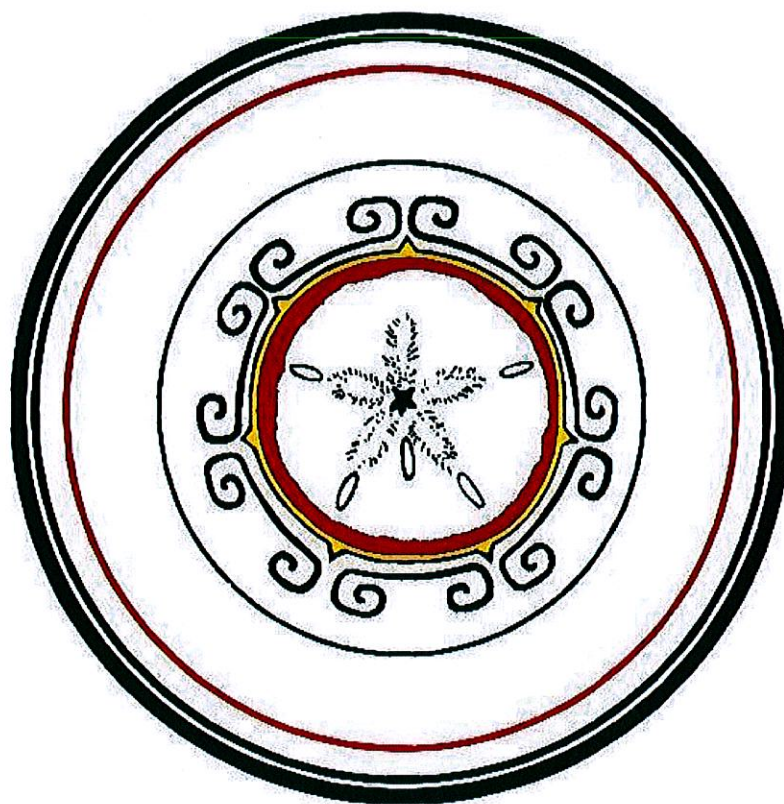


2012

Acadia First Nation

Rachel Pictou



[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE]

The economic development department has had a busy year. We have started a number of projects including new building development, business development (Kespuwick Resources) and training projects. Below is a list of projects I am currently working on:

1. **Acadia First Nation Community Center/Bingo Hall** – A business plan was developed in 2011 for a community center and bingo hall. Over the last year we have secured financing for this project. We broke ground this fall on an 8000 sq/ft building which is scheduled to open early spring. This building will provide a space for community meetings, bingo, hall rentals and much more. This is a huge milestone for the Band as the need for space to gather and hold functions has been identified in all of our communities.
2. **Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fishery Initiative** – We have been working with Department of Fisheries and Oceans over the last 4 years by participating in the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fishery Initiative funding program. Last year we received \$90,000 to put towards wages and meeting expenses and we received \$141,000 to use towards the purchase of new gear and equipment for the fishery. This year we are hoping for roughly the same amount. The economic development department has been working in collaboration with the fisheries coordinator to develop a long term business plan and has assisted in submitting applications to DFO.
3. **Gardner's Mill Land Use & Development Plan** – This project is in the final stages. Funding was received from AANDC to develop a strategic land use and development plan for the Gardner's Mill area. The plan consists of recommendations for residential and commercial zones. It explores economic development opportunities that could be explored in the future and focuses on developing infrastructure. This planning is crucial to ensure that this land is developed to achieve its full potential.
4. **GED Prep Course** – Funding was received from Department of Labour and Advanced Education and from Career Connections Centre to provide a GED prep course here at the Band office in Yarmouth. There are 12 students involved (Band members and community members) that come 4 days a week and are working towards writing the GED exam. The course goes from October till April. We have formed a partnership with the Yarmouth Learning Network and they have assisted in the delivery of this project.

5. **Acadia First Nation Geomatics Project** – This project is in the initial stage. The purpose is to develop our own geomatics system that will aide in areas of economic development and land management. AANDC will be providing funding towards this project. We have partnered with Membertou Geomatics to assist in developing our GIS system. Project deliverables include: needs assessment, gap analysis, data collection, training, model development and system rollout, system support and maintenance.

6. **AFN Website Development** – The economic development department will be giving the website a much needed update! This is part of an overall corporate development strategy which is currently being developed. The website will be re-designed and better organized to assist Band members in staying informed on important issues, as well as giving the corporate side of business relevant and up to date info.

These projects are what I have been currently focusing my time on as well as staying informed with current funding opportunities that come available. I am also a member of the Kespuwick Advisory Committee and participate in the Employment Readiness Committee through CMM.

I am available to meet with Band members anytime to discuss any business ideas or start up projects they may need assistance with.

Sincerely,



Rachel Pictou, PAED
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