

## **Chief and Council Message**

The Chief and Council would like to take this opportunity to provide the community with our Christmas Newsletter Edition which includes brief updates on current activities of Council.

With the Holiday Season and New Year fast approaching we want to extend our best wishes to everyone for a safe, happy and healthy Christmas with family and friends. This is the time of the year when we reflect and look back on the years gone by and the many challenges we have faced as a community, yet we have remained strong and determined. It is also a time to give thanks and special acknowledgements to those who have passed on-our young, our veterans, elders, leaders, women and men who have contributed so much toward the survival of our Nation. We have much to be grateful for.

We encourage all community members to once again take time to attend the upcoming Christmas Concerts at our schools. The children really look forward to performing and showcasing their many talents for all of you. We look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Christmas Feast that will be taking place at the Gaming Centre. It promises to be a fun time at these special events.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS**



## **Finance**

The 2013/2014 Fiscal Year Audit has been completed. It is now available to view on the AANDC website:

[www. http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=262&lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=262&lang=eng)

Our website [www.sagkeeng.ca](http://www.sagkeeng.ca) is being upgraded and revamped. We are hoping to have it re-launched by mid- December and at that time our 2013/2014 Fiscal Year Audit will be available on the local site as well.

We have recently hired 2 full time community members at Central Finance and we are awaiting a response on one part time job offer.

Targeted funding was applied for – 2 Proposals were approved; computer upgrades and training. Training is on-going and computers have been upgraded in the Finance department.

We have restructured our recent 2 million dollar debt consolidation loan with RBC to a monthly payment over a 5 year term. As a result of the debt restructuring, all debt with RBC will be paid off within 7 years. For clarification this was the 2 million dollar loan that was continually being brought up at the Hydro Accord meetings. This debt was to pay down outstanding payables for administration day to day operations. Much of this debt was incurred due to the Band Employee Benefits and the responsibility of Sagkeeng to honour the agreement with the Office of the Superintendents of Financial Institutions (OSFI). OSFI is based in Ottawa and monitor all pension plans in Canada.

Financial Statements are available to view by appointment at the Finance office. Please call Melanie at (204) 367-2249 to set up a meeting and she would be more than happy to go over them with you.

## **Community Christmas Feast**

Sagkeeng's Annual Christmas Feast will be held **Friday, December 5, 2014** at the Gaming Centre (Band Hall). The doors open at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome! Come out and enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner. It's a time to socialize and visit with ole friends! Everyone has a chance at the many door prizes that will be given out.

We hope to see all of you there!

## **Community Christmas Turkey Delivery**

Delivery of Christmas turkeys to each home is scheduled for **Thursday, December 11 and Friday, December 12**. Turkeys will be given to on-reserve residents only so please make sure someone is home on the day the deliveries begin.

## **Holiday Office Hours**

The Sagkeeng Administration office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2014 to Friday, January 2, 2015. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 5, 2015.

DPW services for water delivery and septic service will continue uninterrupted during this time period and they will follow the regular schedule.

In case of emergency over the holidays please contact Paul Guimond, 204-340-5690 or Ron Fontaine, 204-340-5233.

## **Child and Family Services / Manitoba Justice Initiative**

Council held meetings with Manitoba Justice to discuss the potential of developing a new model/structure to improve and change the way child protection matters are managed by Sagkeeng on behalf of our families affected.

The focus is on community-based child welfare and security of families. In order to strengthen this approach Sagkeeng organizations have been invited to participate and assist in its continued development.

We have also been in contact with Corey Laberge, Deputy Children's Advocate, Manitoba Child Advocate office who is very interested in working with Sagkeeng to develop a new approach, one that will support community driven direction.

This model must once again place our children at the centre of the community. We are currently working with the Justice Department, Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross, who is responsible for Family Services, will be meeting to discuss the proposal. As we continue to work on this initiative we will provide an update.

## **Sagkeeng Hydro Accord**

As the Chief and Council have previously stated any future discussions on the Accord will involve full consultation with community members. Many of the ideas that have been presented can be further developed, which may lead to a new implementation plan for a Hydro Accord.

We are proposing that community meetings be held in the early new year to determine whether or not community members wish to continue further development on an Accord.

In the interim, we would appreciate any written submissions from you advising Council on how you would like this process to proceed. We would like to make these written submissions available to the community prior to the scheduled meetings.

Community meetings to discuss the Hydro Accord will be posted once Chief and Council have had discussions with Manitoba Hydro on the results of the ratification votes. The Hydro Accord has not been signed off, as rumor has it, we will be engaging the community to discuss the process moving forward in the new year.

### **Sagkeeng Harvest Food Bank**

This program continues to provide a service to our members on a regular basis. The program had its share of challenges over the years but has managed to keep operations going. Council has approached a variety of sponsors to assist in the purchase of a new heavy-duty delivery truck, as well as support on the construction of a new building to house this program.

This program is to support low income people in our community to supplement food and other necessities. Over the years that we have had the Food Bank we continue to receive complaints of unfairness. I challenge our members to come out and volunteer to help when the Food Bank is held. The success of the Food Bank is through volunteerism and the constant complaints or Facebook postings may jeopardize our Food Bank.

### **Wing Settlement**

As stated in previous newsletters an out-of-court settlement was reached between Sagkeeng and Wing Construction for 2 million dollars in 2011. The final payment on this settlement was issued on October 31, 2014.

This liability is now off our books which will significantly improve our overall audited financial position.

### **Capital 2014**

Council submitted the 2014/2015 five year Capital Plan, including Project Information Forms (PIF's) for this year.

Some key projects include construction for six new homes and road repairs have begun; housing renovations have been completed for the year.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Department of Public Works, 204-367-8095.

### **Cottage Lot Project**

The Province of Manitoba has been selling Cottage Lots to buyers for a number of years not taking into account First Nation ancestral land claims.

Council requested a meeting with Manitoba to further discuss the sale of these cottage lots and the requirement for consultation with Sagkeeng on proposed lot sales on

designated crown lands. Following discussions Manitoba is agreeable to signing an agreement with Sagkeeng to jointly develop and sell cottage lots located on designated crown lands. As part of the agreement Sagkeeng will share equally in the revenue from sale of each cottage lot and will be responsible for right-of-way road construction and drainage for each cottage lot site.

This agreement is now being reviewed by Chief and Council.

## **Lake Winnipeg East Side Transmission Improvement Project**

This is a proposed project between Sagkeeng, Black River, Hollow Water and Manitoba Hydro to develop and construct a transmission line from the Powerview hydro dam to Hollow Water. Discussions are on-going with all parties to determine the terms and conditions of an agreement to proceed with this project. This project will provide Sagkeeng members with employment opportunities. Notices will be posted for hiring sessions that will be held in the community.

## **Education**

New Boilers have been approved for installation at Sagkeeng Anicinabe High School. The boilers being replaced were aged and in need of constant repair, and most likely would not have made it through this winter. Equipment upgrades and repairs will be completed before Christmas at the Sagkeeng Jr. High School.

The Chief and Council met with the Regional Director General, John de Francesco, AANDC in September and informed us they have submitted a funding request to rebuild the school. The federal government just announced a 500 million dollar fund to build schools in First Nation communities and a letter has been sent to the Regional Director General in Manitoba to remind him of the Anicinabe School funding requirements. As we receive updates you will be informed.

The Band Employee Benefits for employees of Sagkeeng Education Authority is currently being addressed by Myers Weinberg LLP and the Department of Justice. Sagkeeng First Nation filed a Statement of Claim against AANDC with respect to the pension plan and the extra costs that the community was forced to pay on behalf of the plan. A settlement offer has been proposed by AANDC and it will be reviewed by leadership and legal advisors.

Due to the severe road conditions this past year the bus fleet had higher than normal repair and maintenance costs. With the eventual completion of the road repair project these costs should decrease significantly this year.

With the rejection of Bill C-31-Education Act, all discussions on a Provincial First Nation School division affiliated with Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) have been put on hold. The Ten Member First Nation group, of which Sagkeeng is one member, remains committed to establishing this body. Further updates will be provided as they develop.

## **Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE)**

Sagkeeng's TLE claim for 4,577 acres is still being pursued and our appeal on the government decision (rejection of claim) remains open. Maurice Law, the firm representing Sagkeeng on this file, provides regular updates to council on the status of the appeal.

## **Highway 11 Erosion Issue (located adjacent to Junior School)**

The Chief and Council held meetings with Manitoba Highways and Transportation to discuss the serious condition and potential risks currently existing due to the ever increasing shoreline erosion of Lake Winnipeg just off Hwy# 11 next to the Junior High School. A letter was forwarded to Minister Steve Ashton, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and they are continuing to monitor the situation on Hwy #11.

## **Miikanaake / Pointe du Bois Project**

Since the last report was passed out at the General Assembly, Sagkeeng Miikanaake Ltd. continues to strive to acquire contracts and provide employment to the residents of Sagkeeng First Nation. I must stress this is indeed an extremely hard accomplishment considering the shortage of funding we always deal with. Councillor Swampy and Sagkeeng Miikanaake has just completed the 2014-15 access road repairs. This is a three year project and this haul was considered as Year One. The following are a list of projects Miikanaake has completed and has been asked to be part of in 2014. Also at the present time Sagkeeng Miikanaake and Councillor Swampy are involved with a Real Estate Co in Winnipeg who are employing six Sagkeeng First Nation young men for a 10 week period doing manual labor. We have a lead hand and 5 people working under him. The pay is decent and if all goes well we are assured of more work to follow. This in my opinion is a small project but this company is branching out little by little which can only be a positive sign of things to come.

- CL-3 Clay Haul - 2 week job
- McKenzie Point Road. Rip Rap Project
- Milner Ridge, Sand Haul
- Sagkeeng Shoreline Project 2014
- Fill in Back Road "Sub Division" with Rock
- Invited by Hugh Munro Construction to go to Snow Lake, Manitoba (only 1 trucker made it)
- Invited to go to work in Ashern, MB till freeze up (only 1 trucker made it to this job as well)
- Continued to bid on projects within Manitoba
- Hydro Guidelines through Merx
- Completed Access Road Repairs for 2014
- Presently working with Real Estate Company employing six Sagkeeng men

- Working with Sagkeeng First Nation, LBR and Hollow Water to start the Hydro Line Project from Powerview to Manigotogan which will employ people from all three communities till the project is complete.
- Information Session on November 25-14 from 10:30 to 12:00 for the above mentioned project to be held at the Band Hall by Valard, who will be the company we will joint venture with.
- Will keep the community posted on any upcoming rip rap for the his coming year, as they were surveying the shoreline again not very long ago.
- Sagkeeng Miikanaake donated to the 2014 Treaty Days in the form of the wrestling extravaganza and also to the dust control of the arena grounds and to the Superstore
- Sagkeeng Miikanaake also donated to the Sagkeeng Treaty Days fund.

Sagkeeng Miikanaake Ltd. would like to wish the community a Safe and Happy Holiday.

Baz Courchene, GM, SML

## **Economic Development**

### **Odibayndan Development Corporation**

In response to the priority identified by Council, and the community at large, to promote and facilitate Economic Development in Sagkeeng, ***the creation of a specific advisory committee was identified. This committee, to be known as the Odibayndan, will function in accordance with the following Terms of Reference approved by Council.***

The vision of the Odibayndan is that Sagkeeng will thrive as a vibrant community with unique opportunities to live, work, play and do business.

The key objectives of the Odibayndan are to:

3.1 Develop a sustainable economic development strategy that will identify opportunities and encourage specific initiatives to enhance economic growth and improve quality of life by giving priority to the initiatives included in Appendix A;

3.2 Identify and provide advice, which will include recommended actions, to address issues hindering economic growth or that are negatively impacting on quality of life;

3.3 Identify and secure funding opportunities to financially enable the overall operations of the Odibayndan and fund specific initiatives identified in 3.1 and 3.2 above;

3.3 Lead initiatives that will further economic development where currently no local champions or organizations exist;

3.4 Develop an open and consultative environment whereby all industry sectors, and the community as a whole, are welcome and encouraged to provide input on initiatives and issues being addressed; and

3.5 Assist in the promotion and endorsement of a positive image for Sagkeeng.

A grant in the amount of \$80,481, was secured from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Canada, formerly INAC to set up the corporation.

The Board consists of:

Marilyn Courchene - Chair

Sheldon Fontaine-Vice-Chair

Wayne Mann-Secretary-Treasurer

Perry Fontaine

Patrick Bruyere

Clarence Prince

## **Workshops**

### First Nation Taxation

- One-Day Workshop for First Nations to Benefit from Tax Strategies & Advantages. A review of section 87 of the Indian act and its effects on Anishinabek, e.g. Personal property, employment income rules. Court cases involving Canada Revenue Agency and First Nation citizens. Corporate structures in relation to First Nation governments such as partnerships, Limited partnerships, etc. First Nation Trusts and taxation issues GST and how it relates to first nation purchases.

### Between Keewatin and T'silhqot'in

- Workshop on legal cases affecting the treaties and First Nations. Litigation strategies in relation to 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century treaties in the post grassy narrows context. Impacts of the cases on treaty nations, politically, historically and legally. The evidentiary basis for the courts conclusion on Aboriginal title and rights in T'silhqot'in Nation; impacts on the new law of consultation, accommodation and reconciliation.

### Tipping the Scales for successful funding applications

- Information about funding agencies. Especially what funding agencies look for in funding applications? Writing S.M.A.R.T objectives. Steps, tips and resources to help with getting organized, planning and ensuring the appropriate resources are in place.

### Manitoba Regional Land Code Workshop

- AANDC requires that First Nation develop a land code setting out the basic rules and procedures for the new land governance regime. This in turn will lay the ground work for expanded economic development on reserves and increased business partnerships with the private sector.

### Inherent and Treaty Rights as Economic Rights

- Renewing and empowering our treaty fires through Economic Sovereignty and



transition. Discussion included; Treaty partnerships and business opportunities, Importance of government honoring treaty obligations and laws outlined in the Canadian constitution to ensure the realization of Economic sovereignty for first nation people of Canada.

#### Manitoba Learning Match

- The Manitoba Learning Match conference is focused on meeting the individualized learning needs of First Nation staff in the areas of Economic Development, Health and Band Governance. This two day event is targeted to bring together 198 First Nation representatives from 63 First Nations across Manitoba.

#### Grand Council Treaty-To Protect, Preserve and Enhance Inherent Treaty Rights.

- A one day information session on Investment Corporations and regional strategy Development.

#### Vision Quest

- A presentation of Aboriginal businesses and funding agencies. Presentation by aboriginal entrepreneurs and training institutions.

### **Grants**

The economic development program changed the focus of the provision of grants. In the past, large grants were given to one or two companies in the community. The past practice of providing grants to established businesses will no longer take place.

The grant program will focus on new businesses that have been in operation for one calendar year with grants no more than \$2,000.00.

1. Arts and Crafts	\$2,000
2. Arts and Crafts	\$2,000
3. Food Services	\$8,000
4. Food Services	\$2,000
5. Cultural Activities	\$2,000
6. Tattoo Services	\$2,000
7. Food Services	\$2,000
8. Massage Therapy	\$2,000
9. Sm Engine Repair	\$2,000
10. Dome housing	\$10,000
11. Carving	\$2,000
12. Fishing	\$1,000
13. Arts & Crafts	\$1,000
14. Arts and Crafts	\$1,000
15. Pool Hall	\$1,500
16. Chi Mah Ijah	\$1,500
17. Hair Cutting	\$ 500
18. Firewood Sakes	\$1,500
19. Star Blankets	\$1,500

20. Garage	\$1,500
21. Trapping	\$1,500
22. Fishing nets	\$ 685
23. Corporation docs	\$ 350
24. Business Plan	\$4,500
25. Unknown	\$ 500

In addition to the grants, a number of inquiries were made by community members regarding employment, training and business opportunities available to community members

This sums the activities for the economic development department. Should you require additional information or clarification on any of the above matters, do not hesitate to contact the writer at your convenience at the administration office at (204) 367-2287 or (204) 340-0209.

### **Tim Horton's Camp**

Tim Horton`s Camp Foundation hosted a community meeting on November 18, 2014 at the Band Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the community on the camp in the Whiteshell.

The camp is currently under construction and we be opening on June 20, 2015. If community members want more information for employment opportunities you can contact Colleen McLean, General Manager, Tim Horton Camp Whiteshell at 1-(705) 746-1899 or email [colleen.mclean@thcf.com](mailto:colleen.mclean@thcf.com).

### **Stray Dogs**

We have been receiving numerous calls regarding stray dogs in the community. These dogs are running in packs and can become very dangerous. Sagkeeng First Nation has a dog bylaw that has never been implemented and we need to review this bylaw. Dog owners need to be responsible for their dogs and cats and there have been stories in the local paper where dogs have been left at our garbage dump. We are looking at purchasing dog and cat tags so homeowners can purchase the tags for a nominal fee. This will assist us when dogs are caught so the owner can be notified and the dog returned to its rightful owner. We also need to know who the owner is when a dog bites someone so the Health Centre can assist when the dog needs to be quarantined for rabies. Please assist us all by looking after your dogs and keeping them on your property.

### **Thank You's and Congratulations!**

Happy retirement to Rita Guimond, Band Membership Clerk, who worked for over 30 years with Sagkeeng First Nation in different capacities and jobs throughout her career.

Thank you to Ishkonigan for providing Sagkeeng Minor Hockey Association with two complete sets of hockey jerseys for all our minor hockey teams. Kitchi Meegwetch!

Thank you to all of our sponsors and contributors to our "Christmas Cheer Fund" which provides funding to provide all Sagkeeng homes with a turkey. There are too many sponsors to name but they ALL know who they are. Kitchi Meegwetch!

Thank you to ALL the "volunteers" who provide their time to assist at the Food Bank every week. Thank you to the Department of Public Works for picking up the donations in Winnipeg every week.

Congratulations to Noah Robinson who received a **20th Anniversary Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award** on November 20, 2014 at the ceremonies held at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre in Winnipeg.



Meegwetch for taking the time to read our newsletter and when you have any concerns you can contact the department to assist you. The Sagkeeng First Nation website is being worked on and we will provide updates on the site. We will continue to provide newsletter updates for the community members who do not have a computer or access to the internet.

**HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST IN 2015!!!**

Sagkeeng A/Chief Derrick Henderson and Councillors Joseph Daniels, Kirby Swampy and Lyle Morrisseau