, test and provide feedback on the new web based application of FMS. This was done to ensure the new version would accommodate the Atlantic First Nations Fishery Enterprises. The session was a success and the

AICFI Component 2.2 Fisheries Management System

feedback determined the FMS team was required to go back to development to modify and enhance some of the new features before the release of FMS 2.0.

Testing is required on a community by community basis, considering each community has its own unique scenarios. Any specific issues will vary by Community depending on the condition of their current FMS data. As we convert each Community's data to the new format, issues will be identified for that specific Community. These issues will be corrected during the implementation process. In some cases in order to correct these issues, additional programming will be necessary.

Having current & accurate information available in FMS 2.0 provides a reporting base that will assist the fishery coordinator and Chief & Council to monitor and manage the profitability of the fishing operation in a judicious manner.

FMS Support

On behalf of the communities, The Atlantic Policy Congress has set up an FMS support team that is responsible for:

- Providing the day to day support of FMS.
- Helping the Communities implement FMS.
- Helping the Communities maximize the benefits of

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- Working with each Community to identify new features and functionality required in FMS.
- Developing and implementing new Releases of FMS as required.
- Working in collaboration with the Business Development Team to assist the Communities with the utilization of FMS.

Roll out of FMS 2.0 to the remaining communities will resume in late June, with a goal of having every community on line by the end of summer.

2010-2011 Fishing Knowledge Network Report

2010-2011 Fishing Report

The Fishing Knowledge Network has been engaged with a number of activities this past year which we hope will promote a greater knowledge and awareness of the Atlantic Fishery for our member communities. Our efforts to promote a greater understanding of the fishery can be categorized in to 3 distinct activities for the Knowledge Network:

- The continued activity of our AAROM, which this
 past year has focused its energies on the impact of
 the 63% snowcrab quota cut on the communities
 around the Gulf of St Lawrence.
- Service Provider component 2.4 of the AICFI program

The FKN continues to provide guidance and advice during the formative stages, of other APC sponsored studies such as the "Study of the 2010 Snow Crab Quota Reductions on Atlantic First Nations" which was released May 12 in Dartmouth, NS. The North Shore District Micmac District Council in conjunction with the APC hosted a fisheries resource management workshop on September 22-23 at the Ramada Crystal Palace Hotel in Dieppe, New Brunswick.

The AAROM Commercial Fishery Liaison Coordinators and DFO Regional Resource Management Directors initially proposed this technical workshop to better integrate Mi'kmaq and Maliseet fisheries staff into DFO's Integrated Fisheries Management Plan process. It is also intended to improve relationships, and address areas of shared programming such as aboriginal traditional knowledge.

DFO had proposed that a second day be added to the workshop to focus on concerns expressed by Chiefs over the Gulf of St Lawrence Area 12 snow crab management planning process this year. The workshop identified opportunities to strengthen co-management of fisheries in a pilot project under the Area 12 Snow Crab IFMP.

Through the course of our work the Knowledge Network has primarily used three methods to interact with communities; we host an annual workshop for the fisheries coordinators. Workshops are used to provide information on the fishery from a wide range of presenters, these workshops always provide valuable feedback from the coordinators on identifying the upcoming issues they see developing in the fishery and from this they provide direction to the Knowledge Network. We also use the APC monthly newsletter to keep the communities abreast of developments in the fishery and the work of the Knowledge Network; if communities require more in-depth information on the fishery they can access us through the APC website.

The Knowledge Network continues to focus its efforts on building on the success and work it has undertaking over the past four years. We continue to build relationships with communities from across the Atlantic region. To this end we have received a lot of input from the fisheries coordinators and the communities on how we can best serve the needs of the community. From this input we developed our work plan and meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

Nationally, the Knowledge Network continues to participate at the Canadian Marine Advisory Council meetings, this is primarily to keep abreast of ongoing changes to the Canadian shipping act. There are a number of changes which will impact the fishery with regards to training of personnel, vessel stability and area of operation of the fishing vessels. The implementation of these regulations will be phased in over the next several years. We continue to play an active role in the ongoing development of the Lobster Council of Canada. Through our work on the Lobster Council we have First Nations involved in providing input on harvesting and processing working groups. To date, most of our energies have been spent looking for funding for the working groups but we are hopeful we will have the working groups fully engaged by early autumn. The knowledge Network's Senior Fisheries Advisor Ian Wentzell is serving his second year as President of the Lobster Council.

The relations with DFO regionally and nationally have been strengthened through regular meetings on various issues. Any issues beyond Regional control are raised with senior officials at DFO headquarters to ensure various issues were addressed and communication was open and ongoing.

Throughout the course of the year the FKN staff updated Chiefs on a regular basis on the work the network has been undertaking. The key issues covered in these updates are the ongoing role the Knowledge Network plays in support of First Nations communal commercial fishing and to focus on the issues of major importance to all First Nations in the Region. Chiefs were pleased at the progress and encouraged staff to come directly to the First Nations to help them fully understand the current issues.

This past year the Knowledge Network hosted one workshop with all of the fisheries coordinators from across the region. The Fisheries Coordinators Workshop was held in March 28, 2011. The overall theme for the workshop was to address current priority issues in the industry as previously identified by fisheries coordinators. On the agenda for the workshop were presentations dealing with the current downturn in the Atlantic Lobster Fishery due to economic pressures and over abundance of the resource. This has been an ongoing issue for the Industry for more than three years most participants have viewed the downturn as anomaly which would be short lived and the industry would return to its former lucrative state without anyone applying corrective measures. This season has shown that the problems in the industry are systemic and without the industry initiating some change in the fishery the viability of the sector is in jeopardy. This current season harvesters have again seen the value of their catch at the quay side be further reduced. Catches to date in the spring fishery have been considerably lower than normal most harvesters believe this has been due to bad weather. This combined with a stagnant market has made the spring fishery a very challenging fishery for communities. The Knowledge Network has been trying to provide fishery coordinators with regular updates on the these types of issues to assist fishery managers with making informed decisions on how to best structure and pursue their communities fishery operations. The workshop also had presentations on Ground fishery presented by Glenn Feltmate, Fisheries Consultants.

The FKN staff has provided direct input through a wide range of sessions and meetings with DFO and other fishery stakeholders. These sessions have included lobster, snow crab, shrimp, oyster, tuna, swordfish, herring, cod, scallops, Fishery Roundtable meetings and Canadian Marine Advisory Council (national and regional) meetings. The Knowledge Network has also become involved with the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum, Fisheries Advisory Board in the past 2 years. Key issues have been identified in collaboration with First Nation Fishery Coordinators. The Network has provided an overview of key concerns to various First Nation participants before and after meetings through email and phone discussions.

It is a priority with the FKN that with ongoing and recent events in the access to the fisheries resource that First Nations feel a joint management approach to this public resource would ensure long term sustainable development of the Fishery based on shared ecosystems principles consistent with First Nation traditional knowledge and practices.

FKN Work Plan and Activities

Development activities completed by Network:

- Serving 38 member communities (Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Innu) in 4 DFO Regions (Maritimes, Gulf, Quebec and Newfoundland)
- FNKN website for Fisheries Coordinators and AAROMs. The FNKN site features important national and international news, key links to useful commercial fishing industry and government websites, current industry information including statistical information on fishery sectors which are of high importance to the communal commercial fishery. To access this type of information there is a secure login process, frequently asked questions and a Forum for member participant interaction. http://FNKN.ca
- Mandate is to serve member communities by (1)
 providing guidance/advice on Atlantic-wide issues and
 (2) keeping current on national/international issues
 which may impact on Atlantic Canadian First Nations
 communities and (3) sharing such information widely.
- Needs of many of these members involve: information surrounding sound business practices; timely strategic science and management information; as well as day-to-day access to information on specific fisheries questions (e.g. national/international market problems)
- Network provides entry point for outside organizations to make initial contact with members.

Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

AICFI Component 2.4

- A significant amount of training for deckhands on fishing vessels has already been achieved through the at-sea mentoring work carried out in the past number of years. The management and oversight of the mentoring activity for these programs was carried out using the COADY International Institute and the Caraquet School of Fisheries as Service Providers.
- The big step being taken now involves the First Nation's taking on the role of service provider. The Knowledge Network provides this service to the communities

















NAFF Conference March, 2011.

participating with this component of AICFI. This allows FN communities to be directly involved in designing and managing their own fisheries training. Many FN communities continue to support a "lifelong learning model" approach to capacity building in the fisheries.

- The approach now taken for the professional development for fish harvesters and wheelhouse personnel has been broadened to allow communities to direct the type of training to best suit their needs of the fishery be it at sea or in class training or any combination the two. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans cost shares with the community on providing at sea mentoring and provides financial support for in class training as well.
- The Knowledge Network will continue to maintain a pool of certified Mentors to assist participating communities with their mentoring requirements. This primary focus for the last year was supporting communities with the development of wheelhouse

Working closely with the Technical Advisory Committee and communities the Knowledge Network, have assisted communities upgraded training plans and developed the deployment plans needed to negotiate Contribution agreements with DFO for training delivery

• To date there have been 22 training plans developed and submitted. This past year 10 communities participated with at sea mentoring and 14 participated with in class training. There is every indication next year will be as busy as this year has been.

- In-class training is focused on meeting the current (recently changed) Transport Canada requirements.
- The Knowledge Network team consists of Alden Paul as coordinator and lan Wentzell, Senior Fisheries Advisory providing guidance and oversight. Alden has been working with communities and training providers to implement training activities as set out in the Deployment Plan for each community. This encompasses the more routine administration of

training delivery.

- The Knowledge Network is managing the interface between:
- communities and at-sea mentors and
- Communities and training institutions.
- Is providing the oversight to ensure that:
- forms and other documents related to training are completed on time,
- contracted work has been delivered, and
- Quality of training and certification of at-sea mentors is maintained.
- Communities are informed and aware of training outcomes on a deployment by deployment basis
- Assist communities with the application process as requested by communities

First Nations Fishery Inputs Increased Access

First Nation Communities continue to want increased access to current fisheries resources. With declining revenues in some sectors fisheries managers have indicated they see the need to diversify or have increased access to traditional fisheries such as; Snow crab, lobster, Blue Fin Tuna, etc. They also see the need to explore options available through

underutilized or new and emerging fisheries such as; whelk and hagfish.

Protection of Watershed Areas

Pollution of our watersheds and coastal areas has continued to be a concern for the communities. Be it run off or deleterious discharge from industry or urban development this pollution is affecting the survival of some of our targeted species for food, social and communal commercial harvest. Other impacts on the marine ecosystem are of importance as well, we heard from a number of communities that invasive species are having a negative impact on fish stocks in some river estuaries and lakes. Communities also expressed views on the impact of aquaculture operations on the environment and the fact that these installations may preclude people from using waterways where for centuries communities have had unrestricted access. On all of these issues First Nation's communities expressed their interest in playing a greater role in the management and approval process.

Protection of Fishery Resources

Protection of the commercial aquatic resources continues to be a high priority for fisheries coordinators. The recent declines in the value of the commercial landings have underscored the importance of protecting the viability of the fish stocks. Many coordinators have concerns about the exploitation levels on some species and feel caution should be used when allowing new entrants into a fishery or allowing greater access to the resource.



NAFF-Ian Wentzell Senior Fisheries Advisor, APC.

2010-2011 APC Health Update for Annual Report

Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB)

The Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board was designed to improve the health status of Atlantic First Nations through the co-management of federal health programs and services. Co-management is defined as open, fair and respectful discussion, collaborative planning and decision making related to Atlantic First Nations health programs and services. This has required the identification of shared priorities and overall strategic objectives for the effective delivery of regional health services.

The first MMAHB meeting of the 2010-11 fiscal year was held at Metepenagiag First Nation in New Brunswick. Topics on the agenda included the MMAHB Subcommittee updates, an update on the progress of the Elder Care Strategic Plan, Mental Health Strategic Plan and Addictions Strategic Plan all from FNIH. The progress of the MMAHB Evaluation was also addressed as well as a presentation by Eskasoni Health Director, Sharon Rudderham on documenting and articulating First Nations health information needs. During the roundtable the MMAHB Chiefs identified issues and concerns such as NIHB including travel policy and its restrictions as well as concerns over dental coverage, the turn-around time for input into programs are often too quick; and interest in having more First Nations input into the development of health programs and services.

The MMAHB next met at the Membertou Trade and Convention Center in September 2010. Agenda topics included updates on the FNIH Elder

Care Strategic Plan, the Addictions Strategic Plan and the Mental Health Strategic Plan which also included updates on the Short Term Crisis Intervention Mental Health Counseling and the Indian Residential School file. FNIH also presented on their current budget. There were also presentations on the progress of the MMAHB Evaluation as well as the process for Renewing the Atlantic Chiefs Health Priorities. During the regional roundtable, the Chiefs brought up the following issues: NIHB reimbursement process and the problems of dental hygiene, concerns with the Elder Care Strategic Action Plan and the potential for it to raise expectations of the Elders when there is no dedicated funding to carry out the activities. Regular updates from the Co-Chairs and health technicians were also discussed.

At the last MMAHB meeting in January, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton, there was a special 1/2 day session for the Chiefs to revisit the MMAHB priorities. The Chiefs were presented with the findings from the engagement session with the Health Directors and the three MMAHB Subcommittees. The Chiefs then identified 4 health issues they viewed as priorities and requested that action plans be developed by the Health Directors, Health Technicians and the Subcommittee members. The second day was a regular MMAHB meeting and addressed topics such as the Elder Care Strategic Plan, the proposed changes to Short Term Crisis Intervention Mental Health Counseling as well as an introduction to the new Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF). During the regional roundtable, the Chiefs expressed concern around lack of funding for mental health services, radon testing in homes on reserve and childhood obesity.

Co-Chairs Committee

With the formation of the three committees (Wellness, Primary Health Care/Public Health and the Child and Youth committees) a Co-Chairs Committee was established to ensure ongoing communication between the committees' programs and projects. There are two Co-Chairs for each committee, one representing the First Nation seat and one from FNIH. They meet prior to each MMAHB meeting to discuss emerging issues and updates from each of their committees.

Health Technicians Committee

The First Nations Health Technicians meet prior to the MMAHB to discuss the issues that they see as priorities and which issues that they will bring up with their respective Chiefs for the roundtable sessions.

Primary and Public Health Sub-Committee

The Primary Health Care & Public Health (PHC & PH) subcommittee was created as part of the health committee restructuring activities. The PHC & PH committee is the amalgamation of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Home and Community Care, Environmental health, nursing, immunization, NIHB, E-health and Communicable Disease Control. The PHC/PH meetings took place on May 6, 2010 in Buctouche First Nation and September 14, 2010 at Membertou First Nation. Some of the issues addressed at the meetings included the methadone risk management project, radon testing on reserve, work planning, updates on home and community care, tele-

2010-2011 APC Health Update, con't

health training, and the staffing of an endosomal nursing position with FNIH.

Wellness Sub-Committee

The Wellness sub-committee was created as part of the health committee restructuring activities. The Wellness sub-committee is the amalgamation of the addictions, brighter futures, building health communities, tobacco strategy, national aboriginal youth suicide strategy and residential schools. The Wellness Subcommittee met in April 2010 at Metepenagiag and in September at the APC office in Cole Harbour. Some of the issues addressed include updates on the FNIH Strategic Action Plans on Addictions and Mental Health, updates on the Regional Health Survey (RHS), NNADAP modernization, IRS and the progress of the Mental Wellness Teams.

Child and Youth Sub-Committee

The purpose of the Child and Youth sub-committee is: to work in collaboration and partnership with the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and, First Nation & Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of the Atlantic Region in identifying effective approaches for the delivery of Child & Youth Programs such as: Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Aboriginal Head Start (AHS), Injury Prevention, Health Careers. and Maternal Child Health; and to support community health programs, special projects, and initiatives in any of the areas identified in the above statement. The Child and Youth Subcommittee met by teleconference in April 2010 to discuss the MCH funding renewal. The Subcommittee met on August 24, 2010 at the APC office in Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia. Some of the issues addressed included the Father Involvement Initiative, MCH employment and evaluation in Atlantic Canada as well as work planning.

MMAHBTri-HAC Subcommittee Meeting (Health Advisory Committees)

Members of all three of the MMAHB sub-committees met this year on December 1 and 2, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton. The objective of the meeting was to identify issues that cut across more than one committee; communications; and membership accountability. Presentations included a FNIH update on the Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF) and an engagement session on renewing the Chiefs health priorities. Each sub-committee also had the chance to have a short meeting to discuss issues arising specific to their committee mandate. Membership on the sub-committee's was discussed to ensure that the appropriate people sit at the table. Each committee discussed their Terms of Reference and future work planning. It was acknowledged that without the results of the MMAHB Evaluation and the renewing the Chiefs health priorities it would be difficult to move forward with work planning.

Renewing Chiefs Health Priorities

In 2007, the Atlantic Chiefs identified mental health, addictions, elder care and provincial/district relationships as their health priorities. In September 2010, the MMAHB Chiefs aaccepted a three step approach to renewing the Atlantic All Chiefs' health priorities. APC Health staff, FNIH and an external consultant were tasked with seeking input from the Health Directors and organizing a priority-setting session with the MMAHB resulting in a summary report, including recommendations. At a November 16-17, 2010 meeting the regional Health Directors were asked what they believed were the health priorities in Atlantic First Nations communities. Following the initial input session, the members of all three MMAHB subcommittees were also asked to identify what they felt were the health priorities. The result from these input sessions were rolled into a report and presented to the MMAHB in January 2011. The MMAHB Chiefs identified mental health, addictions, elder care and investing in children and youth as their new priorities and requested that the regional Health Directors, regional Health Technicians and the members of the MMAHB Subcommittees develop action plans to accompany the priorities and guide the work of FNIH, APC and MMAHB over the next few years. At a meeting held in Moncton New Brunswick on March 1-2, 2011, the Health Directors, Health Technicians and MMAHB Subcommittee

members met and created action plans and scorecards for the identified priorities. The results were rolled up to be presented at the MMAHB meeting in May, 2011. The Health Directors, Health Technicians and members of the MMAHB Subcommittees should be commended on their work and their unique insight into the health of the First Nations communities in the Atlantic region.

MMAHB Evaluation Status

The Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board was created to improve the health status of Atlantic First Nations through co-management of federal health programs and services. In 2009 an evaluation of the MMAHB was conducted. In September 2010 the evaluation results were presented to the MMAHB with approval for APC/FNIH to jointly move forward in creating a plan to implement the recommendations of the evaluation.

The Evaluation Steering Committee (Chief Shirley Clarke and Chief Darlene Bernard, Wade Were and Robin Boychuk from FNIH and Amanda Peters from APC) met on December 8, 2010 and drafted a new definition of co-management based on the results of the MMAHB evaluation. It was decided by the Evaluation Steering Committee that this definition would go before MMAHB for approval. At the MMAHB meeting in January 2011 all agreed on a new definition of co-management as "shared power, authority and accountability over the financial resources and allocations of FNIH's programs and services within the Atlantic region." At the All Chiefs meeting in January a resolution was passed that supported further research into what a new model of comanagement might look like based on the new definition. The work of the MMAHB Steering Committee continues.

First Nations Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Network

The First Nations Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Network was

established in 2007 to bring together provincial and First Nation mental health and addictions providers and stakeholders to network and share information specific to First Nation children and youth. The focus of the working group currently is (1) To promote First Nation child-youth mental health & addictions (advocacy and voice) (2) To gather best and promising practices specific to First Nation children and youth (3) To network and share information between communities and with partners. The Network met in July in at St. Mary's First Nation, October at Esgenoopetitj First Nation and March 2011 at Membertou First Nation. Some of the issues addressed included

presentations from the two respective Mental Wellness Teams in NB and NS, a presentation by the office of the New Brunswick Ombudsman for Children and Youth in NB, and Services available to children and youth from Cape Breton District Health Authority.

Regional Health Directors Meetings

Three Health Directors meetings were held in the 2010-2011 fiscal year; June 15-16, 2010, November 16-17, 2010 and March 1-2, 2011. The objectives of the health directors meetings are to gather the health directors together to network and discuss common issues and foster linkages between the health directors and FNIH and other health organizations and service providers. The June 15-16 meeting was held in Abegweit First Nations in Prince Edward Island and some of the topics covered included updates from the MMAHB Subcommittee Cochairs and regional Health Technicians, a family Health Update from FNIH, updates on the status of mental health counseling and methadone treatments, and a presentation from the IWK in Halifax on Yoo Magazine in which Health Directors were encouraged to utilize the youth centered magazine in their communities to address mental health and addictions issues. A half day professional development session was held on

developing policies and procedures for Health Centres. The evaluations indicated that the information from the meetings was useful and well received. The November 16-17, 2011 meeting was held at the Ramada Inn in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Topics included updates from MMAHB co-chairs and regional Health Technicians, presentations by FNIH on injury prevention and nursing in First Nations communities, an update by AHHRI on training for Community Based Workers as well as a presentation on Renewing the Chiefs Health priorities. A half day professional development session was held and focused on the development of work plans and the health planning process. The March 1-2, 2011 meeting was held in Moncton, New Brunswick at the Crowne Plaza. This meeting was unique in that the members of the MMAHB Subcommittees were also invited. The goal of the two day meeting was to develop action plans on the MMAHB Chiefs health priorities. The participants also shared success stories from their communities, issues and concerns on the work related to the MMAHB Chiefs priorities identified in 2007, and defining what supports for those living with disabilities in Atlantic First Nations communities looks like. The information taken from this session was gathered and organized into a report to be presented to the MMAHB for review and approval. (See section on Renewing the Chiefs Health Priorities for more detailed information)

Health Conference

The Annual Atlantic First Nations Health Conference was held October 19-21, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton, New Brunswick. The theme for the conference was "Cycle of Life: Journey to Health and Wellness" and focused on the entire life cycle from birth to senior citizen. Over 200 participants attended and the evaluations were positive. Regional Chief Rick Simon opened the three day conference with a speech outlining the last ten years of First Nations Health Policy with a focus on three strategic themes: sustainability of health services; creation and maintenance of First Nations capacity and systems development; and integration, collaboration and tri-partite relationships. Chief Rick Simons message was



Health Staff – front row – Sharon Augustine, Ashley Julian, Chelsea Googoo, Amanda Peters, Back row – Wanda Paul, John Sylliboy, Loraine Etter, Paula Robinson.

well received by those in attendance.

Workshops at the 2010 Annual Atlantic First Nations included: Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), Men's Health, Diabetes Care, Managing Stress in the Workplace, Oral Care, Managing Addictions in First Nations Communities, Youth Mental Health, Traditional Medicine, Healing Through Laughter, Healing Our Nations (HON), Indian Residential Schools (IRS), Physical Activity, Teenage Sexuality, and the Father Involvement Initiative. All workshops received favourable reviews from the participants. Two plenary sessions were held. The first focused on Elder Care and services available for elders on reserve and the work of the Atlantic Elder Care working group. The second plenary session focused on youth and youth engagement in working with mobilizing different youth projects and groups around Mental Health and Resiliency.

During the second day of the conference the Honouring Our People Awards were given out to acknowledge the hard work of the people that work in or for First Nations Communities health initiatives in the Atlantic region and who are making a difference in the lives of those in their community. These are the categories: First Nations Community Health Award; First Nations Inuit Health

Branch (FNIHB) Award for Health Canada employee and First Nations Lifetime Achievement Award. APC presented a plaque and a gift to six successful individuals making a difference in our communities. The "Honouring Our People Awards" went to the following individuals:

- Ann Marie MacCuly: First Nations and Inuit Health
- Elizabeth Paul: Health Director at Millbrook First Nation
- Lesley Knockwood: Indian Brook First Nation health worker and role model
- Robert Paul: Health Director at Esgenoopetiti
- Roselita Herney: Retired nurse and community role model from Eskasoni First Nation
- Veronica "Flo" Young: Traditional healer and herbalist from Eskasoni First Nation
- Sharon Rudderham (Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award): Health Director of Eskasoni First Nation.

The conference evaluations showed that overall the workshops and plenary sessions were very well received and helpful for those who attended.

Non Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) Navigator

The NIHB Navigator is responsible for advocating on behalf of and supporting Atlantic First Nations clients, communities and organizations to resolve Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) and other health related issues. The role of the NIHB Navigator is to assist those having difficulties understanding and accessing the NIHB services that are currently available. The Navigator can also assist in appealing decisions relating to NIHB programs. The NIHB Navigator will be responsible for implementing a client base assistance program for First Nation clients to access Non-Insured Health Benefits Services from Health Canada. This position works closely with health centers, social workers, support people, communities, physicians, social workers and health care workers and the First Nations and Inuit Health NIHB unit.

The NIHB Navigator does not have decision making privileges in relations to NIHB claims and appeals. Furthermore, the NIHB Navigator does not issue reimbursements for NIHB claims. These are to be sent to: Non-Insured Health Benefits, First Nations and Inuit Health, Health Canada. The role of the NIHB Navigator is limited to advocating and supporting Atlantic First Nations clients, communities and organizations to resolve NIHB issues.

Currently our client base consists of approximately 275-300 clients both on and off reserve with a 95% success rate in resolving client cases. The majority of requests deal with the denial of prescriptions but calls are also coming in relating to dental, orthodontics, medical transportation, mental health counseling and medical supplies. Our call volume has increased greatly over the past year and will probably grow with the addition of the Qalipu in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as those who will be registered as a result of the McIvor case. The NIHB Navigator did a series of community visits to many of the Reserves in NS and NB.

Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)

The Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI) has been extended for a second phase with funding for four more years. The key role of the regional activities of the AHHRI Phase II will be to continue to support changes and improvements in the systems aimed at improving the numbers of First Nations and Inuit health care workers (regulated & unregulated) to meet current and growing health care needs; to support training strategies for community-based unregulated health care; and to continue to support the ongoing health human resources planning capacity building of First Nations and Inuit. Phase II will continue to build on the established partnerships and develop new projects for another four years. Regionally, that will mean working with regional First Nations and/or Inuit partners, regional offices of other departments such as Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, provinces and/or territories, educational institutes, health care associations and others. Regions will also link to the national initiatives and network with other regions. The success of the AHHRI depends on these collaborative networks and partnerships.

AHHRI continues to partner with the Atlantic youth to deliver its message of increased health human resources based on its objectives: (1) to increase the amount of

health human resources, (2) retention of health care workers and (3) development of cultural competencies. The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) provided training to Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council (MMAYC) and APCFNC Youth Coordinator, Ashley Julian, to deliver Industries in the Classroom, as part of the partnership building. This would enable a wider resource pool of people to deliver the workshops in many more communities in the region.

In early spring, AHHRI and First Nations Inuit Health (FNIH) promoted the Summer Student Employment Program (SSEP) through community networking and endorsement in the APCFNC communities. SSEP provided placements for 24 students during the 2010 summer. The criteria for employment are based on the student's focus of studies, which have to demonstrate their enrolment in health sciences and/or science programs for health career paths. Most summer employments are community based in the health and wellness centres, where it is encouraged that students learn the ropes of their professions through job shadowing.

In the fall of 2010, APCFNC - AHHRI sent out a Request for Proposals for Post-Secondary Institutions to provide programing compliant with AHHRI Objectives. Recipients of funding based on the AHHRI criteria were: St. Francis Xavier University, Dalhousie University, and the University of New Brunswick. The St.FX University project is to continue its efforts to increase the number of Aboriginal enrolment into the nursing programs. The University of New Brunswick will also commit its funding to consolidate its nursing program, which would include more Aboriginal content in the curriculum. Dalhousie University has more extensive choices for health careers, therefore, the university works in coordination with their own Aboriginal Health Sciences Advisory Group to look into ways of developing programs that are aligned with AHHRI objectives, which include faculties, such as dentistry, medicine, and nursing.

Thanks to efforts in the Atlantic region, other regions, notably Quebec, Manitoba and Nunavut began to promote full scale science camps to provide support to Aboriginal students in math and sciences. AHHRI Atlantic has been partnering for a couple years with science/math camps Actua and its local partners, SuperNOVA, UNBounds, and X-Chem Outreach with much success.

Youth Coordinator

The Youth Coordinator works collaboratively within the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI), the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council (MMAYC), and the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB). The position provides youth representation on project/files, and/or committees that are mandated under APC. Additional committees include: Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Network; The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and Communities Addressing Suicide Together (CAST); Dalhousie Networking Group; and Summer Student Employment Program Committee (SSEP).

The APC Youth Coordinator promotes and assists First Nations Health career activities including, Actua and SuperNOVA science camps, presenting the Train the Trainer Industries in the Classroom NAAF workshop at our Aboriginal Career Fairs, as well as advocating for and networking with youth organization and councils. This year, Ashley Julian together with Sara-Lynne Knockwood, First Nations Sports and Recreation organized the Culture for Future Excellence (CFE) youth gathering in conjunction with the 2011 Canada Games, hosted in Halifax, Nova Scotia, February 11-27, 2011. The five-day youth conference focused on the following objective: bringing together Mi'kmaq/Maliseet youth to learn, understand, and share traditional knowledge; revitalization and preservation of Mi'kmag/Maliseet culture and language; and to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Mi'kmaq/Maliseet values and teachings. The intent of the CFE was to revitalize Mi'kmag and Maliseet culture through the study of four (4) topics: language, culture, governance, and traditional games. The gathering offered cultural teachings from four (4) Mi'kmaq Maliseet Elders/Mentors, as well as opportunities to observe and participate in the celebration of the 2011 Halifax Winter

Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council (MMAYC)

MMAYC's objectives are to increase the accessibility

and integration of youth services provided to Atlantic & Quebec First Nations youth; unite Atlantic First Nations youth by supporting the development of youth organizations at both the regional and community levels; advocate on behalf of the Atlantic First Nations youth on policies and issues important to youth including: but not limited to; education and training, health and social, sports and recreation, culture and language, economic development, basic human and treaty rights; to advice and act as a resource to the Atlantic First Nations Chiefs on policies and issues important to First Nations youth; and to represent Atlantic First Nations youth as well as the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council (AFN NYC). MMAYC gives youth perspectives at mandated APC committees, on assigned portfolios and at all Chiefs meetings. MMAYC supports community youth organizations by volunteering and participating in Youth Rally's, Career Fairs and community youth events.

MMAYC members and National Representatives include: Unamaki: Michael R Denny, Eskasoni, NS, MMAYC Male Co-Chair; Piktuk: Ashley Julian, Indian Brook, NS, Female Co-Chair for NS/NL Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council; Kespuwitk: TBD; Sitansisk: Sydney Paul, Kingsclear, NB; Apeksiwitk: Samantha Lewis, Lennox, PEI, Female NB/PEI Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council; Mi'kamaw'gi: Miranda Mitchell, Burnt Church, NB, MMAYC Female Co-Chair; Kespek: Shelby Caplin, Gesgapegiag, QE; Sikniki: Lyle Vicair, Elsipogtog, NB, Male NB/PEI Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council; Wolastoqiyik: Julian Moulton, Tobique, NB; and Newfoundland: Noel Joe, Miawpukek, NL, Male NS/NL Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council.

In October 2010, MMAYC members and alternates received their ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), at Millbrook First Nation. The purpose of receiving ASIST is to increase the number of crisis working among our Youth in our First Nations Communities.

MMAYC and alternates also had the opportunity to receive the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) Industries in the Classroom training in July, 2010. MMAYC members and their alternates can now deliver the module to First Nations communities in their district for both middle and high school students. MMAYC will continue to deliver the Industries in the classroom in schools to First Nations students through to September 2011.

Health Services Integration Fund (HSIF)

The Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) has officially ended but a new fund has come out of the positive work from the AHTF projects. This new fund is the Health Integration Services Fund (HSIF) and has only one primary focus: the integration of health services that are provided to Aboriginals in Canada.

The HSIF supports improved coordination and integration between existing provincially/territorially funded health systems and the federally funded health systems in First Nations and Inuit communities. In the Atlantic Region, federal-provincial-First Nations/Inuit advisory groups are developing plans for each of the provinces.

FNIH Atlantic will distribute capacity funding to provincial First Nation organizations in NS, NB, and PEI, (and the 3 First Nations communities in NL where no provincial organizations exist). This funding is intended to support the continued involvement of First Nations in the planning, implementation, evaluation and communication of HSIF projects. This funding provides for three HSIF Liaisons positions: The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and Mawiw are the recipients of the capacity funding. For further information contact the HSIF Liaisons, Mike Stevens, CMM, Roseanne Sark, MCPEI, and Laurie Nicholas, Mawiw.

The federal-provincial-First Nations/Inuit HSIF committees in NL, NB, PEI, and NS will continue to meet regularly to assist in the exchange of information, monitoring and the evaluation of HSIF.

Aboriginal Headstart on Reserve 2010 Calendar

APC health worked with Margie Fowler, FNIH and Marie Levi, North Shore Mi'kmaq District Council to gather photos from the various Head Start programs throughout the Atlantic. Communities submitted photographs for the 2011 Calendar. The photos of the month all received a plaque of the winning photo and all participating Head Start programs received a gift certificate from Scholars Choice.





The Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) Nova Scotia Aboriginal Home and Continuing Care project has concluded with the Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Health and Wellness signing off on all the documents which include recommendations. Also of note are that all the Chiefs, First Nations Community Health Directors, First Nations organizations and the District Health Authorities all received copies of the documents. These documents are also available on line at http://gov.ns.ca/health/ ccs/aboriginal/. A webpage has been launched with all of the project documents and policy updates relating to home care and long term care so that everyone with an interest in continuing care services for First Nation communities is kept up to date. The steering committee has officially transformed into the Aboriginal Continuing Care Policy Forum, with its first full forum meeting to be held in June 2011. Resources have been secured from the Nova Scotia Department of Health, First Nations and Inuit Health

and INAC to support the work of the forum with a secretariat for two years. Hampton & Hampton were awarded the contract by the selection committee following a call for proposals.

APC Health Planning Process

APC submitted a Health Plan in September 2010 which allowed the Health department to enter into a new five year flexible agreement. The Health Plan includes an overview of human and financial resources, APC health priorities, staff work plans and job descriptions, APC organization etc. The Health Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis in April.

Current Health Staff

Amanda Peters, Senior Policy Analyst (amanda.peters@apcfnc.ca)

Loraine Etter, Policy Analyst (loraine.etter@apcfnc.ca)

Chelsea Googoo, MMAHB Coordinator (chelsea.googoo@apcfnc.ca)

Paula Robinson, NIHB Navigator (paula.robinson@apcfnc.ca)

Wanda Paul, Health Administration (wanda.paul@apcfnc.ca)

Ashley Julian, Youth Coordinator (ashley.julian@apcfnc.ca)

John Sylliboy, AHHRI Coordinator (john.sylliboy@apcfnc.ca)

Economic Development Department Annual Report

Overview

The Economic Development –department is headed by the Senior Policy Analyst/RPMAC Coordinator, Heather Knockwood and is complimented with Penny Polchies, Policy Analyst and Oasoeg Millie, Administrative Assistant. Cheryl Knockwood left the organization and APC wishes her well in her new position.

The Economic Development department was responsible for administering the Regional Project Management Advisory Committee, the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Developer's Network and the Economic Development Officers' Training.

The Economic Development department would not be able to effectively administer these programs without the volunteer participation of the many Chiefs, Economic Development Officers, and Aboriginal Organization representatives. Without their participation, the many projects would not have direct community input on the direction and policy recommendations that First Nations in the Atlantic region chose to move forward to build sustainable economies for their communities.

Regional Project Management Advisory Committee (RPMAC)

The fiscal year ended with the RPMA Committee having participated in the following events/activities/discussions this fiscal year:

- Four Project Review Committee meetings that recommended funding for over 35 economic development proposals totaling \$5,127,690.00 to First Nation and Inuit communities and organizations in Atlantic Canada:
- Five Regional Program Management Advisory Committee meetings that updated the Terms of Reference to ensure an inclusive membership that will benefit the Atlantic region on economic development ventures in many sectors. The committee also received the INAC- HQ presentation on the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development – Lands and Economic Development Program Renovation and began networking with National Aboriginal Economic Development Board;
- Participated with the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Developers Network Strategic Planning Session

The RPMAC's Project Review Committee is an important and vital element of the structure of RPMAC. The PRC is a sub-committee that makes recommendations on community-based proposal driven programs to INAC; in the case of proposals over \$100K for the Community Economic Opportunities Program (CEOP) those recommendations undergo further review by INAC at HQ before being approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister (up to \$500K) or the Minister (over \$500K).

Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Developers' Network (AAEDN)

Funding was received to support the administration of AAEDN and the implementation of the Economy Building Strategy. The overarching goals of AAEDN are to:

- To increase Federal and Provincial procurement opportunities in the Atlantic Region;
- To support and advocate for the development of a skilled Aboriginal workforce that fully participates in the regional economy;
- Support Aboriginal business by developing tools that assist, support and advocate economic growth and stability; and,
- To increase relationships across sectors provincially, federally, and locally in all aspects of economic development.

On December 2 and 3, 2010, an AAEDN strategic planning session was held to build on the strengths and successes of the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Blueprint Strategy from the past three years, and to continue the implementation process. This collaborative approach between the APC staff, Economic Development Officers, Regional Project Management Advisory Committee, INAC and ACOA funders was facilitated by Dr. Michelle Corfield. The strategic planning session resulted in revisiting the original goals and priorities, ground truth whether or not the objectives are realistic and attainable in the next five years, and to prioritize the goals and objective for the next five years to set up AAEDN for success. The recommendations and proposed items were included for the 2011-2016 workplans.

On March 28, 2011, the Gathering of the Nations: A Portrait of the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development on the East Coast Mawiomi was held to provide a forum for the members of AAEDN to highlight the successes of the past three years and to reaffirm what can be accomplished moving forward.

The AAEDN goal committees achieved the following deliverables from the 2010-2011 workplan:

Goal 2 - Strengthening Aboriginal Business

The 2nd Annual Aboriginal Business Dynamics Conference was hosted in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The conference was a regional event targeted towards Aboriginal entrepreneurs to network, to gather information, and to learn the advantages and disadvantages of joint ventures and partnership. APCFNC registered over one hundred participants who welcomed the key note speaker, Arlene Dickenson, from the CBC's Dragon Den. The one-day conference was well attended and received great reviews.

Goal 3 - Developing an Educated Workforce

A two-day workshop entitled "Working Together to Develop Our Aboriginal Workforce", was held on March 2 and 3, 2011, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The purpose of the workshop was to build upon, facilitate, encourage dialogue and real collaborative



EcDev Staff – Heather Knockwood, Oasoeg Milliea, Penny Polchies

service integration between the First Nation department staff involved in Education, Employment, Economic Development, and Social Assistance at the community level.

Goal 4 - Data and Evaluation

The Community Profiles Project was developed as a tool to market the Atlantic Aboriginal communities as being Ready- for-Business. This project `s community-based data collection template is the first of its kind in the Atlantic region and the outcomes would be a valuable tool for each community in assessing their economic development potential.

Phase II of this project is proposing to create an electronic database for communities to gather data for community information purpose. Factors that must be researched and considered prior to proceeding are: confidentiality, security, and the Rights to Information Act. On-going work on this project will be dependent on securing project funding in the coming year.

Economic Development Officers`Training

Economic Development Officers need to be thoroughly trained, highly skilled and committed to building economic capacity in order to provide professional support and technical advice to their communities and organizations.

The APCFNC administers the program for EDO training with the direct partnership of the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO). Training has been offered this past year for twelve seats in each of the following competencies of an Economic Development Officer: Competency #8 - An Introduction to Financial Accounting and Competency #9 - An Introduction to Managerial Accounting. EDO's in the Atlantic Region continue with CANDO's Technicians Level Certification training on a yearly basis until their certification requirements are met.

In addition to the CANDO competency training, two AAEDN Professional Development training workshops was offered to provide EDO's with further knowledge to enhance their skills to provide more value to their projects and communities. The two additional topics provided were Business Management and Market Research.

The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP

1. BACKGROUND - AAEDIRP 2007 -2011

The main purpose of the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP) is to improve the knowledge base concerning Atlantic Aboriginal economic development in order to improve the lives of the Aboriginal people in the region.

The AAEDIRP is a unique research program formed through partnerships between the 38 member communities of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs, plus the Inuit of Labrador, 12 Atlantic universities and 4 government funders, both federal and provincial.



Let's All Help Each Other Conference John Sylliboy, Melinda Blakney, Gillian Austin, Holly McLean, Adam Augustine, and Buffy Peach.

OBJECTIVES

1. CONDUCT RESEARCH ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Research is conducted that is relevant to Atlantic Aboriginal Communities and organizations using community based participatory research methods and linking their needs with Atlantic university resources. The research supports the needs of the Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy.

2. BUILD RESEARCH CAPACITY

Research capacity in Aboriginal economic development is built with an emphasis on the hiring of Aboriginal staff; involving Aboriginal academics, students and community members and training Aboriginal researchers. Building research capacity also includes the knowledge and experience gained by non-Aboriginal researchers working with Aboriginal communities.

3. CREATE A DATABASE ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A searchable internet database on Aboriginal economic development is being created that can be used by Aboriginal communities and governments, as well as researchers.

4. HOLD WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

These are aimed at AAEDIRP stakeholders, making available the best possible information from the region, to support the process of economic development for Atlantic Aboriginal communities.

A.THE NEED FOR RESEARCH ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The relative lack of data and research on Aboriginal economic development in the Atlantic region provides a challenge for government and for Atlantic region leadership and communities. As a new initiative, the AAEDIRP is doing research on economic development topics that Atlantic Aboriginal communities want answered. We have asked twelve of the Atlantic region universities to support this research. What we are doing has not been done

before in Canada.

AAEDIRP research projects provide quantitative data as well as qualitative research to support the needs of the Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy, (AAEBS) 2007. They also provide guidance for the broader issues related to Aboriginal economic development. AAEDIRP projects have begun to provide much needed baseline data and are bringing together Atlantic region literature on Aboriginal economic development. The AAEDIRP is able to provide evidenced based research to support decision making on economic development in the Atlantic region.

AAEDIRP research projects have a direct tie in with the four goals of the AAEBS:

- 1) To build the net worth of Aboriginal communities by increasing Aboriginal control of land, resources and property throughout Atlantic Canada.
- 2) To strengthen Aboriginal Peoples businesses so that ownership, income, and employment from businesses are comparable to non-Aboriginal rates.
- 3) To develop a skilled Aboriginal workforce that can fully participate in the regional economy.
- 4) To establish and maintain sound baseline information on the Atlantic Aboriginal economy, that provides evidence of progress and opportunity. Broader issues related to Aboriginal economic development explored through AAEDIRP projects include qualitative research on:
- Education and lifelong learning and how these support economic development
- The link between speaking one's Aboriginal language and education and employment success
- Indigenous Knowledge and the role of Elders in economic development

AAEDIRP UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Dalhousie University
St. Thomas University
Saint Mary's University
University of New Brunswick
St. Francis Xavier University
Acadia University
Memorial University
Université de Moncton
Mount Allison University
Cape Breton University
University of PEI
Mount Saint Vincent University

B.THE AAEDIRP PARTNERSHIP - BUILDING BRIDGES WITH ATLANTIC REGION UNIVERSITIES

APCFNC leadership and communities have developed stronger relationships with the Atlantic region universities. This has benefited both the Aboriginal communities and the universities. Learning has taken place on both sides about each other's cultures, bureaucracies, ways of knowing and teaching.

Supporting Policy Documents AAEDIRP Policy Statement on Ethical Requirements and Research Ownership

This is significant achievement in charting a course that reconciles the conflicting traditions and expectations of the universities on the one hand, and the Aboriginal community and its organizations on the other. This includes issues such intellectual property, OCAP and ethics. This is a unique accomplishment in Canada. The APCFNC did not have a document pertaining to legal ownership or research ethics prior to the AAEDIRP.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AAEDIRP/APCFNC and Atlantic Region Universities Covering Collaboration in Research Sets out a common framework around issues such as overhead, protection for graduate students, ownership of research and other matters. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Atlantic University Region Universities Covering Collaboration in Research has been two years in the making. Signing of the MOU means that AAEDIRP research projects will not be charged an overhead administration fee by the universities. This is significant as one university had wanted to charge 40% overhead for having a professor work on one of the first research projects. First Nation people and communities, as well as the Inuit will not be charged overhead for AAEDIRP projects as they:

- Are on average the most disadvantaged group in socio-economic terms in the region;
- Are in the process of making a historic transformation from colonial control; and dependence to self-determination and self-reliance and
- Have historically experienced barriers in accessing post-secondary education and research opportunities

This is a historically significant achievement in the Atlantic region and demonstrates the universities' commitment to the AAEDIRP and to Aboriginal research capacity and knowledge building.

C. GOVERNANCE

The AAEDIRP is governed by a 19 member Steering Committee composed of APCFNC Chiefs and other Aboriginal representatives, University Partners and Funding Agency representatives, well as Research Subcommittee. It also holds annual University Partners Meetings. The AAEDIRP funders include, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, (INAC) the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, (ACOA) the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Aboriginal Affairs, Nova Scotia.

D. SUPPORT FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECTS

AAEDIRP Staff and Committees provide support for our research projects in order to build research capacity for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers. This includes:

- Research design and follow up workshops
- Feedback on funding proposals
- Helping to locate Aboriginal academics, researchers and other experts
- Matching researchers and projects with expert Aboriginal Advisory Committees
- Providing direction on published literature and unpublished literature
- Providing contacts in Aboriginal communities and organizations
 Providing foodback from a loading Aboriginal
- Providing feedback from a leading Aboriginal academic on draft reports
- Editing of research reports
- Guidance on Aboriginal cultural protocols, language and processes
- Organizing regional dissemination workshops, conference presentations and workshops to follow up on research recommendations to improve policy and programming for Atlantic region Aboriginal communities

2. RESEARCH PROJECTS 2007 - 2011

1. A Study of the Atlantic Aboriginal Post-Secondary Labour Force

David Bruce and Amanda Marline - Rural and Small Town Programme, Mount Allison University

A comprehensive summary of Atlantic Aboriginal education. Provides recommendations for improving the Aboriginal post-secondary completion rate and strengthening the linkages between post-secondary



education, labour market opportunities, and the economic development needs and plans of Atlantic Aboriginal communities. Recommendations:

- I- Ensure that there is adequate and appropriate preparation of young Aboriginal persons in the school system so that they may be ready to attend post-secondary institutions
- II- Increase the number of Aboriginal persons who attend post-secondary institutions
- III- Improve the completion rate of post-secondary education for Aboriginal persons
- IV- Strengthen the linkages between post-secondary education, labour market opportunities, and the economic development needs and plans of Aboriginal communities
- 2. Critical Success Factors in the First Nations Fishery of Atlantic Canada: Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Perceptions

Tom Cooper - Memorial University

The AAEDIRP fisheries project documented the voices of 90 Mi'kmaq and Maliseet fishers for the first time since Marshall. It demonstrates what was important to them. Recommendations:

- I- More clarity is needed regarding a "moderate livelihood."
- II- More accountability and transparency is needed III- More effective fisheries policies and procedures are needed
- IV- Resolution of the tax issues pertaining to the First Nations fishery
- V- Better enforcement of a rights-based fishery
- 3. Assessing the Effectiveness of Labour Force Participation Strategies

Lori Ann Roness Consulting

Provides recommendations for a multi-actor approach to Labour Force Participation Strategies stressing the need for governments and employers to develop and implement employment equity policies. Recommendations:

- I- An adequately prepared Aboriginal labour force: Provides work experience/placement and internship components into training programs and in different employment sectors
- II- An adequately prepared employer: Provides regular cultural sensitivity and diversity training for all employees
- III- A multi-actor approach stressing the need for governments and employers to develop and implement employment equity policies
- IV- On the Aboriginal side, individual Aboriginal people must be proactive about getting the appropriate training or education and seeking employment
- V- Companies must be more open to Aboriginal employment and shift conventional approaches to filling vacancies with ones that are more open to Aboriginal approaches
- 4. Examining Business Partnerships Arrangements between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Businesses

Lori Ann Roness Consulting

Provides a set of 'notable practices' for both individual and collective enterprises in NS and NB to help guide future Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Businesses. Recommendations:

- I- Strengthen Aboriginal partnerships by promoting and improving access to business development resources
- II- Offer targeted workshops and networking opportunities
- III- Establish business associations and trade missions
- A Successful Aboriginal Labour Force Participation Strategy is:
- I- Developed and endorsed at the highest levels of an organization
- II- Integrated throughout the company and supported

financially

- III- Responsive to both corporate and Aboriginal needs, meaningfully engages the Aboriginal community and is monitored.
- IV- Champions within organizations and Aboriginal communities must be identified

Role of Government

- I- Federal government could expand employment equity policies to include companies with less than 100 employees
- II- Provincial governments could track and measure Aboriginal participation within their own departments, and enact policies and incentive programs that encourage employers to partner more proactively with Aboriginal communities
- 5. Baseline Data for Aboriginal Economic Development: An Informed Approach for Measuring Progress and Success

David Bruce - Rural and Small Town Programme, Mount Allison University

The indicators developed can be used as a tool for communities and Aboriginal organizations to develop new policy and program approaches (or to make changes to existing ones) which may influence positive changes in communities and across the region, over time.

Next Steps

- I- Update data as it becomes available
 - -CCHS annual and bi-annual releases
 - -Annual administrative data
 - -Census 2011 (first releases in Feb 2012)

II- Promote the findings

- III- Encourage communities to use the data
- IV- Explore possible primary data collection to support additional indicators
- 6. Social Impacts of Economic Development: Three Cases Studies from Atlantic Canada (Millbrook, Miawpukek (Conne River) and Tobique First Nation)

Jeff Orr - St. Francis Xavier University

Recommendations are provided for the future success of Millbrook, Conne River and Tobique. Commonalities Across all Case Studies

- I- While colonial structures continue to limit capacity of bands to achieve equitable social development, the First Nations are finding innovative ways forward
- II- Fiduciary responsibilities of the federal government cannot, at present levels, realize First Nations community visions for cultural and economic justice
- III- Tensions between competing values of common good and individualism prevent band leadership from making strategic resource decisions
- IV- Some youth remain stuck in a culture of dependency, but many are motivated to shape the future
- 7. Best Practices and Challenges in Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Language Immersion Programs

Joanne Tompkins and Anne Orr - St. Francis Xavier University

The first Tobique Wolastoqi Immersion Program Description was developed through this project.

Provides recommendations for the development of immersion programs in NB Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities where they currently do not exist. Articulates the link between Indigenous youth having a solid grasp of their language and a strong identity to their educational success, future career, lifelong learning, and contribution to their community.

Leadership

- Just do it!
- Leadership is key
- Garner community and school board support
- Garner the support of the school administration

- Keep focused on the purpose of the immersion program

Planning priorities

- Make a plan to support education of as many qualified teachers as possible
- Develop a university partnership to put this plan of certifying teachers into action
- Make plans for Indigenous immersion teacher training for qualified teachers

Research

- Access current research on successes of Indigenous immersion programs
- Make current research available on-line
- Begin gathering data.

Beyond the school

- Create opportunities for language use outside the school.
- Develop adult language classes
- Provide opportunities to showcase students speaking the language

Future directions for existing programs

- Develop a plan for replacing trailblazers.
- Expand the current immersion programs.
- In expanding current immersion programs, aim to develop a dual track bilingual system

Keep at it!

 Developing and sustaining Indigenous immersion programs requires long-term collective efforts on the part of many stakeholders

8. APCFNC Elders Project: Honouring Traditional Knowledge

Involved 23 Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Innu and Inuit Elders from NB communities bringing them together with Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit Elders to look at how researchers and others can work alongside Elders and Traditional Knowledge.

The Elders made 8 recommendations concerning Traditional Knowledge. The main one is: An Elders Council, appointed by Elders that would advise on matters related to the sharing of Traditional Knowledge, should be formed for the Atlantic region. The Council would advise on matters related to protocols and/or ethics and the best practices for the sharing of Traditional Knowledge as well as the best practices for working alongside Elders. This would include working alongside Elders in all areas of community life and development including research. The Elders Council, once formed, would engage in a process of co-learning with the Atlantic region universities to create a template for how the process of this knowledge transfer could occur. Video made by Elders as part of the project highlights the role of Elders and Traditional Knowledge. It can be

9. More than Wind: Evaluating Renewable Energy Opportunities for First Nations in the Atlantic Region

viewed by going to: http://blip.tv/play/AYKxzVUA

Diana Campbell - Indian Brook First Nation Provides the first comprehensive summary of renewable energy options and strategic analysis for NS and NB First Nations on how they can best participate in opportunities in the renewable energy sector. Recommendations:

- Comprehensive Community/Energy Planning
- Local/Regional Energy Strategy
- Scenario Development
- Education
- Training
- Aboriginal RE Business Development Forums
- Financing/On-reserve loans/Rebates
- Partnerships/Community Models Energy Market To download the complete projects go to: http:// www.apcfnc.ca/en/economicdevelopment/ researchprojects.asp

A. HOW HAS AAEDIRP RESEARCH BENEFITED THE APCFNC COMMUNITIES?

One of the first AAEDIRP research projects, Critical

Success Factors in the First Nations Fishery of Atlantic Canada: Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Perceptions had a total budget of \$80,000. APCFNC took the findings from this study to help secure \$7.7 million in funding over three years to help Mi'kmaq and Maliseet First Nations in the Maritimes and Gaspé Region of Quebec pursue economic opportunities in new areas of the fisheries sector, including aquaculture, seafood processing and marketing under the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative, (AICFI) Department of Fisheries and Oceans, (DFO). This funding comes from the new Strategic Partnerships Initiative through the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development. The Strategic Partnerships Initiative is attempting to increase economic development opportunities for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and communities by promoting partnerships between federal and non-federal partners in priority sectors of the economy, including forestry, fisheries, mining, energy and agriculture.

In addition to the above funding secured through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative, APCFNC was able to secure the following AICFI funding for 2010-2011: AICFI Component 2.3, Implementation of the AICFI Business Plan: \$4.75 million - Employment and Skills Development for Onshore Staff. (This funding goes directly into the communities.)

AICFI Component 2.4, In Class/At Sea Mentoring: \$800k - In Class/At Sea Mentoring
AICFI Component 4.0, Commercial Fisheries
Diversification: \$5 million - Commercial Fisheries
Diversification

This research project documented the voices of Mi'kmaq and Maliseet fishers for the first time since Marshall. It demonstrated what was important to them. Telling people's stories is what good qualitative research is about. APCFNC followed up by communicating the communities' needs and to supportive government funders. In this case AICFI responded to support First Nations to control their own destinies in the fishery.

B. AAEDIRP WORKSHOPS

Research Project Design Workshops

These are regional workshops which bring together diverse groups of key stakeholders to seek their input on research topics and design and aid in the identification of research teams and advisory committees. Following the workshops, the AAEDIRP worked with researchers to finalize a research proposal for funding. The last four research projects began with research design workshops. Research Project Dissemination (Follow Up) Workshops

These workshops bring together a diverse group of regional stakeholders to follow up on the most significant findings and recommendations. They also promote regional dialogue on working together to address barriers to Aboriginal economic development as well as potential programming and policy changes that would be effective.

- 1. Assessing the Effectiveness of Labour Force Participation Strategies, October, 2010.
- 2. Examining Business Partnerships Arrangements between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Businesses, November 2010.

C. RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

Research Capacity Building for Aboriginal Researchers

The AAEDIRP employed two Aboriginal staff members from 2007 – 2011 and contracted one Aboriginal lead researcher, four Aboriginal co-researchers and fifteen Aboriginal research assistants. Twenty-five Aboriginal people supported the research projects as Advisory Committee Members in their capacity as the leaders of the key Atlantic region Aboriginal organizations. Through participation in AAEDIRP projects and workshops, Aboriginal researchers develop their understanding of the project topics and strengthen their research skills and experience. This includes but is not limited to:

• Writing, transcribing; interviewing; problem solving;

critical analysis; literature searches and synthesis; data analyses; budgeting, verbal communication, listening skills for participation in group discussions and consensus decision making; facilitation; proposal writing, university and community-based ethics applications; final report writing; and presenting

Capacity Building for non-Aboriginal Researchers

To work well together, the relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers must be based on trust, mutual respect, and learning. Non-Aboriginal researchers are supported as they cultivate relationships with Aboriginal researchers and communities. They are learning more about Aboriginal ways of knowing and Indigenous Knowledge that they may not have encountered during their formal education. The AAEDIRP is also contributing to the education of non-Aboriginal researchers on the issues and methodologies of undertaking research on Aboriginal economic development.

Building Bridges between Indigenous Knowledge and Universities Speaker Series

To increase understanding of Traditional Knowledge in Atlantic region universities the AAEDIRP organized a speaker series called Building Bridges between Indigenous Knowledge and Universities at Dalhousie, UNB and Memorial University with Professor David Newhouse, Chair of Indigenous Studies at Trent University. Professor Newhouse presented The Good Mind Meets the Academy - Indigenous Knowledge at Trent University. Trent offers a Ph.D in Indigenous Knowledge and their model includes Elders teaching as professors. This does not exist in Atlantic Canada. Local Aboriginal presenters and Elders opened the talks at each university.

Dalhousie University, October 25, 2010: Patricia Doyle-Bedwell, Director of the Transition Year Program, presented Opening the Door: Inclusion of Mi'kmaq Ways of Knowing in University Teaching. University of New Brunswick, October 26, 2010:

Gwen Bear, Elder in Residence at UNB, Grandmother Teachings.

Memorial University, October 27: Gregory Jeddore, Miawpukek First Nation Forestry Manager, along with Elders Noel Joe and John N. Jeddore presented on The Search for Indigenous Knowledge and Information by Miawpukek First Nation. The event was video conferenced to the College of the North Atlantic as well.

3. DATABASE ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This internet database on Aboriginal economic development will hold all resources on Aboriginal economic development in one place. The EText Centre at UNB is hosting the database for APC. Sixteen hundred resources from our major stakeholders have been documented to date. The database is in the development phase pending future funding.

4. AAEDIRP CONFERENCES

AAEDIRP Conferences bring together the key stakeholders in the region and provide presenters who share the best practices on Aboriginal economic development in the region.

1. LIFE LONG LEARNING – FROM YOUTH TO ELDER: A Conference on Aboriginal Education, March 2009, Fredericton. Conference presentations can be found at: http://aaedirpeducationconference. wikispaces.com/

2. LET'S WORK TOGETHER: A Conference on Creating Meaningful & Sustainable Employment for Atlantic Aboriginal People, February 2010, Halifax. Conference presentations can be found at: http://aaedirpletsworktogetherconference.wikispaces.com 3. LET'S ALL HELP EACH OTHER: A Conference on Aboriginal Community Based Research, March 2011, Moncton. The conference was an important vehicle for the Elders to share their knowledge. Conference presentations can be found at: http://aaedirpletsallhelpeachotherconference.wikispaces.com/



Let's All Help Each Other Conference 2011.

5. THE FUTURE OF THE AAEDIRP: 2011 - 2016

The APCFNC passed a Chief's resolution indicating that they would like to see the AAEDIRP continue its work over the next five years, from 2011-2016, to build on the successes of this unique research program. They would like the AAEDIRP to continue its mandate to conduct participatory, community based research that supports government, Aboriginal leadership and communities in their economic development planning and initiatives; to build on and strengthen the partnership between APCFNC and the 12 Atlantic region universities; to continue to build the capacity of Aboriginal researchers; to continue to share all information through regional workshops and conferences and to build upon the database so that it includes national information. During the first part of 2011/12, the main activities of the AAEDIRP will be to give the 2007-2011 research projects back to the communities and other stakeholders through regional workshops and presentations, so that they can benefit from the findings.

The AAEDIRP is undergoing a program evaluation conducted Horizons Community Development Associates. This will be completed at the end of June. The findings will be used to make improvements to the AAEDIRP for 2011 – 2016. The AAEDIRP will be funded by INAC for 2011/12. INAC has made a strong indication that they will support the AAEDIRP over a five year period. The Province of Nova Scotia has committed funding for the next four years and DFO has committed funding for a fisheries related project. We are waiting on a determination from ACOA.

As demonstrated by the economic benefits to Aboriginal communities that

Critical Success Factors in the First Nations Fishery of Atlantic Canada: Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Perceptions contributed to, research on Aboriginal economic development is critical for determining communities' futures in economic development. Research can be used to show what is needed in the communities and provide Aboriginal and government decision makers with sound information to do strategic economic development planning. The economic benefits to Aboriginal communities of the AAEDIRP/APCFNC's partnership with 12 Atlantic region universities and the capacity building of Aboriginal researchers are more difficult to measure. It is clear to the AAEDIRP Steering Committee that a long term and meaningful relationship with the region's universities is critical to the educational and economic success of Aboriginal communities. As well, the nurturing and capacity building of Aboriginal researchers through AAEDIRP projects has long term benefits to Atlantic Aboriginal communities. Collectively, we must strive to cultivate Aboriginal research capacity until all Aboriginal communities have a pool of researchers they can draw on to help plan for their futures. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) between the AAEDIRP/APCFNC and Atlantic Region Universities Covering Collaboration in Research is a clear demonstration of the universities' financial commitment to the AAEDIRP and to Aboriginal progress in the area of research and knowledge building. It is a historically significant achievement in the Atlantic region for all involved. This partnership will be strengthened from 2011 -2016 with a goal of the universities having a better understanding what they gain when they partners with Aboriginal communities.

For more information on the AAEDIRP, please contact Gillian Austin, Research Coordinator. (902) 435-8021

IRS Annual Report

Executive Summary

In November of 2004, the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy Chiefs mandated the staff of APC to provide outreach information sessions to former IRS students in the Atlantic. The intent of this mandate was to ensure former IRS students had the most up to date information on the proposed Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA).

APC organized and facilitated open discussions on options available for the IRS file, one being the IRSSA. APC estimates that there are approximately 1000 or more IRS Survivors in the Atlantic Provinces. off reserve and in the U.S who attended the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. The Atlantic Canada has a significant percentage of First Nations citizens, approximately 36,232 citizens that have been, in one way or another, impacted by IRS. The APC is considered to be the lead for the distribution of IBS information in the Atlantic as demonstrated in the chart below:

APC	SESSIONS	SURVIVORS/
OUTREACH	CONDUCTED	PARTICIPANTS
Total # of years: 6	Total to date: 271	Total to date: 123,057

In November of 2004, the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy Chiefs mandated the staff of APC to provide outreach information sessions to former IRS students in the Atlantic. The intent of this mandate was to ensure former IRS students had the most up to date information on the proposed Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA).

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By meeting the following objectives and activities listed in the following section, APC has provided invaluable support to survivors in this service delivery area.

Reporting Our Progress

Over the last year, APC Policy Analysts were available to survivors, descendents and their supports through a toll free line, fax, email and face to face. It is anticipated this information will assist survivors, descendents, frontline workers, leadership, and government agencies that visit the APC website more knowledgeable about the IRSSA, all its various components, existing resources available such as Health Supports, and the work APC is accomplishing to meet this task.

In further efforts to promote the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and supports available to IRS survivors, their families and communities, APC has continued to distribute the IRS poster, brochure and other communication materials. APC's film, "Journey from the Shadows," documents the impacts of IRS survivors / descendants on the Indian Residential School issue in Canada and its impacts. This film highlights the stories of survivors and their journey and the message that they convey is one of hope and healing. To date, this film has been well received in Atlantic Canada with intergenerational survivors coming forward to tell of their experiences. It also provides information on the IRS Settlement Agreement and health supports under Health Canada's Resolution Health Support Program (RHSP). The IRS Unit has begun showcasing this film to the general public, such as at the Legacy of Hope's "Where are the Children"? Exhibit in March and continue to distribute all of these communication materials throughout the Atlantic.

All of these activities have resulted in reaching out to the general public, government and non-government agencies as well as for the newer generation of Indian Residential School descendants. As the technological world is increasingly changing, APC recognizes this through an aggressive communication strategy that reaches out to as much of the public as possible while still continuing to forge ahead with face to face outreach with IRS survivors. The average age of a survivor is 60 and APC recognizes the need for proper communication in this issue.

IRS Sessions & Updates:

Updating on the vital work APC conducts remains a high priority in Atlantic Canada and over the past 5 years, this has increased partner input, advice and information. All relevant outreach and information is given to Mi'kmaq, Maliseet & Passamaquoddy survivors, leadership and communities in further efforts of awareness of this legacy.

Specifically, APC Policy Analysts have provided a variety of updates to leadership, frontline workers, and others. All of these activities have resulted in a much greater understanding of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement for IRS survivors and their families and those involved, which reflects the outreach in which INAC's APIP program promotes. It further gives a greater and crucial understanding of the complex needs of Indian Residential School survivors as they proceed into their options towards healing and reconciliation.

APC has been available for a variety of requests to attend IRS meetings and gatherings as described in the sections below. APC, at the discretions of IRS survivors' names and personal information, publish results of information sessions in continued efforts to advocate their needs and recommendations to INAC and relevant Government Agencies to improve services and service delivery.

Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

Overall, there have been some challenges regarding joint collaboration between the TRC and APC. To effectively ensure that IRS survivors in Atlantic Canada are given the opportunity to provide feedback and input into their Maritime National TRC event, APC has maintained frequent contact with the TRC by way of face-to face meetings, phone calls, emails, faxes and letters to bring these voices forward. As well, work quickly to ensure that the Maritime National TRC event is thoroughly planned out to move towards healing and reconciliation here in the Atlantic with IRS survivors and families. The APC IRS unit presented to the Atlantic Chiefs on January 27th regarding the lack of IRS survivor and leadership involvement in the planning of the TRC event. From there, a resolution was passed to rectify this issue. It has also led to a joint meeting on February 22nd between the TRC and APC's Executive Director, John Paul and AFN Regional Vice-Chief, Rick Simon to work together towards a common understanding in efforts towards a successful Maritime National TRC event and Community TRC tour. APC continues to work with TRC while advocating the needs of IRS survivors.

Independent Assessment Process:

As IAP cases are taking place across the Atlantic, it has opened up a wide range of issues, such as serious medical problems, conflicts in communities between former IRS students, lack of wills put in place for those who achieve compensation and even sudden deaths. This has been very difficult and trying for frontline workers in the Atlantic who are working not only with IRS survivors, but also descendants. For IRS survivors across the Country, there are those who have never told anyone of their experiences and may wish to finally speak out. There are also those

IRS sessions	Date	# of attendees	# of female IRS survivors	# of male IRS survivors
Metepenagiag, NB First Nation IRS out- reach session	April 10th	11	4	4
Tatamagouche, NS IRS Gathering	April 13t	88	41	27
APC All Chiefs Meeting in Moncton NB	May 19th & 20th	100	1	2
Elsipogtog, NB IRS Gathering	May 26th	18	2	6
Eel Ground, NB IRS Gathering	May 27th	40	3	1
Moncton Addictions Conference	June 8th -10th	unknown	N/A	N/A
Winnipeg National TRC Event	June 15th-19th	40,000	200	200
Elsipogtog IRS Gathering, Totem Pole Ceremony	June 21st	125	10	14
IRS outreach in Tobique FN in NB	June 25th	2		1
Membertou 400 Celebration in Halifax, NS	June 24th -27th	80,000	100	100
Tobique First Nation, NB	July 2nd	6	4	1









John G. Paul being Interviewed - Lets All Help Each Other Conference.



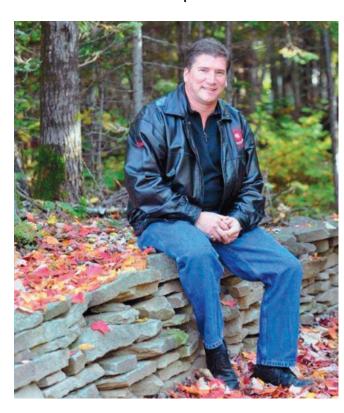
Regional Chief Rick Simon & Chief Morley Googoo



Elder Albert Marshall speaks.



Elder Murdena Marshall and Madeline Martin.



The late Chief Noah Augustine.



Regional Chief Roger Augustine - New Brunswick & PEI.



Let's All Help Each Other Conference -Moncton, NB.



Elders at AAEDIRP Conference.

APC ACCOMPLI

APC

- Proposed optional model for legislation as an alternative to the Indian Act Elections System
- Hosted Atlantic Indian Registry Administrators Workshop
- Hosted quarterly NS/DIAND/ SDA/NEO information sharing sessions
- Coordinated 2 (two) active measures pilot projects (Membertou & Pictou Landing)

Housing and Infrastructure

- Water Monitoring Training Program
- Benchmark Analysis & Gap Analysis
- Emergency Management Training
- 10 HQI Sessions
- Housing and Infrastructure Network
 - o Senior, Regional and Sub-Committee Meetings

IRS

- IRS Unit completed 71 Outreach Sessions
- IRS communications strategy implemented
- JIBC Aboriginal Training Certificate Program
- Legacy of Hope WATC Exhibit Atlantic Tour

Health

The Nova Scotia Aboriginal
 Home Care Framework
 document with recommendations
 was approved and signed by
 the Minister of Health. Other
 documents that have been ratified
 by the provincial government
 this year are; rolling out the Cape

Breton Home Care Discharge Planning to the mainland communities, the Aboriginal Long Term Care in Nova Scotia with 11 recommendations.

- Currently the NIHB Navigator client base consists of approximately three-hundred (300) clients both on and off reserve with a 95% success rate in resolving clients' claims in their favour.
- The MMAHB Evaluation Steering Committee is working to implement the recommendations of the final report with the potential to give MMAHB more influence over health issues in the Atlantic region.
- APCFNC has three new contracts with STFX, Dal, and UNB for two years designed to increase recruitment of Aboriginal students into health career programs.
 APCFNC delivered 14 science camps and 16 science related workshops to more than 3000 students in the Atlantic region.
- APC coordinated the Annual Atlantic First Nations Health Conference in October. Evaluations indicated that the conference was a success with workshops and presentations on various aspects of First Nations health and wellbeing.

Economic Development

- Hired Dr. Michelle Corfield to conduct the Strategic Planning Session for AAEDN with RPMAC, which resulted in a clear direction as per the Chief's Strategy
- Held a first time meeting Case Management 3-E Workshop in March 2011; Employment, Education and Economic Development
- Completed the community profile project for those First Nations that wished to participate

Fisheries

- FN Strategy Facts/Impacts
- Short & Long Term Strategies
- FN Regional Collaboration/ Cooperation
- Fisheries Studies

AAEDIRP Research Projects 2007 -2011

- **1.** A Study of the Atlantic Aboriginal Post-Secondary Labour Force
- 2. Critical Success Factors in the First Nations Fishery of Atlantic Canada: Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Perceptions
- **3.** Assessing the Effectiveness of Labour Force Participation Strategies
- **4.** Examining Business Partnerships Arrangements between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Businesses
- **5.** Baseline Data for Aboriginal Economic Development: An Informed Approach for Measuring Progress and Success
- 6. The Social Impacts of Economic Development (Tobique, Millbrook & Miawpukek)
- 7. Best Practices and Challenges in Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Language Immersion Programs
- **8.** APCFNC Elders Project: Honouring Traditional Knowledge
- **9.** More than Wind: Evaluating Renewable Energy Opportunities for First Nations in the Atlantic Region

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AAEDIRP/ APCFNC and Atlantic Region Universities Covering Collaboration in

SHMENTS 2011

Research

 Sets out a common framework around issues such as overhead, protection for graduate students, ownership of research and other matters.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Atlantic University Region Universities Covering Collaboration in Research has been two years in the making. Signing of the MOU means that AAEDIRP research projects will not be charged an overhead administration fee by the universities. This is significant as one university had wanted to charge 40% overhead for having a professor work on one of the first research projects. First Nation people and communities, as well as the Inuit will not be charged overhead for AAEDIRP projects as they:

- Are on average the most disadvantaged group in socioeconomic terms in the region;
- Are in the process of making a historic transformation from colonial control; and dependence to selfdetermination and self-reliance and
- Have historically experienced barriers in accessing postsecondary education and research opportunities

This is a historically significant achievement in the Atlantic region and demonstrates the universities' commitment to the AAEDIRP and to Aboriginal research capacity and knowledge building.

Building Bridges between Indigenous Knowledge and Universities Speaker Series

To increase understanding of Traditional Knowledge in Atlantic region universities the AAEDIRP organized a speaker series called **Building Bridges between Indigenous Knowledge and** Universities at Dalhousie, UNB and Memorial University with Professor David Newhouse, Chair of Indigenous Studies at Trent University. Professor Newhouse presented The Good Mind Meets the Academy - Indigenous Knowledge at Trent University.

Trent offers a Ph.D in Indigenous Knowledge and their model includes Elders teaching as professors. This does not exist in Atlantic Canada.

Local Aboriginal presenters and Elders opened the talks at each university.

Dalhousie University, October 25, 2010: Patricia Doyle-Bedwell, Director of the Transition Year Program, presented Opening the Door: Inclusion of Mi'kmaq Ways of Knowing in University Teaching.

University of New Brunswick, October 26, 2010: Gwen Bear, Elder in Residence at UNB, Grandmother Teachings.

Memorial University, October 27: Gregory Jeddore, Miawpukek First Nation Forestry Manager, along with Elders Noel Joe and John N. Jeddore presented on The Search for Indigenous Knowledge and Information by Miawpukek First Nation. The event was video conferenced to the College of the North Atlantic as well.

LET'S ALL HELP EACH OTHER: A CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH

MAWI WICUHKEMTULTINE

*
MAMU UAUITSHITUTUA

MAWI APO'QNMATULTINEJ

LLONNATAIKAJUTTIGELAUTT

MARCH 16 - 18, 2011, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Conference presentations explored best practices and lessons learned for

working collaboratively with Elders, and current AAEDIRP research was shared. There were Elder-led workshops and sharing circles and recommendations from these sessions will be used to guide a future vision for conducting Aboriginal community based research with Elders in the future.

Atlantic Aboriginal communities recognize the urgency and importance of working alongside Elders and learning from their Traditional Knowledge immediately and doing Aboriginal communitybased research. Over 30 Elders from four Aboriginal cultures of the Atlantic Region - Mi'kmag, Wolastogiyik, (Maliseet), Innu and Inuit participated. The conference was an important vehicle for the Elders to share knowledge of their languages and their cultures. All conference presentations and information can be accessed here on our "wiki": http:// aaedirpletsallhelpeachotherconference .wikispaces.com/

A debut of *Honouring Traditional Knowledge*, a video made with Elders which highlights the role of Elders and Traditional Knowledge was shown at the conference. It can be viewed by going to: http://blip.tv/play/AYKxzVUA













Press Conference August - 2010.



Eastern Eagle Drum Group.



Jim Jones and Chief Candice Paul - St. Mary's.



Chief Jessie Simon - Elsipogtog.



John Sylliboy - APC Health Dept. & Simon Osmond – APC Housing and Infrastructure.



NAFF - Regional Chief Rick Simon, Chief Candice Paul, John G. Paul, Premier Darrell Dexter.



Chief Mise'l Joe and Minister Duncan



Trish Augustine.



HRH Queen Elizabeth chatting with various Dignitaries.

IRS sessions	Date	# of attendees	# of female IRS survivors	# of male IRS survivors
Woodstock First Nation, NB	July 9th	10		
Tobique First Nation, NB	July 9th to 10th	14	4	6
Toique & Woodstock First Nations, NB	July 11th	21	4	13
Elsipogtog FN, NB	July 18th	12	5	5
Sundance in Elsipogtog, NB	July	400	14	7
TRC Meeting in Cole Harbour, NS	Aug. 4th & 5th	13	1	0
Corrections Canada in Moncton, NB	Aug. 10th	10	0	0
Eel River Bar FN, NB	Sept. 7th	6	3	1
Red Bank FN, NB	Sept. 9th	5	2	1
IRS Gathering in Debert, NS	Sept. 21st – 22nd	114	29	15
Grandmothers' Gathering	Sept. 22nd – 23rd	66	40	25
APC Chief & Councils Annual General Assembly	Sept. 28th	180	Not available	Not available
TRC National Survivors' Committee Meeting	Sept. 30th	16	6	4
TRC & Health Canada	Sept. 30th	10	0	0
TRC & Health Canada Planning Meeting	Oct. 1st	11	0	0
Elsipogtog survivors group	Oct. 3rd	20	2	6
St. Mary's Survivor Event	Oct. 8th	10	2	2
RHSW Regional Meeting	Oct. 14th - 15th	13	0	0
APC Health Conference	Oct. 21st, 2010	30	1	0
St. Mary's Survivor Event	Oct. 14th	14	2	2
Elsipogtog Outreach	Oct. 29th	3	1	1
Maliseet Nation Mental Awareness Team event	Nov. 1st – 2nd	6	2	4
IRSSA Outreach Sessions	Nov. 1st	16	1	5
IRSSA Outreach Sessions	Nov. 2nd	27	8	7
IRSSA Outreach Sessions	Nov. 3rd	24	8	5
IRSSA Outreach Sessions	Nov. 4th	32	8	8
IRSSA Outreach Sessions	Nov. 5th	13	8	3
MAWIW Gathering	Nov. 5-7th	80	30	22
TRC Meeting	Nov. 9th	8	2	0
IAP Outreach Session	Nov. 22nd – 24th	25	11	8
Meeting with Elders at Dorchester Corrections facility	Nov. 25th	3	0	0

who are fearful of speaking out for various reasons and may be conflicted. Whatever the case may be, IRS survivors and their families will be disclosing their experiences as a result of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School with the proposed First Nations community tours beginning in July and also at the TRC National Event scheduled for Atlantic Canada in the fall of 2011 and frontline workers need to be ready for any situations that may arise.

National Committee Participation:

APC Policy Analysts is a member of the Community Impacts Working Groups (CIWG). Recognizing that the IRSSA has had significant impacts, both positive and negative, on Aboriginal individuals and communities, the Settlement Agreement Community Impacts Working Group (SACIWG - originally known as the Common Experience Payment Working Group) has been established to:

Determine the potential positive and negative impacts on Aboriginal communities and individuals of the IRSSA. Recommend measures to maximize the positive impacts and minimize the negative impacts of the IRSSA.

Coordinate and support local, regional and national efforts to maximize the positive impacts and mitigate the negative impacts of the IRSSA.

APC attended via conference call the CIWG meeting that was held on the following date:

January 26th, 2011: CIWG meeting, Ottawa, ON

Another way APC is outreaching to its relevant parties and ascertaining information for survivors is by sitting on the Catholic Healing & Reconciliation Services Evaluation Committee's (CHRSEC). This committee's role is to review, disapprove or approve applications of cash and in-kind contributions from these Entities that are party to the IRSSA. This committee includes representation from the AFN, INAC and Catholic Entities.

APC sits on this committee and attended the following meetings:

April 9th, 2010: CHRSEC meeting, Ottawa, ON December 16th, 2010: CHRSEC meeting, Ottawa, ON

Just recently, an APC Policy Analyst was requested to become a member of the Resolution Health Support Advisory Committee (RHSAC) that has been set up by Health Canada to advise on supports during the Truth and Reconciliation events. APC attended, via teleconference, the following Meetings:

September 2010: RHSAC Meeting, Ottawa, ON December 2010: RHSAC Meeting, Ottawa, ON February, 2011: RHSAC Meeting, Ottawa, ON March 2011: RHSAC Meeting, Ottawa, ON

Aboriginal Trauma Certificate Program:

In efforts to assist APC's many partners with the IRSSA, APC hosted training for the purposes of preparing frontline workers for supporting former students and their descendents with the upcoming TRC Community and National events, healing and

IRS sessions	Date	# of attendees	# of female IRS survivors	# of male IRS survivors
Totem Pole Ceremony	Nov. 30th	20	2	0
ASH Meeting	Dec. 6th	4	0	0
CMM Health Update	Dec. 6th	2	0	0
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	January 6th	4	2	1
Red Bank First Nation, NB	January 11th	3	1	1
St. Mary's First Nation, NB	January 14th	5	5	1
Tobique First Nation, NB	January 15th	10	6	4
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	January 16th	6	2	6
FN Governance Center Youth Forum, Membertou, NS	January 19th	12		
All Chiefs Meeting	January 27th	37		1
Red Bank First Nation, NB	February 1st	2	2	
APC First Nations Social Administrators Meeting	February 1st	40	3	2
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	February 4th	4		2
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	February 6th	10	2	6
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	February 8th	1	1	
Tobique First Nation, NB	February 8th	14	2	5
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	February 9th	2		3
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	February 10th	4	2	2
Maine, USA	February 11th	2	1	
Pictou Landing First Nation, NS	February 16th	9	2	2
Paqtnkek First Nation, NS	February 17th	6	2	2
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	March 5th	4		2
Legacy of Hope Exhibit, Millbrook First Nation, NS	March 14th - 31st	1198	21	30
Moncton, NB	March 16th	2	1	
PEI IRS Working Group, PEI	March 17th	9		
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB	March 20th	11	3	6
Red Bank First Nation, NB	March 21st	3	2	
Moncton, NB	March 22nd	2		1
Eel Ground First Nation, NB	March 24th	2		1
ORSAC Meeting, NS	March 29th - 30th	27		4
Total: 71 sessions		123,057	621	588

also as a contribution towards long term sustainability beyond the IRSSA deadline of September 19th, 2012. The Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) is an accredited academic institution that offers a specific certificate program that addresses the Indian Residential School trauma. APC has offered this course to Resolution Health Support Workers, Cultural Support Persons and various IRS frontline workers in the Atlantic. It is an intensive four week program that was extremely useful in ascertaining regional concerns and ensuring that frontline workers were updated on various components of the IRSSA.

"Where are the Children?" Exhibit:

The Legacy of Hope's "Where Are the Children?" exhibit assists in great efforts to further our understanding of the Indian Residential School legacy in Canada. This exhibit displays through photographs the experiences of Indian Residential School former students and its purpose is to also educate the public to try to have understanding and compassion of a sad chapter in our Nation's history.

Government records show that the residential school system was a deliberate attempt by the Canadian government to break down Indian families and thereby "get rid of the Indian problem." The "Indian problem," as it was called in most government documents, was merely the fact that Indians existed, and were living on lands the settlers wanted for themselves. The system was officially in effect between 1892 and 1969 through arrangement between the Government of Canada and the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the United Church, and the Presbyterian Church. Although the Government of Canada officially withdrew in 1969, some of these institutions continued operating up until the 1990s.

Photographs of the residential schools that many Aboriginal people were forced to attend have also been rarely seen. This exhibit attempts to fill this gap. It brings together over one hundred photographs from public and church archives to portray the history of the residential schools in Canada.

To understand this national tragic past, we have

to look no further than on our own First Nations communities to see the effects of the only recognized Indian Residential School in the Atlantic – Shubenacadie.

The Shubenacadie Indian Residential School opened in 1929 in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia, seven kilometres from the Indian Brook First Nation.

Father Jeremiah Mackey of the Roman Catholic Church was the first Superintendent and served until his resignation in 1943. Initially established to provide manual and agricultural training to teenage Mi'kmaw boys, the school shifted its mandate within its first year to accept thousands Aboriginal children from seven to 15 years of age for tutelage. By several accounts, younger children were also said to have attended the school. Under the supervision of nuns and priests, students received some classroom and religious instruction but spent much of their day involved in manual labour. Boys were responsible for tending the furnaces and working on the school's farm while girls staffed the kitchen and laundry.

story continues on page 20

Atlantic First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network April 2010 to March 2011

The purpose of the AFNHIN is to facilitate interdepartmental and First Nation discussion and collaboration for the provision of safe and sustainable drinking water, source water protection and effective wastewater management on First Nation communities. In light of legislative changes and housing initiatives, the network will provide quality advice and strategic direction in the areas of housing & infrastructure and will work in collaboration with key federal departments (INAC, Health Canada, Environment Canada and CMHC) and First Nations representation; APC, CMM, UNBI, UNSI, MAWIW, NSMDC, MCPEI, representatives from Newfoundland & Labrador.

The Atlantic First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Network (AFNHIN) operates under the mandate by an APC All Chiefs Resolution #2007-12 which was passed on May 2, 2007.

- Senior H&I committee is comprised of INAC RDG, CMHC GM, EC RDG and HC RD, as well as 3 chiefs (NS), 3 chiefs (NB), 1 chief (PEI) and 1 Chief (NL). The main objectives of the Senior Committee are to:
 - a. Establish a collaborative senior-level decision-making forum for addressing housing and infrastructure priorities on First Nation communities;
 - b. Provide vision and leadership to the Housing & Infrastructure Network committees in addressing the priorities of Atlantic First Nation communities in the areas of housing, water / wastewater, emergency management and infrastructure.
 - c. Senior committee met on July 5, 2010 and February 11, 2011;

2. Regional H&I Committee:

- a. The AFNHIN Regional Committee will provide quality advice and strategic direction in the areas of housing & infrastructure in the Atlantic First Nation communities.
- b. The Regional Committee in collaboration with key federal departments is to initiate proactive discussions, provide quality advice and develop strategic direction on Housing and Infrastructure programs and initiatives.
- c. Oversees Housing and water/wastewater subcommittees.

The Regional committee held 6 meetings to date including a training session on How to Chair meetings Effectively which was held on January 20, 2011. The regional committee met on the following dates:

- May 27, 2010
- June 17, 2010
- September 15, 2010
- December 8, 2010
- January 20, 2011 training chairing meeting effectively;
- January 21, 2011
- March 31, 2011

Atlantic First Nations Water & Wastewater Operator Training Workshop

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs (APC) in collaboration with the Centre for Water Resources Studies at Dalhousie University hosted a workshop for Atlantic First Nation Water & Wastewater operators. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for discussion regarding issues & challenges that water & wastewater operator's face.

The Atlantic First Nation Water & Wastewater Operator training workshop was held on March 28th & 29th, 2011. The participants included the Atlantic First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network (AFNHIN) committee members, First Nation water & wastewater operators and water monitors. The workshop was very well attended with approximately 30 First Nation participants.

The workshop agenda included information on the Proposed Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations which was provided by Environment Canada. The purpose of which was to provide the participants a better understanding of the proposed wastewater effluent regulations which were published in Canada Gazette, Part 1 on March 20, 2010. It is anticipated that the regulations will be published in Gazette, Part II in t

Graham Gagnon, PhD PEng, presented on the importance of a multibarrier approach in terms of safe drinking water from source-to-tap. The multibarrier approach is intended to prevent the presence of water-borne contamination in drinking water by ensuring safety mechanism are in place at various stages of a drinking water system (source water, treatment, distribution monitoring and response).

There were five key questions that the participants had an opportunity to discuss in terms of challenges that are faced by First Nation water & wastewater operators.

The following are key wastewater operating issues.

Education

- There is no incentive for certification as it takes too long to complete & there is no reward for higher education such as pay increase.
- Band council and general public should be informed on the wastewater system and its importance to the community; this can also inform the public about what can or what cannot be flushed down the toilets.
- Educating Chief & Council would aid with funding including funding for maintenance, safety equipment and back-up wastewater operators.

Funding

- Standardized wages should be implemented based on certification level and experience.
- Funding for safety equipment, aging equipment and maintenance for repairs.
- Lack of communication, transparency and accountability at all levels;

Occupational Health & Safety

- Inadequate health & safety training or personal protective equipment;
- Working long hours due to no back-up wastewater operators.

The key drinking water operating issues that were highlighted are:

- Water operators highlighted the need for back-up water operators (trained & paid) as an urgent priority;
- Vandalism prevention through community education

 the effects of vandalism are costly and it puts the
 health of the community at risk including workplace
 safety for water operators;
- Financial concerns including budget, salaries, benefits. Most operators were not aware of are not included in the determination of the budgets for water system. Transparent budgets would mean better prioritized limited funds.
- Community awareness and education in terms of dangers and effect of any interruption to the water supply and system.
- Safety was a key concern for the operators which requires more safety training, safety equipment, and safety gear.

- Water discolouration and safety of water and protection of watersheds. Threats to watersheds due to vandalism or nearby construction sites.
- Awareness of the importance of their water system and about water conservation.
- Stressed the lack of communication between Chief and Council how funds are received and distributed.

What support (e.g. training, tools, information) do you need to support your role in water & wastewater management?:

- Reliable emergency contact list especially when emergencies happen after work hours and holidays.
- Community education in terms of role in water & wastewater
- Education for Chief & council



APC staff being presented with an award

APC provided an evaluation form to the participants during this two-day workshop. The participants highlighted that the workshop provided opportunities to network with other operators, i.e. trouble shooting, knowledge sharing and enjoyed the group work that took place. The participants also highlighted that they have learned more about workplace responsibility with regard to water & wastewater operations. Overall, 79 % of the participants reported that they were very satisfied with what they learned during the workshop, none of the participants reported that they were dissatisfied.

The Atlantic First Nations Drinking Water Safety program is a Health Canada initiative which began in 2004. The program helps to train First Nations to be water monitors. The CBWM workshop has thus far been an annual event where water monitors are trained as well as back up water monitors.

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs has successfully coordinated the workshop for the past two years and has seen increases in the number of First Nations participating in the workshop, therefore, there are more CBWM being trained.

The CBWM workshop was held at the Nova Scotia Community College, Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth, NS on November 23rd to the 25th, 2010. The workshop was well attended with approximately 55 First Nations participants. For more information see Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Nations News, December 2010 article.

CBWM Workshop Planning Committee

A planning committee was struck to assist and to provide input into the organizing the workshop, in terms of venue, agenda items, presenters etc. The group usually addresses what worked or what did not work based on the previous workshops. The planning committee members are as follows, First Nations from CMM, NSMDC, 2 water monitors, Health Canada staff and APC staff. The planning committee met on the follow days:

- May 26, 2010 @ Dartmouth Waterfront NSCC
- September 8, 2010 @ Dartmouth Waterfront NSCC
- November 2, 2010 @ APC Cole Harbour Office

• March 30, 2010 @ Maritime Learning Center

National Engineering Assessment Water & Wastewater: APC all Chiefs passed a resolution in Jan

Wastewater: APC all Chiefs passed a resolution in Jar 2010, for INAC to send all NEA to APC to disseminate to all tribal councils within the Atlantic.

- 1. APC has reviewed the draft reports to identify potential issues to raise to the chiefs, while awaiting the final reports due end of Jan 2011.
 - a. 4 High risk communities have been identified.
- APC staff has disseminated all draft reports to all tribal councils within the Atlantic for fact finding purposes.

Wastewater Systems Effluent regulations: The Regional committee met on May 27th, 2010 for purposes of information sharing specific to the WSER and provided opportunity for discussion on the proposed regulations thus serving as the basis for a consolidated comments report reflecting the Atlantic First Nation outstanding questions & concerns on the regulations.

Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products

Regulations: Provided updates to the chiefs and H&I network members on proposed regulations. Also ensured INAC and Environment Canada visited and update communities on these regulations, but ensuring that all First Nation communities registered their tanks so that there was no interruption of services.

Emergency Management: establish a foundation, foster linkages and partnerships with key contributors to develop and ensure a strong Emergency Management & Response planning forum to assist First Nations in preparing robust all hazards EPR plans.

- 1. APC has worked with INAC to train all tribal councils in:
 - a. ICS 100 & 200
 - b. Basic Emergency management
 - c. Business Continuity planning and awareness
- 2. Worked with INAC and provinces on MOU's and identifying issues with proposed service agreements.
- 3. Worked with Province of NS to obtain and provide CMM and UNSI with copies of risk assessments regarding all hazards in First Nation communities in Nova Scotia.
- Requested from INAC copies of other risk assessments from other Atlantic First Nation communities and disseminate them to tribal councils as well.
- On April 16th the Government of Canada & the Province of Nova Scotia signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for providing emergency response & recovery services in Nova Scotia First Nation's communities.

Housing Quality Initiative (HQI)

The HQI is designed to help First Nations with housing quality challenges & offers a wide variety of workshops such as:

- Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (home occupant)
- Let's Clear the Air (LCTA)
- Mold Remediation
- Introduction to Ventilation systems
- Basic Home Maintenance

Housing Quality Workshops

Since April 2010, APC has coordinated 5 HQI workshops in following communities: Indian Brook (Mold remediation, builder's series, HRV installation

& maintenance) and Pictou Landing (Basic home maintenance). There are plans for more workshops in Metepenagiag, Saint Mary's, Eskasoni & Abegweit in 2011.

Indian Brook

 Mold Remediation - September 23 & 24, 2010

o Trainer: Keith Maracle

- Builder Series November 8, 9 & 10, 2010 o Trainer: Keith Maracle
- HRV Installation December 8, 9, 10, 2010
 HRV Maintenance December 8, 9 & 10,

2010

o Trainer: Norbert Koeck

Abegweit

 HRV Maintenance – January 14, 2011 o Trainer: Danny Knockwood

Pictou Landing

Basic Home Maintenance – August 17 & 18, 2010-12-15

o Trainer: Danny Paul

Communications Working Group

The Regional committee of the network identified a need to develop tools that would enhance flow of information within the network, network members and communities. A communications working group was appointed to develop a communications plan. The working group identified enhancing the housing & infrastructure section of the APC website which will provide relevant information related to housing, water, wastewater, source water protection, and emergency management. The plan has been approved after input from the regional committee members.

Assisting Indian Residential Schools Survivors continued from page 14

The Shubenacadie Indian Residential School officially closed in 1967. In September 1986, the school building was destroyed by fire and subsequent demolition.

Under the residential school system, Aboriginal children were taken from the parents and their communities. Many of these children, in addition to the emotional abuse of being robbed of their family, culture and language, were subjected to horrific physical and/or sexual abused.

The schools were plagued with abuse by the priests and nuns who operated them. Ironically, many of the pictures in the exhibit were made at the time as a way of showcasing the benefits of the schools. The cost has been a legacy of widespread trauma and inter-generational impacts. Yet the story of residential schools is still relatively unknown and little understood by many.

The impact of Canada's Residential Schools has not only been felt by Aboriginal children. The issue has affected, and continues to affect, all Canadians. Several generations of non-Aboriginal children have been ingrained with racist beliefs taught in Canada's schools. While Aboriginal children were being taught in Residential Schools that their languages, race and culture were inferior, non Aboriginal children were being taught the same thing in their schools. There is a need to reform school curricula about this history everywhere.

This is not a situation created by aboriginal people. All Canadians have a shared responsibility to set things right.

Finding out the truth and forming the basis of reconciliation should matter to all Canadians. As everyone explores with honesty a sad part of our past, we work to build a positive, courageous image of how we now wish to see ourselves, and wish to be seen by the rest of the world community.

The exhibit is an historic opportunity to begin new relationships of respect between aboriginal and non-

aboriginal Canadians, and to serve as a model to the world. Please encourage everyone you know to come to the "Where are the Children" exhibit so we can move towards education and awareness of the Indian Residential School issue in Canada.

ORSAC:

Despite a reduction in APIP funding from previous fiscal years, APC has stayed committed to sharing information, and where possible providing opportunities for dialogue with the Outreach Residential School Atlantic Committee (ORSAC). This body consists of a partnership of survivors, First Nation leadership representation, academic representation, Government Agencies and First Nation Agencies and Organizations who wish to provide access and facilitate information to former students of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in the Atlantic region while further acknowledging the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools in Canada. The committee will provide information on, and facilitate access to, programs and services which will enable survivors of Indian Residential Schools to deal with issues reflective of their experiences within the schools and to ensure that these experiences are acknowledged and commemorated. In this quarter, ORSAC has met In Millbrook First Nation, Nova Scotia with 31 members in attendance from March 29th to the 30th. APC also assisted three members of the TRC to gain valuable feedback and concerns towards the upcoming TRC community and Maritime National events at this ORSAC meeting.

Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News:

APC is continuing to take a proactive stance in updating survivors, First Nation communities, and the general public by writing regional newspaper articles. Here is the listing of Indian Residential School articles that were issued in the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nation News (MMNN), a not-for-profit Aboriginal newspaper. The MMNN is First Nation owned, community focused monthly newspaper with a particular

expertise in Mi'kmaq culture, and a focus on positive/ success stories in the Mi'kmaq community, archiving history, and providing information on relevant current events and issues. MMNN has a readership of 6600 with a distribution and circulation to:

Atlantic Canada 1593 Central Canada 73 Western Canada 22 Outside of Canada 29

Below is a list of Mi'kmaq Maliseet News articles in which APC has contributed on Indian Residential School outreach and information over the last fiscal year:

IRS Frontline Workers Training Workshop, May 2010 TRC Community Events Criteria, June 2010 APC Welcomes Regional Health Support Workers, July 2010

Indian Residential School Survivors attend National TRC event in Winnipeg, July 2010
One (1) Advertisement for APC IRS notices, Sept.

2010
One (1) Advertisement for APC IRS notices, Oct.

IRS Post Card Insert distribution, Oct. 2010 Two (2) Advertisements for APC IRS notices, Dec.

2010
IRS Post Card Insert distribution, Jan. 2011
Indian Residential School Resolution Health and
Cultural Supports, January 2011

Truth & Reconciliation Commission launches \$20 million commemoration initiative, January 2011 Full page Ad on Indian Residential School Unit at APC, February 2011

Profile: Richard Kistabish, Truth & Reconciliation Commission Regional Liaison, March 2011 2 quarter pages ads on Indian Residential School Unit at APC, March 2011

ANNUAL REPORT ON APC'S INDIAN ACT ELECTION REFORM NATIONAL ENGAGENMENT INITIATIVE: Building a Better Election System for First Nation Communities

Background

Over the last couple of years, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APC), as mandated by the APC Chiefs (Resolutions #2008-12 and 2010-001), has been researching and discussing with First Nations leaders, technicians and First Nations peoples in Atlantic and Eastern Canada, the issue of First Nations elections. All the input we have received on this issue was carefully considered in developing recommendations for the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to develop an improved system for holding and managing First Nation elections that are currently held pursuant to the Indian Act.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was very receptive to these recommendations and asked the APC to lead a national engagement effort, jointly with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), to present these recommendations, generate discussion, obtain feedback and gain support among First Nations leaders and organizations across the country.

This national engagement effort was officially launched on October 1st, 2010, during Treaty Day celebrations in Halifax, Nova Scotia, by the Minister, AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans, and Executive Co-Chairs of the APC, Chiefs Candice Paul and Morley Googoo.

Whenever possible, information materials were developed and approved jointly by the AMC and the APC. This material was disseminated on the websites of both organizations in mass mail-outs to First Nations who hold their elections under the Indian Act, and they were made available for distribution at various engagement forums. APC was responsible, for making contacts, disseminating information and making presentations to First Nations leaders and organizations in Eastern Canada, while AMC carried out these responsibilities in Western Canada. Since this initiative was geared to First Nations who hold their elections under the Indian Act election system, no engagement was planned for the territories where there are no First Nations who hold elections under the Indian Act.

This report presents the efforts employed by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs in the course of the national engagement phase of the electoral reform initiative.

Preparation and Update of Engagement Materials

The APC worked with INAC and the AMC this year to review existing and develop new materials specific for the national engagement initiative based on the recommendations for electoral reform that were provided to the Minister in April 2010. All materials were also translated into French as well. These include:

- Launch Announcement
- Discussion Paper
- Backgrounder and Frequently Asked Questions
- A form on which comments could be inscribed specific to each recommendation
- A discussion paper on various recall mechanisms to inform this debate in the First Nations context
- APC Website on the Indian Act Election Reform initiative: http://www.apcfnc.ca/en/aboutapc/ Elections.asp
- Facebook Group weblink: http://www.facebook. com/group.php?gid=150789196002

As APC was responsible for engagement efforts

in Québec, all developed materials, including the electoral reform module of the APC's website were available in French.

Engagement in Ontario and Québec

Using the materials developed for the national engagement, APC Executive Director delivered a Power Point presentation to the special assembly of the Chiefs of Ontario on November 23, 2010, in Toronto. There were 134 First Nations invited to the special assembly. Copies of the materials were distributed to participants.

APC also contacted all political organizations in Ontario via email and telephone to inform them of the electoral reform initiative and to seek opportunities to make presentations to key members of these organizations. During these exchanges, links to the materials on the APC's website were provided, where all interested parties could learn more about the initiative and provide their feedback and comments.

Mail-out to Ontario and Quebec First Nations Holding Elections Under the Indian Act

APC worked with AMC to develop a joint information letter that was sent to all Ontario and Quebec First Nations who hold elections under the Indian Act to inform the Chief and Councils of this initiative. This letter, which was signed by the two APC Co-Chairs, included a brief explanation of the electoral reform initiative and was accompanied by the detailed discussion paper on the recommendations, a backgrounder and a feedback form. In the letter, the APC Co-Chairs encouraged the Chief and Councillors to make these documents available to their community members and invited both leaders and community members to provide feedback directly to the APC.

General Meeting of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association

Representatives from the APC attended the National Aboriginal Finance Officers Association (AFOA) annual general meeting, held in Vancouver on from February 15 thru 18, 2011. Over 1100 delegates attended the conference. APC staff procured a booth from which information, background materials and feedback forms on the election reform initiative were distributed.

Several First Nations people and leaders provided general comments signaling that they supported longer terms of office and other similar reforms that would stabilize First Nations governance and allow for better long term planning.

Fall Policy Forum of the Assembly of First Nations

The Assembly of First Nations hosted their National Fall Policy Planning and Discussion Forum in Montreal on November 8 and 9, 2010. APC Executive Director, John Paul, and Glen Sanderson from the office of the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs were part of the discussion panel on alternatives to the Indian Act system. APC and AMC made a presentation on the proposed election reform model and handed out over 100 copies of the discussion paper and feedback form. The question and answer session held after the panel presentation was very interesting and participants were very engaged in the topic of election reform. There were over 50 delegates that attended this particular breakout workshop.

Sustaining the Initiative among Atlantic First Nations

Throughout the national engagement effort, and

recognizing that First Nations leaders sometimes change (due to elections), the APC continued to take steps to maintain interest in, and commitment to, the electoral reform initiative in the Atlantic region.

Activities included:

- Provision of regular reports to the APC Executive Committee as well as to all APC All Chiefs Forums
- Presentation to the The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Chiefs and Councillors Annual General Meeting
- Presentation to the NS Native Womens Association (Board of Directors)
- Presentation to both the NS/NF and NB/PEI Band Managers meetings
- Presentation to the Atlantic AFOA Workshop
- Presentation to the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation Indian Act Workshop (planned for March 25th, 2011)
- Presentation to the Staff of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (Nova Scotia)
- Regular monitoring of the initiative within the membership of the APC
- Publication of two articles in the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News (November 2010 & March 2011)

Research on Recall

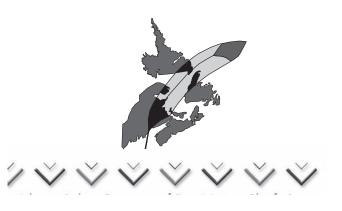
One of the recommendations that both the APC and the AMC provided to the Minister was that the new election system provide for a recall mechanism that would allow for elected leadership to be removed from office during their term. To inform the discussion and legislative development of a sound recall mechanism, additional research on this subject matter in other jurisdictions was undertaken. A research expert engaged by the APC produced a detailed report on various recall systems and key considerations when developing such a system. A summary overview chart of this report can be found on APC's website.

Conclusion

The Atlantic Policy Congress has employed its best efforts to carry out this national engagement on electoral reform, using written correspondence, information dissemination on its website and in other communication mediums, and in-person presentations delivered by APC representatives. Few negative reactions or comments on the recommendations have been encountered either in written or verbal format. As we have reported previously, our engagement efforts in the Atlantic region has led us to conclude that First Nations people are generally supportive of our recommendations for electoral reform.

APC has now asked that the Minister consider our report and our conclusions to inform the development of a new First Nations Elections Act.

If you have any questions or require further information about this initiative, please contact Krista. Brookes@apcfnc.ca by email or phone 1-877-667-4007.





Financial statements

Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat March 31, 2011



Independent auditors' report

Suite 400 35 Commercial Street Truro, NS B2N 3H9 T+1 902 893 1150 F +1 902 893 9757 www.GrantThornton.ca

To the Members of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2011, the statements of operations, deficit and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Congress' preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Congress' internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat as at March 31, 2011, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Other matter

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The schedules included on Pages 21 to 25 are presented for purposes of additional information and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied, only to the extent necessary to express an opinion, in the audit of the financial statements taken as a whole.

Truro, Nova Scotia July 5, 2011

Chartered Accountants

Great Thornton LLP

Year ended March 31	Page	2011	2010
Barrana			
Revenues			0.400.044
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$	2,437,244	
Department of Fisheries and Oceans		1,618,452	1,491,442
Health Canada		1,737,288	2,794,478
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency		514,056	431,816
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation		50,000	52,500
Environment Canada		20,000	20,000
HST recoverable (Note 2)		204,653	206,785
Miscellaneous		253,498	126,701
Interest		446	544
		<u>6,835,637</u>	7,226,607
Expenses			
Administration	14	917,783	740,907
All Chiefs Forums and Executive	15	148,886	259,643
Housing and Water	16	628,033	698,698
Health	17	1,089,507	2,276,057
Fisheries	18	2,056,866	1,491,442
Economic	19	1,324,950	1,237,042
Residential Schools	20	554,060	479,474
		6,720,085	7,183,263
Excess of revenues over expenses before			
depreciation and loss disposal of assets	_	115,552	43,344
Depreciation		138,964	83,298
Loss on disposal of assets		25,102	-
		164,066	83,298
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$	(48,514)	\$ (39,954)



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	<u>Unrestric</u>	Investment in Capital ted Assets	Defence Fund	Total	Total 2010
Beginning of year	\$ (531,	62) \$ 440,560	\$ 56,217	\$ (34,385) \$	(20,605)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	115,	552 (164,066	-	(48,514)	(39,954)
Contributions		-	25,829	25,829	29,042
Payments			(16,490	(16,490)	(2,868)
Proceeds on long term debt, net of repayments	(36,0	36,046	-	-	- T
Capital asset additions (net of disposals)	(117,0	<u>117,044</u>	<u> </u>		_
End of year	\$ (568,7	<u>'00</u>) \$ 429,584	\$ 65,556	\$ (73,560) \$	(34,385)

Assets Current					
Cash and cash equivalents		\$	21,151	\$	106,611
Restricted cash (Note 3)		6507	65,556	•	56,217
Receivables (Note 4)			1,537,595		1,859,603
Lien holdback receivable		_	<u> </u>		7,700
			1,624,302		2,030,131
Property and equipment (Note 5)			1.910.369		1,957,391
		\$	3,534,671	\$	3,987,522
			***		<u> </u>
Liabilities					
Current					
Payables and accruals		\$	1,829,730	\$	1,542,417
Lien holdback payable			-		7,700
Deferred revenue (Note 7)			194,500		800,133
Current portion of capital leases (Note 8)			63,573		67,424
Current portion of long term debt (Note 9)		134.727		128,170
			2,222,530		2,545,844
Capital lease obligations (Note 8)			109,227		68,715
Long term debt (Note 9)			1.276.474		1,407,348
		_	3.608.231		4,021,907
(Deficit) surplus (Page 5)					
Unrestricted			(568,700)		(531,162)
Investment in capital assets			429,584		440,560
Legal Defence Fund reserve			65,556		56,217
			(73.560)		(34,385)
		\$	3,534,671	\$	3,987,522

Commitment and contingent liabilities (Notes 10 and 11)

On Behalf of the Executive Committee

Cly Chi, Pol Co-Chair

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1. Nature of operations

The Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat is a policy research organization that analyzes and develops culturally relevant alternatives to Federal policies that impact on the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Innu First Nations communities and peoples.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as outlined in the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Handbook. The CICA has issued accounting standards that are specifically applicable for not-for-profit organizations under Part III of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Handbook which are to be adopted for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2012. It is the Congress' intention to transition to these standards no later than its March 31, 2013 fiscal year.

Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of the contingent liability at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those reported.

Revenue recognition

The Congress follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Unrestricted contributions and investment income are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amounts to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Rental revenues are recognized when received or receivable, provided the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Capital assets

The investment in capital asset fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses related to the Congress' capital assets.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Capital assets (continued)

Rates and bases of depreciation applied to write-off the cost of capital assets over their estimated useful lives are as follows:

Building 4%, declining balance Furniture and equipment 30%, declining balance

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and balances with banks and financial institutions. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

Cash flows from operating activities on the statement of cash flows reconciles cash receipts from total revenues, changes in the accounts receivable and deferred revenue balances as well as cash paid for expenditures from total expenditures, changes in prepaids, payables and accruals balances, long term debt and payments for capital assets.

Financial instruments

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, receivables, payables and accruals, capital lease obligations and long term debt. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat is not exposed to significant interest, currency, or credit risk arising from financial instruments. The fair market values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values.

The Congress classifies its financial instruments as held for trading and applies Section 3861 of the CICA Handbook. Financial instruments classified as held for trading are measured at fair value on each reporting date. Given the current nature of the Congress' financial assets and liabilities, their fair values approximate carrying values.

Overhead allocations and project transfers

The Congress allocates administrative overhead costs incurred to the various projects undertaken during the year based on estimated costs incurred by each project and based on the terms and conditions of specific funding agreements.

Transfers are made among various programs when, in management's opinion, certain revenues or expenses incurred in one program relate to another program.

Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

The Congress includes with its expenses the recoverable portion of HST. A rebate is then filed for the recoverable HST which is recorded as revenue in the administration statement of operations in the period it is receivable.



Restricted cash

Cash held in the Legal Defence Fund is subject to internal restrictions and is not available for unrestricted purposes without the approval of the Executive Committee.

4. Receivables	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation Confederacy of Mainland Mikmaq Environment Canada Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada Sundry HST recoverable	\$ 385,606 825,081 12,500 20,000 2,000 151,165 4,094 137,149	\$ 937,272 407,899 2,500 - 2,000 368,031 15,000 16,524 110,377
	\$ 1,537,595	\$ 1,859,603

The amount receivable from ACOA includes the approved funding up to the end of the contribution agreement. Any unexpended amounts up to March 31, 2011 have been included in deferred revenue as disclosed in Note 7.

5. Property and equipm	nent		<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	Cost	Accumulated <u>Depreciation</u>	Net <u>Book Value</u>	Net <u>Book Value</u>
Furniture and equipment Building	\$ 545,113 	\$ 334,723 106,895 \$ 441,618	\$ 210,390 1,699,979 \$ 1,910,369	\$ 188,443 1,768,948 \$ 1,957,391

Bank indebtedness

position are as follows:

Obligations under capital lease

The Congress has an agreement for an operating line of credit of \$300,000, which expires November 1, 2011. There is no balance outstanding on the line of credit at March 31, 2011. For security on the operating line of credit, see Note 9.

7. Deferred revenue	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Confederacy of Mainland Mikmaq Health Canada Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 30,000 \$ 4,650 98,359 61,491	661,667 - 138,466 -
	\$ 194,500 \$	800,133

The Congress leases equipment under various capital leases with effective interest rates between 0% to 32%. Future minimum lease payments reconciled to the statement of financial

2011	\$ _	\$	69,072
2012	81,983		54,821
2013	58,622		15,564
2014	39,122		_
2015	29,037		-
2016	 4,738	_	
	213,502		139,457
Less: amount representing interest	 40,702	_	3,318
	 172,800		136,139
Less: current portion	 63,573	_	67,424
	\$ 109,227	\$_	68,715

<u>2011</u>

<u>2010</u>

All capital leases are secured by specific pieces of equipment with carrying values in excess of the obligations.

9. Long term debt	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Non-interest bearing payable to Health Canada, payable over 3 years in equal quarterly instalments of \$12,902.	103,216	\$ 154,826
Peace Hills Trust base rate prime plus 1.5% mortgage, amortized over 20 years, payable in equal monthly instalments of \$6,645 including principal and interest.	1,001,014	1,031,165
10.75% term loan with Ulnooweg Development Group Inc., amortized over 7 years, maturing April 1, 2015, payable in equal in equal monthly instalments of \$3,951		
including principal and interest.	181,477	207,810





2011

2010

10.75% term loan with Ulnooweg Development Group Inc., amortized over 7 years, maturing June 1, 2016, payable in equal in equal monthly instalments of \$2,558 including principal and interest.

125,494 1,411,201 134,727 1,276,474

 141,717

 141,717

 1535,518

 128,170

 141,717

 141,717

 1,535,518

 128,170

 1,407,348

Principal repayments in each of the next five years are due as follows:

2012		\$ 134,727
2013		\$ 141,707
2014		\$ 97,756
2015		\$ 106,165
2016		\$ 113,203

As security on the Peace Hill Trust operating line of credit and loan and Ulnooweg Development Group Inc. loans, the Congress has provided the following:

- First, second and third mortgage of leasehold interest on a building;
- General security agreement over all current and future floating assets of the Congress;
- An assignment of leases and rentals and an assignment of current and future receivables and revenues from the landlord of the land lease on which the building resides;
- An assignment of monies due from specific funding agencies on contractual funding arrangements; and
- An assignment of permanent fire and all risks and perils insurance.

10. Commitment

Less: current portion

The Congress has entered into an agreement to lease land on which its building is located for the next 25 years, expiring in August 2034. Minimum rent payments for this lease for each of the next five fiscal years are expected to be \$7,961 per year.

11. Contingent liabilities

The Congress has entered into contribution agreements with various government departments on both the provincial and federal level. Funding received under these agreements are subject to repayment if the Congress fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreements.

12. Employee benefits

(a) The Congress has a defined contribution pension savings plan for its employees. The assets of the plan are held separately from those of the Congress in independently administered funds.

Contributions paid and expensed by the Congress in the current year amounted to \$111,881 (2010 - \$92,513).

(b) The Congress remits employee benefits on behalf of employees and as of March 31, 2011, all remittances for employee benefits are up to date.

13. Capital management

The Congress' objectives when managing capital are: (i) to safeguard the Congress' ability to support its current operations and long term growth strategies; and (ii) adhere to the terms and conditions imposed by funding agencies and minimize any surplus and/or deficits from project funding.

As part of existing debt agreements, there are no financial covenants to be monitored.

14. Comparative figures

Certain of the 2010 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for 2011.

Full version of audit available upon request.

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Catering

For more information & rental rates please contact:

Buffy Peach

Reception/Administrative Assistant

Cole Harbour Head Office

Phone: (902) 435-8021 Fax: 902 435-8027

buffy.peach@apcfnc.ca











Organizational Profile

The Atlantic Policy congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat was incorporated in 1995 as a non-profit corporation and is mandated to research, analyze and develop culturally relevant alternatives to federal policies that impact on Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Innu and Passamaquoddy First Nation communities and peoples.

We are in association with the Assembly of First Nations located in Ottawa, ON

APC Staff Directory

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Cole Harbour

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Elsipogtog

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Cole Harbour

Elsipogtog Sub-Office

Name **Position** Location **Executive Director** John G Paul Cole Harbour Senior Policy Analyst /Legal Advisor Cole Harbour Krista Brookes **Director of Operations** Shawn Holte Cole Harbour Rhonda Wiley Executive Assistant Cole Harbour Tami Brophy Administrative Assistant (HR & Operations) Cole Harbour

Economic Development

Senior Policy Analyst -Heather Knockwood **Economic Development**

Penny Polchies Policy Analyst - Economic Development

Director of Finance

Fisheries Knowledge Network -

Finance Assistant

Tara Julian Assistant Assistant

Finance Debbie Christmas Noreen Copage

Alden Paul

Fisheries

Mentoring and Training Coordinator Commercial Fisheries Policy Analyst Amy Moulton Gerald Cloud Fisheries Management Software **Development Coordinator**

Ian Wentzell Senior Fisheries Advisor Nancy Young Administrative Assistant Stanley Oliver Director of Fisheries Kara Martin Administrative Assistant FMS - Senior Advisor Michael Grant

Front Desk - Head Office

Buffy Peach Receptionist & Administrative Assistant

Health

Health Policy Analyst Amanda Peters MMAYC/Youth Coordinator Ashley Julian Chelsea Googoo MMAHB Coordinator Loraine Etter Health Policy Analyst Paula Robinson Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Navigator

Administrative Assistant (Health) Wanda Paul John Sylliboy **AHHRI Coordinator**

Housing and Infrastructure

Administrative Assistant Colleen Francis Norah Ward Senior Policy Analyst -Housing & Intrastructure Senior Policy Analyst -Simon Osmond

Housing & Infrastructure

Information Technology Adam Augustine Chief Informatics Officer &

Gillian Austin

Web Administrator

Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP)

Research Coordinator **Indian Residential Schools (IRS)**

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