

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
*2018-2019*



Wachiya.  
Greetings.  
Bonjour.

Photography  
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(except where indicated otherwise)

Design and Illustration  
DESIGN IS YUMMY



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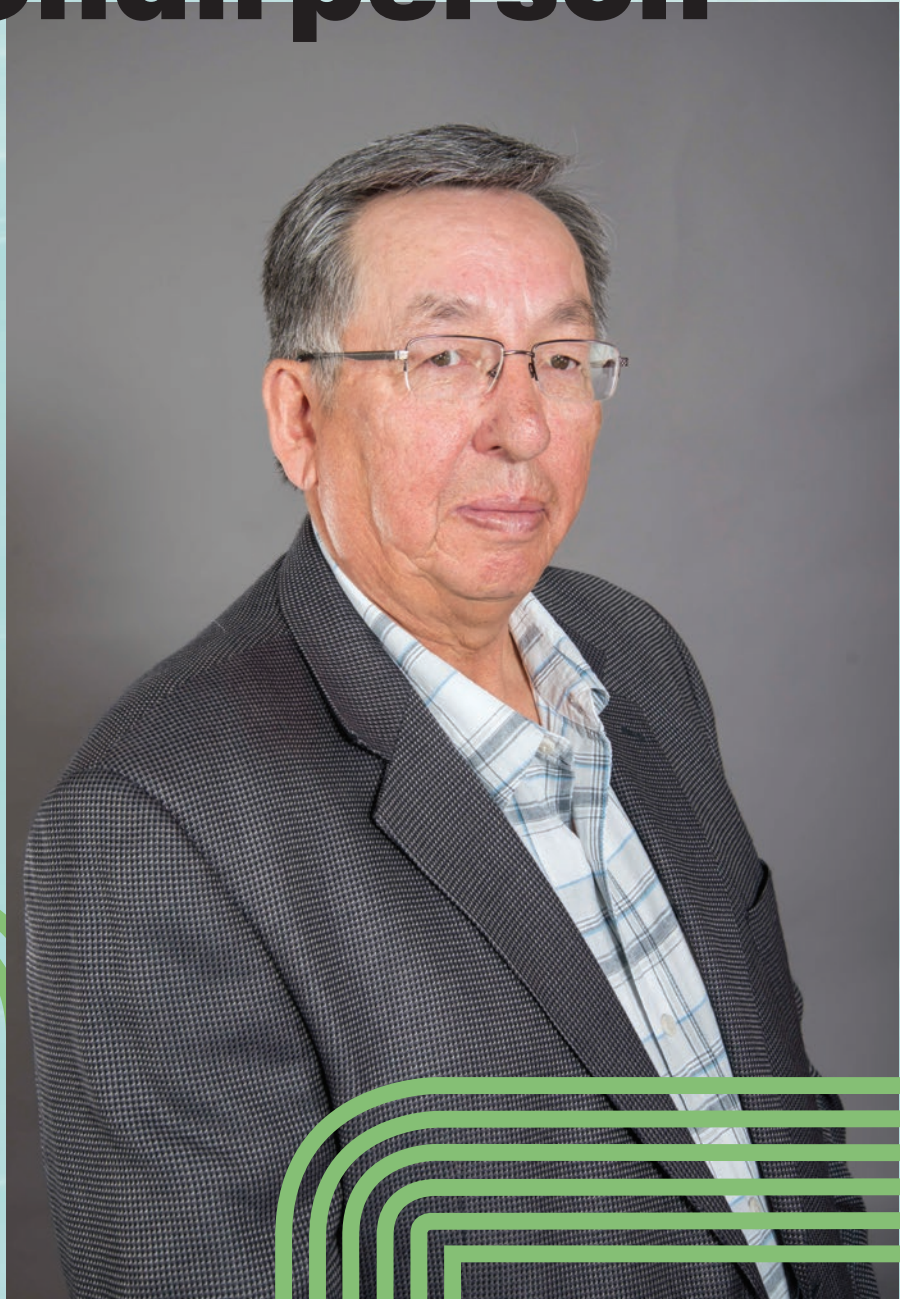
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# About Niskamoon

# Message from the Chairperson



## Kwey! Wachiya! Greetings!

The year 2018-2019 marks my first full year as Chairperson at Niskamoon Corporation. Over this period, I have been able to gain a better appreciation of how this small organization operates, and its responsibility towards the Cree Nation. It has been challenging, but at the same time rewarding to have worked with so many dedicated individuals. I have also been fortunate to represent Niskamoon at various gatherings in different communities. This has given me the opportunity to talk with our clients first-hand, to listen to their opinions and appreciate the many challenges our land users continue to face in order to carry out the traditional Cree way of life.

I would like to take this opportunity to address one particular issue that has come up on numerous occasions and in different communities. There is the perception that Hydro-Québec funding will eventually dry up and Niskamoon Corporation will shut down. Niskamoon Corporation manages numerous funds stemming from several different agreements. It is true that some funds do have a defined ending, and many of these have in fact been completed in recent years. However, there are other funds that are meant to be in place so long as Hydro-Québec infrastructure will be present on the territory. This means that there will always be support for the Cree traditional lifestyle, whether managed by Niskamoon or some other organization in the future. Niskamoon has no intention of shutting down operations, nor does it anticipate doing so in the future.

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On the contrary, our organization continues to invest in the long-term well-being of Cree land users. This is the idea behind the Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program, a large-scale project we are carrying out with six different Canadian universities. This project seeks to better understand the ecology of eelgrass beds, an extremely important habitat for our coastal hunters. The study is meant to be a collaboration between land users and scientists, where western science and Cree Traditional Ecological Knowledge work together for the benefit of all. We look forward to sharing the results of this study in this Annual Report, as well as over the next two years.

Niskamoon Corporation takes very seriously its responsibility to ensure that the environmental and social impacts of hydroelectric development are identified, understood and properly remediated for the well-being of Cree land use and traditional practices. However, we cannot do this job alone. We depend on the active participation of Cree hunters, fishers and trappers in the many projects we fund and develop. We hope that this relationship will continue to grow for many years to come!

Finally, I would just like to extend a word of welcome to a new Board member who joined the team in 2018, Mr. Ryan Erless. Good to have you on the team, Ryan!

Ginskoumdinnaan,

**William MacLeod, M.S.M.**

Niskamoon Corporation Chairperson

# Message from the Vice-Chairperson



## Wachiya, greetings, bonjour,

This year as Niskamoon Vice-Chairperson has been a great learning experience for me, filled with rewarding moments. It is always gratifying to actively participate in an organization that is founded on collaboration and sharing. The on-going partnership between the Crees and Hydro-Québec has always been of major importance for Hydro-Québec. Only together can the Crees and Hydro-Québec identify areas of improvement while developing solutions. This partnership is constantly evolving and will undoubtedly continue to be an important one in the future. This is why I am so honoured to be part of Niskamoon Corporation.

I could not talk about collaboration without mentioning the Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program. This program is a three-year multi-disciplinary research program aiming to address knowledge gaps in understanding the effects of environmental changes along the coast of Eeyou Istchee. It also puts emphasis on eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) and its relationship with wildlife upon which the Crees depend, with particular attention to migrating waterfowl. Since the beginning of the project, at the end of 2016, the steering committee, composed of community representatives and experts from different fields of research and organizations, such as Niskamoon, Hydro-Québec, and The Canadian Wildlife Service, has met more than 20 times to discuss the various aspects of the study. These meetings allow each representative to take part in decisions concerning each aspect of the program, such as the choice of a university researcher, the preparation of the terms of reference and the coordination of the fieldwork. Each member undertakes to review the preliminary results and ensures that the research is carried out in harmony with the uses of the territory by the Crees and that the results will eventually meet the concerns of the latter. Five university researchers' teams are working on this program, in constant collaboration with the Cree land users.

This program shows that joining Cree traditional knowledge and western science is the best way to obtain results representative of the region. The best way to achieve holistic and objective studies is to combine these two systems of knowledge, a work that could not be accomplished without the valuable collaboration of the land users and the Cree elders.

Meegwetch, thank you, merci.

**Mathieu Boucher**

Niskamoon Corporation Vice-Chairperson



# Niskamoon Agreement



This Agreement calls for the creation of our not-for-profit organization, Niskamoon Corporation (*which will be referred to as Niskamoon*). The principal objectives of the agreement include that Niskamoon:

- Facilitates, simplifies and accelerates access to the benefits, measures, resources, and programs under the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements for the Cree people, communities, and other entities.
- Provides a more efficient framework for cooperation between the Cree Nation and Hydro-Québec with respect to the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.
- Provides more effective mechanisms for the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.
- Streamlines and renders more effective the administrative costs to the Cree people associated with the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.
- Enhances the coherence of the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec agreements.

# Mandate

Niskamoon Corporation provides an efficient framework for cooperation between the Crees and Hydro-Québec.

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

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

# Core Values

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

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

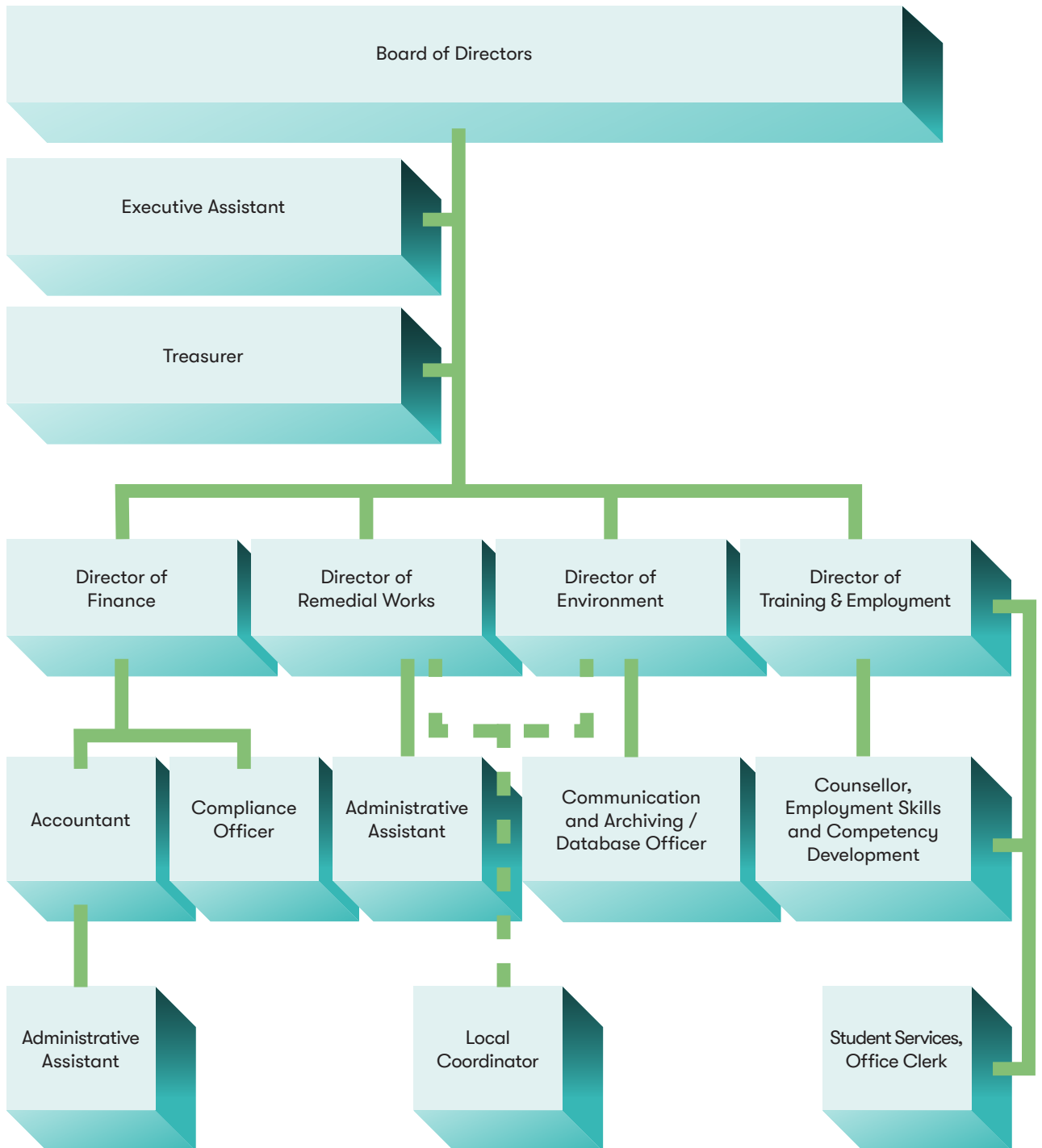
By observing these core values in the proposal approval process, projects and activities funded by Niskamoon become models for future development in the region.

# Operating Budget and Administrative Agreement with the Cree Nation Government



Niskamoon approved a **total operating budget of \$1,803,238** for the financial year of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. This amount is drawn from the Funds managed or controlled by the Corporation in accordance with the provisions of Sub-section 3.7.2 of the Niskamoon Agreement. As Niskamoon represents the arm of the Cree Nation Government (CNG) in relations with Hydro-Québec, we maintain a close working relationship with the CNG through an administrative agreement.

# Organizational Chart



# Board of Directors

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The Niskamoon Board of Directors consists of eight people appointed by members of Niskamoon, namely, from the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

**Please note** that while Hydro-Québec is not a member of the Corporation, it recommends three Directors to our Board.

**DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY THE CREE NATION GOVERNMENT:**



William MacLeod  
Chairperson



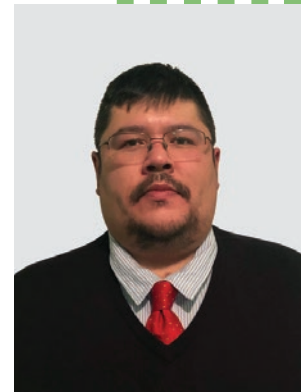
Matthew Wapachee  
Director



Emily Whiskeychan  
Director



George Bobbish  
Director



Ryan Erless  
Director

**DIRECTORS RECOMMENDED BY HYDRO QUEBEC AND APPOINTED BY THE CREE NATION GOVERNMENT:**



Mathieu Boucher  
Vice-Chairperson



Réal Courcelles  
Director



Daniel Lauzon  
Director

# Staff



Matthew Swallow  
Treasurer



Kevin Roussel  
Corporate Secretary



Leo Parent-Sirois  
Corporate Secretary



Robbie Tapiatic  
Director,  
Remedial Works



Marc Dunn  
Director,  
Environment



Diane Thibault  
Director, Training  
& Employment

**FORMER STAFF,  
WHO HAVE LEFT  
NISKAMOON:**



until June, 2018  
Cynthia Taylor  
Communication  
& Archiving/  
Database Officer



until June, 2018  
Daniel Bernier  
Director, Finance

June, 2018 - March, 2019  
Edward Ng  
Interim Finance Director



Denise White  
Director, Finance



Linda Corston  
Executive Assistant



Marie Anne Wapachee  
Accountant



Noreen Moar  
Compliance Officer



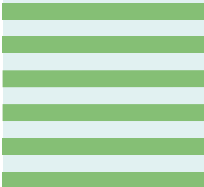
Diane Moar  
Administrative  
Assistant



Shirley Chiskamish  
Administrative  
Assistant



Julie Sylvestre  
Office Clerk  
Student Services





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# **Year in Review**

# 2018 - 2019 Calendar

## ▼ APRIL 2018 - No Meeting

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## ▼ MAY 2018 - No Meeting

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## ▼ JUNE 2018 - MONTREAL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## ▼ JULY 2018 - No Meeting

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## ▼ AUGUST 2018 - No Meeting

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## ▼ SEPTEMBER 2018 - WASKAGANISH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

▼ **OCTOBER 2018 - No Meeting**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

▼ **NOVEMBER 2018 - No Meeting**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

▼ **DECEMBER 2018 - GATINEAU**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

▼ **JANUARY 2019 - No Meeting**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

▼ **FEBRUARY 2019 - No Meeting**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

▼ **MARCH 2019 - No Meeting**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

■ Deadline for the local coordinators to submit the proposals (3 weeks prior to board meeting)

■ Deadline for the regional directors to send the list of proposals to be tabled at the upcoming board meeting (1 week prior to board meeting)

■ Meeting of the board of directors of the Niskamoon Corporation

■ Holiday

# Managed Funds

## A. HYDRO-QUÉBEC AND EYYOU FUND

This Fund was established in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between Hydro-Québec and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee (“HQ-Eeyou Agreement”). The Fund consists of an annual contribution of **\$7,000,000** (in 2004 dollars) paid by Hydro-Québec.

It is designed to provide long-term funding in response to the impact of the La Grande Complex on the activities, economy, environment, and social well-being of the Cree people. The Fund will continue to exist as long as the La Grande Complex is in operation. In accordance with sub-section 4.3 of the HQ-Eeyou Agreement, the contribution of Hydro-Québec to the Fund for the financial year 2018-2019 was **\$8,886,557.89**.





*B.*      **CREE EMPLOYMENT FUND**

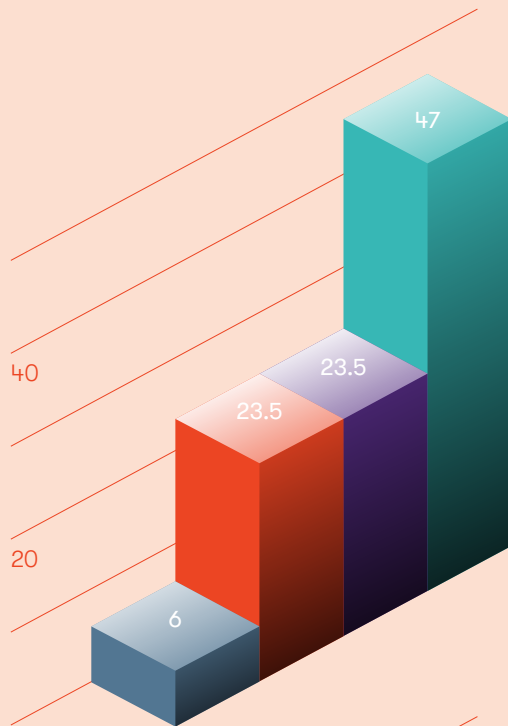
The Fund was created in accordance with the Cree Employment Agreement. While it was held and disbursed by Hydro-Québec, it was subject to the control of Niskamoon. It was primarily designed to provide funding to the **Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec (TEHQ) Program**. Hydro-Québec's final contribution of **\$5,909,900** was in 2016-2017. A portion of these funds was carried forward into the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

### C. **NADOSHTIN AGREEMENT AND FUNDS**

They were created to safeguard the rights of the Cree people and provide them with certain benefits in connection with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Eastmain-1 Project.

The Agreement calls for environmental, remedial, and mitigating measures designed to reduce the negative impacts of the Project, particularly on the populations of Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, and Waskaganish, and allocates compensation where appropriate. It enabled road access and use of fish and wildlife resources during the Project's construction phase and continues to do so during its operating phase. In addition, it fosters increasing community development through Project-related contracts, employment, and training opportunities for Cree individuals and businesses.

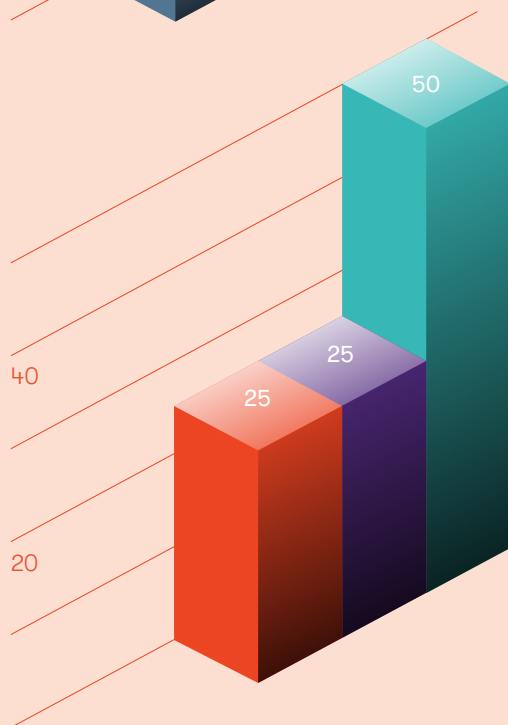
Two funds were created to support the aims of the Nadoshtin Agreement: (1) the **Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund** and (2) the **Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund**.



### Nadoshtin Remedial Measures Fund

It was established to address the negative impacts of the Eastmain-1 Project. The Fund is designed to enable Cree people living in the impacted area to pursue traditional activities and enhance the quality and productivity of environmental and biological resources.

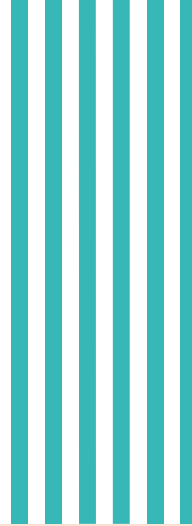
The Fund’s initial endowment was **\$18,000,000** (in 2002 dollars), which is to be disbursed over a period of 15 years. The Fund is allocated to target communities as shown.



### Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund

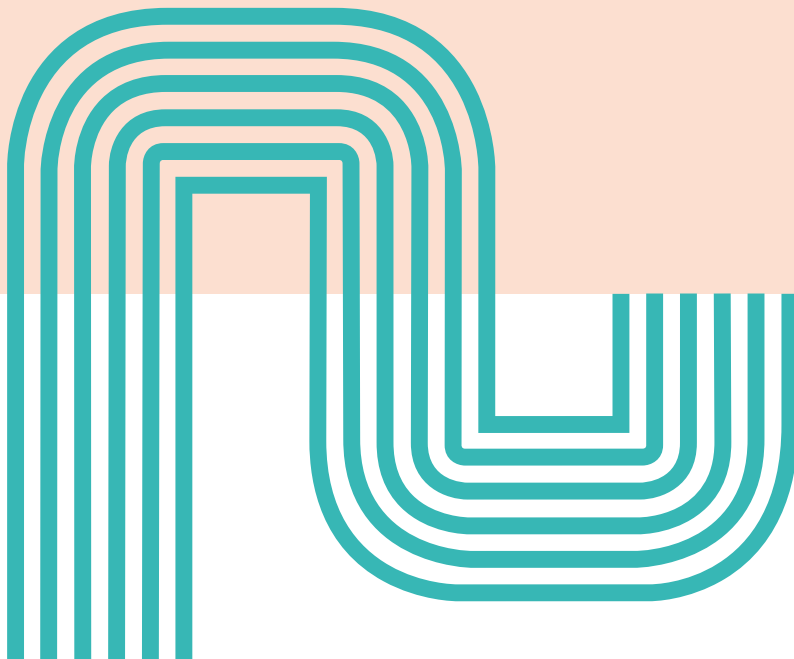
The Fund was created to foster opportunities for the trappers of Eastmain, Mistissini, and Nemaska directly affected by the Eastmain-1 Project. It promotes traditional activities and provides the means to mitigate the effects of the Project. Its initial endowment was **\$3,900,000** (in 2002 dollars), and funds are allocated as such.

Graph figures in percent



D. **BOUMHOUNAN AGREEMENT AND FUNDS**

The Boumhounan Agreement was created to address the impacts of the Eastmain 1-A Rupert River Partial Diversion and La Sarcelle Project. In turn, three funds were created to support aims of the Boumhounan Agreement: (1) the **Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund**, (2) the **Boumhounan Eenou Indohoun Fund**, and (3) the **Boumhounan Eastmain 1-A Rupert Mercury Fund**.



**Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund**

It is designed to promote environmental and remedial works as a means of mitigating the negative impacts of the Eastmain 1-A Rupert River Partial Diversion and La Sarcelle Project. In so doing, it enables the Cree people to pursue their traditional activities in the areas affected by the Project. The Fund’s initial endowment was **\$32,000,000** (in 2002 dollars).

**Boumhounan Eenou Indohoun Fund**

This Fund is similar to the Nadoshtin Eenou Indohoun Fund in that it is designed to create opportunities for the trappers of the communities of Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish, and Wemindji directly affected by the Eastmain 1-A Rupert River Partial Diversion and La Sarcelle Project. Moreover, it promotes traditional activities and provides the means to mitigate the effects of the Project. The Fund’s initial endowment was **\$3,900,000** (in 2002 dollars).

▼ COMMUNITY	▼ TRAPLINES									
Whapmagoostui	RE 1	VC 34	VC 35	VC37						
Chisasibi	M 18	M 25	M 26	M 33						
Wemindji	N 23	N 24	N 24A	N 25	R 16	R 17	R 18	R 19	R 20	R 21
Eastmain	N 1	N 2	N 9	R 4	R 5	R 11	R 12	R 13		
Waskaganish	VC 20	VC 21	VC 22	VC 23	VC 28					

**E. OPIMISCOW INDOHO FUND**

It was established through the Opimiscow Agreement and is designed to support various types of activities and programs, including:

- ▶ Trappers' cabins
- ▶ Communications infrastructure
- ▶ Trapline management
- ▶ Self-insurance plans
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Traditional practices

The Fund consists of annual contributions of **\$500,000** (in 1994 dollars) paid by Hydro-Québec to Niskamoon on the first working day of every year until 2043.

The annual payment for 2018-2019 was **\$763,023**, allocated as follows:

▼ COMMUNITY	▼ PERCENT	▼ AMOUNT
Whapmagoostui	70	\$534,116
Chisasibi	30	\$228,907

# The Re-appropriation and Continued Use Program

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

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

The Re-appropriation Agreement also provides a mechanism by which the many obligations, guarantees, and conditions of authorization can be jointly assessed by the parties at regular intervals. In addition, there are a number of these same conditions for which the Cree party, through the Niskamoon Corporation in close collaboration with the affected communities, assumes responsibility for the implementation of programs.

The Re-appropriation and Continued Use Agreement includes the creation of three funds to carry out obligations and address the various impacts of the project identified in the Agreement:

## 1. THE CONTINUED USE AND RE-APPROPRIATION FUND

The Continued Use and Re-appropriation Fund consists of **\$2,750,000** indexed from 2012 for projects, works, studies, programs, and remedial and enhancement measures within the affected territory in accordance with the following principles:

- ▶ Allow for the continued use and re-appropriation of the territory
- ▶ Promote and facilitate the pursuit of traditional activities by Cree land users
- ▶ Direct funds to projects that promote traditional fisheries, the passing on of traditional knowledge about fishing, and the adaptation of traditional fishing methods
- ▶ Contribute to the regeneration and a better understanding of wildlife habitat
- ▶ Promote sustainability

Hydro-Québec's contribution to the Continued Use and Re-appropriation Fund for the 2018/2019 fiscal year was **\$2,990,825**.

Specific processes have been put forward by Niskamoon Corporation to gather requests and complaints from land users. This includes communication channels directly involving community Niskamoon Officers to identify requests and complaints directly from land users. In addition, regional representatives meet regularly with land users from each of the traplines impacted by the project during the joint Niskamoon-Hydro-Québec Tours. During these meetings, participants review and refine short and long-term land use plans in accordance with the measures they wish to carry out. New impacts associated with the project are identified and categorized, with efforts made to come up with joint solutions to remedy the problems. This process ensures a role for land users in the identification of potential solutions when problems identified are related to human impacts from the project. It should be noted that in 2016, an online platform was created by which the notes from these meetings can be shared online in real time with all stakeholders (Niskamoon Interactive Consultation Database – “NICD”).

On the other hand, Hydro-Québec, within the framework of its operation activities, meets regularly with community members and land users. Requests and complaints are often brought to its attention during such meetings. While some are dealt with directly by Hydro-Québec, in the case of issues related to human impacts from the project, and following a

joint Cree-Hydro-Québec review, these are forwarded to Niskamoon to be addressed. In such cases, the issue is re-visited in the company of land users during the Niskamoon-Hydro-Québec Tour.

Numerous projects funded through the Re-appropriation funds are a direct result of this consultation process. Projects that directly involve traplines can be identified as one of two types:

1. Projects that directly address a human impact of the project identified by land users and confirmed by regional and local representatives.
2. Projects that enhance Cree land use of affected areas, thereby ensuring their continued use with future generations.

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

## **2. THE SPECIFIC NAVIGATION FUND**

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For the benefit of the community of Waskaganish, Hydro-Québec has paid \$9,750,000 to the Niskamoon Corporation to address issues relating to navigation in the Rupert River estuary, specifically access to the Rupert Bay by the northern navigation channel. To date, no specific projects have been identified for this fund.

It should be noted that in addition to these funds, Hydro-Québec agreed to develop, in close collaboration with the community of Waskaganish, waterfront facilities also designed to improve access and navigation in the Rupert River estuary. This work was completed in November 2015.

## **3. THE SPECIFIC TRAINING FUND**

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

## RE-APPROPRIATION AND CONTINUED USE PROGRAM

The Niskamoon Corporation has the mandate to administer programs related to the Re-appropriation and Continued Use Agreement and report on the funding at the end of each year in its annual report. Projects funded under the new Fund are summarized below.

Projects funded under the Continued Use and Re-appropriation Funds are presented below according to the specific issues that they are meant to address, including those done directly by Cree land users as a result of the consultation process presented in the previous section. It should be noted that many projects stem from specific assurances, guarantees, and conditions of authorization assumed by the Cree party according to Schedule 4.1 of the Agreement. These are noted in each sub-section below.

## Funded Projects - 2018

The section below outlines the different projects funded by a broad category. The conditions that the projects cover and the resolution numbers for each individual project are provided. Finally, a short text is provided describing the projects and outcomes to date, where applicable.

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### SMOKEY HILL TRADITIONAL FISHING SITE

Conditions 5.21, 5.22, 5.23; Boumhounan Agreement Section 4.2(c)

#### **Resolution 1819-034 – Waskaganish**

*Support and Preservation of Fishing at Smokey Hill*

This project encompasses the consultation and planning with Waskaganish land users for the various projects to be carried out at the Smokey Hill traditional site. The project also attempts to identify areas where community fishing activities can be carried out, in order to promote this activity among all community members. Generally, all projects presented below are coordinated through this consultation and planning mechanism. The responsibility for this mandate is given to the Siibii Development Corporation, a local Waskaganish organization.

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#### **Resolution 1819-031 – Waskaganish**

*Construction of Scooping Weirs*

This project encompasses the work carried out at Smokey Hill prior to fishing to ensure that the sites are ready to receive people during the traditional fishery, including re-construction of fishing sites on both sides of the rapids.

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**Resolution 1819-038 – Waskaganish***Traditional Fishing at Kachikasuuk Fishing Site (Nottaway River)***Resolution 1819-032 – Waskaganish***Traditional Fishing at Kaapeshii Bay (Rupert River)***Resolution 1819-036 – Waskaganish***Fishing and Fish Distribution at Mouth of Rupert River***Resolution 1819-035 – Waskaganish***Smokey Hill Community Fishing - 2018*

These projects consist of community fishing activities during the fall cisco and whitefish migration run along the Rupert and Nottaway Rivers. It includes conducting fishing activity at the mouth prior to the arrival of fall migrants to Smokey Hill, in order to inform the community of the progress of the run. These projects have been developed at the request of, and with input from impacted land users.

As in previous years, a community fishing project was carried out at Smokey Hill during the cisco migration in fall 2018. The program focuses on training youth in the harvesting, cleaning, preparing and cooking of fish and their various parts employing traditional methods.

**Resolution 1819-120 – Waskaganish***Smokey Hill Gathering*

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These projects are intended to enrich the experience at Smokey Hill as well as to further attract community members to the site. Log cabins have been built at various locations in and around Smokey Hill, using traditional materials. The project has been used as a training opportunity for youth to build structures utilizing natural materials.

As in previous years, a gathering was organized by the Waskaganish Cultural Department during the fishing season at Smokey Hill. The gathering is an effective means of getting community-members to the Smokey Hill site. This event was once again supported in part by Niskamoon Corporation.

**Resolution 1819-028 – Waskaganish***Voluntary Cisco Registry 2018*

Local youth were hired to monitor the cisco catch, which was reported on a voluntary basis both by participants of the community fishing project as well as community members fishing on their own accord. In 2018, 16,799 cisco and an additional 350 walleye and whitefish were caught during the fall run. This marks the third year in a row that the cisco catch exceeded 15,000 fish for the year.

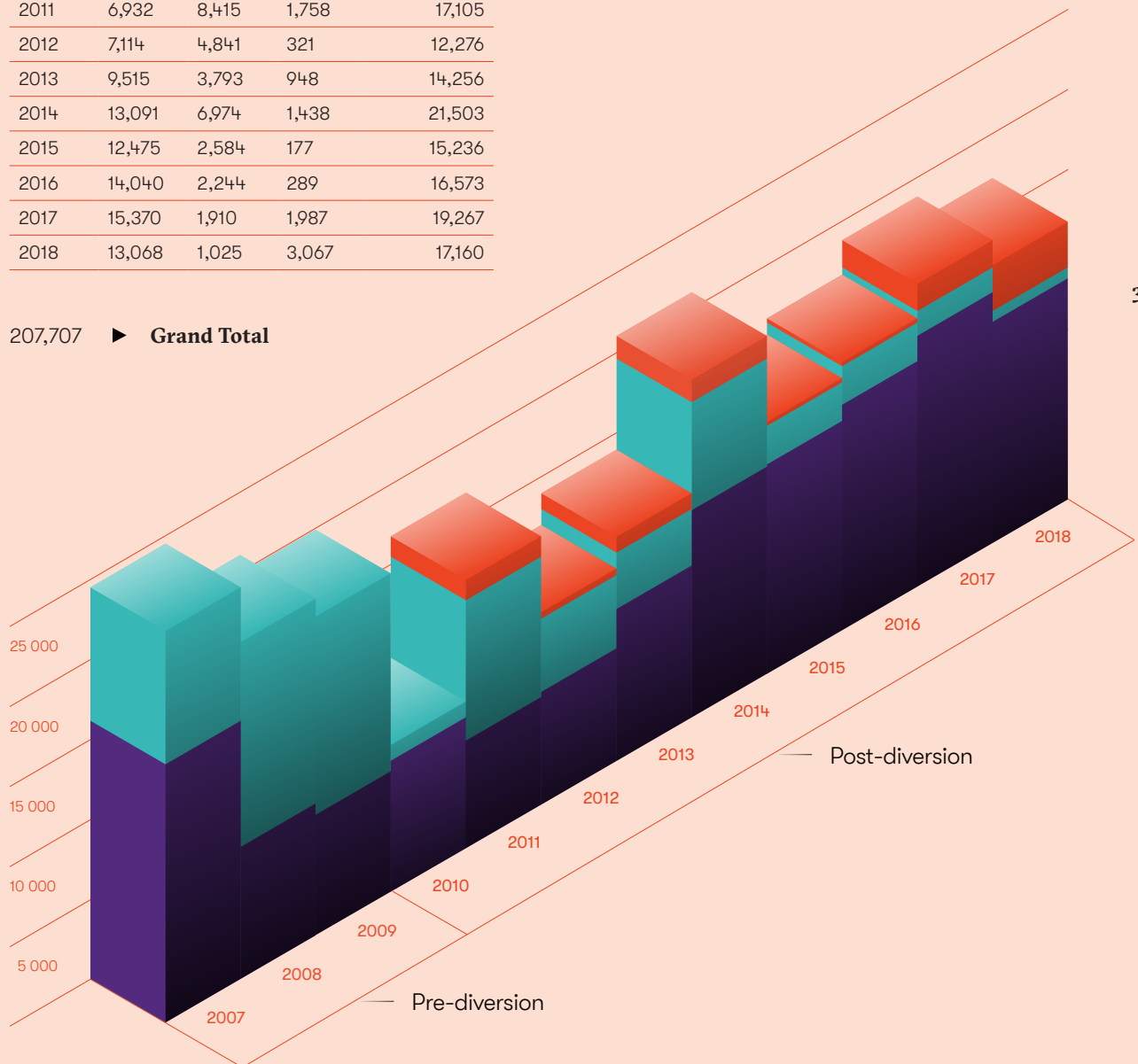
**Resolution 1819-028**

**WASKAGANISH FISHING NUMBERS, BY YEAR AND FISHING METHOD**

in %

	Year	Gill Nets	Scooping	Seine	Grand Total
Pre-diversion	2007	16,273	8,175	--	24,448
	2008	8,607	12,797	--	21,404
	2009	7,633	12,318	--	19,951
Post-diversion	2010	7,263	1,265		8,528
	2011	6,932	8,415	1,758	17,105
	2012	7,114	4,841	321	12,276
	2013	9,515	3,793	948	14,256
	2014	13,091	6,974	1,438	21,503
	2015	12,475	2,584	177	15,236
	2016	14,040	2,244	289	16,573
	2017	15,370	1,910	1,987	19,267
	2018	13,068	1,025	3,067	17,160

207,707 ► **Grand Total**



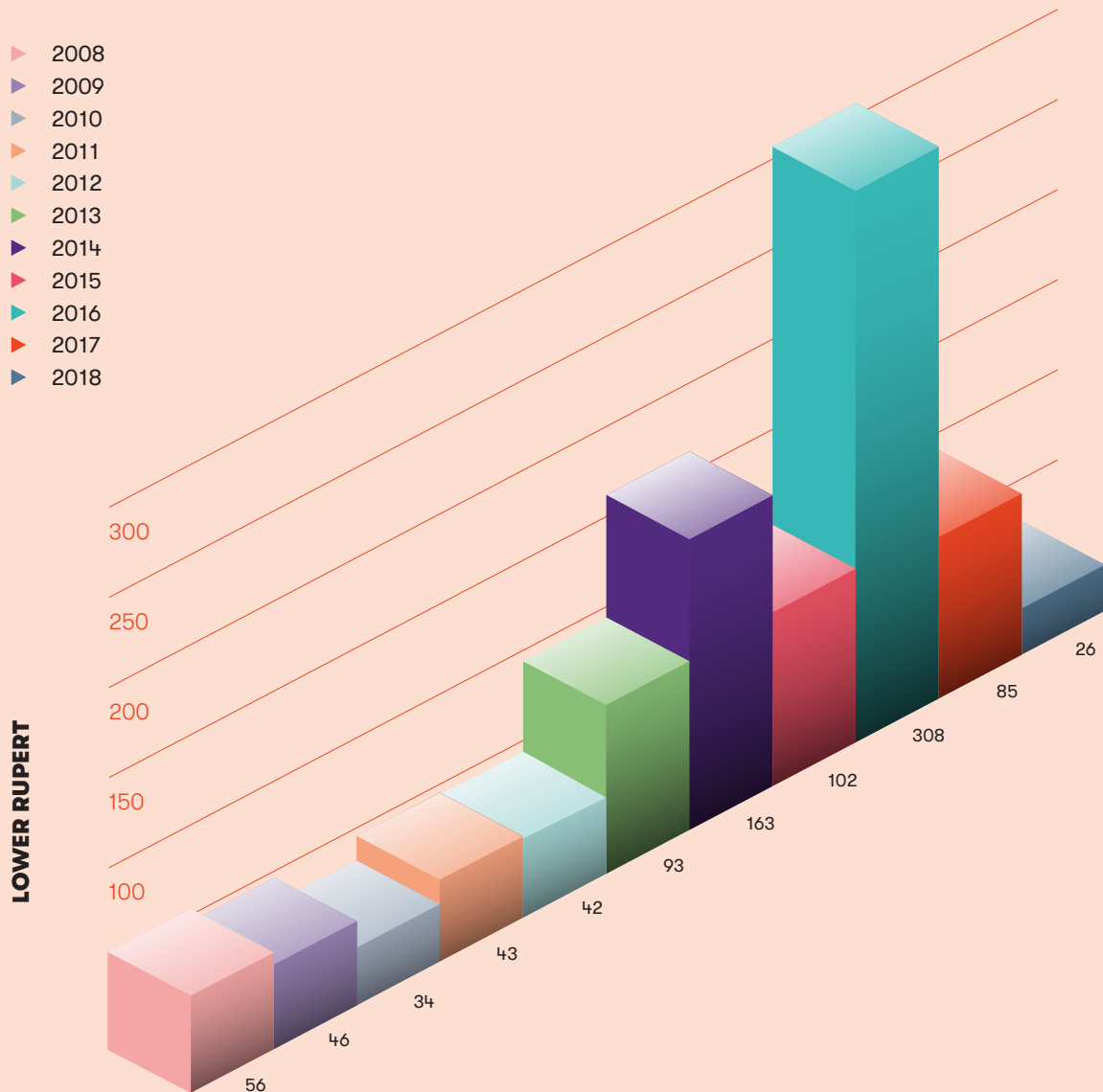
**LAKE STURGEON HARVESTING**

Condition 5.26; Boumhounan Agreement Section 4.2(c)

**Resolution 1819-029 – Waskaganish**

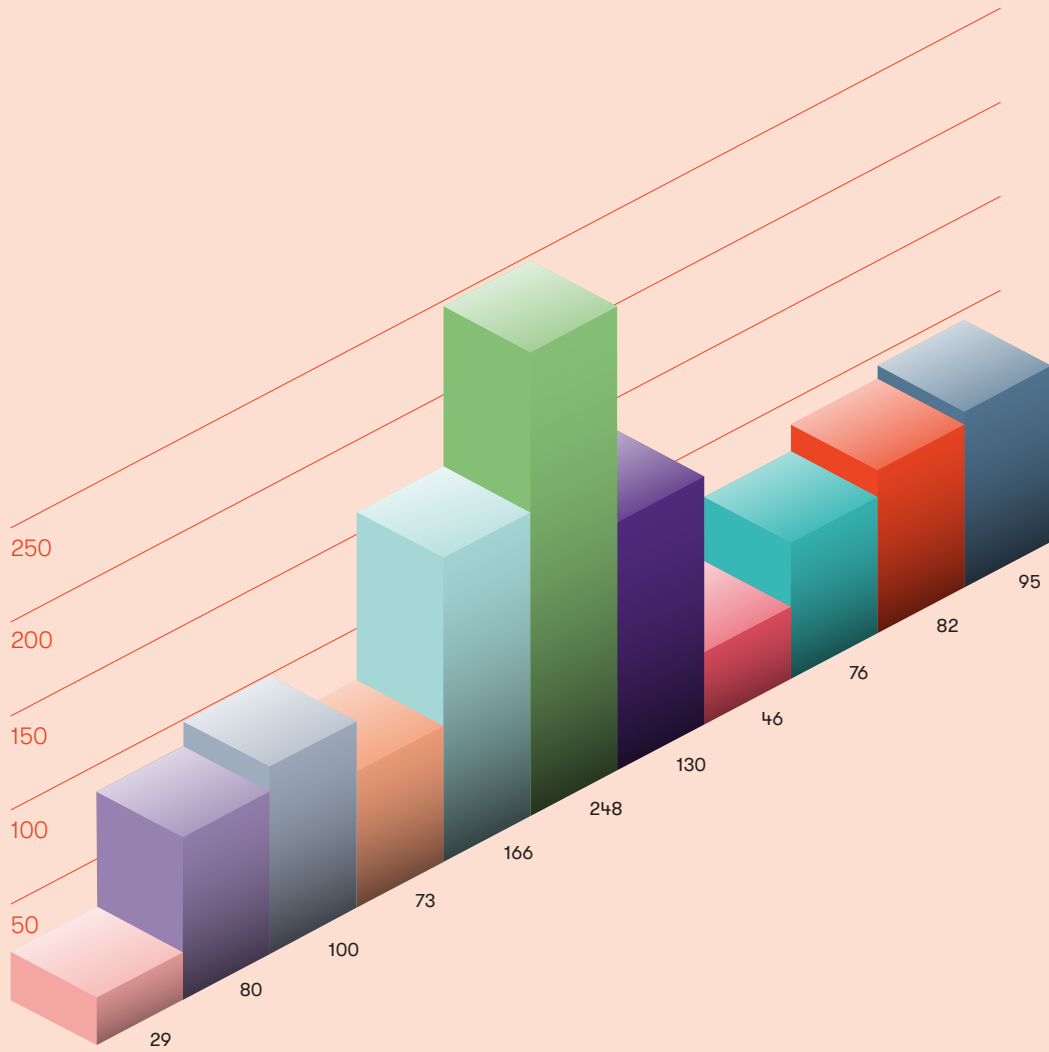
*Voluntary Registration of Lake Sturgeon Catches, 2018*

A total of 145 lake sturgeon were caught along the Rupert River in Waskaganish territory. The lake sturgeon catch in Waskaganish has progressively declined over the last three years. A significantly higher number of fish were caught and then released. According to fishermen, the reason for releasing these fish was their small size. Note that no fishermen noted unhealthy fish caught in their nets. Harvests declined in all zones except for the area between KP33 and KP49 (Kapeshi Bay). Harvests per fisherman were either consistent with previous years or decreased in 2018.

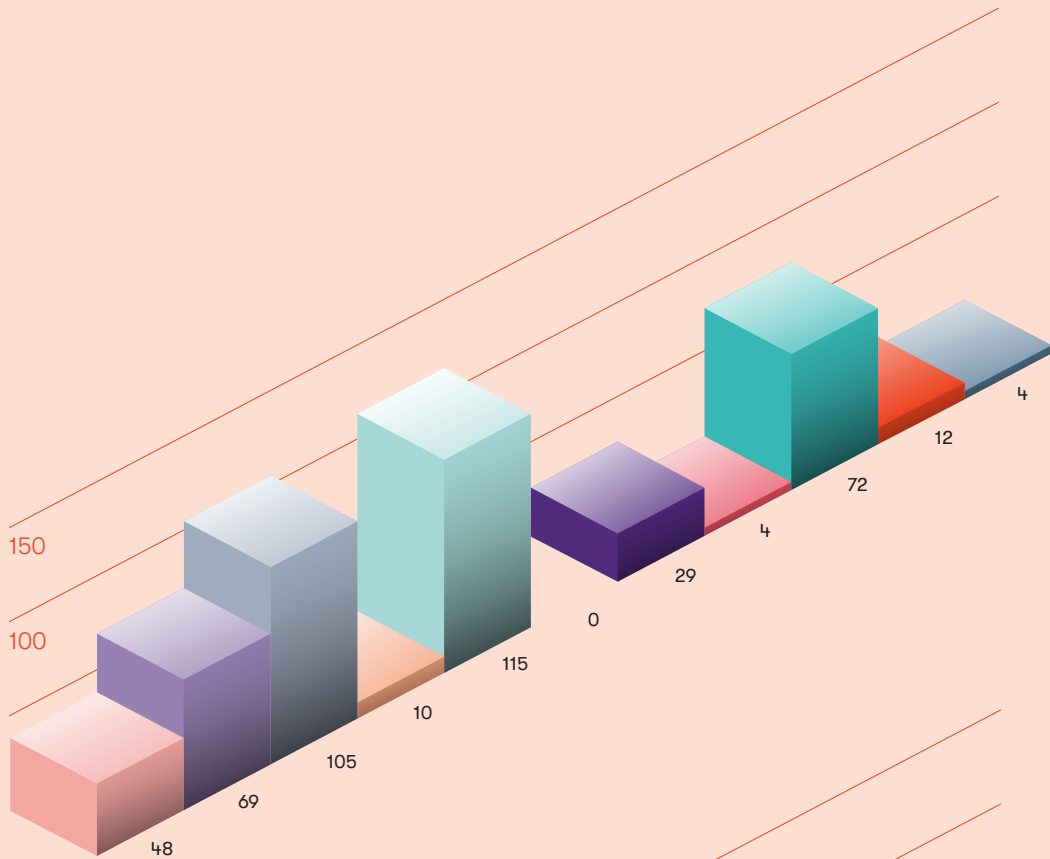


- ▶ 2008
- ▶ 2009
- ▶ 2010
- ▶ 2011
- ▶ 2012
- ▶ 2013
- ▶ 2014
- ▶ 2015
- ▶ 2016
- ▶ 2017
- ▶ 2018

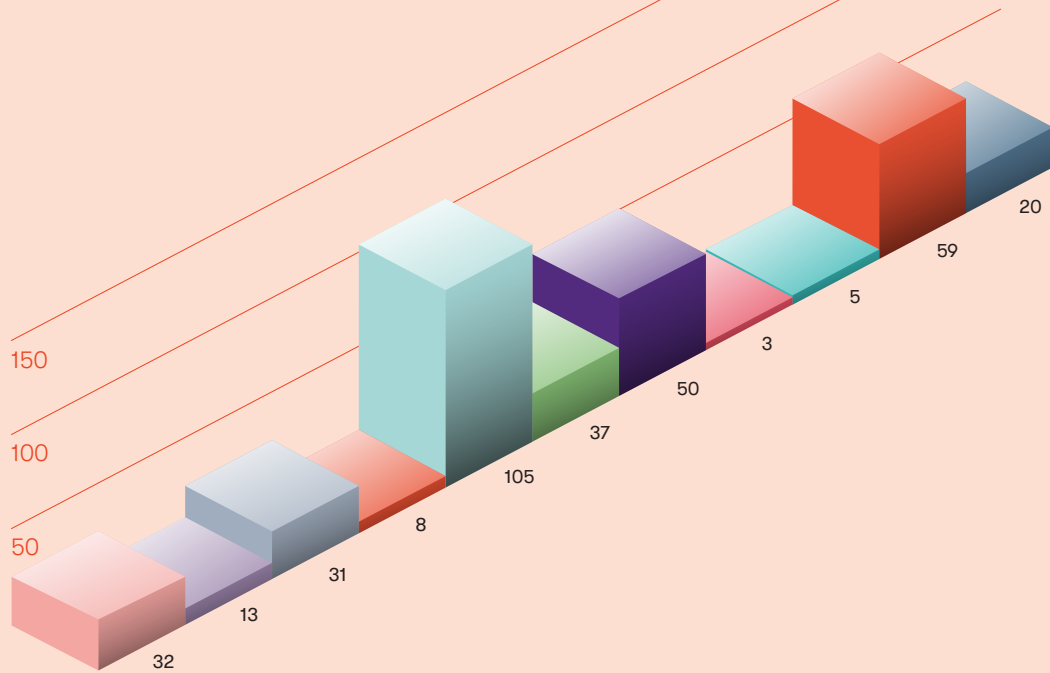
**ISAAC'S KAPESHI BAY**



**KAPESHI BAY - OATMEAL RAPIDS**



**UPPER RUPERT**



## **CREE FISHERIES REJUVENATION AND ENHANCEMENT**

Conditions 6.5 & 6.10

### **Resolution 1819-039 – Waskaganish**

*R-04 Fishery Project*

### **Resolution 1819-045 – Nemaska**

*M-33 Summer Fishing Project*

This project seeks to train youth in traditional fishing. Emphasis is placed on training future land users, such that the entire process of fishing is taught, from maintaining a camp to locating important fishing areas to preparing and cooking harvested fish.

## **CANOE BRIGADES**

Condition 6.18

### **Resolution 1819-043 – Nemaska**

*Youth Canoe Brigade*

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## **NAVIGATION ALONG REDUCED FLOW SECTOR OF THE RUPERT RIVER**

Condition 6.10 & 6.20; Boumhounan Agreement Section 4.2(f)

### **Resolution 1819-033 – Waskaganish**

*Maintenance and Reparation of Shoreline Infrastructure*

This project involves the maintenance of infrastructure used by coastal land users. Works carried out in 2018 were to bring minor corrections to the original works as well as to enhance areas with new boat racks and general landscaping.

## **MONITORING OF ICE CONDITIONS**

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

### **Resolution 1819-123 – Waskaganish**

*Ice Monitoring Program*

### **Resolution 1819-190 – Waskaganish**

*Hummocked Ice Pilot Project*

### **Resolution 1819-192 – Nemaska**

*Ice Safety Monitoring*

In 2018/2019, monitoring was carried out in both Waskaganish and Nemaska to verify the safety along the main travel routes in both communities. Special concern was given to routes prior to the spring goose hunt.

In response to specific concerns raised by Waskaganish coastal land users, a pilot project was launched to develop tools to travel across ridges of hummocked ice that form near the community. The project was developed in collaboration with Groupe LaSalle, the same firm responsible for the Hydro-Québec ice monitoring program in the same area.

### **TRAPLINE PROJECTS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC HUMAN IMPACTS**

Condition 6.9 & 6.10

The following projects were carried out to address specific impacts identified related to the project.

#### **Resolution 1819-044 – Nemaska**

*Trapline N-24 – ATV Trail & Goose Hunting Area*

This project is a continuation from previous years, with a goal of enhancing existing goose hunting sites as well as identifying alternative ones for land users. Once the spring instream flow regime is activated, land users lose significant hunting habitat along the Rupert River due to high water levels.

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### **TRAPLINE PROJECTS TO ENHANCE AND PROMOTE CONTINUED USE OF IMPACTED LANDS**

Condition 6.10

#### **Resolution 1819-037 – Waskaganish**

*Trapline N-1 – Waterfront Works – Kapeshi Bay*

Objective: to improve access to fishing areas in the vicinity of Kapeshi Bay for community members.

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#### **Resolution 1819-124 – Waskaganish**

*Trapline N-2 – ATV Trails & Parking Zones*

Objective: To improve access to harvesting areas on the N-2 trapline. The project was carried out by trapline land users.

**Resolution 1819-040 – Waskaganish***Trapline R-4 – Ramp Crossing***Resolution 1819-041 – Waskaganish***Trapline R-4 – Ramp Crossing***Resolution 1819-049 – Waskaganish***Trapline R-4 – Replacement of Camp*

Objective: To improve access to various areas on trapline R-04, between the Rupert and Pontax Rivers. An additional project was carried out to replace a camp that was burned as a result of a previous project to clear some forested areas on the trapline.

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**Resolution 1819-191 – Waskaganish***Trapline R-13 – Snowmobile Trail*

Objective: To ensure user access between the Rupert River and lakes located north of the trapline.

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**Resolution 1819-139 – Nemaska***Trapline N-23 – Geese flyways and Corridors*

Objective: To improve and enhance hunting along the Rupert River in the area of the KP223 weir.

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**Resolution 1819-149 – Nemaska***Trapline R-21 – Driveway Improvements*

Objective: This project aims to improve safe access to camps located on the trapline.

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The following projects were carried out on multiple traplines for the benefit of a variety of land users, particularly during the spring goose hunt:

**Resolution 1819-030 – Waskaganish***Spring Airlift 2018 Financial Support***Resolution 1819-193 – Waskaganish***Snow Removal to Campsites***Resolution 1819-197 – Waskaganish***Snowmobile Trail Grooming*

**Resolution 1819-042 – Nemaska**

*Boat Docks*

**Resolution 1819-198 – Nemaska**

*Wood Supply for Elders*

**Resolution 1819-199 – Nemaska**

*Snow Removal to Campsites*

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The following projects are for training of youth in traditional pursuits:

**Resolution 1819-189 – Nemaska**

*Winter Journey 2019*

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Funds were used for the following cultural events, all of which were carried out on impacted lands:

**Resolution 1819-015 – Nemaska**

*Old Nemaska Gathering*

## Wachiya, greetings, bonjour,

Another year has gone by assisting Cree Land Users who continue to occupy the Eeyou Istchee territory. Special thanks goes out to the hard working Local Officers in each community who assist trappers with their requests. Also, a big thank-you to the people who continue to access the benefits that exist for them.

Remedial Works projects are created to **alleviate negative impacts** from hydro-electric development.

Back in the day, before we had Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) and before our lands were altered by development, our people would go out on their lands seasonally to gather traditional food from what they were able to harvest. This food would sustain them as they worked. Fur-bearing animal trapping would provide a modest source of income during the winter months. Men and women were constantly preparing and maintaining the tools and equipment essential for the harvest. Children would watch, learn and eventually become hunters, trappers and fishers themselves as they became older. People would do their preparations with very little monetary compensation. The reward would be the success of the harvest and the passing of traditional knowledge to the next generation.

In 1975, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed. Since then, other IBAs have been negotiated to assist the people who continue to use lands altered by development. We the Crees have set up various administrative bodies to manage these numerous agreements, one of which is Niskamoon Corporation. Niskamoon's Remedial Works program exists to ensure the continued use of lands and to provide a supplementary monetary compensation in the process. Compensation is also meant to assist trappers financially with their endeavours in pursuing traditional practices.

Today, our lifestyle that existed for centuries has now shifted from being out on the land to living in communities. People have had to adjust their way of living, some having to find salaried work as a source of income. Nevertheless, many people continue to be out on the land, and this is very important.

Every year, Niskamoon continues to fund a large number of Remedial Works projects. While the number of requests submitted is relatively stable from year to year, I do notice a slight change in the nature of projects being submitted. This probably reflects the larger changes we as Crees are living each day. As long as we stay true to the original intention of the agreements, Remedial Works will continue to support Cree land use in the future. But, everyone must understand: the greatest contribution to this program is land users continuing to practice traditional practices and culture out on the land, and that is priceless!

A big thank-you to those who have reached out to Niskamoon with their projects, and see you next year!

**Robbie Tapiatic**

Director of Remedial Works

# Remedial Works Program

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Photo: Jimmy Sam

## Remedial Works Program: Projects in 2018-2019

▼ COMMUNITY	▼ CATEGORY OF PROJECTS				TOTAL ▼
	<i>Improvement Of Access</i>	<i>Amelioration Of Shelter</i>	<i>Elder's Wood Supply</i>	<i>Enhancement of Hunting Conditions and Habitat</i>	
<b>Whapmagoostui</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	1	1	--	--	2
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	120,808	20,000	--	--	140,808
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	92	15	--	--	107
<b>Chisasibi</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	2	--	--	6	8
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	500,000	--	--	119,085	619,085
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	N/A	--	--	413	413
<b>Wemindji</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	1	--	1	1	3
<i>Budget Allocated</i>	51,651	--	25,000	12,688	122,734
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	N/A	--	N/A	150	150
<b>Eastmain</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	1	--	1	1	3
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	24,310	--	25,000	12,688	61,998
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	33	--	150	36	219
<b>Waskaganish</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	6	1	--	2	9
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	179,513	6,325	--	27,977	213,815
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	157	15	--	120	292

<b>Nemaska</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	6	29	1	5	41
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	299,735	1,058,378	25,000	81,827	1,464,940
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	2	1763	36	124	1925
<b>Waswanipi</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	12	3	1	--	16
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	384,950.00	52,332.00	25,000.00	--	462,282
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	433	180	N/A	--	613
<b>Oujé-Bougoumou</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	3	4	1	2	10
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	124,909	72,848	25,000	41,415	264,172
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	30	179	20	75	304
<b>Mistissini</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	8	13	--	1	22
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	157,739	348,212	--	21,673	527,624
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	118	764	--	126	1008
<b>Washaw Siibi</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	--	--	1	--	1
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	--	--	25,000	--	25,000
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	--	--	140	--	140
<b>TOTAL</b>					
<i>Amount of Projects</i>	40	51	6	18	115
<i>Budget Allocated (CAD)</i>	1,842,615	1,558,095	150,000	351,748	3,902,458
<i>Total Employment in Person-days</i>	865	2,916	346	1,044	5,171

# Niskamoon Community Contribution Agreement



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In summer 2017, a presentation was made by Niskamoon Corporation at the Directors and Treasurers meeting of the nine Cree communities affected by the Niskamoon Agreement. The presentation touched on the absorbing of the six Monitoring Committee representatives as well by Niskamoon and the subsequent elimination of both this and the Niskamoon Local Coordinator position, to be **replaced by the new Niskamoon Officer position**. This new position would retain the previous responsibilities of the Local Coordinator, while adding for five communities (Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Eastmain and Wemindji), other responsibilities related to the continued representation for their respective communities on the Monitoring Committee.

Thus, the roles of the Niskamoon Officer are as follows:

**CORE FUNCTIONS:**

Under the direction of **Niskamoon**, the Niskamoon Officer shall carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. report regularly to the Chief and Council and members of the community on the progress of the activities of **Niskamoon** for example: status of specific projects, funds available for projects, etc.
- B. inform the Chief and Council and members of the community on the nature of the projects that can be eligible from the different Funds managed by **Niskamoon** through reports, information sessions and or the holding of community workshops.
- C. assist promoters of projects in their preparation of proposals and in the preparation of reports required under project approval agreements or conditions.
- D. act as a liaison with the other Niskamoon Officers.
- E. direct proposals for projects to the right Niskamoon Regional Director for approval by the Board of Directors of **Niskamoon**, including assuring that the proposals respect the guidelines provided by **Niskamoon** for a specific program and that the required information is included in submission.
- F. coordinate and organize all communication between his/her community and **Niskamoon** including those with other Niskamoon Officers working for **Niskamoon**.
- G. facilitate the participation of persons of his/her community in the activities of **Niskamoon**.
- H. monitor approved projects for reporting to the Board of Directors of **Niskamoon**.
- I. perform duties and tasks as directed by the Board of Directors of **Niskamoon** from time to time.

For Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Eastmain and Wemindji, additional tasks include:

- A. developing and implementing the administrative structures and procedures to ensure that all Cree Nation Government staff are kept informed of the information exchanges between **Niskamoon** and **Hydro-Québec** in the implementation of the various environmental monitoring programs of **Hydro-Québec** projects in Eeyou Istchee.
- B. facilitating the participation of all persons in the deliberations related to information and consultation.
- C. coordinating the communication and release of information received from **Hydro-Québec** on the various environmental monitoring programs of **Hydro-Québec** projects in Eeyou Istchee.
- D. reporting regularly to the Board of Directors of **Niskamoon** on the progress of the various environmental monitoring programs of **Hydro-Québec** projects in Eeyou Istchee.
- E. coordinating the information to all other Cree nations and Cree entities not involved in the Monitoring Committee.
- F. performing all other work as directed by **Niskamoon** from time to time in connection with the Monitoring Committee.

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Implementation of this new structure is on-going. Niskamoon Corporation has, as a result, modified the Community Contribution Agreement with each community to reflect this new way of working.



# **Local Coordinator Reports**

# Whapmagoostui

It has been my pleasure to serve the community as the Niskamoon Coordinator for Whapmagoostui. I look forward to the new fiscal year as more and more project proposals are being submitted by other organizations and individuals.

Two projects from the last year stand out for me:

## Ashumi Wisjineejuu 2018

The “Ashumi Wisjineejuu” Project was for youth who are interested in experiencing the Cree way of life by placing them with experienced families out on the land.

Between April and May, twelve youth were placed to learn first-hand how to hunt, to set up fishnets, hooks and lines as well as to prepare and cook wild meat.

The youth also benefited from the project by learning traditional skills such as: paddling small canoes; setting up different types of dwellings such as tents and teepees (collecting and placing boughs and poles); chopping firewood, and many other Cree cultural skills.

Considering this was the first time we implemented such a project, it was a great success. We hope to continue with this project during the 2019 fall hunt.

## Whapmagoostui Trans Eeyou Istchee Regional Multi-Purpose Trail

This is a project in its fifth and final year. Two trails leading to Lake Burton (south) and Lake Bienville (east) have been cut. These trails will eventually connect to neighbouring traplines on the Chisasibi territory.

Thanks to this trail, access to our traplines is much easier. The specifications set by Niskamoon Corporation definitely help ensure good quality, where in the past this was not always the case.

The next phase will be the secondary trails which lead to other traplines that were previously not part of the Trans Eeyou Istchee Regional Multi-Purpose Trail network.

The upcoming fiscal year will be exciting as some innovative project proposals have been sent by different organizations and individuals. I hope that these will provide new skills and experiences for our community members.



*Derek Dick working on the  
Whapmagoostui Trans Eeyou Istchee  
Regional Multi-Purpose Trail*

# Chisasibi

In 2018, the Coastal Goose Habitat Enhancement and Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project continued to be the most successful projects for Chisasibi.

The Coastal Goose Habitat Enhancement project is where the land users are trying to find the best way to bring back geese to the coastal areas. The works consist of clearing areas with use of small machinery where they can grow wild rice, and other possible food for the geese. Using all-terrain vehicles, some users drag small ploughs to turn up the soil in order to expose the roots that geese like to feed on. Their food over time has been overgrown by willows, small trees and soil. The work lasted approximately 7 to 10 days on participating traplines. This is still ongoing for the coast.

Niskamoon contributed **\$143,000** for this project, not including the cost of several machinery required for the work.

The Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project still has scientists working with local people to take them out into James Bay to study why eelgrass is disappearing so rapidly along the coastline. Ten coastal traplines that used to have eelgrass in the past are still being studied by various scientific means. Water freshness and salinity including color is being tested all along the coast from Waskaganish, Eastmain and Chisasibi. They also test what is actually coming into James Bay from the different rivers. As part of the project geese were radio collared to determine their flight path upon their return to the south during fall migration. They found out that they didn't follow the coastline but rather flew way inland. A symposium strictly on eelgrass was held in Chisasibi from January 29-31, 2019, where the scientists gave information to the public as to what they have found out so far. There is still more work to be done however to determine the actual cause and disappearance of eelgrass. Chisasibi and the other invited community members attended to listen in, also asked questions or voice their ideas.

Not including the cost of this year's symposium, Niskamoon contributed **\$126,407** to this project.

Combined contributions by Niskamoon to these was **\$269,407.00**.

samuelcox@chisasibi.ca

(819) 855-2878 ext. 333

Sam Cox

LOCAL COORDINATOR



*Hunters waiting for high tide at  
Wastikan Island northwest of Chisasibi*

# Wemindji

As time has gone by, project submissions have had highs and lows. Most of the projects we have had in Wemindji have been for inland projects. I could say about 70% would be inland, 20% community projects and 10% coastal. However, this year brought a shift: with seven projects on the books, the big one was the Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project.

We saw the Research Program start up with its point of interest on the coast. This was a welcome change that has brought the interest of the coastal tallymen and land users.

From June to September, we had 22 participants assisting the 4 research teams that came in. Of the 22, 6 were tallymen, 8 were youth and 8, land users. There were 7 that consistently made themselves available for the visits but as it is well known, last minute changes were inevitable. It was quite fun (and tiring) trying to get boaters and workers but we would manage to get the researchers out to the various stations. Getting slashers to do the very short-term contracts was challenging but we had 2 youth willing and ready to work with their own equipment. I had a lot of help and support from the tally men and land users, they were very quick to adjust their schedules or provide a replacement when needed. They provided me with team work in my usual solo duties.

Both the tallymen & land users enjoyed learning what the Coastal Research Project was about and how the information gathered would be beneficial and it was also the same with the research teams! They learned a lot from each other, there was little complaint of a language barrier between the groups.

The year was great! We look forward to another busy summer and wish you a great year ahead!

markgeraldine@niskamoon.org

(819) 978-0264 ext. 248

Geraldine Mark

LOCAL COORDINATOR



*Geraldine Mark  
at work in her office*



# Eastmain

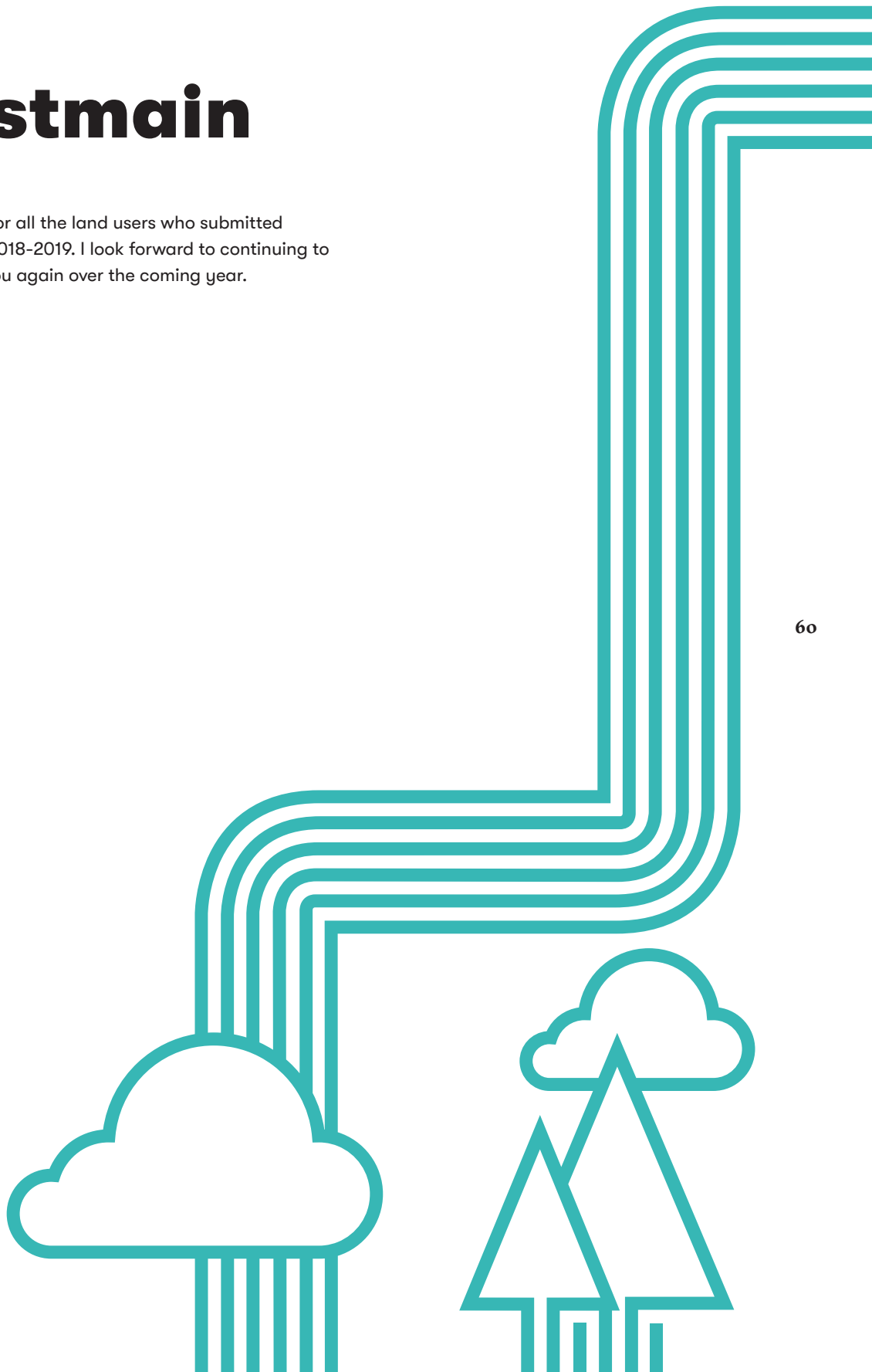
Thank you for all the land users who submitted projects in 2018-2019. I look forward to continuing to work with you again over the coming year.

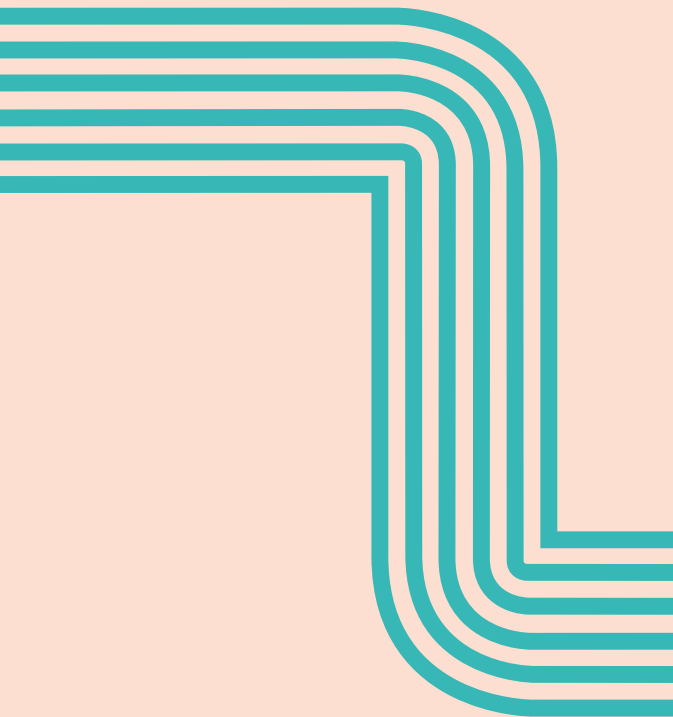
gmayappo@niskamoon.org

(819) 977-0211 ext. 307

Gregory Mayappo

LOCAL COORDINATOR





*The Trans Eeyou  
Istchee Trail*

# Nemaska

It is a pleasure to submit my activities for this fiscal year from April 2018 to March 2019, and it will be a summary of projects I have coordinated and monitored within the past year. These projects were: Upgrading Access to Driveways, Solar Power for Campsites, Brush Cutting Fire Zones Around Campsites and Construction of Cabins. Other community programs administered were on Navigation and Fish studies, Wood Supply for Elders, and Snow Removal to Campsites. The projects I would like to highlight for this year are the Solar Panels and Access for Land Users. Both are new projects on which I worked directly.

## Upgrading Access to Driveways

Three (3) projects were carried out to upgrade the driveway access to campsites for land users of Traplines R-18 and R-16. The work required the use of machinery to haul material and resurface driveways on the PK 170 road. One campsite required the extension of cabin lots and a parking area on PK 223 road. The contracts were awarded to North Star, Inc., Nemaska Eenou Compane, and Ywaastin Enterprises.

## Solar Power Panels and Accessories

There were five (5) projects to install solar panels and accessories as an alternative power source for lighting and other necessities at cabins such as freezers and bush radios. The supplier was CreeNewable energy. These projects were completed for land users on traplines R-19, N-23, R-21 and M-33.

## Brush Cutting Fire Zones/Access Road

Three (3) brush cutting projects were carried out. This involves the clearing of trees, brushcutting and bush thinning to create fire zones around campsite areas for land users of Trapline N-24 (Kamenstitch) and R-18 (Rupert River). The other project was brush cutting a temporary access road at KM210 of the Route Du Nord.

*One of the 15  
new plywood cabins*



### New Cabins

New cabins were constructed for land users of Traplines R-18, N-23, R-17, R-19, N-24A and N-25. The locations are: the PK223 road; the Old Nemaska site; KM348, KM278, KM220 and off KM210 of the Route du Nord; on the Eastmain and Rupert Rivers. The projects were carried out by a field supervisor. Carpenters/laborers were hired for the duration of construction, from August to October 2018. It took roughly 14 days per cabin. Suppliers used for cabin materials were R&D lumber from Mistissini and C.Caron from Matagami. A total of 15 plywood cabins with porches or patios were built over the summer and fall period.

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### Wood supply for Elders and Land Users

This wood supply program ran from January to April 2019 for elders/land users living in camps along the Route du Nord, the Nemaska Road and the James Bay Highway. Three (3) groups of cutters were formed. Wood supplied had to be cut, transported and piled. A total of twenty (20) people benefited from this program over the past year.

### Snow Removal to Campsites

The snow removal program was carried out by NEC for camps located along the Route du Nord and the James Bay Highway. The work was done by FELCO and Excavation Michel Paradis Inc. The program ran for a period of 5 months from November 2018 to April 2019, on an as needed basis.

This concludes my activity report for this year. It has been a very productive year and I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who has helped out in this year's projects and programs.

# Waskaganish

## Wachiya,

It is a great privilege once again to write about this year's projects managed and completed through the local Niskamoon office.

The following projects were completed successfully by local departments, entities and land-users with support from the Niskamoon Officer and the Cree Nation of Waskaganish:

- ▶ Fall Hunting Program
- ▶ Portage Trails
- ▶ Traditional Fishing programs
- ▶ Snowmobile Ski-doo trails
- ▶ Goose Corridors and Ponds
- ▶ Monitoring and Navigation of the Rupert River

The above-mentioned projects and programs were monitored and controlled by the Niskamoon Officer. Each project was beneficial and was completed successfully. Some were more challenging to coordinate but despite obstacles, we were able to successfully complete them.

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### Fall Hunting Program

The Fall Hunting Program was planned and coordinated by Waskaganish Youth Council. The goal of the program is to provide our youth with the direct experience of fall cultural and traditional activities by having them accompany participating tallymen and their spouses in the bush. The emphasis is on practical guidance and training, specifically to hunt waxies (snow geese), moose, beaver and other small game. More than twenty (20) participants went out to various bush camps and spent two (2) weeks with their hosts and teachers.

Objectives of the program as follows:

- ▶ To instill pride and confidence through learning and practicing traditional culture
- ▶ To deter youth from unhealthy lifestyles, such as alcohol and drug abuse
- ▶ To promote the preservation of our traditional Cree culture, language and history as well as our respect of the land

- ▶ To teach self-dependency and respect for nature
- ▶ To teach traditional methods of hunting, trapping and fishing
- ▶ To establish a better understanding and relationship between youth, elders and hunters/trappers

The fall hunting program was an enjoyable learning experience for all involved!



*Fall Hunting Program*

# Waswanipi

## Wachiya,

It has been a great pleasure to serve the community of Waswanipi and our tallymen. With the help of our traditional knowledge keepers and our youth, we were able to develop various successful projects this past year:

### Trans Eeyou Istchee Trail

This was one of the projects the tallymen were willing to actively participate in. It is even starting to become one of our more popular projects. Many of our tallymen have agreed to the connectivity of the trail and they believe it will benefit hunting, fishing and trapping in their respective areas.

### Traditional Gathering at Chiiwetau

It is always good to bring back this community event at the location of the Waswanipi Old Post. It was a successful event for our people and many people participated each day. This event employs Elders who provide their traditional knowledge to the community. During the event, Niskamoon also funded the Traditional Fishing Project, with all the fish caught on Waswanipi Lake. Our Elders would teach the participants how to cook and clean the fish. It was nice to see the traditional knowledge being passed down to younger generations. Smoked sturgeon was cooked during the event. I can say that I even had a small taste and it was outstanding. Paddle and Axe Making workshops were also facilitated.

### Youth Canoe Brigade

This year we were able to collaborate on a new project with our local youth council. Participating youth were taught the traditional routes of their ancestors and basic survival skills. Furthermore, each participant was given specific duties during the trip. The project is special because the groups follow traditional routes used by our people for thousands of years. I was fortunate to witness the youth take off for this journey. I was proud to see them work hard and demonstrate real passion. I believe this project helped many of the youth in their daily lives, and I got very positive feedback from everyone.

Finally, from an administrative standpoint, I now have a better understanding of how funding works at Niskamoon as well as how projects operate. Our Cree Way of Life is something I will always promote while working under CFNW and Niskamoon!

As always, I look forward to another wonderful year.  
Meegwetch



*Traditional gathering  
at Chiiwetau*

# Mistissini

## Watchya,

Once again, it is my pleasure to submit my annual report for the Cree Nation of Mistissini. My role as the local Niskamoon Officer is to provide assistance and support for tallymen and land users in submitting project proposals and to make sure projects are completed.

This year, numerous projects were submitted and approved for funding through different funds administered by Niskamoon Corporation. Projects approved for funding created short-term employment for many local people and also gave people an opportunity to be out on the land.

The following is a list of projects that have been funded, executed and completed:

- ▶ Traditional Dwelling
- ▶ Goose Corridors
- ▶ Trans-Eeyou Trail
- ▶ Stream Crossings (Trans-Eeyou Trail)
- ▶ Cabin Construction
- ▶ Trails, ATV & Snowmobile
- ▶ Chisheinnu Chiskutmaahchewun (Community Project)

This year, The Chisheinnu Chiskutmaahchewun community project was my favorite. The purpose of projects such as this, is to retain our Cree culture and traditional way of life. The objective of the project was for our elders to show and teach our youth and other community members Cree traditional activities.

Throughout this project, various teachings were demonstrated by our local elders and trappers. Different activities were carried out, such as, moose hide preparation, carving, fishing, weaving snowshoes, storytelling by elders and many different ways of traditional cooking.

The project was a success and we had a lot of very interested participants. We are looking forward to another busy year.

Meegwetch.



*Traditional  
moose hide preparation*

# Oujé-Bougoumou

## Wachya,

It is with great pleasure that I once again submit my annual report from April 1st, 2018, to March 31st, 2019. One of the projects that I would like to highlight this year was the Youth Cultural Excursions that took place at the Broadback River Fishing Camp. This project was coordinated by the Youth Employment Coordinator along with 15 other youth that worked in the program. The 16 participants travelled by truck to the boat landing along the Broadback River where guides awaited them to take them on the one-hour boat ride to the Fishing Camp. The purpose of this project was to educate them about the Cree way of life and to empower young participants through teachings they usually do not receive in the community. The long-term goal is to create more Cree land users. The project continued throughout the year with other traditional and cultural training sessions given on the land.

Several trappers' projects were implemented during the summer and fall. Most of the approved trapline projects were Goose Corridors and Traditional Dwellings. Phase 2 of the Trans-Eeyou Trail was also completed on trapline O-48B, connecting it to the O-48A trail built in previous years. The Traditional Cold Storage Project was something different, done by Derek Metabie, a land user from O-59. The Snow Removal and Wood Cutting projects are annual projects that were implemented during the winter.

Cultural projects implemented this past fiscal year were the Canoe Excursion, the Namesh Project and Chiidehdaow OJ Point Project.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Niskamoon for its continued support to all the Oujé-Bougoumou projects were funded in 2018-2019.

Meegwetch

tommy.rabbitskin@oujé.ca

(418) 745-2901 ext. 226

Tommy Rabbitskin

LOCAL COORDINATOR



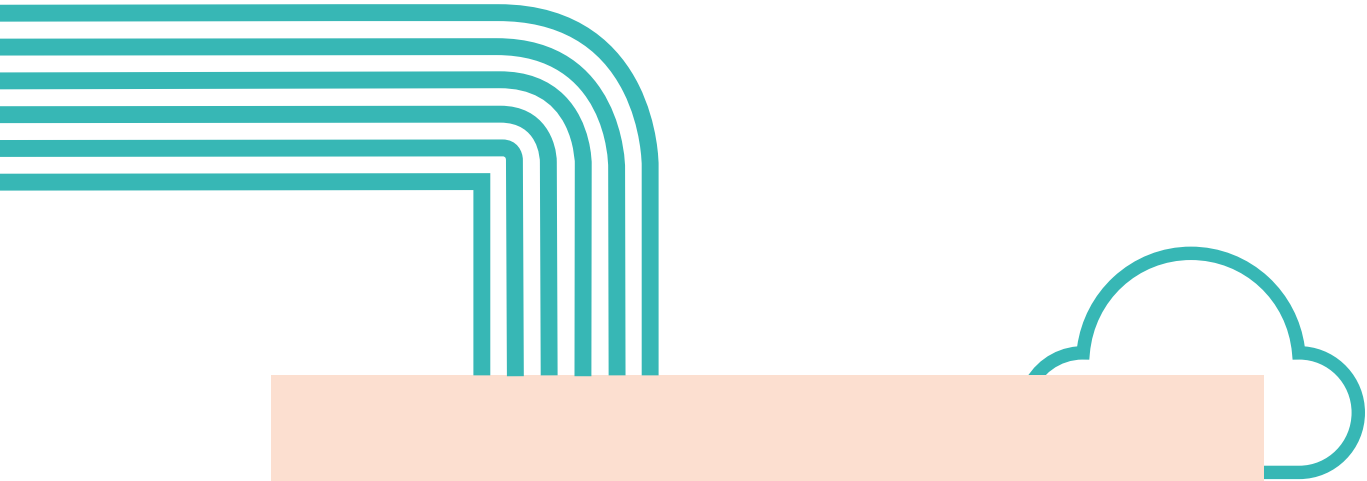
*Building of  
traditional dwelling*



# Chisasibi Coastal Goose Habitat Enhancement Project



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This project continued in 2018-2019. However, the Coordinator, Floris Ensink moved away from Canada in June 2018. Niskamoon would like to thank Floris for his important contribution to this project. His work was greatly appreciated by everyone, most importantly the land users directly involved in this project.

A series of teal lines on the left side of the page, some horizontal and some curving downwards. A teal cloud outline is positioned to the right of the top of the text box.

Although the project did not have a coordinator for most of the year, important tools have been left for the continuing benefit of land users. Participants continued gaining valuable experience regarding potential enhancement work. The intention of the project is that these **learning experiences are passed on** to the next group of land users interested in working on the project.

Finally, an exploratory meeting was held in Wemindji to discuss possibly extending this project into their territory. Land users present expressed a great deal of interest in the project. In 2019, once a coordinator is identified, we hope to begin taking the first steps to extend the project into Wemindji.

A large teal cloud outline at the bottom left of the page.A series of horizontal teal lines on the right side of the page.

This project will continue!

# Cree Traditional and Cultural Activities

Traditional and cultural activities encompass any non-denominational activity during the year that promotes Cree culture and the teaching of traditional and cultural customs. They may include, but not be limited to, canoe brigades, winter journeys, summer gatherings and Aboriginal Day festivities.

Niskamoon Corporation will fund traditional and cultural activities for **50% of the total cost per project** for a maximum of **\$50,000** for each community.

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Projects under Cultural Events & Outings Program & Traditional and Cultural Activities - 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

▼ COMMUNITY	▼ AMOUNT APPROVED
Whapmagoostui	\$50,000
Chisasibi	\$50,000
Wemindji	\$19,750
Waskaganish	\$30,000
Nemaska	\$50,000
Waswanipi	\$36,838
Oujé-Bougoumou	\$43,746



Photo: Jimmy Sam

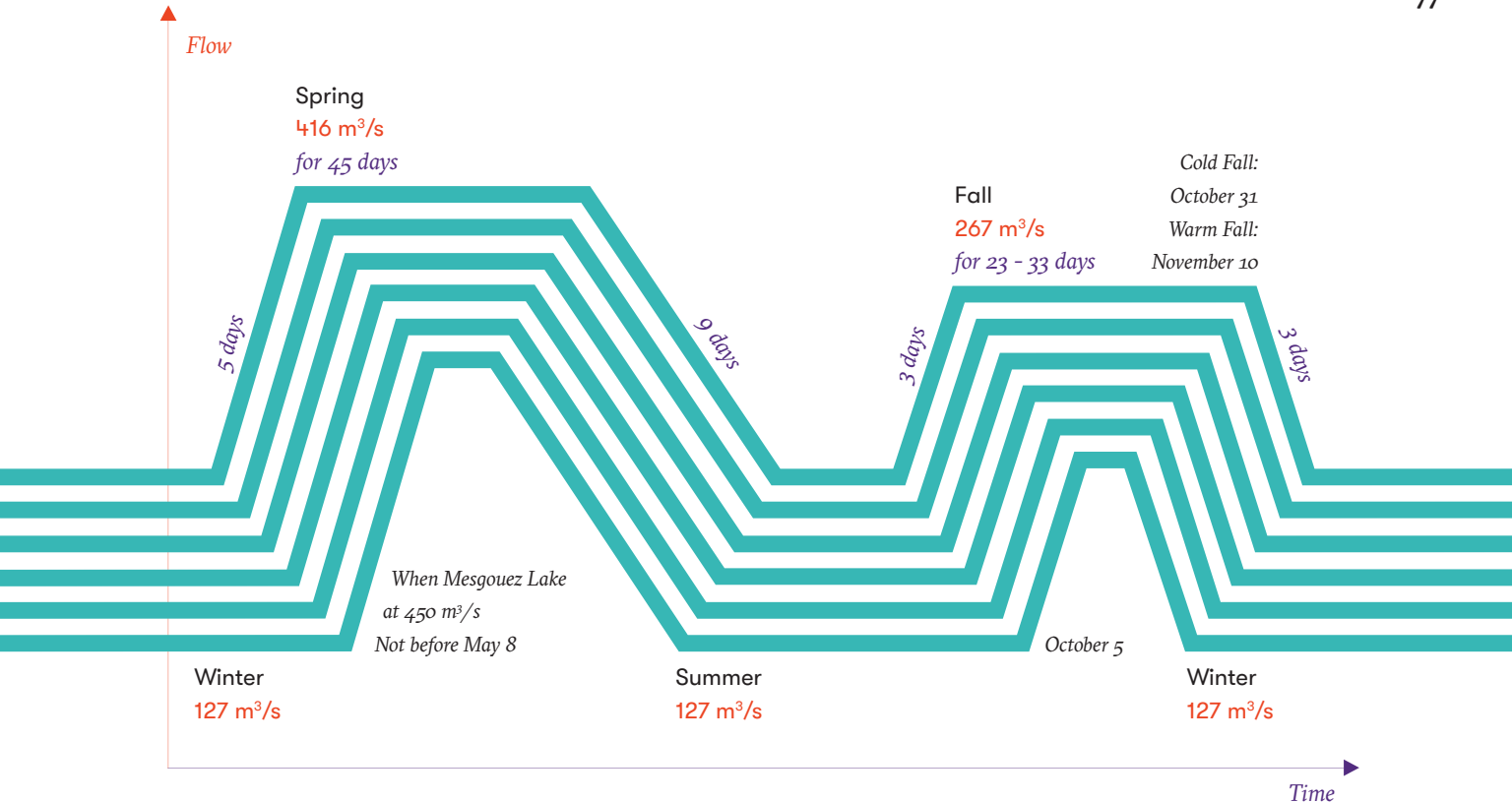
# The Monitoring Committee for the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert River Partial Diversion

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

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

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



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

## COMPOSITION OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE

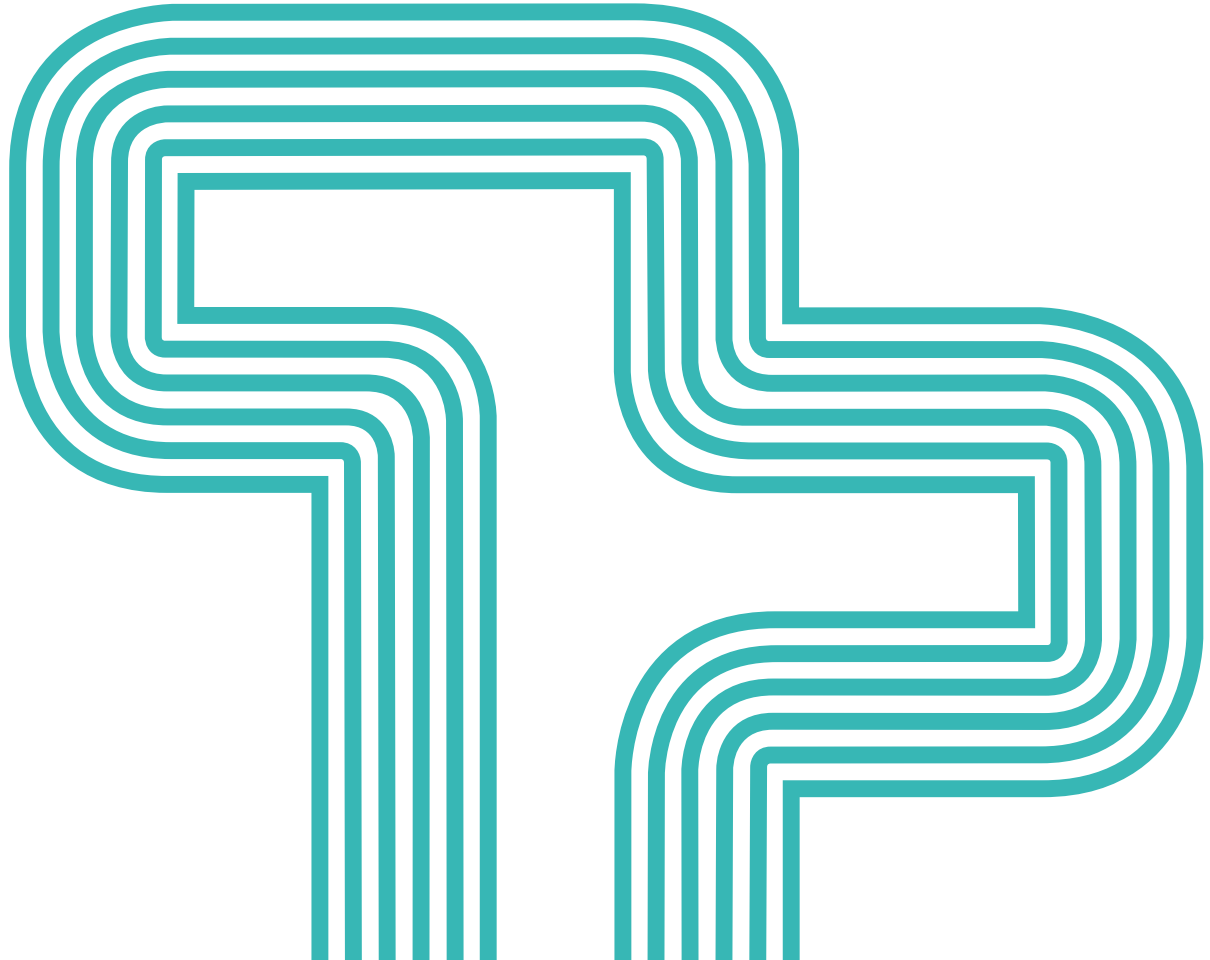
The Monitoring Committee is a joint discussion forum made up of seven Hydro-Québec representatives and eight Cree members representing each of the five communities impacted by the EM-1A/Rupert Diversion Project as well as one representative from Chisasibi and two regional representatives nominated by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

▼ MEMBER	▼ ENTITY
Robbie Tapiatic	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
Geraldine Mark	Cree Nation of Wemindji
Norman Cheezo	Cree Nation of Eastmain
Ernest Moses	Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation
John Henry Wapachee	Cree Nation of Nemaska
Matthew Longchap	Cree Nation of Mistissini
Marc Dunn	The Niskamoon Corporation
Nadia Saganash	The Niskamoon Corporation (CNG)
Valérie Groison	Hydro-Québec
Carine Durocher	Hydro-Québec
Réal Courcelles	Hydro-Québec
René Dion	Hydro-Québec
Jimmy Lavoie	Hydro-Québec

Work of the Committee has progressively decreased since 2013. This continued into 2018. The Committee convened five times between January 2018 and March 2019, a decrease from seven meetings held the year before.

As a result of the gradual decrease of the workload, the Monitoring Committee representative position has been abolished and the responsibilities have been gradually transferred to the local Niskamoon Officer over the past year.

▼ DATES	▼ MEETING NUMBER	▼ LOCATION
March 21-22-23, 2018	112	Nemaska
June 7, 2018	113	Montreal
October 23, 2018	114	Montreal
December 11-12-13, 2018	115	Montreal
March 19-20, 2019	116	Mistissini



# The Mandate of the Monitoring Committee



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

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

2018 marks the ninth year of data collection following the Rupert River Partial Diversion. This information is compared to study results prior to the diversion, referred to as the baseline conditions, in order to evaluate the extent of change caused by the impoundment of the Rupert Diversion Bays. In the first year following the impoundment, major ecosystem changes were observed in the affected area. In the second and third years, 2011 and 2012, the ecosystems tended to stabilize, resulting in more reliable field data. There has been a generalized decrease in the number of monitoring studies carried out since 2013. It is expected that the ecosystem (in some places) has already begun to restore itself in the impacted area.

	<b>RUPERT DIVERSION ▼ BAYS</b>	<b>REDUCED FLOW ▼ SECTOR</b>	<b>INCREASED FLOW ▼ SECTOR</b>	<b>MULTIPLE ▼ SECTORS</b>	
	<i>Mistissini &amp; Nemaska</i>	<i>Nemaska &amp; Waskaganish</i>	<i>Nemaska, Eastmain, Wemindji &amp; Chisasibi</i>	<i>All</i>	
Natural Environment	<i>Study Report</i>	Lake Sturgeon Artificial Spawning Grounds Upstream from Rupert Diversion Bays and at KP290 of the Rupert River – 2017  Lake Trout Artificial Spawning Grounds in the Rupert Forebay – 2017  Follow-up on Waterfowl in the Rupert Diversion Bays (Nesting and Breeding Pairs) – 2017	Ice Cover in Rupert Bay – 2017-2018	Artificial Multispecies Spawning Grounds Downstream from Sarcelle Powerhouse – 2017  Follow-up of Shoreline and Island Dynamics at the Mouth of the La-Grande River – 2017  Follow-up of the Integrity and Effectiveness of Granular Blankets in the La-Grande River Estuary –2017	--
	<i>Terms of Reference</i>	Fish Communities in Rupert Diversion Bays – 2018	Ice Cover Follow-Up in Rupert River estuary/Rupert Bay  Bank Dynamics (Upstream of Hydraulic Works) Waskaganish Water Intake  Spawning Ground Follow-Up KP170  Fish Communities and Population Dynamics  Target Fish Species – Juveniles (Additional Study)  Riparian and Aquatic Vegetation	Follow-up of Eelgrass along the Northeast Coast of James Bay – 2019  Artificial Multispecies Spawning Grounds Downstream from Sarcelle Powerhouse - 2019	--
Human Environment	<i>Study Report</i>	--	--	--	--
	<i>Terms of Reference</i>	--	--	--	Navigation (Interviews with Land Users) – Rupert River and Diversion Bays  Follow-up on Economic Spinoffs During Operations Phase (2012-2016)

# Monitoring Program Results

The following is a brief synopsis of the main findings of monitoring program results reviewed by the Monitoring Committee in 2018/2019

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### Rupert Diversion Bays

1. *Lake Sturgeon Artificial Spawning Grounds Upstream from Rupert Diversion Bays and at KP290 of the Rupert River – 2017*

This follow-up program is to verify the effectiveness of spawning grounds developed for the project. At KP290, the spawning ground continues to be used heavily by sturgeon in the reduced flow sector. Regarding the diversion bays spawning grounds, no eggs were found in either spawning grounds despite some activity detected by spawners in the area prior to spawning. An additional follow-up is planned for 2020.

2. *Lake Trout Artificial Spawning Grounds in the Rupert Forebay – 2017*

Various tools and techniques were used to detect lake trout spawning in the Rupert Forebay. Results suggest that lake trout are not in the area of the new spawning grounds. It has been hypothesized that they have left the Rupert Forebay for better habitat located upstream. Another follow-up is scheduled for 2020.

3. *Follow-up on Waterfowl in the Rupert Diversion Bays (Nesting and Breeding Pairs) – 2017*

Results have consistently shown that the number of nesting and breeding pairs have increased in the diversion bays, likely due to the larger body of water, the abundance of small bays and the many areas where trees were not removed, providing cover from predators.

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### Reduced Flow Sector (Rupert River, Estuary and Rupert Bay)

1. *Ice Cover in Rupert Bay – 2017-2018*

The 2017-2018 winter was slightly colder than average for the follow-up, but within the normal range. Accordingly, the thickness of the ice in the study area was higher than normal with more black ice, which is preferred by land users due to its higher strength. The bay was ice-free by the end of May. Winter 2018-2019 will mark the final follow-up for this program.

## 2. *Water Quality – 2017*

A total of 21 samples are taken in all four seasons along the river and a particular focus is paid to specific uses of water by Cree land users (an important exception is for drinking, since this activity is not deemed safe by any public health entity in the province). Results show a generalized decrease in water quality for the areas below the James Bay Highway (Waskaganish traditional territory) and little to no change in the areas between the Highway and the Rupert Dam.

## 3. *Saltwater Intrusion in the Rupert Bay – 2017*

Due to less fresh water at the mouth of the Rupert River, it is anticipated that the limit between fresh and saltwater would move closer to the mouth of the river. Overall, results confirm the movement of the saltwater front towards the Rupert River in Rupert Bay. A map is provided in this report that shows the overall movement of the saltwater front based on all the data collected over the course of the follow-up program.

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## Increased Flow Sector

### 1. *Artificial Multispecies Spawning Grounds Downstream from Sarcelle Powerhouse – 2017*

For the most part, this spawning ground seems adequate for spawning, as water levels allow sufficient coverage during spawning. There was evidence of spawning by lake whitefish/cisco, suckers and walleye, but no indication of sturgeon spawning. This was confirmed by Cree traditional knowledge. The follow-up will continue again in 2019.

### 2. *Follow-up of Shoreline and Island Dynamics at the Mouth of the La-Grande River – 2017*

This follow-up is intended to verify that the addition of the Rupert River to the existing La-Grande complex structures do not worsen the erosion at the mouth of the La-Grande River. Erosion is particularly serious on Fort George Island, with 52% of all eroding shorelines in the area, as shown by the photos provided in this report. These problems will no doubt continue to worsen without corrective measures. A discussion was held to initiate exchanges with the community on these issues as soon as possible.

### 3. *Follow-up of the Integrity and Effectiveness of Granular Blankets in the La-Grande River Estuary – 2017*

As part of the mitigation measures implemented for the EM-1A/Rupert River Partial Diversion project, 5.2 km along the southern shore of the lower La-Grande River were stabilized between 2007 and 2009 (an additional section was completed in 2015). Very little movement has been identified on the blankets, indicating that they have been effective.

# Fisheries and Health Committee

The Fisheries and Health Committee met on September 20, 2018 to discuss the most recent Hydro-Québec follow-up program report on mercury content in fish in the La-Grande Complex. The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay will now publish the new consumption recommendations for fish based on the most recent report.

## FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Fisheries Enhancement Program seeks to fund community-based fishing programs with the following objectives:

1. To ensure the sustainable, long-term use of aquatic resources valued by Crees.
2. To restore fishing practices through the development of fishing installations and methods traditionally used by Crees.
3. To strengthen Cree fisheries through initiatives that foster long-term and self-sufficient activities and pursuits.

The following priorities were identified for funding programs:

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

*The table below presents all projects funded in 2018-2019 under this program:*

▼ COMMUNITY	▼ PROJECT	▼ AMOUNT APPROVED
Whapmagoostui	Youth Fishing Excursion	\$15,000
Waswanipi	Traditional Fishing at Chiwetaau	\$16,698
Oujé-Bougoumou	Fishing Excursion	\$9,810

# Mandate

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

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

# The Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project

The Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project is a large-scale research program carried over the entire eastern coast of James Bay, involving all four Cree communities located along this coast. The objective of the research is to better understand the current growth of eelgrass beds as well as its effect on waterfowl populations and hunting in the coastal region. Recall that a marked decline of eelgrass was documented in the 1990's and populations have yet to recover from it twenty years later.



The project proposes to integrate various disciplines as well as Cree Traditional Knowledge, which is viewed as equal to western science. In fact, the research project proposes that by combining western scientific methods as well as Cree Knowledge, results will be more complete than from any one individual approach.

The Research Project is overseen by a **Steering Committee appointed and overseen by Niskamoon Corporation.**

# Steering Committee Mandate

The mandate of the Steering Committee shall be to:

- ▶ Elaborate a Comprehensive Program in connection with purpose of this agreement pursuant to Section 1 herein;
- ▶ See to the implementation of the Comprehensive Program
- ▶ Review and comment on specific aspects of each individual component of the research program, including terms of reference, results and conclusions in a constructive format leading to the credibility of the research

**MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

<b>▼ NAME</b>	<b>▼ REPRESENTING</b>
Marc Dunn	Niskamoon Corporation
Robbie Tapiatic	Niskamoon Corporation
Ernest Moses	Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation
Norman Cheezo	Eastmain
Geraldine Mark *	Wemindji
Ernie Rabbitskin	Niskamoon
Jean-Phillippe Gilbert	Hydro-Québec
Alain Tremblay	Hydro-Québec
Jean Rodrigue	Canadian Wildlife Service
Nadia Saganash	Cree Nation Government
James Bobbish	Chisasibi
John Lameboy	Chisasibi
Louie Kanatewat	Chisasibi
Roderick Pachano	Chisasibi
Carine Durocher	Hydro-Québec
Mhaly Bois-Charlebois	Hydro-Québec
Real Courcelles	Hydro-Québec

\*William Blackned served as interim representative for Wemindji in 2018

## MEETINGS 2018-2019

There was a total of 10 meetings from January 2018. Below is the list of the meetings and their locations:

▼ LOCATION	▼ DATE
Montreal	January 24, 2018
Eastmain	March 28, 2018
Wemindji	June 27, 28, 2018
Chisasibi	August 21, 22, 2018
Montreal	November 21, 22, 2018
Montreal	February 5, 6, 2019
Montreal	February 28, 2019
<i>Conference Call</i>	March 15, 2019
Montreal	April 11-12, 2019
Montreal	April 25, 2019

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There was one event held to inform the public of the progress of the research project.

▼ EVENT	▼ LOCATION	▼ DATE
Eelgrass Symposium	Chisasibi	January 29-31, 2019

## RESEARCH COMPONENTS

The research components are overseen by different teams, headed by the Principal Investigator. In 2018, research was coordinated by the Niskamoon Field Coordinator, Mr. Ernie Rabbitskin, with assistance in the summer by Ms. Laura-Lee Sam. Niskamoon would like to extend its sincerest appreciation for the hard work of this team.

### Rivers

- ▶ To assess the nutrients and sediments the rivers bring in to James Bay
  - ▶ Under the responsibility of Dr. Paul del Giorgio of University of Québec at Montreal (UQÀM)
- 

### Oceanography

- ▶ Studying the properties of the coastal waters and the tides and circulation along the coast in summer and winter
  - ▶ Under the responsibility of Dr. Urs Neumeier of University of Québec at Rimouski (UQAR/ ISMER), with collaboration from the University of Manitoba
- 

### Waterfowl

- ▶ Geese surveys to count and track the geese that use the coastal area and where they go when they are not here
  - ▶ Under the responsibility of Dr. Jean-François Giroux (UQÀM)
- 

### Eelgrass

- ▶ Assessing the distribution and condition (health)
  - ▶ Under the responsibility of Dr. Fred Short (University of New Hampshire)
- 

### Cree Traditional Knowledge and Coastal Land Use

- ▶ Understanding and documenting Cree use and understanding of coastal habitat and ecology
- ▶ Under the responsibility of Dr. Julian Idrobo (no university affiliation) for Waskaganish, Eastmain and Wemindji. Researcher not yet identified for Chisasibi

## RESULTS TO DATE

There are two main areas where the eelgrass is not found and that is near Chisasibi and south of Eastmain.

Both Cree knowledge and science agree that low salinity is a stressor for eelgrass growth. Lowest salinity occurs near the river mouth of Chisasibi and where La Grande plume flows into coastal areas without mixing with underlying salty Bay waters. Low salinity also occurs during winter. The water south of Eastmain has poor water clarity. The water is significantly darker (brown) further north. This is also a stressor for eelgrass growth.

## EELGRASS TEAM

Dr. Fred Short, who worked on the eelgrass component of the project, will retire in June 2019.

The new Eelgrass team from McGill University will be coordinated by Dr. Melanie-Louise Leblanc, under the supervision of Dr. Murray Humphries, and in collaboration with teams from the University of New Brunswick and the University of British Columbia. The new team will begin its work in summer 2019.

Niskamoon Corporation would like to thank Dr. Short for his very important work on this project and we wish him a fruitful retirement.

## My Experience with Niskamoon

*Christopher Peck, University of Manitoba*

My Name is Chris Peck and I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Manitoba. We are part of the oceanography team on the Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project currently underway along the east coast of James Bay/Eeyou Itstchee. My work includes measuring how salty the water is and how this changes along the coast. I also track seasonal changes in water parameters and map the coverage of eelgrass beds along the coast using an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV, also referred to as “The Torpedo” in Cree communities). What I love about this work is the fact that understanding the water and the seafloor are vital for understanding changes in biology and ecology. Also, winter ice coverage makes the area very interesting as this will completely change the saltiness of the water along the coast when compared to open water conditions during the summer.

Cree land users are vital for this work as they help decide the locations of the long-term moorings, they help install and recover them, and they help me with the AUV. They have taught me how the coast has changed in many different ways over time. I have a huge appreciation for their knowledge of the land and what it means to them. Cree land user knowledge is invaluable to understanding the coastal ecosystem: they know where the water moves; where it is too shallow; the areas that have changed the most and how these changes have occurred. None of our work would be possible without the help of the Cree land users.

# The International Association for Impact Assessment Annual Conference

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For the past five years, a Niskamoon delegation has attended the IAIA Annual Conference. The IAIA is the most prominent international body with regard to advancing the field of impact assessment. Since Niskamoon is responsible for the co-implementation of the environmental impact assessments for the EM-1 and EM-1A/Sarcelle/Rupert Diversion projects, it plays a role in advancing Aboriginal communities' input in the impact assessment process. These projects are models in regard to the involvement of Aboriginal communities in impact assessment.

The 2017 IAIA conference was held in Montreal, and in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Section of the IAIA, the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Nation Government, and the Crees of Waskaganish First Nation, Niskamoon organized a pre-conference event called Aashukan, where international Indigenous participants came to Waskaganish to share their experience in resource development on traditional lands. A declaration titled "**The Aashukan Declaration**", signed by all Indigenous participants, outlined the principles, from an Indigenous perspective, for how impact assessment should be carried out on traditional lands. Niskamoon will continue to actively collaborate in the future with individual Indigenous entities represented at Aashukan on a variety of common issues.

The conference this year was held in Brisbane, Australia, with the following theme: Evolution or Revolution. The delegation consisted of **Ms. Melissa Saganash** of the Grand Council of the Crees and the Cree Nation Government, **Ms. Diane Thibault** of Niskamoon Corporation and **Mr. Daniel Lauzon** of Hydro-Québec, member of the Board of Directors. In a workshop on Aboriginal rights, the delegation presented the partial results of the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec component of the Cree Employment Agreement (Eeyou Apatisiwin Niskamoon). The experience was a success, although, as always, too short.

In one of the meetings, the participants from various Aboriginal communities reiterated the importance of maintaining sessions dedicated to the issues affecting Aboriginal people.

There were discussions around whether or not to continue with the Aashukan project. The parties involved felt that the achievements of 2017 in Canada were difficult to replicate on the same scale, but that further thought should be given to this issue. The project was touted as an example in many sessions. Wide disparities remain in how Aboriginal rights are treated when it comes to project development. The type of relationships the James Bay Cree have developed in this regard with the different levels of government and business partners is enviable. During a meeting held at Concordia University in Montreal last March, one participant from Brazil said he now used the Aashukan Declaration as a guideline when developing projects.



# The Aashukan Declaration

We, the participants of Aashukan, have gathered over four days in Waskaganish, Eeyou Istchee, the traditional territory of the James Bay (Qc) Crees, in March 2017. Our experiences and the guidance passed on from our respected Elders, past and present, have taught us to be responsible for our ecosystems of origin; our peoples have flourished based on these principles for hundreds of generations. The geographic specificity of Indigenous Knowledge is the fundamental way of knowing our ecosystems of origin. We wish to continue to engage in all efforts to live more harmoniously with the Earth for the benefit of all of humanity.

In Waskaganish, we have shared story with regards to our origins and identities, and our experiences in protecting and enhancing our land and culture, which are intimately intertwined. Development has affected and altered all our lives in profound and lasting ways. As such, we address the following message to the Impact Assessment community. Impact Assessment must meet the following principles regarding Indigenous Peoples' rights, relationships, processes, and outcome

1. Indigenous Peoples' Rights are the foundation upon which all discussions must be initiated. Following international best practices, this includes territorial Rights, the Right to self-determination and the Indigenous Right to say YES or NO.



2. Relationships must have integrity and be based on humility, respect, reciprocity, community empowerment, sharing, mutual learning, and sustained and long-term engagement. Our timelines are based on our values, processes and social organization, and should be respected.
3. Processes must achieve clear communication, transparent decision making, be inclusive and be founded on the worldview of the Indigenous Peoples that are impacted.
4. Outcomes must be multi-faceted and oriented towards mutual benefits, a commitment towards the prevention of harm, and the enhancement of the well-being of Indigenous Peoples based on their own definitions and criteria.

We believe that Impact Assessment is a pedagogical process that involves mutual learning and can be tremendously rewarding for all parties involved. We invite the Impact Assessment community to apply these principles in their work with Indigenous communities to achieve the unrealised potential of fully participatory processes.

### **WE MAY SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT, BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE!**

We represent the Eeyou, Anishinaabe, Sauteaux, Secwepemc (*North America*), Aymara (*North Chile*), Ainu (*Hokkaido*), Karipuna and Tirjió Kaxuyana (*Amazonia, Brasil*), Masahua (*Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico*), Saami (*Swedish part of Sápmi*), Nuudelch Malchid (*Mongolia*), Tangata Whenua (*Aotearoa New Zealand*), Kalinago Carib (*Trinidad Tobago and Dominica*), Nganguruku (*First Peoples of the River Murray Mallee*) and Ikwerre (*Niger Delta*) Nations.

# Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec

“TEHQ Program”

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We are very pleased to share our compilation of 2018-2019's key events with you. This edition of our annual report contains the latest results from the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec program. It features an update on the archives preservation issue and provides information on the ongoing study assessing the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec program's implementation. It also offers a brief look at the issue of Cree women who studied in a non-traditional program and who now work at Hydro-Québec in a predominantly male-dominated field. In fact, we have chosen to dedicate this report to these incredibly strong women.

## TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

The training component which began in 2003 has now been completed. The figures indicate that 253 candidates will have received vocational and technical training through the four programs covered by the Agreement: Automated Systems Electromechanics, Industrial Construction Mechanics, Industrial Electronics Technology, and Electrical and Telecommunications Engineering. The graduation rate for the 2 programs leading to a diploma of vocational studies (DEP) was 60%, whereas for the programs leading to a diploma of college studies (DEC), that rate was 27%. Fifty-seven percent of men completed their programs and 51% of women completed theirs. The overall graduation rate for all four programs was 55%. Several students used the French as a Second Language program and the technical studies prerequisite program. It is important to note that students faced challenges such as language, prerequisites, relocation, social and professional inclusion, not to mention time constraints and the requirement to achieve results.

▼ TRAINING	▼ MALE	▼ FEMALE	TOTAL ▼
DEP & DEC			
<i>Enrollment</i>	176	77	253
<i>Withdrawal</i>	75	38	113
<i>Graduate</i>	101	39	140
<i>Graduation Rate</i>	57%	51%	55%
<i>Graduated, never worked for Hydro-Québec</i>	12	5	17

The process for accessing permanent employment within Hydro-Québec for the final 24 students who met the company's hiring criteria is drawing to an end. Eight of those students were granted an extension period. To date, 19 candidates have successfully completed their probationary period while only one candidate's status is pending. Unfortunately, four candidates did not meet the job requirements.

At the end of this ambitious project, we expect to have 100 candidates obtain their permanent employee status at Hydro-Québec. The Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec program could achieve 67% of the 150 permanent jobs objective. This is a noteworthy result given that the first trial resulted in 14 permanent jobs representing only 9% of the target. After operating under different models for more than three decades, we can now expect to reach 76% of the target.

▼ EMPLOYMENT	▼ MALE	▼ FEMALE	TOTAL ▼
<i>Employed at Hydro-Québec following the diploma</i>	88	34	122
<i>Left Hydro-Québec without permanency</i>	14	8	22
<i>Left Hydro-Québec with permanency</i>	3	0	3
<i>Employed at Hydro-Québec as of June 2019</i>	71	26	97

Taking into account the number of candidates who had obtained permanent employee status as a result of the 1986-1996 Horizon program, the 150-job objective can be broken down as follows:

Horizon 1986-1996: 14 out of 150 jobs (9%)

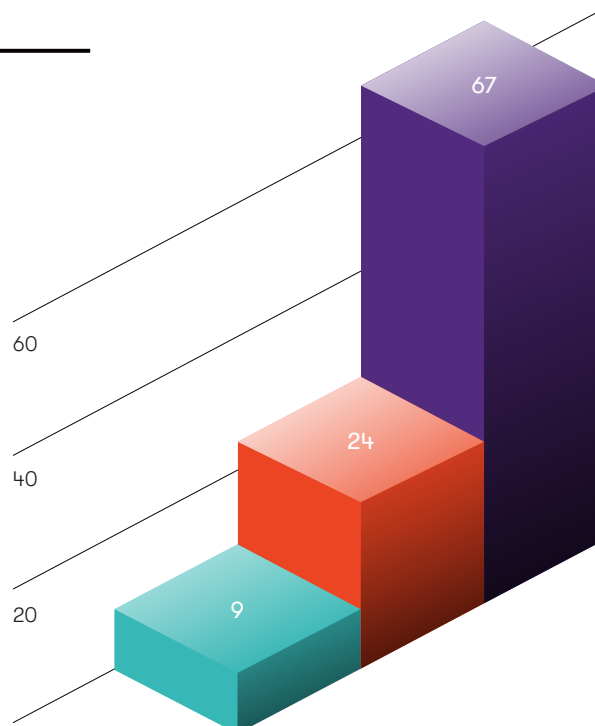
Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec: 100 out of 150 jobs (67%)

Total: 114 permanent jobs (76%)

### PERMANENT POSITIONS AT HYDRO-QUEBEC

in %

- ▶ Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec  
*100 out of 150 jobs*
- ▶ Not Achieved
- ▶ Horizon 1986-1996  
*14 out of 150 jobs*



## ARCHIVES

In 2018, fourteen years after being founded, the Niskamoon Corporation adopted an archive preservation policy. Through this administrative decision, the organization officially recognized the importance of preserving its heritage not only for today but especially for the future.

Initially, the director of the Training and Employment department and the head of archives were responsible for the project's feasibility. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Cynthia Taylor and underscore her professionalism and commitment to this matter and to communications. Implementing this project would have been impossible without the collaboration of the members of the Board of Directors, the executives, and the staff involved. In addition, the support provided by Frédéric Fortier, archives advisor, was and still is invaluable due to the specific nature of this project.

The organization was compelled to make this decision as the Apatisiwin agreement was ending and the Niskamoon student centre in Rouyn-Noranda was likely to close. Thus it was necessary to address the issue of preserving the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec program's historical archives. The organization used this opportunity to extend the project to include all of the Niskamoon Corporation's departments. As a result, an action plan was tabled.

Although three key people left the organization during the year, the process is moving along well, though the timeline may need to be revised. It is important to note that the organization has administrative offices in Nemaska, Chisasibi, and in Rouyn-Noranda, while some employees work from Ottawa and Montréal. The fact that the Montréal office was closed in 2014 must be taken into account as it adds to the difficulty of returning and classifying archives. The digital preservation of archives is also a major challenge. The physical location for storing and preserving the historical archives has yet to be determined. Might we even soon hear that an archive preservation centre will be built in Eeyou Istchee?



## ASSESSMENT STUDY

The Cree employment agreement's Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec section officially expired on March 31, 2017. However, for accommodation purposes, the parties had agreed to extend the training deadlines to June 30, 2017. This decision delayed the hiring process, which remains ongoing. In consideration of the investments made both financially and on a human level, and for the sake of transparency, the Board of Directors wanted to report on the experience by documenting the various actions and practices.

To this end, the organization created a committee, composed of Mr. William McLeod, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Marc Dunn, Environment Director, Mr. Daniel Lauzon and Mr. Réal Courcelles, both members of the Board of Directors and representatives of Hydro-Québec, and Ms. Diane Thibault, Director of Training and Employment. The committee's role is to ensure that an appreciative and collaborative study on the implementation of the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec program is carried out. The committee assigned this mandate to research consultant Dr. Émilie Deschênes, as she had previously carried out similar work as part of a study on the employment integration of Aboriginals.

The goal of this research is to report on the Program's implementation and its results over the past fifteen years. It focuses on the training, employment integration, and support components of the program, and examines the main challenges experienced by the various stakeholders and the methods used to address them. In addition, the report delves into

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cultural safety, social inclusion, and identity issues. There is a focus on the historical background, and connections with the 1986-1996 Horizon program are also included. The study began last November and remains ongoing. The semi-structured interview method was chosen as a way to meet the objective of giving voice to the main stakeholders. The research is meant to be appreciative and collaborative. The logistics involved in simply reaching the participants was indeed a major challenge. We have found participants to be very cooperative, and members of the partner organizations as well as Cree and non-Cree workers have expressed their appreciation for having been given the opportunity to share their experiences. A first report is expected to be tabled in September 2019 and a dissemination plan will be presented to the Board of Directors.

### **CREE WOMEN: NON-TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS AND JOBS**

The participation of Cree women in the Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec program warrants closer examination. The statistics indicate that the proportion of women who have shown interest in the various training programs covered by the Agreement represents nearly 30% of all applicants. However, it is most interesting to note that the four programs leading to trade jobs are considered to be traditionally male-oriented, meaning usually attended by men.

In Quebec, for a program, trade or profession to be recognized as being in this category, female representation has to be less than 30%. This standard applies to both the educational setting as well as the work environment. This means Cree women have accomplished a worthy feat.

When we look at employment at Hydro-Québec, data show that 28% of female graduates joined Hydro-Québec and that 26% remain employed there. Over the past five years, the number has grown exponentially – from 2 to 26. In 2015, there were 12 Cree women and 16 non-Cree women working at Hydro-Québec. At that time, Cree women represented 43% of workers. The latest figures show that in the James Bay territory, the number of Cree women employed in the four trades covered by the Agreement exceeds the number of non-Cree women working in those same trades, with the number standing at approximately 60%. Interestingly, in the James Bay territory in 2015, only 6% of all employees in the trades covered by the Agreement were women. Yet in 2018, this proportion was nearly 11% due to the hiring of Cree women, as the number of non-Cree women has remained the same.

This is a giant step forward not only for Cree women in particular but for women working in traditionally male-dominated fields in general. These women are joining others in leading the way and setting an example for future generations. But it's not all easy, as the context itself is a challenging one: Aboriginal women, traditionally male trades, remote northern location, an eight days on/six days off work week, male-dominated work environment, etc.

Over the years, some of the women have confided that it was occasionally heartbreaking to leave their spouse and children for an eight-day period to go to work. They have stated that the majority of men are still not prepared to take on new domestic responsibilities. “Cree men are used to having their mother or spouse being in charge of household duties and child-rearing,” Jocelyn told us. She added that “My spouse is the one who came home with the advertisement to sign up for the program; his mother had given it to him. He never thought that I would be the one to jump at the opportunity. With six children, it was not an easy decision to make.” Many find it difficult to always be required to plan everything prior to each departure. They acknowledge that they don’t have much time left for self-care and to rest between workweeks. They have pointed out that their training period, while demanding, was easier in all respects because they were home every night and often had the same days off as their children. Despite the higher wages, some are considering leaving James Bay to be closer to their families, while others say they enjoy this way of life and feel comfortable there. “I like it, being free from the burden of family duties for eight days is almost like a vacation,” said one woman. Unsurprisingly, there is a notable difference between single women and those with families.

When we asked the women about their work environment and their integration into their teams, we realized that this is a sensitive subject with a variety of experiences. Some environments seem more hospitable and better prepared to welcome women. Given the size of the territory, some find themselves the only woman on their team, which they find more difficult. In a discussion on her participation in group conversations, one of them told us that “We don’t talk about the same things: the guys tell each other what they did on their days off. I’m a single mother, so my ‘six’ is often spent preparing for my next ‘eight’ and taking care of my daughter. I don’t think the guys are interested in that, so I just don’t talk about it.” Most are well aware that change doesn’t happen overnight and that they are in a workplace built by men, for men. However, those who have been on the job for a number of years have noticed an improvement in attitudes and behaviours. It seems that the level of language has improved. The women feel that it is easier for the new generations and that there is less competition. According to one worker, “We’re used to it because we did our training together. The guys are more careful because they know we’re just as competent as they are.” Some clearly state that their absence for eight days, while in a predominantly male environment, requires adaptations in their relationship. They would like to see training designed specifically for couples.

The integration of women into traditionally male-dominated trades and environments certainly remains a major challenge for any organization. Although there is a willingness to change the current models, a considerable amount of work remains to be done. In the program evaluation mentioned earlier, an entire section will focus on this complex issue and various approaches will be discussed. Until then, we can only highlight the progress made; we dedicate this report to all those Cree women who have dared to take a road less travelled.



*Tina Houle*



*Dally Rupertouse*



*Jocelyn Moses*

# Eeyou Ituun Training Program

## “Professional Cree Land Steward”

*A Joint Initiative by:*  
Regional Cree Trappers’ Association  
Niskamoon Corporation

CEGEP Saint-Félicien

The Eeyou Ituun Training program aims to offer high quality, government accredited training in the art and science of Cree Traditional Pursuits. The program will be given in Cree by highly qualified Cree elders. The 900-hour course will last one year with 80% of content delivered in the bush.

Photo: Jimmy Sam

### Historical Context

This program stems from a partnership between the Regional Cree Trappers' Association, Niskamoon Corporation and CEGEP Saint-Félicien. The program achieved full accreditation as an Attestation of Collegial Studies ("Attestation d'études collégiales") in 2017. Note that this is the first time in Québec that a training program offered in a language other than English or French has received such an accreditation.

### Partnership Development

Meetings and presentations were held with the Cree School Board in order to solicit their participation in this important project. Furthermore, a funding proposal was submitted to the Société du Plan Nord for funding a Program Coordinator, among other things.

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### Program Coordinator

A job description has been developed for a Program Coordinator. Partial funding for the first year has been provided by Niskamoon Corporation. Additional funding has been solicited from the Cree Trappers' Association and Société du Plan Nord. The requirements for developing such a large and complex program necessitates a full-time employee dedicated to the program.

### Next Steps

We hope to accomplish a tour of all Cree communities in 2019 to present the program to our stakeholders. Furthermore, work will continue to raise funds for the necessary capital investments related to the project.

# Database and Management Systems

Niskamoon maintains an online database for its projects, referred to as the Niskamoon Information Management System (NIMS). It is an integrated platform, such that it also serves to submit new projects for funding, to manage projects in progress as well as to submit final reports when the projects are complete. The NIMS is connected to the Cree Geo-Portal, a broader geo-referenced platform which allows all relevant spatial data to be held and shared through one application.

This way, for example, when the Cree Trappers' Association makes any changes to existing trapline boundaries, the maps are updated in real time for the benefit of all the other entities.

Niskamoon has also developed a Customer Relationship Management Platform, the Niskamoon Interactive Consultation

Database (NICD), which is directly linked with the NIMS. This platform has yet to be fully integrated in all nine communities.

In 2018-2019, modifications made to the NIMS system were relatively minor, and consisted mostly of small bug fixes and upgrades. We continue to work actively with our service provider, Strata360, to make this system perform as well as possible. Of course, a major constraint in many communities continues to be bandwidth limitations, since the whole application is online.



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# Financial Information

## List of Approved Projects in 2018-2019

<b>RESOLUTION</b> ▼	<b>COMMUNITY</b> ▼	<b>FUNDING PROGRAM</b> ▼	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> ▼	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b> ▼	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b> ▼
1819-15	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Old Nemaska Gathering 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$50,000.00
1819-28	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Voluntary Registry of Cisco Catches 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$42,529.00
1819-29	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Voluntary Lake Sturgeon Registry 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$13,186.00
1819-30	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Spring Airlift 2018 Offset Costs	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$30,000.00
1819-31	Waskaganish ( <i>Siibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Waskaganish Construction of Scooping Weirs 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$81,214.00
1819-32	Waskaganish ( <i>Siibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Gillnet Fishing at Kaapehschii Bay 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$12,422.00
1819-33	Waskaganish ( <i>Siibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Waskaganish Maintenance and Repair Project 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$29,631.00
1819-34	Waskaganish ( <i>Siibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Waskaganish Preservation and Support for Cisco Fishing at Smokey Hill 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$155,848.00
1819-35	Waskaganish ( <i>Siibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Waskaganish Smokey Hill Fishing 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$224,067.00
1819-36	Waskaganish ( <i>Siibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Waskaganish Rupert River Fishing and Local Distribution 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$17,128.00

1819-37	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	N01 Allan Georgekish Water Front Works Project	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$11,347.00
1819-38	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	N06 Darryl Hester Traditional Fishing at Kaachikaasuk 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$50,000.00
1819-39	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	R04 Jacob Erless Fishery Project 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$25,000.00
1819-40	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	R04 Jacob Erless Ramp Crossing	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$5,816.00
1819-41	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	R04 Jacob Erless Ramp Campsite Crossing	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$5,788.00
1819-42	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Boat Docks	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$25,000.00
1819-43	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Youth Canoe Brigade 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$10,000.00
1819-44	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	N24 Lindy Moar ATV Trail & Goose Hunting Area Enhancement	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$23,302.00
1819-45	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	M33 Andrew Brien Summer Fishery Project	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$28,943.00
1819-49	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	R04 Jacob Erless Replacement of Allan Georgekishs Cabin	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$6,325.00
1819-120	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Smokey Hill Gathering 2018	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$30,000.00

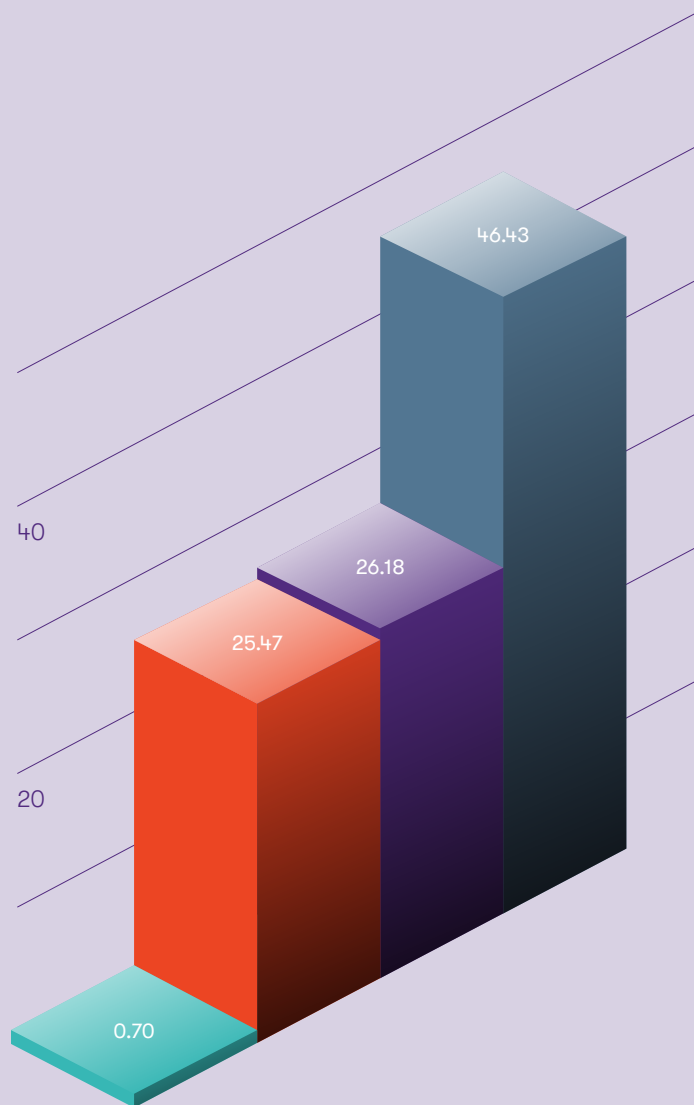
1819-123	Waskaganish ( <i>Sibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Rupert Bay Hummocked Ice Mitigation Program	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$115,060.00
1819-124	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	N02 Willis & Jonathan Weistche ATV & Hiking Trails Parking & Camp Zones	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$66,564.00
1819-139	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	N23 Joel George Geese Flyways and Corridors	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$19,976.00
1819-149	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	R21 Harry Jolly Driveway Improvement	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$20,961.00
1819-170	Mistissini	Remedial Works	M25 Jimmy Neeposh Snowmobile Trail	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$6,325.00
1819-189	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Youth Winter Journey 2019	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$10,000.00
1819-190	Waskaganish ( <i>Sibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Ice Monitoring 2018-2019	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$44,682.00
1819-191	Waskaganish	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	R16 Roderick Blackned Ski-Doo Trail	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$30,992.00
1819-192	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Public Safety Ice Monitoring & Navigation	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$14,288.00
1819-193	Waskaganish ( <i>Sibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Public Safety Ice Monitoring & Navigation	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$64,549.00
1819-197	Waskaganish ( <i>Sibii Development Corporation</i> )	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Snowmobile Trail Groom	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$31,132.00
1819-198	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Wood Supply Program for Elders 2018-2019	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$25,000.00

1819-199	Nemaska	Re-appropriation of Rupert River	Snow Removal to Campsites Program 2018-2019	Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund	\$192,107.00
1819-200	Nemaska	Remedial Works	R19 George Wapachee Solar Panel for Cabin	Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund	\$12,835.00
1819-201	Waswanipi	Remedial Works	Snow Removal Program 2018-2019	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$63,250.00
1819-202	Waswanipi	Remedial Works	W05D Malcom Saganash Trans Eeyou Trail	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$36,635.00
1819-203	Waswanipi	Remedial Works	W06A Randy Ottereyes Sr. Trans Eeyou Istchee Trail	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$36,211.00
1819-204	Waswanipi	Remedial Works	W23 Roger Dixon Trans Eeyou Trail	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$24,510.00
1819-205	Waswanipi	Remedial Works	W23D Raymond J.L. Dixon Trans Eeyou Trail	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$27,500.00
1819-206	Washaw Sibi	Remedial Works	Wood Cutters Project 2018	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$25,000.00
1819-217	Waskaganish	Special Projects - Coastal Habitat	Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program Participation - Waskaganish	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$54,337.00
1819-218	Chisasibi	Special Projects - Coastal Habitat	Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program Participation - Chisasibi	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$240,770.00
EC1819-18	Eastmain	Remedial Works	RE-03A George B. Cheezo Trans Eeyou Trail Phase 2	Hydro-Québec & Eeyou Fund	\$24,310.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$5,964,944.00</b>

**APPROVED AMOUNT OF FUNDING SUM  
PER FUND, 2018 - 2019**

in %

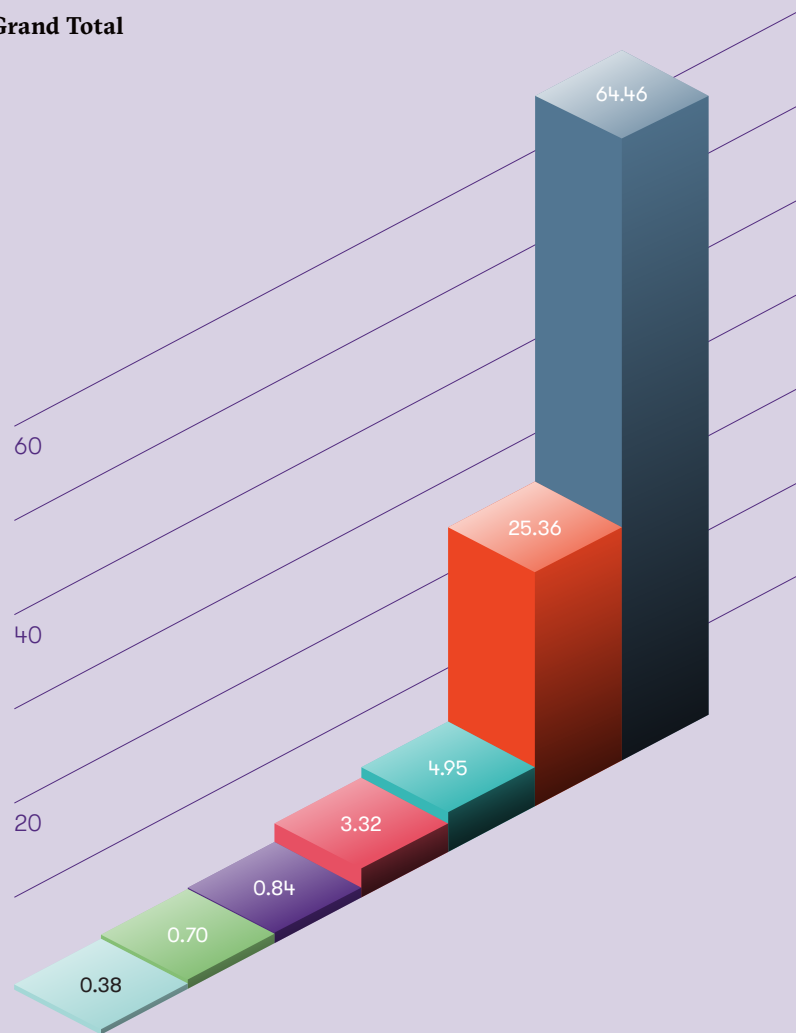
- \$2,769,355 ► Hydro-Quebec & Eeyou Fund
- \$1,561,919 ► Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund
- \$1,519,182 ► Continued Use & Re-appropriation Fund
- \$41,508 ► Eeyou Names Funds
  
- \$5,964,944 ► **Grand Total**



### FUNDING SUMS, APPROVED PER PROGRAM 2018 - 2019

in %

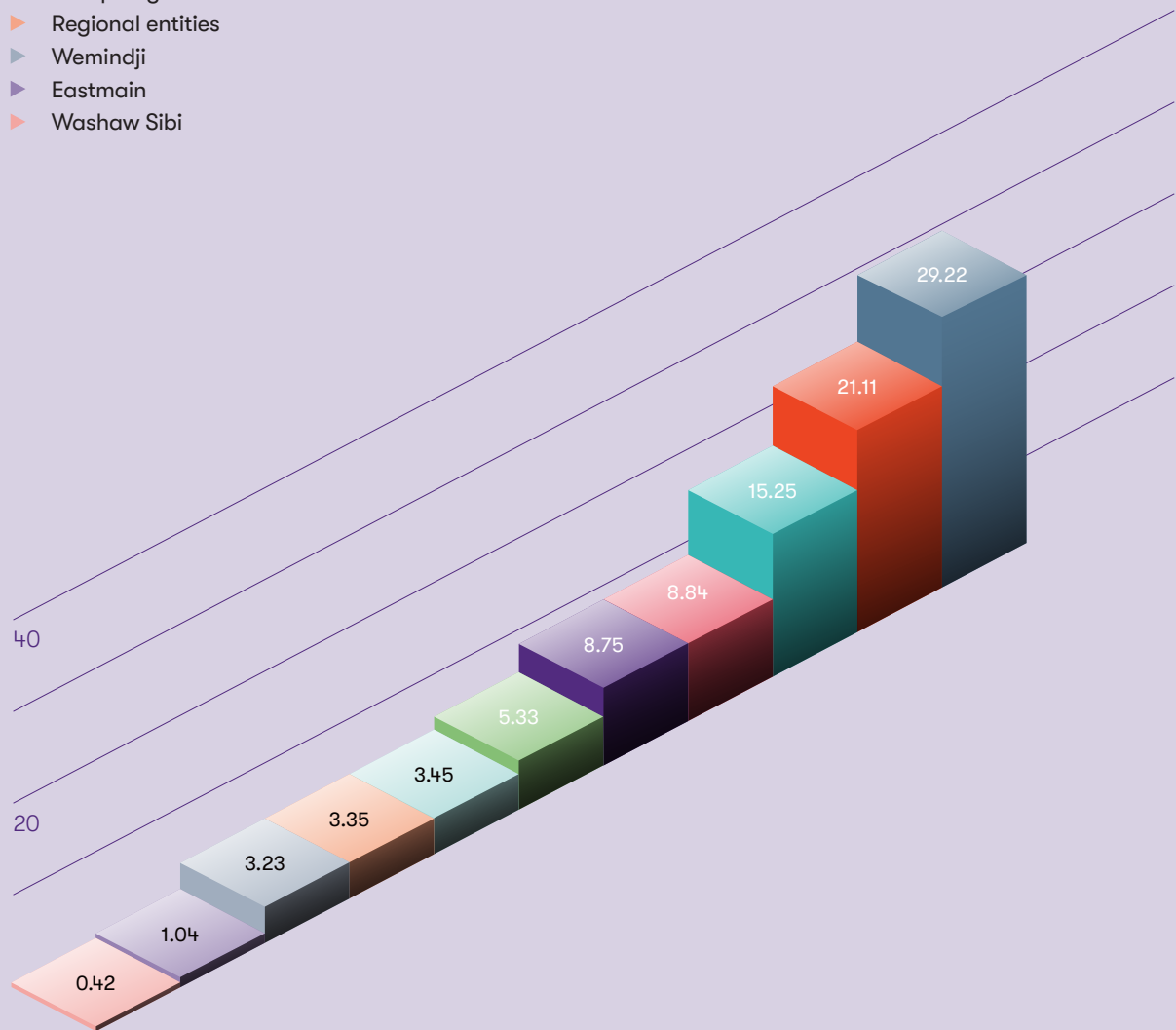
- \$3,845,138 ► Remedial Works
- \$1,512,857 ► Re-appropriation of Rupert River
- \$295,107 ► Special Projects - Coastal Habitat
- \$197,834 ► Cultural Events and Gatherings
- \$50,000 ► Social Innovation Funds
- \$41,508 ► Fisheries Enhancement Program
- \$22,500 ► Cultural Enhancement Program
  
- \$5,964,944 ► **Grand Total**



### OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS PER COMMUNITY, 2018 -2019

in %

- ▶ Nemaska
- ▶ Waskaganish
- ▶ Chisasibi
- ▶ Mistissini
- ▶ Waswanipi
- ▶ Oujé-Bougoumou
- ▶ Whapmagoostui
- ▶ Regional entities
- ▶ Wemindji
- ▶ Eastmain
- ▶ Washaw Sibi





**Niskamoon Corporation**  
**Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2019

**Niskamoon Corporation**  
**Financial Statements**  
For the year ended March 31, 2019

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## Independent Auditor's Report

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### To the Members of Niskamoon Corporation

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Niskamoon Corporation (the "Corporation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2019, and the statements of revenue and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Niskamoon Corporation as at March 31, 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

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#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Niskamoon Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.



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## Independent Auditor's Report

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### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

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- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.



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## Independent Auditor's Report

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- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Corporation to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Corporation audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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

Montréal, Québec  
June 13, 2019


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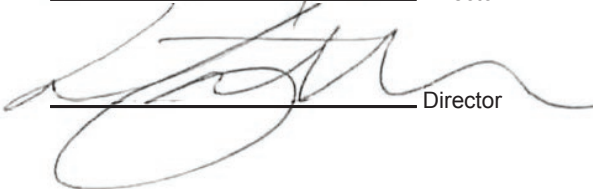
<sup>1</sup> CPA auditor, CA, public accountancy permit No. A128349

## Niskamoon Corporation Statement of Financial Position

March 31	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 10,196,269	\$ 11,791,641
Investments (Note 4)	36,593,353	33,973,643
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	2,806,013	1,786,901
	49,595,635	47,552,185
<b>Capital assets</b> (Note 6)	34,862	47,136
<b>Assets held-for-sale</b> (Note 7)	898,668	880,151
	\$ 50,529,165	\$ 48,479,472
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 206,145	\$ 293,623
Project expenditures payable (Note 8)	540,385	1,106,545
Due to Cree Nation Government (Note 2)	14,690	5,789
Deferred revenue (Note 9)	49,767,945	47,073,515
	50,529,165	48,479,472
<b>Net assets</b>		
Invested in capital assets	933,531	927,287
Administration fund	(933,531)	(927,287)
	-	-
	\$ 50,529,165	\$ 48,479,472

On behalf of the Board

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director

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

## Niskamoon Corporation Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

<b>For the year ended March 31</b>	<b>2019</b>			<b>2018</b>
	<b>Administration Fund</b>	<b>Program Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Contributions				
Hydro-Québec	\$ 4,078,014	\$ 10,142,158	\$ 14,220,172	\$ 19,165,434
Cree Nation Government	-	1,162,500	1,162,500	-
Investment income	92,922	942,178	1,035,100	853,851
Transferred to deferred revenue (Note 9)	(4,244,932)	-	(4,244,932)	(4,078,014)
Unrealized gain (loss) on financial instruments	17,771	180,954	198,725	(226,008)
Other revenue	7,273	-	7,273	8,554
	<b>(48,952)</b>	<b>12,427,790</b>	<b>12,378,838</b>	<b>15,723,817</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Project expenditures	-	10,003,469	10,003,469	12,900,890
Contribution to Niskamoon Officers	-	965,000	965,000	931,626
Salary and fringe benefits	374,706	-	374,706	696,161
Professional fees	350,960	-	350,960	275,050
Travel	211,170	-	211,170	272,984
Office expenses	85,354	-	85,354	83,786
Corporate fees	80,765	-	80,765	104,638
Rent	61,449	-	61,449	76,914
Monitoring Committee	67,764	-	67,764	83,821
Administration charges	48,962	-	48,962	44,099
Legal fees (Note 11)	41,303	-	41,303	43,102
Telecommunications	26,981	-	26,981	23,336
Advertising and promotion	21,027	-	21,027	20,494
Service Agreement - Cree Nation Government (Note 2)	14,347	-	14,347	18,500
Amortization of capital assets	12,274	-	12,274	15,418
Insurance	8,508	-	8,508	6,320
Bank charges	3,819	-	3,819	3,036
Annual report	980	-	980	1,540
	<b>1,410,369</b>	<b>10,968,469</b>	<b>12,378,838</b>	<b>15,601,715</b>
<b>(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures for the year</b>	<b>\$ (1,459,321)</b>	<b>\$ 1,459,321</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 122,102</b>

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

**Niskamoon Corporation**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

<b>For the year ended March 31</b>				<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	Invested in Capital Assets	Administration Fund	Program Funds	Total	Total
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	\$ 927,287	\$ (927,287)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (122,102)
<b>(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures for the year</b>	(12,274)	(1,447,047)	1,459,321	-	122,102
<b>Invested in capital assets</b>	18,518	(18,518)	-	-	-
<b>Interfund transfers (Note 13)</b>	-	1,459,321	(1,459,321)	-	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	\$ 933,531	\$ (933,531)	\$ -	\$ -	-

## Niskamoon Corporation Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31	2019	2018
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ -	\$ 122,102
Items not involving cash and cash equivalents		
Amortization of capital assets	12,274	15,418
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	<u>(198,725)</u>	<u>226,008</u>
	(186,451)	363,528
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	(1,019,112)	1,135,559
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(87,478)	24,211
Project expenditures payable	(566,160)	452,389
Deferred revenue	2,694,430	(2,616,974)
Contributions received in advance	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,695,215)</u>
	<u>835,229</u>	<u>(12,336,502)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
(Purchase) disposal of investments	(2,420,985)	9,300,089
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(18,517)</u>	<u>(6,769)</u>
	<u>(2,439,502)</u>	<u>9,293,320</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activity</b>		
Due to Cree Nation Government	<u>8,901</u>	<u>4,648</u>
<b>Decrease in cash and cash equivalents during the year</b>	<b>(1,595,372)</b>	<b>(3,038,534)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year</b>	<b><u>11,791,641</u></b>	<b><u>14,830,175</u></b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 10,196,269</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 11,791,641</u></b>

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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### 1. Significant Accounting Policies

#### Nature of Business

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

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

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#### Basis of Accounting

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

#### Funds Details

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

##### *Program Funds*

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

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

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

## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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The Hydro-Québec and Eeyou Fund is used for remedial, mitigation measures, works and programs of benefit to the Crees as well as training for Crees in order to access employment and contract opportunities resulting from the operation of Le Complexe La Grande (1975). This fund was also used for the funding of the Chisasibi House Replacement Program, which consists essentially of the construction or replacement of 163 housing units in the community of Chisasibi for a maximum amount of \$35,000,000. To date, the full amount has been disbursed under the program to the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, as a result, Niskamoon Corporation has paid its full commitment towards the Chisasibi Housing Replacement.

### *Nadoshtin Programs*

This Agreement provides for the following funds:

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

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

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

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

### *Boumhounan Programs*

This Agreement provides for the following funds:

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

## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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

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

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

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

### *Re-appropriation Funds*

This Agreement provides for the following funds:

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

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

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

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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### **Financial Instruments**

#### *Measurement of Financial Instruments*

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

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

Financial assets measured at fair value include investments.

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

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

#### *Impairment*

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

#### *Transaction Costs*

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

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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<b>Pension Plan</b>	The Corporation is a sponsor in a contributory, multiemployer defined benefit pension plan for all their employees who satisfy certain eligibility conditions. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to the multiemployer defined benefit pension plan as information to apply defined benefit plan accounting is not available. The cost of defined contribution pensions is expensed as earned by employees.						
<b>Use of Estimates</b>	The preparation of financial statements in accordance with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Significant items subject to estimates and assumptions include, but are not limited to, the estimated useful life of assets and accruals. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.						
<b>Revenue Recognition</b>	<p>The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Under this method, contributions restricted for future period expenses are deferred and are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.</p> <p>Interest income is recognized when earned. Interest is allocated between the administration fund and the various program funds based on several criteria. The criteria involved in the determination of the allocation include the following: current and prior year deferred revenue and accounts receivable balances; and the specific investments made for each of the fund surpluses.</p>						
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, bank balances and short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition and which are readily convertible into known amounts of cash.						
<b>Capital Assets and Assets Held-for-Sale</b>	<p>Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Cost is net of related government grants, if any. Amortization based on the estimated useful life of the asset is calculated as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Leasehold improvements</td> <td>10 years straight-line method</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office furniture and equipment</td> <td>20% declining balance method</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Computer equipment</td> <td>30% declining balance method</td> </tr> </table>	Leasehold improvements	10 years straight-line method	Office furniture and equipment	20% declining balance method	Computer equipment	30% declining balance method
Leasehold improvements	10 years straight-line method						
Office furniture and equipment	20% declining balance method						
Computer equipment	30% declining balance method						

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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

**Long-lived Assets**

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

**Foreign Currency Translation**

Foreign currency accounts are translated into Canadian dollars as follows:

At the transaction date, each asset, liability, revenue and expense is translated into Canadian dollars by the use of the exchange rate in effect at that date. At the year-end date, monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Canadian dollars by using the exchange rate in effect at that date. The resulting foreign exchange gains and losses are included in income in the current period except for the foreign currency gains and losses on long-term monetary items which are deferred and amortized over the remaining terms of the related items.

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**2. Service Agreement - Cree Nation Government**

On November 17, 2016, the Corporation entered into an agreement with the Cree Nation Government entitled Agreement Respecting the Executive Assistant Position Cost-Sharing and Nemaska Offices Rental. This Agreement was retroactive to September 15, 2016 as provided by Section 6 of this Agreement.

Sections 2 and 3 of this Agreement provides for the rental of office spaces at Nemaska's Cree Nation Government offices. The Cree Nation Government invoices the Corporation on an annual basis for the expenditures incurred by Cree Nation Government on behalf of the Corporation to be paid 30 days following March 31 of every year and are non-interest bearing.

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

### March 31, 2019

#### 3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2019	2018
Cash	\$ 1,098,539	\$ 4,582,517
Money market fund	9,097,730	7,209,124
	\$ 10,196,269	\$ 11,791,641

#### 4. Investments

	2019		2018	
	Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
Bonds and debentures (i)	\$ 27,003,150	\$ 27,157,422	\$ 26,595,087	\$ 26,583,474
Guaranteed investment certificates (ii)	7,930,000	7,930,000	5,940,000	5,940,000
Marketable securities	1,072,158	1,341,575	1,051,464	1,288,039
Mutual Funds	164,356	164,356	162,130	162,130
	\$ 36,169,664	\$ 36,593,353	\$ 33,748,681	\$ 33,973,643

(i) March 31, 2019 - interest rates ranging from 1.85% to 3.07% and maturing between April 2019 and July 2022;

March 31, 2018 - interest rates ranging from 1.77% to 3.07% and maturing between December 2018 and July 2022.

(ii) March 31, 2019 - interest rates at 2%, maturing in April 2019;

March 31, 2018 - interest rates at 1.3%, maturing in April 2018.

#### 5. Accounts Receivable

	2019	2018
Accrued interest	\$ 2,156,683	\$ 1,623,439
Project expenditures recoverable	517,402	106,476
Sales taxes receivable	131,928	56,986
	\$ 2,806,013	\$ 1,786,901

## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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### 6. Capital Assets

	2019		2018	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Office furniture and equipment \$	130,669	\$ 115,739	\$ 130,669	\$ 112,007
Computer equipment	101,762	81,830	101,762	73,288
	<b>\$ 232,431</b>	<b>\$ 197,569</b>	<b>\$ 232,431</b>	<b>\$ 185,295</b>
Net book value		<b>\$ 34,862</b>		<b>\$ 47,136</b>

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### 7. Assets Held-for-Sale

The Corporation owns land and building located in Montréal, Québec which are classified as held-for-sale. At March 31, 2019, there were circumstances beyond the Corporation's control that extended the period required to complete the sale beyond one year. The Corporation continues to meet the criteria to classify the building as asset held-for-sale at March 31, 2019.

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

	2019		2018	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	\$ 102,192	\$ -	\$ 102,192	\$ 102,192
Building	950,967	154,491	796,476	777,959
	<b>\$ 1,053,159</b>	<b>\$ 154,491</b>	<b>\$ 898,668</b>	<b>\$ 880,151</b>

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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### 8. Project Expenditures Payable

	2019	2018
Cree Nation of Eastmain projects	\$ 125,000	\$ 103,514
Cree Nation of Wemindji projects	125,000	-
Cree Nation of Chisasibi projects	120,385	103,514
Ouje Bougoumou Cree Nation	85,000	103,514
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi projects	85,000	-
Whapmagoostui First Nation projects	-	263,514
Cree Nation of Waskaganish projects	-	103,514
Cree Nation of Nemaska projects	-	325,461
Cree Nation of Mistissini projects	-	103,514
	<b>\$ 540,385</b>	<b>\$ 1,106,545</b>

### 9. Deferred Revenue

	2019	2018
Apatisiwiin - Cree Employment Fund	\$ 2,726,117	\$ 3,515,087
Names Mercury Fund	3,054,128	3,129,618
Opimiscow Indoho Fund	1,579,783	803,002
Hydro-Québec Eeyou Fund	4,729,499	978,211
Re-appropriation Fund		
Continued Use Fund	6,619,884	5,786,232
Specific Navigation Fund	11,502,632	11,177,486
Specific Training Fund	362,723	352,775
Nadoshtin Funds		
Remedial Works Fund	779,525	1,002,024
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund	94,236	94,236
EM-1 Mercury Fund	253,748	245,687
Eenou Indohoun Fund	2,574,055	2,648,114
Boumhounan Funds		
Remedial Measures Fund	8,934,739	10,787,485
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund	110,384	110,384
EM-1 A Mercury Fund	173,982	168,659
Training Fund	732,505	709,530
Eenou Indohoun Fund	1,295,073	1,486,971
Deferred revenue - Program Funds	<b>45,523,013</b>	42,995,501
Niskamoon Administration Fund	<b>4,244,932</b>	4,078,014
Total deferred revenue	<b>\$ 49,767,945</b>	<b>\$ 47,073,515</b>

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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### 10. Commitments

The Corporation has an operating lease for its premise in Rouyn-Noranda, Québec expiring on September 30, 2019 and another operating lease in Chisasibi, Québec expiring September 30, 2021.

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

2020	\$	91,587
2021		49,183
2022		<u>24,591</u>
	\$	<u>165,361</u>

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### 11. Legal Fees

	2019	2018
Chisasibi House Replacement Program	\$ 19,512	\$ 29,616
Head office	15,300	4,052
Real property and leasehold agreement	5,315	8,554
Executive Committee	1,176	-
Community coordinators	-	880
	<b>\$ 41,303</b>	<b>\$ 43,102</b>

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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### 12. Risks Arising From Financial Instruments

#### *Credit Risk*

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

#### *Market Risk*

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

#### *Interest Rate Risk*

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

#### *Liquidity Risk*

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

#### *Other Price Risk*

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

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

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## Niskamoon Corporation Notes to Financial Statements

**March 31, 2019**

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### 13. Interfund Transfer and Contributions

In 2019, the Corporation's Board of Directors transferred \$1,459,321 (2018 - \$1,650,189) from the Program Funds to the Administration Fund in order for the Administration Fund to manage the Corporation.

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### 14. Retirement Benefits

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

At the date of the last actuarial valuation of the plan, December 31, 2015, there was a solvency deficit of approximately \$12,745,000 (2014 - \$10,254,000) according to the plan's actuaries. It is not possible to determine the Corporation's share of the solvency deficit as well as additional past service contributions since the information was not available as at the date of authorization of issuance by the Board of Directors. Additionally, the plan exposes the participating entities to actuarial risks associated with the current and former employees of other entities, with the result that there is no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, plan assets and cost to individual entities participating in the plan.

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

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Asset rate of return (net of fees)	<b>5.35%</b>	5.25%
Inflation	<b>2.00%</b>	2.00%
Salary escalation rate	<b>4.00%</b>	4.00%
Indexation of retirement income	<b>2.70%</b>	2.70%

The Corporation made contributions totaling \$149,042 (2018 - \$189,097) during the year with respect to this plan.

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**Niskamoon Corporation  
Schedule of Revenue and Expenditures - Program Funds**

	Re-appropriation										Nadoshtin					Boumhouan					2019	2018
	Apatisiw/- Cree Employment Fund	Names Mercury Fund	Opimiscow Indoho Fund	Hydro-Quebec Eyou Fund	Continued Use Fund	Specific Navigation Fund	Specific Training Fund	Remedial Measures Fund	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund	EM-1 Mercury Fund	Ennou Indohoun Fund	Remedial Works Fund	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Fund	EM-1A Mercury Fund	Ennou Training Fund	Ennou Indohoun Fund	Total	Total				
Revenue	\$ 3,515,087	\$ 3,129,618	\$ 803,002	\$ 876,211	\$ 5,786,232	\$ 11,177,486	\$ 352,775	\$ 1,002,024	\$ 94,236	\$ 245,687	\$ 2,648,114	\$ 10,787,485	\$ 110,384	\$ 188,659	\$ 709,630	\$ 1,486,971	\$ 42,985,501	\$ 45,416,506				
Deferred revenue, beginning of year (Note 9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Contributions from Hydro-Quebec Corporation and Nation Government	-	-	792,286	8,886,588	2,990,626	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Deferred revenue, end of year (Note 9)	(2,726,117)	(3,054,128)	(1,579,763)	(4,729,499)	(6,619,864)	(11,502,632)	(382,723)	(779,525)	(94,236)	(253,748)	(2,574,055)	(8,934,739)	(110,384)	(173,982)	(732,605)	(1,295,073)	(45,523,013)	(42,995,501)				
Investment Income	788,970	75,490	15,505	6,297,770	2,157,174	(925,146)	(9,948)	222,499	-	(8,061)	74,059	1,852,746	-	(5,323)	(22,875)	191,898	11,304,658	14,891,451				
Unrealized gain (less) on financial instruments	33,172	72,701	-	56,454	167,409	273,790	8,366	14,450	-	6,859	64,679	195,107	-	4,498	19,501	24,992	942,178	898,054				
	8,816	14,289	-	8,997	30,143	51,356	1,582	3,205	-	1,202	5,113	39,884	-	825	3,474	11,968	180,954	(184,698)				
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>830,958</b>	<b>162,480</b>	<b>15,505</b>	<b>6,363,221</b>	<b>2,354,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>240,154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>144,051</b>	<b>2,087,837</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>228,858</b>	<b>12,427,790</b>	<b>15,604,807</b>				
<b>Project expenditures</b>	<b>830,958</b>	<b>20,755</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,208,893</b>	<b>1,938,965</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>207,585</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>144,051</b>	<b>1,423,404</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>228,858</b>	<b>10,003,469</b>	<b>12,900,890</b>				
Contribution to Niskamoon officers	-	-	-	710,000	255,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	965,000	931,626				
Contribution to Administration Fund (Note 13)	-	141,725	15,505	444,328	160,781	-	-	32,569	-	-	-	664,433	-	-	-	-	1,469,321	1,650,189				
	830,958	162,480	15,505	6,363,221	2,354,726	-	240,154	-	-	-	144,051	2,087,837	-	-	-	228,858	12,427,790	15,482,705				
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 122,102</b>				

Meegwetch.  
Thank you.  
Merci.





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