



# Community Progress Report

## 2018/2019



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# MESSAGE FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL



Our first year in office, under our four-year mandate, has been a year of change, learning and growth by Council and myself. Our first order of governance was to establish a team that included hiring a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Clarence Paupanekis and a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Michael Ly. The CFO and CEO did a review of spending along with identifying immediate needs to ensure accountability and transparency in the area of Finances. Several positions in the Winnipeg Sub-office were no longer required and Finance was identified as an area that was in dire need of additional staff.

With the hiring of additional qualified Finance staff, the audit was completed for 2018/19 and budgets for 2019/20 were developed for each department. This was the first time the Directors were able to review departmental budgets. Congratulations on a job well done". NHCN is no longer in co-management and therefore qualified for the New Fiscal Relationship 10-year grant funding. The Honourable Seamus O'Regan confirmed by letter date January 21, 2019 that NHCN met the eligibility criteria for the 10-year grant funding. The new arrangement increases financial support for several areas, importantly for education.

During our first year in office several new projects have been undertaken with the support of Council and myself including:

- Several meetings have been held to improve fiber optic and cell service for NHCN, An agreement is near completion.
- Work has begun on the development of a new housing policy.
- Sea Falls Park has been developed for family recreation.
- Re-negotiation of the North West Company agreement to provide better value to NHCN members.
- The Health Centre of Excellence has made significant progress and has hired NHCN members to work on the project
- Three community meetings have been held to provide members with information and an opportunity to engage with council.
- Check stop was closed due to the lack of secure financing its effectiveness. Staff were redeployed to other positions within the community.
- Business plans and negotiations for a car wash, card lock have moved forward.
- Canopy at the Lake Front was erected using local labour
- Meeting held with ISC studied an amendment to the Trust Agreement.
- The saw mill began operations which will see locally-built water sheds, boxes, etc.

Council and I will continue to update you on the additional projects we will undertake. The projects we are working on will benefit our children and community for many years to come. We are very proud and honoured to work on behalf of the membership of NHCN. We thank all those that are working with us and those that continue to support us moving initiatives forward for the benefit us all. It is our goal to work together in a positive way to make improvements that will lead to a healthy community. As we approach the change in season we wish you and your families well. Enjoy spring in our beautiful community,



## SWEARING IN CEREMONY

On April 2018, a swearing in ceremony and celebration took place to recognize the start of new leadership of NHCN. Chief Larson Anderson and his council each took the Oath of Office in front of hundreds of NHCN band members. Chief Anderson and the council members were also presented with a gift, a bible and a copy of the Oath of Office. Elders provided prayers

for the new Chief and Council members as they embark on their leadership journey for the next four years.

Following the ceremony, a feast was held to celebrate with good food and entertainment. Mike Muswagon was the Master of Ceremonies for the event.



## WATERFRONT CANOPY

The waterfront has always been a community gathering place for NHCN. Over the years it has been a place to gather for ceremonies, special events and a place for families to gather to enjoy each other's company. Weather sometimes was a factor during events, causing delays and sometimes costly cancellations. In order to accommodate the need for shelter during the

events, a canopy was purchased for NHCN and shipped to be assembled at the waterfront.

Local labourers were hired to install the canopy, work late into the night to complete it, doing a fantastic job. The canopy can accommodate up to 500 people.



# NHCN HEALTH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SOD TURNING CEREMONY

On September 7, 2018, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$100 million for the construction of the Norway House Cree Nation Health Centre of Excellence. It is the largest health infrastructure project ever to be announced by the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC).

A sod turning ceremony took place on the day of the announcement. Joining NHCN Chief and Council at the ceremony was Minister Jane

Philpott, AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas, MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee and numerous other dignitaries.

Norway House Cree Nation has been committed to this initiative for over a decade. Through a formal partnership with the federal government and key stakeholders, the community is now in a position to execute this very important initiative.



# NHCN HEALTH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROGRESS

Through a community led and community managed process, this initiative continues to progress on-time and on budget, with the following key milestones being achieved over the last 12 month@

- \$100M capital funding commitment secured
- Contribution Agreement Signed between Indigenous Services Canada and NHCN Health Centre of Excellence Ltd. related to the \$100M capital funding commitment.
- Site Work initiated on the Fort Island Site

(future home of the NHCN Health Centre of Excellence.

- Tree-Clearing and Grubbing work completed
- On-site Civil Works set to begin in the coming weeks.
- Future planning of Health Campus at Fort Island site underway with integration of education and training programs and infrastructure being a key component.
- JNR Construction, with support from Playgreen Development Corporation and the Community Maintenance Department continue to lead phase one construction.



# SEA FALLS PARK

Sea Falls has always been a gem in NHCN territory. The location provides for relaxation, adventure, a combination of forest beauty and natural flow of the falls. Identified as an excellent area for family gatherings, camping and tourism attraction, many upgrades were made to the Sea Falls Park. In celebration of the completion of the upgrades, a feast was hosted by Chief and Council. Buses transported

community members out to the park along with those that arrived with their own vehicles. A blessing was held and the feast followed. Guests were served fresh fish cooked on an open fire along with all of the fixings.

The current upgrades are the first phase to the Sea Falls Park, with more upgrades to follow this year.



# NEW JOINT VENTURE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

In the first year in office Chief and Council established a joint venture construction company between Sigfusson Northern and Playgreen Development Corporation (PDC). The joint venture company is called Jack and Nelson River (JNR) Construction.

As part of the new joint venture and contracts received, PDC purchased several pieces of new

heavy equipment to increase the corporation's capacity and assets. Pictured above, are Sigfusson Northern Ltd. equipment used for the joint venture projects.

PDC and Sigfusson Northern Ltd. have combined their equipment and resources to work on major construction projects.



## CHRISTMAS MEMBERSHIP PAYOUT

On December 10, 2018 NHCN Chief and Council commenced the Christmas membership pay out. Chief and Council approved a membership pay out of \$100.00 per member. The payouts were held in Norway House for two days and in Winnipeg for two days. NHCN members were pleased to receive

their payout in cash which eliminated the need to pay cheque cashing fees. Along with the Christmas payout, members of households received Christmas Hampers and a special feast and a giveaway was held for the Elders of Norway House.



## REOPENING OF THE YORK BOAT DINER

Shortly after taking office, NHCN Chief and Council met with the Salisbury House Management Team to discuss improvements to the restaurant and the Management Agreement. This included negotiating to lower the high management fee. Several options were put on the table for consideration. However, each option that was in the best interest of NHCN was not agreed upon.

As a result, it was determined that the best option was to have NHCN operate the Diner as a band-owned business, operated by NHCN members. Davida Arthurson manages the new operation and it continues to be an important service for the community of NHCN and our guests.

JAN 21 2019

Chief Larson Anderson  
Norway House Cree Nation  
PO BOX 250  
NORWAY HOUSE MB R0B 1B0  
Fax: (204) 359-4188  
Email: [landerson@nhcn.ca](mailto:landerson@nhcn.ca)

Dear Chief Anderson:

I would like to thank you for expressing interest in the 10-Year Grant. I am pleased to confirm that Norway House Cree Nation has met the eligibility criteria to receive the grant.

I expect that departmental regional officials will be contacting you shortly about procedures for the grant funding agreement. You will also receive detailed information on how the parameters of the 10-Year Grant relate to your First Nation, including: programs included in the grant, funding, and changes to reporting. At this time, you will be asked to confirm your agreement to move to grant funding for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The 10-Year Grant is an important initiative for this Department, and key to the Government of Canada's commitment to co-developing a new fiscal relationship with First Nations that supports self-determination. We believe that the 10-Year Grant will strengthen the relationship between First Nation governments and their citizens and support a fiscal relationship that is truly nation-to-nation.

I am honored by the trust you have demonstrated for this initiative, and it is my hope that the 10-Year Grant will contribute to the continued success of Norway House Cree Nation and support a more collaborative relationship between Norway House Cree Nation and Canada.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, PC, MP

Canada

365 Hargrave Avenue, Room 200  
WINNIPEG, Manitoba  
R3B 3A3

NOV 20 2018

Your file  
Our file

Votre référence  
Notre référence

Chief and Council  
Norway House Cree Nation  
1475 King Edward Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3H 0R7

Dear Chief and Council:

Notification of Decision - De-escalation of Intervention Status

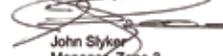
Upon departmental review, the implementation of the current Norway House Cree Nation (NHCN) Management Action Plan (MAP) has been deemed a success in that the debt to Frontier School Division has been drastically reduced. It has also been determined that based on the management team that has been put together, NHCN has the internal capacity to continue to monitor and implement the MAP. As a result Norway House Cree Nation will be de-escalated to Recipient Managed MAP intervention status as of January 01, 2019.

Congratulations on a job well done!

We recognize the positive steps that Chief and Council have taken while you face the many challenges that come with leading a First Nation. Regional staff will continue to support you.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Gary Manchur, Funding Services Officer, at (204) 983-3535.

Yours truly,



John Styker  
Manager, Zone 3  
Funding Services Directorate  
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
Manitoba Region

CC: Gary Manchur - Funding Services Officer,  
Transfer Payments Unit, AANDC

Canada 607

# NHCN OUT OF CO-MANAGEMENT

In a letter dated June 15, 2011 NHCN was advised by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Regional Director General that the Cree Nation was being escalated to co-management and must put a co-manager in place by July 16, 2011. Michael Ly was hired in April 2018 as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to replace Gary Julius along with the firm BDO as co-manager. As a result of the debt reduction and the capacity to put in place sound financial practices, NHCN Chief and Council were advised NHCN was

no longer in co-management and was de-escalated in its intervention status. NHCN Chief and Council were congratulated for a job well done.

Subsequent to being taken out of co-management, NHCN was confirmed as meeting the eligibility criteria for the new 10-year grant funding agreement. Minister Seamus O'Regan confirmed our status in a letter dated January 21, 2019.



# NORTHERN LIGHTS PROJECT - HYDROPONIC FARMS

From March 19th to March 22nd, Virginia Muswagon and Ian Maxwell took part in a hydroponic education and training seminar organized by BDO Canada LLP and the Churchill Northern Studies Centre in Churchill, Manitoba. The seminar focused on the day-to-day operations and business aspects of running a hydroponic farm and retail business that uses The Growcer's hydroponic growing unit, which Norway House Cree Nation will be receiving in the coming weeks. This project, referred to as the Northern Lights project, will establish a new band-owned business. More importantly,

it will create food security for the membership of Norway House. The hydroponic farm will be able to produce 12,000 lbs of produce annually, operating 365 days of the year. Moreover, with the ability to grow nearly 300 different kinds of produce, micro greens or herbs, the community will gain access to high quality and specialty goods at affordable prices. The introduction of the hydroponic farm to the community will also open doors for educational and health-based ventures such as hydroponic training, cooking classes and community gardens



## SAW MILL

In May 2018 the NHCN Sawmill became operational under the management of Pat Bayer and Supervisor Alex Budd. The mill also employs Alex Hart, Jeff Ett, Terry Osborne and Ken Owen as the driver.

The Sawmill produces material for band projects such as sheds, ramps, garbage boxes, housing repairs, etc. It produces quality material using local resources and local labour. As the demand for material increases, the need to expand the Sawmill will be assessed.



# HEALTH TRANSITION AND HUMAN RESOURCE SUPPORT, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

A new position was recently established to provide Health Transition and Human Resource Support to the Health Centre of Excellence Project and other community initiatives.

In partnership with NHCN Education, Training, and Culture Division, Chainsaw/Brush Saw Safety training was provided to 33 community members in November 2018. The training resulted in 18 NHCN band members being employed for 12 weeks, completing tree clearing on the NHCN HCE site. This phase resulted in 5,864 employment hours worked and \$98,158.00 in salaries issued to NHCN Band members.

Career fairs, youth outreach, training and educational opportunities are also in the planning stages to support the current and future human resource needs of Norway House Cree Nation.

Norway House Cree Nations' Health Transition and Human Resource Supports team is also actively engaged with JNR Construction to develop a culturally appropriate recruitment and retention strategy that will prioritize NHCN community members for all infrastructure projects in the community and the region. This will allow NHCN to build capacity that can be deployed to future projects in the Region and across the North.

