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4th Quarter 2021 **NEWSLETTER**

Wachiya everyone.

We continue to do extremely well despite the challenges around us. I am very humbled God has granted us protection and strength during our most uncertain times. COVID-19 continues to remain a threat with the new the variants. The layers of protection such as the mandatory self isolation Law, social distancing, and masks have kept our community safe.

Most of us have already received the second dose of the Moderna vaccine. The first dose protects people against severe forms of COVID-19. The second dose increases the vaccine's effectiveness, to provide longer-lasting protection. I encourage everyone who is eligible to take the vaccine.

From the beginning of this pandemic, we have implemented restricted measures to prevent this virus from entering our community. It has been a struggle for everyone, especially on our mental health. Mental health is vital to our well-being.

Since the New Year, it was imperative for leadership to focus more on the mental health challenges. Land base programs and community events were supported through the COVID federal funds. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the individuals and entities that have organized events and programs in our community. I believe when people work together in a strong community with a shared goal and a common purpose, we make a difference!

Moving forward we will continue to adapt the measures we have implemented. The success of the vaccination campaign will implicate on how we ease certain measures and protocols. We are all looking forward to resuming our normal lives soon. I believe we are moving in the right direction.

Finally, the migration of geese has arrived, its the most wonderful time of the year. The spring goose hunt continues to be our foremost traditional activity. It is during this time many young lads harvest their first goose. It is my hope that parents and grandparents had the opportunity to witness and celebrate this special occasion. The taste of fresh sigabon can soothe the soul.

Till then, lets continue to take care of ourselves and each other. Eeyou Istchee remains the safest place to be.

Chief Clarke Shecapio

Wachiyek!

I will present our highlights for January to March 2021. We have faced some hardships this year with the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the ongoing crisis, we still managed to provide some services and programs to our community members by adapting to the safety measures imposed by Public Health.

In January, we received confirmation from the Cree Nation Government and Indigenous Service Canada on a funding agreement concerning the Rapid Housing Initiative. Each community received five housing units from this agreement. The five-plex will be constructed this year in the eastern development area.

The Director of Operations and Treasurers virtual meeting was held on January 27, 2021, at this meeting we were introduced to the hiring of the new Director of Capital Works and Services, Mr. John Longchap. There was a roundtable discussion related to COVID-19 impacts on the 2021 construction season, from these discussions, new construction protocols were recommended in our March 2021 meeting. We reviewed the approved 2021-2022 projects. Our Natural Resources and Development department met with local entrepreneurs on the upcoming capital projects for our community.

We met with the Diocese of Amos on the reconfiguration of the Roman Catholic Mission category III land to category I A lands. The talks between our community and the Diocese of Amos are still ongoing. We will provide you more updates in the coming months.

Meegwetch!

Brenda Weistche, Director General

CREE NATION OF WASKAGANISH

Watchiiya to all Waskaganish residents, this is a brief report on the activities of the finance department for the period of January to March 2021. During this period, we are entering the final quarter of our fiscal year so we concentrate on closing our fiscal year and starting another.

We start to get confirmations of the revenues that we will be receiving for the following year from various sources. We also begin the process of preparing for our budgets for the coming year. This is one of the most time-consuming activities of the year since we have close to over 100 different department or programs to compile budgets for.

We prepare budget for the General Operating Fund which has about 20 departments, the Capital Additions Fund which has over 40 departments, the Special Projects Fund which has over 40 departments and the Rental Housing Department which now has only one department. Our regular work continues during this period but the above is the most significant part of the work during this period.

Steve Diamond, Chief Financial Officer

Our department consists of several units such as; Fire Department, Public Safety, Airport Services, Canada Post Services, Emergency Front-line services.

Our main service for this quarter was from the public safety department. As the pandemic is on-going, our services continued to adapt and provide recommendations to keep our community safe. We have been constantly working on the isolation support, we hired support staff to accommodate the workforce demand.

It has surely given a lot more tasks withing the public safety department and we had given the fire department additional tasks to mitigate the increased tasks. As for the other departments, we had continued to provide services full time with safety measures in place. The highlight was to help out the vaccination roll out that was provided by Public Health, it required planning and meetings to make the campaign run effectively. Lastly, we still stress for everyone to keep safe and be vigilant. We will one day overcome the pandemic.

Ryan Erless, Director of Community Services

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation funding (CMHC) for 2020-2021 employed five Youth. The Internship includes opportunities to benefiting new skills consisting of housing administration, maintenance, and repairs. The rental housing department integrated the trainees to provide on-the-job training to gain as much experience as to seek future employment or further training. The trainees were 15-30. The training schedule started in September to March 2021.

The Rental Housing Department provided the tools for each assignment and the safety wear. They were partnered with one of the maintenance workers to assist with repairs to learn about carpentry, plumbing, plastering, painting, electrical, and other housing tasks. The Program ran successfully for the year. We were committed to giving the essential skills to help Youth decide their future based on the training they had in our Department.

The program finished in March of 2021, the funding will continue, for it has been ongoing consistently for many years. We will continue to provide employment and training to help our Youth choose a career for their future.

Thank you!

Marty Cowboy, Director of Housing

Greetings Community Members,

I extend my wishes to all community members for a safe and prosperous New Year!

The Public Works Department continues in providing essential services to the community throughout the pandemic.

Our schedules are ongoing in providing services to our community such as sanitation collection, snow clearing, and water operations.

The snow removal operations commenced on January 18th; local entrepreneurs provided us with dump trucks making our work to be efficient.

We stress to all community members to please be extra cautious when entering snow removal operation work sites.
We plan to remove snowbanks around corners and eventually on all the streets.

Compared to previous years we had very little snow and a mild winter.

Let us continue as a community to follow all precautionary measures, protocols, and regulations regarding the covid-19, together we will get through this.

Meegwetch and be safe!

Willie Shecapio, Director of Public Works

In January 2021, the governing body of the James Bay Minor Hockey League and the James Bay Minor Broomball League made the decision to officially cancel all league games. The cancellation of the season was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cree Nation Government and public health instituted a lockdown from December 2020 to mid February 2021. We ceased all programs, events and activities involving gatherings. My staff resorted to social media and the local radio station to carry out activities. The community members were engaged through online quizzes, trivia questions, and video competitions.

In mid February 2021, scaled-down versions of our programming resumed. A maximum of 50 people were permitted to attend indoor gatherings. Despite all the restrictions, our department hosted hockey tournaments, broomball tournaments, volleyball tournaments, and other public events.

The Sports Academy ran programming throughout the year with restrictions on numbers. Initially, the number was at 10 participants. However, that number was increased to 25 for the remainder of the year.

We engaged extra workers at all public recreation facilities to help with enforcement of the COVID-19 safety protocols.

We also outsourced for a commissioner to run a local senior men's hockey league. The league had four teams and ran for several weeks. League champions were crowned at the beginning of April 2021. Outsourcing is something we are planning to do more of.

At the end of March 2021, our department hosted a trappers' festival. This was one of the first public events to be held since March 2019.

Charles J. Hester, Director of Culture Sports and Leisure

Greetings everyone,

It is with pleasure to report to you some of the Human Resources activities that took place from January to March 2021.
Recruitment activities that took place were the following hirings for the job positions (some were effective April 2021):

Job Position Title	Department/ Work Location
Assistant Pool Maintenance Worker	Culture, Sports & Leisure/Band office, Swimming pool
Beneficiary & Membership Clerk (1 year contract)	Social Health Development/ Band office
Grande Alliance Community Information Officer (1 year contract)	Natural Resources & Development/ Band office
Youth Prevention Programs Administrator (1 year contract)	Social Health Development/ band office
Airport Manager	Community Services/ Airport
Electrician Apprentice (1 year contract)	Public Works/ Garage
Deputy Fire Chief	Community Services/ Fire Hall

One of our training and development activities was a group of employees completed the virtual Records Management training. HR is working on a guideline to be used for managing our records. To ensure our policies are aligned with employment laws, we continue to review and work on new or existing policies.
Meegwetch.

Betty Blueboy, Director of Huma Resources

Wachiiyeh,

The department of Social Health Development has done its best to remain consistent in offering programs and services for our members, even with the uncertainties and difficulties that were present due to COVID 19. We have strived to remain proactive while promoting innovation in the way we deliver programs and services. I would like to applaud my staff for their efforts, and the community members for respecting the protocols that were put in place to ensure that our programs are successful, and services to be efficient.

Below is a brief summary of programs and services for the months of January – March.

Social Health Coordinator
Indian Day School Claims: Assisted approximately 350 individuals since the claim process began.

Grocery Discount Program: New program introduced in March 2021

Waskaganish Student Engagement: In school education/social programs for high school students

School workshop: Turtle concepts – Confidence 101 March 2021

Youth Programs Coordinator
Youth Work Experience Program: 20 youth hired
Community Employment Skills: 6 youth hired
Part-time Work Experience Program: 3 youth hired

Youth Prevention Administrator
Provided funding support for the Youth Winter Healing Journey – April 2021

Youth Council
Vaccine Campaign, collaborations with Waskaganish Strong, and Community Help line

Various Leisure activities throughout February and, January, and two firearms safety courses for Youth.

Asshuumih winter journey follow by a feast

Youth Healing Week – Workshops and counselling services for Youth

Social Benefits Clerk
Application assistance for child tax, Birth certificates, SIN numbers.

Providing band and beneficiary numbers, and proof of residency

Beneficiary and band transfers

Jordan Stephen, Director of Social Health and Development

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