Whacheeyek Too-themak, my people and readers. It's been over a year since I came into office as your Grand Chief and it has been extremely busy. One year just flew by like it was yesterday. Though it was extremely challenging and busy, I really enjoy what I do. I want to thank my God for his protection and many blessings and also to my wife and family for their support. I know it’s been hard at times for them being away from home and also being worried about my health, safety and wellbeing.

I would also like to say thank you to the staff who have been extremely helpful on the files which we have been working on. I am delighted that we have made many headways and positive progress over the year. I could not do it alone. I believe if I was not surrounded by the staff with their expertise, we would not be where we are at today but in saying that we still have a long journey ahead of us. In this Weehtahmahkehwin edition, I would like to highlight some files we have worked on over the last year.

We are extremely pleased that we were successful in lobbying to start up the Mushkegowuk Youth Department. Now the staffing of this very important department is complete, I’m very anxious to see them to get to work. To work with our Youth in our communities. I am very confident that they will be successful and I look forward to work with them. Since the closing of the Mushkegowuk Youth Department years ago, there was a void and that is why as a Grand Chief I lobbied hard to get the funding from the Government and I am thankful they saw the need of this service that is so needed in our communities.

The office of the Grand Chief/Deputy Grand Chief didn’t have a Health Policy Advisor in their office for so long for support and we are pleased that we will have a staff member in that position to support us as we deal with the health issues in our region. Health is a priority and we continue to address it. Again, we lobbied long and hard to justify why this position is needed and this file is important.
We were also successful to have our own Mushkegowuk Regional Table on climate change. The Province has committed to a 3 year process to resource our table and I am certain we will also get involved nationally and internationally. Climate change is inevitable and is happening now and it’s been happening for a few years now.

“THE NORTH WILL NOT BE IMMUNE TO CLIMATE. THERE IS A STILL A LOT TO LEARN HOW IT WILL IMPACT OUR WAY OF LIFE...

Research has to be done and difficult decisions will have to be made. We are proud that we will do our own research and drive our process and there is a lot of work that needs to be done and community information, education and consultation will be key to this process.

For many years there has been discussion of establishing a regional government. We need to start have discussions in what is a regional government, how will it be structured that will conducive and inclusive recognizing and respecting the autonomy of our respective First Nations. I believe this is the way forward. This way we control our own destiny. We control what happens on our lands and communities with our laws and processes. The only way this can happen by moving forward in unity in which sometimes is difficult but I believe it can be done.

Child Welfare is another big issue that has been around and discussion for many years. There has be a lot of discussions what the issues are and finding ways to address this issue. I will be blunt and honest in my own opinion. Trying to work within the legislative framework as it is currently is will not work. The legislation will still be the shackles of addressing the present system. As a Grand Chief, I will seek the mandate from our general assembly to move towards jurisdiction of our children.

For far too long, we have discussed and tried to fix and fit into a system that breaks up families and threatens the wellbeing of our families.

This past summer I was very humbled and honored to witness our Youth in action when they met with Prime Minster Justin Trudeau. I felt good watching my young leaders in action knowing I will be in good hands. It has been the first time in history a Prime Minister to take the time to meet the young People and I am certain that the youth felt proud to speak to the issues they are facing in their communities and lives. It was a powerful and I am extremely proud to be there.

They were also to have a meeting with a few MP's of the Government and also to meet with the Senate. After the meeting with the senate, we were all invited to the Senate Chamber and there Justice/Senator Murray Sinclair acknowledged our Youth which was very moving.

There have been many meetings that I attended. Meeting with the Premier a few times and also meeting with various Ministers. I was also in Ottawa to make a presentation to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal issues. There was Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of NAN, Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, John Cutfeet from Sioux Lookout Health, Dr. Kerlaw and myself. We spoke about the state of health in the north and we talked about the transformation that needs to take place.

There are many things on the go and as we continue to work towards a better future of healthy and thriving communities and region, we will keep you abreast and informed.

I would like to wish you all the very best and if you go out on the land to hunt, please stay safe and good luck and God bless.

Meeg wetch, Gitchie Whokihmahcan

Submitted by Grand Chief Jonathan Solomon
Hello! Whachay! To all Readers

This time of year we are approaching hunting season for goose and moose, it is a time of harvesting and spending time together on the land. Please stay safe in handling of your guns, especially for our young hunters, we want them to have an enjoyable learning experience.

This first year in office has gone so fast and we are continuing to thrive for a stronger, healthier and better future for our communities. I believe by working together we can achieve great things, we must always look forward and be solution oriented. We are a compassionate people and we want to do this work accordingly for our grassroots people.

At Mushkegowuk we have not had a Health department for quite some time and we are actively trying to re-establish this unit and are in the process of hiring a Health Advisory Advisor to do work this area. We need to provide our communities with a good support system for all of the seven communities we serve. We are trying our best to look for ways to help our youth who need the help they require. We are about solutions. We also need to work together in solving this complex issue that is hurting our people, our youth and middle age people as well. Also, how do we connect our Elders and our Youth?

Education is also a component that is thriving to support our community schools in helping them move forward with their initiative, they are looking for opportunities to include Language and Culture into our schools for our young people.

Please have a safe hunting season, take care!

From the office of Deputy Grand Chief
Greetings to everyone and welcome to our 2016 Fall edition of the Weehtamakaywin. It is our hope that this newsletter will provide you with some important information and updates on the major files and projects that we are all working on together. It is not practical to provide you with full detailed reports in this publication, so we encourage you to reach out to us so that we can provide you with more information.

Prior to the Acting Executive Director role, I have been employed as the Special Projects Officer for approximately 6 years. I have been the Acting Executive Director for the past 3 months and as expected, the job is definitely very busy and challenging. I am most grateful to be given the opportunity to work directly with the Council of Chiefs, Grand Chief Jonathon Solomon, Deputy Grand Chief Rebecca Friday and the Mushkegowuk First Nations. As well, I am most thankful to have a team of hard working dedicated staff working with me. As we go forward, we must also continue to keep Donna Seary and Kathy Small and their families in our thoughts and prayers. Both are battling various forms and stages of cancer and are on extended medical leave.

As a result of the new and increased mandates from the communities, your council is a growing regional Mushkegowuk organization. As you will read in the reports, there so much happening at the regional and community levels. Despite the challenges, there seems to be greater opportunities these days to enhance and broaden our programs and services.

Based on our files and assembly resolutions on record, the Mushkegowuk First Nations have been working together on our regional and community issues for approximately 30 years now. And, when you think about it, we have been working on developing our community and regional governance systems for all those years. Throughout these years we have had many achievements and many major challenges.

In looking at our assembly resolutions from the earlier times, I am reminded and encouraged by our courageous leaders of the day. They had a very strong vision and solid aspirations. They stood up and always protected our inherent rights, our treaty agreement, and our homelands. As we find ourselves doing today, they did their very best to improve our quality of life.

To honor our past community and regional leaders, our communities and regional organization, we are including a number of our past assembly resolutions within this newsletter. Our assembly resolutions serve as reminders of our collective will, our collective voice, our regional mandates, and most importantly...“Our Unity.” These resolutions will no doubt raise various opinions and reflections, but all in all, this is our solid foundation for our community and regional Mushkegowuk governance structures.

Mushkegowuk Council Programs/Departments

- Governance Office
- Finance & Administration
- Education
- Employment & Training Services
- Technical Services
- Information Services Department
- Lands and Resources
- Ring of Fire
- Economic Development
- Victim Services
Mushkegowuk Council currently has approximately 55 employees and we expect this number to increase as additional projects are implemented. Our payroll office also provides payroll for Five Nations Energy, Western James Bay Telecom Network, and Wakenagun Community Futures Development, for a total of approximately 75 staff on our payroll system.

Rex Knapaysweet to Head Regional Youth Coordination Unit (RYCU)

We are pleased to report that we have secured funding to re-establish a regional youth department. The RYCC will work with First Nation communities in the Mushkegowuk region to support and connect youth with positive life opportunities. The RYCU will work with youth to amplify their voice, build community capacity to engage youth, and plan for key programs and granting opportunities to increase opportunities for youth. And, we are even more pleased to announce that Rex Knapaysweet from Fort Albany has been hired as the Regional Coordinator for the RYCU. We take this opportunity to thank the Ontario’s Ministry of Children & Youth Services for providing funding support for our RYCU.

Health Department

Health Canada recently approved funding for 2.5 years to hire a Regional Health Policy Advisor and an administrative assistant. We are also exploring and trying to secure funding to establish regional mental wellness services. Hopefully this will be the beginning of what may turn out to be a health department that will have the capacity to take on the delivery of some health programs.

Health Policy Advisor (summary of the position)

Provide strategic direction, leadership, advice and management support for related health services for the Mushkegowuk Council and Mushkegowuk First Nations. Will ensure that strategic policy analysis and strategic planning are completed related to all health issues impacting the Mushkegowuk area, including provincial and federal First Nation health initiatives. The Health Policy Advisor will support the Council of Chiefs by providing analysis of provincial and federal legislation pertaining to the Mushkegowuk region. He/she will liaise with other political territorial organizations to facilitate a cooperative approach to achieving the political goals of the organization. Additionally, he/she will provide briefings, updates and position papers to the Executive on selected areas of interest.

We also conducted a Regional Health Summit in March 2016 and a report was completed and efforts are being made to address the report recommendations.

"OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS ON THE REAL AGREEMENT IS LIKELY THE REASON FOR THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AND GROWTH TODAY..."

Mushkegowuk – Ontario Treaty Relationship Roundtable (TRR)

The Mushkegowuk – Ontario TRR (from the Mushkegowuk perspective) is to engage Ontario in discussing and working towards honoring and implementing the James Bay Treaty, including an emphasis on the Oral Promises. After 3 years of discussing and developing an agreement, the TRR Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was officially signed on November 26, 2015. The TRR MOU, the only one in Ontario, provides the governments of the Mushkegowuk First Nations and Ontario the opportunity to discuss treaty relations and to undertake various projects that are deemed treaty related. As agreed to in the MOU, Ontario continues to provide funding to address the TRR work plan activities.
At the March 24/16 Treaty Roundtable with the Minister Aboriginal Affairs Minister Zimmer, the Council of Chiefs presented Mushkegowuk’s Treaty Based Regional Governance Initiative and presented this project as our priority under the Treaty Roundtable. The current TRR workplan reflects this priority, along with other projects and activities that include:

- Engage communities on governance (community and regional) development
- Develop the James Bay Treaty Curriculum
- Treaty Conference/commemoration event
- Develop and distribute Treaty Awareness materials
- Treaty awareness presentations
- Implement communications plan to disseminate treaty awareness material to public forums.
- Dialogue with municipal mayors and councils on the Treaty.
- Begin process of establishing a Treaty Research Centre.
- Engage Federal Government in Roundtable discussions.
- Review and assessment of MOU. Preparation for potential renewable discussions.
- Coordinate TRR with Minister & Chiefs – November 2016.

In the TRR MOU there is a clause that recognizes the importance and requirement for the Federal Government to be part of the TRR. The office of the Grand Chief submitted a letter and made several verbal invitations to the government of Canada to come to the TRR. As a result, representatives from the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada attended our TRR committee meeting on September 1/16 as observers. Based on what they observed at this meeting they will decide on whether they will be participants in the TRR.

The next TRR between the Council of Chiefs and Ontario is schedule for early November 2016. At this meeting the Chiefs will need to assess the effectiveness and the future of this MOU. This TRR MOU is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2017 and our leadership will need to determine what they want to do with this TRR.

Regional Justice Program

The Ministry of Attorney General has approved funding to hire a Regional Justice Liaison Officer for our area. The Liaison Officer will be responsible for coordinating the community justice programs to ensure that the programs are effective and meet all legislative and community justice requirements.

At the writing of this update, the hiring of the Regional Justice Liaison was in progress. Funding for this position is provided by the Ministry of Attorney General.

Policing (NAPS)

On September 15th, NAPS and its union reached a tentative agreement and avoided a looming strike. In the past weeks the Office of the Grand Chief has been working to help ensure that backup plans would be in place if a strike occurred. Grand Chief Solomon has also spoken out in the media about the inequality between NAPS and non-Indigenous police services, has supported the NAPS officers’ demands, and has put pressure on the governments to come to the table. Although the agreement is not yet public, the federal and provincial governments must have offered to meet key officer demands, such as increasing NAPS salaries to match OPP salaries. The deal will help improve policing in the communities by reducing turnover and helping NAPS retain its best and most experienced officers.

Mushkegowuk Council has also been continuing in special talks with Ontario to find long-term solutions to improve policing in our communities. Two key priorities for Mushkegowuk Council are to replace the dilapidated and unsafe police officer housing and increase the number of
officers. Unfortunately, Ontario put this work on hold while it was dealing with the strike situation. Grand Chief Solomon recently (Sept. 16/16) submitted a letter to Minister David Orazietti (Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services) expressing our dissatisfaction with the lack of results after so many years of talks. In the letter, Grand Chief Solomon states “if nothing has comes out of this process to address the very serious issues raised in our human rights case, we will have no choice but to return to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal.”

Organizational Review

With assistance from a Canadian Executive Services Organization Volunteer Advisor, we are currently conducting an internal organizational review of the Mushkegowuk Council. The purpose of organizational review is to find ways to improve the organization in terms of most effective and efficient operation and the delivery of services to the communities. The Council of Chiefs will be given the opportunity to provide input into this work also. The final report with recommendations will be presented to the Council of Chiefs at a later date.

Respectfully Submitted by Doug Cheechoo

TREATY 9 ORAL PROMISES

Summary:

When Treaty 9 was first explained and presented for signature to First Nations in 1905 and 1906, the Treaty commissioners made numerous oral promises and assurances to the First Nations representatives to secure their agreement to the Treaty. These oral promises were contemporaneously recorded in the reports, diaries and other writings of these same government representatives. The Treaty 9 commissioners repeatedly promised the First Nations representatives that after signing the Treaty, they could continue to hunt and fish anywhere they pleased, that their traditional means of livelihood would continue after the Treaty as before, and that this livelihood would not be interfered with in any way.

In Canadian law, oral promises made at the time a Treaty is signed are legally binding. Given the strength of the Treaty 9 oral promises, and the considerable amount of supporting documentary evidence, these promises are likely to dramatically expand the legally recognized scope and strength of First Nations’ hunting and harvesting rights under the Treaty compared to what has been recognized in the past. These promises are likely to have very major effects on how development decisions will be made in this region in the years to come, if these legal promises are respected.

The Bottom Line: Oral Treaty Promises are Binding as Terms of the Treaty

Oral promises made by government representatives at the time a Treaty is signed are legally binding. Such promises are considered by the courts to be “oral terms” of the Treaty. These “oral terms” may be the source of further Treaty rights and obligations not recorded in the written Treaty document. The “oral terms” may also be used to interpret or give meaning to the written terms of the Treaty. It would be unconscionable for the government to rely on the written terms of the Treaty alone, when the Treaty was made on the basis of the oral promises offered by the government’s representatives.
The general rules of Treaty interpretation apply to oral Treaty terms: they should be interpreted as they would have naturally been understood by the Indians; they should not be dissected in minute detail or subjected to modern rules of construction; and ambiguous terms should be resolved in a manner favourable to the Indians. A court will look for the common intention of the parties at the time, and select the interpretation of this common intention that best reconciles the interests of the Indians and the Crown at the time of Treaty signing.

Thus, the oral promises made to the Treaty 9 First Nations by the Treaty commissioners in 1905 and 1906 are legally binding. These promises are the “oral terms” of Treaty 9. They carry the same legal force as the written terms, and are interpreted according to the same principles. The government is not allowed to act on the basis of the written terms alone, such as the “taking-up clause,” when to do so would violate the oral promises made to the First Nations. Any violation of these oral terms is an infringement of First Nations’ substantive Treaty rights, and must be strictly justified by the government according to the R. v. Sparrow test.

Direct Quotations of the Treaty 9 Oral Promises:

The following are quotations of the oral promises made to the Treaty 9 First Nations, as recorded in the writings of the government representatives who explained and presented the Treaty. For analytical clarity, these quotations have been organized under three headings corresponding to the three general promises of (1) unrestricted hunting territory, (2) continuity, and (3) non-interference with traditional livelihoods. Quotations that relate to more than one of these general promises have been included under each.

1) No geographic restrictions on hunting:

• “...they were assured that they were not expected to give up their hunting-grounds, that they might hunt and fish throughout all the country, just as they had done in the past” (Osnaburgh, 1905, D.C. Scott article)

• “When it was explained to them that they could hunt and fish as of old and they were not restricted as to territory ... they gladly accepted the situation” (Marten Falls, 1905, D. MacMartin diary)

• “again it was put forcibly before them ... that they could hunt wherever they pleased, they signified their assent” (Marten Falls, 1905, D. MacMartin diary)

• “they could follow their custom of hunting where they pleased” (Moose Factory, 1905, D. MacMartin diary)

• “[the band] had terms of treaty explained to them ... that they were ... allowed as of yore to hunt and fish where they pleased” (New Post, 1905, D. MacMartin diary)

2) Continuity in the nature and scope of hunting rights:

• “...they were assured that they were not expected to give up their hunting-grounds, that they might hunt and fish throughout all the country, just as they had done in the past” (Osnaburgh, 1905, D.C. Scott article)

• “On being informed that they could continue to live as they and their forefathers had done...” (Osnaburgh, 1905, S. Stewart diary)

• “it was explained to them that they could hunt and fish as of old” (Marten Falls, 1905, D. MacMartin diary)

• “the Indians desired full information [as] to the effect the treaty would have on their hunting rights. When assured that these would not be taken from them...” (New Post, 1905, S. Stewart diary)

• “they could follow their custom of hunting where they pleased” (Moose Factory, 1905, D. MacMartin diary)

• “[the band] had terms of treaty explained to them ... that they were ... allowed as of yore to hunt and fish where they pleased” (New Post, 1905, D. MacMartin diary)

• “Ontario ... has conceded the Indians all the hunting and trading privileges which they have ever possessed.” (1906 signatory First Nations: Abitibi, Matachewan, Mattagami, Flying Post, New Brunswick House, and Long Lake; Pelham Edgar, Twelve Hundred Miles by Canoe, 1906)

3) No interference with traditional livelihoods:

• “On being informed that their fears in regard to both these matters [being compelled to live on reserve and being deprived of fishing and hunting privileges] were groundless, as their present manner of making their livelihood would in no way be interfered with...” (Osnaburgh, 1905, official report)

• “…hunting and fishing, in which occupations they were not to be interfered with” (Fort Hope, 1905, official report)
Wachay, to all,

As the days are shortening and nights are cooling, fall weather is in the air. Most of us are anticipating the excitement for the fall harvest season. It’s always good to be out on the land to heal, rejuvenate and to maintain the connection. Tech Services staff would like to wish a safe and successful fall harvest, and would like to kindly remind you to share your harvest with our Elders.

**Regional Housing Strategy Update**

INAC has approved a proposal to create an implementation plan for the 5 strategies and a document called a “Blue Print for Change” will be created. The “Blue Print for Change” will be the road map to implementing the strategies over the next 2 to 3 years.

*Note: All communities will be visited in order to ensure the strategies and the implementation plan reflects the vision and desires of each community.*

**Community consultation is the cornerstone of this Initiative.**

Next Steps:

- Four Winds to submit draft “Blueprint for Change” week of Sept 26-30 2016
- Mushkegowuk has applied to INAC innovation fund to support implementation of the Blueprint for change ie: implement the strategies.
- Approval should be received early September (APPROVED SEPT 16, 2016)

*Note: INAC Personnel actually called the Mushkegowuk project team to ensure that a proposal was submitted.*

Mushkegowuk has gained support from INAC to continue this important initiative so the region can benefit from

- Economic development.
- Building capacity in housing management,
- Create long term employment.
- Operating housing as a business and
- Promoting entrepreneurship on each reserve.

*Note: An MOU was signed with NAN which states any information will be shared with them and to ensure we are not duplicating their proposed plan. In fact their plan is based on an economic development model which will be vastly different from Mushkegowuk’s.*
Proposed Activity – 2016/2017

August/September 2016:

• Project team to submit a draft “Blueprint for Change” document.
• Present the document for review at the 31st AGA in Chapleau Cree First Nation Briefing of outcomes and benefits.

October 2016 to September 2017: Implementation Stage

• Circulate the “Blueprint for Change” document
• Identify project team members from each community to champion the implementation process
• Assess housing development resources
• Create the economic development model
• Assist each community create a 10 and 20-year housing plan or review their existing plans
• Host community sessions
• Host community outreach sessions in Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Cochrane and Thunder Bay
• Project summary report to Mushkegowuk and INAC every 3 months

Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) Inspections

2016 triennial ACRS inspections were completed by Todd Bruyere and Dean Bethune of Saulteaux Consulting and Engineers (SCE). ACRS inspections consists of inspecting all government funded First Nation assets such as roads, education facilities, water treatment plant etc. SEC inspects each asset and provides a thorough report to MCTS and First Nations regarding the condition of each asset. A final report for the inspection is expected to be distributed to the First Nation and MCTS by November 2016.

MCTS/CMHC Skills Development

In partnership with CMHC, MCTS has been coordinating workshops in Timmins throughout the year based off the requests of housing managers from the Mushkegowuk communities. From June 14-16, 2016 two workshops were coordinated which included:

• Section 95 Financial Management
• Developing Effective Housing Policies

On August 30 - September 1, 2016 two more workshops will be provided, which are:

• Tendering and Contract Administration
• Property Management Planning

Moving forward MCTS is looking to provide more training opportunities in Timmins based off the requests and needs of the Mushkegowuk communities.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to anyone of the Technical Services staff, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Ron Hunter, David Iserhoff or Chris Seguin

Meegwetch!

Ryan Small, Director of Technical Services.
All-Season Road Feasibility Study

Mushkegowuk Council is undertaking a Feasibility Study to construct an All-Season Road (ASR) to connect the Communities of Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, Fort Albany, Moose Factory and Moosonee to each other and to the Ontario Highway Network.

Background

A Pre-Feasibility Study (2012) initially identified twenty five (25) possible road corridors for the ASR. Through a technical and environmental analysis, the Study narrowed down the possible options to four (4) inland routes and one (1) coastal route. These routes include:

- Route “A” : located along the Albany River;
- Route “B” : located along Kwataboahagan River;
- Route “C-1” : located along the Mattagami River, then along the Moose River;
- Route “C-2” : located along existing Ontario Northland Railroad to Moosonee; and
- the Coastal Route – common to all options.
Feasibility Study Objectives

This Feasibility Study will build on the results of the previous studies to:

- Gather information for thorough assessment and evaluation of route options;
- Obtain input from community members and facilitate the identification of a preferred route;
- Develop recommended plans for the preferred route; and
- Complete a preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment on the preferred route.

Current Activities

Stage 2A of the ASR Study is underway and will focus on the Assessment and Evaluation of the 4 Roadway Corridor Alternatives. Studies are being undertaken on Ground Conditions; Availability of Granular / Rock Materials for Construction; Social, Economic & Cultural Impacts and Benefits; Biophysical Features; and, Engineering Issues and Costing.

Community Meetings are targeted for Winter 2017 (subject to Funding).

Targeted Study Schedule

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<th>Project Stages</th>
<th>Timing</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start (month/year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1: Project Start-up / Study Design &amp; Data Collection</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2: Alternative Corridors Assessment &amp; Selection</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3: Recommended Plan &amp; Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 4: Final Reporting &amp; Submissions</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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Questions for Community Feedback:

What destinations along or south of Highway 11 (e.g. Geraldton, Calstock/Constance Lake/Hearst, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Timmins, other) are most frequently visited by Community Members?

For what reasons are the above trips made (e.g. for family / community reasons, for economic reasons (employment, selling goods, shopping), for recreation (sports, community events, entertainment), education/training, health care, other?

For More Information Please Contact: Andrew Harkness, Consultant Project Manager, Morrison Hershfield; Tel. 1-877-644-7687; aharkness@morrisonhershfield.com
It was an honour and a privilege to have been able to provide assistance and support to the Youth Walk of Hope as organized by Grand Chief Jonathan Solomon with the Mushkegowuk Council of Chiefs.

Because the Grand Chief knew something had to be done to support our Youth, I had seen this call to action to bring awareness to all the issues affecting not only to our Youth, but to all our First Nations. After all, we are all affected by what is happening in and around our communities. Our Youth look for hope and the guidance needed to release all the anxieties and fears that we may carry. As is to the People and to our leadership, we look for the reason why we live and to be able to see the dawn of a new day, to do better with our lives and continue on with what we are tasked to do instead of carrying those fears. We truly need the guidance of our Ancestors and, most importantly, we need our Elders.

We have so much work to do still – we need to put aside the ‘system’ and bring back the values and knowledge of our People, we need to re-ignite the natural laws to bring about peace and the change that is required from all of us.

Hope is what provides that vision and vision is where we need to take our People!

All My Relations – Kich Chee Meeg wetch Misiway!

Danny Metatawabin, Omushkego Member
Being able to work with maps and GIS every day is an exciting profession. Even more so, is building the capacity in our communities through training and support and bringing GIS to local projects. Our combined expertise allows us to deliver quality work in GIS/GPS solutions, mapping and training. We remain committed to our member First Nations for any requests that come to us and to our Council departments. We continue to support our internal departments with their mapping needs: Lands & Resources programs (Landuse Planning, the Mining Exploration Application process, Ring of Fire, Infrastructure) and Technical Services with the all-season road project.

Our partnership with Mushkegowuk's Education department continues to grow as we bring GIS and GPS to our First Nation schools. Because of the disparity in funding between our schools and those in the rest of the province, our children do not receive equal access to geomatics education. We are bringing technology to the class right from kindergarten to grade 12. We have a new Education Specialist (Adam McKay) who is the lead on that project. The interest from the schools to date has been overwhelmingly positive and we are training 49 of our 79 teachers. We are excited to be bringing drone technology and some other new initiatives to the classrooms this year too!

Sarah initiated the “Ban the Bottle” campaign in the spring. Our planet has become a garbage dump for plastics that do not biodegrade, they simply break down into smaller pieces. Massive garbage patches are littering our oceans and harming all that lives within. “Ban the Bottle” is a campaign aimed at eliminating bottle waste. At the Timmins office, we are a spot for anyone to drop in and have their reusable water bottle filled at no cost. To see who is part of the campaign, follow the map link here: www.banthebottle.net/map-of-campaigns and for more information, please go to www.banthebottle.net. Use reusable bottles!!
In May CreeGeo partnered with Canadore College in North Bay and worked with the First Peoples’ Centre to deliver a GPS, Geocaching event with high-school students from across Ontario. In August we had a great day at Chapleau Cree First Nation, teaching GPS use and Geocaching to their summer students. Geocaching is an excellent way to introduce students to location, the space around them and the science of global positioning.

We continue to build relationships with businesses and other Ontario First Nations to supply them with quality mapping and training as requested on a fee-for-service basis.

As always, funding our department is very time consuming as we continually work on proposals for money to continue our work. Hopefully the new government’s commitment to First Nations will allow for more money to flow to our programs.

Respectfully Submitted by Barb Duffin, Director of Information Services

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From the desk of the Emergency Management Services Coordinator

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Leonard Kapashesit and I am the Emergency Management Services Coordinator for the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, I have been in this position now for 4 years and helping communities in emergency situations is a working passion for me. I work alongside with the Mushkegowuk community’s local fire departments and Emergency Coordinators every annual Spring River break up and other resources from the government.

Fire Prevention week is fast approaching,

This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Don’t Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years,” represents the final year of our three-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety.

Why focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because NFPA’s survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

As a result of those and related findings, we’re addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on these key messages:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Hunting/Gun Safety Tips

Fall season is upon us and it's that time of the year again! Weather its Moose or waterfowl hunting remember these safety tips for safer hunt.

- Always check weather before traveling in the James Bay.
- Wear a Personal Flotation Device (Life Jacket).
- Wear orange or colorful clothing when hunting Moose.
- Always know what is in front of and beyond the target.
- Never play with gun loaded or not.
- Always keep gun pointed in safe direction.
- Camp safety keep candles in safe sturdy candle holder.

Respectfully submitted by Leonard Kapashesit, Emergency Management Services Coordinator
In Partnership with

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

and the

CITY OF TIMMINS,

MUSHKEGOUK COUNCIL

will host the...

NATIONAL GATHERING

OF

TREATIES 1 TO 11 NATIONS

For as long as the sun shines, rivers flow and the grass grows.

“NIPI WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT”

Date: August 2017
Location: Timmins, ON
In this METS section I would like to provide the numbers of participants that were captured in our data base that were funded by our program. I would also like to give a special thanks to my program staff who worked hard in 15/16 and continue to do so in 16/17 and they are; Kathy Small; Clara Whees; Carol Turner; Linda Carey, and Virginia Kamalatisit. Also, in our partnership with Employment Ontario, Bertha Linklater and Juanita Wabano.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY ID</th>
<th># Participants</th>
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<th>Male</th>
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Respectfully Submitted by Bill Louttit, Director of METS
Key Findings:

The cost of feeding a family in northern Canada is twice as much as similar expenditures in the south. The average cost of the Revised Northern Food Basket (RNFB) for a family of four for one month in three northern and remote on reserve communities (Fort Albany, Attawapiskat, and Moose Factory) is $1,793.40.

On-reserve households in Fort Albany must spend at least 50% of their median monthly income in order to purchase a basic nutritious diet. A reasonable assumption must be made, based on food basket calculations and the older household income data available, that Attawapiskat and Moose Factory must do so as well.

The Nutrition North Canada subsidy program, while important, does not lower the cost of food in northern communities to affordable levels.

Food environments in northern and rural Ontario and rural Nova Scotia cannot be compared directly to each other. Each region has unique food environments and cultural contexts that pose distinct challenges to food security. However, there are opportunities to address unacceptably high food insecurity rates using strategies best suited to local contexts.

Assigning a measurable value to wild food is extremely difficult; the sacred, cultural and community value of traditional foods for Indigenous people is incalculable for past, present, and future generations.

The time to act is now. We call on the federal and provincial governments to make access to nutritionally adequate and culturally appropriate food a basic human right in Canada. This can be done through poverty reduction strategies that are tailored to address local and cultural circumstances and premised on a renewed relationship with First Nations that acknowledges and respects Indigenous sovereignty.

Executive Summary:

The hard work of Indigenous grassroots activists has brought a great deal of national and international attention to the food insecurity crisis that exists in many northern, remote, and Indigenous communities in Canada.

This report provides a robust analysis of food costing data in Northern Ontario. The area selected for study, the Mushkegowuk territory (located in northeastern Ontario along the James Bay Coast), is part of Canada's forgotten provincial north. It is difficult to know what the rates of food insecurity are for the provincial norths as no comprehensive study has been undertaken. A discrete 2013 study on Fort Albany First Nation in Northern Ontario reported household food insecurity rates of 70%.

One of the major factors contributing to food insecurity in northern First Nations populations is the elevated cost and affordability of food, whether due to increasing dependence on the market (imported) food system and/or the rising costs of participating in land and water based food-harvesting activities. Many First Nation on-reserve communities located in the provincial Norths are accessible only by plane or sea barge and briefly by seasonal winter ice roads.
The retail cost of food is often prohibitively high, food selection and quality is limited, and communities are usually serviced by only one grocery store. Moreover, very few northern and remote communities have consistent access to the public services that are more common in southern and urban places in Canada that benefit the entire population.

We used food costing as a tool to examine the cost of healthy eating as well as to advance discussions on the affordability of a nutritious diet in on-reserve and rural communities. The rural and northern on-reserve context presents particular challenges regarding the collection of retail food costs. While the Revised Northern Food Basket (RNFB) is designed to provide a more complete picture of the cost of a basic nutritious food basket in northern regions, the National Nutritious Food Basket (NNFB) is often used as the food costing instrument in provincial food costing research. With reserves falling under federal jurisdiction and health remaining a provincial responsibility, this data is not collected by the federal government for on-reserve communities.

Moreover, many believe that the RNFB does not adequately reflect the realities of Northern Canada. To date, no comprehensive data exists on the cost of accessing a healthy diet in the retail food environment for rural and northern on-reserve Indigenous households. This project examined the cost of the RNFB in five northern communities to illustrate the impact of these costs compared to local household incomes. Guided by methodologies of participatory action and collaborative research that are part of the participatory food costing model developed by the Food Action Research Centre (FoodARC) and its partners, this report offers lessons learned on methods for food costing in the provincial Norths. In order to undertake these objectives, we drew on the broad expertise of a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and Community of Practice (CoP) to guide our methodology.

**Recommendations:**

This project exposed many issues requiring action. Any information must be collected in such a manner that respects the sovereignty of First Nations and is owned by the communities from which it is collected. In order to accomplish this, a new type of relationship between government and First Nations is necessary. Adequate resources must be allocated to support community members who experience food insecurity to be meaningfully involved in the research process from the beginning and throughout, including helping to plan the research, collect and interpret data, and share the findings.

1. Expand independent food costing in remote stores.
   1.1. Government agencies must be responsible for collecting food costs and the costs of a basic nutritious diet on an annual basis, as occurred under the previous Food Mail Program.
   1.2. Since NNC already reports data on the RNFB collected from stores, the government must expand the costing list to include essential household items and costs associated with accessing a traditional diet.
   1.3. The NNC subsidy must be expanded to include the 24 out of 32 remote communities in Northern Ontario that currently do not receive the full NNC subsidy. A critical step in this process would begin with a study of the affordability of a nutritious diet in those communities that do not receive the full NNC subsidy.
   1.4. Recommendations for future costings include: recording the NNC subsidy amount listed on the shelf price tag; factoring in retail profit margins (as per the Auditor General’s recommendations);52 and identifying those foods that are eligible (or not) for the NNC subsidy as part of the larger analysis.
   1.5. Also include methods for estimating the costs associated with accessing a traditional diet.
2. Require transparency on the part of NNC in cooperating with researchers. For instance, we were unable to access the same tools necessary to support analysis of food costing data that are used by NNC.

3. Improve data collection for on-reserve communities in order to better adjudicate where programs and supports would be best placed.

4. Efforts must be undertaken to place retailers under local control. The lack of on-reserve retail competition poses an enormous challenge to reducing the price of healthy food. The colonial implications of these oligarchies is troubling and must be addressed by federal and provincial governments.

5. Recognize that lowering the costs of healthy food in northern communities is not enough to address food insecurity.

   5.1. A broader comprehensive strategy is needed that includes guaranteed minimum incomes that are indexed to the higher cost of living in the provincial North and that can compensate for the prohibitive cost of a basic nutritious diet.

   5.2. Federal funding can be targeted to support grassroots and sustainable community initiatives that have meaning and relevance for each community.

6. Support measures such as policy initiatives and targeted funding to preserve and increase access to traditional foods, given that traditional foods comprise an important part of people’s diets and are likely filling the void of affordability.

NOTE: This is an excerpt from “PAYING FOR NUTRITION: A REPORT ON FOOD COSTING IN THE NORTH”. If you would like to read the more in-depth report, please visit: www.foodsecurecanada.org
Greetings,

Our department has provided an update on its activities to the Chief and Council in Kashechewan, Fort Albany, Chapleau Cree and Missanabie Cree in Q3 2016. The updates were on regional economic development, Mushkegowuk Development Corporation and the Ring of Fire files. Updates are still being scheduled in other communities please stay tuned for announcements in the coming future.

The Mushkegowuk Economic Development Advisory Council held a meeting on June 17 to discuss the food, gas and distribution study project in Timmins. The project was to study food, gas and distribution costs in the region and surrounding municipalities and identify the drivers of such price differences. The project time line is for July-September 2016 and the report will determine the next steps to addressing the food security challenge in the region.
Mushkegowuk Council passed a resolution to approve the Mushkegowuk Council / City of Timmins Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is the second in the last few years to be agreed by both partners. The MOU which highlights areas of mutual cooperation and collaboration also has a work plan that allows us a road map to move forward for the next two years. Unfortunately our application to the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) for funding support for the work plan was not successful.

**Treaty 9 celebration**

Mushkegowuk Council is looking to commemorate the signing of Treaty 9 as part of the Canada 150 event in Timmins in 2017. The City of Timmins and MC have commenced discussion on event agenda, dates and funding applications.

**New Employee**

The MC economic development department recently hired an economic development project assistant intern in the person of Ursula Rodrique (Fort Albany). The opportunity is being funded by NOHFC and is for a period of 12 months. We welcome and wish Ursula every success in her new role.

The Timmins Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) and OMAFRA held a regional economic development training session in Timmins (July 27-28, 2016). As part of the MC effort towards capacity development the MC economic development staff, EDO (Fort Albany) and a youth from Fort Albany were in attendance.

**Food Secure Canada report on West James Bay communities**

This report which was made public Sept. 12, 2016 highlights yet again the food security challenge facing members of our communities. Among the many facts pointed out by the report, includes that a household of 4 requires $1909 monthly to meet the basic food requirement. It also reports that the rate of food insecurity in Fort Albany is at a staggering 70% and the need to reform the Nutrition North Canada program as suggested by the Federal government audit report in 2014. To access full report please visit www.foodsecurecanada.org

**Respectfully Submitted by John Okonmah, Director of Economic Development**
10TH ANNUAL MUSHKEGOWUK CUP

OSHKI-PE-MA-TE-SEE-WEE MAMO-MAYTA-WAY-WIN

FEBRUARY 24, 25, 26

DIVISIONS

Registering teams must be house league
TYKES (5-6) MIDGET (15-16-17)
NOVICE (7-8) JUNIOR GIRLS (12-14)
ATOM (9-10) SENIOR GIRLS (15-16)
PEEWEE (11-12) JUNIORS (18-21)
BANTAM (13-14) (Jrs. minimum 4 teams)

PRIZES/AWARDS

At the end of the tournament, the committee will choose players for the following awards:
MVP, Best Forward, Best Defense, Best Goalie, and Sportsman Like.

Championship Banners, Medallions and Trophies will also be given out.

One Player from each game will be given a “Game MVP Award”

REGISTRATION

ENTRY FEES:
JUNIOR DIVISION (18-21): $1500.00
EARLY FEE - MINOR TEAM: $350
REGULAR FEE - MINOR TEAMS: $550.00

DEADLINE TO REGISTER

Registration: JANUARY 27, 2016
$600.00 for Minor Teams
$1500 for Junior Division (Ages: 18-21)

VENUES

Archie Dillon Sportsplex
396 Theriault Blvd.
Timmins, ON

McIntyre Arena
85 McIntyre Rd.
Schumacher, ON

Whitney
HWY 101 East
South Porcupine, ON

Mount Joy Arena
814 Park Avenue
Timmins, ON

Visit us at www.mushkegowuk.com or our Facebook Page for updates in the coming months.
The University of Sudbury brings university education to the James Bay Coast!

Since 2013, as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Sudbury and the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, the University of Sudbury continues to offer Indigenous Studies courses directly on site, via video-conferencing, or by distance, in the following communities: Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Moose Factory.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, the University is offering the following three courses:

**NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE PEOPLE: TRADITION AND CULTURE (INDG 2285EL-26)**
A discussion of basic Native spiritual insights and the traditions and cultural expressions developing therefrom. An emphasis is placed on the contemporary revival of these and their relevance to the present day.

*Offered during the Fall-Winter 2016 session, by videoconferencing to the four communities of Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Moose Factory by Professor Edmund Metatawabin. Dates: October 15-16; November 19-20; December 10-11; February 4-5; March 18-19*

**IMPLICATIONS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLEHOOD (INDG 1117EL-20)**
Examine the relations between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal society and governments, as well as among the diverse Aboriginal groups such as First Nations, Métis and various tribes.

*Offered during the Winter 2017 session, on site in Moose Factory by Dr. Emily Faries. Dates: October 1-2; November 19-20; December 10-11; February 4-5; March 18-19*

**FOUNDATIONS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLEHOOD (INDG 1116EL-20)**
Explore the cultural and historical foundations such as worldview, culture and nation, and a study of models of peoplehood.

*Offered during the Fall 2016 session, on site in Moose Factory by Dr. Emily Faries. Dates: October 1-2; November 19-20; December 10-11; February 4-5; March 18-19*

For more information, contact Heather Faries, Project Administrator

hk_faries@usudbury.ca
705-658-4222, extension 146
Resolution No. 1986-7 | March 26, 1986

MUSKEGOG CREE COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 430
MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO P.O. BOX 400
(705) 650-4598

MUSKEGOG CREE COUNCIL
GRAND ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

MOVED BY:
Chief Ernie Sutherland
(Moose Factory)

SECONDED BY:
Chief George Hunter
(Winkis)

SUBJECT: CHAIRMAN AND SUPPORT STAFF

WHEREAS the Muskegog Cree Council is in the process of initiating self-government for its people of James Bay; and

WHEREAS the Muskegog Cree Council have received direction to continue the process of self-government; and

WHEREAS the people of James Bay need continuity during this crucial process of properly reflect the direction they wish to proceed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly of the James Bay Chiefs, Councillors and Elders give direction to the Muskegog Cree Council Chiefs to establish a full-time Chairman position for a period of three (3) years and support staff to lobby and ensure that the Muskegog Cree people are being represented in the Indian Self-Government Process in James Bay and the Niswahke-Aski Nation,

FURTHERMORE that a terms of reference be drawn up by the Chiefs of James Bay to show and give accountability to the people of James Bay whereby the Tribal Chairman will function.

CARIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified copy of a Resolution Adopted on:
March 26, 1986

George Hunter
Chairman
Muskegog Cree Council

March 26, 1986
Moose Factory, Ontario
MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 1987-55

MOVED BY:
Chief Fred Wesley
Attawapiskat Band

SECONDED BY:
Chief George Hunter
Weenusk Band

WHEREAS we never surrendered our traditional lands and our aboriginal rights, including the right to manage and control our affairs in our own way, and;

WHEREAS the Mushkegowuk are dissatisfied with the present supervision and control of on-reserve policing by the Province of Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly authorize the Board of Directors and staff of the Mushkegowuk Council to seek funds to conduct an investigation into problems with the present system and the feasibility of establishing a tribally controlled police force, including such issues as: salary differentials and allegations of discrimination, training and suitability of police officers, allegations of misappropriation of funds, the number of police officers in each community and the total financial resources now allocated for policing within our jurisdiction, and other associated issues (e.g. Justice of the Peace Program), and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT senior officials of the Governments of Canada and Ontario be informed of this decision.
Resolution No. 1990-153 | November 15, 1990

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

MOVED BY:
Dam Knox
Kashchewan First Nation

SECONDED BY:
Delores Cheema
Moose Factory First Nation

SUBJECT: FEDERAL HEALTH JURISDICTION

WHEREAS the Mushkegowuk Council adopted our own self-government process known as “Partners in Change” in June 1989;

AND WHEREAS the Mushkegowuk Council is working with the Government of Canada regarding the improved delivery of health care services and programs;

AND WHEREAS in the 1990-91 Regional Medical Services Branch Report it appears that as the province gains an interest in native health affairs, federal jurisdictional boundaries and resources for the provision of Indian health services may become an issue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mushkegowuk Council does not accept further federal abrogation of responsibility in the area of health care without prior discussion with and agreement of Mushkegowuk First Nations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mushkegowuk Council notify the Government of Canada of our intent to monitor and address this issue.

Adopted by consensus
Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on: November 15, 1990

Alex Spence
Chairman
MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL

November 15, 1990
Feawanuck, Ontario
Resolution No. 1992-09

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL
SEVENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION

MOVED BY:
Chief Dan Koosie
Kashechewan First Nation

SECONDED BY:
Luke Gull
Weenusk First Nation

RE: TREATY NO. 9 LAND, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS 1905 James Bay Treaty No.9 is one of the unique government to government relationship treaties that was signed between Ontario with the direct input of Canada and our ancestors of the western James Bay and surrounding areas;

AND WHEREAS the current generation of the descendants of the Treaty No. 9 signatories and other aboriginal citizens of the time who were also present in the signing of Treaty No. 9 in 1905 do wish to retain this special government to government relationship today;

AND WHEREAS this special relationship will be used as a basis of negotiating the intent and spirit of Treaty No. 9 as understood by our ancestors and to negotiate for the development and implementation of our community-based and locally autonomous aboriginal self-government institutions in our respective communities of western James Bay and surrounding areas;
Wishing everyone a successful FALL HARVEST