

# Waswanipi Annual



## Report 2001-2002

**CHIIWETAU  
TIIBACHIIMOON**

2001-2002



## A black and white photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees. Two figures are visible in the distance, standing near a body of water or a clearing. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

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## A Message From Chief Paul Gull

On behalf of the Council, here again is a report of the activities performed during the fiscal year 2001-2002. It is with pleasure to again address the Waswanipi Eenouch. After three years at the helm of the governance of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi, we have resolve many issues affecting our community.

That is why the Council is here to pursue issues for the general welfare of, to serve the best interest of and to the benefit of our community members. Each member of the Council worked valiantly and diligently and performed to the best of their abilities to pro-



## Message From the Director General

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to provide the members of this community with a brief overview on the progress of activities that the administration has undertaken over the past year.

Plans are in place for the implementation of projects for the coming year and some projects are already well underway.

Working as a team is an important factor in the success of all projects. Upon review some of the projects that were realized during the course of the year were completed within the scheduled timeframe. However, other projects



note, to develop, to build and to strongly improve the quality of life of our members, the Waswanipi Eenouch.

The Council has done a lot during their term over these past three years. But the road was not very easy and sometimes, bumpy.

Not withstanding the many accomplishments identified in the present report. Where it be the financing and completion of the youth center, the new St-Barnabas church, the new Social Services and health building, the new Brighter Futures building, the beautification of our community with landscaping and paving, and the building of new housing units for the members and many other improvement to the betterment of our members.

There is one thing I wish to mention is the new spirit of our community. A



new spirit of independence is upon us, and we longer should depend upon the Cree Nation of Waswanipi. We congratulate the members who have started their own businesses. It is all up to you to success. Good Luck in your endeavors.

Further, the Council implemented the Cree replacement programs successfully. The office and administration of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi is now 100% Cree. This is an accomplishment and in itself a feat to be reckoned with.



The Election by-law is one of the initiatives that have been around for a number of years. Originally the review process was initiated back in 1998, but has been inactive until the fall of 2001. A local working committee was established with a specific mandate to review and iron out the details of a renewed Election by-law, a text that was finalized and adopted in the General Assembly in June 2002.

Another area that we have put extensive work on has been the long outstanding issues related to Cree/Algonquin trapline boundary dispute, specifically with the community of Lac Simon. Based on the meetings held, we both share a common understanding with what needs to be done to reach an agreement. This is an indication that we are one step closer to finding a resolve on this matter.

Another area, we continue to strive to improve with the departments is cost control on all projects. Managing the financial resources of the community is a challenge, particularly due to the increase in demand for services, largely due to population growth and the physical state of the community. In saying that I would like to encourage those who strive to self sufficient as it will make things easier as we grow as a community. In conclusion, the work of the Administration is basically to focus on the needs of the community and to act in the best interest to comply with the wishes of the people. However these expectation can only be accomplished through teamwork in the workplace with the support and cooperation of the community. I thank you for your kind attention and wish you a prosperous year.

**Samuel C. Gull**  
Director General

## Director of Human Resources



It is with great pleasure that the Human Resources Department of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi submits its report of activities and goals to the members of the community.

First of all, we would like to congratulate all employees on their tremendous hard

work and dedication to help serve the community effectively and efficiently. As staff of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi if we adhere through the office policies and procedures, we can accomplish the impossible.

Over the past year, we have achieved to develop and implement several employment and training programs that help and facilitate members of this community to enhance and upgrade their working skills and knowledge.

Up to this point, more than 20 new positions have been created to meet the needs originating from various funding sources. One that has given the most opportunity is the "E.I. Job Creation Program" which is a result of Cree Entities working jointly to assist our people in giving

them the chance to experience and learn new methods and/or field of work.

In conclusion, the Human Resources Department would like to thank all whom have supported and helped realize the Department's goals and objectives. We look forward for another year of challenges and successes.

**Naomi Awashish**

**Director of Human Resources**



## Treasurer's Report

Once again, the finance department of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi is please to submit their annual activity report for the fiscal year 2001-2002.

The Council has mandated the Finance Department to restructure the department and to implement a training program for all its personnel in finance. This training began in August 2001 and will end in July 2002. Cheryl Trapper was promoted Senior Account, since the departure of Nick Whitbread. I would like to thank Nick for his contribution, and congratulating Cheryl and wishing her the best. I also would like to welcome Shirley Matoush to our department as she takes on the responsibility for payroll.

The actual costs were in line with the adopted budgets and the unforeseen extra costs would exceed the budgets. The Budgets are as follows: General Operating Fund, Special Projects Fund and Capital Additions Fund.

We've implemented several policies in order for the department to operate smoothly and provide financial services to the departments and community members. We acknowledge that the members slowly understand how the Finance Department operates, with respect to payroll and payable payments. The Council has adopted a budget process several years ago in order to better plan projects and to meet annual objectives established by each department and special projects. This process has been used by the administration since its adoption and reviewed for ensure the improvement of the Budget Process.



The future Financial Resources look very promising for the future development of our community. We must plan properly for these projects in order to maximize our resources. In closing I would like to thank the Chief and Council for their support in accomplishing our objectives. I would also like to thank all the personnel within the finance department for their hard work and dedication.

**Meegwetch**

**Matthew Happyjack**  
Treasurer for CFNW



## Director of Administration

As the former Director of Administration, I am pleased to submit to you my final annual report for 2001-2002. First of all I would like to take this time to thank all my colleagues for their hard work and dedication towards their work and the further development of our community. I would also like to thank them for friendship and understanding. I know sometimes tough decision had to be made, but we all managed to pull through and reap those benefits.



I am glad too announce that most of the objectives set out by the departments under my supervision were achieved. A few were not achieved

due to various reasons; however, these will be re-evaluated and resubmitted. As the Director of Administration I always wanted to ensure that the departments maintained a close working relationship with the community members, this was achieved through various methods, such open planning sessions for various activities, public displays at our local general assemblies, and active participation and volunteering from community members. I would like to thank all that took their time to volunteer for our events. It is people like you who ensure our success.

I would also like to thank the management committee and Chief and Council for their continued support. It was a real pleasure to have worked with you all. Finally I would like to congratulate Jonathon Sutherland on his hiring as the new Director of Administration, I would like wish him all the best and I will provide my assistance should he require it. In conclusion, I thank God for his grace and blessings he has bestowed on all of us. May we continue to grow as individuals and as a collective body as Waswanipi Eenouch. Meegwetch.

**Nii Glen Cooper**

## Benefits & Financial - Memberships

The Indian Registration Administrator deals with band members and Beneficiary Members as well as other members of the community.

The IRA has issued over 150 status cards in the past year, and wishes to announce that it is very important to renew your status cards every five years, being every two years for a minor.

The Administrator also takes pictures (no fee) for the medical cards, gun permits, police cards and whatever an individual may request.



In March of 2000, the administrator had the "Read Access" program which permits to have

visual access and direct data from the Indian and Northern Affairs from Quebec where their office is situated.

This software enables the employee of seeing up to date information on any individual Waswanipi Band Member. The Waswanipi Band has access to the Waswanipi Band Members as with the Mistissini Band

would have for Mistissini Band Members, and so forth.

The IRA also has a database, which permits them to have access to all the Beneficiaries of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement. The difference between these two is that I have to enter the information to put up to date, whereas; with the "Read Access the information received by me and sent to the department of Indian Affairs is entered from over there.

The Indian Affairs Band List or the Minister of Health & Social Services cannot change any information regarding an individual without the consent of the IRA/BFC. Any changes which affect a Band Member or a Beneficiary Member must be reported to both departments.

The Benefits and Financial Counseling consist of Government applications such as, old age, family benefits, and so forth. The Administrator recently obtained yearly DT Max software where she can print out Income Tax Returns, a person can also find out an approximate estimation on their Child Tax Benefit.



## Brighter Futures & Headstart

This past year was a fast and productive year for all the employees at the Waswanipi Brighter Futures and Head Start Programs. We have grown extensively in the past year and are very proud of our achievements. One big achievement we are especially proud of is when we opened our doors in February 2002, as the new Child and Family Centre of Waswanipi.

We have continuous on-going programs that benefit the entire community focusing on child and family development in all areas reflecting education, culture and language, health and nutrition, safety and social support, healthy babies and parenting skills.

In order for us to provide these services with consistency and quality we hired 4 extra staff members within Head Starts Pre-Nursery Program we had initiated this past winter. The hired employees are Head Start Educators who have training within the education and early childhood sectors. Our employees are motivated to provide the best possible services to the children and families of the community.

In addition, we had also provided funding to community groups and organizations for their respective projects, events and trips. Furthermore, we had implemented a number of community-initiated events that involved the community in all aspects, these events and projects include:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Basketball Camp

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Elders Trip

### Community Newsletter

### High Risk Kids Workshop

### Home Visit Program

### Playground Project Phase 2

### National Child Day Celebrations "Little Mr and Miss Waswanipi Pageant"

### Children's Summer Day Camp

In addition to these big projects we had regular workshops and small projects throughout the year focusing on the six components of the First Nations Head Start on Reserve Project. Our vision was to provide in partnership with the parents quality educational programs that promote the holistic growth and development of all children from birth to 5 years old.



All employees working within the Head Start and Brighter Futures Programs were committed to supporting the children's development by cherishing their individual differences. Our Pre-Nursery Program's goal and mandate is to prepare children for their successful immersion into the regular school system. We also enforced the Cree language and culture by speaking Cree to them on a daily basis and initiated the learning process for the 2-3 year olds by teaching them the Cree Syllabic Chart's sounds and characters.

**Submitted By: Holly Danyluk**

**Brighter Futures and Head Start Coordinator  
Child and Family Centre Manager**



## Culture Department

On behalf of the cultural department I am pleased to submit to you my annual report on all our activities within the cultural department. Listed below are some of the projects that were realized and are ongoing.

### 2001-2002 Goals & Objectives :

Culture Village restoration - Ongoing

Cree Radio Program – In collaboration with the communications dept.

Chiwetau 2001 – Joint collaboration with other departments.

Elders Trip – working with Brighter Futures on this project.

### Elders Council Projects 2001-2002

Elders Council held various meetings and attending regional meetings.

Cometary care project – Cleaning was done last year – Ongoing.

Elders Wood - Ongoing

Community or Cometary Cross - Ongoing

Many of these goals were ongoing, that is why I have carried the listed of goals objectives below for this fiscal year 2002-2003.

### Last fiscal year's Goals carried over to this fiscal year

Culture Village restoration

Cree Radio Program

Elders Council

Cometary care project (Chapais, Waswanipi & Old Post, Matagami)

### New Goals & Objectives 2002-2003

Genealogy (family trees)

Youth & Elders Culture Exchange

Elders Trip to Moose Factory

(Collaboration with Brighter Futures)

As many of you are aware, I left my position for a period of 6 months back in July to December 2001. During my absence, Ella C. Saganash had replaced while I received



'Cree Culture training' from my family. On a more personal note, during my leave as well; it was a time of spiritual growth nurturing, which brought me back to my position with extended cultural knowledge, motivation and determination.

As of my return, Culture department has moved into a new roomier office-facility located downstairs of the radio station. Feel Free to visit us. Culture department has also organized 'child's Fist snowshoe' walk out ceremony in March 2002. Thank you to the people who participated and volunteered. Culture department also works and sits with the Youth Department on preparing for 'Youth Fest 2002', which has started in January 2002.



The H.F.T Department has been struggling to provide adequate support services for the trappers for the past year, due to the lack of funds. We have worked hard in trying to identify funds to provide the essential services such as Gas distribution and support to elders and widows to meet their shelter needs in the bush. I would like to thank the Chief and Council and the Treasurer for their continued support. The essential services would not have been possible without there support.

We did continue our representation at the regional level; I would like to thank Johnny Cooper for his support

in this area, as I was not always available due to health reasons. One of the areas I believe we need a major improvement is holding regular CTA committee meetings, I believe one way to improve this is to elect members who will be readily available for these meetings.

I you are all aware Cree Trappers have made tremendous strides in the area of funds. I believe this will only strengthen our resolve as we prepare ourselves for this new century. I would like to thank all those have contributed to this success. Finally I would like to pay homage to an individual who has always worked in the

advancement of Trappers rights, he always was ready to attend meetings and make sure that he spoke in their best interest. May you rest and peace and our prayers are with his family. Meegwetch Harry Blacksmith.

### On behalf of Johnny Blacksmith Nii Glen Cooper



On behalf of the Corporation and my staff I am pleased to submit my activity report to the people of Waswanipi. WDC was created to meet the needs of the people by administering all Band Owned businesses. It has created employment opportunities for the members of the community in various areas such as Forestry, Equipment, garage and lodging services. Over the past years we have been working on privatizing all our holding and providing opportunities for our people to be self-suf-

However, we are working on privatizing these holdings also.

We hosted a Business conference that took place on July 31 to Aug 1, 2001. Guest speakers were invited and various workshops were held on Tourism and grants. Consultants were made available to participants. We also hosted various evening activities; one of these highlights was Local Business Awards banquet. I would like to thank Julie Anne Cooper for her hard work and dedication.

A business forum was held in September 2001 with dealt with 4 main items, Conflict of Interest, Business Center, Commercial Area, and the start up of a Business Association.

We also hosted workshops on

of our community. This was required due to the new Agreement with Quebec and the creation of the Cree Consortium. We also participated in the Pathways to Partnership Conference that was held in Val door.

We have also been assisting local members in establishing local business and providing them with advice and administrative support.

I would like to take this time to introduce my staff and thank them for their hard work and dedication. Administrative Assistant – Krystal Neeposh, Financial Clerk – Madeline Dixon, and Tourism Planner – Charlotte Ottereyes.

### Marlene I Kitchen Economic Development



ficient as private entrepreneurs. This will only help our local economy to grow and create more employment.

WDC presently runs three businesses; they are Ambulance Service, Waswanipi Garage and the Cafeteria.

Tourism and Hospitality for local entrepreneurs and employees. These sessions were well received.

Another area we worked on was the update of our socio-economic profile



## Public Health

On behalf of the Public Health department, I am pleased to submit to the members my activity report. Last spring Sadie's Walk took place. This is a promotional activity for all diabetic persons and their families. There was good turn out at this event, where dedicated walkers showed their support for diabetes prevention. The Walk was successful with the dedicated assistance from Oudaa Store and Waswanipi Grocery.

During the annual Chiiwetau event at the original settlement of Waswanipi Post. Local nurses from the clinic were on day shift for Chiiwetau. Discussions were held on what types of support would be required as a follow up to the diabetes screening that occurred earlier in the year. A sharing circle also took place at during this time.

I attended the **National Aboriginal Diabetes Conference** in Quebec City, where Dr. D. Dannenbaum reported on the Waswanipi and Eastmain diabetes screening of these communities.

The **Cree Nation Gathering** in Chisasibi included activities of walking out ceremonies, first kill, sweat lodges and other ceremonies from

Cree Elders. Traditional teachings took place at Sunrise ceremonies each day.

The **Brantford Residential School Survivors** have been busy with their meetings and reunion plans at the former Mohawk Institute in Brantford, Ontario. There are approximately 113 survivors in Waswanipi that attended this residential school. Waswanipi is affected by 7 residential schools both in Ontario and Quebec.

As a form of alternative medicine, **Traditional Healing** activities continue under Public Health Program. There are sweat lodge ceremonies and sharing circles that take place when the resource persons come in.

The **Aboriginal Healing Foundation** agreement was finalized. The 2 persons working under the proposed agreement are Johnny A. Grant and Johnny Cooper. The Mamoo Wee Cheedodow (helping group) worked on the proposal. The projects should be completed by December 2002.

The 4 main objectives under AHF are:

**Document on Residential School Stories**

**Training for Front Line Workers**

**Memorial Monument**

**Residential School Conference in the summer.**

Waswanipi had 14 participants for **Miyupimaatisiitau** "Let's get well" Winter wellness journey. The finish line was in Chisasibi. The walkers have very strong spirits to undertake such an important journey. The event was to promote diabetes awareness. I would like to thank all that volunteered and participated in this historic event.

The **Elders Task Force** met a few times to discuss the future Elders Care situations and needs in our community. I believe all of you will see the activities that have been discussed, now that the funding has been secured. I thank you all for your kind attention and look forward to your feedback and participation.

**Lily Sutherland  
Public Health Officer  
Cree First Nation of  
Waswanipi**



## Local Environment

As the newly hired Environment Administrator, it is a privilege to submit to you my Annual Chiiwetau Tiibachiimoon Report 2001 - 2002 for the Environment Department.

I was hired on March 18, 2002 to specifically handle all environmental issues concerning our community. Although I'm very new to this position, I will provide for you, the community members, in this report a briefing of the roles and responsibilities of the Environment Administrator.

I am responsible for the protection of the environment through the application of the environment assessment procedures as set out in section 22 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement. It is also my responsibility to ensure proper implementation of the community by-laws concerning the protection of the environment.



As the Environment Administrator, I am also responsible for the following:

- 1) **Responding to environmental Emergencies**
- 2) **The development of environmental emergency plans.**
- 3) **To monitor the quality of the drinking water on a daily basis**
- 4) **Review of Major Projects that are subject to an**

**Environment and Social Impact Assessment.**

5) **To review and approve community-based projects subjects by-laws concerning the protection of the environment.**

6) **To conduct routine inspections of all band owned sites.**

7) **The Management of Waste Disposal Sites.**



8) **Monitoring of Groundwater**  
9) **To be familiar with principles and practices involved in conducting Environmental Site Assessments.**

10) **To provide regular and consistent reports to the Band Council relating to environmental issues.**

In this years activities I have taken the initiative to conduct a community-wide cleanup project. This has been quite difficult due to the fact that major road construction has been commenced at a fast paced. I have also taken the interest of having all abandoned waste such as; vehicles, wood, etc., removed from commercial

and residential lots.

Although, this position offers many challenges it is through the cooperation of various Local Departments and Entities that makes this position a rewarding experience.

As a friendly reminder to all members of the community, please assist in providing a safe and healthy environment for the sake of our children. I remain,

**Respectfully Yours,  
Derek Neeposh**



## Trapline Forestry Project

On behalf of the new Director (Mr. Allan Saganash) of the Trapline/Forestry Department, I'm pleased to submit the Annual Chiiwetau Tiibachiimoon report.



As we are all aware that a new agreement between the Quebec Government and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee was signed on February 3, 2002, the Trapline/Forestry Department has undergone many changes

As a result of a substantial increase in the workload required from the Trapline/Forestry Department personnel, regarding the documentation of Cree Land use and occupancy information, it has become necessary to hire additional staff. Therefore, an



additional three (3) individual personnel were trained and hired. Namely Jeremy Jolly, Georgette Blacksmith and Norman Ottereyes, were hired to specifically document Cree Land use information (1% and 25%) on maps sent from the Ministry of Natural Resources. A Liaison Officer (Irene Neeposh) was also hired to coordinate activities between our local trappers and the Forestry Companies.

The Council has appointed, by resolution, Mr. Allan Saganash Jr. And myself, as members of the Joint Working Group for Waswanipi. As members of the Joint Working Group, we have the following mandates as stated in chapter 3 (forestry sector) of the new Cree/Quebec Agreement.

**1) To integrate and implement the specific rules agreed upon in the forestry sector of the agreement.**

**2) When required, to elaborate harmonization measures flowing from the technical provisions of the forestry sector of the agreement.**

**3) To ensure that each party places all relevant and available forestry-information at the disposal of the other parties.**

**4) To review conflicting issues in order to find solutions acceptable to the parties.**



**5) To discuss any technical issues, including the acquisition of knowledge considered necessary by the Joint Working Group.**

**6) To ensure the implementation of preparation, consultation and monitoring process for forest management plans.**

**7) To adopt internal rules**

In conclusion and on behalf of the newly formed staff of the Trapline/Forestry Department, we would like to extend our best wishes to all the guests and members of the community of Waswanipi and the support they have given us to improve the working relationship with our community trappers.



## Social Development ( Welfare & NCCBS )

Welfare is a last resort after all other resources have been exhausted. There are several categories that can determine an applicant's eligibility. This includes nursing mothers, pregnancy, diabetes, formulas and babysitting. Maintaining the files has been a lot of work, we must ensure clients come to our office to make their declarations, and make sure payments and deductions are made with respect to rental housing, Oudaa Store Vouchers that are distributed after the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

We also do our annual updates on all files to ensure that we comply with the policy and procedures set out for us in the contribution agreement with the government.

It is not always hard to deal with clients, and I would like to thank those clients for their patient and understanding as we work to process their files.

We also participated in various conferences and workshops, which were beneficial to our clients.

As you are aware we are in the process of restructuring the services provided under the National Child benefit program, so I look forward to providing this essential

service to our members. I would like to thank Clarence



Happyjack for his hard work and dedication. I wish him well in his future endeavors.

I also would like to thank Deborah my assistant for your hard work and dedication and also Melinda.

I thank you all for your time and look forward to continue to serve you for a better tomorrow for all of us.

**Diane M Cooper**  
**Social Assistance Administrator**

## Director of Community Services

My responsibility as the Director is to act as a liaison between the departments and the decision-making bodies such as the Chief and Council and the Management committee.



We are working hard to do our best in ensuring the development of our community. I would like to thank all the departments for their efforts and congratulate them for their team effort. As you are aware there has been a real boom in construction in our community. With additional

infrastructure, housing and the paving and landscaping of our community. This will continue as the MEQ and CSB will be introducing additional capital projects within the community, we look forward to working with them.

I would also like to encourage the community members to come and see us regarding any concerns or



ideas they may have with regards to our community development. We are all in this together for the better-

ment of our lives here in Waswanipi.

I would like to take this time to congratulate and thank all the departments who have realized their Goals and Objectives and wish them well within this New Year.

**Henry Gull - Director of Community Services**



## Rental Housing & Maintenance

Once again I am pleased to report to the members of our community on this past year's activities of the Waswanipi Rental Housing and Maintenance Department. There are 7 main objectives, which we concentrated on.

### Rent Collection:

I am pleased too announce that we here in the Community of Waswanipi are leaders in collecting rent in all 9 Cree Communities. This is very significant and is important for the preventive maintenance program, as it ensures that all homes in our community are maintained and repaired, I sincerely hope we will continue for the years to come.

### Band User Fees:

This year, \$ 25.00 monthly charge has been added to the Rental Housing statements for the collection of the User Fees. This amount will not be added to your statement when there is an overpayment on the rent, this amount will be transferred to the Band to assist in the cost to garbage collection and water & sewage treatment.

### Housing Policies:

We have completed the Housing Policy. The Chief and Council have since reviewed the policies and copies were made available at the January 2002 Local General Assembly. A formal presentation will be made at our Local Housing Assembly in August 2002. We have started using these policies in different areas, such as negligent tenants will now have to pay damages, if there is no Police report. This will leave more funds for more important repairs. Copies of these policies are available at the Rental Housing Department.

### Shed Building Project:

We continued with the Shed building project for various tenants last year. However we have taken a new approach for this year. We will make available material for 20 sheds, however this will be granted to tenants who are willing to build their own shed. If extra material is needed, the tenant will be responsible to provide these materials.

### Preventative Maintenance:

We have started working on annual maintenance plans and will continue to develop these plans. We also plan to develop long-term 5-year maintenance plans. We will be making a formal presentation at this year's Housing General Assembly.

### Air Exchanger Project:



We started cleaning air exchangers for our tenants and informed them on the importance of using the Air Exchanger as they prevent mold building up in your homes. We also hope to install 60 more Air Exchangers. We will continue to install the Air Exchangers as the funds become available.

The Housing commission has also taken initiative to deal with existing mold in all homes, we encourage our tenants to report any molding as this can cause serious illness and respiratory problems with children and the elderly. We will be reporting to you on these and any future developments.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the employees, tenants and Housing commission members that have continued to support our efforts. Your contribution is appreciated and will help our community grow into a healthy and safe place to live. Thank you

Flora Gull

Rental Housing Administrator.



## Education

2001-2002 Annual Report for The People, Nation and Council of Waswanipi Eeyou Astchee

A Special Tribute, Honor, Recognition and Dedication to ALL Our Elders, our Special Teachers, who have passed on...

To the People of Waswanipi,

Thank you very much, from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of my Family, for your tremendous confidence and support for choosing me to be YOUR School Commissioner and



for electing me into this extremely important position on August 29, 1999 to represent you and your Child(ren) at the level of the Council of Commissioners of the Cree School Board.

Without any doubt in mind, I can honestly admit to you that I had really tried, to the best of my abilities and knowledge, to fulfill the mandate and workload as YOUR School Commissioner for the past three (3) years, regardless of the insurmountable barriers, obstacles, hardships, harassments and difficult moments I had encountered or had been challenged.

As you may be well aware, I had

been YOUR School Commissioner now well over eight (8) years since the People of Waswanipi had first appointed me to that role and position on January 14, 1994, by acclamation and without the need to call a second round of elections.

On July 1, 2003, we as a Cree Nation will be entering into, and will be celebrating, the 25th Anniversary of the Cree School Board as officially enshrined with unique and special status and powers under Section 16 (Cree Education) of the landmark

James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

This date will mark another important milestone, in itself, and a new benchmark which the Local Cree Education Authorities,

Cree Nation and Cree School Board had endured and survived.

ELDERS...OUR SPECIAL TEACHERS, PHILOSOPHERS AND VISIONARIES.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE, HONOR AND DEDICATION.

Long ago at the "Old Post", the original home and roots for our First Traditional Seat of Government, we were blessed with Elders, their Ancestors and Forefathers before them and their Wisdom and Knowledge.

Over time, we ALL have lost many of our Elders along the way who have passed on to the Spirit World and in turn, have taken with them



their Teachings, Lessons and Wisdom.

We were taught.

We learned,

We gained,

We were rewarded,

from the many Gifts

and talents of our Elders

ever since at the turn of the Century 1900's.

As a people and as a Nation, we will always remember them in our minds and in our hearts! But some day, we will join them to be re-united with our People, our Parent(s) and our Loved Ones in love, harmony and balance as ONE Family.

"O LORD, SAVE THY PEOPLE and BLESS THINE HERITAGE."

Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, Cree Education Authority, School Committee (Elementary & Secondary), Community Education Administration.

Allan Happyjack, P.ENG. Deputy Chief and School Commissioner

Recreation Department

On behalf of the employees working under our department it is a great honor to share with you the summary report 2001-02.

April 2001.

During this month we usually plan the following,  
Goose Break-  
Summer Activities Planner

May 2001

As always, our department and employees engages in traditional practices by going out to our annual Goose Break with family and friends. This was a quiet month for us.

June, July and August 2001

June is an important month because we try to implement our summer activities, events, and programs into our summer schedule planner. July is where we began our summer activities such as,  
Minor Softball Program (2 weeks in July)  
Summer Sports Program (Arena)  
Summer Games 2001  
Geewetau 2001 (our department participates)

In August, our department continued to provide/participated the following activities.

Summer Sports Program (continued)  
Basketball Camp (participated and co-host)  
Visited Lac Latreve (Our dept. will run the summer camps activities 2002)



September 2001

We had the honor to co-host the famous Moose Antlers Contest 2001 with the Fundraising Department. The winners were the following:

1st place: Biggest Antlers . G i l l m a n

Ottereyes Sr.

2nd place: .....Edward Ottereyes  
Other participants: . . . . C l a r e n c e  
Blacksmith

.....Sam W. Gull  
.....M i c h a e l  
Blacksmith

October, November and December 2001 (Fall season)  
Our department engages in planning and organizing various types of activities, such as,  
Beginners Hockey Program (Parental Involvement)  
Minor Hockey and Broomball  
Coaching Clinic Level 1  
Federation Hockey sur Glace File (Liaison to the Crees)  
Christmas Festivities participation

January, February and March 2002 (Winter Months)  
We had the privilege once more to plan and to coordinate the minor hockey and broomball editions in January and February.



Our minor coordinator, Gloria Jolly really put an effort in the planning stages and coordi-

nating the events.  
Meegwetch Gloria.

As promised from last year's report, our department hosted/organized the Inland Winter Games 2002. Many thanks to Irene Neeposh, the winter games 2002 coordinator, for taking the time to plan, to organize, and to coordinate the activities. Yes, we are proud and happy to bring back the Inland Winter Games into our



community, again meegwetch Irene.

In closing, we tend to forget the people that were involved in many of our events. Therefore, on behalf of the recreation department, we would like to thank them for their time.

Terry Kitchen -Summer Sports Program  
Allen Cooper-Basketball Camp/Minor/Senior Tournament  
Gloria Jolly-Minor Sports Coordinator  
Matthew Icebound-Minor/Senior Tournaments  
Jacob Ottereyes-All the bingo's contributions

Youth Department

The Youth Council, once again proudly submits its annual report for the fiscal year 2001-2002. The Youth council at its first operations with their new youth center was is a great challenge for the management team.. We are working to utilize the facilities to the fullest.



Youth Center Operations

The fitness room has a total of 130 members. Through the fitness room, various clubs were created, such as the weight loss challenge and Group Loss Weight. The Arcade room and the canteen generate most of the revenue for the building operations.

As for the music room the instruments has already been purchased and they are still waiting for the training program to be developed.

Youth Role Model Project

12 youth were selected to act as Role models in areas; Cree Culture and Language, Sobriety, Team Sports, Teen Parenting, and Education. We would like to congratulate the youth who were selected and wish them well in there endeavors.

Irene Neeposh-Winter Games 2002 Coordinator  
Albert "Master" Ottereyes-Winter Games 2002

Especially to the parents that took the time to take their child to the Beginners Hockey Program all season.

And finally, to all the Arena Crew for the help they provided all year around. For those who we may have forgotten, we apologize but we would like to thank you for your tremendous efforts and help throughout the year. Meegwetch.

Various Activities

Some activities that were organized were; Floor hockey league ,Volleyball

Tourney Pool tournament Haunted House, Christmas home decorating and more.

The Youth Monitors have played an important role in the success of these projects

We also coordinated the annual canoe brigade from Broad back to Waswanipi River. Congratulations to the participants.

Also there were various training and employment programs that were coordinated to give work experience and training to the youth of our community. Also the annual summer student and trappers program was a success.

On a final note I would like to thank all participants of our programs and look forward to a prosperous year.

God Bless.

Waswanipi Youth Chief and Council.



# Just For Laughs...



# Just For Laughs...

## Waswanipi Cree Model Forest



This past year has been a challenging one for the Waswanipi Cree Model Forest. The historic signing of the Cree-Quebec Agreement greatly affected our projects. We needed to readjust our projects to fit the new context. Despite the delay, we were able to complete our projects as scheduled with the participation of our partners. These projects are the Indoho Istchee, Indoho Istchee-Ecozone, Consultation project and communications projects.

Also, the WCMF was in a renewal process. The WCMF is a federally sponsored program. We are one of eleven model forests in Canada. Every five years the model forest program is evaluated and each model forest is graded on whether it should get funded for the next five years. This past year, all eleven model forests were evaluated.

We are now at the next stage of the renewal process which is to state what we would like to achieve for the next five years. With many consultations with our partners we have now submitted this to the federal government. We are now just awaiting their response.

Once our proposal has gone through the review process and our funding is secured for the next five years, this is when our work really begins. We will begin to develop our workplan which are the projects and activities that we will be working on in the next five years. We will definitely need the continued participation from the community for the WCMF to achieve any success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in any way with the Model Forest projects this year. Thank you to our researchers for going beyond the call of duty in many cases. Meegwetch to Hugo, Susanne, Martin and Catherine. I would especially like to thank the three families from our Indoho Istchee project who spent countless hours being scrutinized and analyzed in the many interviews conducted with our researchers. Mistee Meegwetch to Jackie and Jane Gull, Edward and Mary Ottereyes, Maggie and Frankie Blacksmith and their respective families.



### CHIEF AND COUNCIL

|                    |              |                                          |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|
| Paul Gull          | Chief        | Youth                                    |
| Allan Happyjack    | Deputy-Chief | Maintenance; Public Works                |
| Glen Cooper        | Councillor   | Finance & Strategic Initiatives          |
| Allan Saganash Jr. | Councillor   | Human Resources;                         |
| Social Development |              |                                          |
| Sam W. Gull        | Councillor   | Police and Justice                       |
| Irene Neeposh      | Councillor   | Health; Public Safety                    |
| Marcel Happyjack   | Councillor   | Education                                |
| Marlene I. Kitchen | Councillor   | Culture; Environment & Natural Resources |

### ELDERS COUNCIL

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Jackie Gull        |
| Allan Saganash Sr. |
| Jane Gull          |
| Catherine Cooper   |
| David Neeposh      |

### YOUTH COUNCIL

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Marcel Happyjack   | Youth Chief                   |
| Jennifer Gull      | Deputy Youth Chief            |
| Irene Neeposh      | Member                        |
| Michael Grant      | Member                        |
| Joey Blacksmith    | Member                        |
| Jonathan Kitchen   | Member                        |
| Kenny Icebound     | Trappers Representative       |
| David Cooper       | Trappers Representative       |
| Priscilla Meilleur | Post Secondary Representative |
| Michael Neeposh    | Post Secondary Representative |

### ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chief Paul Gull         | CRA/GCCEE                 |
| Robert Kitchen          |                           |
| Glen Cooper             | Board of Compensation     |
| Matthew Happyjack       |                           |
| Chief Paul Gull         | James Bay Eeyou           |
| Allan Happyjack P.Eng   | School Commissioner (CSB) |
| Irene Neeposh (interim) | Cree Board of Health      |
| Johnny Blacksmith       | Cree Trappers Association |

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chief Paul Gull     | Chairperson                    |
| Samuel C. Gull      | Director General               |
| Jonathan Sutherland | Director of Administration     |
| Henry J. Gull       | Director of Community Services |
| Naomi Awashish      | Director of Human Resources    |
| Matthew Happyjack   | Treasurer                      |
| Teresa Mark         | Corporate Secretary            |

### PORTFOLIO

|                                          |
|------------------------------------------|
| Youth                                    |
| Maintenance; Public Works                |
| Finance & Strategic Initiatives          |
| Human Resources;                         |
| Police and Justice                       |
| Health; Public Safety                    |
| Education                                |
| Culture; Environment & Natural Resources |

### LEGISLATIVE

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Paul Gull        | Chief                    |
| Teresa Mark      | Corporate Secretary      |
| Mandy Gull       | Administrative Assistant |
| Deborah Hawkins  | Legal Counsel            |
| Flora B. Kitchen | Justice of the Peace     |

### GENERAL MANAGEMENT

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Samuel C. Gull | Director General            |
| Naomi Awashish | Director of Human Resources |
| Eva Icebound   | General Secretary           |
| Tommy Grant    | Chief of Police             |
|                | Police Officers             |
| Anna Saganash  | Electoral Officer           |

### ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jonathan Sutherland | Director of Administration Services |
| Lily Sutherland     | Public Health                       |
| Diane K. Cooper     | Cultural Coordinator                |
| Johnny Blacksmith   | HFT Coordinator                     |
| Marlene I. Kitchen  | Economic Development                |
| Derrick Neeposh     | Local Environment Administration    |
| Jeanne Saganash     | Benefit & Financial Counselling     |
| Diane Cooper        | Social Assistance                   |
| Allan Saganash Jr.  | Trapline; Forestry                  |
| Holly Danyluk       | Brighter Futures/Head Start         |
| Vacant              | NCBS Program                        |
| Johnny Cooper       | Healing Foundation                  |
| Johnny Grant        |                                     |

### OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

|                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Henry J. Gull      | Director of Community Services |
| Flora Gull         | Rental Housing                 |
| Bobby Blacksmith   | Public Safety                  |
| Ian Oblin          | Fire Chief & Crew              |
| Jackson Ottereyes  | Public Works                   |
| Matthew Blacksmith | Recreation                     |
| Marcel Happyjack   | Youth                          |
| Kenny Cheechoo     | Facilities Manager             |
| Vacant             | Capitol Works                  |
| John Jolly         | Communications                 |
| Gillman Ottereyes  | Announcer/Producer             |
| Donna Danyluk      | Computer Technician            |
| Sharon Gull        | General Secretary              |

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Matthew Happyjack | Treasurer          |
| Laurie Neeposh    | Special Projects   |
| Cheryl Trapper    | Senior Accountant  |
| Annette S. Gull   | General Operations |
| Shirley Matoush   | Payroll            |

