

A year of solidarity

Annual Report 2022/2023



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Cree Nation of Nemaska



This year, the annual report of the Cree Nation of Nemaska is dedicated to the solidarity of our Community, a key element to empower our members and to further strengthen our Nation.

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Word of the Chief

Dear Members and Residents of Nemaska,

As I write this message for our 2022-2023 annual report, I cannot overlook the difficulties we have faced over the past four years. The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges, and now we find ourselves dealing with forest fires in our region. Despite these hardships, I am proud to say that we have accomplished a great deal for our Community in terms of social and economic development. Our resilience in the face of adversity truly inspires me for the future. We have managed to forge ahead, ensuring progress and positive change despite circumstances beyond our control. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication.

During this period, we have successfully developed new facilities that have significantly improved our members' quality of life.

The pump track we built stands as one of the best in the nation, providing an outlet for healthy and active lifestyles. Building upon this success, we are now committed to renovating the outdoor rink and ensuring equal access to ice time for everyone. These projects align with the Cree Nation of Nemaska's mandate to enhance the well-being of our members and residents.

Preserving and promoting our Cree way of life remains a top priority for me. I am delighted to see projects such as the Old Nemaska Restoration Project and the cabins at the Narrows come to fruition. In the coming years, we will continue to build more cabins at Old Nemaska, offering further opportunities for our Community to connect with our traditions and heritage.

On this occasion, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to former Council members John Henry Wapachee and Anderson Jolly, who have tirelessly served our Community over the past four years. Their vision and experience have been invaluable in shaping our progress. Their contributions have made a lasting impact, and I am grateful for their unrelenting dedication.

Additionally, I warmly welcome the two new members of our current Council, Peter Wapachee and Kristen Moar. They both bring exceptional qualities to the table, including the experience and leadership necessary for this crucial role. I eagerly anticipate the next four years with a Council that prioritizes unity and long-term goals for our Community.

In this report, it is also important for me to acknowledge the retirement of my colleague and friend Matthew Tanoush. Matthew has been an invaluable asset to our Community, and his departure leaves a void that will be challenging to fill. I extend my heartfelt wishes to Matthew for a fulfilling retirement and express my hope that we will continue to benefit from his wisdom and guidance in the future, particularly in matters related to land and sustainable development. His legacy will endure, and we are truly grateful for his service.

Finally, I cannot conclude this message without acknowledging my family members who have been my pillar of strength throughout these four years. I express my deepest gratitude to my wife for her tireless support, and I am immensely proud of our children Clayton and Ronnie. At the start of my term, I was blessed with the arrival of my first grandchild, Audrey, and now I am blessed again by the arrival of our second grandchild, Jared. It is for them that I remain committed to working persistently to ensure a bright future and a good life for them within our Community.

As we reflect upon the accomplishments and challenges of the past four years, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can continue to build a stronger, more prosperous, and unified Community.

Thank you once again for your trust, support, and dedication. I am honoured to serve as your Chief and look forward to the journey ahead.

Sincerely,

Clarence Jolly, Chief of Nemaska

Word of the Deputy Chief

Dear Members and Residents of Nemaska,

It is with great pleasure that I submit my annual report for the 2022-2023 year. As most people know, I have served the remaining term of the Deputy Chief.

It has been an interesting year of learning with many challenges, which I have gladly accepted.

In taking on the elected position as Deputy Chief, I remember the advice given to me by one of our Elders: to tread slowly, enter the role with my learning mode on, and not to deviate from the path that was already established by Council. This advice served me well in my term and helped me establish the path and precautions in my new capacity.

The portfolios I have received as Deputy Chief were Education and Capacity Building and I took them on with great pleasure, interest, and enthusiasm.

Education has always been important to me, whether its approach is traditional or modern. I have always valued traditional education and continue to pursue it, possibly because I really did not have this opportunity in my younger years. I am passionate about learning as much as I can and trying to be of assistance to the departments to promote traditional education. It is always a pleasure to take part in the many cultural activities organized in our Community. We have so much to learn from our Elders and cultural teachers.

There is still so much that our Elders can do, and we must create the means and structures that can transmit these learning opportunities to our Community members. I believe

this will be an ongoing project for our Community. We all have a desire to continue to learn, regardless of our age.

Contemporary education is also very important. I thank the school and encourage them to continue with the excellent services they have provided to our young Community members. The youth sector is well represented in our Community, but the adult sector would also need a venue to pursue and plan ongoing education. Having an adult education sector would give adult members a voice. I am happy to say that I have been having ongoing discussions with the local adult education teachers and hopefully our discussions will soon bear fruit.

Building capacity is another challenge that I have gladly accepted. Sometimes, I feel it is restoring capacity rather than building capacity, since we have always had capacity through our culture and traditions, and this has ensured our survival. We do realize that times have changed, and that we need to adapt and adjust to our new surroundings, and we are completely capable of doing so. One of the challenges we currently have is to seek opportunities for our adult sector and current workforce. Education and Capacity Building will go hand in hand in this endeavor. Providing opportunities, whether at the workplace or in other areas through the adult sector, is an avenue of exploration.

There have been many activities that I have been involved in with the Culture Sector under the Social Development Department. Cabin building at Old Nemaska is one of these activities, and I thank the Department for this initiative. There have been many requests from Community members, and we completed year 3 of our four-year plan on cabin replacement and cabin building at Old Nemaska. It was not an easy task and we quickly understood that not everyone would be pleased, but decisions were made to ensure that the projects continued.

On the Nemaska Lithium front, I have served as a member of the Training and Employment Committee with the purpose of providing employment opportunities for our members at Nemaska Lithium. Indeed, there are many opportunities, but one must be proactive in seeking them. I also serve on the Economic Development Committee, which was created to assist local businesses to pursue opportunities at Nemaska Lithium. Again, as with training and employment, one must be proactive in seeking these opportunities.

There were many other events that took place during the year, and they provided many learning opportunities, for which I am grateful to so many employees and departments. Working together in the best interest of our members will bring success to our beautiful and ever-growing Community.

It has been a wonderful learning experience and an honour to complete the final year of the former Deputy Chief's term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tshinashkumitin nii,

Teddy Wapachee, Deputy Chief of Nemaska

Word of the Director General

Dear Community Members,

We are pleased to present the 2022-2023 Cree Nation of Nemaska annual report.

The Cree Nation Government, in collaboration with the Cree School Board and Cree Board of Health, has declared that, during the year 2023, concerted actions of the Eeyou Nation would be taken to empower every individual to improve every aspect of their physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health.

This certainly is an appropriate declaration for the Cree Nation of Nemaska, who has, for the past fifteen years, devoted resources to write its own story, "The Untold Story of the Nemaska Eenouch".



Against insurmountable odds, the Cree People of Nemaska embarked on a journey to re-establish their Community and restore its people to its rightful place within the Cree Nation. It has taken us 46 years to be able to make public what we had to endure with the aspiration that, one day, some form of restitution could be reached by all parties to resolve the claims and grievances of the past. Our people have gone through dire consequences and long-term impacts arising from the forced abandonment of our original homeland. In this time of reconciliation, the Cree People of Nemaska need to feel this individual empowerment and acceptance, as not only did they lose their children through the Residential School system, but they also lost their traditional settlement.

"Going Home: The Untold Story of the Nemaska Eenouch" addresses our pain. Now let's see where this will lead us. Chapter 5 of the Cree-Canada New Relationship Agreement (NRA) signed in 2008 provides for the resolution of claims, grievances and other matters against the federal government. Section 5.3 of the NRA specifically refers to Nemaska claims for its relocation. The final decision needs to be made by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government given that Canada has transferred to the GCC(EI)/CNG its authority and funding to address all claims, grievances, and other matters. We are now prepared to proceed with the request to the GCC(EI)/CNG for compensation for our forced relocation.

Our book was published last year by the Cree Nation of Nemaska and distributed to each household and to several of our partners, including members of the GCC(EI). We would like to thank Susan Marshall, the main writer, for her tremendous work. We also wish to thank Cindy Coonishish, our Research Assistant, and all the people who responded to the many interviews. This is truly the people's book.

We also wish to thank our administration and all its employees for another successful year in ensuring operation and maintenance activities for our Community.

Our sincere congratulations are extended to our elected Chief & Council, who was re-elected by an overwhelming majority—a true testament to the work they have done and to our people's confidence in their continued leadership.

May the Good Lord bless us all.

George (Jodge) Wapachee, Director General

4 / Word of the Deputy Director General



Deputy Director General Ruth Jolly



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Dear Members and Residents of Nemaska,

As we conclude another transformative fiscal year, I am pleased to share with you the highlights and achievements of the Cree Nation of Nemaska in our 2022-2023 annual report.

I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues and all the employees of the organization for your unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment.

Sincerely,

Ruth Jolly, Deputy Director General

5 / Legislative Department



We, the newly elected Chief, Deputy Chief and Councillors, wish to express our gratitude for our members' support during this past election. For those of us who have been re-elected, we thank you for your faith in our ability to lead our Community. On behalf of those who were recently elected, we thank you for the trust you have bestowed upon us to serve our Community.

The newly elected Council is pleased to present, on behalf of the former Council, the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2023.

We remain dedicated to serving the Nemaska Eenouch and to supporting the departments in the implementation of their respective mandates. We also continue to encourage Community members to express their input and concerns regarding our services; we will do our best to address them as best we can.

— The Council

Chief and Council

On February 27, 2023, the electors of the Cree Nation of Nemaska re-elected Clarence Jolly as Chief, Teddy Wapachee as Deputy Chief, and Edna Neeposh, Walter Jolly and Edna L. Neeposh as Councillors. They also elected Kristen Moar and Peter Wapachee as new Councillors.

Each Council member holds a different portfolio based on his or her knowledge and experience.

Chief Clarence Jolly / Council member responsible for External Affairs, Governance, Public Safety and Security and Capital Projects

Deputy Chief Teddy Wapachee / Council member responsible for Education and Capacity Building

Edna Neeposh / Councillor responsible for Housing

Edna L. Neeposh / Councillor responsible for Health and Social Development

Walter Jolly / Councillor responsible for Environment and Culture

Peter Wapachee / Councillor responsible for Environment and Culture

Kristen Moar / Councillor responsible for Governance and Economic Development

The Chief and Council are supported by the Treasurer, the Director General, the Deputy Director General, the Senior Executive Advisor, the Communications Officer/ Corporate Secretary, the Financial Advisor, and the Executive Assistant.

Council Meetings

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the former Council held 17 regular Council meetings, 5 Special Council meetings, 9 Executive Committee meetings, 1 Local Annual General Assembly, and it adopted 242 resolutions.

The new Council held 2 regular Council meetings and adopted 36 resolutions.

During these meetings, multiple mandates and directives were given regarding the governance, administration and operations of the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

End of COVID-19 Measures and Restrictions

Spring 2022 marked the end of the COVID-19 measures and restrictions in our community. The Council abolished the Mandatory Self-Isolation Law and discontinued the security services at the gate located on the Access Road.

Although the COVID-19 virus is still present, we are grateful that it is no longer considered a public health emergency.

Again, we wish to thank the Community members for respecting the measures that were in place during the pandemic, and the frontline workers for their dedication and commitment during this very difficult time.

Cree Nation Day of Mourning

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) has designated June 22 as a Day of Mourning for the loss of loved ones to the COVID-19 virus. On this day, the Cree Nation of Nemaska hosted a Day of Mourning Memorial Service in honour of the persons who passed on due to the virus.

Memorial Feast

On June 24, 2022, the Council also hosted a memorial feast in honour of those who passed on during the pandemic. The Council felt that it was appropriate to hold a Community memorial feast as the grieving families had not been able to organize proper services due to the COVID-19 measures and restrictions.



Cree Nation Day of Mourning



Visit from Minister Ian Lafrenière

Ian Lafrenière, Minister of Indigenous Affairs Quebec, visited Nemaska on May 19, 2022. During this visit, the Council highlighted the beauty of our Community and shared its history and traditional way of life.

The Council also seized this opportunity to address concerns about certain matters such as the lack of housing, mental health programs, Nemaska relocation, tourism, the condition of the Route du Nord, racism, and discrimination.

Visit from Minister Ian Lafrenière



Minister Lafrenière promised to look into each of the issues raised and to improve the communication between his office and the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

We have since received follow-up correspondences from the office of Minister Lafrenière and further discussions are expected in the years to come.



Signing of the Aah Nuutaatikwaaniwich Nisituhtimuwin Memorandum of Understanding

With the signing of the Paix des Braves, the Cree Nation received a guaranteed annual allocation of 350,000 cubic meters of wood to be exploited for commercial purposes. This allocation is guaranteed for the specific purpose of encouraging and facilitating employment and contracts to Crees and to Cree Enterprises. The communities affected by forestry, which includes Nemaska, demonstrated interest in increasing long-term cooperation between communities and with the Cree Nation Government regarding forestry activities.

In that spirit, the Council approved the Aah Nuutaatikwaaniwich Nisituhtimuwin Memorandum of Understanding (Forestry MOU).

The purpose of the Forestry MOU is to create the “Cree Leadership Forestry Table” as a working table between the parties to ensure their cooperation and coordination in order to reach specific forestry objectives.

On June 22, 2022, the Forestry MOU was signed by Chief Clarence Jolly, Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty as well as Chiefs Clarke Shecapio, Curtis Bosum, Thomas Neeposh and Marcel Happyjack.

Grand Opening of Pump Track

Thanks to a request submitted by a brave 6-year-old member of our Community, Amari Coonishish, the Council agreed to invest in the construction of a pump track for the Youth. The construction of the pump track was completed during the summer of 2022 and the Council, in collaboration with the CBHSSJB Public Health Department, the Justice Department and the EEPF, hosted an opening ceremony on September 30, 2022.

Awareness workshops were offered by the above-mentioned entities on safety and anti-bullying measures. Prizes such as bicycles, helmets and pumps were given to winners who participated in these workshops.

The cutting of the ribbon by Amari Coonishish marked the opening of the pump track. This ceremony was followed by a barbecue, where participants enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs.

Information and Records Management Assessment and Recommendations

During the summer of 2022, the Cree Nation of Nemaska mandated Chuck & CO to evaluate the management of information and records. The goal of this project was to prioritize the different actions required to undertake a full restructuring of the filing system, allowing it to comply with documentary and information management standards.

We have received the recommendations from Chuck & CO which include a governance plan, a record management action plan and policy, as well as clarification of the roles and responsibilities of administration personnel. We are now eager to implement these recommendations.



Grand Opening of Pump Track



Nemaska Lithium

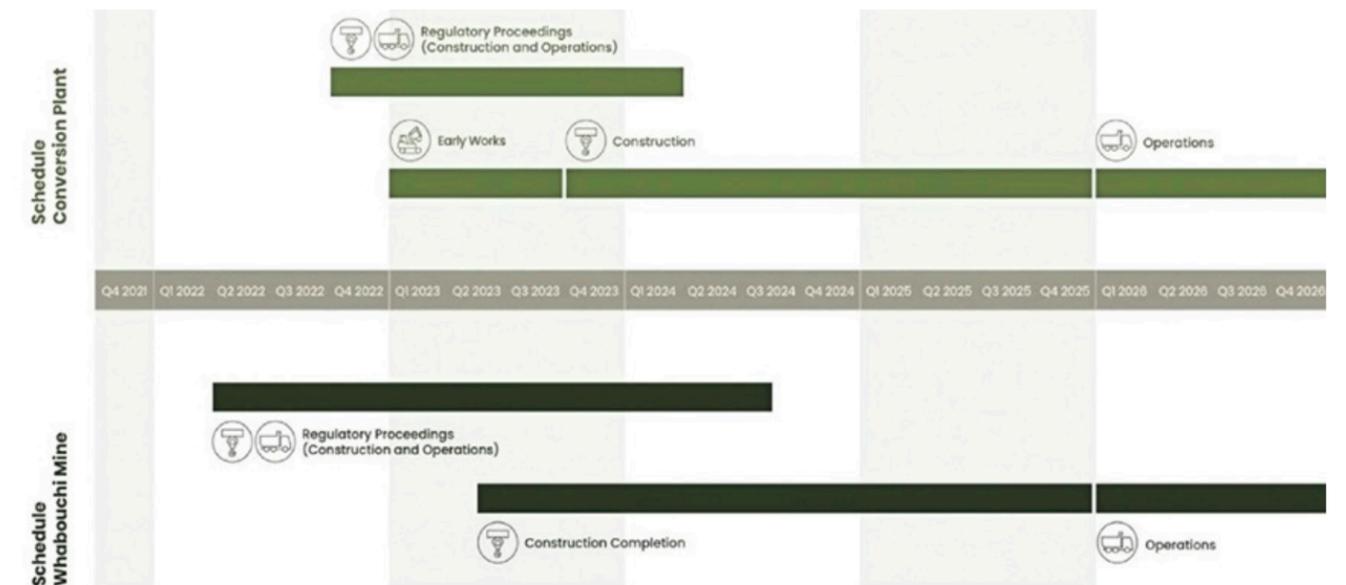
The Cree Nation of Nemaska continues to be involved in the development of the Whabouchi Project. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, regular meetings were held between representatives of the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Cree Nation Government and Nemaska Lithium. In addition, quarterly meetings were held by the Whabouchi Implementation Committee, the Environment Committee, the Training and Employment Committee, and the Economic Development Committee.

We were informed of the following new timeline for the project.

In January 2023, the Council invited Denis Isabel, Vice-President of Sustainable Development for Nemaska Lithium, to deliver a Mining 101 training session for its members. In a gesture of openness, the Council invited the Community to participate in this training. The level of interest was such that a second session was requested and will be held this year.

Nemaska Lithium also hosted the first Nemaska Land & Environment Conference in March 2023. The event was organized by Nemaska Lithium, in collaboration with the Cree Nation of Nemaska and with support from Transfer Environment and Society (TES). The conference was held as a public event to allow Community members to discuss various environmental initiatives and issues in the region with traditional and scientific experts.

Credit: Nemaska Lithium



Partnership with SDBJ and CDC – Management of Nemaska Airport

In the fall of 2022, the Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Société de développement de la Baie James and the Cree Development Corporation to initiate discussions regarding the creation of a partnership to manage and operate the Nemiscau Airport.

Several meetings were subsequently held to negotiate terms as well as to discuss the appropriate structure for the partnership. In March 2023, all parties agreed on the following structure:

The members were informed about the partnership during a members' meeting held in May 2023. Parties must now approve all legal documentation. Once this is done, an event will be held in Nemaska to publicly announce the creation of the partnership.

Review of Election Law

To better reflect the current realities and needs of the Community, the Council worked on revamping the Election Law. The proposed Election Law was adopted by the Council but was never ratified by the members, as it was deemed too close to the election period to call for a referendum.

The new Council intends to continue the work initiated by the former Council by reviewing the proposed Election Law. It wishes to consult the members by holding focus groups, public meetings and surveys.

The Council hopes to finalize the review of the Election Law in the next year, so that a referendum can be held at least one year in advance of the next general election.

Strategic Planning Session of Newly Elected Chief and Council

At the end of March 2023, the Council held a strategic planning session. The purpose of the strategic planning session was to set the vision of the Cree Nation of Nemaska for the duration of the term of office of the newly elected Council.

The Council Strategic Plan was presented to the members during a general meeting held in May 2023.

The Council Strategic Plan not only sets the stage for moving forward but is used as a basis for making decisions and taking actions that shape the future of the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

A summary of the plan will be posted publicly for the members to consult and will be discussed regularly at Council meetings to ensure its implementation.

Restructuring of Miyupimatisiun Committee

During its meeting held in December 2022, the Council appointed new members to the Miyupimatisiun Committee. The Council agreed to appoint representatives of local entities whose mandate revolves around the welfare of the Community and its members. The Committee is now composed of the following individuals:

Daisy Jolly-Grant / Representing the CBHSSJB

Bradley Mianscum / Representing the EEPF

Stella Moar / Representing the CNN Department of Social Development

Edna L. Neeposh / Representing the Justice Department

Elizabeth Wapachee / Representing the CNN Wellness Sector

Caroline Jolly / Representing the Elders

Charlot Jolly / Representing the Youth

The Council looks forward to receiving updates on the progress of the Committee.



Strategic Planning Session



Council Support for Departmental Projects

The Council was pleased to support projects initiated by CNN departments, including but not limited to:

- Community activities and programs
- Creation of local employment
- Support offered to local entrepreneurs
- Construction of housing units
- Old Nemaska Landing Parking Expansion Project
- Old Nemaska Log Cabin Restoration Project
- Elders' Camp at the Narrows
- Indigenous Language Component Program
- Purchase of new vehicles, machinery and equipment to improve our fleet, including a new Stanley Boat

A Look Back on the Past Four Years

Despite facing many challenges due to a pandemic which lasted more than half its term, the former Council achieved many of its term objectives. Under their leadership, many programs and projects were completed, including the projects mentioned in this report and:

- 38 housing projects
- Several renovations and expansion projects
- Pavement of most roads, sidewalks and parking lots
- Improvement of street lighting
- Cabin restoration program
- Expansion and improvement of Old Nemaska boat landing
- Development of an Elders' Camp at the Narrows
- Creation of many short-term employment opportunities
- Internal promotions
- Climate change study

- Operation of the Eco Centre
- Revamp of the Nemaska website
- Publication of annual reports in book format

Upcoming Mandates and Activities

The Council is pleased to inform the members that it is currently working on many new mandates and projects, including but not limited to:

- Review of Election Law
- Development and adoption of General Law
- Development and adoption of Zoning Law
- Development and adoption of Construction Law
- Development of an estate planning and management program
- Planning of an Elders' home
- Construction of New Shaptuan
- Feasibility study for a multi-purpose industrial building
- Upgrade of community power network and structures
- Construction of additional recreation facilities
- Creation of more language and cultural programs
- Creation of more physical and mental health programs

6 / Human Resources



On behalf of the **Department of Human Resources**, I am pleased to present you the **2022-2023 annual report**.

Over the past year, we have faced several challenges and great opportunities. As we look back, the employees of the HR department and all CNN employees have shown **tremendous dedication and determination** towards our organization. I would like to acknowledge their hard work and commitment towards CNN.

— **Lori-Ann Wapachee**, Director of Human Resources

Hiring of New Employees

The following employees were hired during the 2022-23 fiscal year:

Renee Saganash / Lieutenant

Robert Capasissit / Lieutenant

Myra Sheshamush / Wellness Receptionist

Maria Bobbish / Garage Receptionist

Stacy Ann Tanoush / Collection Officer (Housing)

Barbara Trapper / Accounts Receivable Clerk

Jonah Cooper / Public Health Officer

Shane James / Housing Maintenance

Contractual Employees

Albert Jolly / Interim Wastewater Maintenance

Kristine Diamond / Radio Announcer and Technician

Nelson Wapachee / Ambulance Coordinator

Shelley Matches / Interim Child and Family Worker

Wally Trapper / Road and Walkway Operator

Mary Ann Blackned / Interim Minor Sports Coordinator

Kurtis Black / Fire Chief

Employee Activities

Despite the health restrictions throughout the year, we strived to offer a healthy and exciting environment for our employees with activities, such as:

- Employee Halloween Costume Contest
- Christmas Party

Directives from Council

The Department was mandated by the Chief and Council to:

- Keep staff members informed of decisions made by Council
- Plan the Christmas Banquet
- Post positions that report to the Council
- Plan the Annual General Assembly

Sun Life Plan Sponsor Assistance

CNN offers a Group Insurance Plan to cover for some of the health-related expenses. It is part of the department's mandate to provide assistance to employees applying for long-term disability. An estimate of 49 employees are contributing to this insurance. Within the past year, we had 3 employees receive insurance benefits due to medical reasons.

Performance Management

A Performance Management training session was conducted in April 2022 for all directors. The main objectives were to understand:

Performance management and the purpose of evaluation.

The performance evaluation cycle at the Cree Nation of Nemaska and gain familiarity with the program and tools

The importance of ongoing performance management activities.

Employee Recognition

Retirement

Matthew Tanoush / Director of Land and Sustainable Development

Employee Recognition during the Christmas Banquet

Stella Jolly / Niskamoon Officer

Renee Saganash / Lieutenant

Marian Nyitrai / Head Lifeguard / First Responder

Ricky Blackned / Sports Complex Coordinator

Samuel Mettaweskum / Environment Health Officer

Upcoming Projects

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the department will work on:

- The Fundamentals of Leadership Certificate Program for employees that hold a supervisory role. The program will be administered by Algonquin College and includes 3 sessions:
 - Effective interpersonal and organization communications
 - Leadership skills
 - Building a performance culture
- Review of the Cree Nation of Nemaska Office Policies
- Implement the punch clock system

Matthew Tanoush's Retirement

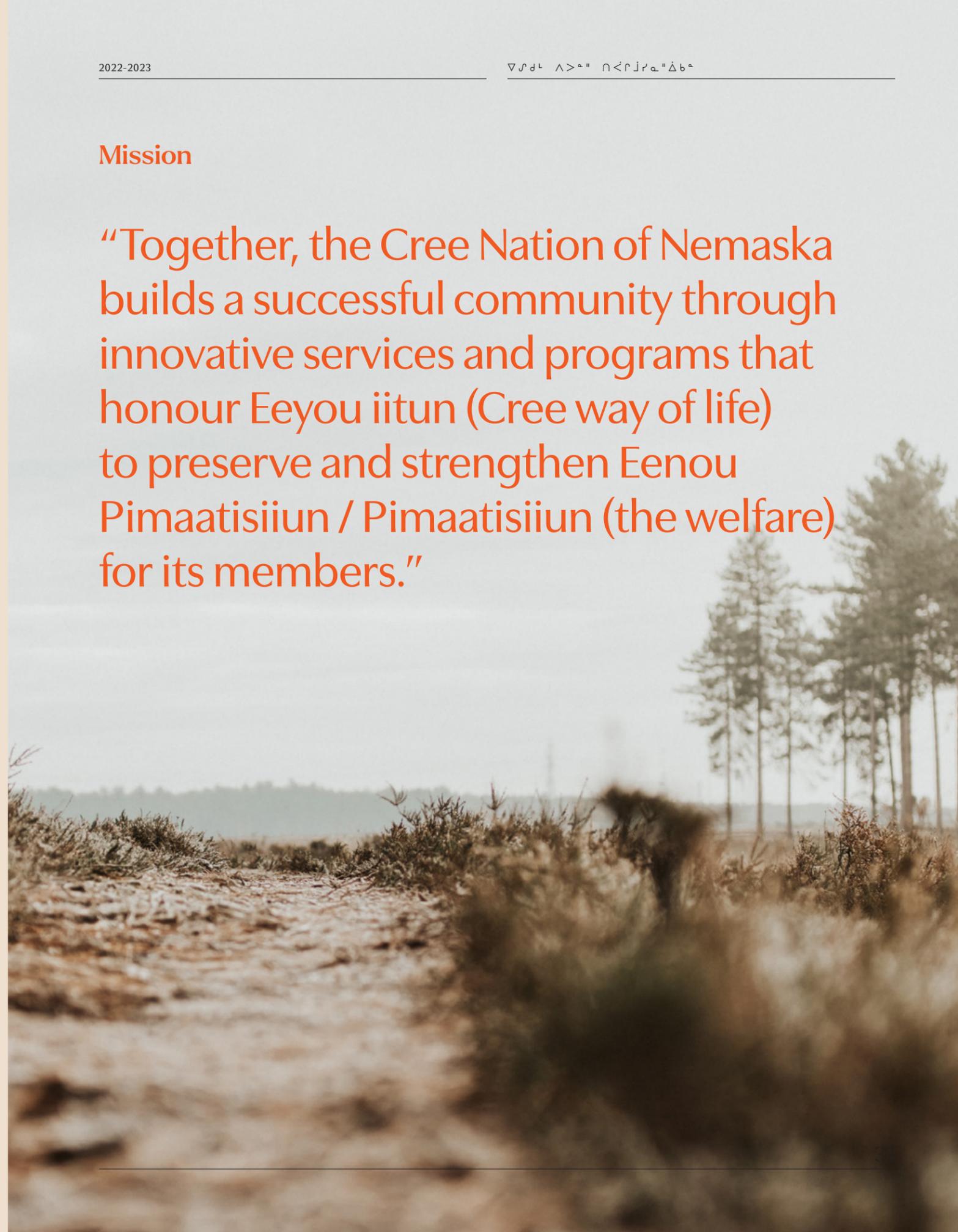


Vision

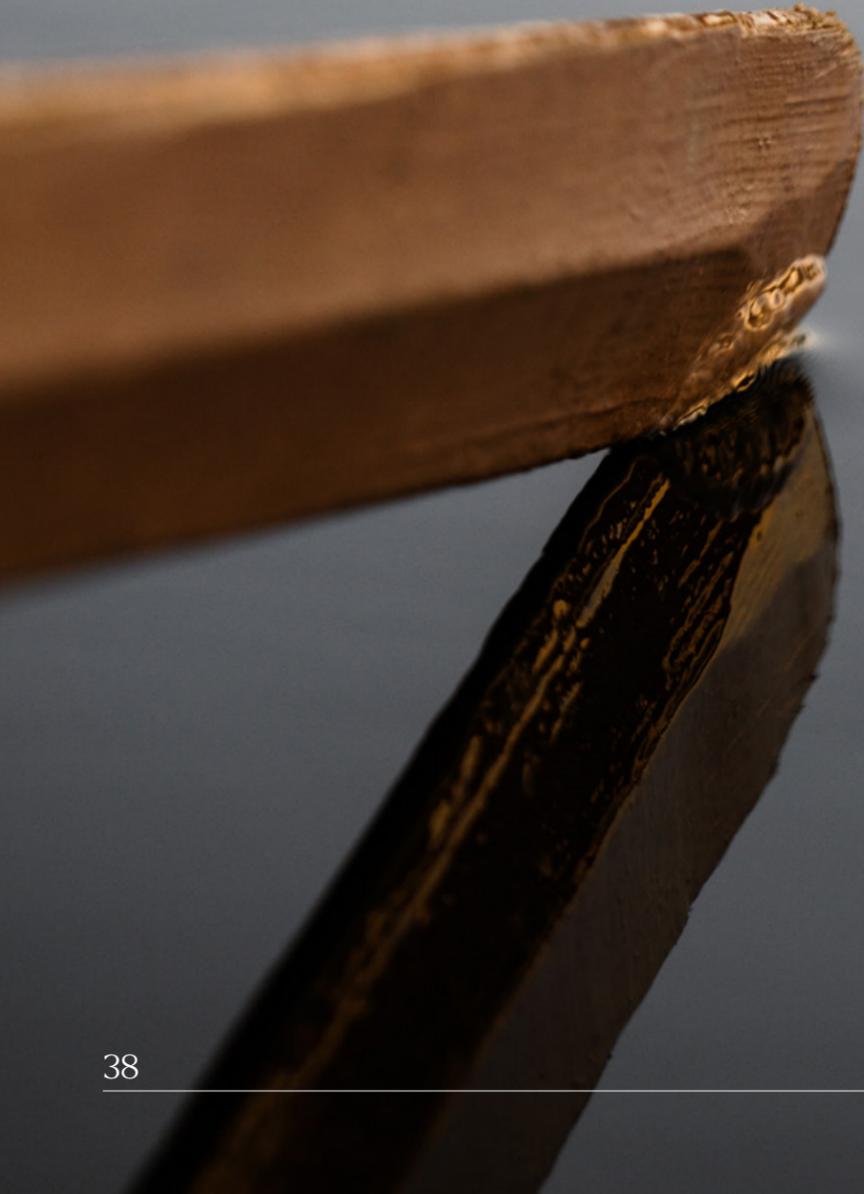
“Nemaska:
moving forward
with resilience,
Che Chii
miyupayuuk”

Mission

“Together, the Cree Nation of Nemaska builds a successful community through innovative services and programs that honour Eeyou iitun (Cree way of life) to preserve and strengthen Eenou Pimaatisiun / Pimaatisiun (the welfare) for its members.”



7 / Social Development



I am pleased to present the Social Development Department's annual report for the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

As Director, I oversee the Sports Complex, Sports & Recreation, Culture, Wellness, and the Youth Development / Youth Centre sector which includes the Youth Council. Although the Social Development Department oversees and supports the Youth Council, they are a separate entity governed by their own constitution.

I also take part in the Senior Management Committee that consists of the Directors of the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

This year, the Social Development Department was quite busy despite the challenges of the past two years. Each sector was in charge of preparing their own annual report.

One of the highlights as a team is our annual planning session where coordinators and team members gather to plan for each sector. This helps our planning and coordination as a department. Marie Delorme is a great help in these planning sessions, which also build our team spirit.

The coordinators lead each event and invite other sectors (and, sometimes, other entities) to help with planning.

We receive funding from the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Cree Health Board, Cree Nation Government, Service Canada, as well as local funders that contribute to the social events we organize. This year, we have secured funds for work on the Shaptuan, to upgrade the Sports Complex and to build a new Wellness Centre, in collaboration with project managers Natasha Leroux and Claude Coonishish. We also worked with the Maintenance Supervisor on various projects and programs, and had great support from the Public Safety Department.

The Social Development Department also works in collaboration with the Elders, the Justice Department, Cree Health Board, Ecole Luke Mettaweskum School, EEPF, local church and the departments of the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

I want to thank you as a Community for making these events successful through your engagement. Your commitment is heartwarming, especially the cheers we hear during our sporting events.

I would also like to thank the Chief & Council for their continuous support of the Social Development Department.

To the Social Development team, thank you for your continued dedication to your work. I see your efforts and I am proud of your accomplishments.

— **Stella Moar**, Director of Social Development

7.1

Culture Sector



Activities at Old Nemaska



Message from the Culture Coordinator

On behalf of the Culture Sector, I am pleased to submit the annual report to the Community members of Nemaska. This report will provide an overview and description of all projects and programs we have implemented and completed throughout the year. The Culture Sector has done its best to work with the Social Development team to plan and organize events for the Community.

I would like to thank Ms. Tera Diamond who did an amazing job as the Interim Culture Coordinator up to October 2022. Thank you to all the people who worked on our projects and programs.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Cree Nation of Nemaska, Niskamoon Corporation, James Bay Eeyou Corporation, Cree Nation Government and local businesses for their continuous financial contribution to our projects and programs.

Thank you all for your participation in all events.

Deborah Wapachee, Culture Coordinator

Activity	Description	Status
<p>Spring Airlift</p> 	<p>The aim of the Spring Airlift is to implement and provide alternative modes of transportation for Community members of Nemaska, for students, children, Elders and those affected by the Rupert Diversion. This program was partially funded by James Bay Eeyou Corporation.</p>	<p>Completed in April-May 2022</p>
<p>Old Nemaska Days</p>	<p>This annual event is one of our highlights in rekindling our heritage. During this gathering, we try our best to promote cultural teaching. We host various recreational activities for all ages. Every year, a growing number of participants attend the gathering. Some of the main events we host are traditional teachings, walking-out ceremonies, entertainment, canoe brigades hosted by Youth Council, and many more.</p>	<p>July 2022</p> 
<p>Radio Station</p>	<p>The Nemaska Radio Station is a full operation and funded by CQNRA. It is a valuable service to the Community for daily news updates. Our daily operation is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The radio station has also hosted various bingo nights for fundraisers.</p>	<p>Ongoing service</p>
<p>Nemaska Celebration</p>	<p>This celebration is hosted as an annual event to highlight where we came from and where we are now. There are various cultural and recreational activities planned to celebrate Nemaska's birthday.</p>	<p>September 2022</p>

Activity	Description	Status
<p>Christmas Festivities</p> 	<p>This prestigious event is to bring the Community of Nemaska together in this joyous season of Christmas to give, share, and most of all, to have fun. Various activities take place for all ages. The Chief and Council donated 2 Ski-doo's as prizes for our giveaways.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>
<p>Shaptuan</p>	<p>The Shaptuan is used as one of the meeting places for the Community and visitors. It is also one of the popular places for the Elders to gather in a traditional atmosphere. It is also used to host traditional activities. A few minor upgrades were done in the Shaptuan. The culture sector hired cooks to provide traditional food to the Community, which is one of the Shaptuan's most popular activities.</p>	<p>The Shaptuan opened its doors to the Community daily from February to the end of March 2023.</p> 
<p>Trappers' Festival</p> 	<p>The Trappers' Festival highlights the demonstration of the skills, practices, and activities of the Trappers and Eenouch in general in their pursuit of traditional and harvesting activities. Teachings are passed on to our people of all ages. This event is always a great turnout. People look forward to this annual event and it was a successful festival.</p>	<p>February 2023</p>

Christmas Festivities



Trappers' Festival



Nemaska Celebration



Trappers' Festival



7.2

Sports Complex Sector



Activities

In collaboration with the Recreation Sector and the Luke Mettaweskum School, the Sports Complex collaborated on several activities and programs, including:

- Installation of the batting cage in the upstairs gymnasium for the winter
- Circuit training & dry land training
- School gym time
- Invitational & local tournaments
- Morning skate

Swimming Pool

We are happy to report that the Sports Complex was able to reopen its pool from August to October 2022, and from December 2022 to February 2023.

We also launched an aquafit program offered twice a week for women by a certified instructor. The program was a great success.

Objectives for the Next Fiscal Year

The Sports Complex established objectives for the next five years. Our focus is to proceed with improvements to our facility, detailed below by section.

Arena Section

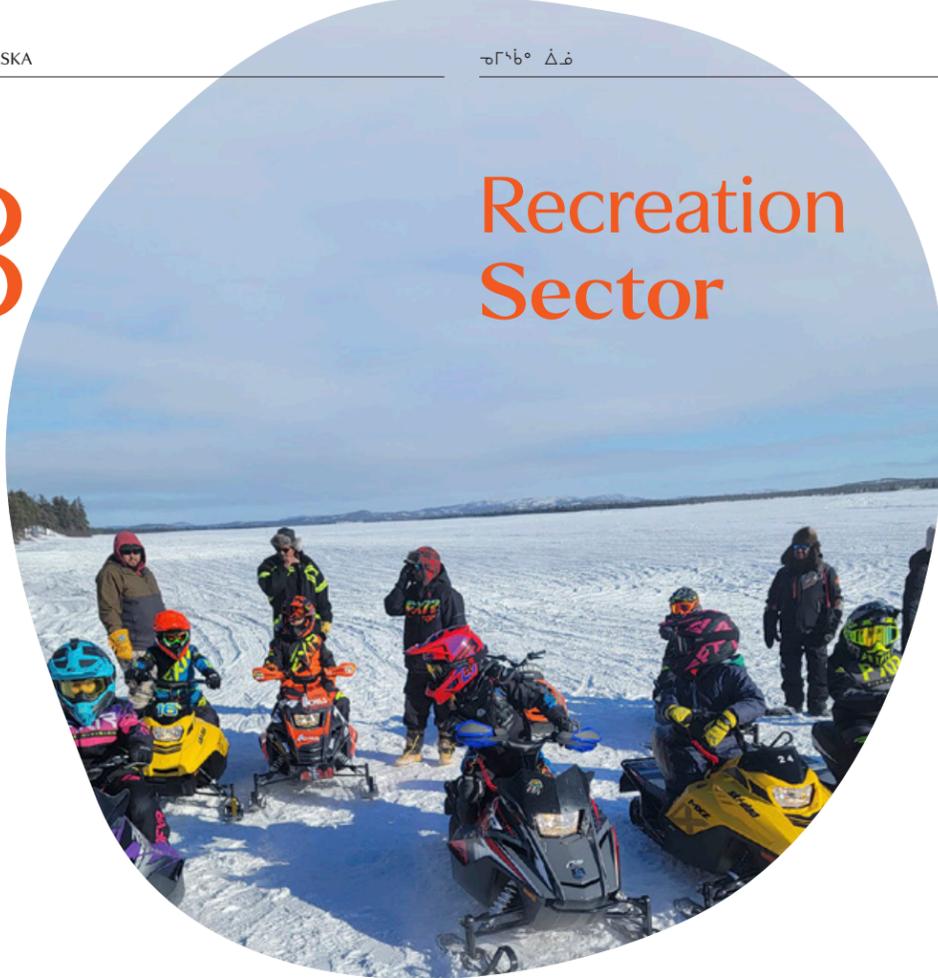
- Toilet partitions in the dressing room washrooms
- New windows for the arena (supervisor office)
- Interior wall panels
- Heating improvements in the arena
- Hallway flooring
- New scoreboard

Complex Section

- Signage for building name
- Gymnasium flooring
- Roof inspection and repairs, replacements 4 excavators
- Exterior wall
- Pool basement cracks
- Interior and exterior lighting
- Fitness flooring
- Hallway flooring
- Bowling alley demolition and new plan

7.3

Recreation Sector



June

Softball program introduction

Badminton tournament
(postponed)

Men's ball hockey league
(cancelled)

JBMSBL

- Establishing teams
- Appointing managers and coaches
- Season plan

July

Old Nemaska Gathering – children's activities

OISG – Indigenous Games Experience Trip
(cancelled)

Local minor softball tournament

August

E.I.S.R.A. Softball Festival

- August 1-4, 2022
- Community representation

Cheerleading camp

- August 9, 10, 11, 2022
(rescheduled and eventually cancelled)

Regional Minor Softball Tournament

- August 11-14, 2022

September

Senior softball tournament

- September 16, 17, 18 2022

Local co-ed volleyball tournament

- September 21, 22, 2022

October

Northern Hockey Program

- October 4-9, 2022

Invitational volleyball tournament

- October 7-9, 2022

Invitational basketball tournament
(cancelled)

- October 28-30, 2022

Men's hockey development camp
(Phase 1)

- 8 weeks, starting on October 17, 2022

November

Local senior hockey tournament
(rescheduled) (YEF 2022)

NHL local senior hockey league
(rescheduled)

December

Year-end activities

- Arena activities: Teapot Bowling, etc.
- Pool tournament
- Cribbage tournament
- Checkers tournament

January

Local senior hockey & broomball tournament

- January 19 - 22, 2022

Minor hockey & broomball tournament

- January 19 - 22, 2022

February

Nemaska cross-country ski-doo racing

- February 3-5, 2023

Nouchimii cup hockey & broomball tournament

- February 7, 18, 19, 2023

March

Junior Hockey & Broomball Tournament
(cancelled)

- March 16-19, 2023

7.4

Wellness Sector



Activities

Activity	Description
Family Room Activities	The family room is made available for Community members and their children to spend time doing activities together in a space that is adapted to children's needs. The family room is also used for small gatherings and meetings. The family worker is responsible for the room.
Sewing Program	The sewing program takes place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Home Visit Program	The family worker visits every newborn child and introduces the family to the programs that are available for them. The family worker also continues to visit the parent and child if the parent needs additional support. This program is available year-round upon request.
Special Needs Support	The family worker continues to support children with special needs according to the schedule that is provided by the Cree Health Board. This program is for children who need assistance with speech or life skills.
Aarc Awareness Program with Millie Demitro	In February and March 2022, two Community members visited Millie Demitro in Montreal for a few days. Millie visited Nemaska and hosted a workshop for the community on March 24, 2022 at the Wellness Centre. Throughout the year, Millie held a total of 15 sessions with Community members.
After-School Drop-In Activities	<p>Sarah Decarlo organized drop-in after-school activities with elementary-school students of various ages (5-6 and 8-12 years).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 24-27, 2022: After-school activities in collaboration with Youth Fusion and the Wellness Centre community worker • Elders' dinner • June 19, 2022: Fathers' Day Activities • June 22, 2022: Art Activities and Games • June 25, 2022: Pool and Board Games for ages 10+ years • June 25, 2022: Guest Speaker Steve Einish for ages 12+ years • June 25, 2022: Karaoke at Youth Centre for 14+ years <p>Alice Moore, interim Community Worker, hosted after-school Art & Baking activities for Grade 3 and 4 students (May 25, 2022) and Grade 5 and 6 students (May 27, 2022).</p>

Activity	Description
Parent Activity Programs	In collaboration with the Community Health Representative and Nutritionist, activities were offered for parents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby food making • Healthy cooking with mom
Life Skills One-On-One	Our life-skills specialist, Donna Parachin, works one-on-one with our Community members. She visits 4 times a year (roughly every 2 months) for 10 days. This year, the interest in her services increased.
Austin's Awareness Resource Centre	The Awareness Resource Centre is a place where Community members can attend a 3-day session with a professional worker for personal growth and deep personal transformation.
Counselling One-On-One	Mickey Decarlo held one-on-one counselling sessions for Community members and organized a Couples' Night, supper, and other activities.
Mental Health Counselling	Mental Health is one of the programs that we offer to Community members to assist them with their needs and refer them to the appropriate caregivers or programs. The Wellness Centre is always open for mental health clients or general Community members to drop in and talk.
International Men's Day	November 19 is International Men's Day. This year, in collaboration with the Wellness Centre, a takeout meal was organized at the CNG restaurant with expenses split with the Local Women's Association.

Activity	Description
Youth Life Skills And Babysitting Workshops	On June 11, 2022, Guy Ward offered a life skills workshop for children in Grade 5 and 6. Topics included respecting oneself and others, getting along with others, talking to parents, coping with feelings, overcoming bullying, and safety when home alone. There were also daily arts, crafts, games and prizes to be won. On February 19, 2023, Guy and Heather offered a babysitting course at the Rec Hall in Nemaska for children aged 10-12 years. Participants received kits and training on first aid, child safety, injury prevention and emergency safety procedures. Snacks and lunch were provided and participants received certificates. As this program was a great success, we are aiming to offer these workshops 3 times a year.
Mental Health Worker	Mickey Decarlo visited from November 22 to 26, 2021 to offer one-on-one counselling sessions. She also hosted an Elder's and Couples' Dinner, coffee breaks, activities with the kids' club, family expressive art, kokum group and girls' group. On April 4th, 2022, Mickey and Randy Decarlo hosted a Sobriety and Spirituality meeting in the family room. Mickey also offers one-on-one counselling.

Wellness Centre Activities



Activity	Description
Soup Kitchen	Using the Youth Centre kitchen, Randy Decarlo made soup and sandwiches for different events several times a year, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Couples' Dinner at the Rec Hall on April 6, 2022 with activities and door prizes • Grab'n'Go on September 1, October 27 and December 1, 2022 • Students' Lunch on February 9, 2023 • Couples' Dinner • Coffee breaks on September 2, October 28, December 2, 2022, as well as February 10, 2023
Clothing Donations	Seasonal clothing donations were organized in collaboration with Community members at the Rec Hall (May 30-31, 2022; October 13-14, 2022; March 8-10, 2023). Community members drop off clothing they wish to donate or they arrange pickup.
Food Distribution	This program was designed to assist families in need of food supplies. Vouchers are available at the Wellness Centre.
Financial Management	Financial advisor Dominique Derourcher helped Community members with financial management by appointment. Finances have been a great source of stress for people dealing with personal challenges. This program has been offered for the past 4 years.
Chiropractor And Chiropodist / Pedicure Services	Chiropractor and chiropodist / pedicure services were offered on a walk-in basis (chiropractor) or by appointment (chiropodist and pedicure) in Nemaska at different points throughout the year.
Baby Supplies	We order diapers, milk and baby wipes from the Nemaska grocery store intended for low-income and Headstart families. On June 8, 2023, we placed an emergency order for low-income families due to the forest fires.

Activity	Description
National Child Day	November 20 is National Child Day. In 2022, we kept the gathering small due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hosted a pizza/spaghetti lunch with activities for Headstart parents. A children's gala was held on December 6 at the Sports Complex.
Annual Arts & Crafts and Bake Sale	Our annual Arts & Crafts and Bake Sale was held at the Sports Complex on December 7, 2022. Community members attended to shop, chat, and enjoy themselves over coffee and tea.
Community Events	The Wellness team continues to support Community events such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Activities • Easter • Christmas parade • Canada day celebration • Nemaska birthday celebration • Local tournaments • Walking-out ceremonies • 1st winter snowshoe walk • Memorial service
Other Daily Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the Rec Hall • Management of the Wellness Apartments • Assistance with workshops • Requests for Emergency & Compassionate Fund

Activity	Description
Social Development Team	For the past 6 years, we have been working as a team under the Social Development Department on major events such as Old Nemaska Day, Nemaska Celebrations, tournaments, Christmas festivities, canoe brigades, and the Winter Journey.
Lunch Special for Mothers' Day	On May 20, 2022, we hosted a Grab'n'Go lunch special at the Rec Hall in honour of Mothers' Day. Soup and sandwiches were provided for takeout.
Babysitting Allowance for Parents	Parents who would like to attend workshops or training sessions to better themselves can access an allowance through the Wellness Centre upon request.
Wellness Summer Camp	Summer student Tina Brown, summer camp helper Myrandy Minister and summer camp specialist Lena Bates worked at Old Nemaska. After the gathering, they continued to work in the Community to offer camp activities starting July 5, 2022, for 5 weeks.
Driving School	Driving courses were offered 4 times a year in collaboration with the École de conduite Taauchiiwaatin under the supervision of Raymond Menarick and Gary Duff from Chisasibi.

7.5

Youth Development Sector



Winter Journey



Message from the Youth Development Coordinator

I am pleased to present the Youth Development Sector's annual report. As the Youth Development Coordinator, some of my responsibilities were to:

- Work in collaboration with the Youth Sector and Social Development Team
- Organize activities to promote and maintain the social, physical, and psychological well-being of our Community's children & youth
- Develop and lead youth programming and events
- Refer youth to professionals when needed (e.g., social worker, guidance counsellor, etc.)
- Liaise with other Youth Coordinators and research appropriate programs to innovate and offer our youth the best services
- Develop strategies and implement plans to maximize engagement in activities based on an evaluation of previous activities, as well as the needs and interests of Community members

Looking forward to continuing the good work,

Jean Meskino, Youth Development Coordinator

Summer Student Employment Program

The Summer Student Employment Program is a Youth Work Experience program for youth aged 13 to 30 years and currently in high school, post-secondary or adult education. The program runs between June and August and aims to help youth gain work experience, improve their work ethic, and learn strategies for time and financial management.

Employment opportunities are obtained by contacting local organizations and businesses that provide a placement for the students, such as the Cree Nation of Nemaska, Daycare Centre, Recreation Department, Sports Complex, NDC stores, restaurant & gas station, Sam's & JRs Garage, Youth Centre, Wellness Centre, and others.

Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) Annual General Assembly

In the summer of 2022, the CNYC held their AGA in Old Nemaska. The goal of the Youth Development Sector was to assist the local coordinator, Gregory Jolly, with the event.

Youth delegates from Cree Communities as well as Inuit guests arrived at the Youth Centre from where they were transported to Old Nemaska. The delegates got to enjoy their stay by partaking in a variety of activities organized by the CNYC team. One of the highlights of the event was when one of the delegates, Marcus Jolly, had gone on a boat ride and returned with a moose he had slain with an axe! Some of the delegates assisted in getting the animal off the boat and up the hill where they got to learn how to skin and cut the moose. We got to enjoy fresh meat the next day. With the assistance of the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the event was a success.



Marcus Jolly

Find Todd the Panda

Todd is a giant-sized stuffed Panda that was abandoned by its previous owner. Based on social media posts, Todd slowly made his way into the Community. Inspired by the posts, we decided to create a fun game: "Selfie with Todd the Panda" using the hashtag #wherestoddthepanda, many selfies and photos were posted, and the rule was to post the photo online with the hashtag and move Todd to a new location. This activity inspired Community members of all ages to search for Todd. With his growing popularity, an inflatable panda costume was purchased to serve as a mascot at our events. The current whereabouts of the real Todd the Panda are currently unknown.

Trunk or Treat

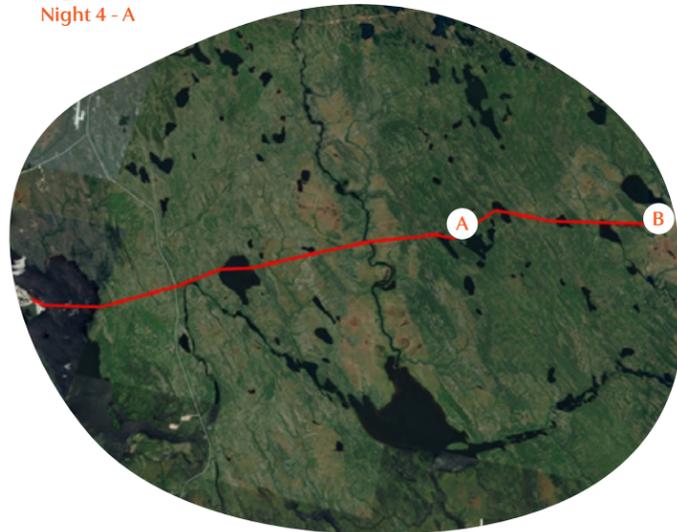
With the pandemic, we had to maintain social distancing and limit the number of people in our homes. We had to keep our Community and, most importantly, our children safe. Rather than having the usual trick or treat, people were encouraged to hand out treats outside their homes. Those who decorated their vehicles were entered into the Trunk or Treat contest and we had a draw for those who handed out treats from outside their homes. This allowed us to solve the issue of entryways being crowded and having to clean up all the sand afterward. Parents were able to maintain visual contact with their children as they made their rounds.

Winter Journey

In previous years, the winter journey lasted 10 days, and it was to Old Nemaska. This year, due to the weather changes, the winter journey lasted one week and the route was also changed—they departed the Shaptuan and snowshoed to Samuel Mettawekum's old campsite. Seven people participated: Austin Wapachee, Sequin Shecapio, Tristan Swallow, Darlene-Grace Herodier, Kristopher Neeposh, Denzel Diamond, and Jamie-Lynn Coonishish. The group was led by Clifford Jolly with Ronnie Trapper and Melanie Wapachee as assistant guides. We also had three general helpers assisting the group: Leslie Tent, Zachary Jolly, and Naaman Moar. Mr. Tent was not only the head General Helper but also the first responder on call in case of a medical emergency.

The winter journey allowed Community members to gain new experiences on the land and create new friendships with one another. Upon their arrival at the Shaptuan, they were greeted by their family, friends, and Community members. A feast was held at the Sports Complex in their honour.

Winter Journey 2023
Night 1 - A
Night 2 & 3 - B
Night 4 - A



Workshops

SKY Development Services facilitator Ancita Bugden facilitated two one-day workshops for the Youth: Goal Setting and Personal Budgeting for college students. These workshops were to help prepare students for college life. Additional workshops will be offered in the upcoming year.

Collaborations

Throughout the year, we worked in collaboration with the Social Development team on various programs and activities such as:

- Old Nemaska Gathering
- Nemaska's Birthday Celebrations
- Christmas Festivities
- Nouchimii Cup

Christmas Festivities



7.6

Youth Centre Sector

Workshops at the Youth Centre



Opening of the Pump Track



Activities

Activity	Description	Status
Trappers' Festival	During the Trappers' Festival, we held cooking workshops in the kitchen. Participants had the chance to be taught how to make traditional food such as Bannock, doughnuts, Sheebye and Boudin.	Completed in April 2022
Nurse Appreciation Week	Our local CMC took the time to show appreciation for the nurses at our local clinic	Completed in April 2022
CPR & First Aid Training	All Youth Centre employees completed the training program.	Completed in May 2022
Taco Tuesday	The Youth Program Specialist hosted a cooking activity in the kitchen where participants got to make tacos to enjoy.	Completed in June 2022
Pride Month	The Youth Program Specialist hosted a movie night and showed a movie called "Love, Simon" to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.	Completed in June 2022
Card Game Night	The Youth Program Specialist planned a game night where youth got to win door prizes and enjoyed some snacks.	Completed in June 2022
Online Gaming Tournament	Nemaska Youth Centre hosted an online gaming tournament called Call of Duty Warzone. Participants played in pairs and the top 3 teams won prizes.	Completed in June 2022
Movie Day	The Youth Program Specialist showed a movie called "Spiderman: No Way Home". The children were also served snacks and beverages.	Completed in June 2022
Game Night	The Youth Program Specialist hosted a board game night.	Completed in September 2022
Nemaska Celebration	Cooking classes were offered by Elders in the kitchen.	Completed in September 2022

7.7

Youth Council



Canoe Brigade



Youth Activities



Despite the challenges faced in 2023, the Youth Council contributed to the organization of many events for the youth of our Community.

April 2022

Goose Break Bundle Program for Young Families

June 2022

Youth Canoe Brigade

- June 28 – July 7, 2022

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

90s/00s Dance (13+)

August 2022

Paintball tournament

October 2022

Candlelight vigil (Late Neebin Icebound)

Halloweekend

Youth Harvesting Program

November 2022

Youth Annual General Assembly 2022
(postponed due to no quorum)

December 2022

Christmas Year-End Festivities

January 2023

Cree Nation Youth Council Tour (Youth Centre)

February 2023

Youth Hunting Program

- February 28 – March 28, 2023

Youth Week

Valentine's Gala

Virtual Activities

Youth Music Program (Youth Center)

March 2023

Youth Annual General Assembly 2023

Inauguration



8 / Land & Sustainable Development



I am delighted to present our 2022-23 annual report highlighting our department's achievements in promoting sustainable development in my last year as Director. Thank you to my colleagues and the Leadership for your invaluable support during my career at the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

Sincerely,

— **Matthew Tanoush**, Former Director of Land and Sustainable Development

Cree Land Registry System

Local Land Registrar

Supporting Council Resolution adopted on August 24, 2022, the Council appointed Rose Wapachee as Local Land Registrar and Kenneth Tanoush as Deputy Land Registrar.

On August 24, 2022, Matthew Tanoush attended the Local Land Registrars' meeting in Montreal, organized by CNG. Also in attendance were two lawyers from the law firm Gowling. Since the Cree Nation Governance Agreement signed in 2017, according to CNG, the key provisions of the existing Land Registry System for Category 1A lands are still in review. The meeting also covered issues which need to be addressed in the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 14 of the Cree Nation Governance Agreement, including the process to determine suitable arrangements for the transfer from the Federal Minister to the Cree Nation Government of the control, supervision, administration and operation of the Land Registry System.

The purpose of the meeting with the Land Registrars was to share their knowledge and expertise in the strengths, weaknesses and challenges of the current land registry system and to find solutions to improve its operations to better address future needs.

To this effect, last summer, we purchased a new plotter (map printer) with the use of our allocation of CQNRA funds. The printer is stored in Rose Wapachee's office.

Visit of Old Nemaska with Luke Mettaweskum School

On August 12, 2022, a visit of Old Nemaska was organized with the local school. We met with teachers and shared cultural notes on the history of Old Nemaska.

Inauguration of George Cheezo Road

The former name for the Main Road was Chishtaashtihkw Road, meaning "Main River" in Cree. The name was changed in September 2022 to George Cheezo Road, in memory of the late George Cheezo. The site where the Community of Nemaska is established was in the vicinity of his trapline. George Cheezo Road was inaugurated after the first day of our LAGA meeting. Immediate Cheezo family members and Community members attended the inauguration.

Visit of Old Nemaska



George Cheezo Road



Beautification Project at Old Nemaska

During the week of September 19th, 2022, we began the beautification project at Old Nemaska for 4 weeks. This project was funded by CQNRA. We hired 4 working crew members and equipment such as brush cutters, chainsaws, etc. Meals and gas were also provided. The cutting and piling of debris was not completed due to another event taking place at the Old Nemaska site.



Beautification Project



Joint Working Group on Forestry Matters

On November 23, 2022, forestry consultations were held in Nemaska.

In our view, the forestry industry is difficult to understand, given its complex, technical, and challenging nature. Waswanipi is the hardest hit when it comes to forestry, with 60% of their traplines heavily impacted. Through many forestry meetings, Waswanipi has been instrumental in the process and it has been a learning experience. As for Nemaska's current state of forestry harvesting, there has been no harvesting to date within the southern limits of our Nemaska traplines, and we have only one trapline (Billy James Jolly's trapline #N20) that continues to be part of annual forestry consultations. We work in collaboration with CNG and the other 4 Cree communities affected by forestry activities. Since the Paix des Braves Chapter 3 Agreement of the Forestry Regime there have been a lot of ongoing tasks for the JWG members from the Forestry Council and the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board.

As the regional body of JWG/MRNF counterparts, we have developed and prepared internal rules, a conflict resolution guide and harmonization measures.

Community Forestry Programs Officer, Kenneth Tanoush, was hired/reinstated to this role. For traplines affected by forestry, his role was to assist trappers in preparing and submitting proposals to FIMS. CNG administers annual funding through a service agreement with CNN. This program is called Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement.

Consultation PAFIO 2023-2028 PRAN 2023-2024

We had our meeting on November 23, 2022 with the MRNF during which they presented 2 consultation maps of the PAFIO (5-year forestry management) and PRAN (annual plan). The 2023-2028 model showed 2 new reserved harvesting blocks for a total wood allocation of 310 hectares (1 lot = 260 hectares + 50 hectares = 310 hectares). Another issue we discussed was the request from a Waskaganish land user of a parking lot (60 ft x 60 ft) at the exit of BDH (km 140). Since this request falls within his trapline, Billy James Jolly accepted the request. Billy J Jolly requests a parking lot at the exit of BDH (km 132), adjacent to his campsites. This request will be assessed with the forestry company and considered as part of a harmonization request under the 2023-2024 PRAN. Forestry consultations will continue annually. As for the Joint Working Group, meetings are ongoing on a monthly basis.

Moose Habitat Quality Research Project

The Department contributed to this project with McGill University to evaluate the quality of moose habitats within the Adapted Forestry Regime territory in Eeyou Istchee. The research focused on the analysis of location data from moose collars deployed in traplines around Waswanipi, Ouje-Bougoumou, Mistissini and Nemaska. This also includes the redeployment of collars in the Broadback region beyond the northern limit of commercial forestry. In addition, the research focuses on Cree knowledge transmission and integrating technical expertise that will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the effects of forest management on the quality of moose habitats and hunting activities. The next steps are to finalize the plan for the Moose Habitat Quality Project based on data collection and analysis and to help achieve the research objectives.

Protected Areas

Nemaska Water Quality Monitoring Project / Lake Dana And Evans

In 2022, Phase 2 of our water monitoring project at Lake Evans was begun with ongoing funding from the Challenge Fund administered by CNG. The purpose of this project is to sample and analyze the water, lakes and rivers that come from Lake Dana, and to assess and monitor potential impacts from forestry activities. To date, according to the samplings from the last 2 years, there is no indication of contaminants in the water caused by forestry or natural disturbances. The firm Water First from Ontario was selected by CNG, for their expertise in water analysis and training. CNG provides technical support to CNN and oversees the management of the project. In terms of support and for the project to succeed, we encourage the family of Trapline N19 to be involved in the project. Water First holds 2-3 day water sampling training for our participants at Lake Champion prior to their departure to Lake Evans. The Challenge Fund covers all the logistics of this project including air transportation and honorariums. CNG plans to hold Phase 3 of this project in 2023 and this will determine the result of their investigation. The report will be the property of CNN and CNG.

Nemaska Cultural Video Project

The project was funded under the Challenge Fund, administered by CNG. We hired Timeless Studios to capture Elders' traditional knowledge regarding culture, hunting, trapping, fishing, and historical memory on Nemaska territory. CNN selected the interviewees, and the interviews were conducted by Timeless Studios. In November 2022, CNG requested the final version of the video.

Protected Areas Consultation

Ecotourism

In November 22, 2022, the department met with a representative of FaunENord, an environmental non-profit organization located in Chibougamau. COTA mandated FaunENord and BC2 to assess the potential and opportunities for ecotourism developments within protected areas for Cree communities. FaunEnord presented our members with their assessment of potential ecotourism projects that could be implemented in Eeyou Istchee. The purpose of this consultation is to ensure that the ecotourism development serves the best interest of the communities by gathering input from Community members.

Nemaska Lithium Environmental Committee

In collaboration with Nemaska Lithium, an Environmental Committee was created through the Chinuchi Agreement. The committee is composed of 4 Nemaska Lithium reps, 6 CNN reps, 2 CNG reps. Four Quarterly meetings were held annually. Nemaska Lithium led the discussions and provided updates on environmental follow-ups, their temporary installations with respect to potable drinking water, and wastewater treatment at the mine site, as well as the steps to take for long-term solutions and permit regulatory requirements.

Nemaska Lithium also hosted the first Nemaska Land & Environment Conference in March 2023, in collaboration with the Cree Nation of Nemaska and with support from Transfert Environnement et Société. The conference was held as a public event to allow Community members to discuss various environmental initiatives and issues in the region with traditional and scientific experts.

Eeyou Planning Commission

The Eeyou Planning Commission is mandated for consultation and to work together with all Cree communities to build a collective vision and engagement on land-use planning activities throughout the Eeyou Istchee. Last summer, we had the mandate from CNG to contact the land users that participated in EM-1A land use studies, as these studies were the property of HQ. HQ had previously informed CNG that they would not release any information without written consent from the land users. In short, all land users listed were contacted for consent and agreed to sign the consent form. The goal is to work with land users in interpreting this information and using it to support decision-making in land use planning and land management. CNG will work out the land use data and will prepare maps for the tallymen. Following the EPC meeting in November 2022. There is a strong indication that EPC members have determined objectives in the proposal for our Cree Regional Master Plan for Category II lands and the plan to be discussed with Cree Leadership for future approval by the Government of Quebec. This will give us a better sense of where we are now and the next steps to be taken in the planning process and for our communities.

Meetings with the Tallymen



Nemaska Land & Environment Conference



Credit: Nemaska Lithium

Nemaska Land & Environment Conference



Credit: Nemaska Lithium

National Assinica Park Project

On August 30, 2022, we interviewed the tallymen concerning the Assinica Park project. The purpose of the meeting was to include Cree values and hear from the members about what they like to see implemented on their traplines and to hear their opinions, comments and concerns. Participants from Nemaska were Isaiah Jolly, N22 (impact area in the reserve area, 151.3 sq. km), and users Caroline Jolly, Abel Wapachee N23 (impact reserve area, 0.1 sq. km) and Matthew Tanoush.

Meeting with the Tallymen



The tallymen raised various topics such as:

- Protection of the Cree way of life
- Wildlife (moose, bear, woodland caribou, etc.)
- Outfitting camps established within the park
- Water quality in the area and in the water used by sturgeons
- Establishing a research centre
- Study on living species
- Medicinal ingredients that could be found in the forests
- Impacts of climate change and how to adapt to changes
- Impacts on industrial developments
- Non-forestry products

According to COMEX, there are 26 steps to follow. We are now at step 12 and all parks and protected areas are subject to Section 22 of the JBNQA, Environmental Impact Assessment Studies (EIAS), Public consultations.

9 / Public Works



Wachiya to every one of our Nemaska Eenou Community members,

On behalf of the Public Works Department, I am happy to present the annual report for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

All department employees would like to thank the Community members for their support of our work.

Sincerely,

— Kevin Diamond, Director of Public Works

Regular Activities

Our employees' dedication to their daily tasks ensures that our Community is well maintained. This year, we had more than 20 employees working in different sectors and projects, ensuring that all aspects work to better our Community.

Our responsibilities include road and walkway maintenance, wastewater, land and environment waste collection, the Eco Centre, water intake distribution, maintenance of public facilities and janitorial sectors.

Projects and Assignments

- Road and walkway maintenance
- Installation of oil container for Sam's Garage
- Sewer line cleaning
- Snow removal from rooftops of public buildings
- Snow removal from Elders' camp entrance
- Installation of outhouses at Elders' camp
- Transport of recyclable materials and electronics to Eco Centre
- Hauling gravel for sanding winter road
- Transport of cabin materials to Old Nemaska landing
- Assembling of docks in Old Nemaska landing
- Wastewater training for employees
- OPA water training
- Sprinkler system and ventilation training (Youth Centre)
- Storing archives in a temporary container until an archive process is established

- Major cleaning and disinfection of public works building
- Regular maintenance of NDC buildings
- Beautification and grass cutting
- Regular maintenance on heavy machinery and vehicles
- Regular daily maintenance on lift station and lagoon
- Maintenance of public parks, skating rink, baseball field and boardwalk
- Landfill management and cleaning
- Maintenance of the gravesite during funerals
- Maintenance of the arena and Sports Complex
- Maintenance of the Youth Centre
- Janitorial work in public buildings
- Airport pickup of mail and passengers for CNN employees and travelling court personnel
- Renovation of Wellness Apartments
- Collection of recyclable materials for the Eco Centre
- Collection of household waste
- Collection of waste for Hydro Québec
- MTQ winter road contract
- Assistance of contractors for the Community

Cemetery
Maintenance



Landfill
Consultation



Eco Centre
Activities



Maintenance of
Public Buildings



10 / Housing



It is our **great pleasure** to introduce the Housing Department's annual report for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Despite the challenges in recruitment due to a high turnover rate within the Housing Department, our staff was able to deliver programs and services to our Community members.

On behalf of the Housing Department, we would like to thank Natasha M Leroux (Capital Projects Manager), George Wapachee (Director General), Edna Neeposh Sr (Councillor, Housing Portfolio) and the Chief and Council for **their continuous support**.

The Housing Department would like to also thank Lena Bates, the former Director of Housing, for her service. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

— **Ruth Jolly**, Deputy Director General, Interim Director of Housing (January 2023 to May 2023)

Employees

The Housing Department currently works with 10 employees and collaborators.

Housing Committee Members

The Housing Department also works with the following five members of the Housing Committee:

Stella M Wapachee

Ruth Jolly

Mary Jane Wapachee Sr

Charlot Jolly

Gertie Jolly

Funding Programs

Rapid Housing Initiative 2022-2023 3PLEX

The third round of applications began in February 2022. We are applying for a three-plex (lot 120 Partridge Road) and waiting for a response from CMHC/CNG. All documents have been submitted by the CNN Capital Projects Manager. If approved, construction will start in the current fiscal year.

Cree Nation Government: Community Social Housing Program 2022-2023

In the first round, we received \$3,821,300.00 for the construction of 10 Units, 5 duplexes on Machisteweyau Trail. The units will be completed at the end of June 2023. Tenants are expected to move in July 2023 after the final inspection. Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation 2022-2023 contributed a total of \$1,000,000.00 towards the construction of the 10 CSHP units. We received \$100,000.00 from Special Funding under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund.



New Housing Projects

Cree Nation Government Capital A-Base Funding

We received \$356,916.00. This amount is usually applied to Section 95 or any other housing project.

Cree Nation Government Urgent Renovations 2022-2023 NRA

No funds were received for this project.

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation: Section 95 Program 2022-2023

We received \$329,037.00 in funding for a duplex or house on 100A/B Partridge Road. Construction will start in the summer of 2024. A new funding application will be submitted in the fall for 2023-2024. We have two years to build with this program.

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation: Section 95 Program 2021-2022

We received \$329,037.00 for a duplex at 97AB Partridge Road. The unit will be completed at the end of June 2023. Tenants are expected to move in July 2023 after the final inspection is completed.

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation 2022-2023

We received a one-time special contribution of \$149,500.00 towards repairs and maintenance. The agreement was only signed in March 2023 (CMHC file #16229528-001-002-004). The project totaling 13 units will be initiated in 2023-2024.

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation 2022-2023 Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program 21-22

Funds were approved at \$60,000.00 for the unit at 6 Rabbit Trail. Final inspection was initiated in January 2023 for this unit and the project was completed at 96%.

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation 2022-2023 Reaching Home Program 3rd Round

We received \$30,000.00 for 3 Squirrel Trail. Renovations began in March 2023 and the project is yet to be completed.



Cree Nation Government Community Private Housing Initiative 2022-2023

There was no development on projects already initiated by applicants. However, we started garnering the interest of new members, especially amongst the youth. In the coming months, an information session will be offered to the Community on private housing initiatives from CNG/NRH.

Cree Nation of Nemaska Rent-to-Own 2022-2023

Nothing was built this fiscal year, but all tenants have settled in the recent rent-to-own units since September 2021 and discrepancies were updated.

Nemaska Rental Housing

Ongoing Renovation Projects for 2022-2023

11 units were renovated by our local contractors.

Elder Units 2022-2023

Work began in the fall of 2022 starting with inspections. The project will be initiated in 2023-2024.

End of Agreements

The End of Agreement is not finalized for 2022-2023. There are still 84 total units in the progress stage for 2023-2024. The Cree Nation Government is also looking into solutions for better practices and procedures. Insurance and upkeep of units are still challenging obstacles for most communities.

Rental Arrears

Arrears are at \$3,743,458.50 for 2022-2023. We are in the process of collecting data from NRH records. Collection procedures will begin in 2023-2024.

Housing Waitlist

We have 66 applicants on the waiting list as of March 31, 2023. We allocated 17 units in 2022-2023. We also have several relocation requests.

Next Fiscal Year

CNN/NRH will receive additional O&M funding starting in 2023-2024 from CNG for more job positions. In addition, we will receive renovation funding from the federal government and CMHC's contribution to renovate 40 units within a timeframe of 3 years (2023-2026). Next fiscal year, 13 units will need to be renovated. We are also working with Paul Davis who specializes in mold, fire, flood and wind damages.

CNG Housing Team Community Tour

On March 28, 2022, Louise Tanoush, Stacyann Tanoush, Gertie Jolly (Housing Committee member), Ruth Jolly (Interim Housing Director) were present at the meeting along with the CNG team to review the following programs:

- Special Community Social Housing from CMHC
- Reaching Home Program
- Social and Rental Housing Program
- Section 95 – End of Agreement Program

11 / Public Health and Safety



Human Resources

The Human Resources Department is under a structuring phase which will improve functioning and efficiency. This phase is an ongoing project in collaboration with a consultancy firm. The department's structure and organizational chart will be available in the next fiscal year.

The Public Health & Safety and Fire Department Human Resources team has 7 permanent employees, 1 under contract and 13 casual helpers. All personnel have different schedules. Casual helpers do not have benefits and only request to work when required.

Communication

There were numerous publications that were distributed to the public concerning the safety of all Community members such as :

- Ice monitoring at Old Nemaska and Rupert's River
- Public Order, Safety Nuisance and Traffic by-law
- Hydro-Quebec power outages
- Monitoring of wild animals and dangerous predators (wolf and bear sightings)

The department also used the Nemaska Public Safety and Fire Department Announcements Facebook Page to communicate with our members.

Projects

- Acquisition of SAR equipment (rescue boat)
- Capacity building – training programs for personnel
 - Ice water rescue
 - Fire Fighter 101
 - Search and rescue missions

Night Security

The night security project was created to support the collective effort to maintain peace and security in Nemaska. We hired four individuals through the program.

Services Offered to Other Entities

Our department has been committed to offering services to other departments that organize events for our Community and other communities that need help, including:

- Ambulance and fire
- Search and rescue (SAR)
- Domestic animal control
- Night security patrol

Training



Fire in April 2022



Animal Control Vaccination



Fire Sector

Statistics

29 Minor calls

False Alarm	11
Fire Alarm	15
Burglar Alarm	1
Parade	1
Smell propane (False)	1

47 Medium calls

Public Assistance	8
Police Assistance	13
EMS Assistance	10
Animal Control	3
Busted Pipes	1
Overheating	1
Power Outage	1
Human Error	1
S&R	9

20 Major calls

Fire Alarm	2
Automobile Accident	6
Hazmat	7
Structure Fire	1
Aircraft Accident	1
Forest Fire	1
Boat Fire	1
Flood	1

96 Total calls

Next Fiscal Year

The department is looking forward to:

- New SSMRTC
 - In addition to in-house training continued throughout the year, firefighters will continue with NFPA certification courses. 2 students have enrolled in the 15-week course, NFPA 1001 (CNG)
- New ladder truck and training
 - Crash course on truck
 - EONE Specialist for more trainings from USA (certification)

First Responders Sector

Statistics

121 Emergencies

14 Adapted Transport

18 Home Returns

44 Medevacs

12 / Capital Projects



It is our pleasure to present our annual report for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Our mission within the Capital Projects Department is to help the Cree Nation of Nemaska in the development of projects from the first idea to its full deployment. We assist CNN departments and others with planning, developing, managing and implementing projects in the most effective and transparent manner.

The Capital Projects Office also manages the NRA Five Year Capital Plan including new project funding, supervising and controlling project execution, filling CNG-CWS required documents, as well as preparing project end of the year and completion reports.

Our vision is an Indigenous nation where people lead serene, healthy and fulfilling lives supported by appropriate sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Our purpose is to enhance the Community's quality of life while protecting its culture, values and interests.

Thank you to our Leadership and our colleagues for their continuous support.

Sincerely,

— **Natasha Leroux**, Project Manager & Advisor
Claude Coonishish, Project Manager

Environmental Projects

Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Funds committed by CIRNAC on January 11, 2019 for an amount of \$348,895. The final report was received in April 2022. A short presentation of the CCAP is planned for this fall.

Waste Management

Existing Solid Waste Landfill

The existing landfill near CNN has about a two-year lifespan left. One of the remaining cells cannot be used as the groundwater is too close to the surface. A berm was designed and built in 2018 to increase the lifespan of the landfill by five years.

In September 2021, The Public Works Department had issues with the existing landfill operations. It was believed that the landfill was full and that we were in urgent need of a new site. Stantec experts visited Nemaska and assessed the problem. In the end, it was ascertained that there was still lots of space in the landfill and that it would last at least another two years if operated properly. Best practice training was then provided to the Public Works team to help keep the site clean and increase its lifespan.

In the spring of 2023, the landfill's lifespan was questioned once again but it was found that it has approximately one more year of lifespan left if operated properly.

Upcoming Steps

In order to review the lifespan of the site and to plan its capacity before the opening of the new landfill (planned for 2025), we are presently evaluating:

- The residual capacity with the current layout (raised trench currently operated on the 2nd level)
- Additional arrangements that could be made to increase the capacity by a few years.

In 2025, we will start collecting data for a closure plan. The site should be closed and restored in the summer of 2026.

New Solid Waste Landfill

A study and search for another landfill site were completed to identify the best location for a new landfill to be opened prior to the current one becoming full. The recommended site No. 4 was approved by Council in September 2017. The proposed new landfill site was chosen after a site selection process and is situated southeast from the Community, approximately 17 km by road, near km 306 of the Route du Nord.

The project notice was sent to the MELCC in August 2019 and the directive from COMEV was received mid-April 2020. It includes guidelines to prepare the environmental impact study. A detailed report for the identification of greenhouse gas emissions for each phase of the project is included.

The ecological characterization was conducted in September 2019. It identified a small swamp south-west of the site and peatland south of the site. According to the regulation, the minimum distance between the trench area and any watercourse or body of water must be 150 m. Wetlands are included in the body of water definition, but not peatland. Stantec organized a conference call at the end of April with the MELCC and they confirmed Stantec biologists’ interpretation concerning wetlands definition criteria.

The Desktop Study of Archaeological Potential of the area was done in December 2019. Research conducted for this study revealed that the level of archaeological potential is low to moderate and that the only moderate zone will not be affected by the planned infrastructure. Impact risk on archaeological heritage is low and measures of impact mitigation will not be necessary. The project should proceed without further constraints regarding the archaeological heritage.

The following tasks were completed during the fiscal year:

2021–2022

- Climate change impacts assessment
- Hydrogeological study
- Land users’ interviews (meeting with the Tallyman, Charles Cheezo)

2022–2023

- Access Road selection
- Public consultations
- Preliminary plans (still in progress and planned to be completed in September 2023)
- Impact study report + translation (still in progress and expected to be completed in October 2023)

- **Next Steps**
- COMEX analysis (November 2023 - October 2024)
- Final plans and tender process (November 2024 - February 2025)
- Request for authorization to build to MELCCFP (November 2024 - February 2025)
- MELCCFP analysis (March - June 2025)
- Construction of the new landfill (Summer 2025)
- Start of operations of new landfill (Fall 2025)

Housing Projects

CNG Urgent Renovations 2019–2020, 2020–2021, 2021–2022

The renovations of 20 social housing units amounted to \$1,295,815.06 and were financed by both CNG and CNN. The works started in October 2021 with the directive to prioritize the 2021-2022 list. The projects were completed in May, June and July of 2022.

Bungalows at 29, 31, 33, 36 and 38 Machishteweyaau and 7 Porcupine

Total cost	\$4,203,020
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Funding sources:

1. CNG Special Community Social Housing: \$2,292,780
2. CMHC Co-Investment Fund: \$600,000
3. Cree Nation of Nemaska: \$1,310,240

VPC was awarded the contract and construction started in May 2023. The six bungalows are planned to be completed in August 2023.

Duplex at 97 Partridge Road

Total funding	\$845,000
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Sources: Cree Nation of Nemaska and CMHC

Kesi Construction was awarded the contract and construction started in June 2022. The duplex was almost finished in March 2023, but due to major deficiencies and to the Route du Nord being blocked because of forest fires, the project wasn't completed. Its completion is planned for August 2023.

Duplexes at 15, 17, 19, 37 and 39 Machishteweyaau

Total funding	\$4,821,300
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Sources:

1. CNG Special Community Social Housing: \$3,821,300
2. CMHC Co-Investment Fund: \$1,000,000

VPC was awarded the contract and construction started in April 2022. The five duplexes are expected to be completed in August 2023.

Gutter Addition to 46 Homes

Total cost	\$145,545
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Source: CNN

Renovations of Wellness Apartments

Local workers were hired to renovate the Wellness Apartments. The works began in May 2022 and were completed in September 2022.

Infrastructure Projects

Boat Launching Ramp

This project is funded by CNN and Niskamoon for an amount of \$623,901.

All permits and authorizations required to build the new boat launch were obtained over the past year. The works under water have to be carried out between July 15 and September 15, 2023, to comply with restrictions imposed by the various ministries concerned.

Bids on invitations were called in the spring and the contract was awarded to MIS. The works started in early July and are planned to be completed in August 2023.

Bridge at the Narrows

The River Pontax at the Narrows is a navigable river. The culverts must be replaced by a bridge. This is a joint project involving the Ministry of Transportation, the federal government and the CNN. The MTMD signed an agreement with the SDBJ in January 2023 for the study, design, plans and specifications of the bridge project. This mandate is planned to be completed by fall 2024 so that the bridge can be built in 2025.

Correction to Sanitary Sewer Machishteweyaau

Corrections are needed to the sewer service of the Council Office on Machishteweyaau Road. The sewer line leading to the CNN sewer network has an insufficient slope causing an accumulation of debris during the weekend or holidays due to the lack of flow. Plans and specifications were completed in 2019. Construction was planned for the summer of 2020 but was postponed to the summer of 2021. Proposals were requested from local contractors in early June 2021. The contract was awarded to NEC and the works were completed in the fall of 2020. The remaining deficiencies were finally corrected during the 2022 construction season.

Rendering of the New Bridge and the Access Road with Culverts



Rendering of New Bridge with the Pontax River Channel Open to Navigation



Covered Ice Rink

In planning since March 2023.

Cultural Lodge (New Hotel)

Cost estimate **\$16,000,000**

The plans and specifications have been completed and construction is ready to begin. We are presently looking for funds.

Existing Cemetery Expansion and Cultural Entrance

Total cost **\$990,000**

This project was formerly a new cemetery project that was abandoned. The existing cemetery will be expanded with 114 additional plots which will fulfill Nemaska’s 38-year need. The project was planned to be completed during the 2023 construction season, but was postponed to the 2024 construction season.

Extension of Machishteweyaau

This project is funded by CNRA and CNN for an amount of \$800,000. It consists of adding municipal services for two new lots at the end of Machishteweyaau Trail (lots 46 & 48 for private housing).

The project includes engineering studies, preparation of plans and specifications, an additional topographical survey, the preparation of tender call documents, and supervision of the construction. Storm sewer pipes will be 600 mm in diameter in anticipation of new industry standards. The contract was offered to Lywaashtin and, in the end, was signed with MIS. The work started in May 2023 and is expected to be completed in July 2023.

Insulation of Water and Sewer Lines on Partridge Road

The water and sewer lines of eight residential units located at 2-16 Partridge Road freeze every winter because they are only two feet below the surface of the road. They need to be properly insulated.

The plans and specifications were completed in 2019. Work was planned for the summer of 2020 but was delayed to the 2021 construction season. 50% of the work was completed during the summer of 2021. The remainder of the work was completed during the 2022 construction season. Some deficiencies need to be corrected in summer 2023.

Lagoons

It was brought to our attention that there is an ongoing unpleasant odour coming from the lagoons. During a meeting with the CNG Capital Works team, the facility was confirmed to be in good condition (which is unsurprising, as it is quite new), and is properly operated, so there should not be an odour coming from the lagoons. We then contacted the relevant expert engineer at SNC who confirmed it was not normal. In collaboration with the Public Works Department, we requested technical support from SNC to solve the issue. Assistance was provided from the end of May to July 2022 and the odour issue was corrected.

Landscaping and Beautification of Social Housing Units

This project is funded by CNRA for an amount of \$180,548, with an approximate budget of \$15,000 per unit. The Caribou Trail cluster was paved during the 2022 construction season. It will be landscaped along with two additional clusters (Moose and Beaver) during the 2023 construction season.

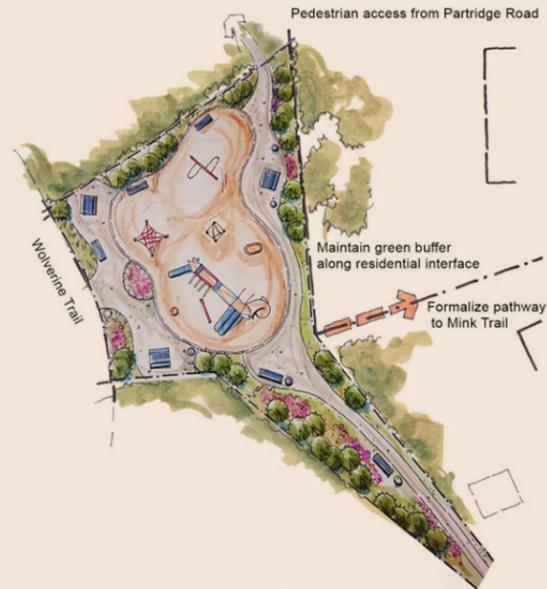
Landscaping and Beautification of Municipal Buildings

This project is funded by CNRA and CNN. The Sports Complex and Mini-Mall parking lots were paved during the 2022 construction season.

Old Nemaska Parking Expansion

The parking expansion was completed as planned in fall 2021 with some extra works and deficiencies corrected in June 2022.

Mink Trail Park



School Park



Band Office Park

Parks and Playgrounds (Future NRA Project)

This project was put on ice by the CNG Capital Works Department.

Pump Track

This project is fully funded by the CNN for an amount of \$575,000.

During a meeting that took place in Gatineau last summer, Chief Clarence Jolly, mandated the Capital Project Office to contact BMXpert and obtained a proposal for the design and construction of a pump track in Nemaska. The site that was designated for the construction of the pump track was the wooded area located between the Youth Centre and the daycare. Mr. Yannick Vincent (BMXpert) visited Nemaska in October to assess the site and confirmed that it was the most appropriate area to build a pump track.

Matthew Tanoush, Land and Sustainable Development Director, agreed with the location as long as a buffer of trees is maintained around the surrounding residential units to preserve their privacy. He also prescribes to preserve trees within the future pump track, if possible.

The construction started in early July 2022 and was completed in August 2022.

Paving of Internal Road Phase 2

This project is funded by CNRA for an amount of \$5,500,000.

Phase 2 was planned for the summer of 2020 but was delayed to the summer of 2021 due to the pandemic. Public bids were called in February 2020 for work to be completed in 2021. The contract was awarded to Nemaska-Eenou JV, the lowest bidder. Work started on June 9, 2021 and was completed during the fall of 2021. Some deficiencies still need to be corrected.

Paving of Internal Road Phase 3

This project is funded by CNRA for an amount of \$2,400,000.

Public bids were called in February 2022. The contract was awarded to Wemindji Paving, the lowest bidder. Works were completed in an efficient and professional manner as planned in August 2022.

Residential Infrastructure: Phase 2B (23 new lots on Partridge Road)

This project is funded by CNRA for an amount of \$5,377,770.

Public bids were called in February 2022. The contract was awarded to Nemaska-Eenou JV, the lowest bidder. Works officially began in June 2022, but were not fully undertaken in a diligent and professional manner until August 2022. The work was mostly completed by June 15, 2023 with some deficiencies to be completed by the end of August 2023.

Sewer Network Cleanup and Training for Employees

This project cost \$103,032 and is funded by the CNN. Many manholes and catch-basins were clogged with debris from the network. Cleaning the network once a year is typically the responsibility of the Public Works Department of each city. As CNN's Public Works Department didn't have the training to undertake this cleaning, InspecVision was hired to clean the network while simultaneously training CNN's Public Works employees.

New Shaptuan

In planning since March 2023.

Shore Protection

Studies are underway, as are discussions with the various ministries involved in the project. The project was presented to the Community last March. The firm CHG Groupe-Conseils, in collaboration with Poly-Géo, will carry out the hydraulic studies (waves) and determine which types of protective structures are preferred. The latter will have to blend in with the natural environment and have as little impact as possible on fish habitats. The reviewed protection measures will be presented to COMEV in late autumn 2023.

Street Lighting

This project costs \$54,000 and is funded by the CNG.

The street lighting in Nemaska being deficient, the 110 yellow headlamps of the network were replaced by LEDs which significantly improve lighting on the streets of Nemaska.

Swimming Pool Assessment of Observed Cracks and Leaks

Further to inspection, no significant cracks or signs of seepage from the pool were found. It is still recommended that these minor cracks be repaired in the short term. We are currently awaiting a proposal detailing the plans, specs and cost estimate for the work. It is also recommended to have an inspection of the pool's mechanical systems, as the leak problem could come from this location. We are awaiting a proposal for the inspection of the pool's mechanical systems.

Youth Centre

This project is funded by CNRA and CQNRA for an amount of \$6,938,298.

The Youth Community Centre on Lakeshore Road was inspected by Trame's experts to evaluate the ways and means of rehabilitating the building. It was found unfeasible and the building was condemned to be demolished. The decision was made to build a new Youth Centre. The work was awarded to NEJV and completed in March 2020. Most of the building was constructed by June 30, 2020. However, some deficiencies and seasonal works are still to be fully completed. We are expecting a new schedule for their completion during the 2023 construction season.

Plan of the Youth Centre



Urban Planning

Long-Term Development Plan (Comprehensive Community Plan)

This project is funded by CNRA for an amount of \$146,425. The Long Term Planning Project (Comprehensive Community Plan, CCP), which includes the Zoning Law, is a roadmap to sustainability, self-sufficiency and improved governance. It offers a framework and processes for the Community to establish its core values and set a vision for the future. It also provides tools to work toward achieving this vision while ensuring the preservation and promotion of our values.

The Capital Projects Office started working on this project with BC2 in the spring of 2021. The project was put on ice during the fall and was resumed in early February 2022. We are presently completing the background report. Once it is completed, the Zoning Law, as well as a suggested Comprehensive Community Plan, will be elaborated. We are planning the final Comprehensive Community Plan to be delivered in the fall of 2022. A description of each of the project's phases is provided below.

Phase 1 – Background Report

This document is an assessment of the current state of Nemaska (e.g., community profile, demographic information, governance structure, mapping, strengths and challenges). It consists of documented data provided by CNN, such as reflections from Directors and from Chief and Council on Community issues, on what should change, on what elements are missing in the community, as well as reflections from Community members of all age groups gathered through the Comprehensive Community Plan Survey. The survey will be relaunched in March 2024 since we did not have many participants when it was first launched in the fall of 2021. The purpose of the background report is to identify the needs, wishes and vision of the Community in collaboration with its members.

Phase 2 – Comprehensive Community Plan

With the information collected in the background report, a Comprehensive Community Plan will be elaborated alongside the Zoning Law to meet the Community's needs and wishes as well as anchor its vision, values and guiding principles. It will provide a land needs assessment, determine orientations and objectives, suggest development and design plans, set short-, medium- and long-term actions, as well as propose an action plan and a monitoring strategy.

Meetings with various departments and Nemaska stakeholders throughout the development process will confirm the feasibility of all proposed interventions, ensuring that the planning and implementation phases of the plan are complementary and that all stakeholders involved work in unity towards a common global vision.

The project was completed in the fall of 2022.

Zoning Law

The purpose of a Zoning Law is to enforce the policies of the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) by regulating development. Enforcing these policies involves controlling where the different types of constructions can take place in the Community, as well as the size and the types of buildings and their location on a lot. The Zoning Law will assist the Community in the management of their territory and exercise greater control over land use and community planning. The project was started in 2022 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2023.

Old Nemaska Heritage Site

This project aims to revitalize Old Nemaska by creating a truly sustainable and off-the-grid community. Preliminary field surveys were completed in previous years. The project is planned to be resumed during the summer or fall of 2023.

Other

Gravel Pits, Sand Pits and Quarries

The granular materials required for the construction of roads and infrastructure are extracted from natural quarries, sand pits and gravel pits. Pits and quarries are used to mine materials located close to the earth's surface. These mines provide us with the granular materials necessary for the construction of roads and infrastructure.

Quarries located near Nemaska are:

- GD17A and GD17 (a mix of fine and bulky granular material)
- NEM-100B (mostly sand)
- Km 322 Quarry (stone walls that must be blasted to extract the stone which is then crushed)
- New Quarry (on the west side of km 2.5)

The CNN Capital Project Office oversees and monitors the operations of the gravel pits and quarries in accordance with the agreement between NEJV and CNN. It is also responsible for getting authorizations and permits as well as for preparing reports for the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources du Québec.

In addition, during the past fiscal year, in collaboration with Poly-Géo, we worked on the following projects:

New Quarry

We obtained the exemption from the Environmental Quality Act and we are currently in the process of requesting the operating permit and expect to have it as planned in spring 2024.

Borrow Pit GD-17

We obtained the authorization to extend the sand pit by 7 hectares for a total 10 hectares including the portion already mined at the beginning of August 2022.

Borrow Pit NEM-100B

Mining of this sand pit was completed in the fall of 2022. However, there are still piles of material belonging to CNN that can be used in the coming months. Site remediation will not be required at this time, as we are in the process of applying for an expansion (as we did for GD-17). Studies will be carried out during the summer of 2023. The application for exemption will be submitted to COMEV in the late fall, and if it is obtained, we will submit the operating permit application in the winter. Operation of the new part of the sandpit could begin in spring 2024 if all goes according to plan.

Reopening of the CA-KM-322 Quarry

We have obtained an exclusive lease (BEX) to reopen the quarry at km 323 of the Route du Nord in early September 2022. The process of obtaining permits and/or authorizations is laborious and requires the support of several environmental studies, characterization, etc.

MADA Project (Municipalité amie des aînés – Senior Friendly Municipality)

The MADA Project (Municipalité amie des aînés – Senior Friendly Municipality) is a support program for the implementation of policies and of an action plan favouring the autonomy of the elderly. The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec offers \$10,500 of funding (which represents two thirds of the budget) to support small communities like Nemaska. The other third of the cost is funded by the Municipality. This funding covers the study and data collection assessing the situation of a community's senior population, the elaboration and implementation of policies and of an action plan favouring seniors' autonomy. Once this step is completed, Nemaska will have the opportunity to apply for construction funds related to Elders' well-being.



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