



SFN SELF-GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS

SFN News

VOLUME 7, Issue 1

Hets eday (Telling stories)

February 2010

Making Positive Changes



SFN 2010

It has been said that the only thing certain in life is change. On a global scale, the start of this new year, and new decade, seems to be proving the truth of that statement. Locally, we have been experiencing significant changes in our own community. With the many changes to come this year our community's challenge will be to help to make these changes positive changes.

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Cheryle Patterson...

New SFN Capital Director

"I am absolutely passionate about housing and capital. I believe in team building and community building. I believe that empowering and training community members in operating and maintaining houses, buildings and services will achieve lasting progress towards meeting the community's housing and infrastructure goals. - you actually improve people's lives by improving community services !"



Photos by Donna Conley

Chief and Council have officially moved into their new offices. The offices are connected to the main administration building and available to the public –just use the covered walkway or stairs on either of the entrances. According to SFN’s Executive Director, Sharon Nelson, there have been mixed responses to the move. One email she received was critical of the move, the writer maintaining that the move made the leadership inaccessible to SFN citizens. Another email Ms. Nelson received applauded the move, as it would allow the leadership to operate more efficiently and free up some much needed office space in the main building.



SFN Chief and Council Report

Chief and Council have continued to focus primarily on governance and finance, two areas that are crucial to establishing and maintaining a sustainable future for the citizens of Selkirk First Nation.

Governance

As a part of Selkirk First Nation’s Governance Review, SFN’s Chief and Council are engaged in the process of an organizational review. Recommendations coming from the work being done through the Northern Strategy for streamlining the organization are now being implemented. These changes will result in improvements in both the efficiency and the cost effectiveness of SFN’s various departments. Additionally, some of the departments have been identified as ready for amalgamation. One of the first of these combinations of SFN departments will see the Self-Government Department amalgamated with the Government Services Department.

Self-Government Department

Originally, Self-Government Agreements were intended to provide for the ways and means by which individual First Nations would govern themselves. The self-government agreements defined the legal and

legislative powers of the First Nations, laid out the programs and services the First Nations would provide, as well as described funding arrangements. It enabled the management of lands and land use, and established procedures for the agreement itself. The 1997 finalization of Selkirk’s Self-Government Agreement meant that Selkirk First Nation “drew down” and became responsible for many areas that were previously administered under federal or territorial government agencies, This saw the creation of the various SFN departments that were to handle resource management, health and social services, First Nation administration, economic development, education and training, policing and law enforcement, justice, and cultural and historical documentation. The Self-Government Department had the responsibility of implementing Selkirk First Nation’s Self-Government Agreement. The im-

plementation process was originally planned to be a 10 year program that would end in 2007. Now that the majority of the implementation and most of the program and service agreements have been completed, the mandate of the Self-Government Department has been exhausted and this department will now be combined with the Government Services Department. One of the services that the Self-Government Department has been handling over the years is the issuing of status cards –a service that is actually the responsibility of INAC. Citizen’s are advised to contact Tracy Joe at INAC in Whitehorse (1 867 667-3366) to obtain their status cards. Though SFN will no longer be issuing status cards, SFN citizens will still need to continue to register with Crystal Trudeau to make sure they are entered in Selkirk First Nation’s data base.

(Continued on following page)



Chief & Council Report *continued...*

Another outcome of the Governance Review has resulted in the planned amalgamation of three of SFN’s departments; the Human Resources Department, the Skills Development Department, and the Education and Training Department. The new department formed from the combining of these three departments will be known as the *Human Resource Development Department*.

Program evaluations of other SFN departments are also being conducted. The Governance Review has been looking at the roles performed in the Capital Department and has determined that they fall into three distinct areas (under Operations and Maintenance); Housing, Community Facilities, and Water & Sewage Systems. The Lands and Resources Department has also been identified as a candidate for streamlining in the ongoing organizational review process.

SFN Chief and Council are presently engaged in identifying individual revenue streams, developing revenue policies, and policies to deal with mining royalties. The royalties are intended to be a part of a sustainable future for SFN citizens. Though different options are being discussed, until a SFN Royalty Policy is developed and approved, these monies are being held in a separate bank account that is protected from any usage. The next SFN General Assembly will be a platform for outlining the new policies regarding royalties and investments.

Fiscal Planning

In keeping with their mandate of long term financial planning for sustainability, SFN Chief and Council have been working with Inukshuk Planning of Whitehorse in order to complete the 2010 fiscal planning sessions. With the successful passing of the Selkirk First Nation Finance Committee’s Terms of Reference on February 18, 2010, the committee will become actively involved in fiscal planning. The new SFN Finance Committee will act as an extension of SFN Chief and Council and will be further tasked with developing a long term fiscal plan.

In preparation for the March 31st end of this fiscal year, Chief and Council have requested 2010-2011 budgets and work plans from all SFN Department Directors. In some departments, like Lands & Resources, the increased cost of doing business, e.g. the costs associated with participation in regulatory processes necessary to mining activity, have to be factored into the coming year’s budgets. Chief and Council have set aside a week to go through the process of reviewing and passing the departmental plans being proposed for the upcoming year’s programs and services. This process is part of the overall process known as fiscal planning. The diagram below is an example of the components of a general framework for fiscal planning.



Fiscal planning is a process that involves the planning, budgeting and accountability that are necessary for providing a framework for the proper management of financial resources. Fiscal planning is an essential part of a sound fiscal management system. A long term fiscal plan will be a part of SFN’s fiscal management system. A good fiscal management system takes years to build. It includes having appropriate policies and systems, a sound organizational structure, and well trained staff.

A fiscal management system is also a tool that Chief and Council need in their roles as leaders and decision-makers. It is a key part of the First Nation's governance system and needs to be kept in place and grow as the First Nation assumes new responsibilities and expands economic activity. The fiscal management system plays a vital role in enabling citizens to gain confidence in and be served by the governance system.

Selkirk First Nation Chief and Council will be meeting with Elders and Family Heads at the Link Building on February 22, 2010 at 10 a.m. to provide them with an update. This meeting will also see the Family Heads appoint a new auditor and have the Elders Council set the date for the next Selkirk First Nation General Assembly. Please attend this important meeting.

(Continued on following page)

Finance

Photo by Donna Conley



Lena Joe

Term Finance Officer Hired

On September 11, 1986 Lena Joe had a decision to make. She had just been informed that she was the successful applicant for two different training positions with Selkirk. Ms. Joe turned down the Social Assistance Trainee job in favour of a position as a Finance Trainee—even though the Social Assistance Trainee wage was almost \$3/hour more than what she would be paid as a Finance Trainee. Why? “I just love everything about the whole area of finance—I always have—I even love doing personal income taxes.”, she replied enthusiastically.

Lena’s employment with Selkirk led to many other opportunities to broaden and enhance her considerable skills in finance. Over the past 24 years she has worked in a range of positions in different locations; as an Administrative Assistant in Mayo, at the Yukon Inn and at Northern Affairs in Whitehorse, to name a few.

As the new Term Finance Officer, Ms. Joe is working closely with and reporting her findings to Executive Director, Sharon Nelson, on a daily basis. Lena wants people to know that she is working hard for them to help to sort out the financial situation. “I care about what I do and I am genuinely concerned about our working futures as a First Nation.”

The Selkirk First Nation Finance Committee

The Selkirk First Nation Finance Committee’s Terms of Reference were passed on February 18, 2010. Lori Sims, Bonnie Roberts, Lena Joe, Ellie Marcotte, and Bill Trerice are the newly appointed members of the Selkirk First Nation Finance Committee. In accordance with the committee’s Terms of Reference, there will be one further appointment made and, as previously mentioned, the independent financial advisor will also continue to act as an advisor to the Selkirk First Nation Finance Committee.

This committee was formed in order to provide oversight during the current financial undertakings and will continue to act in this capacity during implementation of the necessary changes to the Selkirk First Nation Finance Department. Once the initial areas of concern are resolved, the committee will have an important ongoing role in helping the First Nation to maintain fiscal responsibility. The new SFN Finance Committee will be actively involved in fiscal planning. They will be acting as an extension of SFN Chief and Council and will be further tasked with developing a long term fiscal plan for the First Nation.

Finance Department Tasks Update

Finance Director

- *Actively recruiting a new Finance Director*

Independent Auditor

- *Obtaining a new external (independent) auditor*

Financials

- *This year’s audit is the primary focus right now*
- *Getting current fiscal year’s books caught up*
- *Completing bank reconciliations*
- *Balancing the general ledger*
- *New finance system –3 systems being reviewed, almost completed all demonstrations, will recommend most suitable to Council*

Finance Department Changes

There are big changes planned for the Finance Department. These changes are long overdue. This department has been struggling along all these years with a DOS system of ACPAC that can only be backed up on floppy discs. When it “crashes”, (a frequent occurrence) there is no existing support available for this system anymore—most organizations quit using this system 10 years ago.

Another impediment to efficiency is the fact that though there are 4 finance employees,

(Continued)





Chief & Council Report *continued...*

there is only one computer in the department. That means that each clerk has to wait their turn in order to complete their individual tasks.

Physical changes that are proposed for the SFN Finance Department include building four new work stations, purchasing four new computers, and completing the electrical upgrades needed to safely operate the new equipment.

Three new financial systems have been demonstrated to SFN. The Windows Great Plains seems to be the most promising of these systems, so far. Once all three systems have been reviewed a recommendation for purchase will go to Council. The systems vary in cost, but even the most expensive will have approximately 50% of the costs covered by funding that has already been secured from INAC.

Once a decision is made about which system will best suit the First Nation's requirements the finance personnel will be undergoing extensive training in the operation of the new system. We ask for the public's patience during the upcoming transitional phase in this department.



General ledger -a record of the transactions (checks written, receipts from customers, etc.) that involve its checking account. The bank also creates a record of the company's checking account when it processes the company's checks, deposits, service charges, and other items, this bank statement lists the activity in the bank account during the recent month as well as the balance in the bank account

Bank reconciliation -is the process of comparing and matching figures from the accounting records against those shown on a bank statement

A simple reconciliation formula used is usually:

Balance per Bank Records + Deposits in Transit - Outstanding Checks = Balance per Books

Financial Audit

Description:
The audit is a formal, independent review of all revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year. It is conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Essentially, the audit is a "report card" of the financial management and fiscal health of the First Nation.

Purpose:
The annual audit is meant to illustrate to First Nation members and funding agencies that all revenues received by the First Nation are accounted for, and that expenditures were made following the conditions of funding agreements. It also tells the First Nation members how their local government used First Nation funds. It is important to note that the audit does not speak to the quality of the decisions made , only the compliance and record keeping of the First Nation 's finances.

The significance of the audit is the fact that it is an independent, third-party review conducted by accounting professionals. Because these professionals use generally accepted accounting principles, the community and the funding agencies are assured that the results of the audit are objective and reliable.

The auditor's job is to determine the completeness and fairness of the financial statements in all material respects. Material means that the auditor does not review each and every financial transaction; it means an adequate review is done to provide a written professional opinion on the financial statements.

In conducting the assessment, auditors will use much of the documented financial information available to them. This information includes the funding agreement, fiscal policy, fiscal plan, and final program budgets, revenue forecasts, cash management reports, expenditure and variance reports, and the mid-year and year-end reports.

External/Independent Auditor
An external auditor is an independent accounting firm engaged by the client subject to the audit, to express an opinion on whether the organization's/company's financial statements are free of material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error. For publicly-traded companies, external auditors may also be required to express an opinion over the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting. External auditors may also be engaged to perform other agreed-upon procedures, related or unrelated to financial statements. Most importantly, external auditors, though engaged and paid by the organization/company being audited, are regarded as independent auditors.

SFN Capital Department

Capital Director Hired

Cheryle Patterson assumed her new position as Selkirk First Nation's Capital Director on February 15, 2010. Ms. Patterson joins her spouse, Ralph Blanchard, and they will soon have her 12 year old grandson join them in Pelly Crossing, as well. She is planning to move as soon as she can though –she says her present personal goal is to build a house for the family to move into on her spouse's land selection at Minto.



Ms. Patterson is a member of the Champagne Aishiak First Nation,. She started her career in this field as a First Nation Housing Administrator at her own First Nation, some 15 years ago. During her five years as a housing administrator she found that she had a passion for both housing and capital. This prompted her to go back to school and learn more –first to SAIT where she studied Financial Services, later to Mount Royal where she completed her studies to become a Mortgage Broker (she continues to maintain her own). Over the past 15 years Patterson has worked with both the Kwanlin Dun and Ta'an in a variety of positions within her chosen field; including the positions of Manager of Housing and Community Services Director . Ms. Patterson describes herself as a “doer” and she is a strong advocate for the positive effects of team building and community building. Patterson believes that empowering and training staff, her team, tenants and community members in operating and maintaining houses, buildings and services will achieve lasting progress towards meeting the community's housing and infrastructure goals.

Cheryle Patterson is passionate about her job –she believes that you can dramatically improve people's lives by improving community services and helping community members to learn how to look after the places they live and work in.

Water & Public Works



Colin Moonen didn't get too many opportunities to look up during the recent cluster of water and sewer line emergencies in the community. Fifteen houses were affected by severely frozen pipes. The crews were out in full force for weeks, digging up water and sewer lines and dealing with the mess. Some of the lines ended up bursting, making it necessary to re-pipe those sections of the line.

The cause of the situation was discovered to be the re-circulating water pumps. There are two water lines coming into each house and they need a pump to keep the water constantly re-circulating. As we all know, standing water freezes –you need to keep it moving all the time in order to prevent pipes from freezing.

The electrical contractor failed to hook up the re-circulating water pumps needed for 15 of the houses in Pelly Crossing. Apparently, he realized his mistake but, he couldn't remember which houses he hadn't managed to hook up. Colin is relieved to report that the lines have all been fixed now.



The SFN Water and Public Works Maintenance Building, pictured to the left, seems to have sparked a few questions from community members. This building is needed to house the essential equipment for maintaining the new system and doing equipment repairs.

The general public's health is the most critical factor -you can't have sewer and water trucks kept in the same place.

What Is The Northern Strategy?

Story & graphics by Donna Conley

Though the Northern Strategy is now in its third year of funding various local projects and programs, many people may not even know what exactly the Northern Strategy is, or what its purpose is. Understandably, some may even believe that the Northern Strategy is just another name for the “*Moving Forward Strategy*”, or the “*Journey to Self-Reliance Project*”. This article will, hopefully, provide the background information that might be helpful in understanding a fairly confusing topic.

Following the 2007 Selkirk First Nation General Assembly, Selkirk First Nation committed itself to developing and implementing the “Moving Forward Strategy”, based on *Constructive Reform*, (SFN GA Resolution #3 – 2007). *Constructive Reform* was one of three significant resolutions passed by citizens attending the last day of the 2007 GA. These resolutions were meant to assist Chief and Council in creating a more self-reliant community.

As part of *Constructive Reform* (SFN GA Resolution #3 – 2007), Chief and Council and the Elders Council appointed a product driven working group, known as the Selkirk First Nation Advisory Committee for Resolution Implementation, to research and develop an action plan, make recommendations, and seek the necessary resources to achieve the vision of the 2007 SFN General Assembly.

Coincidentally, at the same time as the Selkirk First Nation Advisory Committee for Resolution Implementation was forming, a completely separate Northern Strategy proposal for the funding of multi-year community projects, was well underway. The title of that proposal was *The Journey to Self-Reliance*. This seems to have been the initial start to the overall confusion surrounding the Northern Strategy.

In May of 2007, SFN received an invitation to submit a proposal to the Northern Strategy, a fund of \$15 million that SFN could access for at least two years. The Northern Strategy proposal had to be based on four “pillars” (areas) that were meant to help with the growth and development of the community. The four areas that the Northern Strategy deals with are governance, health, education, and the traditional economy.

SFN Chief and Council solicited Steve Spalding to prepare a ‘Conceptual Framework’ for the proposal. The Council then directed Janie Lee Silas to gather a community consultative group together to participate in a series of meetings meant to augment the work of Mr. Spalding.

The group consisted of SFN program directors, other interested community members, and two consultants. These participants included Bev Brown, Crystal Trudeau, Lucy McGinty, Mary McGinty, Donna Conley, Gordon Clark, Janie Lee Silas, Jean Van Bibber, Judith McIntyre, Richard Baker, Marilyn Van Bibber, Victor Mitander, as well as Steve Spalding, SFN consultant .

In part, the role of this group was to assist and advise Mr. Spalding in his task by brainstorming ideas to contribute to the proposal. Additionally, the group was asked to help to identify any current and ongoing community consultations/initiatives that shared similar goals with the guidelines of the Northern Strategy, in order to incorporate them in the Northern Strategy proposal.

In their first meeting the group agreed that SFN should submit a proposal to the funding agency and that the submission should reflect the change in the priorities in the community as expressed in the 2007 GA resolutions. It was determined that the changes in community priorities were in these areas:

- Culture, Language and Education
- Economic Development
- Social Programs and Justice
- SFN Governance and Capacity Building

(Continued)

The Northern Strategy *continued...*

Over the course of five meetings held between June 18 and July 10, 2007 it was also agreed that if the community was to support its work, the project proposal should have clear guidelines and expected outcomes. The questions raised at this time were:

- Who will be doing the tasks?
- What is the purpose of this work?
- What is the role of the traditional framework?
- Where is the infrastructure for the renewable resources area?
- How will this be incorporated into the daily lives of the people, and what mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that the desire of the membership to be 'out on the land' is adequately provided for?

While the entire area of planning was discussed in full, it was not felt that funding would be provided for this task in and of itself. Also, many in the group had lost patience with creating yet another plan. Some of the participants felt that considerable planning had already occurred in many areas (i.e. Strategic Plans, program plans, etc.). They maintained that, due to the fact that so many of the recommendations found in previous plans were not attached to either an action plan or the funding to implement the plans, the result was that these plans had not produced the desired outcomes. Therefore, they were more interested in generating action items and possibly an overall action plan.

The group recognized that the work they were doing on the Northern Strategy proposal was linked very closely to the work being done with respect to the implementation of the recent GA Resolutions. It was suggested that the Northern Strategy be used, in part, to fund the implementation of those resolutions. It was agreed that, wherever possible, the two separate projects should be combining their efforts in order to conserve resources and personnel.

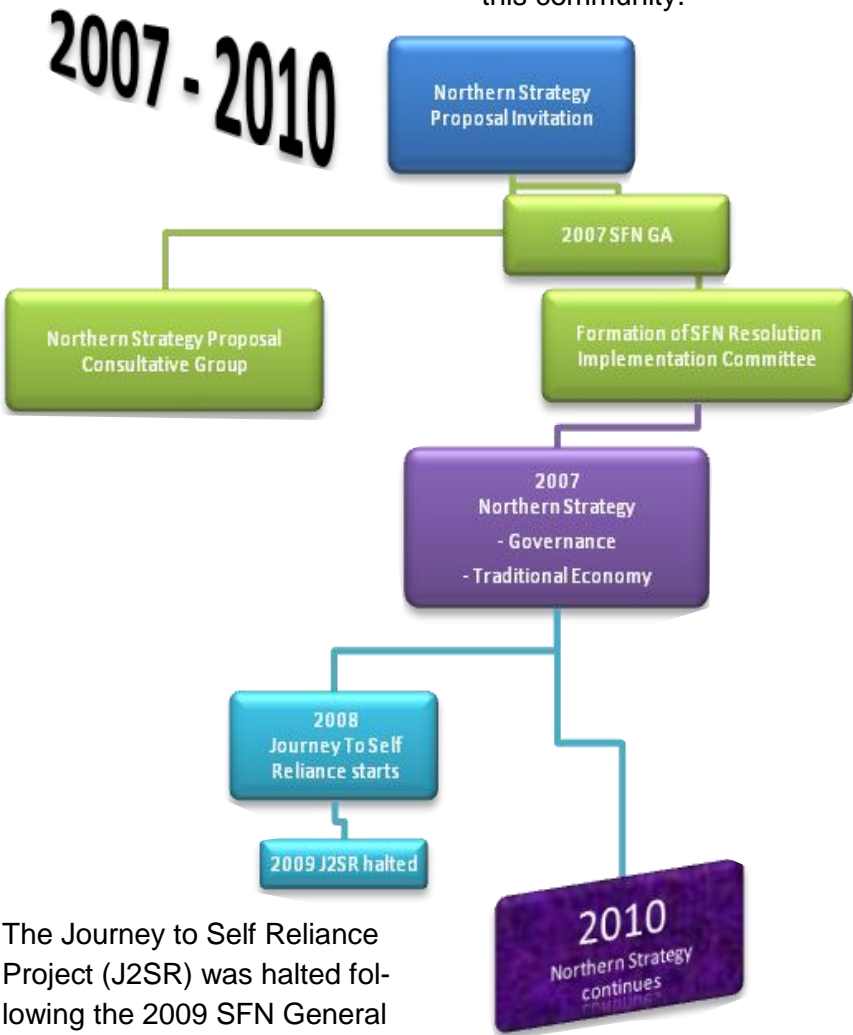
The Northern Strategy proposal was submitted in the fall and was successful in obtaining funding, initially in the areas of Governance and the Traditional Economy.

The Trapping Program, Sewing Program and Governance Training and Development were all funded by the Northern Strategy monies during the first phase of the proposal. According to the guidelines of the funding agency the Trapping and Sewing Programs could not be funded beyond the initial period. The prospect of losing these two successful programs was not well received by SFN members. A decision was made by Chief and Council to allocate the necessary funding to continue the programs. The funding was drawn from SFN departmental surpluses. And so began the project that was to become known as the Journey to Self Reliance.

recommendations and SFN's financial evaluation requirements dictated that there was to be no further spending on the project.

Though both the Selkirk First Nation Advisory Committee for Resolution Implementation and the Journey to Self Reliance Project are no longer active, the Northern Strategy has continued. The Northern Strategy has continued to work with Selkirk First Nation, mainly on governance issues, policy development, and youth initiatives.

Janie Lee Silas, of Nukra'a Consulting, has been asked by Selkirk First Nation's Chief and Council to assume the lead on this project and is deeply immersed in sorting out the backlog of the past few years, while moving forward with the original intent of this project - the positive growth and development of this community.



The Journey to Self Reliance Project (J2SR) was halted following the 2009 SFN General Assembly. The membership's

Casino Mines

Submission & photos by David Bazowski, Casino Mine Project



Western Copper hosted an Open House on the Proposed Casino Mine on January 13, 2010 at the Link Building in Pelly Crossing, Y.T. Representatives of Western Copper Corporation were on hand to present facts, answer questions and listen to suggestions about the proposed open pit copper-gold-molybdenum mine located approximately 120 km west north west of Pelly Crossing and within Selkirk First Nation’s traditional territory.

The day included presentations about the project being made around lunch and again at dinner time. In between, Western Copper representatives were on hand throughout the day to talk with people who came and went. The high school students also visited during the afternoon. Posters that explained the environmental work that is taking place were hanging on the walls around the Link centre. All told more than 100 people attended at the Link Centre. It was particularly pleasing to see such a good turnout of the Elders.



Jesse Duke, Casino Project Director, leading presentation

The main presentation focused on a description of the proposed Casino project and included a summary of the environmental and heritage work done to date and proposed for the following year.

The open house was an information session as part of an ongoing process of community consultation that Western Copper is undertaking with the Selkirk First Nation around the Casino Project.

Following an excellent dinner organized by Jessica Alfred, a draw was made for quite a number of door prizes. The top door prize was for a trip for two to join a group of Yukoners to travel to the special Yukon Day celebrations at the Olympics on the chartered Air North flight. The lucky winner was Jeremy Harper. Congratulations Jeremy!!



Sheila Greer, Archaeology and Heritage Lead, Casino Project Team in discussion with SFN citizens



Jeremy Harper, grand prize winner

Stay tuned for more information about the proposed Casino mine in the future.

Changes in Education



We started this fall with 67 students enrolled at Eliza Van Bibber School, 12 more students than were enrolled for the 2008-2009 school year. As most of you are aware, this school year has been a challenge for both students and staff alike. In addition to gaining our second new principal of the year in mid November, we have recently received an extra teaching position for our high school. There are already some changes in classes/assignments at the school, with more to come. Due to the sudden departure of both the Junior and Senior High teachers this January, there will also be further staff changes this year.

The following is a list of E.V.B.S. staff and their current assignments:

Judith McIntyre	Principal and Grades 10-12 courses
Kerri (Sana) Peters	Kindergarten (0.5) and Reading Recovery (0.5)
Nancy St. Laurent	Grades 1-2
Tom Walker	Grades 3-4-5
Amanda Ellis	Grades 5-6-7
Vacant Position	Grades 7-8-9
Vacant Position	Grades 10-12
Carolyn Simmons	Grades 10-12 (new staff position)
Shirley Joe	Native Language Teacher (Full-time)
Alyce Joe	Native Language Teacher (0.5/ p.m. only)
Jane Fairclough	Educational Assistant (1-2)
Agnes McGinty	Educational Assistant (S.F.N.)
Denise Waldren	Remedial Tutor (7-12)
Donna Conley	Secretary (0.5/ a.m. only)
Vacant Position	Clerk/Librarian (0.167)
Julia Joe	C.E.L.C. (S.F.N.)
Kirsten Silas	C.D.C. Worker (Kindergarten 0.5/ p.m. only)
Mike Brown	Head Custodian
Christine Silas	Custodian
Debbie Tuck	On-call Custodian

The second reporting period for grades 8-12 has ended and we are over half way through the 2009-2010 school year. As the second semester begins, parents of students from the junior and senior high classes will be asked to attend an extremely important information session regarding their students. This meeting will outline the courses and choices that parents and their students must reach decisions about, and the plans that are being implemented in order to help students meet their critical academic requirements this year. Please watch your mail and local bulletin boards for notification of this meeting.

We have four students in grade 12 this year --Maryann Sam, Terra Blanchard, Roxanne Hager-Buyck and Devin Sam. These students will need to be consistently attending classes and working very diligently over the next few months in order to be prepared to write their departmental exams, earn their necessary academic credits, and take their places as graduating members of the Eliza Van Bibber School Class of 2010.

(Continued on following page)

Changes in Education *continued...*



Partners in Education Meeting



K. Mackwood and ADM Whitley with former & present EVBS staff

Thirty participants gathered at Eliza Van Bibber School on December 10, 2009 in order to focus on ways to help improve education in the community. This 2009 meeting was meant to be a renewal and continuation of the Partnerships in Education initiative that began in February of 2007, when a series of meetings were held between SFN, EVB School Council, EVBS staff, YTG, and community members.

YTG Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, Christie Whitley, began her opening remarks to the group by stating that literacy is a target for the Dept. of Education and work is being done on establishing a Literacy Framework. She went on to mention how fortunate Eliza Van Bibber School was in acquiring Judith McIntyre, Principal of EVBS, as the recently hired school administrator.



ADM Christie Whitley expressed her support for the education partnership and urged the participants to continue to push forward “Work through disagreements, be honest with students, parents, and each other, in order to achieve your common goals.”

Selkirk Development Corporation Update

Submitted by Selkirk Development Corporation

SDC Minto Mine JVs

Domco Catering - CA renegotiated by August
Parkland Fuel Distributors - fuel supply
Kluane Drilling - CA negotiated Dec 2009
Driftwood Drilling - CA negotiated Dec 2009
Glacier Drilling - CA (water contract) negotiated January 2010
AA Seed - CA not negotiated yet
Pelly Construction - CA renegotiated this month (Feb-2010)

Black Street Investments - 25%
(\$465,000 partners capital April 2009)
two buildings: **Kluhini & Berska** in partnership with Vuntut Gwitchin Ltd Part., Dakwakada DevCorp, NNDDC & Carmacks Dev Corp
Vuntut Property Mgmt - Brenda Bingham
Berska lease renewal Sept. 14, 2009-2012
Primary tenant is YTG Social Services

(Continued on following page)

SDC Update *continued...*

Mt. Sima (Lot 51) property investment

Approx. 3 acres of land purchased from YTG as investment
Currently undergoing a feasibility study to determine potential return on investment

Great River Journey

Passive investment through First Nation Investment Corp.
No financial benefit to date
Requires SDC Director to sit on Board

Minto Resorts

Changeover occurring now as Pat vB has left
Looking for new person to take over catering business for summer 2010
Will study for expansion in the future

Calcite office building

SDC's move to Calcite Ctr saves over \$100,000 per year
Upgraded existing office space in August prior to move
Renovated ¾ of the 1st floor
 Installed a boardroom up front
 New office space in the back half
Will lease existing office space
Increased value of condominium (paid \$266,000; suggested value over \$400,000)

SFN Holdings Ltd.

SDC House in Pelly:

Upgraded last fall
Short term leases to companies working on power line: Challenger & Sonny Vance

Selkirk Centre

Talks ongoing to make changes to lease (2 yrs left) and operating practices
Renovations to store & motel scheduled for 2010
New septic tanks (Nov-09)
Electric panel upgrade
Idea to have community committee assist in advising operation

35939 Yukon Inc.

Minto Mine Agreement - new CA developed
Increased opportunities under Annex 4

Vehicles

Septic Vacuum Truck (Minto Mine)
Caterpillar Loader (Minto Mine) – break-even deal at best
Haaglund all-terrain vehicle – new leases with Western
Copper & Yukon Electric @ \$2,000/day

New Exploration Opportunities

Western Copper – Carmacks Copper & Casino
Underworld Resources – White Gold
Northern Tiger – White River
Silver Quest (Tarsis) – Prospector Mountain
Northern Freegold
Copper Ridge – Clear Lake & Kalzas Twins

15394 Yukon Inc.

Fire suppression company
Contract with YTG

39550 Yukon Inc.

Sewage Facility Management (Lagoon)

Contracting – Ongoing:

Yukon Electric
Valard Construction Ltd
Aurora Geosciences

Strategic Planning
New Opportunities
Business Incubator
Expediting company

Financial Management

Financials with BDO Dunwoody
Audited financial statements – need to coordinate financials with SFN
SDC review of loans and agreements

Funding

Northern Strategy Initiative
SDC is being funded two weeks per month for two consultants plus expenses
Regional Economic Development
Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association
Conference in Toronto (Nov 2009)
Funding for RoundUp (Jan 2010)

Management Issues

Legal - Glenda Murrin
Insurance – Wency Keast
Calcite office reno & leasing
Vehicle purchase to reduce transportation costs to SDC
Human Resources - Hire Project Coordinator – Ryan McCallion starting this week
Staff training in Accounting & Mining

Communications & Marketing

Quarterly reporting to SFN membership
Video conferencing equipment
New logo for SDC
New website
Newsletter

SFN Projects/Files

Yukon Inn

SFN investment shows no investment value
Requires SFN Director to sit on Board

R6a Mining Exploration Project

R6A Land Assessment funding submissions to YMTA & YMIP

Faro Mine Reclamation

Working on CA opportunities

Asset Management project for Capital and Lands depts

Database & mapping software used by SFN to manage their assets such as: vehicles, buildings, water system, machinery & equipment, land, cultural assets
Ian Robertson may be using the program on his land project also



The Climate Change and Health Project

Article submitted

The Climate Change and Health project is an innovative Health Canada program that Selkirk First Nation accessed last spring. The program is designed to help northern Aboriginal communities adapt to the health affects related to climate change through research and community engagement. The Selkirk project has two components: learning about traditional medicines and community research into climate change.

The project facilitated a range of activities to promote learning about and the use of traditional medicines. Medicinal plants are an important part of traditional medicine practice and treatment. Several community workshops were organized through the summer and into fall. These events provided opportunities to learn about medicinal plants including going onto the land to harvest plants and then preparing plants into medicinal or health products. The use of traditional medicinal plants is a culturally sensitive topic, not everyone views learning traditional medicine through a workshop model as appropriate. Historically, medicine was passed down within the family. This perspective is not unique to this community. Other Aboriginal and Indigenous communities worldwide struggle with the application of ancient traditions into the modern world. The project revealed how important it is to consider traditional ways and social readiness in the design of these types of traditional culture learning processes.

Traditional medicine is ancient knowledge about the human body and environment. Ancient societies around the world all have had some variation of a traditional medicine knowledge system. Early this winter the project organized a three day workshop on traditional Chinese medicine. The Chinese medicinal knowledge system is widely known, used and practiced. The Chinese have sustained their traditional medicine as other societies adopted what is known as Western Medicine either in course of modernization or through implication of colonial assimilation. Traditional Chinese medicine now demonstrates an intact traditional medicine knowledge system for everyone to learn about, access for treatment or even practice. The workshops were well attended as people witnessed all sorts of ingenious methods to assess different medicinal conditions, how to use food as medicine, understanding addictions and the principles of using medicinal plants in treatment.

Climate change research at Moose Lake

In August, a group of five Selkirk members including two Elders traveled to and experienced a week at historic Moose Lake traditional village. Moose Lake is at the eastern extreme of Selkirk Settlement land configuration, 65 km southeast of Mayo. The traditional camp, the surrounding area and the southern part of Moose Lake are settlement land. The Moose Lake area is part of a still vast wilderness country from Klondike Highway to the NWT boarder a region practically not touched by major development.

Moose Lake shoreline and the surrounding hillside are covered by small black spruce trees growing on top of permafrost. According to the Elders the scene hasn't changed much since they were youth. Moose Lake is a mysterious place that seems forgotten by the modern world. It is a living landscape that depends on predictable environmental conditions. The trees, bushes and a layer of moss are all that keeps black soil frozen underneath together. Thaw slumps have occurred in this region in recent years (but not at this lake). A slump is where the ground slides down sometimes into rivers or lakes. Moose Lake is at the bottom of a wide valley of this frozen soil, all sloping down to the lake. This place is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Moose River flows out from the lake where the traditional site is located. The river goes south west to MacMillan River a journey that is now possible to walk after the traditional trail was reopened a few years ago by Selkirk First Nation. Moose River also drains another lake further north called Mist Lake. It is a smaller lake that drains into a series of wetlands that all flow out through Moose River. Mist Lake is part of the traditional landscape of stories, historic sites and traditional trails. For example, a major trail used by ancient people for thousands of years can be seen behind Moose Lake. This trail runs east-west worn deep and wide with the steps of our ancestors and their trading partners.

The Moose Lake expedition of Selkirk Elders and members provided an opportunity for the First Nation to make a presence at this remote outpost. The lake and surrounding areas are utilized by an outfitter who has a large cabin on the north shore. Selkirk workers that reopened the trail from MacMillan River arrived at the lake to see a group of unknown men living in the First Nation cabins. It is important to have a presence even if it is only for a week.

(Continued on following page)

The Climate Change and Health Project *continued...*

We learned a lot about Moose Lake in a short period of time thanks to our Elders. They had the memories about the place, animals, fish, forests and people that once live in this area. They talked about extreme cold that froze porcupines to the trees, herds of moose, huge bears and conflicts with frontier people new in the country. They had stories about legionary Selkirk people, their powers and abilities to survive in this challenging environment. These stories have been documented straight from the source. From our Elders who lived this life, the traditional way in a society of people that worked together and looked out for each other. It is difficult to imagine today how it was possible. We flew in on a plane with a thousand pounds of gear to a campsite with cabins and equipment. They had little in the way technology and equipment. Rather, they depended on their knowledge of the land and each other. It was an accomplishment that would be difficult or impossible for people to manage today.

Community interviews on climate change

Documenting people's perceptions of climate change will be the focus of Climate Change and Health project activities until the end of March. Elders and local people with extensive experience on the land have important knowledge about how the environment is changing. We have all had discussions about the weather and for the Elders what it was like in the past. Now is the opportunity to document those perceptions and put that knowledge together into a report or reports on climate change for us to use and share with our partners in government.



Jerome Sueart, Interview Techniques Trainer

These interviews are an opportunity to document the history of people here from Elder's stories. This type of documentation work has been done in the past and those records still provide us with vital information about the past environment and society. The stories we can get people to share today add to the wealth of knowledge that exists in those other records.

The final report to Health Canada will only speak of the climate change related information and some profile on how the traditional culture has changed. Personal and family stories will not form part of this report. Rather we are looking for the bits of information in the stories that tell us about the environmental change. All interview recordings will be stored with the First Nation for the future.

This is a great opportunity to tell your story about how you see the climate change occurring or what it was like long ago. This interviewing process is very important for our future because as change occurs what is was like in the past can easily be forgotten. That is also why we are working with a group of students from the EVB School who have been trained in interviewing skills and will conduct many of the interviews.

The 2009 Fall Hunt



SFN and EVBS Fall Hunt , Little John Slough – pictures by Mary McGinty



Making Choices for Positive Change

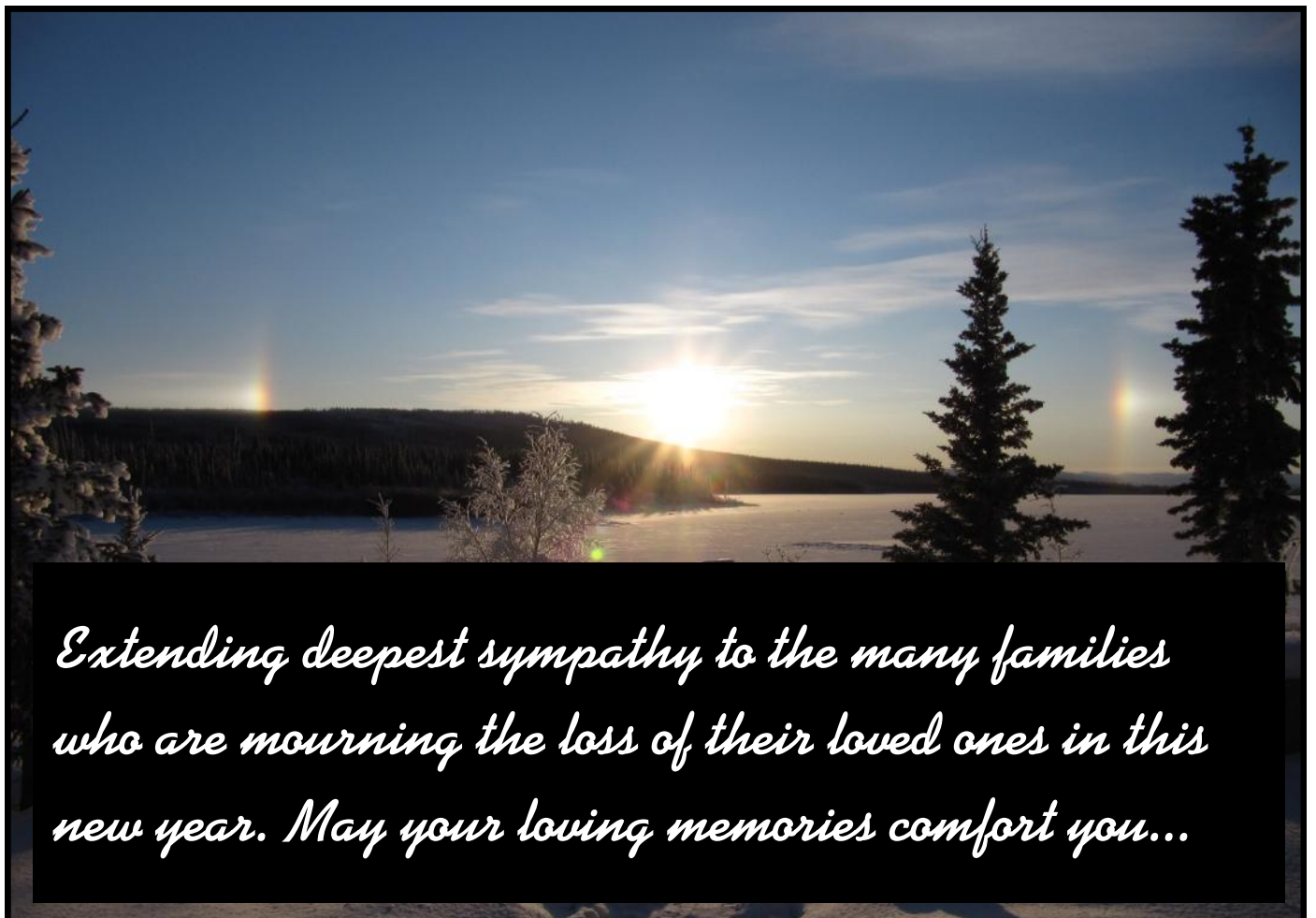
The following is an excerpt from a July 2007 report to Selkirk First Nation's Elders, written by Marilyn Van Bibber, one of the original members of the Selkirk First Nation Advisory Committee for Resolution Implementation.

The 2007 Selkirk General Assembly passed three major resolutions aimed at making positive change for the people of Pelly Crossing and for Selkirk First Nation. It is 10 years since Selkirk signed its hard fought land claim and self-government agreements. During these past 10 years, Selkirk has made some progress in building community infrastructure such as a new store, link building, curling rink and skating arena. Piped water is on the way as well as 14 new housing units. Unemployment remains high and as a result, many families live in poverty. Drugs, alcohol and violence are extremely high and threaten the future of our young people and future generations of Selkirk people.

The community members have tried through many GA resolutions to make the necessary changes that will help to build a healthy community. These resolutions have had little impact. One of the major reasons for such a lack of success in meeting our goals is the system of governance we inherited from the Department of Indian Affairs. We tried to make changes through focusing on ill-funded programs, rather than working towards building our own form of governance -true self-government.

Self-government means that we are a nation with the resources to run an economy that will sustain us as a people. We are people of this land and this water who have a rich heritage of our traditional knowledge and practices. We also have recognized ownership of 1800 square miles of land. It is up to us to make it work so that each Selkirk family and each citizen can have a good life.

Today we have big challenges to be addressed to reach a place where we can once again live in peace, harmony and well-being on this land. Every man, woman and child wants change for the better. Resolutions 3 and 4 begin the process for positive change.



Extending deepest sympathy to the many families who are mourning the loss of their loved ones in this new year. May your loving memories comfort you...

SFN SELF-GOVERNMENT

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Attention

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Editor’s Note

Greetings Readers,
The new year has had a hard start. Many community members have had to begin this new year while undergoing a burden of loss. The stress associated with significant change has also caused discomfort to many, at least in the short term. My hope is that we can work together to make sure we can make healthy choices that will lead to positive changes in 2010.
Many thanks to Selkirk First Nation Chief and Council for giving me another opportunity to put together the newspaper again. Informing community members about the issues and events that matter to the citizens of Selkirk First Nation and the residents of Pelly Crossing has turned out to be quite a memorable experience for me.

Donna Conley

Eliza Van Bibber School Calendar 2009-2010

DATE	OCCASION	TOTAL SCHOOL DAYS by month
Monday August 31, 2009	First day of School (half day)	(.5) 1 August
Monday September 7, 2009	Labour Day	21 September
Friday October 9, 2009	School Closed Day	
Monday October12, 2009	Thanksgiving Day	20 October
Wednesday November 11, 2009	Remembrance Day	
Thursday November 12, 2009	School Closed Day	18 November
Friday November 13, 2009	School Closed Day	
Wednesday December 9, 2009	School Closed (half day)	
Thursday December 10, 2009	School Closed (half day)	
Friday December 18, 2009	School Closed (half day)	
Monday December 21, 2009 to Friday January 1, 2010	Christmas Break Back to school January 4, 2010	(12.5) 14 December
Friday January 29, 2010	School Closed Day	19 January
Friday February 26, 2010	Heritage Day	19 February
Monday March 8, 2010 to Friday March 19, 2010	Spring Break Back to school March 22, 2010	13 March
Friday April 2, 2010	Good Friday	20 April
Monday April 5, 2010	Easter Monday	
Friday May 21, 2010	School Closed Day	19 May
Monday May 24, 2010	Victoria Day	
Friday June 18, 2010	Last day of School (full day)	14 June
Length of School Day: 5 hours 20 minutes per day	*School closed days are non paid days and not included in the total number of days	Total School Days: 178 days per year

