



GRAND CONSEIL DE LA NATION WABAN-AKI

SPRING 2016



DIRECTOR'S CHRONICLE

Dear Nation members,

We've had a busy winter at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki. We have been working tirelessly on our many projects and several more are still to come.

Technical Services

All the projects currently led by Mario Diamond and his team have been very successful. These projects include the rehabilitation of the La Romaine wharf, different mandates for the Bécancour MRC, the municipal garage project for Listuguj and the wastewater and drinking water project in Kanesatake. An expansion project to double the size of the Grand Conseil offices has also been underway since December. This expansion represents costs of approximately \$700,000, but it will actually cost only \$450,000 because our own team is doing the work. Once completed, this expansion is expected to create a dozen extra workstations. Regarding upcoming projects, like I said earlier, we are proud to announce that we have been awarded the contract to repair the La Romaine wharf, in the Côte-Nord Region. The project, worth \$3.9 million will leverage our civil engineering services in terms of conception, design, engineering, plans and specifications including site supervision. We were also awarded a mandate totalling \$21,300 as part of the Local Road Infrastructure Intervention Plan (PIIRL) for the Bécancour MRC. Other projects are also underway, including Kanesatake to build an infrastructure for their drinking water and wastewater network, as well as a municipal garage and a sorting centre in Listuguj.



From left to right: Nikita Zewski,
Denys Bernard et Mario Diamond

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DIRECTOR'S CHRONICLE (CONTINUATION)

Social Services

Throughout the year, there are several activities organized by the FNCFS team. Here are some of the activities currently available:

- **Espace jeunesse** (Youth Connect);
- **Midis-Culture** (cultural luncheons);
- **Escouade Techno-Jeunesse** (techno youth-squad);
- **Club de Marche** (walking club);
- **Alokaw8gan project** .

For more information on all FNCFS activities, please contact them or consult the FNCFS Annual Report.

Territorial Consultations

The Territorial Consultations department, now the Ndakinna Office, includes four distinct sectors: territorial consultations, land claims, environmental assessments and sustainable development. The team has also grown and now includes individuals from both communities with vast knowledge in terms of history, geomatics, biology, anthropology and environmental management.

Communications

As some of you have probably noticed, our website has been revamped to meet new Web standards and provide a more representative portrait of our organization.

For more information on our current projects, I invite you to read the texts prepared in this newsletter by the directors of the different sectors.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer! Enjoy this relatively short warmer period to spend quality time outdoors with your family and loved ones.

All the best,

Denys Bernard, Executive Director
Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki



For more information, contact us!

819-294-1686

info@gcnwa.com



TECHNICAL SERVICES

Kwai N'nidôba,

T8hi Kd'al8wzi?

Kagwilit8gwad?

Many new items for the Grand Conseil and the communities!

The GCNWA has continued to grow under the Denys Bernard's leadership. In fact, our technical services department has been expanding and projects abound. Even the building has to be expanded in order to create enough space to accommodate all these individuals working on the organization's various projects. In our specific case, the technical services department has been working on very large projects such as the rehabilitation of the La Romaine wharf, located in the

Côte-Nord Region, as well as on various mandates for the Bécancour MRC, led by Maxime Marcouiller and Brittany Cayer.

In addition, Maxime Diamond's team has completed, on schedule, the Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The team was even commended for the accuracy and overall improvement of the reporting conducted for the nine communities. As project manager, I am also leading a project to build a municipal garage estimated at nearly \$2 million for the community of Listuguj. Let's not forget the large scale wastewater and drinking water project for the Kanesatake community which should commence this summer.

As for the RRAP projects funded by the CMHC, even on maternity leave, Geneviève Veilleux has ensured the success and sustainability of these projects for our two communities.

It is also important to mention our two Abenaki communities of Wôlinak and Odanak, for which we hope to carry out the expansion of certain streets. There are always construction ideas both residential and commercial, which are dependent of course on budgets and requests.

In short, our projects are growing faster than the leaves in the trees! A busy summer is expected for our technical services team and several other bids are still to be made.

Wliwni!

Adios!

Mario Diamond

Technical Services Director

WORK PROGRESS — PICTURES TAKEN ON MARCH 3, 2016





NDAKINNA OFFICE

Kwai mziwi,

Since the last newsletter, there have been many changes within this Office!

Since October 2014, the Territorial Consultations department has seen its mandate expand! The department has become the Ndakiinna Office and now includes four sectors: regional consultations, land claims, environmental assessments and sustainable development. The team includes: Yvon Poirier, Land Claims Coordinator; Hugo Mailhot Couture, Project Manager; Marie-Ève Samson, Investigation/Research Officer; Myriam Beauchamp, Climate Change Project Manager and Alex B. Perreault, Geomatics Technician. Several collaborators from the Odanak and Wôlinak communities are also part of the team to perform the tasks related to each of the different sectors. We are a great team with professional skills in several different areas: history, geomatics, biology, anthropology and environmental management, among others.

The Ndakiinna Office is responsible for the “representation” component of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki mission in terms of territory. Its role is to be the voice of the two communities in this area, by defending and promoting the rights and interests of the Abenaki people. Research is an important activity for the Office, whether in terms of history, anthropology or the environment, which ensures the acquisition of knowledge necessary for a sustainable and responsible management of the ancestral territory: the Ndakiinna.

We invite you to contact us to learn more about the different projects we coordinate.

Wliwni,

Suzie O’Bomsawin
Director of the Ndakiinna Office



SOCIAL SERVICES

Intervention Team

There has been a significant increase over the last few months in the number of individual counselling services provided by Laure Tardif,

Audrey Trudel and Mira Fréchette, case workers with the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS). It is encouraging to observe that individuals from the communities of Wôlinak and Odanak have confidence and are increasingly committed to finding ways to receive direct assistance. People can easily consult a case worker to address all types of difficult life situations: children with behavioural issues, marital difficulties, children with academic issues, individuals living in isolation, a difficult separation, etc. Asking for help is nothing to be ashamed of. On the contrary, it is a sign of humility and insight. We all experience periods in life when we need a little help. We all deserve some assistance.

A new case worker has joined the FNCFS team in March 2016; David Mathieu Plante has replaced Audrey Trudel who is now on maternity leave. Through a formal employment offer process, a significant number of applications were received and David Plante stood out with his extensive experience in Aboriginal communities, in particular with the Atikamekw and Inuit people. As a psychoeducator, David shall be directly involved in various community projects and will be available to provide individual counselling services. He has thereby inherited the important mandate of developing specific services for fathers, a priority for the FNCFS.

Volunteer and Specialized Services

The FNCFS intervention team provides specialized services to people who feel a need to deal with a difficult life situation. In order to ensure quality services compliant with professional and ethical standards, the FNCFS intervention team maintains files and ensures that formal actions are recorded. Each file is CONFIDENTIAL and the details of meetings are never shared, except to people authorized by the individual receiving the service. Exceptionally, the Youth Protection Branch may, where necessary, order an account of meetings concerning a minor.



SOCIAL SERVICES (CONTINUATION)

When an individual simply needs to talk without engaging in a formal individual counselling process, community case workers may provide the service based on their availability, over a particular period of time.

The services provided by the FNCFS team are available for individuals making a request voluntarily. Unless there's an emergency, it is essential that the individual's authorization is confirmed before the FNCFS proceeds. It is important to respect the individual's wishes, even though they may be experiencing a difficult situation, they may want to handle it on their own, or they may simply prefer not interacting with someone with the role of case worker.

An Intense Development Period for the FNCFS

A host of activities and projects emerged in 2015-2016, as the development of Community actions remains a priority for the Social Services department at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki.

Among the major initiatives over the last few months:

- **Espace Jeunesse (Youth Connect)** for 12 to 17 year-olds in the family halls of the two communities allows teens to get together while supervised by case workers. Youth can talk about issues of concern and design projects and activities in their image. Prevention is provided to participants concerning several issues affecting 12 to 17 year-olds.
- **Midis-Culture (cultural luncheons)** in Wôlinak, every Thursday at lunch time, offers a special opportunity for people to talk about culture and traditions, while enjoying a delicious meal together.
- **Escouade Techno-Jeunesse (Techno-Youth Squad)** in Wôlinak is an action made possible through funding from the Pacte Rural. A youth team was created with the mandate of promoting the traditions, culture, history and actions carried out in Wôlinak through different technological platforms. It is important to underline the indispensable support provided by the Abenaki of Wôlinak Band Council, which helped launch this important action.
- **Club de Marche (walking club)** of the Abenaki Nation has already gathered nearly 40 families who have accumulated several kilometers for their community. This friendly competition between Odanak and Wôlinak shall lead to the Stanley Volant Challenge to be held next May in Odanak.
- **Community garden** in Odanak was introduced in the summer of 2015 and despite the fact that the first edition was quite modest, the population made it clear that the activity needed to be repeated. In 2016, the FNCFS would like to bring together a large number of individuals to cultivate their produce, exchange knowledge and skills in terms of cultivation in sync with the environment. It is important to highlight the Abenaki of Odanak Council's collaboration in the realization of this project.
- **The Alokaw8gan Project** provides people from the Odanak community the opportunity to assist the FNCFS team in maintaining the family hall. Several people have come to demonstrate that they are able to take on tasks and therefore gain useful work experience that will serve them in the future.

SOCIAL SERVICES (CONTINUATION)

Obviously, many other initiatives have been introduced, too numerous to list them here. You may wish to find out more about all the FNCFS actions by contacting the Social Services department at the Grand Conseil and by consulting the FNCFS Annual Report.

The Abenaki Nation: Unique Expertise

The Kassiwî training (meaning *together* and pronounced *KassiwÉ*) is a unique initiative created by the First Nations Child and Family Services. Following a needs assessment in terms of trusteeship and guardianship, the FNCFS called upon Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to develop a training to equip various actors who are likely to work in support of incapacitated individuals. The Abenaki Nation is currently developing a unique expertise in terms of trusteeship and guardianship in Native communities, skills that may be shared with other Nations if requested.

As you can see, the Social Services department at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki is dynamic and increasingly rooted in communities. Thank you to the people of Odanak and Wôlinak for their contribution to the success of social and community initiatives.

Michel Thibeault
Social Services Director— FNCFS

Wli nib8iamih8mek ta wli ngwejigaden!



GRAND CONSEIL DE LA NATION
WABAN-AKI

10175, KOLIPAÏO STREET, WÔLINAK (QC), G0X1B0

PHONE | 819.294.1686

FAX | 819.294.1689

INFO@GCNWA.COM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

WWW.GCNWA.COM