

Jean Marie River First Nation's 2016 Economic Development Strategy

JMRFN hired Heather Shay with Dillon Consulting Ltd. in February 2016 to rewrite and update *JMRFN Tourism Development Business Plan (2013)*; she submitted a draft copy last month. Heather was in the community in February to meet with community members to gather information and feedback. Six community members met with Heather again in May/16 in Yellowknife to provide further input into updating the Business Plan.

All economic activity undertaken by Jean Marie River First Nation will be based on Dene Laws and Principles. The main goals are to *Develop a Sustainable, Community Controlled Economy* and objectives are to *Revive the Economic Development Corporation, Develop sustainable tourism operations and Develop a Sustainable Forestry Operation*. Through gauging the key economic sectors in the Dehcho, in addition to evaluating the interest and skills existing in the community, the economic sectors prioritized by community members are tourism and forestry. Based on the 2016 Strategic Plan, the community identified six economic development projects they want to focus on during the next three to five years. Grouped by theme, these include:

Tourism: *Jean Marie River Log School Renovation; RV Park and Campground Upgrades; Traditional Trails and Tourist Accommodations and Interpretive Centre at Ekali Lake.*

Forestry: *Timber Harvesting and Sawmill Re-commissioning.*

Action plans are provided for each project. In addition, recommended strategies to ensure success include:

- Further developing governance capacity by reviving the Jean Marie River Economic Development Corporation;
- Skill development and capacity building;
- Supporting community entrepreneurs; and
- Business Development.

The document included action plans and implementation strategy which are too lengthy to include in this newsletter. Community members are welcomed and encouraged to read and familiarize themselves with the *Economic Development Strategy* which is readily available in the Band Office.

Jean Marie River First Nation

Vision Statement

We, the Tthets'ek'ehdeli Got'ie, are proud of our Dene traditions, language, and beliefs.

We value and respect the land, water, and animals that have sustained us for many Generations. We shall continue to use and respect our natural resources.

Building on the knowledge and skills of our people, we shall work together to create a healthy, sustainable future for ourselves and for our children. We shall strive to find a balance between the traditional and modern ways of life.



TTHETS'EK'EHDELI GOT'IE GONDI

June 2016

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Chief's Reflections

Hello to all Community Members and welcome back to all the returning birds and animals as well as the new birds for the summer. Apparently even pelicans visited us a couple of weeks ago.

We are very pleased to present the first edition of our newsletter. This is another mode of communicating happenings in our community to you. Currently, events and happenings in the community are communicated via Jean Marie River First Nation website (www.jmrfn.com), Facebook, a suggestion box which is on the receptionist's desk and on the white board in the front area where Council meeting notifications are also posted.

As you all know, we are busy getting ready to host the Dehcho Annual Assembly from June 26th to 30th. It is a very grand undertaking but we all are very keen and excited to present our best for the gathering.

With that, it is only fitting to start with our students as June 17 was the last day of school. During the Awards Luncheon, many students received awards and a bag of books to read over the summer. Please take some time to listen to them read. Zaida Sanguéz will be continuing with her education in Fort Simpson this coming fall. It was bittersweet for Zaida and all of use as she fought tears to say thank you to her teachers.

Highlighting some of the happenings at the Band Office throughout the year, we have been working to build on our Strategic Plan to ensure that we are doing what we said we are going to do. This spring, we revisited our Strategic Plan, made some changes and hired a contractor to update our Economic Development Strategy. We now have the draft document and we are very happy with it as it specifies each project very clearly. Our next step is to implement the projects. In doing so, we have secured some

funding to hire a Business Manager for our Development Corporation. This person will help restart our business branch. Building a business is not easy so we have to make sure we organize ourselves so that our business ventures succeed and to maintain a high level of productivity.

In other areas, our community garden is in. We are most grateful for the ITI team and the students who help plant. Saskatoon berries and other berries were planted as well. The plan is to have a berry orchard and a greenhouse in the near future. Please don't hesitate to weed and water the garden if you happen to notice that it needs it. We all need to do our part.

On the political side of things, the negotiation process slowed down, however, talks resumed with the government. The most recent meeting took place in Yellowknife earlier this month. During that meeting, our Chief Negotiator reiterated that we stand by land ownership of 50 k with surface and sub-surface rights. They in turn told us that population numbers are a key part of their offer. Premier Bob McLeod will make every effort to attend the Assembly at the end of this month.

With that, stay tune and take care.



Chief Gladys Norwegian
June 2016

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Check out our new and
improved website!

www.jmrfn.com



Left: the old log school prior to log renovation in 2014.



Right: the log school after log renovation in summer of 2015.

Program Coordinator's Corner

This is the first issue of a community newsletter that will be issued 4 times annually. Please submit news items or notable subject to the Program Coordinator for inclusion in the next issue.

There was a change in the funding application process with Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) in Yellowknife. I had originally submitted an application under their *Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program* in June 2015. We were advised by Aleta Fowler, Economic Development Officer with CanNor, in October/15 to change the submission to another, more appropriate program. The program is called the *Community Readiness and Opportunities Planning (CROP)* that Aleta believed is better for our purposes for several reasons: 1) CanNor can fund up to 80% of project costs; 2) there are no stacking restrictions; 3) the funding cap is much higher (she believed it is up to one million (\$1,000,000.00)); 4) they can provide a multi-year agreement up to 3 years and, 5) they had funding available in 2015. I did not have to submit a CROP application as they will use the *Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program* application that was submitted in June/15. SAO Mike Rudkin changed the budget to reflect the new application and submitted a revised one in December/15.

Update: CanNor notified us in early March that our application had been approved. This funding will be for three years. Dan Lafreniere, whose company renovated and replaced logs on the log school last

summer, will resume work on the exterior of the building beginning some time this summer.

I have also submitted an *Expression of Interest* to the Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment under their *Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program* to upgrade and finish off the RV Park. I got quotes from Concept Energy Services Ltd., a company owned by Rocky Simpson Sr. in Hay River as well as from Prevost Electric Ltd. (Norman Prevost) in Fort Simpson. *Expression of Interest* applications will be reviewed in Yellowknife on January 21st and we will be invited to submit a proposal if the application is approved. The Dept. of ITI already approved two of our applications in 2015 so it is anyone's guess as to the outcome this year.

As some of you may have noticed, I have been updating the JMRFN website when required and will be adding more pictures in the future. Please send pictures that you want added to the website or any other items of interest to community members. Copies of newspaper and radio interviews with the Chief and staff have been added under "Links", "Documents" and "Climate Change" on Jean Marie River First Nation website.

Marilyn Hardisty,
Program Coordinator

Jean Marie River Welcomes New Senior Administrative Officer, Donkrison Moore

Donkrison Moore has been working in the North for the past several years, mainly in the areas of Accounting, Economic Development, Municipal Administration and Adult Education. He has worked with First Nations and Inuit in the three Territories and northern British Columbia. His teaching portfolio included courses in Accounting, Microsoft Office, Business Planning and Business Management.

He possesses a masters in Entrepreneurship and Consultancy, a Bachelors in Business Administration and a Provincial Instructor's Diploma. Currently, he is a Notary Public for Nunavut and a committee member for the NWT/NU WSCC.

Don added that he "looks forward to working with the community of Jean Marie and collaborating with the other Dehcho First Nations."



TRADITIONAL FOOD SECTION

Stuffed Moose Heart

Wipe one moose heart with a damp cloth, soak overnight in salted water, then drain. Mix together in a bowl:

- 1 cup of fine bread crumbs
- 1 stalk of celery, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon sage
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Hollow out the top of the heart. Stuff with the sage stuffing mixture then close the opening. Coat the heart with a mixture of flour with salt and pepper. Dot the heart with butter or bacon drippings. Place in a covered roaster and bake at 325° until done, about 3 hours. Baste occasionally.

"When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money."

Cree Prophecy