



NISKAMOON CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

ANNUAL REPORT

15
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Design & Illustration
DESIGN IS YUMMY

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About Niskamoon Corporation



President's Message



WATCHIYA!

On behalf of Niskamoon Corporation, I am proud to present our Annual Report for 2015-2016.

As in any organization changes occur throughout the years and Niskamoon is no exception. As the years progress the demand for funding increases, but the dollar amounts do not necessarily increase with the demand, therefore diligence and prudence is necessary so that the distribution continues to be fair and equitable. Even priorities change as the population and the land users increase.

One major accomplishment that Niskamoon Corporation can be proud of having been involved in is the training of 150 Cree people for employment with Hydro-Québec. This achievement would not have been possible without the participation of Hydro-Québec, the Cree School Board, the various educational institutions, the many individuals who are dedicated and committed to this endeavor, and of course the individuals who took the courses and graduated. We thank you all for being part of this endeavor and achievement. This is an excellent program resulting in having qualified Crees working within Hydro-Québec. Congratulations to all those who have attained this goal.

The Training and Employment with Hydro-Québec Program finishes in 2017 as per the Agreement signed in 2004. One consideration that should be kept in mind is if this type of training were to continue in some form or another then it may not be on the same scale as before. That said, the commitment to having Crees trained in these programs will remain so that we will still have opportunities for employment within Hydro-Québec.

Niskamoon Corporation will continue to conform to its mission statement of providing an efficient framework for cooperation between Hydro-Québec and the Cree enabling the implementation of the Cree/Hydro-Québec Agreements that were signed by them. Niskamoon Corporation continues to adhere to its core values and to the promotion and enhancement of passing on Cree knowledge for the future.

I wish to acknowledge those who support Niskamoon Corporation by availing themselves of the funding for their many projects and activities thereby ensuring that the future of Cree culture and traditions continue and live on.

Thank you to all the dedicated staff who work for Niskamoon and other affiliated entities. Thank you to all for another successful year for Niskamoon.

Violet Pachanos
President



Vice-President's Message

Wachiya, Kewy Kwey,
Greetings, Bonjour,

It is with a heavy heart that I greet you in the absence of a prestigious man who had been with the Niskamoon board since its inauguration, the late Lawrence Jimiken. He will be missed a great deal, but every now and then, we feel and see his presence.

We are also on the verge of our last year of training 150 qualified Crees to become permanent employees of Hydro-Québec. This was a very challenging target from the start, but with the determination of the trainees, the professionalism of the instructors and support staff, and the leadership of TEHQ program's director, Diane Thibault, we have come very close to reaching our goal. Way to go team!

I am proud as I crisscross Eeyou Istchee to see the events, programs, equipment, cabins, and trails that Niskamoon has funded over the years. It demonstrates that the intent of this corporation has been well managed and valuable to the benefactors.

As the Cree Nation continues to grow in population, the challenge will always be for land users to carry on the importance of utilizing the land, and to pass on our traditions and way of life to our children.

To all those who have played a vital role in the success of Niskamoon Corporation - a heartfelt thank you from the board.

Kenneth Gilpin
Vice-President



Tribute to Lawrence Jimiken

“Lawrence Jimiken will be remembered in various ways and for many different things. He was always respectful and willing to assist anyone who he saw needed help. He shared his knowledge of the land and respected our traditional values. He truly understood the life of the trapper and hunter. Lawrence was a valuable part of the Niskamoon Board of Directors, in which he was a member since its inception, and his memory of certain events gave us a unique insight into them. I will remember Lawrence for sharing his knowledge, and for his contribution to the Cree Nation. Lawrence was a kind person, and a good friend.”

– Violet Pachanos, President

“We knew Lawrence for his remarkable qualities as a leader.

However, it is his qualities as a human being that touched me the most. Lawrence was a generous man who wanted the best for his family, his community, and the Cree Nation as a whole.”

– Réal Courcelles, Board Member

“I can sincerely say that I have been very fortunate to work with Lawrence. Throughout the years it allowed me to appreciate his deep-rooted knowledge of the Cree culture, his profound love of the land, and immense pride in his people. Surely, his open mindedness and his great sense of humor were only a few of his assets, and for that he will be missed.”

– Mathieu Boucher, Board Member

“I will never forget Lawrence’s generosity: he was never too busy to share his knowledge, his time, and his good humour. He always led people to believe that he was a grumpy person; the truth is that he was exactly the opposite. Always happy to hear or tell a joke, always eager to share a story and always willing to understand everyone’s point of view. He was a true gentleman, a great friend, and a wonderful teacher. He continues to be greatly missed.”

– Marc Dunn, Environment Director

“Lawrence was the first person that introduced me to office work as a summer student. I still remember one week he left for a meeting, and he told me, “You are in charge. Hold down the fort”. I was not quite sure to what extent he meant it, so I re-arranged some of his files and answered the phone. Throughout the years, in his managerial role, he always encouraged me to upgrade my skills. Since 2005, I had the opportunity to work with him under Niskamoon, and also as a Board Member for the Nemaska Development Corporation. He began to tell me that he trusted my judgment. I will always remember the support and advice that he instilled in me and moreover, the knowledge that he passed onto me as a colleague. It was an honor to work with one of the pioneers that paved the way for the Cree Nation’s self-governance. Lawrence was also like an uncle to me. Farewell my friend and colleague; you will always be in my memories.”

– Stella Jolly, Nemaska Local Coordinator



Our Corporation's Description

History

Since the construction of the La Grande Hydroelectric Project in Eeyou Istchee in the 1970s, the Cree Nation of James Bay has strategically negotiated several agreements with the provincial hydroelectric company, Hydro-Québec. These agreements have established guarantees for environmental and social protection, collaborative economic development, and the preservation of Cree culture. With the goal of building cooperative relationships between Cree communities and Hydro-Québec, these agreements are the foundations of Cree-Hydro-Québec relations.

By 2004, management of these agreements, by eight different organizations, became inefficient, and led to confusion and excessive administrative costs. In an effort to create a more efficient process for communities and land users to access the benefits of these agreements, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), the Cree Regional Authority (now the Cree Nation Gouvernement), the nine Cree Nations, Hydro-Québec and Société de développement de la Baie James (SEBJ) executed an agreement known as the Agreement Concerning the Administration of the Cree-Hydro-Québec Agreements and the Niskamoon Agreement, referred to as the "Niskamoon Agreement." With the signing of the Niskamoon Agreement in August 2004, Niskamoon Corporation was created.

Objectives of the Niskamoon Agreement

The Niskamoon Agreement called for the creation of a not-for-profit corporation, entitled "Niskamoon Corporation", whose principal objectives are to:

- Facilitate, simplify and accelerate access to the benefits, measures, resources, and programs under the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements for the Cree people, the Cree communities, and other Cree entities.
- Provide a more efficient framework for cooperation between the Cree Nation and Hydro-Québec with respect to the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.
- Provide more effective mechanisms for the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.
- Streamline and render more effective the administrative costs to the Cree people associated with the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.
- Bring better coherence to the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.
- Regroup under Niskamoon Corporation large parts of the administration and management of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.



Mandate

Niskamoon Corporation administers the implementation of various Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements by facilitating and simplifying access to funds and programs for Cree communities, land users and entities that have been impacted by hydroelectric development.

In addition, Niskamoon Corporation is the framework for cooperation between the Cree Nation and Hydro-Québec. In this, the corporation provides oversight to joint Cree-Hydro-Québec committees, and facilitates consultations between the Cree communities, regional Cree entities, and Hydro-Québec. With Niskamoon's assistance, communication and understanding between stakeholders is improved, and consultation becomes a productive and collaborative exercise.

To alleviate the impacts of hydroelectric development in Eeyou Istchee, Niskamoon Corporation works closely with individuals and groups to organize, fund and carry out projects and activities that adhere to Niskamoon's core values.

Core Values

All Niskamoon approved projects must adhere to our core values, which are to:

- Ensure the autonomy and self-sufficiency of Cree land users over time.
- Promote and enhance the passing of traditional Cree knowledge to future generations.
- Maximize the benefits for as many Cree people as possible.
- Promote and enhance the continued use of lands impacted by hydroelectric development.

By observing these core values in the proposal approval process, projects and activities funded by Niskamoon become models for future development in the region. Development can occur without compromising the integrity of Cree culture, traditional land rights, or future economic development.

Operating Budget and Administrative Agreement with the Cree Nation Government

Niskamoon Corporation approved a total operating budget of \$3,898,483 for the financial year of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. This amount is drawn from the funds managed or controlled by the Corporation in accordance with the provisions of sub-section 3.7.2 of the Niskamoon Agreement.

As Niskamoon Corporation represents the branch of the Cree Nation Government (CNG) in relations with Hydro-Québec, Niskamoon maintains a close working relationship with the CNG through an administrative agreement.

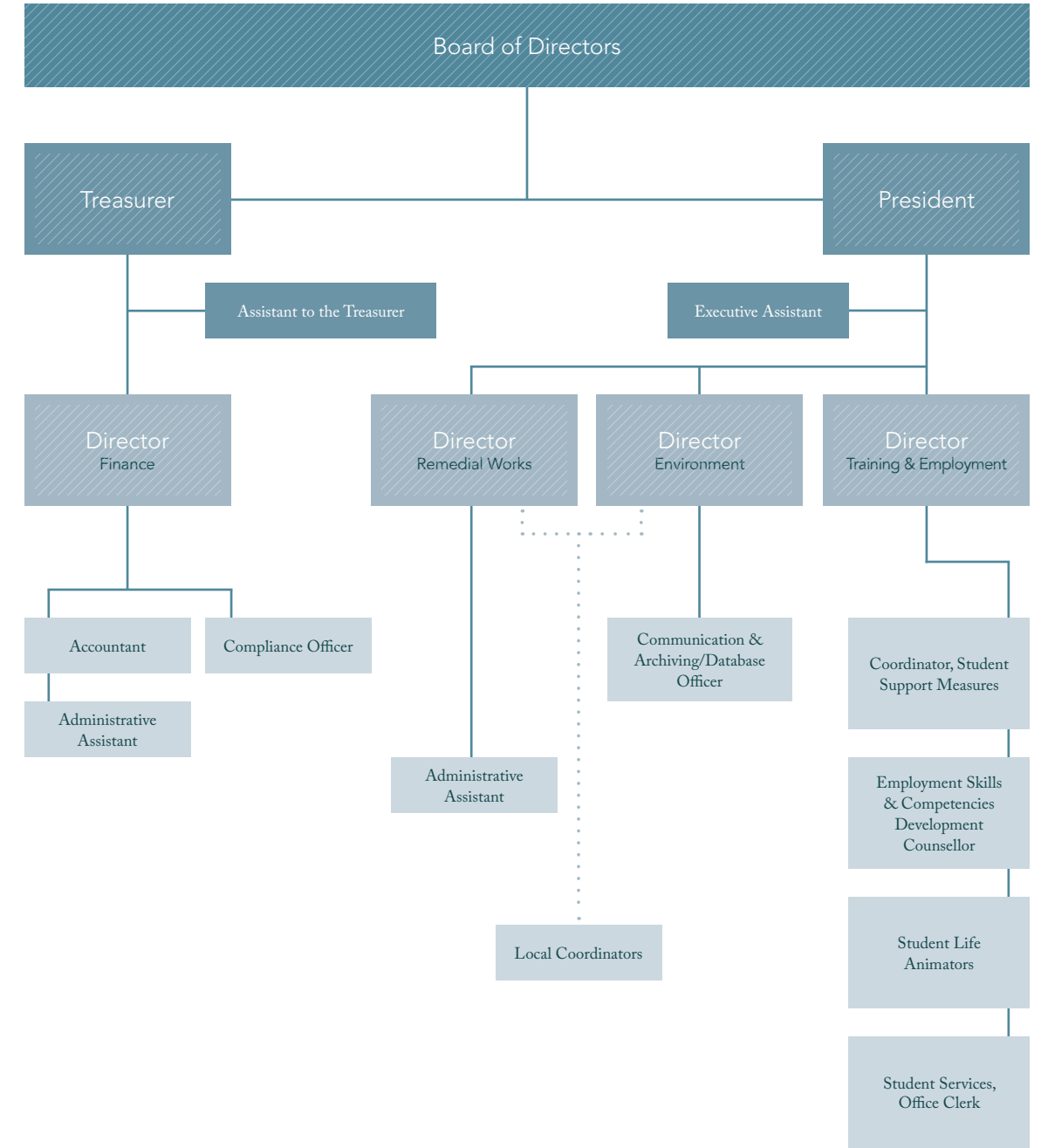
Niskamoon Community Contribution Agreements

On September 1, 2004, Niskamoon Corporation signed nine Community Contribution Agreements with each of the Cree communities (Whapmagoostui First Nation, Cree Nation of Chisasibi, Cree Nation of Wemindji, Eastmain Band, Waswanipi Band, Cree Nation of Nemaska, Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation, Cree Nation of Mistissini, and Crees of Oujé-Bougoumou.)

These Agreements were renewed in June 2006 and are automatically renewed and indexed on an annual basis. In 2015-2016, in accordance with these Agreements, Niskamoon Corporation paid an amount equal to \$99,064 for the services of a community Local Coordinator for each of the nine Cree communities.



Organizational Chart



Board of Directors

The Niskamoon Board of Directors consists of eight people appointed by members of Niskamoon Corporation, namely, from the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government. Please note that while Hydro-Québec is not a member of the Corporation, it recommends three Directors to the Board.

Directors appointed by the Corporation:



Violet Pachanos
President



Kenneth Gilpin
Vice-President



Dr. Matthew Coon Come



Paul John Murdoch

The fifth position was vacant.

Directors recommended by Hydro-Québec:



Réal Courcelles



Mathieu Boucher



Daniel Lauzon

Staff



Mathew Swallow
Treasurer



Cathleen Parker
Assistant to Treasurer
(until September 2015)



Kevin Roussel
Corporate Secretary



Daniel Bernier
Director, Finance



Diane Thibault
Director, Training & Employment



Marc Dunn
Director, Environment



Robbie Tapiatic
Director, Remedial Works



Linda Corston
Executive Assistant



Cynthia Taylor
Communication & Archiving/Database Officer



Louise Tanoush
Accountant



Noreen Moar
Compliance Officer



Diane Moar
Administrative Assistant



Shirley Chiskamish
Administrative Assistant



Shawnessy Jacko
Coordinator,
Student Support Measures



Colette Allen
Employment Skills & Competencies
Development Counsellor



Serge Charlebois
Employment Skills & Competencies
Development Counsellor



Caroline Pepin-Roy
Student Life Animator



Jean-Luc Morin
Student Life Animator
(retired June 2015)



Jackie Kistabish
Student Life Animator



Julie Sylvestre
Student Services and
Office Clerk

Thank you for your service:

Marie-Anne Wapachee, Accountant (Maternity Replacement)
Paul Kelly, Employment Skills & Competencies Development Counsellor (Contract)

Calendar

April 2015						
Montreal						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2015						
Rouyn-Nouranda						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2015						
Saint-Sauveur						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- Board of Directors' Meeting
- Holiday
- Local Coordinators' Deadline for Proposals

October 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2015						
Gatineau						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

January 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- Board of Directors' Meeting
- Holiday
- Local Coordinators' Deadline for Proposals

Year in Review

Managed
Funds



Hydro-Québec and Eeyou Fund

This fund was established in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between Hydro-Québec and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee (HQ-Eeyou Agreement) in 2004. It is designed to provide long-term funding in response to the impact of the La Grande Complex on the activities, economy, environment, and social well being of the Cree people. It will continue to exist as long as the La Grande Complex is in operation.

Since 2004, in accordance with sub-section 4.3 of the HQ-Eeyou Agreement, Hydro-Québec has made an annual index-linked payment of \$7,000,000. The contribution for the 2015-16 financial year was \$8,532,186.

Cree Employment Fund

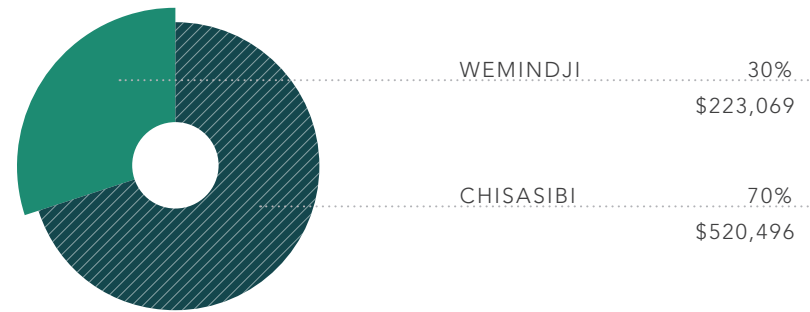
This fund was created in accordance with the Cree Employment Agreement. While the fund is held and disbursed by Hydro-Québec, it is subject to the control of Niskamoon Corporation. The fund's primary role is to provide support to the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec (TEHQ) Program. Hydro-Québec's contribution to the Cree Employment Fund for the 2015-16 financial year was \$6,087,800.

Opimiscow Indoho Fund

This fund was established in 1994 through the Opimiscow Agreement and is designed to support various types of activities and programs including: trappers' cabins, communications infrastructure, trapline management, self-insurance plans, transportation, and traditional practices.

The annual index-linked contribution by Hydro-Québec to Niskamoon Corporation is \$500,000 and is paid on the first working day of the year until 2043. The payment for the 2015-16 financial year was \$743,565.

It was allocated as follows:



Nadoshtin Agreement and Funds

The Nadoshtin Agreement was created to safeguard the rights of the Cree peoples and provide them with certain benefits in connection with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Eastmain-1 (EM1) Project. It calls for environmental, remedial, and mitigating measures intended to reduce the negative impacts of the EM1 project, particularly on the communities of Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, and Waskaganish, and allocates compensation where appropriate.

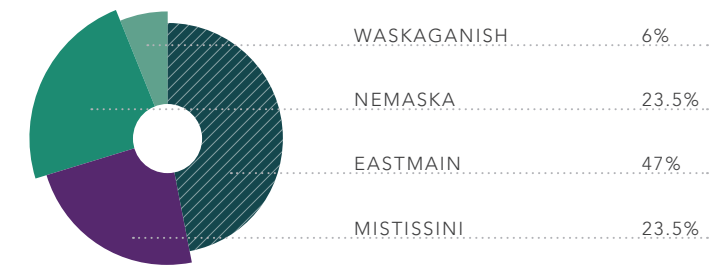
The Agreement enabled the management of road access and the use of fish and wildlife resources during the project's construction phase, and continues to do so during its operating phase. In addition, the agreement promotes increasing community development through project-related contracts, employment, and training opportunities for Cree individuals and businesses.

Three funds were created to support the aims of the Nadoshtin Agreement: I) the Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund; II) the Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund; and the III) EM1 Mercury Fund (which was depleted in the fiscal year of 2010-11).

Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund

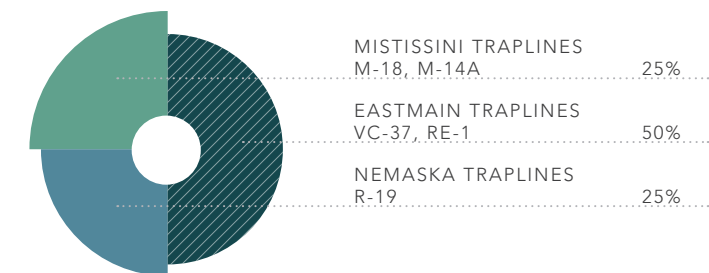
This fund was established to address the negative impacts of the EM1 Project. It is designed to enable Cree people living in the impacted area to pursue traditional activities, and enhance the quality and productivity of environmental and biological resources.

The fund's initial endowment in 2002 was \$18,000,000 and is being disbursed over a 15 year period. It is allocated to target communities as follows:



Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund

This fund was created to foster opportunities for the trappers of Eastmain, Mistissini, and Nemaska directly affected by the EM1 Project. It promotes traditional activities and provides the means to mitigate the effects of the project. Its initial endowment in 2002 was \$3,900,000 and funds are allocated as follows:





Boumhounan Agreement and Funds

The Boumhounan Agreement was created to address the impacts of the Eastmain 1-A Rupert River Partial Diversion and La Sarcelle Project (EM1/Sarcelle/Rupert Partial Diversion). Three funds were created to support the aims of the Boumhounan Agreement: I) the Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund; II) the Boumhounan Eenou Indohoun Fund; and III) the Boumhounan Eastmain 1-A Rupert Mercury Fund. The last fund was closed during the 2014-15 financial year. Here is a description of the two currently active funds.

Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund

This fund is designed to promote environmental and remedial works as a means of mitigating the negative impacts of the EM1/Sarcelle/Rupert Partial Diversion Project. In so doing, it enables the Cree people to pursue their traditional activities in the areas affected by the Project. The fund's endowment in 2002 was \$32,000,000. There are no additional annual contributions to this fund.

Boumhounan Eenou Indohoun Fund

This fund is similar to the Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund in that it establishes projects co-designed and implemented by the trappers of Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish, and Wemindji directly affected by the EM1/Sarcelle/Rupert Partial Diversion Project. As a result, it promotes traditional activities and provides the means to mitigate the effects of the project. The fund's endowment in 2002 was \$3,900,000. There are no additional annual contributions to this fund.

The directly impacted traplines were determined to be:

Community	Traplines	Percentage
Eastmain	RE1, VC34, VC35, VC37	9.87%
Mistissini	M18, M25, M26, M33	39.34%
Nemaska	N23, N24, N24A, N25, R16, R17, R18, R19, R20, R21	25.27%
Waskaganish	N1, N2, N9, R4, R5, R11, R12, R13	19.74%
Wemindji	VC20, VC21, VC22, VC23, VC28	5.78%

Re-appropriation Agreement and Funds

During the Grand Council of the Crees (GCC-EI) Annual General Assembly held in Waskaganish in the summer of 2012, the Agreement Concerning the Re-Appropriation of Territory Affected by the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert Project was signed between the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Hydro-Québec. This agreement creates, among others, the Re-appropriation and Continued Use Fund, which is designed to address the human impacts of the EM-1A/Sarcelle/Rupert Diversion project for as long as the Rupert River is partially diverted. Niskamoon Corporation officially adopted the Agreement by Resolution 1213-118 in August 2012.

The agreement is based on the principle of continued partnership between Hydro-Québec and the Cree communities directly impacted by the Rupert River Partial Diversion. It aims to provide the ways and means to remedy the project's long-term human impacts. Funds are intended for land users and communities to foster the continued use of areas affected by the project, in particular the Rupert River below the Rupert Dam and the Rupert Diversion Bays. The funds are spent according to users' own identification of measures needed to cope with the impacts of the project. The results of the environmental follow-up program (presented through the Monitoring Committee) are also taken into consideration. Finally, it should be noted that Hydro-Québec remains responsible for addressing the bio-physical impacts of the project, and this over the entire project lifetime.

The agreement includes the creation of three funds to carry out the obligations and to address the various impacts of the project identified in the Agreement. These funds are called: I) the Continued Use and Re-appropriation Fund; II) the Specific Navigation Fund; and III) the Specific Training Fund.

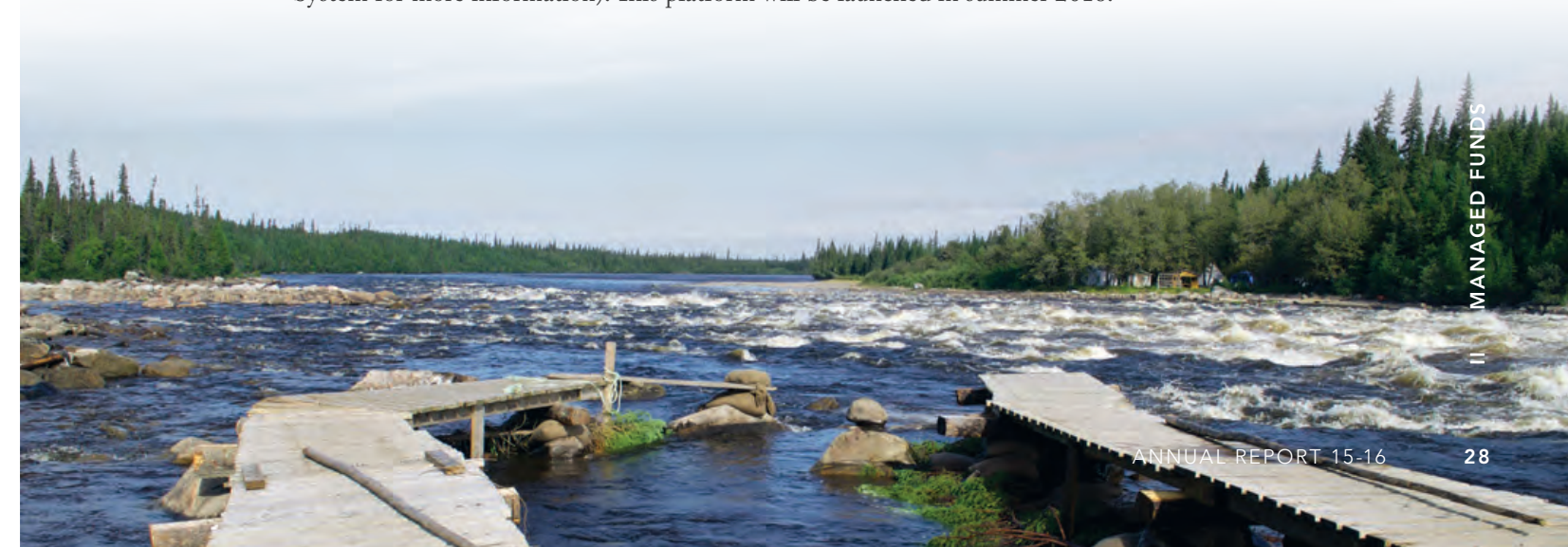
I. The Continued Use and Re-appropriation Fund

This fund consists of \$2,750,000 (indexed from 2012) for projects, works, studies, programs, and remedial and enhancement measures within the affected territory in accordance with the following principles:

- Allow for the continued use and re-appropriation of the territory affected by the EM-1A/Sarcelle/Rupert Diversion project.
- Promote and facilitate the pursuit of traditional activities by Cree land users.
- Direct funds to projects that promote traditional fisheries, the passing on of traditional knowledge about fishing, and the adaptation of traditional fishing methods.
- Contribute to the regeneration and a better understanding of wildlife habitat.
- Promote sustainability.

Hydro-Québec's contribution to the Continued Use and Re-appropriation Fund for the 2015/2016 fiscal year was \$2,871,559.

Specific processes have been put forward by Niskamoon Corporation to gather requests and complaints from land users. This includes communication channels directly involving community Monitoring Committee representatives as well as Niskamoon Local Coordinators, to identify requests and complaints directly from land users. In addition, regional representatives meet regularly with land users from each of the traplines impacted by the project during the joint Niskamoon-Hydro-Québec Tours. During these meetings, participants review and refine short and long-term land use plans in accordance with the measures they wish to carry out. New impacts associated with the project are identified and categorized, with efforts made to come up with joint solutions to remedy the problems. This process ensures a role for land users in the identification of potential solutions when problems identified are related to human impacts from the project. It should be noted that in 2015, Niskamoon Corporation gave a mandate to a consultant to create an online platform, called the Niskamoon Interactive Consultation Database, by which the notes from these meetings can be shared online in real time with all stakeholders (see section Database & Management System for more information). This platform will be launched in summer 2016.



Within the framework of its operation activities, Hydro-Québec meets regularly with community members and land users. Requests and complaints are often brought to their attention during such meetings. While some are dealt with directly by Hydro-Québec, in the case of issues related to human impacts from the Project, and following a joint Cree-Hydro-Québec review, these are forwarded to Niskamoon Corporation to be addressed. In such cases, the issue is re-visited in the company of land users during the Niskamoon-Hydro-Québec Tour.

Numerous projects funded through the Re-appropriation funds are a direct result of this consultation process. Projects that directly involve traplines conform to two types:

Type 1: Directly address a human impact of the project identified by land users and confirmed by regional and local representatives.

Type 2: Enhance Cree land use of affected areas, thereby ensuring their continued use with future generations.

In the case of Project Type 1, the impact the project is attempting to address is discussed. As such, these projects address the obligations set forth by Conditions of the Provincial Certificate of Authorization 6.9 (complaint mechanism and measures to address these) and 6.10 (enhancement and continuation of Cree land use) of the Certificate of Authorization assumed by the Cree people as per the Re-appropriation Agreement.

Funded Projects

Niskamoon Corporation has the mandate to administer programs related to the Re-appropriation Agreement and report on the funding at the end of each year. Projects funded under the new Fund are summarized in the following pages.

Projects are presented according to the specific issues that they are meant to address, including those implemented directly by Cree land users as a result of the consultation process.

It should be noted that many projects stem from specific assurances, guarantees, and Conditions of Authorization assumed by the Cree party according to Schedule 4.1 of the Agreement. These are noted in each sub-section that follows.



Smokey Hill Traditional Fishing Site Conditions 5.21, 5.22, 5.23; Boumhounan Agreement Section 4.2(c)

- Support and Preservation of the Smokey Hill Traditional Fishing Site, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-021)

This mandate is given to ensure the management of the many different projects carried out at Smokey Hill, both prior to the fishing season as well as during the fishing season. They include consultation and implementation of all construction works done by land users themselves. The mandate in 2015 was carried out jointly by Siibii Development Corporation and Waska Resources, as per the plan to transfer all responsibilities of this mandate to a local entity by 2016.

- Log Harvesting for Traditional Uses, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-020)
- Construction of Scooping Weir-South Shore, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-110)
- Construction of Scooping Weir-North Shore, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-111)
- Support for Fishing at Smokey Hill-North Shore, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-113)
- Traditional Shaaptuuwaan –2015, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-115)
- Smokey Hill Gathering – 2015, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-185)

These six projects encompass the work carried out at Smokey Hill prior to fishing to ensure that the sites are ready to receive people during the traditional fishery, including re-construction of fishing sites on both sides of the rapids. In 2015, a permanent Shaaptuuwaan was built at the Gravel Pit site to lodge workers and visitors during the fishing season. The design and execution, based on traditional structures, was done entirely with Cree knowledge and expertise. As in previous years, a gathering was organized by the Waskaganish Cultural Department during the fishing season at Smokey Hill. The gathering is an effective means of getting community-members to the Smokey Hill site, some of whom remain reluctant to return due to the reduced flow conditions. This event was once again supported in part by Niskamoon Corporation.

- Smokey Hill Community Fishing 2015, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-109)

As in previous years, a community-fishing project was carried out during the cisco migration in fall 2015. The program focuses on training youth in the harvesting, cleaning, preparing and cooking of fish and their various parts employing traditional methods. As in 2014, two groups were trained during the fishing season. However, it was noted that a reduced number of children, as part of organized school trips, visited the site in 2015. Discussions will be held with the Waskaganish school to attempt to remedy this situation.



• Voluntary Registry of Cisco Catches at Smokey Hill, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-112)

Although the obligation to carry out the voluntary registry program was completed in 2014, the community of Waskaganish expressed its desire to continue the registry program into 2015. A total of 16,306 cisco were caught in 2015. This is a decrease from 2014, but similar to what was caught in 2011. Overall, fishermen note that since the partial diversion, it requires more effort to catch the same number or less fish. However, in years such as 2014 and 2015, when water levels are high, the gillnet success tends to be higher. Scooping remains a challenge under all hydraulic conditions due to the strong water level fluctuations in the Smokey Hill rapids under modified conditions. The figure below presents the registered fish data from 2007 to 2015.



• Gillnet fishing and Building of Trails – Kapesi Bay, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-114)

This experimental project attempts to evaluate, based on traditional knowledge, the possibility of establishing a satellite community fishing site at Kapesi Bay, located at KP49 of the river, some 25-km up from Smokey Hill. The evaluation was carried out by the Tallyman Allan Georgekish and some of his family members. Overall, fishing success does not seem as effective as at Smokey Hill, due in part to the larger water body, which can become very windy at times. Cisco tend to be spread out here and therefore more difficult to catch in high numbers. Finally, the catch tends to be dominated by walleye and pike, in addition to some cisco. This project will be reattempted in 2016.

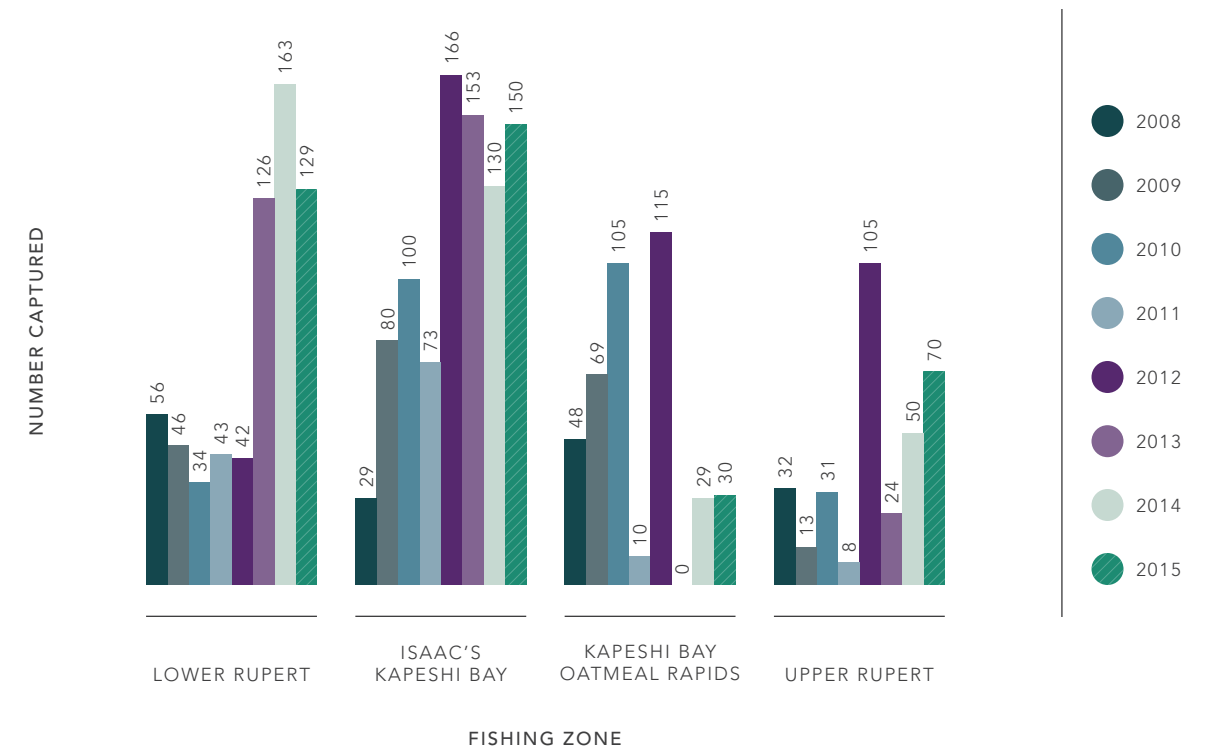
Note that the reports for all projects related to Smokey Hill have been completed and the projects are now all closed.

Lake Sturgeon Harvesting Condition 5.26; Boumhounan Agreement Section 4.2(c)

- Lake Jolliet Fishing Project, Nemaska (Resolution 1516-026)
- Genawmee Fishing Project, Namaska (Resolution 1516-028)

These two projects consist of fishing training programs intended to evaluate changes in the sturgeon population in two locations on the Rupert River or the Rupert watershed, known as important harvesting locations prior to the partial diversion. With regards to the Lake Jolliet Project, it does not appear that the main fishing locations have been affected by the Rupert River partial diversion, although access from the Rupert can be difficult under low hydraulic conditions. With regards to the Genawmee Fishing Project, access to the fishing site is the main constraint to fishing in the area. Note that access prior to the diversion was not easy and required experienced boat drivers to navigate.

- Voluntary Registration of Lake Sturgeon Catches, 2015, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-197)
- Although the obligation to carry out the voluntary registry program was completed in 2014, the community of Waskaganish expressed its desire to continue the registry program into 2015. A total of 379 lake sturgeon were caught along the Rupert River in Waskaganish territory. This is consistent with the past three years. According to fishermen, access roads to the weirs along the Rupert River have indeed increased use of these areas compared to before the partial diversion, but not necessarily in the case of sturgeon, which is difficult to catch applying rod and reel fishing techniques. While the sturgeon harvest does appear to have increased along the Rupert River, most fishermen do not believe that current harvest levels endanger the population. Finally, the fishermen noted an increased population of sturgeon in the lower Rupert River and Rupert River estuary since the partial diversion, possibly caused by downstream movement of fish caused by the weir construction. The figure below presents the Waskaganish Lake Sturgeon registry from 2007 to 2015.





Cree Fisheries Rejuvenation and Enhancement
Conditions 6.5 & 6.10

- Chishienuu Chiskutaamaachewin & Traditional Fishing project, Mistissini (Resolution 1516-018)
- Lake Mesgouez Fishing Project, Nemaska (Resolution 1515-027)

These projects seek to train youth in traditional fishing techniques. Emphasis is placed on training future land users, such that the entire process of fishing is taught, from maintaining a camp to locating important fishing areas to preparing and cooking harvested fish. Note that the report for the Lake Mesgouez Fishing Project has been completed and the project is now closed.

Canoe Brigades
Condition 6.18

- Youth Canoe Brigade, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-019)
- Youth Canoe Brigade, Nemaska (Resolution 1516-023)
- Paddle Carving Training, Nemaska (Resolution 1516-007)

The two brigades funded in 2015 paddled along the Rupert River, in their respective community's territory. With regards to the Paddle Carving Training, this was done in connection with the brigade, to allow people contact with making their own paddle and paddling for the first time.

Navigation and Exploration Subsidy Programs
Conditions 6.5, 6.10 & 6.20

- Rupert River Navigation Exploration Subsidy, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-022)
- Rupert River Navigation Exploration Subsidy/Rupert Diversion Bays Exploration Subsidy, Nemaska (Resolution 1516-024)
- Rupert Diversion Bays Exploration Subsidy, Mistissini (Resolution 1516-025)

The purpose of these programs is to allow land users the flexibility to return to the areas impacted by the Rupert River diversion and/or the impoundment of the Rupert Diversion Bays on their traplines to assess these changes. Land users are free to carry out their activities at any time during the year and are encouraged to bring other users to participate in the program with them. Allocations are based on a formula that assesses the amount of area to be covered, the distance from the community and the difficulty to navigate these areas. The entire subsidy must be used in the same fiscal year; carrying over amounts to the next year is not permitted. The program is scheduled to end in 2018 along the Rupert River and 2023 in the Rupert Diversion Bays.



Navigation Along Reduced Flow Sector of the Rupert River Condition 6.10 & 6.20; Boumhounan Agreement Section 4.2(f)

- Channel Markers Program, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-056)
- Aachikuukaan Program (buoys in Rupert River estuary), Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-108)

These two projects encompass temporary infrastructure built by the community during the open water period to indicate navigation channels in different parts of the lower Rupert River, the Rupert River estuary and Rupert Bay. Small inflatable buoys are installed between KP20 and KP10 of the river (roughly between the rock blanket below Smokey Hill and the First Rapids) and between the first rapids and the community. Large navigation buoys are installed between KP1 and KP-4, consisting of red and green buoys, to mark the main navigation channel into Rupert River from Rupert Bay. Finally, the Channel Markers Program involves the installation of wooden posts with small reflectors in Rupert Bay, as well as at the mouth of the Pontax, Broadback and Nottaway Rivers. Note that in 2016, the two projects will be consolidated into one project. The reports for both projects have been completed and both projects are now closed.

Monitoring of Ice Conditions Conditions 6.10 & 6.14; Boumhounan Agreement Section 4.1(b)

- Ice Monitoring Program, Waskaganish (Resolution 1516-058)
- Ice Monitoring on Rupert River, Nemaska (Resolution 1516-047)
- Winter Crossing in Rupert Forebay, Mistissini (Resolution 1516-219)

These three projects were submitted in 2015, one from each of the three communities affected by the Agreement. Waskaganish continued its Ice Monitoring Program, which is carried out mainly during freeze-up and spring thaw. Since the community extensively uses the Rupert River, estuary and Rupert Bay, the program covers most areas where community members go to ensure safe land use, particularly in spring. The project in Nemaska was carried out by public safety at two key points in the late winter, to ensure safe crossing by community members during the spring goose hunt period. Finally, the Mistissini project was carried out at the request of the Neeposh family, in order to monitor three specific areas to cross on the Rupert Forebay. Unfortunately, for the last project, the mild 2015/2016 winter did not provide conclusive results regarding this area.

Trapline Projects to Address Specific Human Impacts Condition 6.9 & 6.10

- Goose Pond, Waskaganish Trapline R-13 (Resolution 1516-212)
- Snowmobile Trail, Waskaganish Trapline R-13 (Resolution 1516-213)
- Goose Corridor, Waskaganish Trapline R-13 (Resolution 1516-214)

These three projects were developed by the land users for trapline R-13 to address the impacts of increased water levels immediately above the KP110 weir following the initiating of the spring instream flow on the Rupert River. The goose pond and corridor projects were carried out in areas northeast of the Rupert River outside the influence of the increased water levels, to provide an alternative hunting location during the spring. These consisted mainly of clearing the surrounding forest to make the area more attractive for geese to land. The trail was built to provide access to these areas.

- Goose Pond, Nemaska Trapline N-24 (Resolution 1516-159)
- Boat Landings and Docking, Nemaska Trapline N-24 (Resolution 1516-160)
- Snowmobile Trails, Nemaska Trapline N-24 (Resolution 1516-204)

These projects were carried out by land users for N-24 trapline to (a) improve goose hunting conditions at their main spring camp at KP245 of the Rupert River and (b) access areas on the southern part of the trapline along the Marten River. The purpose of improving access and hunting conditions at the main camp is to provide alternative spring hunting locations to replace the sites on the Rupert River that have become unusable following the rise in water levels as a result of the activation of the spring instream flow regime along the river (the main sites used are in the area of influence of the KP223 weir). The snowmobile trails provide access to areas along the Marten River that could provide additional alternative spring hunting locations. If the alternative areas are judged adequate, land users will carry out more works in these areas to further improve goose hunting conditions. The projects have been completed and are closed.



Trapline Projects to Enhance and Promote Continued Use of Impacted Lands Condition 6.10

- Goose Pond, Waskaganish Trapline N-1 (Resolution 1516-212)
The objective is to provide additional goose hunting areas for growing number of land users on trapline.
- Snowmobile Trail, Waskaganish Trapline R-5 (Resolution 1516-209)
The objective is to provide access to northeast portion of trapline, including for travel for land users of adjacent traplines.
- Snowmobile Trails, Waskaganish Trapline R-11 (Resolution 1516-210)
- Snowmobile Trails, Waskaganish Trapline R-11 (Resolution 1516-211)
The objective is to provide a travel link between main harvesting locations along the Rupert River, in particular between Kapeshe Bay and Smokey Hill, along the north side of the Rupert River.
- ATV Trails– Nemaska – Trapline R-16 (Resolution 1516-156)
The objective is to provide access to fishing lakes located north of the Route du Nord on the trapline.
- Access & Boat Ramp, Nemaska Trapline R-17 (Resolution 1516-122)
The objective is to provide an alternative location for inserting boats into Jolliet Lake, due to low water levels at main camp.
- Snowmobile Trails, Nemaska Trapline N-24A (Resolution 1516-205)
The objective is to provide additional access points on trapline; the trails will join the existing trail network and will also provide access for users of neighbouring traplines.

Closed Projects

The following section provides information for some projects that were carried out and completed. The purpose of this section is to provide the perspectives of land users with regards these works, based on information provided in the final report. Emphasis is on trapline projects.

Cree Fisheries Rejuvenation and Enhancement

- **Traditional Fall/Winter Fishing Reconnaissance Pilot Project, 2012, Nemaska Trapline R-19 (Resolution 2012-080)**
The purpose of this project was to carry out traditional fishing at Lake Utish, a lake of particular importance for this trapline. As a result of the Eastmain-1 project, in particular increased traffic and use by non-Cree sports fishermen, the tallyman was concerned about the current state of fish resources in the lake. The land user's family conducted fishing in October 2012. In addition, helicopter fly-overs were conducted to evaluate the main spawning areas in the lake. Overall, land users have concluded that due to high amount of use in the first years of EM-1 by non-Cree people, fish resources remain low. They would therefore like to maintain the closure of the lake as part of the Weh-Sees Indohoun special regulations on sports fishermen.

Trapline Projects to Address Specific Human Impacts

- **Goose Pond, Nemaska Trapline R-21 (Resolution 1314-105)**
This project was to enlarge an existing goose pond, located in a former borrow pit used for the project. Land users can now use this goose pond after the activation of the spring instream flow, which causes important rises in water levels immediately upstream from the KP290 weir, which made goose hunting unfeasible. The work was carried out in 2013 and 2014, clearing an area the equivalent of 4 hectares.
- **Spawning Ground Enhancement, Nemaska – Kaiapshemshii (KP281), Trapline N-25 (Resolution 1314-058)**
This project was developed to attract sturgeon to the south side of the river, near the mouth of the Sipastikw branch of the Rupert River. Rocks were manually moved from the exposed banks to the new shoreline, so as to create a slope on the new shores that would be more attractive to sturgeon during spawning. The land users will now evaluate the results of the work to see if it has allowed for greater sturgeon spawning.



Trapline Projects to Enhance and Promote Continued Use of Impacted Lands

- **Traditional Activities/Fish Harvesting, Mistissini Trapline M-18 (Resolution 1314-064)**
- **Snowmobile Trails, Mistissini Trapline M-18 (Resolution 1314-261)**

Both projects were carried out as per the proposals in 2013 and 2014. The projects have assisted land users in assessing the wildlife potential of the trapline, in particular the eastern part of the trapline found above the Rupert Tailbay. The trails built provide access to these parts of the trapline.

- **Snowmobile Trail, Waskaganish Trapline R-5 (Resolution 1415-138)**
This project was a combination of clearing an old trail leaving from the Rupert River in the northward direction, and clearing new parts of the trail.
- **Bridge Repair, Waskaganish Trapline N-9 (Resolution 1314-099)**
This project was carried out to repair a bridge built as part of the list of undertakings with the Société d'énergie de la Baie James (SEBJ). The bridge washed out due to a high fall tide combined with strong northwest winds.

II. The Specific Navigation Fund

For the benefit of the community of Waskaganish, Hydro-Québec has paid \$9,750,000 to Niskamoon Corporation to address issues relating to navigation in the Rupert River estuary, specifically access to the Rupert Bay by the northern navigation channel.

It should be noted that in addition to these funds, Hydro-Québec has agreed to develop, in close collaboration with the community of Waskaganish, waterfront facilities also designed to improve access and navigation in the Rupert River estuary.

III. The Specific Training Fund

To address Condition 6.42 of the provincial Certificate of Authorization, a specific fund of \$1,389,000 was established for Niskamoon Corporation to develop environmental training funds.

Significant amounts from this Fund were allocated to support the Natural Environment Technology (NET) Program and the Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) Program.

Section 5.1 – Communal Boat Landing and Related Infrastructure

Section 5.1 of the Re-appropriation Agreement calls for the building of a communal boat landing and related infrastructure in the Rupert River estuary in front of the community of Waskaganish to facilitate boat launching under all tidal conditions. This was due to difficulties encountered at low tide to navigate out into Rupert Bay, due to low water conditions brought about by the partial diversion of the Rupert River.



To ensure that the works served the needs and preoccupations of coastal land users, a working group made up of representatives from SEBJ, Hydro-Québec, Niskamoon Corporation and the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation (namely, local CTA and Heritage Committee members) met on several occasions since 2013 to develop and optimize the original concept, so that all works met local expectations. Most notably, the works needed to conform with a local by-law that protects the Rupert River shore area, such that the project was required to conserve the landscape as much as possible, while ensuring its multi-functional use for community members. The Shoreline works include:

- Three boat ramps, including one protected from the dominant winds and tidal fluctuations by the spur;
- A floating dock and an area designated for swimming;
- A walking trail that follows the shore, including rest areas, observation posts, educational panels and flower gardens;
- A path on the spur leading to observation/fishing platforms. The path includes benches and lamp posts to ensure its use at night and visibility for navigation;
- A boat landing area protected by the spur where rocks that are exposed at low tide were removed;
- Several access points and parking areas to facilitate use by community members.

All works were awarded to a consortium made up of Waska Resources and Siibii Development Corporation. The main works began in June and ended in November. Minor works remain to be completed, such as the garden areas, which will be completed in summer 2016, and the interpretive panels, which will be completed by the end of 2016.





Year in Review

Programs
& Initiatives



Local Coordinators



Each Cree community has a Local Coordinator to represent it and serve as a liaison between it and Niskamoon Corporation. They are assigned the following mandates:

- To report regularly to the Chief, Council and members of the community on the progress of activities of the Niskamoon Corporation. For example, Local Coordinators will report the status of specific projects and funds available for projects. The Niskamoon Board of Directors requires the assistance of the Local Coordinators in ensuring that information reaches the community when necessary.
- To inform the Chief, Council and members of the community on the nature of the projects that may be eligible from the different funds managed by Niskamoon through reports, information sessions and/or community workshops.
- To assist project proponents in the preparation of proposals and reports required under project approval agreements or conditions. They help draft proposal requests and complete necessary administrative tasks when required.
- To act as a liaison. Local Coordinators require the assistance of Niskamoon Directors to process project applications. Directors require Local Coordinators' assistance to ensure implementation of programs and benefits locally.
- To direct proposals for projects to the appropriate Niskamoon Director for approval by the Niskamoon Board of Directors. This includes ensuring that the proposals respect the guidelines for a specific program and that the required information is included in the submission.
- To coordinate and organize all communication between individual communities and Niskamoon Corporation, including communication with other Local Coordinators working for Niskamoon Corporation.
- To facilitate the participation of people from his or her community in the activities of Niskamoon Corporation.
- To monitor approved projects for reporting to the Niskamoon Board of Directors.
- To carry out all duties and tasks as directed by the Niskamoon Board of Directors.

Whapmagoostui

Allan George
Local Coordinator

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Niskamoon Corporation has been providing much needed funding for our community, Whapmagoostui for the past ten years. These funds have helped our community through various projects, which have given our community members valuable skills and employment. Here are three examples of such projects:

1. Trans-Eeyou Istchee Regional Multi-Purpose Trail

Two trails were created this year - one leading to Lake Bienville, and the other to Lake Burton. In the future, these trails will connect to two of Chisasibi traplines that in turn connect to the community of Chisasibi.

Work commenced as soon as the funding was received. The trail to Lake Burton took approximately two weeks to complete, with only one tallyman involved. The one to Lake Bienville took almost two months since the tallymen did it in conjunction with their other commitments, and some could not begin right away. A total of 89 kilometres of trail was created: 13 kilometres to Lake Burton, and 76 kilometres to Lake Bienville. Seven community members were hired on contracts, and additional workers were hired to assist.

This project provided these tallymen with much needed employment. They were hired to do what they did best - to navigate through their traplines, and decide the best route for the trails.



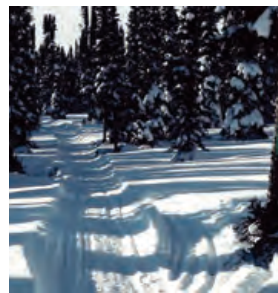
John Kawapit making a trail on his father's trapline GW-18



Frankie Dick's trail on his brother's trapline GW-03



Jimmy George's Trail on his trapline GW-08



Driving on the Trans Eeyou Trail leading to Lake Bienville



Cooking teepee at Lake Bienville



Romeo Sheshamush's woodpile for his grandfather Noah Sheshamush



Wood Pile for Wood Cutting Project by Daniel Sheshamush

2. Wood Cutting Project

Our elders always benefit greatly from this project. It minimizes the stress of preparing to go to their spring/fall campsites. Gathering wood is difficult at times for them because they have to travel at least a kilometre from their campsite to find decent firewood. This is especially challenging if they do not own an ATV or snowmobile.

Since woodcutting is a very strenuous activity for our elderly, the younger unemployed community members usually do the work, consequently creating temporary employment, which is another advantage of this project. Overall, it also conveys elders that they have not been forgotten when it comes to the distribution of funds.

3. Transportation Subsidy Program

Our community members rely on this program as it helps reduce their cost of flying inland to their campsites every spring and fall. Most campsites are located at least 40 kilometres away, and some as far as 280 kilometres, so flying inland to a campsite can be quite expensive without this subsidy. This program encourages our community members to spend more time out on the land.

In conclusion, our community is always grateful with the funds that it receives from Niskamoon Corporation. It alleviates some of the duties and funds that are required from the Whapmagoostui First Nation Band. We hope the current funding continues, and that future projects may be supported as well.



Solomon Masty with his brother Jordan Masty gathering firewood for their elderly parents



Chisasibi



Samuel Cox
Local Coordinator

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This year, I would like to highlight the three successful Cree Trappers Association Projects that were funded by Niskamoon Corporation.

1. Fall and Winter Flights Project

This project is where hunters are flown into their traplines for the hunting and trapping season, which usually starts in September and ends March of the following fiscal year. This funding greatly assists CTA members to continue their traditional way of life, as some members have no road access and also weather plays a great part in getting them safely to their camps throughout the territory. Niskamoon funded this project with \$75,000.00.

2. Snow Removal

Then we have the Snow Removal Project where members who have camps accessible by road, ask to have their driveways removed of snow after heavy snow falls during the winter months. Many camps are located throughout the Chisasibi trapline system and this is done on a request basis only to cut down costs. This project was given \$210,000.00 of funds.

3. Spring Flights

The third project where many members go along the coast or inland for the annual goose spring hunt. This is the only known method of getting members in and out safely due to the spring melt. This project was funded in the amount of \$450,000.00.



The total amount received from Niskamoon Corporation for these Chisasibi CTA projects was \$735,000.00.



Arriving at Old Factory Island; end of the expedition



Bailey Hughboy, youngest participant of the expedition



Welcoming from the community members that were at the Old Factory Visit



The brigade at the start of the Expedition at Old Factory Lake

Wemindji



Geraldine Mark
Local Coordinator

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I'm wrapping up another year with a smile, because teamwork brings me happiness in the office every day!

Alas, we had very few projects this past year, however I would like to feature one that did take place - the 21st Annual Canoe Expedition, an annual program, hosted by our local Youth Department, which continues to retain interest with the youth year after year. Community residents, originally from the south, working for the many Cree entities such as the Cree Health Board and the Cree School Board, are also always very interested in this Niskamoon funded program.

In July 2015, the Youth Department began their 21st Annual Canoe Expedition with 13 participants (4 guides and 9 youth), with the youngest being 13 years old. This young man had been practicing traditional pursuits with his cousin throughout the year, and the Canoe Expedition was another great outdoor experience for him.

The weeklong expedition was filled with activities, including portaging, canoeing, fishing, setting up shelters, cleaning and cooking fish, as well as fetching water for cooking or drinking. Great times were had, rain or shine; the participants learned something new every day, big or small; and new friendships were forged.

Paddling down the Old Factory River is an experience every youth should have.

Have a great 2016-2017!



Eastmain



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This year, I would like to feature the most important project Niskamoon Corporation sponsored in Eastmain – [The Cisco Project](#).

This project revived the traditional way of scooping. In the old days, the community of Eastmain scooped for fish at the Cold Water River, which attributes to the Eastmain River near the first rapids, but this project will be situated at the mouth of the first rapids of Eastmain River (see photos). Reason being, the past area is no longer accessible by boat or road, but most importantly studies have shown that the fish are no longer in that area. They are now upstream of the Eastmain River at the first rapids.

This project is all about bringing back the fish scooping to the Eastmain community members. They can now enjoy fish harvesting and teach our younger generations to carry on the traditional Cree values.

Waskaganish

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It is a great privilege again to write and summarize this year's activities. I would like to highlight three unique projects that were managed and completed successfully through the local Niskamoon office.

1. Untuuhuu Winter Program

The Untuuhuu Winter Program was planned and organized by Stacy Bear, Cultural Coordinator and Gerald Salt, Cultural Program Officer. The wilderness preparation and guidance program was developed through the Waskaganish Cultural Department under its "mission to promote, preserve and protect the Cree way of life through training programs, courses and cultural events".

The Untuuhuu Winter Program was created as a 'pass-it-on' practicum guidance training on trapping, hunting and fishing. Young people especially were targeted to take part in this Untuuhuu Winter Program in order to learn about traditional pursuits and culture. The principal trainer was an experienced tallyman who focused on traditional pursuits, knowledge and values on Cree way of life with regard to hunting, trapping and fishing. The tallyman provided a practical guidance on the land and territory as part of Cree knowledge on the area.

15 participants took part in this training, they were all out-of-school youth and young adults. 3 trainers ran the program. We found the results to be very positive and the objectives of the Untuuhuu program were met. Some of the participants continued their traditional pursuits after they had finished the Untuuhuu Training program for a couple more weeks.



2. Traditional Shaaptuuwaan

The Traditional Shaaptuuwaan was a project for our annual Smokey Hill fishery program and other venues that our community members host at Nuutimesaanaan. The aim of the project was to build a permanent traditional shaaptuuwaan intended for traditional activities such as the fisheries, traditional cooking, special gatherings, and feasts with special guests and many other purposes for our community members.

The fisheries program needed a permanent traditional shaaptuuwaan during the summer to train our youth and young adults on preparing and smoking fish. The intention of the fishing project is to continue the pursuit of Cree traditions and knowledge of fisheries. Shaaptuuwaan provides the fishery program a much needed space to cook traditional food and prepare smoked fish for everyone that participates on our fishery program. Shaaptuuwaan can be used all year round by tallymen, community members and visitors.

The Traditional Shaaptuuwaan Project was prepared and planned by the Weistche and Cowboy family members. The project management was done by the Sibi Development Corporation under the direction of Jack Diamond Sr.



3. Youth Wilderness Camp

The Youth Wilderness Summer Camp was planned and organized by Dave Cheechoo and Greta Cheechoo in a joint partnership with the Cultural Department. The camp focused on youth between the ages of 13 and 17.

The goals and objectives of the program were:

- Instill Core Cree Values
- Traditional Teachings
- Wilderness Survival Skills
- Build Self-Esteem

The wilderness summer camp took place at kilometer 49 on the access road for a duration of two weeks. The staff and participants travelled by vehicles and set up a camp site along the Rupert River at km 49. The wilderness summer program had two sessions with 20 participants per session. Speakers were invited to come and encourage participants on the above-mentioned goals and objectives of the program. The wilderness program was a great success for everyone that took part in it, including the staff.



Nemaska



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It is with pleasure that I submit my activity report for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. I have coordinated and monitored a number of projects and programs this year. These have included the construction of new plywood cabins, implementation of the log cabin restoration training program, enhancement of goose ponds, improvement of boat ramps/landings and the clearing of new skidoo/ATV trails. Other community programs that I administered included the Summer/Winter Fishery Programs, Wood supply for Elders, and snow removal to campsites on Route du Nord and Nemaska road. I provide a summary of these activities below.

1. Summer Fishery Projects

The Summer Fishery Projects were carried on three traplines from May to July 2015 and involved 24 participants for a duration of two weeks. The main purpose of these projects is to pass on Cree knowledge and skills to young people and other community members who wish to pursue and learn methods of summer fishing as well as the preparation and preservation of fish. The Summer Fishery projects were carried by Tallyman/Representatives from Trapline#N24, R17, and M33 who carried out a variety of daily fishing activities including the setting, checking and cleaning of nets. Other tasks involved the maintenance of water supplies for campsites, preparing wood for drying, cooking and smoking fish, and the transportation of equipment or supplies. The fish stock was provided to Elders and community members so as to promote the health benefits of consuming different fish species.

2. Log Cabin Restoration Training Program

The training program was offered to youth members from the ages of 18-35 years and led by Walter Dean of Shelter Systems International.

The purpose of the program was to instill within participants the necessary skills and knowledge for the maintenance and restoration of log cabins so that we would have qualified members available locally to perform these tasks.

Since most of the training program involved fieldwork, the general project manager was required to provide assistance in delivering and monitoring the log cabin restoration program. There were a total of 17 log cabins completed in the restoration. The work was carried out between July 20 and September 17, 2015 on the cabins allocated for land users of various traplines within Nemaska.



Before the maintenance and restoration



After the maintenance and restoration

3. New Cabins

There were twelve new cabins constructed and one spring camp for land users of six traplines. The location of new cabins were on the Pontax River, Marten River, Rupert River and Lake Joliette. The construction works were carried out by a field supervisor and three carpenters/laborers between July and October 2015. One cabin took approximately 10-14 days to complete. The suppliers of the material used on this project were R&D Lumber from Mistissini and C.Caron from Matagami.



Trapline #R18

4. Boat Ramps and Landings

Two boat ramps and landing projects were completed on the Rupert River, for Trapline#N24, and on Lake Joliette, for Trapline #R17. Their purpose is to provide measures to mitigate the fluctuation of water levels on the shorelines and land erosion. The boat ramps and landings thereby provide more convenient and safer access to the boat landing sites.



Boat Landing – Lac Joillette



Boat docks – Rupert River

5. Goose ponds/ATV Trails

Two projects were completed on the enhancement of goose pond on Rupert River for Trapline#N24, R-18 and R-16. The purpose for the goose ponds is to create or explore new areas for goose hunting sites. The ATV trails were cleared for safer access routes to goose hunting and fishing sites. The work was carried out by 3 manual laborers in the months of September and October, 2015.

6. Snow Removal to campsites

The snow removal program is carried out by Nemaska Eenou Companeé for camps located on Route du Nord and by FELCO, Excavation, Michel Paradis Inc. for camps located on the James Bay Highway. The program lasted for five months between November 2015 and April 2016. The service was provided as needed.

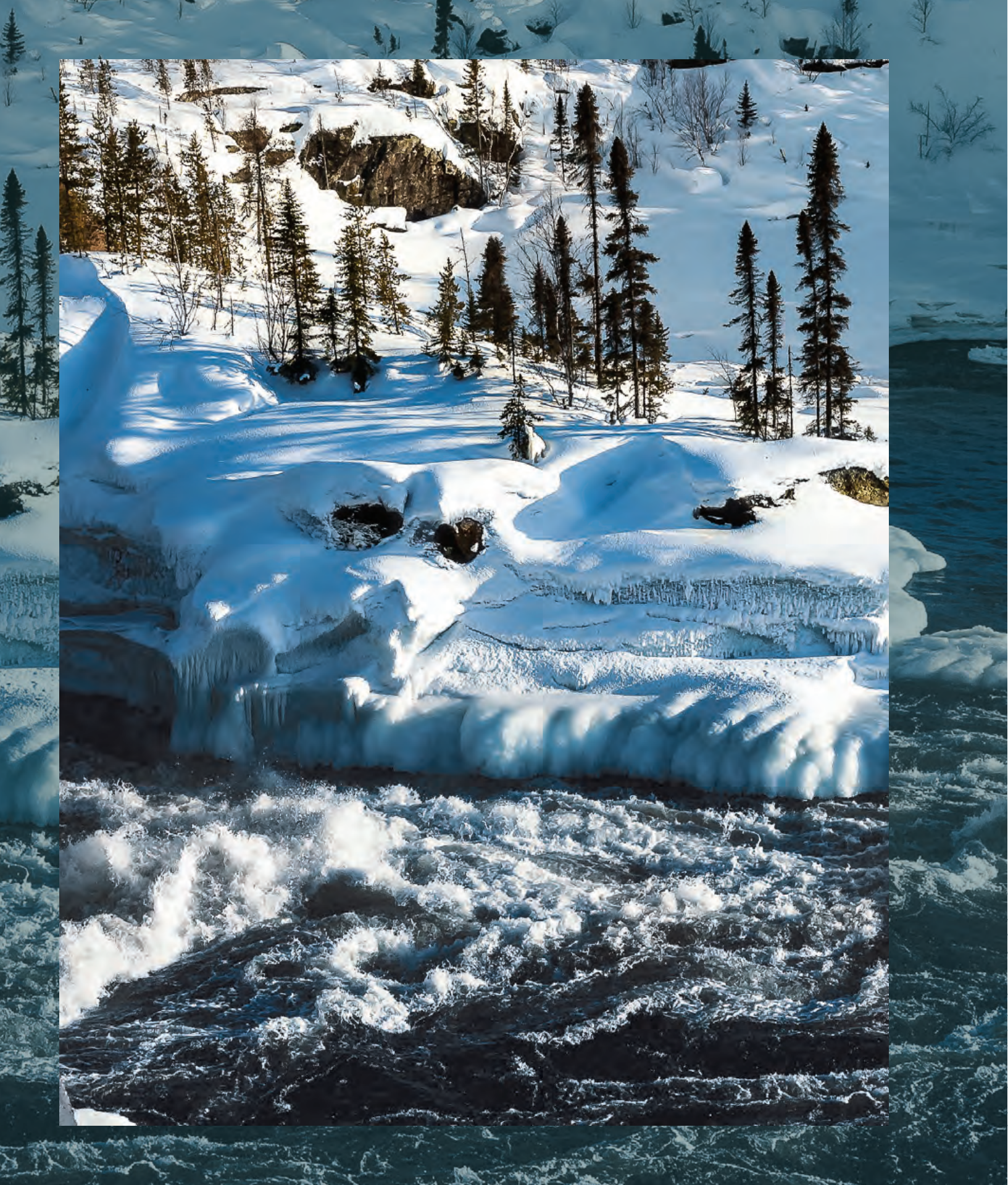
7. Wood supply for Elders and Land Users

This wood supply program was carried out between January and March, 2016 for elders/landusers on campsites on Route du Nord, Nemaska Road and JBHWY. Three groups cut, transported and piled the wood. 20 people benefitted from the program this year.

8. Skidoo Trails/Trapline #N24, R-16 & N24A

The project consisted of clearing a series of skidoo trails on the Marten River, Pontax River and Rupert River leading to various lakes and rivers. The trails were cleared to allow safer access to extensive territorial sites for hunting, trapping and fishing activities. The projects were carried out by three or four manual laborers. It involved mapping and clearing of trees. The work was carried out between February and April 2016.

This concludes my activity report for this year. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who helped out with this year's projects and programs.



Waswanipi

Betsy Shecapio
Local Coordinator

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I would like to feature the Waswanipi Chiiwetau for this year's report.

It's always a great pleasure to return to the Waswanipi Old Post for 'Chiiwetau'. This event commemorates our history as a community. Our ancestors have resided on this site since the opening of the first Hudson Bay's store in 1942. However, families began to leave to work on the railroad system once it began construction in 1960's. However, approximately nine large families remained at the Old Post. Many Cree elders were born there, and delivered by our own midwives.

Chiiwetau was started in the 1990's and has become a yearly event planned with excitement by the Waswanipi's Cultural Coordinator Diane. J. Cooper. Good ties and bonds have been built and strengthened between young and old. Our elders are well entertained by the activities and I enjoy hearing their laughter.

Niskamoon Corporation has funded \$50,000.00 to this event since 2004. I would like to thank them for their generous contribution.

Oujé-Bougoumou



Tommy Rabbitskin
Local Coordinator

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tommy.rabbitskin@ouje.ca

Wachiya,

Once again it is with great pleasure to provide you with my annual report for the financial year 2015-2016. It has been another year of developing project proposals for the trappers and for community-based initiatives. Many of the projects for trappers consisted of the building of traditional dwellings. In constructing these dwellings, we use split logs for the walls with moss inserted in between the gaps for insulation and balsam fir for the flooring. The creation of goose corridors was another popular project for trappers that we carried out. We also had our first Trans Eeyou Istchee Trail approved and implemented this past year. In terms of community projects, we had our Traditional Gathering, Aboriginal Day, and the Traditional Pow-Wow. New this year was the Snowshoe and Paddle Making Projects.

The Snowshoe Project was a particular success. The instructor was John Bosum and the project was completed in six weeks. The paddle-making project on the other hand was difficult to get started because it took time to get our youth to make their paddles before the excursion. This project took place in the community and, with all the distractions of today's modern society, it was a challenge to get them to participate, but once they started I believe they really enjoyed it. The project gave them a chance to recognize the skills and hard work involved in making paddles, and in fully understanding the

purpose of their use. Teaching them about paddles the way our ancestors taught us helped them to learn more about our culture and traditions.

In the future, we will consider doing this project in the bush. This will help us keep on time and it will also help the youth learn without distractions. Next time, we wish to add a 2-day First Aid Training and CPR training course the same week after the paddle making so that all participants can be well trained for the excursion.

In regards to the OJ Point Gathering, this project is more like a Jeewehdow project, where the community members enjoyed a get together at one of the community's first historical settlements. This point is located in Mistissini across from the old Hudson Bay Point. The week consisted of traditional games and cooking traditional meals. Other activities were smoking fish on a rack and there was a traditional feast to end the event. A lot of the Mistissini community members enjoyed visiting as well, and Ouje-bougoumou community members stayed in tent frames at the Old OJ Point.

Other projects this year included the construction of traditional cabins for which Niskamoon Corporation provided the labour costs. We also had our workshop on Cultural Programs, which went very well with 12 community members as participants. In conclusion, I would like to thank Niskamoon Corporation for their contribution to all the funded projects this year, and we look forward to developing new projects and initiatives in the future.

MEEGWETCH!





Mistissini



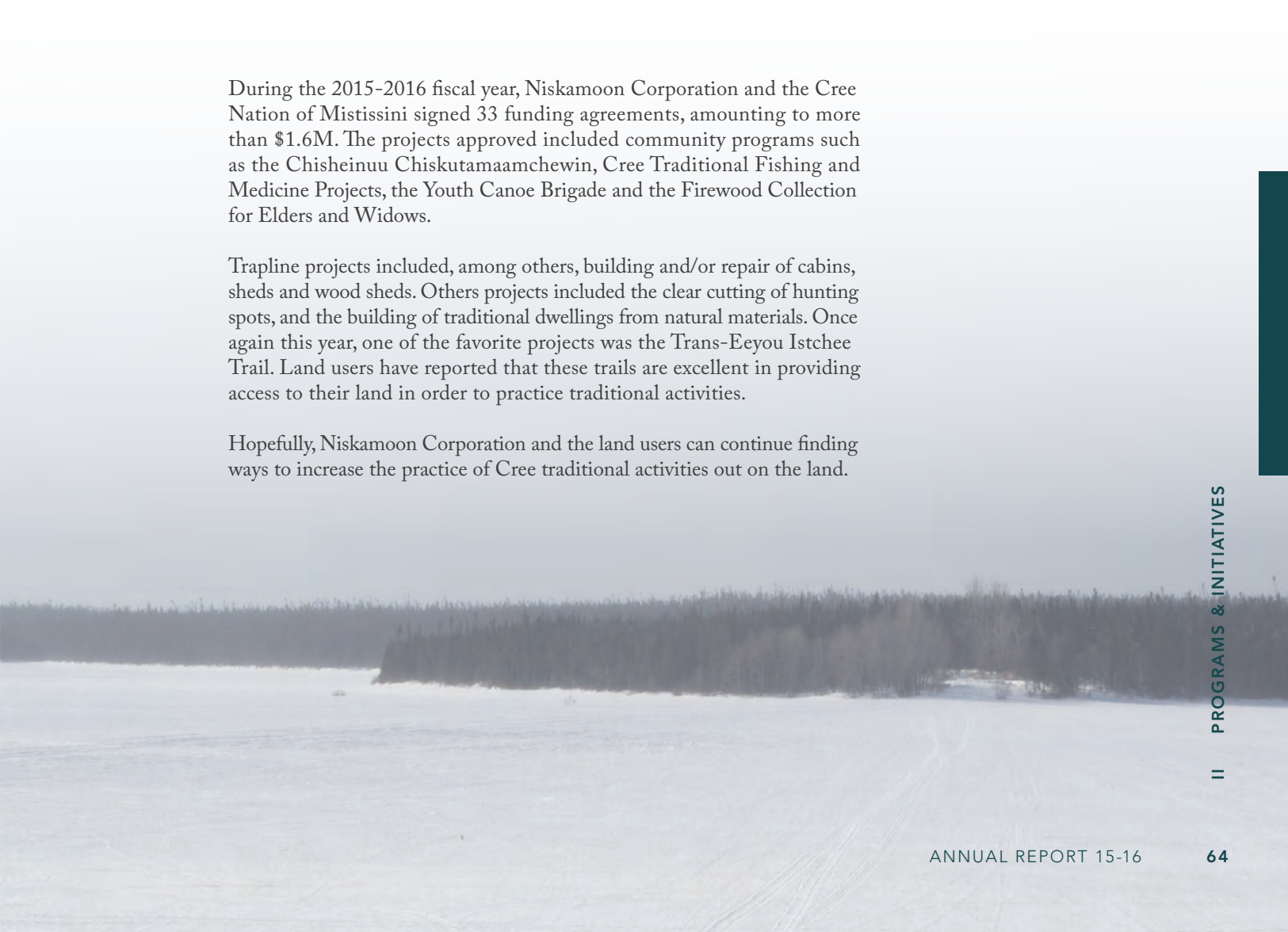
Ronald Blackned
Local Coordinator

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During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Niskamoon Corporation and the Cree Nation of Mistissini signed 33 funding agreements, amounting to more than \$1.6M. The projects approved included community programs such as the Chisheinuu Chiskutamaamchewin, Cree Traditional Fishing and Medicine Projects, the Youth Canoe Brigade and the Firewood Collection for Elders and Widows.

Trapline projects included, among others, building and/or repair of cabins, sheds and wood sheds. Others projects included the clear cutting of hunting spots, and the building of traditional dwellings from natural materials. Once again this year, one of the favorite projects was the Trans-Eeyou Istchee Trail. Land users have reported that these trails are excellent in providing access to their land in order to practice traditional activities.

Hopefully, Niskamoon Corporation and the land users can continue finding ways to increase the practice of Cree traditional activities out on the land.



Remedial Works

Remedial Works Program

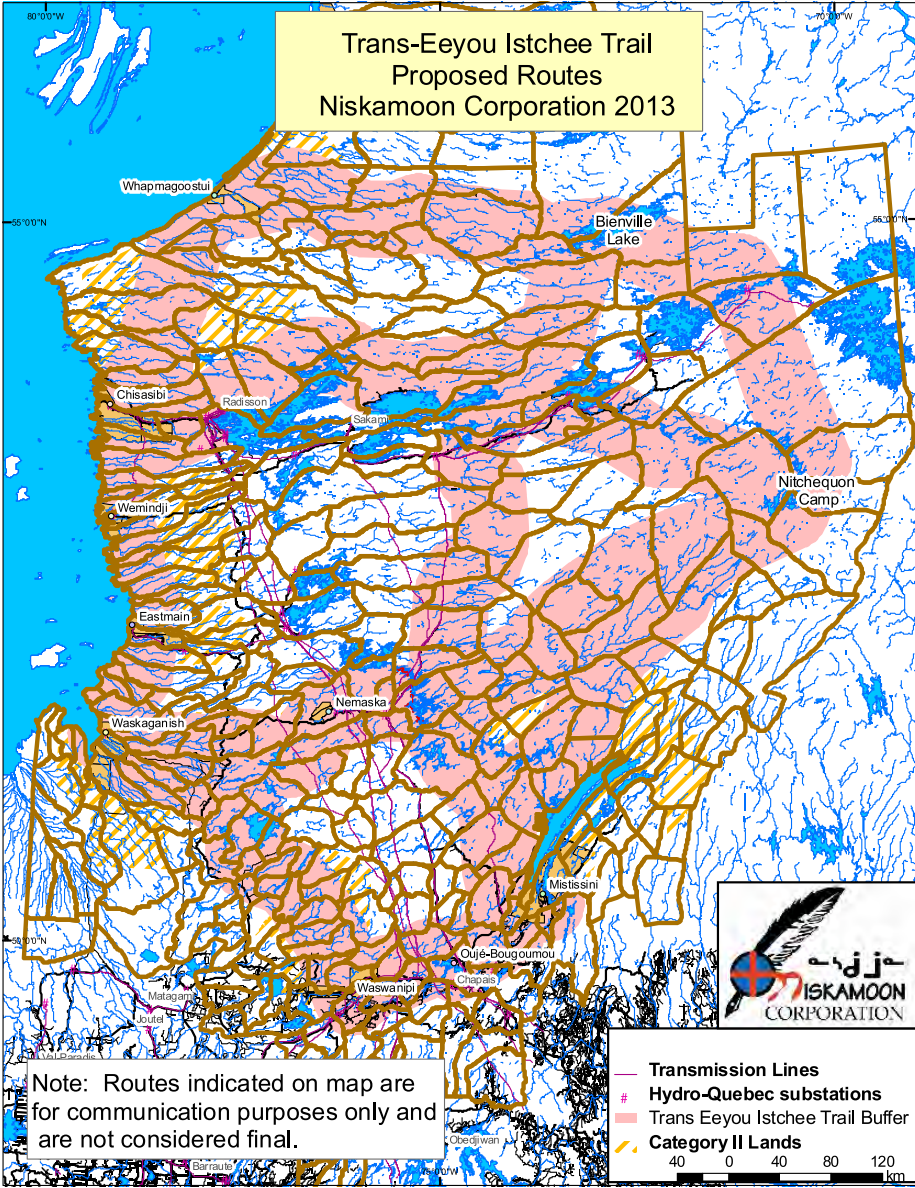
Welcome to the Remedial Works section!

This was the first year where changes had to be implemented in order to serve and accommodate the trappers' needs and wants. Our main objective is for them to continue to use their lands and pass on our traditional ways to the youth. Funds managed for Remedial Works is at times not sufficient enough for the Cree Communities, therefore we need to prioritize what is approved and seek out projects that will benefit the trappers as much as possible. One way of trying to remedy and accommodate the trappers' requests was to propose a Program which all land users would benefit from in Eeyou Istchee. With the help of the Local Coordinators, we came up with the Trans-Eeyou Multi-purpose Trail. We had agreed to start with a 5-year plan and we are already in our third year of operation.

There is a growing number of participating traplines that is making this project possible. For example, traplines in Mistissini, Whapmagoustui, Chisasibi, Oujé-Bougoumou, Waskaganish and Wemindji are being connected through this trail. It will eventually unite all the communities through connecting traplines that are directly or indirectly impacted. This trail will be owned and operated by the Crees. It is the families of each of the traplines that execute the works on their respective traplines and it is at their own discretion as to where the trail will pass through their lands. It is a multi-purpose trail, meaning it can be used for walks, trapping, access to different areas and various community events.

There were many requests for trails from different traplines to access different areas of their territories but unfortunately we discovered in our audits that many of the trails were never used, which led to rapid overgrowth. However, generally we have had some positive feedback from the trappers that have completed their trails as part of the Trans-Eeyou Multi-purpose Trail because the trail is wider than what was considered the norm. They have realized how useful this trail is because of the dimensions and the access they have to different parts of their territories. The neighboring traplines have also expressed their appreciation of this project.





Overall, Niskamoon is responsible for designing, developing, approving, managing and implementing, in close collaboration with land users, remedial works projects. The objectives of these projects are to alleviate the long-term impacts of hydro-electric development in Eeyou Istchee, to promote traditional Cree land use practices, to encourage the transfer of traditional knowledge to younger generations and to help communities adapt to the ongoing effects of this form of development. As a result, nearly 1,791 projects have been funded since 2002 in all the Cree communities. In the past fiscal year, a total of \$3,533,894 was allocated, helping to create 6,248 person-days of employment. Altogether, since 2002, approximately 100,856 person-days of employment have been created.

	Community	Category of Projects				Total
		Improvement of Access	Amelioration of Shelter	Elder's Wood Supply	Enhancement of Hunting Conditions and Habitat	
Whapmagostui	# of Projects			1		1
	Budget Allocated			\$25,000		\$25,000
	Total Employment in Person-Days			N/A		
Chisasibi	# of Projects			1	5	6
	Budget Allocated			\$25,000	\$319,459	\$344,459
	Total Employment in Person-Days			125	635	760
Wemindji	# of Projects				1	1
	Budget Allocated				\$47,639	\$47,639
	Total Employment in Person-Days				140	140
Eastmain	# of Projects		17	1	3	21
	Budget Allocated		\$374,870	\$25,000	\$94,930	\$494,800
	Total Employment in Person-Days		905	105	228	1,238
Waskaganish	# of Projects	4			5	9
	Budget Allocated	\$89,422			\$94,683	\$184,105
	Total Employment in Person-Days	260			267	527
Nemaska	# of Projects	8	17	1	3	29
	Budget Allocated	\$329,653	\$487,669	\$25,000	\$129,732	\$972,054
	Total Employment in Person-Days	299	733	90	182	1,304

	Community	Category of Projects				Total
		Improvement of Access	Amelioration of Shelter	Elder's Wood Supply	Enhancement of Hunting Conditions and Habitat	
Waswanipi	# of Projects	1		1		2
	Budget Allocated	\$50,000		\$25,000		\$75,000
	Total Employment in Person-Days	N/A		N/A		
Oujé-Bougoumou	# of Projects	1	6	1	4	12
	Budget Allocated	\$76,659	\$191,565	\$25,000	\$93,537	\$386,761
	Total Employment in Person-Days	249	401	N/A	281	931
Mistissini	# of Projects	7	16	1	2	26
	Budget Allocated	\$378,982	\$504,276	\$25,000	\$45,818	\$954,076
	Total Employment in Person-Days	385	869	N/A	94	1,348
Washaw Sibi	# of Projects			2		2
	Budget Allocated			\$50,000		\$50,000
	Total Employment in Person-Days			N/A		
TOTAL	# of Projects	21	56	9	23	109
	Budget Allocated	\$924,716	\$1,558,380	\$225,000	\$825,798	\$3,533,894
	Total Employment in Person-Days	1,193	2,908	320	1,827	6,248

Project selection criteria

Remedial Works projects target Cree youth or trappers and their families who are directly affected by the La Grande Complex and Rupert Diversion Project. The criteria applied to the selection of projects also take into account the technical feasibility of the proposed works. In addition, a selection of projects addressing the indirect impact of this development on all Crees are funded each year, provided the availability of funds and the conformity of the project to Niskamoon policies.

Scope of the projects

Priority is given to projects that:

1. Improve access to the territory

- Multi Purpose Trans Eeyou Istchee Trail (see map)
- Portages
- Upgrading access roads
- Construction of parking areas
- Construction of hauling ramps and canoe racks (manual jobs)
- Cleaning and marking navigation corridors
- Cleaning streams (for navigation)
- Snowploughing on secondary access roads

2. Improve shelters used during traditional activities

- Construction of new trapper cabins
- Construction of individual storing facilities (sheds)
- Construction of community storing facilities (warehouses)

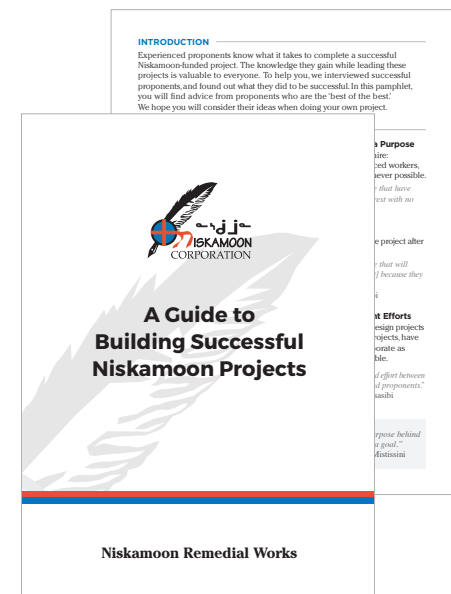
3. Enhance harvesting conditions (hunting territory and wildlife habitats)

- Water-flow areas (creating goose ponds, flyways and goose-feeding areas)
- Shore-cleaning on hydro-electric reservoirs

Over the years, the Remedial Works projects have helped in transferring the knowledge of our traditions in such a way that we see trappers, hunters, and families still using the land even with the development of Hydro-electric Projects. They have learned to cope and adapt.

A big thank you goes out to the Trappers and Local Coordinators in making the Remedial Works program a big success. Without working together this would not be possible. We need to continue to use our territory and pass on our traditions so that our youth can be prosperous with our culture in years to come.

Also, thank you to the Board of Directors, who play an important role in making sure the Agreements we manage are implemented accordingly and that we continue to use our impacted lands.



Best Practices Guide

Niskamoon Corporation created a brochure, called 'A Guide to Building Successful Niskamoon Projects', based on interviews conducted in 2015 with ten Cree land users who developed and executed successful Niskamoon-funded projects. The valuable lessons shared by these proponents offered unique knowledge of how they planned and carried out their projects effectively and well. The brochure's main objective is to guide and encourage present-day and future Niskamoon-funded proponents in developing and carrying out successful projects of their own.

Chisasibi Coastal Goose Habitat Enhancement Project

The coastal traplines of Chisasibi started a project to address declining numbers of geese coming to the coastal traplines during their spring and fall migration.

In recent decades, land users of the coastal traplines have reported fewer numbers of geese landing on their hunting grounds. The reasons for this are still not fully understood, but the decline is likely related to complex, long-term processes such as decreases of eelgrass beds, eastward shifts in the flyways further inland, behavioral changes resulting from altered land use practices in southern ranges of goose migration routes, and impacts related to climate change.

In 2013, land users gathered to discuss what they could do differently on their traplines to attract more geese and make them stay longer. Possibilities to improve the hunting grounds as goose habitat were proposed, ranging from cutting grass to removing parts of the soil, to planting food crops such as corn and wild rice. After this meeting, complementary research was done to assess the applicability of the proposed interventions under local conditions.



Delmer Matches on raised seed bed, trapline CH37

The first land preparations have started on some of the participating traplines in 2015, work that will continue throughout 2016. There are very few examples of similar projects under comparable climatic conditions, so everyone involved is engaged in a constant learning process with uncertain outcomes. The interventions are therefore being tested on a small scale at first until enough experience is developed to apply techniques on a bigger scale.

Niskamoon facilitates the process with equipment and expertise. Despite the many uncertainties and practical challenges associated with this type of experimental project, there is a very constructive and collaborative synergy among the participants. It is hoped that, in time, the knowledge and expertise generated from this project will benefit traplines throughout the James Bay region.



Albert Chakapash overseeing goose habitat, trapline CH6



Albert Chakapash returning from fall goose hunt, trapline CH6



Eric House inspecting terrain conditions, trapline CH1



Fall goose hunt, trapline CH6

Environment & Culture

Cree Traditional and Cultural Activities

Traditional and cultural activities include any non-denominational pursuit that promotes Cree culture and the teaching of traditional and cultural customs. They may include, but are not limited to, canoe brigades, winter journeys, and summer gatherings.

Niskamoon can fund 50% of the total cost of a Traditional and Cultural activity up to a maximum of \$100,000 for one year per community.

Projects under the Hydro-Québec and Eeyou Fund

Traditional Gathering

Cree communities organize traditional gatherings to celebrate family and community life. These activities feature cultural activities and are usually held during the summer months.

Niskamoon has a policy of funding no more than 50% of the total budget with a maximum of \$50,000 for one traditional gathering per community a year. A total amount of \$247,000 was committed for the following traditional gatherings this fiscal year:

- Chisasibi Mamoweedow 2015
- Eastmain Statjune Cultural Days 2015
- Waskaganish Smokey Hill Gathering 2015
- Nemaska Old Nemaska Gathering 2015
- Waswanipi Chiiwetaau 2015
- Oujé-Bougoumou Traditional Gathering 2015
- Old Oujé Point Gathering 2015



Canoe Brigades

They give Cree youth and community members the opportunity to cultivate their culture and traditions. A total amount of \$64,488 was committed for the following Canoe Brigades:

- Wemindji Canoe Expedition 2015
- Waskaganish Annual Youth Canoe Brigade 2015
- Nemaska Annual Youth Canoe Brigade 2015
- Waswanipi Youth Exchange Canoe Expedition 2015
- Oujé-Bougoumou Canoe Excursion 2015
- Mistissini Youth Canoe Brigade 2015

Winter Walks and Journeys

For the most part, these projects were carried out by youth seeking to retrace and renew with the Cree ancestral way of life during the winter season. The Waskaganish Aashuumiih Winter Journey 2015 was the sole journey funded this fiscal year.

Traditional Pow-wow

They are an Aboriginal tradition where people gather, dance, and sing. A total amount of \$20,000 was committed for two pow-wows during this fiscal year:

- Chisasibi Traditional Pow wow
- Mistissini Traditional Pow wow

Aboriginal Day Festivities

Aboriginal people across Canada celebrate their culture and heritage on this national holiday on June 21st. The Cree communities celebrate this special day with feasts, traditional teachings, story telling, and entertainment. A total amount of \$35,000 was given to the following celebrations:

- Waskaganish Aboriginal Day 2015
- Nemaska Aboriginal Day 2015
- Waswanipi Aboriginal Day 2015
- Oujé-Bougoumou Aboriginal Day 2015

Whapmagoostui Transportation Subsidy Program

Since Whapmagoostui is quite isolated and access to its hunting territory is not possible by road, this program subsidizes air transportation for full-time trappers.

Whapmagoostui Cultural Events & Activities 2015-2016

The aim of this project is for elders to demonstrate various types of cultural activities such as tool making, a variety of traditional clothing making, and survival skills.

Wemindji Old Factory Lake Youth Camp 2015

A cultural camp was built to ensure the continuation of the Cree Tradition and facilitate traditional activities close to the community of Wemindji.

Eastmain Community Projects 2015-2016

The purpose of this project is to continue traditional practices like fish harvesting, woodworking, hide preparations. There are also gatherings, which include meetings, dialogue exchange, and elders' demonstrations.

Waskaganish Youth Wilderness Camp 2015

This project is aimed at teaching the core Cree values and wilderness survival skills to youth between the ages of 13-17.

Waskaganish Untuuhuu Winter Program 2015

The purpose of this winter program is to promote, preserve and protect the Cree way of life through training programs, courses and cultural events.

Nemaska Trappers Festival 2015

The purpose and intent of this festival highlights the demonstration of the skills, practices and activities of the trappers and Eenouch.

Nemaska Paddle Carving Program 2015

The purpose of this project is to teach the youth traditional skills that have sustained the Cree people for thousands of years.

Oujé-Bougoumou Snowshoe Making Training 2015

The purpose of this program is to teach the youth the different kinds of wood to be used to make snowshoes.

Regional Programs

The following five regional projects and events received a total of \$2,871,559 in Niskamoon funding:

- JBCCS Elders Speak 2015-2016
- CNACA Moose Hide Training 2015-2016
- ACCI Traditional Cree Beaded Hood Regional Workshop
- JBCCEC Cultural Gathering 2015
- CBHASSJB Safe Food Handling Practices Training



Monitoring Committee

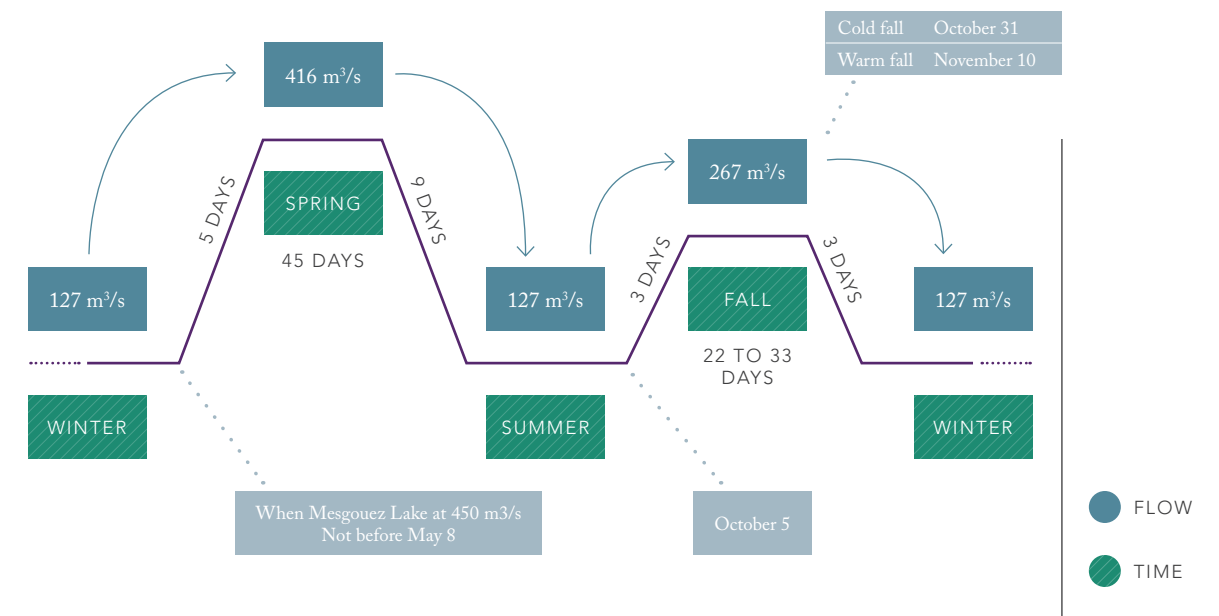
For the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert River Partial Diversion

The following section resumes the main activities of the Monitoring Committee associated with the Eastmain-1A and Sarcelle powerhouse and Rupert River partial diversion project.

The Rupert River was partially diverted in November 2009, resulting in the creation of the Rupert River Diversion Bays located 314 kilometres up-river from the community of Waskaganish and some 200 kilometres below Mistissini Lake. The Rupert Diversion Bays consist of a complex series of dams and dykes designed to divert water north toward the EM-1 Reservoir and, subsequently, the Eastmain-1 and Eastmain-1A powerhouses. Farther north, the Sarcelle powerhouse, located downstream from the Opinaca Reservoir. From Sarcelle, water empties into Boyd-Sakami Lakes and then into the Robert-Bourassa Reservoir (formerly known as LG-2) where it joins the La Grande River.

The partial diversion of the Rupert River is governed by an ecological instream flow regime. This means that not only is a small proportion of water constantly released from the Rupert Dam spillway (roughly 20%), but also additional amounts are released in spring (approximately 4 times more water over 45 days) and autumn (approximately twice as much water over roughly 25 days) in order to replicate the spring and autumn run-off periods when fish spawn.

Instream flow regime along reduced flow sector of the Rupert River. Regime is in place below the Rupert Dam, located 314 km up-river from its mouth.



In addition to the instream flow regime, eight hydraulic structures (five weirs, two spur dikes, and one underwater rock blanket) were built along the Rupert River below the dam to maintain water levels immediately upstream from the structures as they were prior to the diversion. As a result, approximately 50% of the river below the diversion point is maintained at the same level as before the diversion, allowing for the continued use of the river and maintaining habitat for flora and fauna.



Monitoring Committee's Composition

The Monitoring Committee is a joint discussion forum made up of seven Hydro-Québec/Société d'énergie de la Baie-James (SEBJ) representatives and eight Cree members representing each of the five communities impacted by the EM-1A/Rupert Diversion Project as well as one representative from Chisasibi and two regional representatives nominated by Niskamoon Corporation, with one regional representative on loan from the Cree Nation Government (CNG). Secretarial services are provided by SEBJ. The members are:

Member	Entity
Robbie Tapiatic	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
William Blackned	Cree Nation of Wemindji
Norman Cheezo	Cree Nation of Eastmain
Ryan Erless	Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation
(vacant)	Cree Nation of Nemaska
Matthew Longchap	Cree Nation of Mistissini
Marc Dunn	Niskamoon Corporation
Nadia Saganash	Niskamoon Corporation (CNG)
Simon Marcotte	Hydro-Québec
André Tessier	Hydro-Québec
Jérôme Gingras	Hydro-Québec
Carine Durocher	Hydro-Québec
Réal Courcelles	Hydro-Québec
René Dion	Hydro-Québec
Jimmy Lavoie	Hydro-Québec

Note that as of March 31, 2016, there was still no representative from the Cree Nation of Nemaska to replace Lawrence Jimiken. Mr. Jimiken was a member of the committee since its inception, as well as many other committees and collaborative forums since 2002. His contribution to our understanding of the impacts of hydroelectric development in Eeyou Istchee is immeasurable. He will be sorely missed.

Work of the committee has progressively decreased since 2013. This continued into 2015. The Committee convened nine times between January 2015 and March 2016. This included the 100th meeting, celebrated in March 2016. A small feast was held with land users and other stakeholders to celebrate the occasion.

Dates of the Meeting	Meeting	Location
January 27-28, 2015	#92	Montreal
February 24-25, 2015	#93	Nemaska
March 24-25-26, 2015	#94	Wemindji
May 26-27-28, 2015	#95	Mistissini
September 15-16-17, 2015	#96	Waskaganish
October 20-21, 2015	#97	Eastmain
December 8-9-10, 2015	#98	Montreal
February 23-24, 2016	#99	Montreal
March 22-23-24, 2016	#100	Mistissini

Niskamoon-Hydro-Québec Tour

In addition to holding meetings, the Monitoring Committee is mandated to ensure that information presentations are given in the six Cree communities represented on the Monitoring Committee. In 2015, these tours were renamed the joint Niskamoon-Hydro-Québec Tours, to reflect the changing nature of these meetings. As in the past, presentations are made both for land users representing impacted traplines and the general public. Tours are conducted during the winter (to present the monitoring programs for the year ahead) and in the summer (to present monitoring program results from the past year). In addition, land users from each impacted trapline are met with individually to review their land use plans, carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Re-appropriation Agreement.

For more information, refer to this section in the Annual Report.

Dates of the Meeting	Meeting	Location
January 20-22, 2015	Nemaska	Winter 2015 - Information Tour
March 17-19, 2015	Waskaganish	Winter 2015 - Information Tour
April 7, 2015	Wemindji	Winter 2015 - Information Tour
April 8, 2015	Eastmain	Winter 2015 - Information Tour
August 11-13, 2015	Waskaganish	Summer 2015 - Information Tour
September 22, 2015	Wemindji	Summer 2015 - Information Tour
January 20-22, 2016	Nemaska	Winter 2016 - Information Tour
February 9-10, 2016	Mistissini	Winter 2016 - Information Tour

Monitoring Committee's Mandate

The Committee reviews monitoring programs for the EM-1A/Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert River Partial Diversion Project according to the following steps:

1. **Terms of Reference:** These documents include all pertinent information for the execution of each study prior to its inception. The Committee reviews these documents, and adjustments are made wherever necessary.
2. **Study Period:** Comments are brought to the attention of the Committee, and adjustments may be made wherever necessary.
3. **Pre-final Report:** Prior to the publication of the study report, a pre-final report is reviewed by the Committee to ensure that the conclusions are acceptable to all parties.

2015 marks the sixth year of data collection following the Rupert River Partial Diversion. This information is compared to study results prior to the diversion, referred to as the baseline conditions, in order to evaluate the extent of change caused by the impoundment of the Rupert Diversion Bays. In the first year following the impoundment, major ecosystem changes were observed in the affected area. In the second and third years, 2011 and 2012, the ecosystems tended to stabilize, resulting in more reliable field data. There has been a generalized decrease in the number of monitoring studies carried out since 2013. It is expected that the ecosystem (in some places) has already begun to restore itself in the impacted area.



		Rupert Diversion Bays	Rupert Reduced-Flow Stretch	Increased-Flow Section			Multiple Sectors
		Rupert Forebay and Tailbay	Lower Rupert River	Eastmain-Opinaca	Boyd-Sakami	Grande Rivière Estuary	
Natural Environment	Study Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed lake sturgeon spawning grounds in the Rupert diversion bays Developed lake trout spawning grounds in the Rupert diversion bays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank dynamics in the Rupert Water quality in the Rupert and Nemiscau Rivers Developed multispecies spawning grounds in the Rupert River 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ice cover (estuary, Rupert Bay, increased-flow section and Boyd-Sakami sector) Lake sturgeon spawning in the Bauerman (upstream of Eastmain 1 reservoir) and Eau Claire Rivers
	Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed lake sturgeon spawning grounds in the Rupert diversion bays (physical integrity and use) Developed spawning grounds in the Rupert diversion bays – lake trout spawning grounds (including temperature component) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank dynamics in the Rupert, including sandbanks downstream of KP 170 Water quality in the Rupert and Nemiscau Rivers Multispecies spawning grounds downstream of dikes and dams 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ice cover monitoring – winter 2014-2015 Lake sturgeon spawning in the Bauerman (upstream of Eastmain 1 reservoir) and Eau Claire Rivers
Human Environment	Study Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigation in the Rupert diversion bays 					
	Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigation in the Rupert diversion bays (aerial surveys and surveys by boat) 					



Environmental Monitoring Program Results

I. Rupert Diversion Bay Section

1. Developed Lake Sturgeon Spawning Grounds in the Rupert Diversion Bays

The objective of this follow-up is to evaluate the use and physical integrity of two spawning grounds developed for lake sturgeon, one at KP 333 of the Rivière Rupert and the other at KP 30.5 of the Rivière Misticawissich, both located upriver from the Rupert forebay.

The physical integrity of the two spawning grounds has not changed since they were constructed, with no signs of clogging observed in 2015. Six sturgeon were caught in the area around KP 333 of the Rupert and one sturgeon was caught downstream of the spawning ground in the Misticawissich. However, no eggs were collected in 2015, suggesting that spawning activity did not occur.



Lake sturgeon caught near KP 333 of the Rupert

Although sturgeon gather near spawning grounds every year during spawning season, they do not always spawn. Therefore, the fact that adult sturgeon were caught near the developed spawning grounds (including some females in pre-spawning physiological condition) is an encouraging sign.

2. Developed Lake Trout Spawning Grounds in the Rupert Diversion Bays

In 2009, Hydro-Québec constructed eight lake trout spawning grounds in former lakes that are now part of the Rupert forebay to compensate for the loss of spawning habitat resulting from the creation of this flooded area. The follow-up of the physical integrity of these sites and their use by lake trout continued in 2015.

Five years after construction, all the developed lake trout spawning grounds in Rupert forebay had maintained their physical integrity, with no signs of erosion or sedimentation observed in 2015. For the first time since the follow-up began, evidence of the use of one developed spawning ground by lake trout was obtained, in the Lac Cabot area. Furthermore, lake trout seem to be abandoning their former natural spawning grounds, possibly due to the fact that water is too deep at these sites since impoundment as well as an accumulation of wood debris in the area.

3. Navigation on the Rupert Diversion Bays

The purpose of the follow-up of navigation in the Rupert diversion bays is to describe navigation conditions in the navigation corridors established for this purpose in 2009 and to evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation measures introduced to facilitate navigation. The follow-up consisted of two phases: aerial surveys (flyovers) of the diversion bays and surveys by boat of the 180 km of navigation corridors created.

As in 2013 and 2014, users from Mistissini used the diversion bays for travel by boat more than Nemaska users. Few navigational constraints were identified during the aerial surveys, the main ones being floating peat islands in various locations. According to Cree participants, these islands seem to be increasingly common in the diversion bays as the years go by.



Floating peat islands near the boat ramp upstream of Lemare dam.

During the navigation surveys, the presence of navigational obstacles identified during previous follow-ups was validated. These obstacles do not, however, hinder navigation activities, since they can easily be avoided in a boat.

The results of the 2015 follow-up are in line with those of other follow-ups on navigation conditions in the Rupert diversion bays. Since 2013, navigation conditions in the 180 km of navigation corridors developed for this purpose have remained adequate.

II. Rupert Reduced-flow Section

1. Rupert River Bank Dynamics

The purpose of the follow-up on bank dynamics in the Rupert is to document changes in shoreline environments since the river's partial diversion in November 2009. Note that water levels are maintained over half of the reduced flow sector of the river (156 km) thanks to the construction of eight hydraulic structures. The 2015 follow-up summarizes changes along the entire reduced flow sector of the river between 2009 and 2015. Overall, the flow reduction, flow velocities, and water levels have resulted in a decrease in erosion. This trend is particularly striking in areas not influenced by hydraulic structures, where a number of bank segments have been cut off from the shore, resulting in active segments slowly colonized by vegetation. Only the segment between KP 4 and KP 13 (Waskaganish territory; mainly on the left bank) experiences fairly intense erosion similar to before the partial diversion.

The same trend towards bank stabilization is seen in areas influenced by hydraulic structures, except for the banks of certain river widenings (0.5 to 1.5 km across), where the waves have a greater erosive capacity. In other areas, where the river is narrower, erosion is very limited.

2. Multispecies Spawning Grounds Developed in the Rupert River

The follow-up on developed spawning grounds in the reduced-flow stretch of the Rupert (near the hydraulic structures at KP 110, KP 170 and KP 223 of the Rupert and downstream of Rupert dam at KP 314) evaluated their physical integrity and use by four target species: white sucker, longnose sucker and walleye (which spawn in spring) and lake whitefish (which spawn in fall). The follow-up was carried out in 2011, 2013 and 2015.



Multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the KP 110 weir.

The results show that all the developed spawning grounds maintained their physical integrity and that they are all used in spring and fall by the target species. Results for suckers and walleye were similar in all three monitoring years while those for whitefish were similar in 2013 and 2015. Overall, results obtained in the follow-up show that these developed spawning grounds are an effective compensation measure.



3. Water quality in the Rupert and Nemiscau Rivers

The follow-up on water quality in the reduced-flow stretch of the Rupert and lower reaches of the Nemiscau, indicates that the range of values of the three parameters measured (turbidity, SS, true color) remain within the ranges normally used for Cree domestic use at bush camps.

Overall, water quality changed little in the upper Rupert and Nemiscau Rivers (Nemaska territory). In the lower Rupert (Waskaganish territory), water quality decreased slightly since the partial diversion, but remain within the range of values predicted in the Environmental Impact Statement.

III. Multiple Sectors

1. Ice Cover

Ice cover monitoring was carried out in winter of 2014-2015 in Rupert Bay, the Rupert River estuary and the increased-flow section to determine the condition of the ice cover and any changes to it, and to support Cree communities in assessing ice quality.

The winter of 2014-2015 was considered severe in most of the study area. Overall, the ice was a little thinner than in the previous winter but roughly the same thickness as in 2010-2011 and 2012-2013, likely due to a deep layer of snow over the ice.

Ice behavior in Rupert Bay and estuary suggests that changes in ice cover are due more to meteorological and oceanographic conditions than the reduced flow of the Rupert River. In the Eastmain-Opinaca increased-flow section, the ice cover was less extensive than in the previous winter and, despite a freezing season considered to be severe, several slushy areas were observed. This is mainly due to powerhouse operations characterized by a greater mean flow downstream. However, ice conditions did not deviate significantly from those anticipated.

2. Lake Sturgeon Spawning in Bauerman River Eau Claire Rivers

The purpose of this follow-up was to evaluate the use of developed and natural spawning grounds at KP 0.8 and KP 8.3 of the Eau Claire River (Eastmain) and at KP 6.2 of the Bauerman River (Mistissini; upstream from the Eastmain-1 Reservoir). This study was carried out at the request of the Monitoring Committee. Overall, flow and depth conditions in the spawning grounds during the spawning season were adequate for sturgeon spawning, and several mature adult individuals were caught near the spawning grounds sites. However, no sturgeon eggs were collected.

In the case of Bauermann River, previous follow-ups have confirmed sturgeon spawning at this site. However, the lack of detections in 2015 suggest that the spawner population is still not large enough to spawn every year. Note that the sturgeon population in this river is made up entirely of mature and young-of-the-year sturgeon that were introduced as part of the EM-1 sturgeon hatchery between 2004 and 2012.



Spawning ground in the Rivière Bauerman



A two-day event in
Waskaganish, Eeyou Istchee
Québec, Canada

BUILDING A **VISION**
OF INDIGENOUS
PARTICIPATION
IN **DEVELOPMENT +**
IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ON TRADITIONAL LANDS

Impact Assessment Annual Conference

Since 2013, Niskamoon Corporation has sent representatives to the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) annual conference. IAIA is the most renowned international body with regards to advancing the field of impact assessment. Niskamoon, as an organization responsible for the co-implementation of the environmental impact assessments for the EM-1 and EM-1A/Sarcelle/Rupert Diversion Project, has an important role in advancing First Nations communities' participation in the impact assessment process. Indeed, these two projects have set precedents with regards to the implication of Aboriginal communities in impact assessment. It is hoped that the progress made during these two projects becomes standard practice in this field throughout the world.

In 2015, five Niskamoon delegates attended the IAIA annual conference in Florence, Italy. The theme for this conference was "Impact Assessment in the Digital Age," and numerous presentations were given regarding innovative online tools that can be used to improve the process of impact assessment, including making it more accessible to local communities. In 2016, Niskamoon sent five delegates to Nagoya, Japan. The theme for this year's conference was "Impact Assessment and Resilience." Note that since 2014, Niskamoon has made seven presentations on various topics related to its work at the IAIA conferences.

The 2017 IAIA conference will be held in Montreal, and in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Section of the IAIA, the Grand Council of the Crees/ Cree Nation Government, and the Crees of Waskaganish First Nation, Niskamoon has taken this opportunity to organize a two-day event prior to the conference. Twenty Indigenous leaders from around the world will be invited to the community of Waskaganish to participate and share their experience with resource development on traditional lands. The event is entitled Aashukan, and the goal of the event is to create a new conversation that reconciles development and the protection of Indigenous culture and lands. It will seek to build bridges between these two imperatives for the benefit of all. Following Aashukan, participants will attend the IAIA conference in Montreal and the highlights of the two-day exchange will be presented at the conference during a special session dedicated to its outcomes.

Fundraising is currently underway to ensure full sponsorship for First Nations participants, and to cover the logistics of the event.

For more information visit www.aashukan.com.

Fisheries and Health Committee & Program

The Fisheries and Health Committee was created to implement key components of the Mercury Agreement (2001) as well as subsequent agreements signed between the Cree people and Hydro-Québec dealing with the issue of mercury in fish in relation to new projects on the territory (specifically EM-1 and EM-1A). The mandate of the Committee is summarized as follows:

1. To play a key role in the evaluation and recommendations to be made to Niskamoon's Board of Directors concerning all Monitoring and Research Programs related to mercury, including the review of new funding proposals as well as all follow-up for approved projects (as defined in Chapter 5 of the Mercury Agreement (2001)).
2. To review funding programs related to community fishing programs carried out to address the issue of mercury in fish.
3. To make recommendations regarding the funding process for points 1 and 2.

The Fisheries and Health Committee did not meet in 2015.

One meeting was held in February 2016 between Hydro-Québec and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) to review the results of the 2014 monitoring program on mercury in fish and to discuss any potential changes to the fish consumption recommendations. For more information, readers are invited to contact the CBHSSJB directly.

The Committee is awaiting the final reconciliation of all Names funds prior to holding their last scheduled meeting. Nevertheless, the committee will continue to exist on an ad hoc basis thereafter, meeting whenever issues related to mercury merit collaborative discussion.

Fisheries Development and Enhancement

Although funding for fishing projects have for the most part been depleted, it was felt that Niskamoon Corporation should continue to support the development of Cree traditional fisheries due to their tremendous health and cultural benefits. However, to be considered for funding, fishery projects must contain a strong commitment to the training of youth and the transfer of traditional Cree knowledge.

This new outlook is designed to:

- Ensure the sustainable, long-term use of aquatic resources valued by Crees
- Restore fishing practices through the development of fishing installations and methods traditionally used by Crees
- Strengthen Cree fisheries through initiatives that foster long-term and self-sufficient activities and pursuits

The following priorities were identified for funding programs:

- Self-sustainability
- Community involvement
- Respect and promotion of traditional values
- Increasing health benefits through fish consumption
- Involvement of youth

The total amounts of funding allotted for Fisheries Development and Enhancement projects was \$1,393,626.

The Waskaganish & Siibii Development Corporation Fishing Programs 2015-2016 received \$958,507 in funding for the following programs:

- Preservation & Support for Anadromous Cisco Fishing 2015-2016
- Waskaganish Rupert River Navigation & Exploration Subsidy Program
- Waskaganish Voluntary Registry of Cisco Catches –Smokey Hill 2015
- Waskaganish Voluntary Lake Sturgeon Registry 2015
- Aachikukaan Project 2015
- Smokey Hill Community Fishing 2015
- Construction of Scooping Weir Smokey Hill South Shore 2015
- Construction of Scooping Weir Smokey Hill North Shore 2015
- Voluntary of Cisco Catches Smokey Hill 2015
- Scooping Fishing Support of Smokey Hill 2015
- Gillnet Fishing & Trail Weir Fishing 2015

The Nemaska Fishing Programs 2015-2016 received a total of \$435,119 in funds for the following:

- Nemaska Rupert River Diversion Bays Navigation Exploration
- Nemaska Lac Joliette All Species Fishing Project 2015
- Nemaska Lac Meesgouez All Species Fishing Project 2015
- Nemaska Genawmee Strugeon Fishing Project 2015
- Nemaska Winter Fishery Project 2015

Training & Employment

Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec (TEHQ) Program

We are pleased to present our 2015-2016 outcomes and accomplishments. It was with great emotion that we welcomed our last two cohorts in Automated Systems Electro-Mechanics at the Rouyn-Noranda School Board's 'Centre Polymétier', and in Industrial Construction & Maintenance Mechanics at the Harricana School Board's 'Centre de formation professionnelle Harricana' in Amos. The school year was also preceded by a final orientation session. Once again this year, all partners involved made great efforts to support the students and their families in helping them fulfill their dreams by achieving their personal and professional goals. Students also participated in a multitude of activities, which proved to be deeply enriching. This year's success and attendance rates were excellent, with a retention rate of 85%. Hydro-Québec continues to hire our TEHQ graduates, which includes an ever-increasing number of women. Please enjoy reading this year's report!

Student Body

Following the final recruitment drive for the TEHQ program, some fifty people expressed interest in enrolling; however, only half the applicants ultimately met the admissions criteria. One highlight of the admissions process this year however was that a greater number of women enrolled thereby making women up to 45% of the entire student body. This is a first in the program's history. Eighty-seven students were actively enrolled in one of our four core programs over this past academic year. Twenty-four new students were accepted, while twenty-three were part way through their studies.

Orientation Session

In August, the final orientation session for new candidates was held in Cantley, in the Outaouais region. Eleven women and nine men attended what was the seventh annual event, the first was held in 2009 in response to an overall demand. The orientation's goal is to help better equip candidates for the challenges of vocational and technical training, and in becoming permanent Hydro-Québec employees. These sessions, conducted over two weeks, were also intended to assess the candidates' participant engagement, language skills and personal abilities. The orientation also promoted the development of improved communication, interpersonal, and teamwork skills. Some one hundred and thirty candidates have benefited from these sessions.



Once again this year, representatives from each partner association were asked to inform candidates on their respective tasks during their training and/or employment processes. It is important to highlight the level of cooperation among all those involved, including staff members from Hydro-Québec and Niskamoon Corporation and from the educational institutions, particularly the Polymétier and Harricana centres. In addition it is essential to acknowledge the outstanding work of the presenters Micheline Coulombe, Joëlle Lavage, Nathalie Fraser, and of our consultants, Wanda Gabriel and Kathy Shecapio. All of this was conducted under the excellent coordination of Paul Castonguay from Pour Parler, and Andrea Kitchen from the Cree School Board.

Workshop

In consideration that a great number of women enrolled in the Appatisiwin Agreement's training program, a workshop geared toward women entering non-traditional trades was given on April 20th in Rouyn-Noranda. (An occupation is considered "non-traditional" if less than 33% of its workers are either male or female.) Twenty-five women attended, with the majority being TEHQ students, others included support staff from the education, social work and employment sectors. Many subjects were discussed including work-life balance, joining the workforce, employment equity, and relations between men and women within the same trade.



The dialogue and activities proved highly rewarding, with the participants expressing how they felt more reassured about their capacity to overcome hurdles that they might face along the way. In fact the participants suggested that more workshops be put on in the future in order to cover topics such as how to help their spouses and children better understand and support their career path. The women also realized the importance of networking in helping to prevent feeling isolated and alone. We thank Wanda Gabriel for facilitating this event.

Social Activities

Once again, Niskamoon student activity leaders Caroline Pepin-Roy and Jacqueline Kistabish worked very hard to make the lives of students and their families pleasant. The year got off to a good start with a back-to-school BBQ in Rouyn-Noranda. In addition to the students and staff in town, students from Amos and their families, as well as various partners, were also able to attend. Other social activities over the school year included: the Pikogan Pow Wow, the Osisko en Lumière Festival, TreeTop activities, downhill skiing, Christmas Dinner, Snowcross racing, bowling matches, thematic days and dinners, the cinema and live shows. Sports held a special place for those who participated and equally for the spectators. In view of the outstanding performances by the two regional junior major hockey clubs, the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies and the Val D'Or Foreurs, game attendance was at an all time high. Having Adam Cheezo, a Cree from Eastmain, on the Val D'Or team sparked even greater interest in the matches. As is customary, graduates were able to take a family trip, with this year's destination being Montreal. They had four days of well-earned rest and relaxation before returning home. The year's total participation rate for all the social activities was 78.7%, clearly illustrating their value to the students and their families.



2015-2016 Graduates

We are proud and honoured to present our 2015-2016 graduates. An initial ceremony was held June 9th in Rouyn-Noranda for two female graduates—Nadia Duquette and Patricia Renault, alongside six male graduates—Niko Capissisit, Travis Grant, Warren Mapachee, Samy Mark-Thameri, Kehoe Mowatt and Eric Pien—all received diplomas in Automated Systems Electro-Mechanics from the Rouyn-Noranda School Board's 'Centre Polymétier'.

A second ceremony took place in Amos on June 10th. Three female graduates—Noémie Mowatt-Parent, Tanya Nottaway and Lorianne Trapper, and one male graduate—Shane Polson, were awarded their diplomas in Industrial Construction & Maintenance Mechanics from the Harricana School Board's 'Centre de formation professionnel Harricana'. Other graduates this year included Hakim Mark-Thameri in Industrial Electronics in Instrumentation and Automation, from the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue in Rouyn-Noranda; Evelyn Moore-Bordeleau in Industrial Electronics Technology in Telecommunications/Computers from the Cégep de Saint-Laurent in Montreal and Gregg Kanatewat, in the same program, from the Cégep de l'Outaouais in Gatineau.

This is a total of fifteen new employees—six women and nine men—who will be joining their co-workers at Hydro-Québec over the next few months. Bravo to them all!



Evelyn Moore-Bordeleau
Industrial Electronics
Technology in
Telecommunications/
Computers Graduate



Gregg Kanatewat
Industrial Electronics
Technology in
Telecommunications/
Computers Graduate



Hakim Mark-Thameri
Industrial Electronics
in Instrumentation and
Automation Graduate



Industrial Construction & Maintenance Mechanics Graduates Automated Systems Electro-Mechanic Graduates

Summer Employment

From the very beginning of the Appatisiwin Agreement, students have been encouraged to develop their skills through summer jobs. This year, 86% of the students and nearly 25 companies received \$105,186 in grant funding to support this initiative. Fifteen of the summer students worked in their home communities, while the rest were employed in urban areas.



Job Shadowing

As part of the agreements with the educational institutions, the Cree School Board and Hydro-Québec, a job shadowing opportunity was added to the TEHQ curriculum. This allows students a chance to gain a greater awareness of the challenges ahead, and better plan for their future. This was the final stage of the training for students and teachers at the Rouyn-Noranda School Board's 'Centre Polymétier', which took place last March. Students from the Harricana School Board's 'centre Harricana' took part in this initiative at the end of their school year. Overall, the students were motivated by this experience. They felt reassured about their transition into the Hydro-Québec workforce, and were encouraged to continue their studies.

Cree Hydro-Québec Workers

Twelve new graduates joined the Hydro-Québec workforce in 2015-2016, and two graduates from prior years also decided to make the leap. It is worth noting that 50% of these new workers were women. This is also a first under this Agreement. As of December 31st, according to the Hydro-Québec data, 102 people were employed and twenty had departed for different reasons.

Of the employed, fourteen were already permanent employees under the La Grande Agreement. The overall retention rate is currently at a steady 81%.

This year once again, much effort has been made to integrate new workers and promote retention. Indeed the Hydro-Québec staff is working closely with Niskamoon Corporation and the educational institutions to this end, for example, this year is that students are in contact with Hydro-Québec representatives from the very beginning of their training. Overall, all partners involved are truly working together.

As previously noted, forty-seven people are now enrolled in one of the TEHQ programs covered by the Agreement. This makes them potential Hydro-Québec recruits within the next two years.



Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) Program

This program is part of the federal not-for-profit organization ECO-Canada's Aboriginal initiative to develop Aboriginal human resources. It is a community-based introductory training that is adapted to the specific needs of the environmental job market and is designed for under-educated participants.

Niskamoon Corporation brought this initiative into the James Bay region in 2013 as the project sponsor with their partners, CÉGEP Saint-Félicien, EnviroCree, and Hydro-Québec. Each organization brings their own extensive experience in implementing environmental programs, in pedagogical methods for the environment field, and hands-on expertise in applying these techniques on a daily basis in the job market.

The ultimate goals of the BEAHR program are to (1) better equip the Cree job-force to work as environmental field assistants and (2) to encourage under-educated Cree people to continue their secondary and post-secondary training by developing their capacity and confidence.

The program's curriculum is based on National Occupational Standards as documented by ECO-Canada. The standards define the basic skills and competencies required to work in the environmental field. Program graduates are prepared to work on various projects, such as Environmental Monitoring and Surveillance and Forestry, among others. They will have direct access to employers in this job sector upon graduation. Moreover, students wishing to pursue their education will receive the necessary tools to do so, including the accreditation of certain skills developed in the BEAHR Program.

A two-week practicum "Environmental Monitoring Module" was conducted in 2014 and 2015, mainly working on monitoring studies related to the EM-1A/

Rupert River Partial Diversion Project. This module was successfully completed by 11 of the 14 BEAHR students. The students who completed either one or both modules given through the BEAHR program include: Darren Blackned, Trisha Blackned, Matthew Blueboy, Jocelyne Bobbish, Curtis Diamond, Jeffrey Erless, Clayton Jolly, Cheryl Moar, Jorden Rabbitskin, Angelina Spencer, Charmaine Weistche, Willis Weistche, Brendan Whiskeychan, Brett Whiskeychan.

The environment is one of the fastest growing employment sectors in North America, and James Bay is no exception. The wide range of upcoming development projects in the mining and energy production sectors will require environmental authorizations that are validated through field data collection in the aquatic and terrestrial environment.

According to the different organizations that received BEAHR interns in 2014 and 2015, students demonstrated a high level of initiative and interest in the environment. In addition, many were invited to stay with the work teams when their internship was completed. This unique training provides opportunities for the Cree youth for personal growth, work experience and community service. It is a new and innovative way to improve employability skills and work opportunities for our youth.

CTA Traditional Pursuits Training Program

The Traditional Pursuits Training Program is designed to teach the next generation of Cree hunters and trappers the fundamentals of living in the bush by applying Cree traditional knowledge and techniques. The idea of the program is to give students sufficient knowledge to live and survive in the bush, so that they can refine their own abilities thereafter.

Since 2014, Niskamoon Corporation has collaborated with the regional Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) and CEGEP St-Félicien to attain the full accreditation for this training program. Full accreditation from the Québec Ministry of Education would ensure annual funding for the program, thereby ensuring its long-term sustainability. The program's current format is an Attestation of Collegial Studies of 1,000 hours. It will be open to all James Bay beneficiaries aged 18-30, with a minimum of Secondary III education (equivalency courses may be provided).

The preliminary design of the program involves holding the majority of the “classes” in the bush, and will be taught by Cree elders in the Cree language. The program would be administered by the regional CTA, with academic support provided by CEGEP St-Félicien, who would ensure that regular contact with the Ministry would be maintained. The modules would be given throughout the year to maximize the different learning opportunities presented by each season. Special emphasis will be placed on land user safety in the bush, as well as survival.

The main objective in 2015 was to acquire the program's accreditation. The funding for this process was provided in part by Niskamoon Corporation and the Québec government.

The Accreditation Process

Step 1: Analysis of Relevance

A one-page document was developed, which explained: the broad objectives of the program, its necessity in the current context in Cree communities, and the desired clientele. The goal of the document was to justify the program's existence as formal training. The Ministry of Education accepted the Analysis of Relevance and gave the green light to proceed onto the next step.

Step 2: Job Analysis Workshop

A two-day workshop was held in Amos, Québec on November 25-26, 2015. The goal was to gather information from Cree land users, who were either active or retired at the time, to understand the different tasks involved in being a “professional” land user. Approximately twenty land users from seven communities attended the event, which was co-facilitated by Fred Tomatuk, from the CTA, and Marc Dunn from Niskamoon Corporation. Observers from the regional CTA, Niskamoon Corporation and CEGEP St-Félicien were also in attendance.

The Cree land users included the following people:

	Community
Kathleen Gunner, Jimmy Gunner	Mistissini
Abraham Ottereyes, Stanley Saganash	Waswanipi
William Wapachee, Harriet Wapachee	Nemaska
Elijah Sandy, Harriet Kawapit	Whapmagoostui
Samuel Bearskin, Margaret Bearskin, George Bearskin, Eddie Pash, Linda Cox-Pachano, John Pachano	Chisasibi
Daniel Moses, Florence Moses	Eastmain
Sanders Weistche, Florrie Weistche	Waskaganish

A large amount of information was collected over the two-day workshop (the verbatim is 55 pages). The first day was spent gathering general information regarding: the “profession” of trapping and hunting, the different roles they play with regards to family relations, relations with outsiders, and relations with other land users. An important amount of time was also spent discussing the fundamentals of bush safety, including details of how conditions change from season to season.

The second day was spent going over specific tasks that land users must undertake, objectives, means of evaluating if they are performed correctly and other factors to consider. Tasks that were described included: building a traditional dwelling, gathering firewood and water, building and maintaining tools, conducting wildlife inventories on a trapline, setting traps, setting fish nets, and maintaining a traditional camp. The participants shared their vast amount of knowledge of how to undertake these many tasks.

Undoubtedly two days to gather this type of information was insufficient. However, while the goal of the workshop was to better understand what tasks characterize the “job” of being a Cree land user, it was meant to paint a picture for the Québec Ministry of Education as part of the accreditation process and was therefore not exhaustive. Given that many of the participants will likely be course instructors themselves, they will hopefully have a future opportunity to continue to share their knowledge.

The workshop's report is being drawn up. A validation meeting with all the program partners is scheduled for the summer of 2016, at which point it will be decided if more information is required directly from land users. It is hoped that the Accreditation Process will be completed by December 2016.

Other

Chisasibi House Replacement Program

The Chisasibi House Replacement Program is funded through the Hydro-Québec and Eeyou Fund and was developed jointly with the Cree Nation of Chisasibi to:

- Replace 122 housing units relocated from the Fort George Island.
- Build 21 supplemental units to offset overcrowding.
- Erect 20 prefab units to be used as transit homes during the Program's implementation.

Niskamoon Corporation has committed an amount of \$3.5 million a year for approximately 10 years to implement this program, for a total contribution of \$35 million.

In June 2013, the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and Niskamoon Corporation executed an agreement to extend the program in order to finish the project. No new funds are being committed.

As of March 31, 2015, progress in the Chisasibi House Replacement Program was as follows:

Category	Total units planned	Completed units	Balance
Transit	20	20	0
Replacement	122	103	19
Supplemental	21	10	11
Total	163	133	30

As of March 31, 2016, no new figures have been provided to justify changing the figures from 2015.



Database & Management Systems

Georeferenced Database

Niskamoon Corporation maintains an online geo-referenced database for all projects funded through our programs. Two categories of information are stored in the database:

1. Geographically referenced tabular data or other types of information, including text, numbers, and graphics.
2. Geographical data in the form of shape files for geographically defined points, lines, and areas in Eeyou Istchee that are covered by Niskamoon's mandates.

Niskamoon Information Management System (NIMS)

This year the following advances were made in association with the company Strata360 in regards to the Niskamoon Information Management System (NIMS):

- Projects continued to be entered, with this year being the first time all new project proposals were submitted only through the NIMS.
- The Compliance Officer module was tested and adjusted in response to the testing.
- A print map feature was added and upgraded.
- Map response time was improved.
- Hydro-Québec infrastructure data was added and updated to the maps.
- Group presentation and training continued throughout the year, including at Local Coordinators' meetings and one-on-one training in person and by phone.
- The NIMS Local Coordinator's manual was updated.

Niskamoon Interactive Consultation Database

As part of its obligations related to the implementation of the Agreement Concerning the Re-Appropriation of Territory Affected by the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert Project, Niskamoon has created an online interactive database for the uploading and sharing of information gathered during consultations with Cree land users beneficiary to the agreement. This database was developed with Strata360 and will be launched in summer 2016.

Document Management System (DMS)

The DMS enables Niskamoon to organize various document types and formats, including agreements, minutes of meetings, reports, maps, PowerPoint presentations, videos, general correspondence, and other files in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF.

It allows designated users to store, organize, and retrieve electronic files easily. Depending on the user's permission level, it provides the opportunity to upload, view, and download files and other relevant documents.



Year in Review

Financial
Information



List of Funded Projects

Chisasibi

Project	Fund
Coastal Goose Hunting Enhancement Project Phase 2	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Spring Flights 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Mamoweedow 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Goose Corridors and Portages	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Goose Pond, Corridor and Feeding Area	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Goose Crossing & Corridors	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Goose Feeding Areas & Crossing	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Traditional Pow Wow 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Elders Firewood Supply 2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund

Eastmain

Community Project 2015-2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
River Channel Markers Project 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Spring Airlift 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Cabin Financial Assistance Request (8)	Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund
Old Cabins Demolition & Clean-Up	Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund
Cabin Financial Assistance Request	Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund
Debris Clean-Up	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Cabin (8)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Stajune cultural Days 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Wood Cutting Program for Elders 2016	Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund

Project	Fund
Traditional Cree Fishing, Medicine & Chisheinu Chiskutamaachewin Project 2015-2016	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund / Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Rupert Diversion Bays Navigation & Exploration Subsidy Program 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Traditional Ice Fishing	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Traditional Dwelling (6)	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
New Goose Hunting Site	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
New Shed & Wood Shed (3)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
New Shed	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
New Cabin with Porch (3)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Pow Wow 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Youth Canoe Brigade 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
New Cabin	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
3 Cabin Renovations	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Trans Eeyou Istchee Trail (5)	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Shed Deck, Outhouse, Kitchen & Cabin Shell	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
3 Wood Sheds	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
New Storage Shed	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Firewood Collection for Elders and Widows 2015-2016	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Snow Removal	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Ice Crossing Safety Survey	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Eskan Company Au Claire Road Improvement	Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund

Project	Fund
Trappers Festival 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Aboriginal Day 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Old Nemaska Gathering 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Paddle Carving Program	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Canoe Brigade 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Rupert River & Diversion Bays Navigation & Exploration Subsidy Program 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Lac Joliette All Species Fishing Project 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Lac Mesgouez All Species Fishing Project 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Genawmee Sturgeon Fishing Project 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Snow Removal 2015	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
2015 Spring Airlift	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Ice Monitoring on Rupert River 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Skidoo Trails (2)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Spring Camp (2)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Cabin & Patio (2)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Cabin & Porch (4)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Ski-doo Trails	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Cabin (5)	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Boat Ramp and Driveway Upgrading	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Cabin Minor Carpentry	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Log Cabin Restoration Program 2015	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
ATV Trail	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Spring Camp	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Goose Pond	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Boat Ramps & Landings	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Winter Fishery Program 2015	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
James Bay Highway Camps Snow Removal Program 2015-2016	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Bush Camps Snow Removal Program 2015-2016	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Woodcutting Program for Elders & Land Users 2015-2016	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Skidoo Trails (2)	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Cabin Transportation Expenses	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Sibi Entreprises 2005 Inc. Cabins Fire Prevention Measures	Nadoshtin Eeou Indohoun Fund

Project	Fund
Snowshoe Making Training 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Traditional Pow-Wow 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Traditional Gathering 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Aboriginal Day 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Canoe Excursion 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Traditional Peoples Cabins	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Goose Corridor & Portage	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Traditional Dwellings (5)	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Portage	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Goose Corridor (2)	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Trans Eeyou Istchee Trail	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Old OJ Point Gathering 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Wood Cutting Program 2015-2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund

Youth Wilderness Camp 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Aboriginal Day 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Annual Youth Canoe Brigade 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Log Harvesting for Traditional Uses 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Rupert River Navigation & Exploration Subsidy Program 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Channel Markers Project 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Spring Airlift Program 2015	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Ice Monitoring Program 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Voluntary Registry of Cisco Catches – Smokey Hill 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Smokey Hill Gathering 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Untuuhuu Winter Program	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Aashuumiih Winter Journey 2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Voluntary Lake Sturgeon Registry 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Elders Woodcutting Project 2015-2016	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Goose Pond (2)	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Skidoo Trail (4)	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Goose Corridor	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund

Project	Fund
Preservation and Support for Anadromous Cisco Fishing at Smokey Hill 2015-2016	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Aachikukaan Project 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Smokey Hill Community Fishing 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Construction of Scooping Weir - Smokey Hill South Shore 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Construction of Scooping Weir - Smokey Hill North Shore 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Scoopnet Fishing Support at Smokey Hill 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Gillnet Fishing and Trail Weir Fishing 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Traditional Shâptuwân 2015	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Waskaganish Snow Removal Program 2015-2016	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund

Snow Removal Project 2014-2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Chiiwetaau 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Waswanipi Day 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Aboriginal Day 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Youth Exchange - Canoe Expedition 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Elders Woodcutting Program 2015-2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund

Clear-Brush Cutting	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Canoe Expedition 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Old Factory Lake Summer Camp 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Sarcelle Memorial Monument	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund

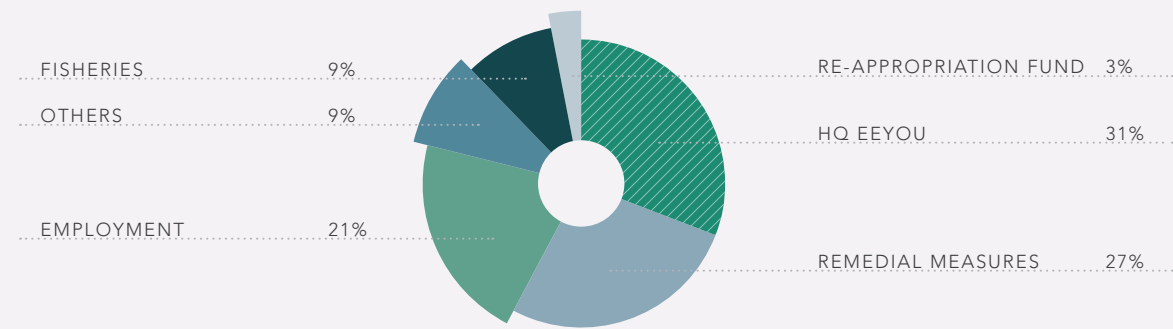
2015-2016 Transportation Subsidy Program	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Elders Woodcutting Project 2015-2016	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
Cultural Events & Activities 2015-2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund

	Project	Fund
James Bay Cree Communications Society	Cree Elders Speak 2015-2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association	Moose Hide Tanning 2015-2016	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre	Cultural Gathering 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay	Safe Food Handling Practices Training	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Kaweshekami Environment Inc.	Artificial Production of Aspen (Poplar) and Birch 2015	Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund
Cree Trappers Association	Cree Traditional Pursuits Training Program Development Phase	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
Washaw Sibi	Wood Cutters Project 2014-2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund
Washaw Sibi	Wood Cutters Project 2015	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund

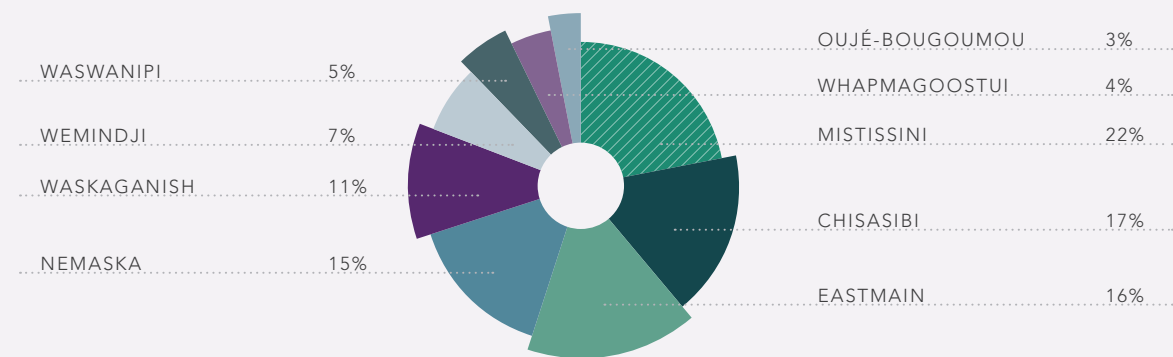


Data Charts

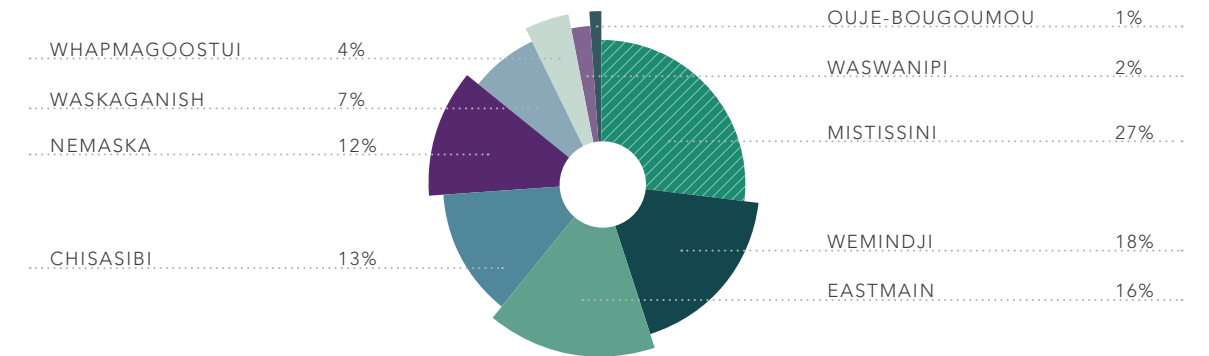
Programs
Actual 2002 - 2016



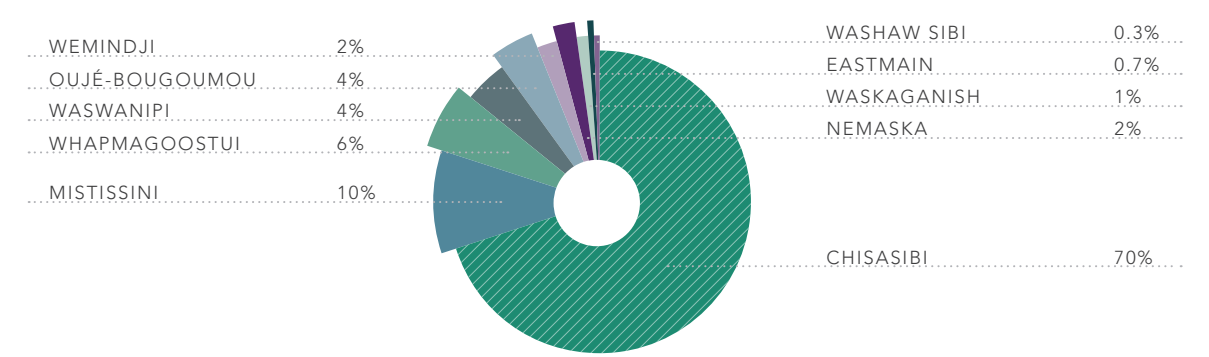
Remedial Program by Community
2002-2016

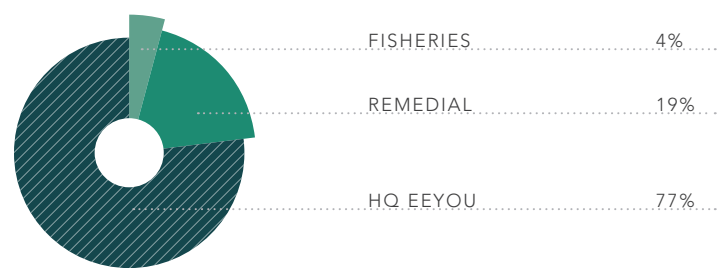


Fisheries Program by Community
2002-2016

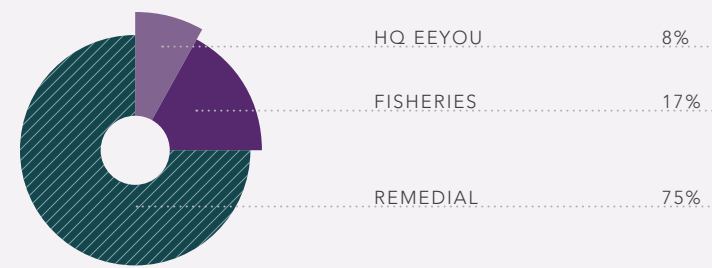


HQ Eeyou by Community
2002-2016

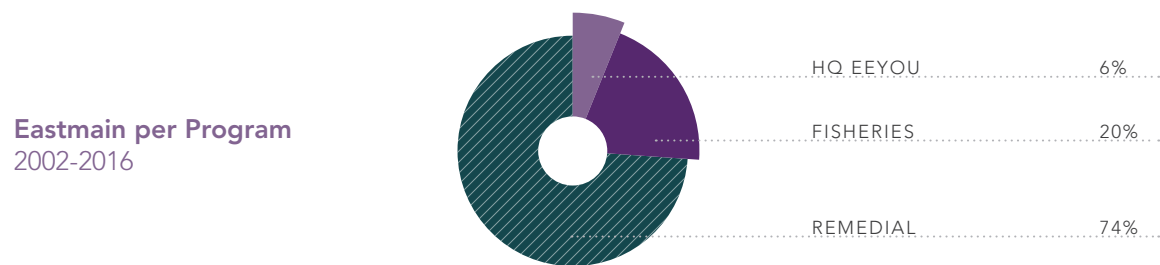




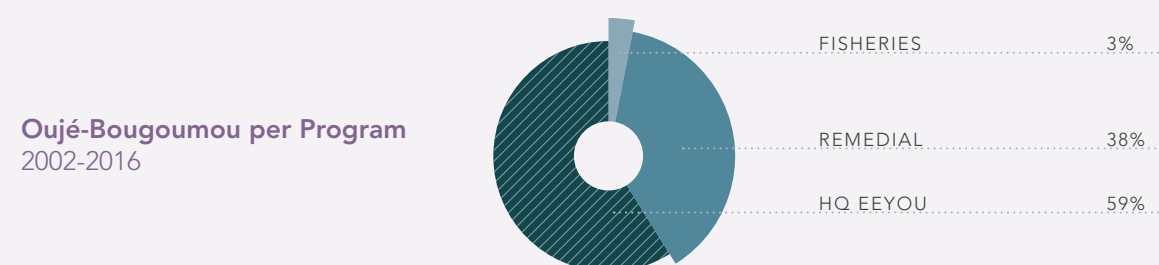
Chisasibi per Program
2002-2016



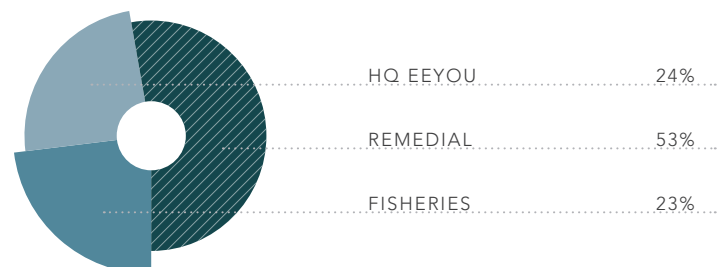
Nemaska per Program
2002-2016



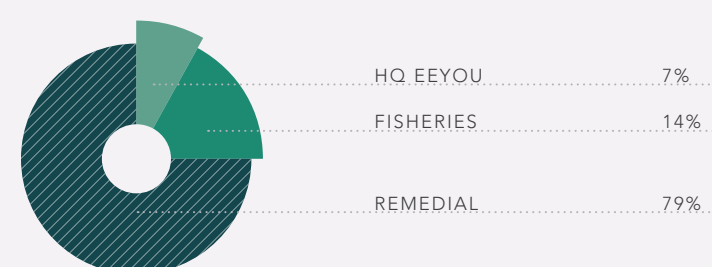
Eastmain per Program
2002-2016



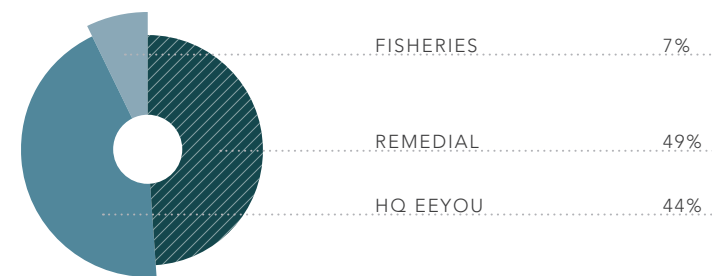
Oujé-Bougoumou per Program
2002-2016



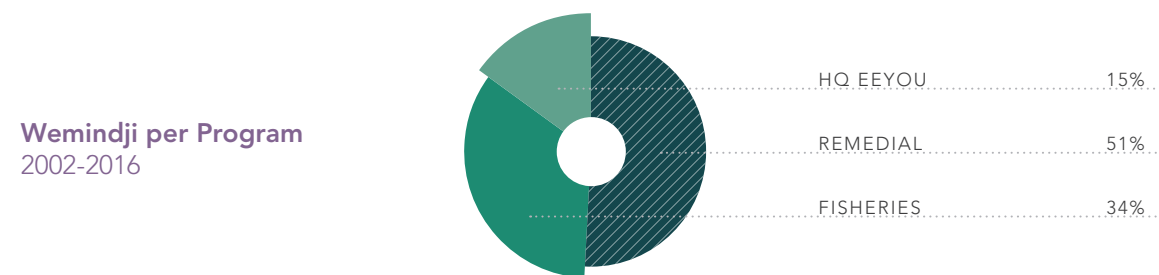
Mistissini per Program
2002-2016



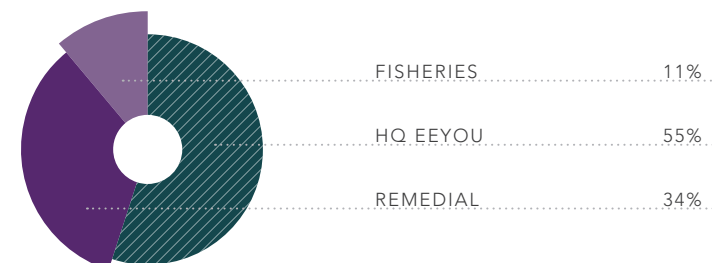
Waskaganish per Program
2002-2016



Waswanipi per Program
2002-2016



Wemindji per Program
2002-2016



Whapmagoostui per Program
2002-2016



Audited Financial Statements

Niskamoon Corporation
Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2016

Niskamoon Corporation
Financial Statements
For the year ended March 31, 2016

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Niskamoon Corporation

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Niskamoon Corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2016, and the statements of revenue and expenditures, changes in net assets (deficiency) and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believed that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Independent Auditor's Report

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Niskamoon Corporation as at March 31, 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

BDO Canada S.R.L./S.E.N.C.R.L./LLP,

Montréal, Québec
June 28, 2016

¹ CPA auditor, CA, public accountancy permit No. A106501

**Niskamoon Corporation
Statement of Financial Position**

March 31	2016	2015
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 707,607	\$ 1,822,134
Investments (Note 4)	42,119,672	42,145,341
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	2,437,483	2,241,345
Prepaid expenses	-	7,730
	<u>45,264,762</u>	<u>46,216,550</u>
Capital assets (Note 6)	66,143	93,918
Assets held-for-sale (Note 7)	830,509	830,509
	<u>\$ 46,161,414</u>	<u>\$ 47,140,977</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 217,266	\$ 298,995
Projects' expenditures payable (Note 8)	883,445	1,919,352
Due to Cree Nation Government (Note 2)	18,902	1,207
Deferred revenue (Note 9)	49,995,447	51,374,297
	<u>51,115,060</u>	<u>53,593,851</u>
Net assets (deficiency)		
Invested in capital assets	896,652	924,427
Administration fund	(896,652)	(924,427)
Program funds	(4,953,646)	(6,452,874)
	<u>(4,953,646)</u>	<u>(6,452,874)</u>
	<u>\$ 46,161,414</u>	<u>\$ 47,140,977</u>

On behalf of the Board

_____ Director

_____ Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Niskamoon Corporation
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures**

For the year ended March 31	2016			2015
	Administration Fund	Program Funds	Total	Total
Revenue				
Grants Hydro-Québec	\$ 4,378,532	\$ 20,009,775	\$ 24,388,307	\$ 24,150,288
Interest	143,558	1,019,899	1,163,457	1,155,109
Transferred to deferred revenue (Note 9)	(4,242,721)	-	(4,242,721)	(4,463,701)
Unrealized (loss) gain on financial instruments	(35,203)	(450,021)	(485,224)	836,019
	244,166	20,579,653	20,823,819	21,677,715
Expenditures				
Project expenditures	-	16,175,207	16,175,207	17,118,888
Contribution to Communities for Local Coordinators	891,576	-	891,576	877,050
Salary and fringe benefits	854,199	-	854,199	984,375
Professional fees	430,893	-	430,893	418,329
Travel	408,029	-	408,029	403,525
Monitoring Committee	105,536	-	105,536	104,799
Rent	84,608	-	84,608	87,139
Corporate fees	78,497	-	78,497	85,943
Advertising and promotion	64,369	-	64,369	34,194
Legal fees (Note 11)	55,751	-	55,751	59,217
Office expenses	46,266	-	46,266	91,919
Communications	41,928	-	41,928	55,228
Amortization of capital assets	33,663	-	33,663	31,769
Administration charges	22,148	-	22,148	27,290
Service Agreement - Cree Nation Government (Note 2)	16,811	-	16,811	14,987
Insurance	10,309	-	10,309	3,831
Bank charges	2,761	-	2,761	3,716
Annual report	2,040	-	2,040	2,403
	3,149,384	16,175,207	19,324,591	20,404,602
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ (2,905,218)	\$ 4,404,446	\$ 1,499,228	\$ 1,273,113

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Niskamoon Corporation
Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Deficiency)**

For the year ended March 31	2016				2015
	Invested in Capital Assets	Administration Fund	Program Funds	Total	Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 924,427	\$ (924,427)	\$ (6,452,874)	\$ (6,452,874)	\$ (7,725,987)
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	(33,663)	(2,871,555)	4,404,446	1,499,228	1,273,113
Invested in capital assets	5,888	(5,888)	-	-	-
Interfund transfers (Note 14)	-	2,905,218	(2,905,218)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 896,652	\$ (896,652)	\$ (4,953,646)	\$ (4,953,646)	\$ (6,452,874)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Niskamoon Corporation
Statement of Cash Flows**

For the year ended March 31	2016	2015
Cash flows from operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ 1,499,228	\$ 1,273,113
Items not involving cash and cash equivalents		
Amortization of capital assets	33,663	31,769
Unrealized loss (gain) on investments	485,224	(836,019)
	<u>2,018,115</u>	468,863
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	(196,138)	(714,004)
Prepaid expenses	7,730	(6,569)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(81,729)	(49,290)
Projects expenditures payable	(1,035,907)	(296,473)
Deferred revenue	(1,378,850)	(181,044)
	<u>(666,779)</u>	(778,517)
Cash flows from investing activities		
(Purchase) disposal of investments	(459,555)	1,300,341
Purchase of capital assets	(5,888)	(34,207)
	<u>(465,443)</u>	1,266,134
Cash flows from financing activity		
Due to Cree Nation Government	17,695	(628,530)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents during the year		
	(1,114,527)	(140,913)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>1,822,134</u>	1,963,047
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 707,607</u>	\$ 1,822,134

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

1. Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Business Niskamoon Corporation, was incorporated under Part III of the *Québec Companies Act* on August 24, 2004. Niskamoon Corporation is a non-profit corporation without share capital and without pecuniary gain to its members and is based in Nemaska, Québec. The Corporation was created in accordance with the Agreement concerning the Administration of Cree-Hydro-Québec Agreements and the Niskamoon Corporation.

Niskamoon Corporation's activities mainly consist in the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec Agreements (the Opimiscow Agreement, the Mercury Agreement (2001), the Apatisiwin-Cree Employment Agreement, the Nadoshtin Agreement, the Boumhounan Agreement, and the Agreement concerning a new relationship between Hydro-Québec / SEBJ and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee) which provides for the management of the Opimiscow Indoho Fund, the Nadoshtin Archaeology Fund, the Nadoshtin Training Fund, the Nadoshtin Indohoun Fund and the Hydro-Québec and Eeyou Fund and the control of the Employment Fund, the Mercury Funds (Nameess and EM-1 Mercury Funds), the Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund, the Boumhounan Archaeology Fund, the Boumhounan Training Fund, the Boumhounan Indohoun Fund, the Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund, the Re-appropriation Funds for Continued Use, the Re-appropriation Funds for Specific Navigation and the Re-appropriation Funds for Specific Training.

Basis of Accounting The Corporation has prepared its financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO").

Funds Details Revenue and expenses related to program delivery and administrative activities are reported in the Administration Fund.

Program Funds

The Apatisiwin-Cree Employment Fund is to be used for the purposes of funding the hiring initiatives.

The Nameess Mercury Fund is to be used for the purposes of monitoring and research program.

The Opimiscow Indoho Fund is reserved for the exclusive use of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi (70%) and the Cree Nation of Wemindji (30%).

Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2016

The Hydro-Québec Eeyou Fund is used principally for the funding of the Chisasibi House Replacement Program, which consists essentially of the construction or replacement of 163 housing units in the community of Chisasibi for a maximum amount of \$35,000,000. The funding of the program consists of \$3 million which has been approved by the Board of Directors which is taken in part from an annually indexed allocation of a \$7 million payment from the Agreement concerning a New Relationship between Hydro-Québec/SEBJ and the Crees of Eeyou-Istchee. To date, \$33,000,000 (2015 - \$30,000,000) has been disbursed under the program to the Cree Nation of Chisasibi.

Nadoshtin Programs

This Agreement provides for the following funds:

The Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund is to be used to finance the types of works and programs to help alleviate the negative impact of hydro-electric development (including infrastructure) while enhancing the traditional Cree pursuits.

The Nadoshtin Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund is designed to ensure the inclusion of information about Cree perceptions, knowledge, history, and use of the environment in archaeological work.

The Nadoshtin EM-1 Mercury Fund is held and disbursed by Hydro-Québec but controlled by the Corporation to fund the restoration of Cree fisheries through programs that respond to Cree aspirations and needs. The Fund is also used to support Public Health Authorities in the development and delivery of programs related to the risk management of human exposure to mercury.

The Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund is primarily designed to create opportunities for the trappers of Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, and Waskaganish directly affected by the Eastman 1 Project. The Fund promotes traditional activities and provides the means to mitigate the effects of the Project.

Boumhounan Programs

This Agreement provides for the following funds:

The Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund is to be used to finance the types of works and programs to help alleviate the negative impact of hydro-electric development (including infrastructure) while enhancing the traditional Cree pursuits.

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Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2016

The Boumhounan Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund is used to carry out the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program (ACHP). The ACHP is designed to document and protect various aspects of the cultural heritage of the area affected by the EM-1 and EM1A Rupert River Partial Division / La Sarcelle Projects. This includes archaeological and burial sites as well as the knowledge and stories of families from the four communities affected by the Projects: Waskaganish, Eastmain, Nemaska and Mistissini.

The Boumhounan EM-1A Mercury Fund is held and disbursed by Hydro-Québec but controlled by the Corporation to fund the restoration of Cree fisheries through programs that respond to Cree aspirations and needs. The Fund is also used to support Public Health Authorities in the development and delivery of programs related to the risk management of human exposure to mercury.

The Boumhounan Eenou Training Fund is to be used to provide supplementary support as required, such as language courses and support for social activities to assist with adjustments.

The Boumhounan Eenou Indohoun Fund is very similar to the Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund and is also primarily designed to create opportunities for the trappers of Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, and Waskaganish directly affected by EM1A Rupert River Partial Diversion / La Sarcelle Projects. The Fund promotes traditional activities and provides the means to mitigate the effects of the Project.

Re-appropriation Funds

This Agreement provides for the following funds:

The Continued Use Fund is to be used for projects, works, studies, programs, remedial and enhancement measures to be carried out within the Territory affected by the EM1A Rupert River Partial Diversion / La Sarcelle Projects. The fund allows for the continued use and re-appropriation of the Territory.

The Specific Navigation Fund is to be used to benefit the Waskaganish community due to the partial diversion of the Rupert River which resulted in a decrease in the access to the Rupert's Bay via the Northern channel.

The Specific Training Fund is to be used for the environmental training programs.

Financial Instruments *Measurement of Financial Instruments*

The Corporation initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. The Corporation subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of revenue and expenditures.

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**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable.

Financial assets measured at fair value include investments.

The Corporation elected to measure guaranteed investment certificates and bonds and debentures at fair value.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable, projects' expenditures payable and due to Cree Nation Government - Council.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is not greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net income.

Transaction Costs

The Corporation recognizes its transaction costs for financial instruments at fair value in net income in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from its financial instruments and the carrying amounts approximate fair values.

Pension Plan

The Corporation is a sponsor in a contributory, multiemployer defined benefit pension plan for all their employees who satisfy certain eligibility conditions. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to the multiemployer defined benefit pension plan as information to apply defined benefit plan accounting is not available. The cost of defined contribution pensions is expensed as earned by employees.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Significant items subject to estimates and assumptions include, but are not limited to, the estimated useful life of assets and accruals. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

Revenue Recognition The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Under this method, contributions restricted for future period expenses are deferred and are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest income is recognized when earned. Interest is allocated between the administration fund and the various program funds based on several criteria. The criteria involved in the determination of the allocation include the following: current and prior year deferred revenue and accounts receivable balances; and the specific investments made for each of the fund surpluses.

Cash and Cash Equivalents Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, bank balances and short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition and which are readily convertible into known amounts of cash.

Capital Assets and Assets Held-for-Sale Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Cost is net of related government grants, if any. Amortization based on the estimated useful life of the asset is calculated as follows:

Leasehold improvements	10 years straight-line method
Office furniture and equipment	20% declining balance method
Computer equipment	30% declining balance method

Assets held-for-sale are measured at the lower of their carrying value amount and fair value less costs to sell. They are not amortized while classified as held for sale.

Long-lived Assets Long-lived assets are tested for recoverability when events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amount may not be recoverable. The carrying amount of a long-lived asset is not recoverable when it exceeds the sum of the undiscounted cash flows expected from its use and eventual disposal. In such a case, an impairment loss must be recognized and is equivalent to the excess of the carrying amount of a long-lived asset over its fair value.

2. Service Agreement - Cree Nation Government

On March 31, 2015, the Corporation entered into an agreement with the Cree Nation Government (CNG). This agreement provides for the rental of office spaces at Nemaska's CNG offices. The CNG invoices the Corporation on an annual basis for the expenditures incurred by CNG on behalf of the Corporation to be paid 30 days following March 31 of every year and are non-interest bearing. The agreement is renewed annually.

**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2016	2015
Cash	\$ 532,826	\$ 1,595,772
Money market fund	174,781	226,362
	\$ 707,607	\$ 1,822,134

4. Investments

	2016		2015	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
Bonds and debentures (i)	\$ 33,794,593	\$ 34,319,739	\$ 31,861,000	\$ 32,812,098
Guaranteed investment certificates (ii)	6,825,000	6,825,000	8,212,244	8,212,244
Marketable securities	938,064	974,933	1,024,000	1,120,999
	\$ 41,557,657	\$ 42,119,672	\$ 41,097,244	\$ 42,145,341

(i) March 31, 2016 - interest rates ranging from 2.04% to 6.17% and maturing between June 2016 and June 2022;

March 31, 2015 - interest rates ranging from 2.28% to 6.17% and maturing between October 2015 and December 2020.

(ii) March 31, 2016 - interest rate at 1.35%, maturing between September 2016 and October 2016;

March 31, 2015 - interest rate at 1.25%, maturing between April 2015 and September 2015.

5. Accounts Receivable

	2016	2015
Accrued interest	\$ 2,021,528	\$ 1,488,244
Projects' expenditures recoverable	246,085	566,584
Sales taxes receivable	146,650	151,051
Travel advances	23,220	35,466
	\$ 2,437,483	\$ 2,241,345

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**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

6. Capital Assets

	2016		2015	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Leasehold improvements	\$ 150,000	\$ 142,500	\$ 150,000	\$ 127,500
Office furniture and equipment	130,669	101,509	130,669	94,220
Computer equipment	81,088	51,605	75,200	40,231
	\$ 361,757	\$ 295,614	\$ 355,869	\$ 261,951
Net book value		\$ 66,143		\$ 93,918

7. Assets Held-for-Sale

The Corporation owns land and building located in Montréal, Québec which are classified as held-for-sale. At March 31, 2016, there were circumstances beyond the Corporation's control that extended the period required to complete the sale beyond one year. The Corporation continues to meet the criteria to classify the building as asset held-for-sale at March 31, 2016.

Management has a real estate broker and intends to sell the building and land within the next year.

The net book values of the assets held-for-sale are distributed as follows:

	2016		2015	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	\$ 102,192	\$ -	\$ 102,192	\$ 102,192
Building	882,808	154,491	728,317	728,317
	\$ 985,000	\$ 154,491	\$ 830,509	\$ 830,509

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**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

8. Projects' Expenditures Payable

	2016	2015
Aanischaukamikw Foundation	\$ 850,000	\$ -
Cree Nation of Nemaska projects	14,188	161,801
Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation projects	12,311	15,385
Waswanipi First Nation projects	3,582	-
Cree Nation of Eastmain projects	3,364	-
Cree School Board	-	1,364,474
Cree Nation of Chisasibi projects	-	362,217
Siibii Development project	-	15,475
	\$ 883,445	\$ 1,919,352

9. Deferred Revenue

	2016	2015
Apatisiwin - Cree Employment Fund	\$ 5,543,314	\$ 4,514,708
Names Mercury Fund	2,540,151	3,322,677
Opimiscow Indoho Fund	1,088,481	783,621
Re-appropriation Fund		
Continued Use Fund	4,371,744	3,066,621
Specific Navigation Fund	10,858,436	10,641,646
Specific Training Fund	405,912	628,199
Nadoshtin Funds		
Remedial Works Fund	163,644	112,404
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund	94,236	94,236
EM-1 Mercury Fund	95,321	55,037
Eenou Indohoun Fund	2,646,702	2,661,197
Boumhounan Funds		
Remedial Measures Fund	15,106,449	18,169,284
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund	6,380	6,380
EM-1 A Mercury Fund	153,046	75,634
Training Fund	660,967	665,092
Eenou Indohoun Fund	2,017,943	2,113,860
Deferred revenue - Program Funds	45,752,726	46,910,596
Niskamoon Administration Fund	4,242,721	4,463,701
	\$ 49,995,447	\$ 51,374,297

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**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

10. Commitments

The Corporation has operating leases for its premises in Chisasibi and Rouyn-Noranda, Québec expiring on September 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017 respectively.

The minimum annual base lease payments for the next two years are as follows:

2017	\$ 107,391
2018	20,700
	\$ 128,091

11. Legal Fees

	2016	2015
Chisasibi House Replacement Program	\$ 42,828	\$ 7,420
Community coordinators	7,240	9,774
Head office	2,907	37,747
Executive Committee	2,776	-
Fisheries and Health	-	2,248
Environmental	-	2,028
	\$ 55,751	\$ 59,217

12. Interfund Borrowing

During the year, the Hydro-Québec Eeyou Fund ("HQ Fund") borrows money from the Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund ("BRW Fund") to assist it with the financing of the Chisasibi House Replacement Program expenditures. The HQ Fund pays interest to the BRW Fund at an average rate of approximately 2.73% (2015 - 2.80%) on any outstanding balances. The interest rate is established by calculating the average rate of return on the investments restricted solely for the Boumhounan group of funds. There is no specified date of repayment.

	2016	2015
Year-end interfund balance	\$ 4,953,646	\$ 6,452,874
Interest charged	\$ 42,117	\$ 100,389

The interest is included in the BRW Fund interest revenue and in the HQ Fund projects expenditures.

The excess of revenue over expenditures for the year in the HQ Fund of \$1,499,228 (2015 - \$1,273,113) has been used to decrease the year-end inter-fund balances.

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**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

13. Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Corporation is exposed to credit risk in relation to cash and cash equivalents, investments and accounts receivable. For cash and cash equivalents and investments, the Corporation mitigates this risk by dealing with creditworthy financial institutions and counterparties. With respect to accounts receivable, the Corporation reduces this risk by dealing primarily with Hydro-Québec. Total credit risk is limited to the amounts recorded in the statement of financial position.

Market Risk

The market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk. As the Corporation does not hold significant foreign denominated balances, it is not exposed to currency risk.

Interest Rate Risk

The Corporation is exposed to interest rate risk associated with investments in bonds and debentures and money market funds. The yield and fair value of these investments will vary in response to changes in the prevailing market interest rates. The value of other bonds will generally rise if interest rates fall and fall if interest rates rise. The Corporation believes that this risk is limited since these assets are derived from a portfolio of investments from a large number of issuers which are from government or government guaranteed entities and institutional banks.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the company will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The company is exposed to this risk mainly in respect to its accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Other Price Risk

Other price risk arises from changes in market prices other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk. Investments are subject to market volatility risk. The investments of the Corporation are susceptible to market price risk arising from uncertainties about the future prices of the instruments.

There has been no change in the Corporation's risk management strategies during the year.

14. Interfund Transfer and Contributions

In 2016, the Corporation's Board of Directors transferred \$2,905,218 (2015 - \$3,738,791) from the Program Funds to the Administration Fund in order for the Administration Fund to manage the Corporation.

**Niskamoon Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements**

March 31, 2016

15. Retirement Benefits

The Corporation is a member in a contributory, multi-employer defined benefit pension plan with 24 different participating employers for all their employees who satisfy certain eligibility conditions. The plan is called James Bay Cree-Naskapi Quebec Pension Plan.

At the date of the last actuarial valuation of the plan, December 31, 2014, there was a solvency deficit of approximately \$10,254,000 (2013 - \$9,448,000) according to the plan's actuaries. It is not possible to determine the Company's share of the solvency deficit as well as additional past service contributions since the information was not available as at the date of authorization of issuance by the Board of Directors. Additionally, the plan exposes the participating entities to actuarial risks associated with the current and former employees of other entities, with the result that there is no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, plan assets and cost to individual entities participating in the plan.

Significant long-term actuarial assumptions used in the last annual actuarial valuations issued the following:

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Asset rate of return (net of fees)	5.25%	6.00%
Inflation	2.00%	2.00%
Salary escalation rate	4.00%	4.00%
Indexation of retirement income	2.70%	2.63%

The Corporation made contributions totaling \$100,798 (2015 - \$76,383) during the year with respect to this plan.

Solvency deficit payments for 2016 amounted to \$38,400 (2015 - \$16,800).

16. Comparative Figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

Independent auditors' report

To the officers of Hydro-Québec serving on the Board of Directors of Niskamoon,

We have audited the accompanying statement of cumulative payments made in connection with the Employment Fund of the Cree Employment Agreement [the "Agreement"] as at March 31, 2016, and the statement of periodical payments for the year then ended, and other explanatory information [together "the financial statements"]. The financial statements have been prepared by management using the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting as described in Note 2.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Agreement; this includes determining that the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of these financial statements in the circumstances, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

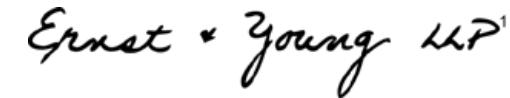
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the statements of cumulative and periodical payments present fairly, in all material respects, the balance available of the Employment Fund of the Cree Employment Agreement as at March 31, 2016, and the cumulative and periodical payments made for the year then ended in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

Basis of accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. These financial statements are prepared to provide information to the officers of Hydro-Québec serving on the Board of Directors of Niskamoon and other designated parties. As a result, these financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.



Montréal, Canada
May 26, 2016



A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited



A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited

¹ CPA auditor, CA, public accountancy permit no. A118785

**Cree Employment Agreement
Employment Fund**

Statement of cumulative payments

As at March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Contributions to the Fund [note 2]	90,252,746	84,164,946
Payments [note 2]		
Cree – Hydro-Québec hiring initiatives for permanent positions in Hydro-Québec operations	(51,686,911)	(45,643,024)
Cree – Hydro-Québec employment incentives and temporary employment programs	(30,870,979)	(30,870,979)
	(82,557,890)	(76,514,003)
Operating expenses	(7,650,810)	(7,650,810)
Total payments	(90,208,700)	(84,164,813)
Balance available at the end of the year [note 2]	44,046	133

See accompanying notes

**Cree Employment Agreement
Employment Fund**

Statement of periodical payments

Year ended March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Balance available at the beginning of the year	133	159
Contributions to the Fund [note 2]	6,087,800	6,136,700
Payments [note 2]		
Cree – Hydro-Québec hiring initiatives for permanent positions in Hydro-Québec operations	(6,043,887)	(5,949,107)
Cree – Hydro-Québec employment incentives and temporary employment programs	—	(187,619)
Total payments	(6,043,887)	(6,136,726)
Net variation of the Fund	43,913	(26)
Balance available at the end of the year [note 2]	44,046	133

See accompanying notes

**Cree Employment Agreement
Employment Fund**

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

1. Fund description

The Employment Fund [the “Fund”] relative to the Cree Employment Agreement signed in February 2002 [the “Agreement”] provides for a yearly financial contribution of \$5,000,000 and an additional yearly financial contribution equal to the annual interest on a capital amount of \$30,000,000, at a rate equivalent to the average of the weekly rates of the calendar year ended 15 months prior to the fiscal year-end of the Fund, which is the long term provincial yield published by PC-Bond [Bloomberg Code: CBPRWBYL Index]. This Fund is used for the purpose of funding the hiring initiatives and the employment incentives and temporary employment programs, within the framework of the Agreement. This Fund will mature when the objective of Cree employment in the Bay James region within Hydro-Québec is achieved but no later than March 31, 2017.

2. Basis of presentation

Contributions

For fiscal year 2016, the Fund contribution corresponds to the yearly financial contribution of \$5,000,000, increased by the annual interests of \$1,087,800 [\$1,136,700 for fiscal year 2015]. The interest rate for the current year is 3.626% [3.789% for fiscal year 2015].

The Fund contribution for the next fiscal year-end will amount to \$5,909,900, composed of the fixed yearly contribution of \$5,000,000 and the annual interest of \$909,900 calculated at a rate of 3.033%.

Payments

Payments represent amounts paid by Hydro-Québec with respect to the Employment Fund. No provision for unpaid amounts has been recorded in connection with work performed or services rendered as at March 31, 2016 under this Agreement.

Balance available

The Employment Fund is not funded. The balance available corresponds to the amounts to be paid by Hydro-Québec in connection with the Employment Fund as of a specified date.

Financial statements

**Nadoshtin Agreement
Remedial Measures Fund**

March 31, 2016



Independent auditors' report

To the officers of Hydro-Québec serving on the Board of Directors of Niskamoon,

We have audited the accompanying statement of cumulative payments made in connection with the Remedial Measures Fund of the Nadoshtin Agreement [the "Agreement"] as at March 31, 2016, and the statement of periodical payments for the year then ended, and other explanatory information [together "the financial statements"]. The financial statements have been prepared by management using the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting as described in Note 2.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Agreement; this includes determining that the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of these financial statements in the circumstances, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the statements of cumulative and periodical payments present fairly, in all material respects, the balance available of the Remedial Measures Fund of the Nadoshtin Agreement as at March 31, 2016, and the cumulative and periodical payments made for the year then ended in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

Basis of accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. These financial statements are prepared to provide information to the officers of Hydro-Québec serving on the Board of Directors of Niskamoon and other designated parties. As a result, these financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Ernst & Young LLP

Montréal, Canada
May 26, 2016

¹ CPA auditor, CA, public accountancy permit no. A118785



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**Nadoshtin Agreement
Remedial Measures Fund**

Statement of cumulative payments

As at March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Initial amount established under the agreement [note 1]	18,000,000	18,000,000
Indexation amount [note 2]	1,527,024	1,527,024
Payments [note 2]		
Studies, works and measures		
Heritage	(6,125,414)	(6,085,650)
Habitat enhancement	(3,811,030)	(3,811,030)
Access	(3,059,617)	(3,059,617)
Community	(775,000)	(775,000)
	(13,771,061)	(13,731,297)
Operating expenses	(5,755,963)	(5,144,685)
	(19,527,024)	(18,875,982)
Net variation of the Fund	(18,000,000)	(17,348,958)
Balance available at the end of the year [note 2]	—	651,042

See accompanying notes

**Nadoshtin Agreement
Remedial Measures Fund**

Statement of periodical payments

Year ended March 31, 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Balance available at the beginning of the year	651,042	1,921,749
Indexation amount [note 2]	—	6,446
Payments [note 2]		
Studies, works and measures		
Heritage	(39,764)	(402,174)
Habitat enhancement	—	(34,601)
Access	—	(65,378)
Community	—	(775,000)
	(39,764)	(1,277,153)
Operating expenses	(611,278)	—
Total payments	(651,042)	(1,277,153)
Net variation of the Fund	(651,042)	(1,270,707)
Balance available at the end of the year [note 2]	—	651,042

See accompanying notes

**Nadoshtin Agreement
Remedial Measures Fund**

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2016

1) Fund description

The Remedial Measures Fund [the “Fund”] is used for the purpose of funding remedial, mitigating and environmental measures and programs, established by the Nadoshtin Agreement signed in February 2002 [the “Agreement”], in connection with the Eastmain 1 project. The fund matures no later than 15 years following the decision by resolution of Hydro-Québec to proceed with the construction of the Eastmain 1 project. The initial amount established under the Agreement amounts to \$18,000,000. The Fund is adjusted for inflation annually, beginning January 1, 2002. The Fund depleted during the year ended March 31, 2016.

2) Basis of presentation

Indexation amount

The indexation amount of \$0 for fiscal year 2016 [\$6,446 for fiscal year 2015] is equal to the variation of the Canadian consumer price index not seasonally adjusted from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016 less 1% [not less than 1%] $(((126.8 - 124.3) / 124.3) - 0.01 = 1.01\%)$ [1% for fiscal year 2015], multiplied by the balance available of the Fund as of March 31, 2015 less the payments made during the current year [\$651,042 – \$651,042 = \$0 [\$644,596 for fiscal year 2015]].

Payments

Payments represent operating expenses made by Hydro-Québec with respect to the Remedial Measures Fund. No provision for unpaid amounts has been recorded in connection with work performed or services rendered as at March 31, 2016 under this Agreement.

Balance available

The Remedial Measures Fund is not funded. The balance available corresponds to the amounts to be paid by Hydro-Québec in connection with the Remedial Measures Fund as of a specified date.







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NISKAMOON CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

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