



# Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

## Executive Director Report 2008-2009

Over the past year there have been three All Chiefs Forums including the Annual General meeting and the yearly Chiefs & Councils session held in Prince Edward Island. At these meetings, the Chiefs have adopted a total of nineteen resolutions on a variety of issues, directing the staff of the APC to take necessary action to resolve the issues and concerns. Several resolutions were adopted to allow the borrowing of funds which resulted in the construction project for the new APC office complex on the Cole Harbour reserve in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. All resolutions are highlighted on the APC website. During the year, the executive Chiefs met seven times and once jointly with the executive of the Ulnuweg Development Group. The executive addressed a number of concerns, such as financial, securing input and feedback from the National First Nations Institutions being created this year to support the First Nations of Canada. An additional First Nation Community from Quebec joined the APC which was the Maliseet Nation at Viger and which was confirmed in March 2009.

In September 2008, the Chiefs elected through a secret ballot the following Chiefs to serve for a two year term from 2008 to 2010. The APC Executive Chiefs and Co-Chairs are Chief Lawrence Paul, Millbrook First Nation and Chief Noah Augustine Metepenagiag, First Nation. The other eight elected Chiefs were; Chief Darlene Bernard, Lennox Island First Nation, Chief Morley Googoo, Waycobah First Nation, Chief Mi'sel Joe, Miawpukek First Nation, Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's First Nation, Chief Terrance Paul, Membertou First Nation, Chief David Peter-Paul, Pabineau First Nation, Chief Deborah Robinson, Acadia First Nation and Chief Gerald Bear, Tobique First Nation. The election at Tobique First Nation created a vacancy on the APC Chiefs executive committee, Chief Jessie Simon of the Elsipogtog First Nation was selected to fulfill the vacancy until September 2010.

Other ex-officio non-voting members of the APC Executive include AFN Regional Chief Rick Simon for Nova Scotia/Newfoundland & Labrador and Regional Chief Roger Augustine for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy, Mi'kmaq Nation, Keptin John Joe Sark of PEI, Mi'kmaq Nation.

Last year marked the passing of two great leaders in the region who greatly influenced the entire work of all Chiefs in the communities, provinces, region and nationally. The loss of Regional Chief Len Tomah and Elder Dr. Raymond Tremblay has had a significant impact on all those who worked with them. Their voices, wisdom and incites will never be forgotten with the important work they carried out to support the future of all our communities and all the

Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Innu people. Their determination and focus on the important issues of these two extraordinary leaders shall be the cornerstone toward a better future for all our member communities and peoples.

June 11, 2009 marked a historic event when Prime Minister Stephen Harper made a public heartfelt apology to all the First Nations' survivors and their families. A well attended, large public event at Indian Brook allowed the Chiefs, leaders and all those impacted to pay tribute to Norah Bernard and all survivors and families impacted to take steps forward on the healing journey.

The fall marked the APC AGA, APC Chiefs & Councils Session and the International Community Planning Conference and Trade Show in Charlottetown in September 2008. Well over three hundred people participated in a wide range of activities which included an array of internationally renowned speakers and a wide range of workshops. The sessions also allowed First Nation communities to show case the enormous work-efforts undertaken in community planning and economic development. A Chief's Business roundtable at the end of the conference allowed the Chiefs of various communities across the region to detail the challenges and reasons for success in each of their communities. There is a requirement to establish critical links to the private sector and the business communities across Atlantic Canada.

In the fall, a Federal election occurred which afforded APC to ask critical questions to all federal party candidates and for them to provide incites on issues critical to First Nations communities. APC received responses from most of the candidates with the exception of the Conservative candidates; this information was provided to all communities for their consideration and interest. APC staff will perform follow-up with regards to the issues raised and continue to push the important issues by the Chiefs and all communities and work collaboratively with the Assembly of First Nations to ensure issues of importance are included in all national discussions.

APC Chiefs and Co-Chairs continue to meet with key Ministers and senior officials to raise critical priorities and concerns for the various Chiefs and communities. APC provided a yearly detailed pre-budget submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance which ensured concerns and needs of the communities were identified. Detailed presentations and submissions were proposed to



Ministers and others to ensure critical priorities and concerns of the Chiefs and communities were regularly raised. Our Chiefs also presented positions as required to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs on significant pieces of legislation which is expected to impact all our communities.

Key legislation as the Repeal of Section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, Specific Claims Act and legislation dealing with Matrimonial Real Property will require research analysis and discussion of the impacts and the presentation of our Chiefs perspectives and concerns.

Chiefs continue to focus on critical priorities which face the community and the various ongoing consultation processes being undertaken by the government to secure inputs. The Chiefs maintain a focus on critical priorities as the current financial crisis facing First Nations and the increasing burdens of accountability and transparency for all activities of the communities, programs and services provided. Economic development and the development of a new federal aboriginal economic policy framework are expected to have serious implications. There is a great need for the future framework to be consistent with the Chiefs economic strategy for Atlantic Canada and to ensure funding is adequate to allow all First Nations to continue to progress in the field of business and economy development.

The Chiefs strategy and our regional input as to what is required federally will provide a starting point for results which can be demonstrated for each community. This effort will also support the ongoing work development and focus of all First Nation level economic development staff to make things happen as required for the communities to address the growing

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# Executive Director Report Continued

needs in all the communities.

The current strategy was updated to investigate what could be accomplished in the first year for each of the planned goals. The AAEDIRP, Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, has six research projects underway in the region and held a major workshop at the end of March 2009 on Lifelong Learning from Youth to Elder held in partnership with the University of New Brunswick. The studies tabled at the event provided essential information to all the participants as well as a wide range of research items to concentrate on in the coming year. This session was the first event of its kind in the region to help focus on research as a valuable tool to contribute to existing work and future strategies in communities across the region.

In the area of housing and infrastructure, the establishment and operation of a regional network allowed collaboration at the tribal organizations to support efforts in the communities. This will help strengthen the capacity needed to support existing activities and to address the future challenges with the move toward an expanded regulatory regime for water and waste water. The ongoing discussions and inputs provided by various First Nations communities have allowed APC to advocate nationally toward improvements in advance of the new regulatory regimes which are to be imposed on First Nations. The need to create the right training, expertise and supports for communities is fundamental if the regimes are to move to a higher standard with First Nation leaders holding all the responsibility.

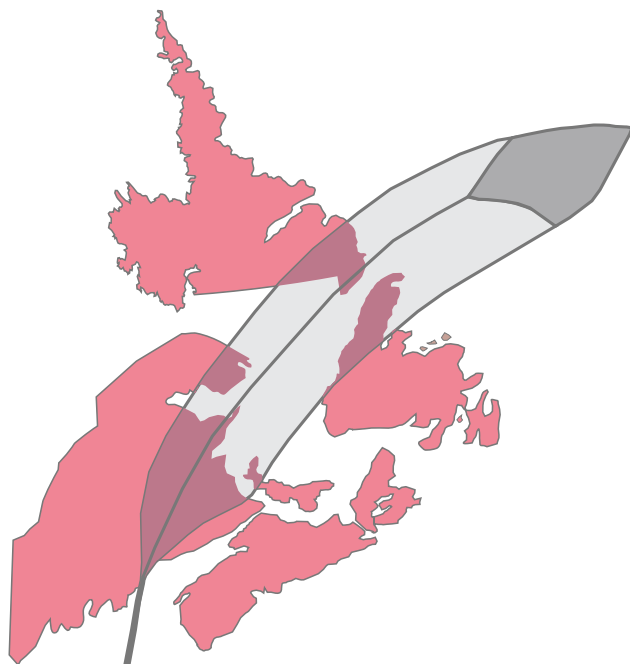
In the area of the health, the focus has been on urgent priorities identified by the Chiefs and the MMAHAB. Continued efforts to address serious gaps in services for mental health and drug use has been an ongoing challenge with limited new financial resources to address the growing needs of the communities for expanded services. Continuous dialogue to develop a comprehensive inclusive approach is critical if the results of the strategy are to be realized in each and every community. The need to focus on collaborative efforts of First Nations and between communities on services which produce the desired results are greatly needed.

Efforts in training such as the various mental health projects and the touchstones training of the front line mental health staff will go a long way to create the right range of effective services for each community designed to address their key priorities and items of focus to move toward long term solutions and results for those people most in need.

The APC Fisheries Knowledge Network continues its ongoing efforts to provide support to the various First Nation communities and maintains links to the other AAROM bodies across the region. The main focus is research and advisory services on request. In addition, regular meetings are held with communities to address issues, concerns and development as well as the distribution of critical timely information to all the First Nation Fisheries Coordinators. Other areas of work have included elements of the AICFS (Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Strategy) established in Budget 2008 at the DFO. APC program components relate to the contracting services of the Business Development Team located at Ulnooweg Development Group headed by Mr. David Simms which has engaged twenty-three communities in the provision of confidential advice to First Nations on development of a Community Commercial Fisheries Business Plan.

The Fisheries Knowledge Network (FKN) is also engaged in the full implementation and support of the Fisheries Management System to twenty-four user First Nation communities. The Fisheries Knowledge network also supports the provision on in-class/at-sea mentoring training for communities. Other projects undertaken by the Fisheries Knowledge Network have included the development of the concept of the FN Integrated Seafood Company and ongoing analysis of DFO science and stock assessments for critical fisheries impacting various communities. The FKN staff has also contributed to continuous research studies being conducted by APC.

The staff at APC continues to support the ongoing efforts and needs of the Chiefs across the region and to be proactive in the identification and advocacy of critical issues for all the communities and people.





# 2008-2009 Fishing Knowledge Network Report

The past year has been a busy year for the Fishing Knowledge Network. The majority of our work has been related to:

- The continued activity of our AAROM, which concentrates on providing information on commercial fisheries in the Atlantic region to meet members needs
- Service Provider for 3 of the 4 components of the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI) Program, and
- Feasibility study for a First Nation Integrated Seafood Company.

The FKN has also provided guidance and advice during the formative stages, of other APC sponsored studies such as the “Study of the Critical Success Factors in the FN Fishery in Atlantic Canada” being done by Memorial University/ Planning Resources Inc./Elsipogtog FN/ UNB.

This diversity in dealing with multiple issues has made the work of the Knowledge Network interesting, fulfilling and very demanding. To this end the creation and ongoing development of the Fisheries Knowledge Network has been a very gradual process which continues to evolve as the nature of the work the FKN undertakes continues to evolve. One of the more challenging aspects of creating and sustaining the work of the Knowledge Network has been the sourcing of qualified staff. We currently have 5 people working at the Fishing Knowledge Network fulltime and two more who have special talents we draw on from time to time to assist with our work.

In the course of its work the Knowledge Network has primarily used two methods to interact with communities; we host workshops for the fisheries coordinators and try to visit as many communities as possible throughout the year. Site visits to communities have provided us an opportunity to introduce the work of the Knowledge Network and to have direct input and feedback from the communities on how they envisioned the Knowledge Network working for them.

The focus of the Knowledge Network this year has been to build upon the work carried out in 2007-2008 as well as continuing to build relationships with the communities in the 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 participated in the National Policy Advisory Group and Canadian Marine Advisory Council meetings, this was 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 and vessel stability. The implementation of these regulations will be phased in over the next several years.

The relations with DFO regionally and nationally have been strengthened through regular meetings on various issues. Any issues beyond Regional control would be raised to 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 the work the network has been undertaking at the All Chiefs Forums in June and in September, 2008. The key issues covered in these updates were the role the Knowledge Network plays in support of First Nations 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 jointly hosted two workshops with DFO. The first was a Fisheries Coordinators Workshop in March 2008 and the second was a fisheries coordinators workshop in Feb 2009 on the agenda for both workshops were presentations dealing with the current downturn in the fishery due to economic pressures. This has been an ongoing issue for the Atlantic Fishery in certain gear sectors for the last couple of seasons. The Knowledge Network has been trying to provide fishery coordinators with regular updates on the fishery to assist fishery managers with making informed decisions. The February workshop also had presentations on fishing vessel fuel efficiency presented by the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation and an update on the AICFI program including an information session on the newest component of the program Component 4 (Commercial Fisheries Diversification Funds). Copies of materials and agendas, including presentations, are available on the Fishing Knowledge Network website [www.FNKN.ca](http://www.FNKN.ca). All workshop materials were provided to all First Nation Fishery Coordinators at the workshop in an electronic format (we are trying to be more environmentally friendly by reducing the amount of paper we use).

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. 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 DFO through its use of stakeholder groups to form the basis of decisions, must be sure these decisions do not erode any First Nation Aboriginal and Treaty rights directly or indirectly. 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.

The FKN staff is comprised of Ian Wentzell, senior fisheries advisor, Gerald Cloud, fisheries software development coordinator, Amy Moulton, commercial fisheries policy analyst, Chelsea Googoo, administrative assistant and Mentoring/Training Coordinator, Alden Paul.

## **FKN Work Plan and Activities**

Development activities completed by Network:

- Serving 37 member communities ( Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Innu) in 4 DFO Regions (Maritimes, Gulf, Quebec and Newfoundland)
- Development of FNKN website for Fisheries Coordinators and AAROMs has been completed and is now operational. The FNKN site features important national and international news, key links to useful commercial and government websites, a login process, frequently asked questions and a Forum for 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**

The AICFI program has become a cornerstone of the Knowledge Networks activity, it is a DFO sponsored capacity building program which provides for short term and long term guidance and help for First Nation's Commercial Fishing Enterprises. The AIFI program consists of four separate components.

Component One of the program deals with how the Commercial Fishing Enterprise is currently being operated and provides the First Nation's with information on various business models currently being used in the industry. Through a consultative process with the First Nation the Business Development Team (BDT) assist the Community develop a business structure which best suits the community's needs.

Component Two of the program is sub divided into 4 sub-components 2.1-2.4. This component provides support for the development of a business plan based on the business structure the community has chosen for their commercial fishing enterprise. As well it also provides support for the integration of Fisheries Management Software into the business operations and Mentoring/In Class training activities for fish harvesting.

Component Three of the program provides funding for AAROM's to hire a liaison person to assist the Fisheries Coordinators with participation with other industry and association groups. Component Four of the program is where DFO provides money to implement the needs of the commercial fishing enterprise as identified in the community's business plan.

Throughout the duration of the program there will be a team of skilled industry business people available to work with the community and fisheries coordinator.

## **AICFI Component 2.1**

- March 2008 the FKN involved in providing overall management and guidance for the BDT.
- As of mid-February 2009, 27 communities have indicated an interest in participating and work in 23 communities is progressing.
- Process is driven by the community with advice and assistance provided by the BDT member assigned a lead role for each community. BDT consists of(Dave Simms, Lina Condo, Daniel Matthews, Brian Deveau)
- Many communities now playing pro-active role and have created Project Work Teams, involving combined resources of band councillors, fisheries personnel and other staff, e.g. Economic Development Officers, to effectively carry out the business planning and development process.





# 2008-2009 Fishing Knowledge Network Report, con't

## Current Staff list and their area of responsibility

AA - Adam Augustine  
GC - Gerald Cloud  
LC - Lina Condo  
KP - Karen Pictou  
AM - Amy Moulton  
AP - Alden Paul  
IW - Ian Wentzell

established and a large number of certified fisheries mentors are in place, the new goal is to focus training needs towards wheelhouse personnel certification (FM, MED, etc.) and other special training needs (engines, mechanics, etc.)

Activity	Current Major Work Areas	Main Work Allocation
AAROM	Networking (research, advisory, maintaening contacts)	IW
	Meeting (area and individual communities)	IW Supported by AM/GC
	Website (develop and maintain)	KP, AA (IW)
AICFI	Business Development (Team Contract Man-agement)	IW
	Fisheries Management System (all stages)	AM,GC,LC (IW)
	In-Class Training/At-Sea Mentoring	AP (IW)
Other FKN	Overall Network Admiistration and Support + <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Integrated Seafood Company - concept development, preparatory work, and man-agement of outside consultant for initial study and start -up phase</li><li>Critical Success Factors Study - Memorial University - overall direction and advice.</li></ul>	IW + CG + team

Working with the Technical Advisory Committee and the FKN, participating communities have upgraded training plans and developed the deployment plans needed to negotiate Contribution agreements with DFO for training delivery to begin

- Current indications are that 11 or more training plans have been completed and approved and at least 15 communities are moving ahead with fisheries training and at-sea mentoring. (AICFI Component 2.4) this year
- In-class training is focused on meeting the current (recently changed) Transport Canada requirements.
- FKN team (mainly Alden Paul) is 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.
- FKN will be managing the interface between:
  - communities and at-sea mentors and
  - communities and training institutions.
- Is providing the oversight group to make sure 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.

### AICFI Component 2.2

- FMS is a valuable tool for tracking communities fisheries business operations. It also helps coordinators manage and plan current and future fishing operations.
- Available at no cost to communities. (Is a prerequisite for participating in AICFI Comp. 4)
- Includes software installation and upgrades (Ver 1.3 to be released in En. & Fr. end of June 2009)
- 25 communities (including 8 from the pilot) are currently using the software solution.
- Under Network direction, Amy Moulton is taking the lead on this task with technical support provided by Gerald Cloud / Adam Augustine.
- The Networks small team has dedicated their time and effort at a number of levels including: visiting communities (several times in some cases) and installing FMS, providing some initial training, delivering workshops and providing follow-on training and problem-solving on-line and by phone.
- Work completed to date has involved a lot of time and effort by both the FKN and the fishery coordinators. A great deal has been learned by everyone involved.
- The FMS software is able to assist fishery coordinators:
  - Managing current harvesting operations (e.g. through tracking "burn rate" for fuel and labour costs pervessel/fishery during active fishing season, landings, trip costs, locations and conditions).
  - Vessel & equipment management (tracking, maintenance, upgrade, etc.)
  - License & quota management (allocation, transfer, etc.)
  - Maintaining information on status of employee/ crew status (e.g. individual sea-time, training, certification, etc.) for crewing purposes and HR deployment and development planning,
  - Budget and time constraints limit what is possible but the Network can and does provide a useful

and important supporting role at all stages of implementation and during use of the system.

The Network continues to focus its attention on:

- Helping remaining interested Community's get started with implementing the FMS.
- Supporting those (the majority) still in the process of finalizing their system , and
- Providing sources of help and problem solving to those whose FMS is fully operational.

It is anticipated that the workload will increase in 2009:

- As FMS becomes more generally accepted and used more widely for the full range of activity and report production, and
- As Community's work to achieve FMS implementation sufficient to satisfy the prerequisite for AICF Component 4.

### AICFI Component 2.4

- Much has been already been achieved in training crews through the at-sea mentoring work carried out during earlier programs. Management of these programs was carried out using the COADY International Institute and the Caraquet School of Fisheries as Service Providers. These institutions acted as Service Providers only as long as their contracts with DFO were in place.
- The big step being taken now involves FN communities taking on the role of Service Provider (through the FKN). 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.
- With FKN as Service Provider there is now a mechanism in place for continuity in FN fisheries training even when external program support is less available.
- Now that the at-sea mentoring process is

## First Nations Fishery Knowledge Network Inputs

- Dialogue with First Nation Fisheries Coordinators, and Fishers

Since March, 2007 the Fishing Knowledge Network Staff have been conducting community visits on an ongoing basis to meet fisheries coordinators, councils, and fishers to engage in discussions on a wide range of fisheries related issues. The objectives of this dialogue process are as follows:

- To meet and establish a good working relationship with each community's fishery coordinator and promote information sharing based on interest and follow-up plan.
- To gain an understanding as to the information needs of each First Nation community's fishery activities and program.
- To promote participation in networking in and between First Nations.
- To find ways to collaboratively improve First Nation's fishery operations.
- To identify key fisheries conservation and harvesting priorities and issues.

Based on discussion with coordinators, they expressed concerns in various areas of the fishery. Issues identified included:

### Increased Access

First Nation Communities want increased access to current resources. (Snow crab, lobster, etc...) They also seek access to new aquatic species that are currently not being harvested like seal harvesting.



# 2008-2009 Fishing Knowledge Network Report, con't

## Protection of Watershed Areas

Pollution of our watershed areas is affecting the survival of some of our targeted species for harvest. (e.g. oysters in Nova Scotia being affected by MSX). Bay of Fundy in stream tidal power generating project.

## Protection of Resources

Concerns have been raised about protecting the aquatic resources this issue has been raised by many First Nation communities. In Cape Breton, concerns have been raised over current harvesting levels of snow crab and the sharing formula between the various industry stakeholder groups, while in New Brunswick First Nation fish harvesters are concerned with the ongoing issue of having an in adequate amount of Tuna quota to harvest.

## Aquaculture Capacity Building

A number of communities expressed an interest in expanding into oyster aquaculture operations including marketing options for the product.

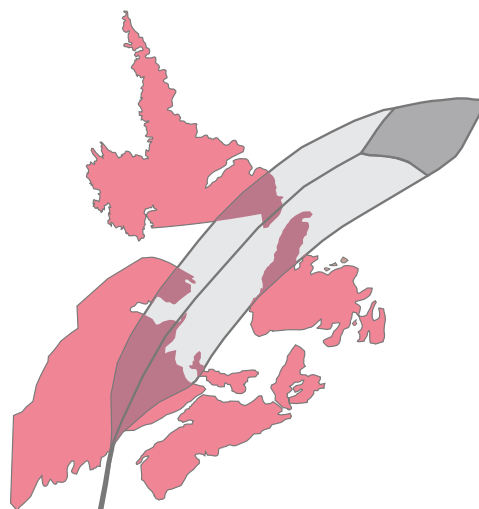
## First Nation Integrated Seafood Company

The concept of “Water to Market, Start to Finish by First Nations” was supported at the APC “Building Strategic Alliances in the Fisheries Sector” workshop held in Feb. 2005

As a result of the Sept. 2007 resolution in St. John’s, the FKN was tasked to move ahead with developing the concept of a First Nation Integrated Seafood Company.

The first step was to organize a feasibility study which has been undertaken and completed. The FKN managed the study (carried out by Trinav Fisheries Consultants) made considerable contribution to study definition, provided advisory services to the contractor and provided information about the study to interested communities.

The Feasibility Study found that, given the licences and quotas currently available to FN, such an Integrated Seafood Company (ISC) could be profitable from the start. Study results were positively received and a number of communities indicated an interest in the concept of an ISC.







# Annual APC Health Report 2008-2009

## Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board, Annual Update

The Mi'kmaq/ Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB) was created to ensure that all First Nations people in the Atlantic region have a health status that is comparable to all Canadians. MMAHB was designed to improve the health status of Atlantic First Nations through co-management of federal health programs and services. Co-management is defined here as an 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 MMAHB met on May 14th at the Elsipogtog, 2008 and February 12, 2009 at the St. Mary's Entertainment Centre.

The Four Pillars: overall, it was agreed that the Board will fulfill its potential when:

- MMAHB strategic priorities reflect community health needs. This means building regional priorities and plans on the strength of community health plans, and having a closer relationship with the Health Directors from who to receive advice and direction.
- MMAHB is acknowledged by all stakeholders as the trusted, reliable and action-oriented "go-to" group in the region for aboriginal health issues
- MMAHB functions as the joint forum where programs from Ottawa are customized to achieve greatest possible impact in the region
- MMAHB is recognized as a forum where problems can be solved – it is entrusted to navigate multi-jurisdictional issues to resolution, and can force accountability through follow up.

The four strategic areas of focus this year will be Addictions, Mental Health, Elders and Federal – Provincial Relationships/Partnerships. The APC Health Department is currently working on developing a multi-year workplan to focus on these key strategic areas.

### MMAHB Update

Report on the MMAHB Meeting May 14, 2008  
Elsipogtog Health Centre, NB

In May 2008, MMAHB met at the Elsipogtog Health Centre in New Brunswick. At the Regional Roundtable, a number issues were brought forward from each of the provinces. For example, Nova Scotia brought forward issues such as consultations on provincial youth strategies and the exclusion of Aboriginal people living on reserve from the provincial Parenting Journey Program. PEI mentioned the need for more resource for Elder care and New Brunswick identified early childhood intervention and childhood issues in general as a priority. In an update from the Child and Youth Committee Co-Chairs, the MMAHB members were informed of changes to membership and the need for a MAWIW representative for the committee. Furthermore, the need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the committee was brought forward. In Cape Breton, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program has been implemented to provide young children with books. The Primary Health Care and Public Health committee reported on the work being done on communicable diseases, the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Winter/Summer Active programs, and the Home and Community Care program. The Wellness Committee reported on the progress of the

Environmental Health Survey Scan and the future work for transportation and suicide prevention plans. A presentation was given on the regional scan for Home and Community Care programming and services which documented the challenges, issues and trends including more education and training for workers, transportation options and the need for better access to rehabilitative therapies.

New Business issues included an update on pan flu, frontline staffing concerns, clarification of elder care priority as part of the MMAHB strategic plan, the strategic review for 2008, the mental health and addictions priority update, the concerns associated with childhood obesity, evaluation of the MMAHB sub-committees and the state of the provincial/district health relationship.

### **Report on MMAHB Meeting February 12, 2009, St. Mary's Entertainment Centre, NB**

In September 2009, MMAHB met in NB during the Roundtable, CMM brought forward their support regarding the hiring of the new Non-Insured coordinator and requested clarification for the ADI funding. There was also mention of the contracting of the new IRS coordinator's position and its hiring policy, of which FNIH will clarify. UNBI updated on the bilateral advisory health committee and the AHTF files. Also there was reference to the Regional Health Survey and its new coordinator. UNBI also expressed concern regarding the new Pharmacy legislation and that FN was not consulted on regarding service and delivery. MCPEI expressed the need for all hazards planning. While APC updated on the legislation regarding waste water. It was agreed that information will be provided to the communities regarding the recommendations and there will be a follow up presentation to the All Chiefs Forum.

Sub – Committee reports were updated on, including FASD, Primary Health Care and Public Health, Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions, and IRS. There was discussion around the recent crisis in Eskasoni FN and the immediate actions taken by the community and support from FNIH. One of the other topics was around Elder care and its concern around home care versus or off community facilities. Dr. Christiane Poulin gave a presentation on mental health and addictions, in order to lobby for a drug strategy. Poulin was reminded that the survey process on FN (even regarding youth) is not always the best way to gather data regarding addictions issues on communities. It was recommended that Poulin research existing surveys (RHS with Carla Moore) to avoid duplicate data collection.

### **Atlantic Co-Chairs Committee:**

With the formation of the three committees (wellness, primary public and child & youth) a Co-Chairs Committee was established to ensure ongoing communication between the committees/ programs and projects. They held three planning meeting prior to each MMAHB. The Co Chairs discuss emerging issues and updates from their committees.

### **Primary Health Care & Public Health Care Committee (PHCPHC) Sub - Committee**

The Primary Health Care & Public Health Care Committee (PHCPHC) was created as part of the health committee restructuring activities. The PHCPHC committee is the amalgamation of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Home & Community Care, Environment Health, Nursing, Immunization, NIHB, E-Health and CDC. The purpose of the committee is the following: to work in collaboration

and partnership with the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Innu and Inuit people of the Atlantic Region to identify effective approaches to the delivery of Primary Health Care & Public Health Care programs; to support community health programs, special projects and initiatives.

### **Wellness Committee Sub - Committee**

The Wellness Committee was created as part of the health committee restructuring activities. The Wellness committee is the amalgamation of the Addictions, Brighter Futures, Building Health Communities, Tobacco Strategy, National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Strategy and Residential Schools. The purpose of the committee is as follows: to work in collaboration and partnership with the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Innu and Inuit people of the Atlantic Region to identify effective approaches to the delivery of Wellness programs; to support community health programs, special projects and initiatives.

### **Child & Youth Committee Sub – Committee**

The Child & Youth Committee (CYC) was created as part of the health committee restructuring activities. The Child & Youth committee is the amalgamation of the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Aboriginal Headstart, Injury Prevention, Maternal Child Health and Health Careers. The purpose of the committee is as follows:

1. To work in collaboration and partnership with the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Innu and Inuit people of the Atlantic Region to identify effective approaches to the delivery of Children & Youth programs.
2. To support community health programs, special projects and initiatives.

There were two meetings with the committee in 2008-09, one in Oromocto, NB in June and Indian Brook, NS in July.

### **Mental Health Working Group**

There was establishment of Mental Health Working group to explore priority areas in region and to determine components of a strategy, which will be linked with the Drug Forum. One of the main objectives is the exploration of Mental Wellness Mobile Teams and the first meeting: March 11th & 12th, 2008 in Dartmouth, NS.

### **Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Working Group Meetings:**

As part of the C&Y and Wellness Sub – Committees, this working group looks at specific issues related to addictions and mental health of youth/children. It differs from its higher committees because of the non- adult content. There were meetings held at the IWK on two occasions for the year with the group identifying its functions and roles as a working group.

### **Aboriginal Headstart On Reserve Networking Session (AHSOR) and 10 Year Anniversary Banquet**

The 2008/2009 AHSOR Networking Session was hosted by the North Shore MicMac District Council (NSMDC) and was held at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton, NB on Oct. 29th & 30th. The forum enabled Head Start and Day Care staff from 32 First Nation Communities across the Atlantic Region to participate in a series of workshops intended to assist staff in their day to day work within their programs. Topics included in the workshops were:



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- ECERS-R – Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale – Revised
- SuperNOVA – Science Activities
- Obesity and Nutrition
- Early Literacy
- Children’s Art
- Jordan’s Principle
- Children’s Mental Health.

The two day session culminated with an evening banquet in celebration of the 10 Year Anniversary for AHSOR. Representatives from The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs (APCFNC) presented prizes to communities who had participated in the annual AHSOR Calendar Contest sponsored by their organization. A Key Note Address and Song was performed by Aboriginal singer/songwriter Susan Aglukark and each community was presented with a plaque in recognition of their commitment to children and families.

### Maternal Child Health

The committee objectives were the following: gather key health workers together to share and discuss maternal child health program, review maternal child health program goals, objectives, outputs, outcomes and evaluation frameworks, create networking opportunities among the Atlantic First Nations health providers to improve the health and social outcomes for pregnant First Nations women and families with infants and young children, assist communities with the development of maternal child health proposals for site selections in the Atlantic.

### Maternal Child Health and Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program Networking and Training Session February 10-12, 2009 Dartmouth Holiday Inn

The Canada Prenatal Nutrition program networking and training session was held to build knowledge, skills in community programs, food key nutrients, nutrition, pregnancy, screening, education, breast feeding, support for moms, resources, cooking, preparing meal bags, learn new food guide, reporting, data collecting, infant feeding, sharing knowledge and networking. Approximately 120 people attended the Maternal Child Health and Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program Networking and Training Session.

#### Day 1; Children & Youth Program Updates:

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder & Injury Prevention; An Overview of the Nova Scotia ‘Loving Care’ Resource Series  
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program – The Nuts & Bolts  
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program Activity Carousel Showcasing CPNP Tools

- Recipes For Success ToolKit
- CPNP Guidebook
- Building Healthy Babies Manual

#### Day 2: Dr Jack Newman Session on Breastfeeding:

Information included: Norms for the breastfeeding baby; Just One Bottle: How Can It Hurt?; Colic in the Breastfed Baby; Sore Nipples and Sore Breasts and Controversies in Breastfeeding

#### Day 3: Maternal Child Networking Session,

What is Maternal Nourishment?  
How to Hold a Cooking Class in Your Community?  
Starting a Meal Bag Program in Your CPNP Program?  
Infant Feeding, Introducing Complimentary Foods, and Making Homemade Baby Food

### Growing Great Kids Certification Seminar

The Growing Great Kids Seminar will take place January 19-23 and February 16-20 both sessions will be held in the Elsipogtog First Nation Healing Lodge.

#### *Growing Great Kids Curriculum Certification Training:*

This training provided a comprehensive curriculum which supports the development of a nurturing parent/child relationship. It focused on child development, health, provision of care, parenting concerns and dynamics of parent/child /family relationships.

Each module was designed to support learning by anchoring the information in activities and interactive discussions. The purpose of this curriculum was to integrate learning into parental practices and behaviors. In addition, its purpose is to promote the best possible outcome for children and their families by supporting the development of exceptional home-based early childhood education and other supportive programs for families.

#### *Core Family Support Training:*

The (core) family support training is a four day session which gives those working in intensive home visitation programs the tools for implementing services for families. This Training started by building the philosophical foundation for on-going work with families and the overall goals of the program.

### Health Directors Meeting:

The Atlantic Health Directors meeting was held on December 9-10th in Moncton, New Brunswick. Although, the intention was to hold two meetings during the fiscal year, it became apparent that the objective could not be met, due to the change-over of the personnel within the health staff. There were other factors such as weather, summer vacations, and health directors’ availability that inhibited the development of an earlier meeting before December. The meeting objectives were the following: gather health directors together to share and discuss emerging health issues, create networking opportunities among the Atlantic First Nations health directors, foster linkages with Federal Government Officials, Services providers, health organizations, and to provide First Nations with skills and capacity development to foster healthy environments for First Nation/ Innu Nations. There were two planning meetings with representatives from a variety of communities and FNIH representatives for each of the workshops. The following workshops were held during this meeting: Co-Chairs MMAHB Update, New Funding Arrangements, Mental Health Scan, Home and Community Care, Sheshatshui Community Profile, Nursing Policy Evaluation, FNIH Capital, Drug Utilization Prevention Program (deferred) First Nations Mental Health Network (deferred), Stress Management, Financial Workshop, and Training Models.

### Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative

The three objectives of the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI) are to increase the number, retention and cultural competence of First Nations, Inuit and Métis health care workers and non-Aboriginal health care workers serving First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

#### AHHRI Regional Advisory Committee:

An Atlantic region committee has been established and the terms of reference finalized. The committee meets four times a year via teleconference and in person. Members include representation from the four provincial governments, Aboriginal members representing related health or education fields, and federal representatives. The Advisory Committee met

only a couple of times to determine the selection process for the PSI funding distribution. There was intent to have another meeting to discuss the HHR strategies of the provinces and this was deferred for 2009-10.

#### National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF):

The scholarships and bursaries have been promoted throughout the Region and the AHHRI coordinator has been part of the jury selection committee and there were an increased amount of applicants from the Atlantic aboriginals, totaling to 12 approved applicants for scholarships. APC Youth Coordinator had also delivered a total of 12 workshops of the NAAF video, “Industries in the Classroom” at career fairs, science camps and at other youth group gatherings.

#### Summer Student Employment Program (SSEP):

Applications were sent to communities and organizations and the SSEP Steering Committee Meeting met to review the process. There were 29 students for the program.

#### Science Camp Promotion:

Worked with SuperNOVA in NS NB to establish week long camps in Millbrook, Pictou Landing, Indian Brook and WorldUNBounds in NB for St. Mary’s, Kingsclear, Burnt Church, Tobique and Elsipogtog. APC – AHHRI was able to secure additional funding for Actua, national sponsor for SuperNOVA and to promote further projects for math and sciences in the region. In-school workshops were held in the fall/winter ’08 along with Camps/Workshops in Cape Breton, PEI, Conne River, Sheshatshiu, and Listiguj. Cape Breton University hosted a regional camp for Eskasoni and Membertou kids to attend. For 2008-09, much of the camps were repeated, but new communities were included, such as Potlotek, Wagmatcook, Abegweit, Listiguj, Eskasoni, winter camp in Millbrook, and Acadia First Nation.

Cultural Competency: Completed Cultural Competency Project with information from the communities regarding cultural resources for Orientation Guide, Spiritual Guide and Resource Guide. All three guides are posted on the APC website. Orientation Guides were distributed to all the communities via Chiefs/health centres, to all the School Boards in the Atlantic, to the Ministries of Health and Education in the region in 2008. The orientation guide would like to include the Innu communities and the Gaspé communities for a re-edition for 2009-10.

#### Nursing Policy Guidelines:

The policy for the Innu communities is completed and it will be disseminated for 2009-10 (May-June).

#### Request for Proposals to Post Secondary Institutions:

Information sessions were held in each of the provinces in the Atlantic to inform the universities and colleges. APC and FNIH agreed on a Contribution Agreement of 600K for each of the next two years to administer the contracts. RFPs were posted and a Sub-Committee was established to review the 13 applications received (of which six candidate institutions were approved).

The Regional Advisory Committee selected 6 candidates: College of the North Atlantic, Memorial University, University of PEI, ST.FX, University of NB, and Dalhousie. Two other projects were approved later, which included a BSW program between McGill – NG – Nunavut and NSCC with FNIH for cultural curriculum development study. The first year end reports are due by March 31, 2009.





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APC Youth Involvement:

MMAYC: Mi’kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council had developed various projects throughout the year with funding received from AHHRI for 20K and 20K from Democracy 250. There were a total of 2 face to face and 2 teleconference meetings for the fiscal year

Panorama:

AHHRI Coordinator attended meetings as part of National Committee FI/I/FNIHB in Ottawa and is also a member of the Regional Committee FI/I/FNIHB. There are regular teleconference meetings and updates.

Mi’kmaq Health Research Group (MHRG): AHHRI coordinator provides regular updates on summer programs (SSEP and Science promotions with Dalhousie) and is a member of the Committee. APC Youth coordinator and MMAYC worked with AAHRP in planning the dissemination of Regional Health Survey results to the youth in the NS communities. MMAYC members received training.

2009 Atlantic First Nations Health Conference “A Medicine Wheel...A Way of Life to Wellness”

The 2009 AFNHC was held on March 10-12th at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton, NB. This year’s conference was a huge success with almost 300 participants attending, despite the set-backs in the planning process stage. Participants came from all sectors of the health spectrum to attend this event. This was to be held in October 2008, but was postponed for the above date.

The AFNHC has the following key goals:

- 1. To educate and inform community members and health workers about emerging health issues that affects Atlantic First Nations;
- 2. To honor individuals for their dedication and hard work in the health field.
- 3. It is a networking opportunity for health workers with their colleagues.
- 4. Feedback session of emerging topics of interest for future health conferences.

Each year the Mi’kmaq/ Maliseet Atlantic Health Board appoints a conference committee to organize this event. The conference committee took all the suggested topics and recommendations from past health conferences to design workshops that reflect our unique First Nation health models. The committee wanted this years conference to show that all health programs are connected and there is a need to work together to provide health services that meet the needs of all our clients. The agreed theme was on the Medicine Wheel and how it could be incorporated into the various topics that were presented.

The three panel discussions were:  
Health and Wellness at the Community Level by Chief Darlene Bernard and Chief Theresa Meuse  
Suicide Prevention Panel by Harrison Milliea (Elsipogtog Crisis Centre), Arnold Sylliboy (Eskasoni Crisis Centre) and Josephine Augustine (Elsipogtog) Presentation of the Medicine Wheel by Rosanne Sark (MCPEI), Andrea Colfer (Elsipogtog IRS Coordinator) and Laurie Nicholas (MAWIW).

Honouring Our People Lunch Banquet:

Each year the health conference organizes a banquet that honors individuals for their dedication and hard work in the field of health. This year we provided three different awards. Glen Gould provided emcee services for the lunch banquet.

This year’s recipients of the Chief Michael Augustine

Award was Mary E. Basque for Life Time Achievement in Eskasoni presented by Vicky Augustine

Appreciation Award Recipients: Virginia “Geno” Knockwood and late John Knockwood, Roxanne Sappier, Peg LaBillois

Health Canada Recipient: Debra Ball, Eel Ground Dental Therapist



Workshop A: All Hazard Preparedness Nora Ward Rosanne Sark	Workshop B: Touchstones and HSIP Robyn Siteman, MJ Hampton, Andrea Colfer	Workshop C: NNADAP Needs Assesment Circle Works Jean Graveline	Workshop D: Cross Cultural Presentation Healing Our Nations Gabe Haulnier
Workshop E: Aboriginal Communities and Federal Tobacco Control Strategy Cory Hogan Linda Jessop Daniel Richard	Workshop F: Health Happy Project Doreen Saulis Tiffany Perley	Workshop G: Diabetes/Childhood Obesity Shelley Francis Tara McKinnon	Workshop H: Managing Anxiety, Depression & Insomnia Jennifer Ross Makham Dr. Vishal Chawia
Workshop I: Traditional Medicine/ Spirituality Josie Augustine	Workshop J: Striving for Excellence in the workplace Christine Metallic Wanda Ward	Workshop K: Health Data Collecting Dr. Reza Alaghebandan CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER	Workshop L: Art Therapy Jean Graveline
Workshop M: AAHRP - Aboriginal Health Research Lisa Dutcher Jane McMillan Jennifer Mason	Workshop N: ORSAC Georginanna Barlow	Workshop O: Methadone Tretment Diane Bailey Debbie Marshall Youth Addictions: Dr. Christiane Poulin	Workshop P: Mental Wellness Scan:Findings, Knowl- edge Transfers, & Next Steps Josephine Muxlow Glenda Rosborough

The following were the workshops:

**APC Projects, Programs and Partnerships (3Ps)**

NIHB Navigator Position

Key Responsibilities:

- Serve as first point of contact for communities, organizations, and individuals requesting support and advocacy on NIHB and health issues. Communicate effectively with clients and organizations to identify problem/issue, review policies and FNIHB decisions, and identify and carry out strategies to support clients and organizations. Negotiate resolution of problems and issues with FNIHB officials.
- Participate in training and orientation sessions with FNIHB officials to develop comprehensive understanding of FNIHB policies. As required, attend conferences and meetings with Health Care professionals (Pharmacy and Dental) to develop a network of contacts to assist clients in accessing services.
- As required provide briefing to Mi’kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board, Primary & Public Health Committee, Atlantic Drug Utilization and Prevention Promotion Committee and APC Atlantic Chiefs to seek political support and interventions on policy and service delivery concerns.
- Liaison with First Nations, other organizations, and federal and provincial departments for the purpose of NIHB and advocacy and navigation.
- Promote the advocacy work conducted by the APC to encourage Atlantic First Nations individuals, communities and organizations to call or email their concerns and/or issues.
- Development and management of an NIHB Navigation process, including the APC navigation database.
- Development and management of NIHB Navigation communication strategies including community communication, media inquiries,

press releases, reports, and other documents as required.

- Provide support to the Policy Analyst on other health issues as required.
- Will provide regular reports to the APC that describe work accomplished and documents produced, including recommendations regarding actions for emerging critical issues.

Activities:

- Advocacy & Client Support
- Community Support Community Site Visits & Intervention Assistance Appeals Submissions
- Partnerships & Education with Pharmacist & Physicians, Letters to All Pharmacist dealing with First Nation Clients, Meetings with Colleges
- Communications Strategy: Articles MMNEWS, Marketing Products-Flyers/ Pamphlets/ Magnets
- Position Filled by Amy Sark- Pharmacy Technician April to December 2008. (position replaced by Corrina Smiley in January – May, 2009) There is going to be another posting for this position for May – June, 2009.

Mental Health Intervener Project (MHIP)

Beginning in December, the project coordinator began to make visits to the three communities involved (Millbrook, Indian Brook and Pictou Landing) to meet with the health directors and some mental health workers, as well as steering committee members in the communities to familiarize them with the project. This gave them the opportunity to voice any concerns they had with the project. Main concerns that were raised were around the capacity within the communities. There are a number or mental health projects taking place, which are taxing on the mental health staff. However, MHIP is a new model with the goal to increase mental health capacity and to aid in transforming the system. It is about developing a new approach.

Beginning in November, collaboration began with





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other AHTF projects, as well as Mental Health projects within the three communities. This was found to be useful in identifying ways of best practice.

The Mental Health Intervener Project steering committee met for the first time as a full committee on Feb 17th, 2009. At this meeting, the roles of the communities, DHA's, APC, consultants, master trainers and interveners were identified; any concerns that were voiced at the meetings the project coordinator had were addressed; the terms of reference were reviewed, and discussions of what qualifications master trainers should have began. As well, the Baseline Assessment Tool was discussed and a subcommittee was formed to work on modifying this tool for use within the communities involved in this project. From this meeting, the terms of reference were amended, and a brief description of what qualifications the master trainer candidates should have was drafted. Also, the Baseline Assessment Tool subcommittee met 4 times to work on customizing the tool. The community representatives and the DHA representatives began to select master trainer candidates for the next steering committee meeting which was scheduled for April 27th, 2009.

## Touchstones

The first round of Touchstones training was held on November 4-7th, 2008. There were 38 participants from all across Atlantic Canada. The evaluation found that the overall success rating for this round of training was 4.65 out of 5. The only two things that participants felt could be improved was the inclusion on more IRS material, and a "free night" where participants could spend the evening on their own. The facilitators felt that the group was a bit too large.

The second round of Touchstones training was held on April 6-9th, 2009. This round was limited to 24 participants. The majority of these participants were on the waiting list from the first round. Again, the second round was a great success. The facilitators felt that the smaller group was the way to go for this type of training. There was also the incorporation of more IRS material through the addition of "movie night" to the agenda. This night, short films were shown on the residential schools to set the theme for the week. Also, the participants were given one evening to themselves. The participant evaluations rated 4.75 out of 5. The evaluations showed that the participants felt the training was extremely beneficial and needed; as well, it identified that they felt the facilitators were the right people for the job and they were completely comfortable in sharing with them.

There will be a third round of Touchstones to be held in New Brunswick sometime in early September 2009.

## Report on the Aboriginal Drug Forum, 2009

In early 2008, the Atlantic Aboriginal Drug Forum brought together a group of community leaders and stakeholders to being a dialogue and focus on the creation of regional drug strategy for Aboriginal communities in Atlantic Canada. Participants acknowledged that drug use in First Nations communities is not a new issue and is closely related to other concerns such as high suicide rates, crime, incidences of FASD and poor health in Aboriginal communities. Through workshops and discussion, three themes were identified as important to the fight against drug abuse: prevention, treatment and resilience.

Some of the prevention priorities identified were

interrupting the supply of drugs, promoting healthy lifestyles, early intervention, supportive parenting, education on FASD, restoring cultural strength, and the importance of supportive leadership. Priorities identified under treatment were the creation of an Atlantic drug crisis hotline, the establishment of detox and rehab facilities, research in addictions treatment, youth engagement, treatment strategies for opiod and prescription drug addiction, treating the causes of drug abuse, and the provision of access for broader addictions such as gambling. Under resilience the focus was on monitoring, enforcement and accountability including community support and partnerships and a prescription monitoring program.

The report is only the first step toward the development of a multi-year framework to address drug use in Aboriginal communities. Participants acknowledged the need for continued discussion to articulate strategies that work to reduce drug use and are still relevant to the realities of Aboriginal peoples.

## NNADAP

- Training for NNADAP workers on the resources manual
- 20 NNADAP workers to take NS Community College certified addictions counsellor training NNADCA Conference- June 2008

Ongoing Refer to the health conference meeting held by Philippa Pictou, Circle Works had a survey and meeting during the first day of the Health Conference in 2009.

## NAYSPS

- Community Projects: Nine workplans have been approved to address youth suicide prevention Organize and implement suicide prevention training for 2-5 FN/I frontline workers in at least 75% of FN communities.

• MMAYC received a total of 20K for project deliveries (refer to MMAYC summary). A project meeting was held in Millbrook at the Glooscap Heritage Centre in August 2009. Refer to MMAYC....and funding and projects by youth council and involvement in the Eskasoni Crisis meeting in March, 2009.

## Youth Involvement

### Youth Coordinator Position Report

The objectives as Youth Coordinator are to work collaboratively with the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative (AHHRI), the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Health Board (MMAHB), the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council (MMAYC) and provide youth representation of health projects/files, and/or committees that are mandated under APC.

The APC Youth Coordinator has been ambitious in promoting and assisting First Nation Health activities including, completion of Indian and Inuit Health Career Programs for the First Nations Help Desk website, Actua and SuperNOVA science camps, presenting the Train the Training, Health in the Classrooms workshop at our Aboriginal Career Fairs and advocating on behalf of MMAYC with promotion of the 2009 MMAYC Youth Conference.

The projects that Ashley had been involved are:

- First Nations Help Desk
- Actua and SuperNOVA Science Camps
- Train the Trainer: Industries in the Classroom deliveries for National Aboriginal Achievement

- Foundation
- APC Aboriginal Career Fairs

## MMAYC

Involvement with Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Youth Council as mainland representative and youth coordinator. A brochure was created for MMAYC, creating a voice for the youth to hand out to communities and youth gaining recognition, which outline MMAYC's mission statement, objectives, MMAYC representation and members along with highlighting the two successful conferences held by MMAYC in 2006 and 2007. MMAYC gives youth perspectives at mandated APC committees and continues to establish grass root youth councils within First Nation communities and developing a youth information data base to distribute information, job opportunities, conferences or local meetings which seek youth invitations. MMAYC continues to support communities like Eskasoni and ECRY by volunteering and participation in Youth Rally's and community youth events. MMAYC's two main objectives continuing into next fiscal year is the "Moving Forward Strategy (MDFS)", developed to developing integrative, holistic solutions that promote opportunities for personal and professional capacity development. The second objective is the 2009 MMAYC Youth Conference; Accessing Post-Secondary Opportunities: Leading Change in Education for First Nation Youth. The focus of the 2009 MMAYC Youth Conference is to investigate barriers to post-secondary education for Aboriginal youth, raising awareness about these barriers among post-secondary officials, and developing tools for Aboriginal youth and for post-secondary Institutions, with which identified barriers may be overcome.

## Ongoing Deliverables:

- Representation on the sub - committee, Child & Youth Mental Health and Addictions working group
- Promotion of Youth Organization and councils
- Youth information data base for FN Youth
- Promotion and organization of conferences, seminars, career fairs and science camps
- Advocacy of youth on various APC files where needed

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Health Conference, March 2009.



# The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP



The AAEDIRP would like to acknowledge the generous and loving support of the late Elder Raymond Tremblay, from Tobique First Nation who was the AAEDIRP Elder. He was a guiding light for the research program and his spirit helped to

shape the foundations of our first conference – “Life Long Learning - From Youth to Elder”. He is dearly missed.

The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP), is a research program formed through partnerships between the 38 member communities of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs, plus the Inuit, 11 Atlantic universities and 4 government funders, both federal and provincial. The main purpose of the 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.

## OBJECTIVES

### TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To conduct research that is relevant to Atlantic Aboriginal Communities and organizations, linking their needs with Atlantic university resources.

### TO BUILD RESEARCH CAPACITY

To build research capacity in the field of Aboriginal economic development with an emphasis on the hiring of Aboriginal staff, the involvement of Aboriginal academics, the training of Aboriginal researchers and the involvement of Aboriginal students and graduates. The building of research capacity also includes that of non-Aboriginal researchers in terms of the knowledge and experience they gain in working with Aboriginal communities.

### TO CREATE A DATABASE ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To serve as a focal point for information pertaining to Aboriginal economic development. A data base should emphasize information that is accessible electronically by Aboriginal communities and governments, as well as by faculty and students.

### TO HOLD WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To conduct information dissemination workshops and conferences for AAEDIRP stakeholders, making available the best possible information from the region, (from Canada and abroad), to support the process of economic development for Atlantic Aboriginal communities.

The AAEDIRP is one of the vehicles for action of the Aboriginal Economy Building Strategy, a regional economic development strategy endorsed by the Chiefs of the Atlantic First Nations in 2007. The AAEDIRP is administered by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat (APCFNC).

## AAEDIRP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, (INAC), the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Province of Nova Scotia, the AAEDIRP is now in its second year. Five research projects are in progress and one is in the initial stage.

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

There are four primary objectives of this project:

- To understand the education and employment experiences of Aboriginal people who have completed post-secondary education in the past five years, and to identify any barriers or challenges they have experienced in moving into careers of choice and interest related to their field(s) of study.
- To understand the reasons why some Aboriginal students were unable to complete their post-secondary education in the past five years.
- To understand the direct and indirect linkages between completion of post-secondary education and the impact on economic and social development outcomes in Aboriginal communities.
- To provide recommendations for action which may lead to more positive results in rates of post-secondary education completion among Aboriginal students.

This project is being lead by David Bruce, Director of the Rural and Small Town Programme at Mount Allison University and co-researcher Amanda Marlin,

This project is being lead by Dr. Tom Cooper at Memorial University with co-researchers Terry Hickey, Planning Resources Inc., Leon Sock, Director of Fisheries, Elsipogtog First Nation and Dr. Gerald Hare, University of New Brunswick College of Extended Learning. The research assistants are Brian Milliea from Elsipogtog First Nation and Ken Paul from Tobique First Nation.

### 3. Assessing the Effectiveness of Labour Force Participation Strategies

The study will assess how well Aboriginal labour force participation strategies have worked for Aboriginal people in the Atlantic region and how they can be improved. The research questions that will be answered are:

1. How does one define ‘labour force participation strategies’, e.g., employment equity programs, affirmative action policies, and special initiatives, such as the Aboriginal Work Force Participation Initiative through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada?
2. What labour force participation strategies exist, e.g., at universities, through governments (federal & provincial), and through employers?
3. What results have been obtained through these



AAEDIRP workshop on Culture and Environment, March 2009.  
Angus MacIntyre, Elder Albert Marshall, Claire Poirier

research associate with the Rural and Small Town Programme. The research assistants are Pat Sark from Oromocto First Nation, Reg Parsons, Nunatsiavut beneficiary and Mary Beth Doucette from Membertou First Nation.

### 2. A Study of the Critical Success Factors in the First Nation Fishery in Atlantic Canada

This project attempts to identify and examine the critical factors for success in a comparison of the different First Nations in Atlantic Canada engaged in the commercial fisheries who received funding as a result of the Marshall decision. The research will help guide First Nations in developing policies, procedures and controls to ensure ongoing success in managing fisheries as well as minimizing potential hazards. What has worked in different communities, why, and what the barriers are in sharing these good practices across the other First Nations in Atlantic Canada will be documented.

strategies and programs?

4. How well are labour force participation strategies working?
5. How does Atlantic Canada compare with results in the rest of Canada?
6. Who is benefiting from these strategies and programs?
7. How can labour force participation strategies be improved?
8. What are the challenges of retention once Aboriginal employees have been hired?
9. What is the difference in participation in these strategies by people living on and off reserve?
10. What are the similarities and differences between the on reserve and off reserve experience?
11. What can these strategies tell us over the past five years?
12. What are the best practices?
13. How do Atlantic regional results compare with those of the rest of Canada?

Lori Ann Roness Consulting is the lead researcher for





# The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP, con't

this project. She is working with co-researcher Mary Collier from Potlotek First Nation.

## 4. Baseline Data for Aboriginal Economic Development: An Informed Approach for Measuring Progress and Success

Communities and organizations want to know if they are “making progress” and how well they are doing compared to their own past, or compared to some external reference point - another community, a province, a nation, etc. Meaningful indicators should be integrating, linking social, economic and environmental perspectives, forward-looking, distributed across a defined geography and population, and developed in consultation with multiple stakeholders.

There are four primary objectives of this project:

- To provide the Atlantic Aboriginal community (broadly defined) with a tool to measure progress in its economy;
- To engage key stakeholders in the Atlantic Aboriginal community (and others) in the development and refinement of key indicators;
- To compare sub-components of the Atlantic Aboriginal population for the chosen measures (including, but not limited to, province to province; on and off reserve; by cultural group – Innu, Inuit, Mi'kmaq, Maliseet);
- To build the capacity of the Atlantic Aboriginal community to collect, analyze, and report on indicators of socio-economic progress.

This project is being lead by David Bruce, Director of the Rural and Small Town Programme at Mount Allison University and co-researcher Patricia Doyle-Bedwell, Director of the Transition Year Program at Dalhousie University and research assistant Kevin An-Jager.

## 5. Examining Partnership Arrangements between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Businesses

Several communities in the region have chosen to enter into wide-ranging partnership arrangements linking their businesses and communities with non-Aboriginal businesses. This research project intends to examine 10 partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal companies in an Atlantic context as case studies. This study will promote best practices and encourage new partnerships and ventures.

The research questions that the case studies and this study will address are:

1. What Aboriginal-non-Aboriginal business partnerships currently exist in Atlantic Canada?
2. What is the nature of the partnerships, e.g., the types of partnership initiatives?
3. What are the principal objectives of these strategic alliances?
4. What role does the partnership have in facilitating the entry of Aboriginal businesses into the marketplace?
5. What are the effects of strategic alliances on the company's competitive advantage?
6. Why are the factors for business success (and 'failures')?
7. What are the elements of a successful relationship/partnership and the effective practices of corporations and Aboriginal organizations in achieving them?
8. What barriers have been faced in forming joint ventures or as a joint venture?
9. What are the best practices and lessons learned?

Lori Ann Roness Consulting is the lead researcher for

this project. She is working with co-researcher Mary Collier from Potlotek First Nation.

## 6. The Social Impacts of Economic Development

Economic development in Aboriginal communities and the social impact of economic development in those communities is of great interest to Aboriginal communities and organizations as well as government agencies interested in ascertaining which policies and practices enhance or prevent development. Gaining meaningful understanding of these policies and practices in Aboriginal communities is especially complex given the contested and diverse perspectives on the very meaning of economic development and success, and the limited data sets that are available

development of protocols and ethics on how traditional knowledge can be incorporated into research which guides economic development projects and cultural industry etc. The research would hopefully point the way for the development of a holistic model for Aboriginal economic development. This project would be the beginnings of developing protocols for the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge and also the roles of Elders within the AAEDIRP itself. It is anticipated that this project will develop a model that better defines the process(es) needed to do participatory action research.

The potential research team comes from all around the Atlantic:



AAEDIRP Research Workshop - Darcy Pirie, Lloyd Johnson and Sam Lafford

to compare and account for economic and social situations across and within communities. This project's primary objectives are to engage university students and faculty, and Aboriginal consultants to:

- Work alongside three Atlantic Aboriginal communities to develop case studies, the comprehensive stories which describe the social impacts of economic development in their particular communities;
- Work alongside three Atlantic Aboriginal communities to compare and contrast community stories to help people in those communities to learn from each other's stories. (There is no intention to compare communities to show superiority of one set of social impact factors. Rather, it is proposed that the history of social and economic development of each community will be shared to understand and learn from the individual experiences of each community in order to underscore their strengths and challenges/vulnerabilities);
- To collectively explain some of the preliminary potential reasons for the social impacts of economic development related to these three particular Atlantic Aboriginal communities;

This project is being lead by Jeff Orr, Dean of Education, St. Francis Xavier University with co-researchers, Eric Christmas, Mi'kmaq EnCana Liaison Advisor, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative) and Sam Lafford of Lafford Business Consulting.

## Future Research Projects (In development stage).

### AAEDIRP Elders Project

The thrust of the work would be to explore the

Larry Felt, Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Chair of MUN's Research Ethics Board; David Fletcher, Senior Program Staff, Coady Institute, St. FX (With support from the St. FX Indigenous Peoples Research Cluster), Ph. D. Candidate, Interdisciplinary, Health Professions, Dalhousie; Heather Castleden, Assistant Professor, SRES, Dalhousie; Ken Paul, Tobique First Nation, MES Candidate at Dalhousie

Reg Parsons, Parks Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Ph.D. Candidate in Forestry at UNB;

Fred Andersen, Makkovik, Nunatsiavut, MSW Candidate, MUN;

## Best Practices for Culturally Relevant Aboriginal Early Childhood Education in the Atlantic

The AAEDIRP is hosting a workshop to follow up with suggested research topics from Life Long Learning – From Youth to Elder. While the project would focus on the best practices and the challenges experienced by Native language immersion programs, it would go beyond this scope. Gathering best practices and the challenges experienced by the Eskasoni Mi'kmaq immersion program and Tobique's Maliseet immersion program will likely form the basis of the study.

## RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

The AAEDIRP seeks to build research capacity in the field of Aboriginal economic development with an emphasis on the hiring of Aboriginal staff, the involvement of Aboriginal academics, the training of Aboriginal researchers and the involvement of





# The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP, con't

Aboriginal students and graduates. Working towards this goal, the research projects now employ two Aboriginal staff, six Aboriginal co-researchers and six Aboriginal research assistants. The AAEDIRP also contracted Patti Doyle-Bedwell to facilitate two of our research workshops and Pam Ward of Metepenagiag First Nation was our Conference Coordinator.

The work that the AAEDIRP is trying to accomplish is unique and has not been without its challenges in terms of the different perspectives of university culture and the diverse Aboriginal cultures in the Atlantic region trying to work together. The building of research capacity also includes that of non-Aboriginal researchers in terms of the knowledge and experience they gain in working with Aboriginal communities. As we go forward with the AAEDIRP, we have been raising our standards of what it means to build meaningful research partnerships. Lead researchers must work to cultivate relationships with Aboriginal researchers and communities. The AAEDIRP has defined the best practices by which universities work with Aboriginal communities through its ***Policy Statement Concerning Ethical Requirements and Research Ownership***. In keeping with the principles of partnership and mutual respect, the policies in this statement seek to accommodate both Aboriginal and university procedures and protocols. It is a product of the partnerships and relationship building between Aboriginal Communities, Atlantic Universities and Government and represents many hours of consultation with organizations such as the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), the First Nations Centre of the Native Association of Health Research (NAHO), Thomas Young, the CEO/Legal Advisor for Eskasoni Band and Lindsay Marshall, Associate Dean of the Mi'kmaq College Institute, who administers the Mi'kmaq Ethics Watch. The process for creating this statement lays the groundwork for the AAEDIRP to conduct research at a very high level and is necessary for its success. The AAEDIRP is now at a stage where it will seek to negotiate of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Atlantic region universities covering collaboration in research.

## AAEDIRP STRUCTURE

First and foremost, the AAEDIRP is a partnership in which the Aboriginal communities and universities of Atlantic Canada seek to work together. The partnership between the two is reflected in the AAEDIRP's structure. There is an Aboriginal Chair and a University Chair for the research program. These are John Paul, the Executive Director of the APCFNC and Fred Wien, Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University, two people who worked hard over the last few years to gain support and funding for the idea of a research program on Atlantic Aboriginal economic development. The way in which they work cooperatively with each other, learning from and respecting the other's perspective, symbolizes that type of partnership that the AAEDIRP is based on. The AAEDIRP is guided by a sixteen member Steering Committee who possess a broad range of experience and perspectives. The group consists of:

### Aboriginal Representatives

1. Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation
2. Chief Darlene Bernard, Lennox Island First Nation
3. John Paul, Executive Director, APCFNC (Aboriginal Co-Chair)
4. Elder - Christine Cabreil Boone, Saint Mary's FN
5. Paul Rich, CEO - Innu Development Limited Partnership, Alternate: Fred Hall, Business Manager, Innu Development Limited Partnership
6. Tim McNeil, Deputy Minister, Education and Economic Development, Nunatsiavut Government

7. Chief Joanna Bernard, Madawaska Maliseet First Nation (Formerly Bob Atwin -Kingsclear First Nation)
8. TBA, Was formerly Chief Mi'sel Joe, Maiwpukek First Nation

### Government/Funding Representatives

9. ACOA - Cheryl Keats, Aboriginal Affairs, Policy and Programs Branch
10. DFO - Kevin Fram, Director, Special Projects, Aboriginal Policy and Governance, Aboriginal Policy and Governance Directorate
11. INAC - Sarah Hechavaria Manager Intergovernmental Affairs Officer and Economic Opportunities INAC
12. Nova Scotia - Ernest Walker, Director of Policy, Aboriginal Affairs

### University Partner Representatives

13. Dalhousie University - Dr. Fred Wien, (**University Co-Chair**), Dr. Martha Crago
14. Cape Breton University - Harvey Johnson, Dean of Research
15. University of New Brunswick - Dr. Greg Kealey/ Dr. Sue Blair
16. St. Thomas University - Dr. Laurel Lewey
17. Memorial University - Dr. Sharon Taylor

## RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE

Most aspects of the research projects are handled by the Research Subcommittee which is composed of: two Aboriginal and three University members.

1. Dalhousie University - Dr. Fred Wien, (**Chair**)
2. Bob Atwin - Executive Director, First Nation Education Initiatives
3. John Paul, Executive Director, APCFNC
4. Memorial University - Dr. Sharon Taylor, Second
5. University of New Brunswick - Dr. Sue Blair

## "LIFE LONG LEARNING - FROM YOUTH TO ELDER" - AAEDIRP ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

A major highlight for the year was the first AAEDIRP conference where First Nation Education Directors and university educators from across the Atlantic region gathered in Fredericton in March, to attend a three-day conference aimed at sharing best practices which support Aboriginal youth high school retention. The idea of focusing on lifelong learning was brought forward by Chief Mi'sel Joe of Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River). His vision formed the theme for the conference.

"Life Long Learning" was organized by a volunteer committee including members of Mi'kmaw



Life Long Learning Conference Organizers  
Bob Atwin, Ashley Julian, Sue Blair, Darcy Pirie, Gillan Austin and Sharon Taylor Not Pictured: John J. Paul and John Sylliboy

Kina'matnewey, First Nation Education Initiatives, the University of New Brunswick (UNB) and the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs (APCFNC). Youth and Elder participation were the main criteria for the conference, as well as having balanced regional representation. The main themes that emerged from presenter submissions were "Language and Systems of Knowledge" and "Retention Rates and Success Strategies". To maximize participation, the organizers worked with the Atlantic Canada First Nations Help Desk, so that the main presentations could be videoconferenced to all interested communities.

Part of the goal of "Life Long Learning" was to get input from the participants on what future research should be done in terms of supporting Aboriginal education. Input was gathered through facilitated sessions. In fact, the AAEDIRP will be moving forward this summer with a research project on "Best Practices for Culturally Relevant Aboriginal Education in the Atlantic", with a main focus on Native language immersion programs.

Conference presentations can be found at: <http://aaedirpeducationconference.wikispaces.com/> An educational package with the conference proceedings and facilitated sessions is being created and will be available soon.

## AAEDIRP UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

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



AAEDIRP Researchers at the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference in Ottawa, March 2009  
Maurice Levesque, Tom Cooper, David Bruce, Mary Beth Doucette and Ken Paul





# The Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program, AAEDIRP, con't

## AAEDIRP UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

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

## THE AAEDIRP TEAM

Darcy Pirie, from Tobique First Nation joined the AAEDIRP in November 2008 as the Administrative Assistant. Darcy is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Education at the University of New Brunswick and is the proud mother of a wonderful son. Previously she worked as a teacher's assistant at Mah-Sos School in Tobique First Nation. Darcy completed her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Social Anthropology at Dalhousie University in 2006.

John Sylliboy, of Eskasoni First Nation, started with the AAEDIRP as the Assistant Research Coordinator in June 2009. John has been working at APC since 2007 as the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI) Coordinator and has gained extensive insight into Atlantic First Nations education. He is currently enrolled in a Master's program at Mount Saint Vincent University in Education Foundations and aims to research the development of cultural competency in post secondary curriculum development. John has a Bachelor of International Relations from Costa Rica's National University. John has lived and worked in the education field in Costa Rica, Washington, DC and Colombia in both English and Spanish.

Gillian Austin, who started as the Assistant Research Coordinator in July of 2007, is now the Research Coordinator. Gillian completed a Master of Environmental Studies at York University in 1996, focusing on cultural and Native issues. Her thesis was a story writing project exploring the relationship between story and land. Prior to working for the APC Gillian has worked with the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, the Genuine Progress Index Atlantic, the Tlell Watershed Society (Haida Gwaii, B.C) and the Native Investment & Trade Association.

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**Darcy Pirie**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
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darcy.pirie@apcfnc.ca

## Housing Quality Initiative

The agreement between CMHC and APC for APC to coordinate the Housing Quality Initiative program began in April of 2008. The HQI communities involved were: Conne River (Miawpukek) First Nation, Membertou First Nation, Elsipogtog First Nation, and Woodstock First Nation.

The HQI is designed to help First Nations with Housing quality challenges and has 3 main elements:

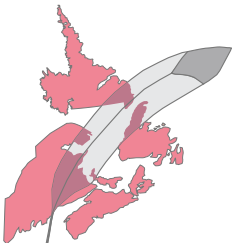
1. Information and training sessions
2. Working with First Nations who demonstrate a need for and a long-term commitment to improving their housing
3. Developing Aboriginal (capacity) trainers

The Housing Quality Initiative offers a wide variety of workshops such as:

- Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (leadership)
- Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (home occupant)
- Let's Clear the Air (LCTA)
- Let's Clear the Air (home assessment)
- Mold Remediation
- Introduction to Ventilation systems
- Basic Home Maintenance
- Inspecting Existing Dwellings
- Client Counseling
- Property Management Planning

Since April 2008, APC has held 9 HQI workshops in these communities (with an upcoming Builders Series Workshop to take place in Elsipogtog in February 2009) the breakdown is as follows:

Community	Workshop	Trainer
Membertou	Basic Home Maintenance	Dan Paul
Membertou	Basic Home Maintenance	Dan Paul
Woodstock	Builders Series	Tex Mcleod/Dan Paul
Elsipogtog	Basic Home Maintenance	Gary Sapier/Dan Knockwood
Elsipogtog	Lets Clear the Air	Gary Sapier
Elsipogtog	Lets Clear the Air	Gary Sapier
Elsipogtog	Basic Home Maintenance	Gary Sapier
Conne River	Basic Home Maintenance	Keith Maracle
Conne River	Builders Series	Keith Maracle







## Highlights





# Highlights







# Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Developers Network Activities

## Update on Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Developers Network Activities

In February 2008 the Atlantic Strategy was introduced again but to a new ray of spectators. APC in collaboration with the newly formed “First Nation Business Liaison Group of NB” hosted the Strategy launch at the St. Mary’s Entertainment Centre. Unusual to the other events we host on a weekday, this event took place on a Saturday. Sponsored by the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) and the province of New Brunswick we had a great response from private sector, government (fed/prov), industry and First Nation front line workers and Chiefs. The event captured a wide range of media coverage from the business section of the Globe & Mail to the editorial of the Telegraph Journal. It was a provincial highlight for most of that week that followed. More importantly we took the advantage to host round table discussions and brought everyone together to talk openly about barriers, lack of information, cultural barriers, and at the end of the day a solution on how we as promoters for Economic Sustainability in our communities, cities and provinces can work together on a common goal.

In March 2008, APC hosted it’s last round of table discussion in a forum known as the “Mawiomí” (in the Mi’kmaq language this word means: ‘gathering of the nations’) APC invited guests from all First Nations in the Atlantic Region. Guest came from Labrador, NFld, NS, NB and PEI and together we as First Nations gathered to discuss our commonalities – economic development. This session was important because it allowed APC to determine and develop a “targeted plan”. Everyone had a responsibility to the Strategy and APC needed to designate this to all stakeholders. APC can advocate and promote the Strategy but at the end of the day it will be the communities who take charge on how they see the strategy rolling out. Government, college representatives, private sector and industry were among the invited guest as well and they too had a responsibility to uphold. Together we developed a plan of action.

Most of the year was designed to introduce the ‘new’ strategy and relay our message that we as Aboriginal People are eager to plan, develop and implement our strategy with an opened door concept. By engaging other sectors APC took this approach to sell our idea to anyone who wanted to listen. At the end of the day we came up with new priorities under our work plan and focused on a one year work plan and the development of the strategy implementation committees.

### Activities

- AAEDN is developing a new work plan to coincide with the Chiefs Strategy.
- AAEDN is continuing with the CANDO certification program and creating a Professional Development Component for “all” EDO’s
- AAEDN is proactive on advocating and implementing the Atlantic Strategy in their communities
- AAEDN is bringing in new membership to the network
- New co-chairs have been assigned to sit on the board for a period of two years – this will allow the sharing of best practice. O
- Open invitations are sent to ex-officio’s to sit on the AAEDN meetings for continued support, networking and sharing of information etc.
- Most of the summer 2008 was lobbying for the freeze to be lifted from our economic development programs; which basically halted all activity.
- October 2008 – APC supported its AAEDN members in attending the CANDO annual

conference where 4 members of the Atlantic Region received their CANDO certification. This brings our numbers up to 26 EDO’s being certified. Also, glad to note that one of our own – NS EDO, Louis Joe Bernard was nominated national EDO award from CANDO.

- Some of the items that took precedent was renewing the AAEDN Terms of References which would be current to AAEDN’s new responsibilities under the implementation of the Atlantic strategy.
- AAEDN had concerns about the quorum which AAEDN voted to change from (18) to (13).
- Membership is also a concern– a motion was made that a proxy letter will be required from Chief & Council to identify their community representative to sit on the AAEDN. It was also noted that only one member per community can only sit as a voting member.
- It was recommended that a template letter be drafted for the Chiefs to designate/identify their perspective EDO who will sit as the AAEDN rep.
- AAEDN felt this will open up communication and allow new information to be disseminated amongst all Cchiefs forum and offer information to newly elected chiefs and keep them abreast of initiatives that apc/aaedn are engaged in.

### Update on Training & Capacity Building

APC/AAEDN just submitted an application to ACOA for another 3 year training program with CANDO. We have 12 new AAEDN members who will be acquiring CANDO certification. First CANDO Training will occur March 16-20, 2009 in Dartmouth on Theory and Philosophy of Community Economic Development.

In the same proposal APC also got funding for all EDO’s to maintain their professional development. This Professional development will be offered to all members of AAEDN despite their level of certification. This fiscal years PD training will be on Economic Opportunities in the Renewable Energy Sector. This training will occur on March 30-31s at the Oromocto Days Inn.

Each year we will offer 3 technical training (CANDO) and 2 professional development training. The professional training will be done in group setting or through individual requests for specific seminars/conferences etc.

A submission was identified in reference to the Atlantic strategy using the 4 elements as a mandate for new capacity building initiatives to help EDO’s better prepare themselves for new developments in economic development.

### Strategy Implementation Update

Just recently APC on behalf of AAEDN submitted its’ 2009-2011 multi year proposal for the administration of AAEDN and travel costs associated with the networks and it’s on going work with the implementation of the strategy. Also we submitted a budget for the implementation committee meetings – based on the four goals and we have organized 4 sub committees: lands and resources, strengthening aboriginal business, developing an educated skilled workforce and lastly, data & evaluation committee. These committees’ are made up of 4-5 EDO’s and various organization and government.

We continue to move forward as we develop new initiatives that will engage all sectors:

- Regional development corporation study
- Regional supplement on economic development and success stories
- Legal dynamics conference

- New training programs
- New mandate for AAEDN
- New economic development portal

## Residential Schools

### Executive Summary

Welcome to our Indian Residential School final report on Indian Residential Schools outreach from April 2008 to March 2009. As we continue in moving forward with the Final Settlement Agreement, APC has had a very successful year in providing outreach sessions to the Mi’kmaq and Maliseet First Nations and the general public in the Atlantic. As well, our continuance to ensure the safety of First Nation survivors remains very high on our priority list.

### Background

The Atlantic Policy Congress was mandated back in November of 2004 by the 35 Mikmaq Maliseet and Passamaquoddy Chiefs to provide outreach and information to Atlantic survivors so that they would be aware of the latest issues and negotiations taking place with the Residential School issue. The goal of the APC is to organize, facilitate and encourage dialogue on options that are available to survivors regarding compensation, healing, truth and reconciliation and commemoration.

The APC are currently embarking on their milestone fifth year of delivering outreach sessions to Mi’kmaq and Maliseet survivors, their families, communities and the general public on the Indian Residential School issue in Canada.

### Outreach Sessions

The objections of the APC outreach sessions are:

- To organize, facilitate and encourage dialogue on the issues facing residential school survivors.
- Present options available to survivors to achieve reconciliation.
- Provide updated information on progress to date, i.e. Final Settlement Agreement.

### A year in review

#### June 11th, 2008

#### Canada’s apology to all Indian Residential School survivors

June 11th was called a historical day by most media that covered the official Harper apology to former students of Indian residential schools across Canada. It was a time of mixed emotions of Elders, former students, descendents, and other First Nations people at the former residential school site; there was sadness, anger, frustration, happiness, tiredness etc. It was a day to commemorate, revisit, reunite on the site of the former Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. For 37 years from 1930 to 1960 there was one recognized Indian Residential School (IRS) operating in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia which profoundly impacted the lives of Mi’kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations people.





# Residential Schools, con’t

The morning events commenced with an opening prayer by Noel Knockwood of Indian Brook, NS. Followed by a crossing over ceremony conducted by Henry J. Augustine for former students of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School that passed onto the spirit world were remembered. Augustine sang a song telling the spirits of the deceased survivors to go home to the Creator and offered a plate of food for the spirits. Survivors and elders conducted a release and letting go ceremony. Approximately 400 people participated. The family of the late Nora Bernard as well as many others, walked from the former residential school site of Shubenacadie to the Train Station as a symbology of returning home, known to former students as “Freedom Day”; the walk continued to Indian Brook, NS multi purpose building where other dignitaries and members gathered for the official apology.

At the same time, eleven former students of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School were given the opportunity to witness Prime Minister Harper’s apology in the House of Commons on June 11th, 2008. APC was also given the honour to go with the former students to witness this historic event in which Prime Minister Harper acknowledged “a sad chapter in our history.”

## October 12th -22nd, 2008 Indian Brook Survivor/Youth Pilgrimage to Rome & Paris

A historical Pilgrimage to Rome, Italy and Paris, France took place from October 12th to the 22nd of this year, bringing together approximately 45 former Indian Residential School students of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School, Indian Brook First Nation youth, Chiefs, RCMP, members of the Catholic Clergy as well as APC staff.

In efforts to reconcile with the Catholic Church who ran the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School, the only recognized school in Atlantic Canada, approximately 14 former students from the Indian Brook First Nation in Nova Scotia began to plan a trip to Rome to see the Pope, Benedict XVI.

APC agreed to assist in planning this trip. Indian Brook youth who were planning a similar trip came on board with the survivor trip. It was an opportunity for former students to gain some healing and reconciliation and for the youth to learn and understand a tragic part of their elder’s past. After travelling from Halifax to Toronto, Toronto to Germany and from there to Rome, the trip was well worth the wait. The whole group was able to get VIP tickets to sit near the Pope during his weekly speech to the general public in St. Peter’s Square. Survivors also were able to give the Pope an Eagle Feather and the Pope also recognized every pilgrimage in attendance, including the Indian Brook Pilgrimage.

Mass was held daily for the group, as well as sight seeing adventures to museums and ruins and shopping for souvenirs for family members back home. The group was also filmed, asked to say a few words about the trip and how they felt about being in Rome. Constable Stuart Knockwood also facilitated debriefing sessions so the group could talk about what the trip meant to them and to say whatever they felt.

From Rome, survivors went on to Paris, France by train, through the Swiss Alps, to do more sight seeing and were able to view the Eiffel Tower. Survivors and youth really enjoyed this trip and an official report is now completed. The creation of a video, chronicling the journey of healing and reconciliation with survivors in Atlantic Canada will begin, pending the approval of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission.

This will be made available as soon as it’s completed.

## November 3rd-5th, 2008 Touchstones Training

In working to ensure the safety of survivors and preparing frontline workers, the Atlantic Policy Congress held what is known as Touchstones Training in Nova Scotia on November 15th and 16th for approximately 35 frontline workers from various First Nations, including clinical therapists and members of the RCMP.

The goal of this training is to establish a culturally appropriate model of crisis prevention and intervention in Atlantic First Nation communities that anticipates and responds to mental health needs arising from the Indian Residential School disclosure process as part of a broader transformation of the community mental health system. The training helps to prepare a frontline worker who assists former students to be better prepared and recognize when a former student is going through or will potentially go through a major crisis in their lives and from there, make the best efforts to ensure they get the supports they need.

The objectives of this valuable training are:

1. To equip frontline community workers with the tools they require to anticipate, identify and respond to signs of emotional distress experienced by people affected by the Indian Residential School disclosure process.
2. To mitigate the risks of re-traumatization by having supports in place that can respond to the diversity of cultural, emotional, spiritual and psychiatric issues that are expected to arise.
3. To provide community workers with the strategies required to cope with the emotional demands of their role in supporting people through the Indian Residential School journey on both a professional and personal level.
4. To strengthen the linkages between First Nations and provincial mental health service providers so as to foster a shared understanding of community mental health needs and collaborative relationships to address them.

It’s been recognized that the training should be conducted with smaller groups at different times so the setting is more personal with one on one time with participants. Often times at conferences, the information is too general and not as hard hitting. To fully address the need for recognizing crisis, a smaller group was recommended.

Facilitated by RCMP Constable Stuart Knockwood and Sonia Chehil, Child Psychiatrist with the IWK Hospital, the topic areas discussed at this training involved understanding one’s self, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), prevention, intervention and recovery, keeping a journal, empowerment of front line workers and the importance of partnerships and team building and learning to know when to leave as a front line worker. Other topics involved signs to get a front line worker re-charged, Indian residential schools: killing the Indian child, physical disconnections, mental disconnections, emotional disconnections and spirit disconnection.

It must be remembered that this training is not intended to create new counselors or therapists. What this training does do is help to improve a frontline worker’s role and better prepare frontline workers to assist survivors. From there, a network of frontline workers is formed to come together, share experiences, both positive and negative, all with the

goal in mind to promote health and wellness.

## Regional Health Support Workers

The APC continues to involve Health Canada and three Atlantic Regional Health Support Workers (RHSW) that survivors can contact if they wish to receive counseling. Mary Moore Phillips of Lennox Island First Nation is the RHSW for the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, Bernice Doucette is the RHSW for the Cape Breton, N.S. communities and Genine Paul of St. Marys First Nation is the RHSW for New Brunswick, Mi’kmaq communities in Quebec and part of Maine, U.S for those survivors who attended the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School and reside in Maine. All attend APC outreach sessions in the provinces that they are assigned to discuss the program and also to provide counseling at the outreach sessions for survivors who may need emotional support.

## Outreach Residential School Atlantic Committee

The ORSAC Committee 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. Here is a summary of ORSAC meetings held throughout the 2008-09 year:

ORSAC Meetings	Date
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Moncton, N.B.	April 2nd, 3rd, 2008
Indian Brook First Nation, N.S.	June 17th, 18th, 2008
Prince George Hotel, N.S.	November 7th, 2008

## Information Kiosks

An integral component of the public education campaign as well as reaching survivors who live off-reserve has involved setting up an Indian Residential School information booth (kiosk) at various conferences and events. This is an excellent venue to distribute information on the Indian Residential School issue. During APC sessions held, information on the Final Settlement Agreement is always distributed and wherever gatherings and conferences are held in the Atlantic.

## APC Residential School Website

The APC Indian Residential School website ([www.apcfn.ca](http://www.apcfn.ca)) has also been updated to include the latest Mi’kmaq Maliseet News articles that are written monthly, information on the Final Settlement Agreement, APC contact information and quarterly APC activity reports on the IRS issue. Survivors continue to call and email the APC office looking for information on the IRS issue and to which are responded to in a timely and respectful manner. Links to relevant Government websites are also provided on the IRS website such as Indian Residential Schools Resolutions Canada and Service Canada.





# Atlantic First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network

## Executive Summary

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, SJRVTC.

The Housing and Infrastructure Network is designed to enable Atlantic First Nations to make significant progress on infrastructure management challenges by providing the means to address common standards, management practices and capacity issues.

Atlantic First Nations face a complex governing environment for infrastructure most notably drinking water, housing, waste water, and source water protection. Uncertainty reigns in many areas—jurisdictions, laws, regulations, funding agreements, testing, reporting, certification, maintenance, data, emergencies, training, health and safety—must all be faced by First Nation governments overseeing services to its members.

The Network’s goal is to assist in developing the means and opportunity for First Nations to better manage their own infrastructure. In so doing, First Nations can reduce the risk to themselves, their neighbours, and others.

In this context, the Network has studied different approaches that will raise standards of performance, provide technical supportive services not provided by other organizations, work for certification of professional staff, maintain higher quality management data, research innovative methods, and promoting best practices and appropriate management tools.

The Key to the success will be established network committees that will work on related issues such as water/wastewater, housing and Emergency Response Planning and other related issues.

### Committee Updates:

Since it reformation, the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure has underwent a change to better manage issues and concerns, but to also include tribal councils/organizations and engaged Federal Government in a proactive approach. Below are issues and concerns dealt with by the different levels of the network:

**Protocols:** Below is a list and description of proposed protocols which are a part of First Nation Funding Agreements, while others will be developed and implemented as minimal requirements for any proposed option for Legislation on water/wastewater.

### Safe Drinking Water in First Nation Communities

Due to the Lack of Proper communication to bands, First Nations do not understand the full implications of the protocols for safe drinking water. The protocols are to be the minimal for proposed water/wastewater legislation, and if bands do not understand the issue before them, they may not understand the full impact

## ATLANTIC HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK MEETINGS 2008-2009

MEETING LOCATION	DATES	TYPE	OUTPUT	APPENDIX
Dartmouth Holiday Inn	June 25 & 26, 2008	Tech Comittee	Minutes	A
Dartmouth Holiday Inn	July 3 & July 9, 2008	Sub Tech Committee	PMF	B
Dartmouth Holiday Inn	July 11, 2008	Senior Committee	Minutes	C
Ramada Crystal Plaza	August 26, 2008	Sub Committee Water	Minutes	D
Dartmouth Holiday Inn	Nov. 27, 2008	Tech Metting	Minutes	E
Prince George, Halifax	January 20, 2009	Senior Committee	Minutes	F
Crowne Plaza, Moncton	Feb. 4, 2009	Sub-ERP	Minutes	G
Heritage Centre, Truro	Feb. 12, 2009	Sub-housing	Minutes & ToR	H
Dartmouth Holiday Inn	March 6, 2009	Senior Committee	Minutes	I
Super 8, Millbrook NS	March 23, 2009	Tech Committee	Minutes	J

of proposed water/wastewater legislation.

*The Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities* contains standards for design, construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of drinking water systems in First Nations communities and is intended for use by First Nations staff responsible for water systems. It is also intended for use by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) staff, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) for INAC staff, and all others involved in providing advice or assistance to First Nations in the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of their drinking water systems in their communities in accordance with established federal or provincial standards, whichever are the most stringent. Listed below are concerns of the protocols for safe drinking water:

- Part of First Nations funding agreements April 2007.
- Transferring liability and responsibility to First Nation Communities.
- Additional responsibilities placed on Operators. i.e. reporting requirements, etc.
- Will be minimal requirements for proposed Water/wastewater Legislation.
- No New Monies for Implementation of Protocols.
- INAC will monitor compliance of the protocols.
- Bands that are on Municipal agreements are not immune to these protocols. Since funding comes from INAC and there is no distinction within the protocols to either FN water systems and Municipal agreements, municipalities’ will be required to ensure they meet the protocols including sources water protection and emergency response plans.
- Sources Water protection Plans
- Emergency Response Plans are to be in place by April 2007.

1. **An APC All Chiefs resolution was passed in February 15th, 2007 not supporting the implementation of the INAC protocols for safe drinking water until a comprehensive O&M study is completed on all First nation water systems.**

2. **INAC is completing an update and review of the Protocols for Safe Drinking Water. These new updates will be included sometime next fiscal year.**

### Wastewater

INAC is proposing to develop and implement through First Nation Funding agreements protocols for wastewater. These protocols will deal with the systems themselves including operator certifications, systems standards, basically everything the protocols for safe drinking water entail. The protocols for wastewater and the CCME Wastewater regulations will be combined to deal with O&M and effluent standards.

1. No new money for implementation or system upgrades.
2. Impact to municipal agreements.
3. Compliance and enforcement will be done through funding agreements for O&M, while effluent will be done through Environment Canada. (Violation for Effluent discharge could be one million dollars for every day in violation.)

**INAC and EC are not sure how each will compliment the other, as EC maybe looking to develop or modify existing Federal Facilities for Wastewater Guideline under CEPA part 9, thus creating regulations affecting First Nations. This could also affect any proposed legislation on water/wastewater.**

### Source Water Protection

The protocols developed by Environment Canada to be included within the Protocols for Safe Drinking Water. Source Water Protection has two main components: a source water assessment and a source water protection plan.

Source water assessments identify the area of land that contributes the water we use for drinking. They also identify the specific potential and actual sources of contamination to drinking-water supplies. This information is used to determine how susceptible the



# Atlantic First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network, con't

water system is to contamination and how to protect it. There are three main steps to a source water assessment:

1. Delineating the source water area
2. Identifying contaminants
3. Assessing vulnerability

A source water protection plan uses the information collected during the source water assessment to create a firm list of actions to be carried out, the names of those responsible for doing them, and the deadlines involved. It has two main steps:

1. Developing a plan to address the issues identified in the assessment
2. Implementing and evaluating the source water protection efforts detailed in the plan.

Since these are a part of First Nations funding agreements as of April 2007, First Nations are required to develop and implement these protocols. There are issues and concerns:

1. No new money for development or implementations of source water protection plans.
2. Issues of jurisdiction, First Nation, Province and Federal. Once plans are developed how to enforce if boundaries fall off reserve.
3. Could cost Bands pending on size \$250,000-\$500,000.
4. Once plans are in place, reduces size of reserve due to areas being protected as source water areas.
5. Limits development on source water protected areas.
6. How do Bands enforce source water protection plans?

***Only Two Source Water Protection Plans have been develop within the Atlantic, but with no additional resources, bands are left with source water protections plans they cannot fully implement.***

## Proposed O&M study on First Nations Water/Wastewater Systems

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs has completed the O&M study. Some abstracts from the final O&M report:

- All water and sewer systems should be equipped with flow monitoring devices and daily monitoring and recording of data should be undertaken.
- All systems should be evaluated to determine the maximum capacity of the systems.
- Water and effluent quality data program be developed to monitor and record data for those who own their own systems.
- Leakage studies be undertaken to address possible problems in the distribution or collection systems.
- Any new facilities currently being designed or constructed, that the First Nations request that the Consultants completing the design work obtain letters of conformance from the federal and/or provincial agencies responsible for administering the new protocol and determining discharge effluent criteria.

That said, the APC is also acutely aware of the challenges facing First Nation communities with regards to the current state of their on-reserve water treatment and distribution infrastructure, wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure, and the financial challenges to undertake these activities with

budgets that may not accurately reflect the current costs to provide these most essential of services to a standard enjoyed by other Canadians living off-reserve.

Implementing new regulations or standards (such as the proposed municipal wastewater effluent regulations or the upgraded turbidity standards) within First Nations communities can only be done if infrastructure and O&M issues on First Nations have been fully addressed to implement any such protocol or regulations.

## Wastewater Regulations (Canadian Council of the Ministers of Environment (CCME))

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) has developed a strategy to improve the management of municipal wastewater effluent in Canada. This Canada-wide strategy will apply to all municipal, community, or First Nation community wastewater facilities throughout Canada.

Municipal wastewater effluent is considered to be effluent released from a municipal or community wastewater collection or treatment facility to a surface water supply such as a lake, stream, river or ocean. The strategy is being designed to apply to wastewater, from its source to the effluent released at the end of the discharge pipe. It would address overflows from sanitary sewers and from sewers that combine sanitary waste and storm water (combined sewers). It would not address storm water discharge separate from a sanitary sewer system, nor would it address septic tanks. Below are specific issues with regards to the wastewater regulations:

1. These are National Performance standards which will affect Municipalities including First Nation Systems.
2. First Nations would be required to conduct site-specific environmental risk assessments and manage those risks appropriately.
3. No new money for facilities that need upgrading, risk assessments and monitoring.
4. First Nations have not been given a proper consultation on the proposed regulations.

Environment has completed it first rounds of “consultations” on the federal framework and CCME strategy. APC has developed a discussion document. This Discussion document recognized the major deficiencies in reference to wastewater treatment facilities in First Nation Communities. Essentially, the communities will need to undertake major studies in terms of establishing Effluent Discharge Objectives (EDO) in order to achieve the 3 outcomes that this strategy is proposing, it is imperative that environmental audits be conducted prior to 2010 or before the Fisheries Act regulations are promulgated.

The following list highlights key issues and concerns addressed during the development of this document.

- Need for First Nations to research and determine Economic Impact and a Legal Analysis.
- Definition of “Owner” of infrastructure has to be answered before any new regulation as implemented.
- Need for First Nations to be involved in the science & research body that the strategy is proposing
- Preparing First Nation in the implementation process and develop a long term strategic plans for wastewater management;
- First Nations should prioritize their own needs in terms of upgrades to facilities based on the risk assessments;

- Need to examine the CCME guideline to determine full impact on First Nations; the majority of the guidelines only reflect municipalities under provincial jurisdictions.
- Funding options for First Nations communities need to be explored in depth;
- Funding must be updated to meet the current and growing First Nation Communities.
- Roles-Responsibilities, and accountability must be identified.
- Ensure adequate Capacity within First Nation Communities and Federal Departments.
- Certification and education of operators and those in charge of systems.
- Resources/equipment must be up to date and backup equipment on-site.
- Liability has to be clearly identified, and appropriate steps in place to ensure the Health and Safety of First Nation Communities.
- Funding has to apart of any transfer of liability, in order for First Nations to obtain the appropriate insurance coverage.
- Emergency Preparedness must be properly funded; operators and communities need to be properly educated on the importance of this process.
- INAC will need to update WWTF to meet the requirements in the proposed regulations, i.e. installation of flow meters and de-chlorination units to meet the TRC.
- Capital Planning, including regional budgets must be updated to ensure that one project would not use all resources in one shot.

Environment Canada is urged to consider the big picture of regulatory change. The fiduciary context needs to be clear. The funding process needs to be mapped out from appropriations to monitoring. Roles & responsibilities must be compatible throughout and all parties must be held openly accountable. Transparency and fairness must rule and for concerns and issues identified an impartial appeal system must be setup to address and remedy the situation.

In conclusion, the Atlantic Policy Congress has finalizing an Operation and Maintenance report, the objective of this report is to summarize the water and wastewater system assessment in First Nation community. The assessment includes the following; current and projected community needs, current water and wastewater infrastructure facility upgrades that may be required in terms of meeting any new regulatory framework, future water and wastewater servicing needs, and current operational and maintenance costs. This report will assist in addressing issues related to the implementation/ achievement of the Canada-wide strategy and regulatory framework in First Nation communities in the Atlantic.

***AFN requested a legal analysis of the Environment Canada's consultation process conducted last fall. Based on this analysis, it was concluded that the crown did not adhere to its recently released consultation guidelines. These guidelines, entitled “Aboriginal Consultation and Accommodation: Interim Guidelines for Federal Officials to Fulfill the Legal Duty to Consult” set out the current Crown approach, as of February 2008, to addressing their consultation duties. AFN is proposing to pass a resolution at the next AFN AGA in Quebec to ask the Crown to adhere to its guidelines, delay the announcement of the regulations in the Gazette 1 until proper consultation is completed, to provide adequate resources to fully assess the impacts of proposed regulations. Currently CCME will be posted in Gazette this fall, 2009.***





# Atlantic First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network, con't

## Proposed Water/Wastewater Legislation & Impact Analysis

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Strahl is proposing to introduce Water/Wastewater Legislation. Mr. Strahl is hoping to use one of the five proposed options: using provincial regulations by “incorporation by reference” is the main preferred option that we been hearing about. For now the Protocols for safe drinking water will be the minimum for any proposed regulations.

There is a two stage approach, the first being the legislative process, reference by incorporation. INAC is looking for discuss and feedback on this process. The legislative process also defined enforcement, fines, penalties, etc. This process has finished, with two engagements sessions completed: March 24, 2009 with KMK at the Ramada in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and March 31, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton, New Brunswick.

An Impact Analysis has been completed for 3 provinces by APC, these include New Brunswick, PEWI and Newfoundland and Labrador. KMK has done theirs for Nova Scotia. The Minister has all relevant information to make a decision on next steps and if decided will pursue a memo to cabinet with his preferred option.

The provision of safe drinking water and the effective treatment of wastewater is critical to ensuring the health and safety of First Nations people and lands. Legislation for drinking water and wastewater has been developed for Provinces and Territories, but it has not yet been developed for First Nations communities. Based on the results of the report of the expert panel on safe drinking water for First Nations, the federal government proposed to create a legislative framework for drinking water and wastewater based on the option of incorporating by reference existing provincial/territorial regulations and adapting them as required in order to meet the needs of First Nations communities. The objective of this report is to develop an impact analysis for First Nations communities in New Brunswick (NB), Prince Edward Island (PEI) and Newfoundland (NL) by incorporating Atlantic Canadian legislation, as defined by the 16 elements or a regulatory regime.

For each of the 16 elements, an overview of legislation in NB, PEI, NL and Nova Scotia (NS) are provided. The legislative overview is then followed by current First Nations practices, both what is expected based on protocols and assessments, and also what is actually in practice in First Nations communities in NB, PEI and NL. The final component to each element summary is an impact analysis outlining the relevance of the element to reducing health and safety risks for First Nations communities, as well as what the impacts would be of applying provincial regulations, and suggestions on how requirements may be implanted.

Of the 16 elements, it was determined that 14 are directly relevant to Atlantic Canadian First Nations communities and the remaining two may be relevant. In general one of the main challenges to incorporating provincial regulation by reference is that the regulations vary greatly by province, and in some cases no regulations exist for a particular element.

Establishment and implementation of regulation for First Nations communities needs to be addressed using a combination of approaches, including incorporation of regional (provincial) standards and incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge,

all bundled into a framework managed federally. The challenges remain the same regardless of the approach taken; financial and human resources and capacity are limited, and liability and responsibility are of great concern.

If incorporated by province, the regulations would lead to different levels of service and health and safety risks for communities based on their geography. To address this inequality, it is recommended that the implementation of new regulation be conducted through a regional First Nations entity, rather than on a community by community basis. The regional entity could then set the standards that would meet (and in some cases exceed) provincial standards for each community. The standards could be based on best management practices, and industry standards as well as provincial regulations. Implementation of regulation by an entity would bring together a critical mass, it would maximize efficiency of resource allocation, and it would lead to a transfer of liability away from Chief and Council. The concept of an integrated federal/provincial/First Nations approach to legislation and regulation managed by a First Nations entity was echoed at the *Engagement Session on the Development of A Proposed Federal Legislative Framework for Drinking Water and Wastewater in First Nation Communities (held in Moncton, NB on March 31, 2009)*.

Under the proposed Federal Water/Wastewater Legislation, some of the areas discussed when approaching provincial regulations will entail the following (Federal government is not proposing to implement the full provincial regulation, but rather pick and choose which sections of the regulations will be enforced within First Nation communities residing within that province, ie NS First Nation Communities will have to follow NS Provincial Regulations);

- an overall objective
- source water protection
- drinking water standards
- water treatment standards
- standards for testing water
- certification of testing laboratories
- certification & re-certification of water plants & distribution systems (including construction & maintenance of wells)
- equipment maintenance standards
- certification and re-certification of operators plus ongoing training
- record keeping
- public disclosure of test results & other information
- inspections & public education by the regulatory agency
- penalties for non-compliance, emergency procedures & redress
- clear roles & responsibilities e.g. operators, regulators, labs, etc.

The main concerns regarding both a regulatory regime and protocols are as follow:

- Picking and choosing sections of provincial regulations will leave gaps to the effectiveness of the regulations themselves
- Lack of capacity within First Nation communities
- Liability to Chief and Councils
- Lack of resources available
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Funding for implementation
- Timeframe for development, input and implementation are unrealistic, with no commitment of further funding.
- Impact to any Municipal Funding agreements between Bands and Municipalities.

## Water Monitoring Program Study

The Community Based Water Monitors program operates as a part of the Atlantic First Nations Drinking Water Safety Program was designed by Health Canada as a method of monitoring drinking water quality in First Nations communities. Due to certain concerns of liability, it was purposed that a study be done to assess the legal and liability issues for the successful operation and implementation of water monitors within First Nation communities.

Fraser & Hoyt Insurance Limited was approached by Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) and asked to determine the availability of liability insurance for the water monitors of the First Nations communities throughout Atlantic Canada. As a result of conversations between the parties it was determined that the water monitors would require both Errors & Omissions insurance coverage and Commercial General Liability coverage. The Errors & Omissions coverage would provide coverage for any compensatory losses related to the failure of the water monitors to properly perform their professional duties. The commercial general liability coverage would provide coverage for any third party bodily injury and property damage due to a negligent act of the water monitors failing to properly perform their duties.

After numerous meetings, and exchanges of information we are able to conclude that Fraser & Hoyt Insurance Limited is unable to provide Errors & Omissions or Commercial General Liability coverage exclusively for the water monitors.

**We did, however, determine that the coverage they require is available through a Municipal Insurance program specifically designed for First Nations Communities and Fraser & Hoyt Insurance has access to this program.**

In summary, Fraser & Hoyt Insurance Limited would make the following recommendations:

1. Due to the potential severity in cost and human suffering associated with this type of risk it is important that proper risk management practices be followed in order to mitigate the loss and transfer as much of the risk as possible to a third party through the use of insurance.
2. If not already done, qualified professionals should be contracted and funding provided to establish best risk management practices as they relate to watershed management, maintenance of water distribution systems, establishing water monitoring procedures and tests and developing disaster plans.

**An APC All Chiefs resolution was passed on Feb 15th, 2007 not supporting the Water Monitoring Program, until such time that Health Canada defines the band's legal obligations/risk of such a program. This proposed study will satisfy the APC resolution passed February 17, 2007.**

## Atlantic First Nation Housing and Infrastructure Institute

Atlantic First Nations are seeking to take effective, informed, and efficient action. What follows is a proposal for a network to assist Atlantic First Nations. The network will help establish the First Nations' governance, policy, technical and training framework needed for housing and infrastructure, yet will still ensure that authority remains with communities. The network will also assist other governments in





# Atlantic First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network, con’t

developing appropriate policy and practices, and in implementing their new regimes and programs.

In short the Atlantic First Nations Regional Housing and Infrastructure Network (RHIN) is needed to fill capacity gaps that are essential to effective, efficient and fair implementation of new regulatory, funding and management regimes. There is building support for such an Institute, especially with the growing concern over Water/Wastewater regulations and no support Mechanism in place for First Nation communities.

**A Housing and Infrastructure Function basic functions:**

- **Data:** Data management could include three functions or capabilities: 1) a capacity to map, gather and monitor a wide array of related data; 2) an ability to examine the data within the context of First Nations infrastructure matters, to discern items of significance; and 3) an ability to interpret and communicate the most useful lessons and opportunities to those most able to profit from the new data on both broad and personal levels.
- **Capacity and Certification:** An Institute could work on two levels – 1) certification of community processes, and 2) certification of qualified individuals. This function would involve setting appropriate standards, matching existing abilities and processes to desired ones, assessing gaps in skills, abilities and processes, analyzing existing programs for filling the gaps, and identifying new ones as required.
- **Best Practices:** An Institute could inventory, assess, clarify, and communicate the main types of models and practices.
- **Communications:** An Institute could help by providing focused, quality information on Housing and Infrastructure topics, targeted to the audiences of interest.
- **Research:** First Nations need quantitative results that illustrate issues, positions, and opportunities.
- **Policy Analysis:** Infrastructure and housing development for First Nations is guided by a large set of public policies in all levels of governments.

**An APC All Chiefs Resolution was passed on May 2nd 2007, supporting the development of the First Nation Housing and Infrastructure Network. INAC has agreed to fund the network this year, cmhc has provided funding as well and Health Canada has contributed to this important structure with the ever growing concerns and issues over water/wastewater, housing, emergency response and water quality.**

**First Nation Housing and Infrastructure Network Committees**

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.

A strategic planning workshop was held on February 13th & 14th, 2008 to identify strategic intent and planning opportunities for the AFNHIN which is linked to water (including water monitoring), wastewater and housing. The AFNHIN, through the strategic process, identified actions, solutions and priorities for the network related to capacity development and certification, practices and procedures, education, promotion and communication, policy analysis and research and technical advice.

**First Nation Housing & Infrastructure Network Committee comprises of:**

(INAC, Health Canada, Environment Canada and CMHC). First Nations representation; APC, CMM, UNBI, UNSI, MAWIW, NSMDC, MCPEI and housing managers from four First Nation communities that are experts in the area of housing issues. Also Sub committees: 1. Housing, Water/Wastewater and Emergency Response (All Hazards).

**Senior First Nation Housing and Infrastructure Network Committee needs to be updated:**

Chief Shirley Clarke  
Chief Jerry Sack  
Chief Paul Tomer  
Chief Everett Martin  
Chief Jesse Simon  
Chief Charlie Dennis  
Chief Misel Joe  
Chief Darlene Bernard  
Charlie Levi  
Darlene Marshall  
Two AFN Vice-Chiefs  
RDG's (INAC, HC, CMHC and EC)  
Also title of senior committee will be changed to senior Housing and Infrastructure Network Committee.

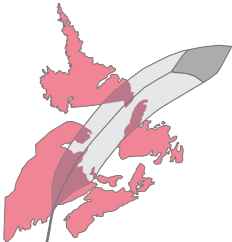
**Emergency Response Planning Committee**

A strategic planning workshop was held on February 13th & 14th, 2008 to identify strategic intent and planning opportunities for the AFNHIN which is linked to water, wastewater and Emergency planning. The AFNHIN, through the strategic process, identified actions, solutions and priorities for the network related to capacity development and certification, practices and procedures, education, promotion and communication, policy analysis and research and technical advice.

First Nations may face a wide range of situations that will require immediate action in terms of emergencies whether it is natural or man-made. This is true for all Canadian citizens which is why the federal government has taken on many initiatives to ensure that everyone is prepared.

The Government of Canada has passed a new legislation for the purposes of giving strength to lessen the impact of incidents of an all hazards in Canada. The Emergency Management Act: An Act to provide for emergency management and to amend and repeal certain Acts (Statutes of Canada 2007, Chapter 15) was assented to on June 22nd, 2007. Provisions in the Act ss. 6.1 defines Minister's responsibilities, specifically, that each minister accountable to Parliament for GOC shall prepare, maintain, test and implement emergency response plans.

The Emergency Management Sub-committee, will be housed under the Housing & Infrastructure network, as agreed by the Senior Housing and Infrastructure Committee.







# Financial Statements 2008-2009

## Management’s responsibility for financial reporting

The accompanying financial statements of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat and all the information in this annual report are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the First Nations of Atlantic Canada.

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgments. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances, in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.

The Congress maintains systems of internal accounting and administrative controls of high quality, consistent with reasonable cost. Such systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and the assets of the Congress are appropriately accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The Congress is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements. The Congress carries out this responsibility principally through its Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, composed of First Nation members, reviews the Congress’ financial statements and recommends their approval to the First Nations. The Executive Committee meets periodically with management, as well as the external auditors, to discuss internal controls over the financial reporting process, auditing matters and financial reporting issues, to satisfy themselves that each party is properly discharging their responsibilities, and to review the annual report, the financial statements and the external auditor’s report. The Executive Committee reports its findings to the First Nations for consideration when approving the financial statements for issuance to the members. The Executive Committee also considers, for review and approval by the First Nations, the engagement of the external auditors.

The financial statements have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the members. Grant Thornton LLP has full and free access to the Executive Committee.

Executive Director



## Auditors’ report

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www.GrantThornton.ca

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

We have audited the balance sheet of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of operations, surplus and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Congress’ management. 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 plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these 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, 2009 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information included in schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Grant Thornton LLP

Truro, Nova Scotia  
July 20, 2009

Chartered Accountants

Audit • Tax • Advisory  
Grant Thornton LLP, A Canadian Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Statement of operations

Year ended March 31	Page	2009	2008
<b>Revenues</b>			
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$	1,990,283	\$ 2,120,783
Department of Fisheries and Oceans		1,208,130	772,734
Health Canada		2,568,786	1,830,626
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency		258,135	182,276
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation		63,831	40,000
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada		215,000	369,948
Environment Canada		5,100	21,000
Dalhousie University		-	56,319
HST recoverable (Note 2)		198,233	260,928
Miscellaneous		294,765	159,539
Interest		4,084	7,138
		<u>6,806,347</u>	<u>5,821,291</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	13	512,554	630,127
All Chiefs Forums and Executive	14	346,712	452,147
Housing and Water	15	493,562	556,900
Social	16	113,554	105,719
Health	17	2,455,524	1,600,158
Fisheries	18	1,269,335	819,871
Economic	19	1,114,618	843,935
Community Planning	20	334,505	309,755
Residential Schools	21	246,424	570,753
		<u>6,886,788</u>	<u>5,889,365</u>
Deficiency of revenues over expenses before depreciation		(80,441)	(68,074)
Depreciation		<u>32,352</u>	<u>38,198</u>
Deficiency of revenues over expenses		<u>\$ (112,793)</u>	<u>\$ (106,272)</u>

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Statement of deficit

Year ended March 31, 2009	Unrestricted	Investment in Capital Assets	Legal Defence Fund Reserve	Total 2009	Total 2008
Beginning of year	\$ (69,250)	\$ 131,395	\$ 38,762	\$ 100,907	\$ 186,302
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(80,441)	(32,352)	-	(112,793)	(106,272)
Contributions	-	-	26,923	26,923	30,877
Payments	-	-	(35,642)	(35,642)	(10,000)
Proceeds on long term debt	875,122	(875,122)	-	-	-
Capital asset additions	(1,400,106)	1,400,106	-	-	-
End of year	\$ (674,675)	\$ 624,027	\$ 30,043	\$ (20,605)	\$ 100,907







# 2008 - 2009 Financial Statements

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Balance sheet

March 31	2009	2008
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 86,815	\$ -
Restricted cash (Note 4)	30,043	38,762
Receivables (Note 5)	2,070,327	2,074,180
Prepays	-	825
Lien holdback receivable	86,093	-
	2,273,278	2,113,767
Property and equipment (Note 6)	1,499,149	131,395
	\$ 3,772,427	\$ 2,245,162
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current		
Bank indebtedness (Note 7)	\$ -	\$ 31,058
Payables and accruals	1,557,386	462,663
Lien holdback payable	126,780	-
Deferred revenue (Note 8)	1,233,744	1,650,534
Current portion of long term debt	51,602	-
	2,969,512	2,144,255
Long term debt (Note 9)	823,520	-
	3,793,032	2,144,255
<b>(Deficit) surplus (Page 4)</b>		
Unrestricted	(674,675)	(69,250)
Investment in capital assets	624,027	131,395
Legal Defence Fund reserve	30,043	38,762
	(20,605)	100,907
	\$ 3,772,427	\$ 2,245,162

Commitments and contingent liabilities (Notes 10 and 12)  
Subsequent events (Note 14)

On Behalf of the Executive Committee

Co-Chair Co-Chair

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2009

#### 1. Nature of operations

The Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) of First Nation 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 Nation communities and peoples.

#### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

##### 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.

##### Capital assets

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

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

Furniture and equipment	30%, declining balance
-------------------------	------------------------

Assets under construction are not depreciated until they are completed and available for use.

##### Statement of cash flows

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.

-

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2009

#### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

##### Financial instruments

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, receivables, payables and accruals, and long term debt. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation 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.

The Congress is exempt from applying the following Sections of the CICA Handbook: Section 3862 – Financial Instruments – Disclosures and Section 3863 – Financial Instruments – Presentation, which would otherwise have applied to the financial statements of the Congress for the year ended March 31, 2009.

##### 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.

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 gets recorded as revenue in the administration statement of operations in the period it is receivable.





# 2008 - 2009 Financial Statements

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2009

#### 3. Recent accounting pronouncements

The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) has standardized financial statements for government entities, including First Nations, political and territorial organizations. This new presentation is applicable for the year ending March 31, 2010. Since the Congress is categorized as a provincial/territorial organization, it is expected that the Congress will adopt PSAB reporting for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. The largest impact to the Congress will be the categorization and restatement of its statement of operations and balance sheet into PSAB reporting requirements. It is expected that the March 31, 2009 beginning and ending surplus will not be affected by the presentation.

#### 4. 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.

5. Receivables	2009	2008
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	\$ 803,482	\$ 660,000
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	808,230	646,066
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	137,559	252,212
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada	135,450	140,176
Aboriginal Business Canada	-	51,375
Environment Canada	-	2,000
Sundry	77,900	61,191
HST recoverable	107,706	261,160
	<u>\$ 2,070,327</u>	<u>\$ 2,074,180</u>

The amount receivable from ACOA includes the approved funding up to the end of the contribution agreement. Any unexpended amounts up to March 31, 2009 have been included in deferred revenue as disclosed in Note 8.

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2009

#### 9. Long term debt (continued)

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

2010	\$	51,602
2011	\$	69,827
2012	\$	76,816
2013	\$	84,522
2014	\$	93,024

As security on the above loans, the Congress has provided the following:

- First and second mortgage of leasehold interest on a building under construction;
- 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 certain funding agencies of the Congress;
- Consent and postponement of claim from the landlord of the land lease on which the building resides; and
- An assignment of permanent fire and all risks and perils insurance.

#### 10. Commitments

- (a) Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat has entered into an agreement to lease office equipment until 2013. Minimum rent payments for equipment in aggregate for each of the next three fiscal years are as follows:

2010	\$	18,013
2011	\$	18,013
2012	\$	18,013

- (b) The Congress also has entered into an agreement to lease land on which its building is located for the next 25 years. Although lease payments have not yet commenced, it is expected that they will in the near future. Minimum rent payments for this lease for each of the next five fiscal years are expected to be \$7,961 per year.

#### 11. Remuneration of senior staff



## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2009

6. Property and equipment	2009			2008	
	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value		Net Book Value
Furniture and equipment	\$ 284,045	\$ 204,537	\$ 79,508	\$	103,817
Building construction in progress	1,419,641	-	1,419,641		27,578
	<u>\$ 1,703,686</u>	<u>\$ 204,537</u>	<u>\$ 1,499,149</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>131,395</u>

#### 7. Bank indebtedness

The Congress has an agreement for an operating line of credit of \$300,000, which expires September 1, 2009. There is no balance outstanding on the line of credit at March 31, 2009. For security on the operating line of credit, see Note 9.

8. Deferred revenue	2009	2008
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ -	\$ 261,646
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	110,200	528,863
Health Canada	400,000	172,650
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	723,544	636,000
Aboriginal Business Canada	-	51,375
	<u>\$ 1,233,744</u>	<u>\$ 1,650,534</u>

#### 9. Long term debt

Prime plus 1.5% mortgage with Peace Hills Trust, amortized over 20 years, payable in equal monthly instalments of \$8,534 including principal and interest.

	2009	2008
	\$ 636,239	\$ -
10.75% term loan with Ulnooweg Development Group Inc., amortized over 7 years, payable in equal in equal monthly instalments of \$3,951 including principal and interest.	238,883	-
	875,122	-
	<u>51,602</u>	<u>-</u>
Less: current portion	<u>\$ 823,520</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2009

#### 12. 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.

#### 13. 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 \$87,971 (2008 - \$69,285).

- (b) The Congress remits Band Employee Benefits on behalf of employees and as of March 31, 2009, all remittances for Band Employee Benefits are up to date.

#### 14. Subsequent events

- (a) The Congress has entered into a loan agreement with Ulnooweg Development Group Inc. for \$152,250 on June 1, 2009 bearing interest at 10.75%, amortized over 7 years.

- (b) The Congress was also advanced an additional \$412,677 of their loan with Peace Hills Trust. This loan bears interest at prime plus 1.5% and is amortized over 20 years.

#### 15. Comparative figures

Certain of the 2008 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial statement presentation adopted for 2009.





# 2008 - 2009 Financial Statements

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations - Administration

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 447,184	\$ 516,232
Dalhousie University	-	56,319
Health Canada (recovery)	-	(3,300)
HST recoverable	198,233	260,928
Miscellaneous	46,232	12,181
Interest	4,084	7,138
	695,733	849,498
Transfers from All Chiefs Forum and Executive	(167,380)	(289,849)
	528,353	559,649
Expenses		
Accommodations	35,260	26,585
Advertising and promotional materials	12,914	26,372
Catering	7,131	13,227
Communications	66,009	66,964
Contractors, researchers, technical support	34,066	54,731
Dues and fees	13,936	6,361
Equipment and room rentals	2,215	2,215
Equipment leases	14,013	3,875
Incidentals	3,512	5,957
Insurance	2,041	1,695
Interest and bank charges	9,218	3,850
Library resources	527	2,264
Meals	29,564	44,028
Office supplies and postage	37,231	48,369
Professional fees	82,609	44,546
Rent and facilities	107,238	84,382
Salary and benefits	525,575	494,051
Staff training and relocation	13,154	18,017
Travel	15,770	75,992
	1,011,983	1,023,481
Overhead allocations:		
Housing and Water	(44,869)	(50,627)
Social	(10,323)	(9,611)
Health	(223,229)	(145,469)
Fisheries	(92,822)	(64,901)
Economic	(97,776)	(76,721)
Community Planning	(30,410)	(28,160)
Residential Schools	-	(17,865)
	512,554	630,127
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 15,799	\$ (70,478)

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations – Housing and Water

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	\$ 58,731	\$ 40,000
Environment Canada	-	21,000
Health Canada	24,345	28,050
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	405,929	427,243
	489,005	516,293
Expenses		
Accommodations	41,938	42,069
Advertising and promotional materials	100	-
Catering	13,413	5,268
Communications	17,839	6,228
Contractors, researchers, technical support	82,884	239,631
Dues and fees	622	-
Equipment and room rental	8,747	3,475
Incidentals	10,029	4,911
Meals	27,344	19,804
Office supplies and postage	760	-
Overhead allocated from administration	44,869	50,627
Salaries and benefits	173,159	143,234
Staff training and relocation	2,310	-
Travel	69,548	41,653
	493,562	556,900
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (4,557)	\$ (40,607)

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations – Social

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Health Canada	\$ -	\$ 15,388
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	59,250	72,000
Miscellaneous	54,000	2,500
	113,250	89,888
Expenses		
Accommodations	22,464	20,584
Catering	3,606	9,401
Communications	3,139	1,422
Contractors, researchers, and technical support	4,499	11,002
Equipment and room rental	2,400	7,803
Incidentals	6,078	5,809
Meals	13,192	12,101
Office supplies and postage	31	-
Overhead allocated from administration	10,323	9,611
Salaries and benefits	34,162	-
Travel	13,660	27,986
	113,554	105,719
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (304)	\$ (15,831)

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations – All Chiefs Forums and Executive

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	\$ 73,967	\$ 60,000
Health Canada	105,365	102,298
	179,332	162,298
Expenses		
Accommodations	96,716	133,318
Catering	36,672	23,970
Contracts	14,000	10,556
Equipment and room rental	25,410	22,836
Incidentals	28,153	37,622
Meals	49,381	71,011
Office supplies and postage	14	284
Professional fees	2,536	-
Travel	93,830	152,550
	346,712	452,147
Transfer to administration	(167,380)	(289,849)
	179,332	162,298
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ -







# 2008 - 2009 Financial Statements

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations - Health

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency	\$ -	\$ 8,800
Health Canada	2,391,910	1,594,565
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	-	8,800
Miscellaneous	48,750	20,814
	<u>2,440,660</u>	<u>1,632,979</u>
Expenses		
Accommodations	121,412	144,002
Advertising and promotional materials	10,341	37,031
Bank and service charges	-	77
Catering	109,100	123,365
Communications	17,585	20,366
Contractors, researchers, and technical support	1,254,071	421,947
Dues and fees	3,824	1,702
Equipment and room rental	23,889	28,755
Incidentals	18,586	26,499
Library resources	1,339	1,820
Meals	54,003	72,649
Office supplies and postage	14,479	32,463
Overhead allocated from administration	223,229	145,469
Per diem	4,325	1,103
Rent and facilities	1,520	175
Salaries and benefits	400,784	258,439
Staff training and relocation	425	-
Travel	196,612	284,296
	<u>2,455,524</u>	<u>1,600,158</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	\$ (14,864)	\$ 32,821

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations - Fisheries

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	\$ 1,208,130	\$ 772,734
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	61,125	23,600
Miscellaneous	-	4,000
	<u>1,269,255</u>	<u>800,334</u>
Expenses		
Accommodations	21,997	26,804
Advertising and promotional materials	927	2,064
Catering	6,639	11,748
Communications	15,396	8,214
Contractors, researchers, and technical support	558,869	340,933
Dues and fees	5,761	-
Equipment and room rental	2,447	5,559
Equipment leases	2,000	12,000
Incidentals	3,353	4,529
Meals	9,758	14,303
Office supplies and postage	20,500	18,956
Overhead allocated from administration	92,822	64,901
Professional fees	1,500	3,000
Rent and facilities	7,500	11,004
Salaries and benefits	354,198	240,344
Staff training and relocation	1,584	-
Travel	164,084	55,512
	<u>1,269,336</u>	<u>819,871</u>
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (80)	\$ (19,537)

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations - Economic

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency	\$ 204,135	\$ 153,476
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	881,828	598,908
Miscellaneous	30,000	72,865
	<u>1,115,963</u>	<u>825,249</u>
Expenses		
Accommodations	84,820	74,376
Advertising and promotional materials	5,734	6,032
Catering	44,030	30,900
Communications	7,043	11,761
Contractors, researchers, and technical support	362,752	202,414
Dues and fees	1,294	10,751
Equipment and room rental	15,916	5,805
Incidentals	18,758	14,833
Meals	44,588	41,984
Office supplies and postage	2,500	1,027
Overhead allocated from administration	97,776	76,721
Salary and benefits	257,073	206,060
Staff training and relocation	6,974	-
Travel	165,360	161,271
	<u>1,114,618</u>	<u>843,935</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 1,345	\$ (18,686)

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations – Community Planning

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency	\$ 54,000	\$ -
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	61,000	414,000
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	5,100	-
Environment Canada	5,100	-
Health Canada	25,000	-
Miscellaneous	115,783	-
	<u>265,983</u>	<u>414,000</u>
Expenses		
Accommodations	47,585	9,040
Advertising and promotional materials	13,602	-
Catering	89,287	3,986
Communication	-	1,423
Contractors, researchers, and technical support	54,173	243,583
Dues and fees	-	750
Equipment and room rental	29,155	1,560
Incidentals	9,118	1,712
Meals	20,442	5,202
Office supplies and postage	1,194	660
Overhead allocated from administration	30,410	28,160
Travel	39,539	13,679
	<u>334,505</u>	<u>309,755</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	\$ (68,522)	\$ 104,245

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat

### Schedule of operations – Residential Schools

Year ended March 31	2009	2008
Revenues		
Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Assembly First Nations	-	26,599
Health Canada	22,166	93,625
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada	215,000	369,948
Miscellaneous	-	20,580
	<u>237,166</u>	<u>530,752</u>
Expenses		
Accommodations	14,078	54,840
Advertising and promotional materials	2,036	10,504
Catering	5,071	63,416
Communications	4,549	12,367
Contractors, researchers, and technical support	26,864	61,721
Dues and fees	-	1,334
Equipment leases	2,000	4,000
Equipment and room rental	8,281	14,587
Incidentals	1,612	10,297
Meals	5,197	30,123
Office supplies and postage	1,636	3,964
Overhead allocated from administration	-	17,865
Per diem	-	200
Professional fees	2,000	4,000
Rent and facilities	2,271	4,000
Salary and benefits	144,510	186,646
Travel	26,319	90,889
	<u>246,424</u>	<u>570,753</u>
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (9,258)	\$ (40,001)







# 2008 - 2009 Financial Statements

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Schedule of Federal Government Funding

Year ended March 31, 2009

Federally funding programs and services directly funded by the Government of Canada	Federal Funding Received	Unexpended Federal Funding Beginning of Year	Adjustments / Transfers	Total Federal Funding Available	Federal Funding Expended	Payable to Funder for Unexpended Funding	Unexpended Federal Funding End of Year
<b>INAC</b>							
Economic Development	\$ 715,385	\$ 207,520	\$ -	\$ 923,285	\$ 891,578	\$ 31,707	\$ -
Indian Government Support	648,883	19,250	-	668,133	641,401	26,732	-
Community Infrastructure	371,452	34,476	-	405,928	405,928	-	-
	1,735,700	261,646	-	1,997,346	1,938,907	58,439	-
<b>Health Canada</b>							
Health Services	690,644	-	-	690,644	659,644	31,000	-
Aboriginal Headstart	12,650	-	-	12,650	12,650	-	-
Brighter Futures	-	13,150	-	13,150	13,150	-	-
Environmental Health Program	24,345	-	-	24,345	24,345	-	-
National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP)	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
NIHB Navigation	57,805	-	-	57,805	57,805	-	-
Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative (AHHRI)	882,179	59,000	-	941,179	641,179	-	300,000
Aboriginal Health Transition Fund	411,159	-	-	411,159	311,159	-	100,000
National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS)	20,684	-	-	20,684	20,684	-	-
Indian Residential Schools	761,416	-	-	761,416	635,416	126,000	-
Maternal Child Health	92,254	100,500	-	192,754	192,754	-	-
	2,963,136	172,650	-	3,135,786	2,568,786	167,000	400,000
<b>CMHC</b>							
Non-profit on-reserve housing	63,831	-	-	63,831	63,831	-	-
<b>Fisheries and Oceans</b>							
	789,467	528,863	-	1,318,330	1,208,130	-	110,200
<b>National Resources (Environment Canada)</b>							
	5,100	-	-	5,100	5,100	-	-
<b>Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada</b>							
	215,000	-	-	215,000	215,000	-	-
<b>Aboriginal Business Canada</b>							
	-	51,375	-	51,375	51,375	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,772,234</b>	<b>\$ 1,014,534</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,786,768</b>	<b>\$ 6,051,129</b>	<b>\$ 225,439</b>	<b>\$ 510,200</b>

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Schedule of revenues and expenses – INAC Contribution Funding

Year ended March 31, 2009

Service code description	Business Plan Development 4621	Decision Making Gov.Cap.Dev. 1902	RLEMP Training & Capacity Dev. 3217	Community Employment 4167	FN & Inuit Training & Mentoring 4194	FN & Inuit Devel. & Issemin. Ref. & Info.Material 4198	FN & Inuit Access to Professional Services 4199	Circuit Rider Training Program 4524	Safe Water Operations Program (SWOP) 4526	Contribution Funding TOTAL
INAC contribution funding per confirmation	\$ 51,375	\$ 40,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 270,505	\$ 134,860	\$ 250,000	\$ 225,500	\$ 135,157	\$ 1,228,397
Other sources of government funding and other revenues	-	-	204,983	48,750	-	-	122,706	-	-	376,439
	51,375	40,000	265,983	108,750	270,505	134,860	372,706	225,500	135,157	1,604,836
Contribution funding expended										
Administration	(3,942)	3,649	30,410	10,660	21,322	12,227	44,859	20,528	12,363	152,076
Advertising and promotion	-	-	13,602	4,050	-	990	694	100	-	19,436
Communication	-	-	-	1,696	2,838	1,010	1,499	16,506	-	23,549
Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,035	-	-	9,035
Contracts	56,464	699	54,173	35,740	50,619	38,839	218,885	2,250	26,054	483,723
Dues and fees	-	-	-	645	649	-	-	622	-	1,916
Meeting and travel expenses	7,103	29,293	235,126	4,471	114,367	58,825	125,601	68,514	52,787	696,087
Office supplies	-	-	1,190	-	3	-	2,497	614	36	4,340
Professional fees	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Salaries and benefits	-	6,500	-	60,000	82,025	22,602	86,195	114,369	44,755	416,446
Staff training	-	-	-	-	2,790	-	4,185	2,310	-	9,285
	61,125	40,141	334,501	117,262	274,613	134,463	483,450	225,813	135,995	1,817,393
Sub-total	(9,750)	(141)	(68,518)	(8,512)	(4,108)	367	(120,744)	(313)	(838)	(212,557)
Less payable to INAC, March 31, 2009	-	-	-	-	31,707	-	-	-	-	31,707
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	\$ (9,750)	\$ (141)	\$ (68,518)	\$ (8,512)	\$ (35,815)	\$ 367	\$ (120,744)	\$ (313)	\$ (838)	\$ (244,264)



## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Schedule of Health Canada Funding

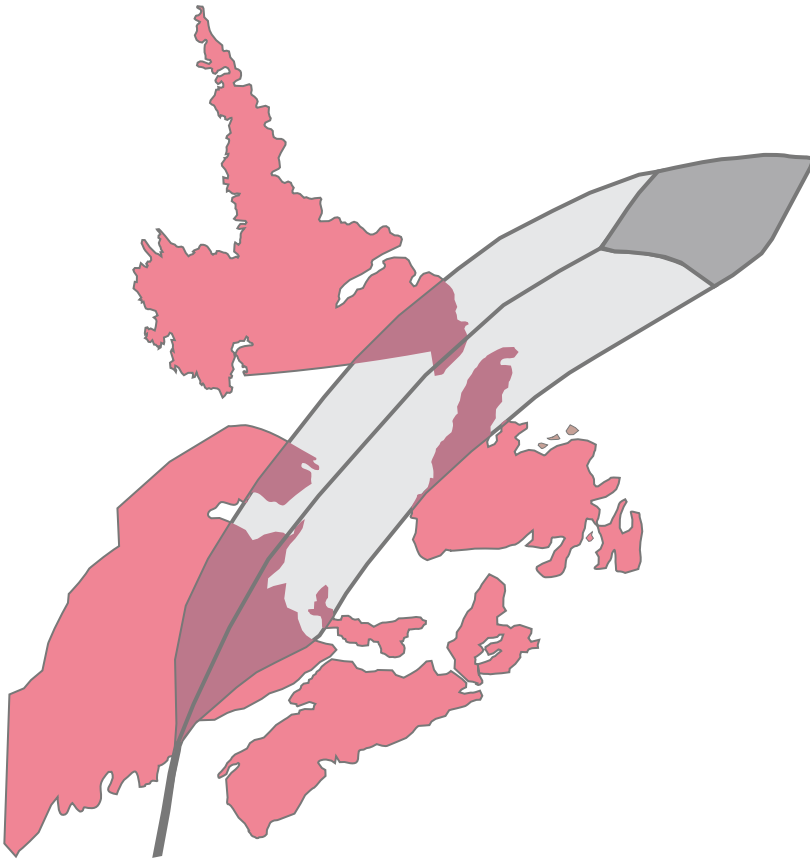
Year ended March 31, 2009

	Funding Received	Unexpended Federal Funding Beginning of Year	Adjustments / Transfers	Total Funding Available	Funding Expended	Payable to Health Canada for Unexpended Funding	Unexpended Funding End of Year
<b>AT0800006-A07</b>							
Brighter Futures (BF)	\$ -	\$ 13,150	\$ -	\$ 13,150	\$ 13,150	\$ -	\$ -
<b>AT0800008-A07</b>							
Health Services (HS)	690,644	-	-	690,644	659,644	31,000	-
Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Mental Health Support Program	761,416	-	-	761,416	635,416	126,000	-
National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP)	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve (AHSOR)	12,650	-	-	12,650	12,650	-	-
NIHB Navigation	57,805	-	-	57,805	57,805	-	-
Environmental Health Program (EHDWSP)	24,345	-	-	24,345	24,345	-	-
Total for Agreement AT0900008-A07	1,556,860	-	-	1,556,860	1,389,860	167,000	-
<b>AT0800147</b>							
Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF)	109,600	-	-	109,600	59,600	-	50,000
<b>AT0900002</b>							
Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF)	301,559	-	-	301,559	251,559	-	50,000
<b>AT0900008-A07</b>							
National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS)	20,684	-	-	20,684	20,684	-	-
Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)	882,179	59,000	-	941,179	641,179	-	300,000
Maternal Child Health (MCH)	92,254	100,500	-	192,754	192,754	-	-
Total for Agreement AT0900008-A07	995,117	159,500	-	1,154,617	854,617	-	300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,963,136</b>	<b>\$ 172,650</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,135,786</b>	<b>\$ 2,568,786</b>	<b>\$ 167,000</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Schedule of revenues and expenses – Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Year ended March 31, 2009

	AAROM FP-860-08-1008 DFO AAROM	AICFI-BDT-2.1 FP-860-070133 DFO-AICFI(BDT)21	AICFI-FMS-2.2 FP-860-070141 DFO-AICFI-FMS22	AICFI Mentoring-2.4 FP-860-080104 DFO-AICFI-Ment24	INAC Integrated Seafood	Total
Revenues						
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	\$ 189,000	\$ 528,863	\$ 417,154	\$ 73,113	\$ 61,125	\$ 1,208,130
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	-	-	-	-	61,125	61,125
	189,000	528,863	417,154	73,113	61,125	1,269,255
Expenses						
Accommodations	11,327	-	5,273	2,979	2,418	21,997
Accounting, audit and legal	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,500
Administration	10,000	29,167	50,949	6,647	(3,942)	92,821
Advertising and promotional material	5,291	-	1,348	928	-	928
Catering	3,770	-	9,840	1,786	-	6,639
Communications	26,200	406,552	69,654	-	56,464	558,870
Contracts, researchers, and technical support	620	-	4,966	175	-	5,761
Dues and fees	950	-	1,497	-	-	2,447
Equipment and room rental	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Equipment leases	1,517	-	422	657	757	3,353
Incidentals	4,301	-	1,517	2,562	1,378	9,758
Meals	14,500	-	6,000	-	-	20,500
Office supplies and postage	7,500	-	-	-	-	7,500
Rent and facilities	89,361	-	217,381	47,456	-	354,198
Salaries and benefits	-	-	981	603	-	1,584
Staff training and relocation	13,663	93,144	47,406	7,320	2,550	164,083
Travel	189,000	528,863	417,234	73,113	61,125	1,269,335
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (80)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (80)







# 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

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