

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

Annual Report

2008-2009

natural responsibility



Pjil



natural responsibility

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Staff and Board of Directors at Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) have a responsibility to the natural environment, to species that can't speak for themselves, and to ensuring that the next seven generations will enjoy the beauty and bounty that have nourished the Mi'kmaq people both emotionally and physically for thousands of years.

UINR is the unified Mi'kmaq voice on stewardship, management, and research on natural resources and the environment.

Our Annual Report is a way to look back at the year and see just how much we accomplished and the progress we made in reaching our goals.

It is also an opportunity to reflect on UINR's guiding principle—Netukulimk. Netukulimk is the use of the natural bounty provided by the Creator for the self-support and well-being of the individual and the community. Netukulimk is achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well-being without jeopardizing the integrity, diversity, or productivity of our environment.

As Mi'kmaq, we have an inherent right to access and use our resources and we understand that we also have a responsibility to use those resources in a sustainable way. The Mi'kmaq way of resource management includes a spiritual element that ties together people, plants, animals, and the environment. UINR's strength is in our ability to integrate scientific research with Mi'kmaq knowledge.

Charlie Dennis *Executive Director*



Commitment, hard work, and dedication to the principles of sustainability are the qualities that guide our work at UINR. Our commitment to the environmental health of Unama'ki includes the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative, the Pitu'paq partnership, Moose Management Initiative, Collaborative Salmon Initiative, Species at Risk, and a host of marine science, forestry, and other environmental projects.

With long-term, core funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and through other project partnerships, our full-time staff gives us the ability to build capacity, expand existing programs, and get involved in other important projects with our partners. All the while, we keep a unique Mi'kmaq perspective on things. Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge and its integration with science is playing an increasing role in all our work.

Our contribution to the understanding and protection of the environment of Unama'ki will continue as we develop new partnerships and watch our current initiatives grow. Our commitment is to the future generations of Unama'ki people.

natural responsibility

2008/2009 was a busy time at UINR and we expanded our communications network to include every household in Unama'ki. Our newsletter, the UINR Marten, comes in the mail four times a year bringing information on UINR's many activities, publications, management, and research.

Phillip Prosper and Tim Cremo became the first Unama'ki Mi'kmaq Natural Resources Officers to be accepted in a new collaboration between UINR and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Once again this year, we helped coordinate a waste and recycling project at the St. Anne's Mission in Chapel Island. Working with our partners at Pitu'paq, this successful project saw a dramatic improvement of environmental conditions during and after the annual Mission.

The Collaborative Salmon Initiative (CSI) completed the first draft of the stewardship framework for monitoring, assessment, and enhancement of plamu/Atlantic Salmon populations and its habitat. CSI was formed to allow Mi'kmaq and non-aboriginal users, assisted and supported by the provincial and federal government agencies, to collectively address issues surrounding salmon.



2008-2009

UINR was involved in the development of two community-based management plans for gaspereau and lobster. Work is continuously being done to promote and monitor the progress of these voluntary management plans.

UINR needs to be more knowledgeable about how lands are being used by our communities, but we must also be more knowledgeable of the needs of the species that provide our traditional livelihood. To address this, we partnered with Membertou Geomatics Consultants (MGC) in the development of a web-based GIS application to assist in utilizing GIS as a resource management tool.

A major focus of UINR has been on the American Eel, a species of special significance to our communities. We completed a study determining biological characteristics of adult eels and the relationship of elver abundance in the Bras d'Or Lakes. The objectives were to address knowledge gaps in the eel's life history and ecology, collect information on eel landings, correlate elver abundance with near-shore habitat, assess the presence of swim bladder parasite, and complete a habitat mapping survey for the Chapel Island area.

Unama'KIDS was established last year with Mi'kmaq youth in Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq schools, to expand knowledge of natural resource issues. This year, activities included participating in the TD Shoreline Cleanup, development of artwork for our 2009 calendar (and this Annual Report), and an eel workshop where students learned about the eel from a hands-on experience including both a scientific and a traditional Mi'kmaq perspective. These are invaluable lessons and integral to increasing the level of awareness of Mi'kmaq communities about their roles and responsibilities for sustainable natural resources.



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UINR is recognized for our experience in the use and collection of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) and, this year, we participated in testing an American Eel ATK questionnaire designed to engage Mi'kmaq knowledge holders in the recovery process. We gave recommendations on how to improve the questionnaire to ensure that our knowledge holders could better contribute to knowledge gathering. As a way to improve UINR's ability to gather ATK and better represent our community's needs, we developed a data-sharing agreement in cooperation with our knowledge holders, based on the need for an approach that promotes shared ethics and principles, and respect for intellectual property rights of Aboriginal people.

UINR has established an increased level of awareness of Mi'kmaq food fishing rights in our communities. Our Natural Resource Officer coordinator worked with member communities to advise on conditions within Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy agreements and advise fishers on best-management practices to promote stewardship and restore the practice of Netukulimk.

Once again, community support for our efforts to address sewage and waste issues during the Chapel Island Mission continued this year, showing the willingness and commitment of our communities to address these environmental issues.

Cooperation and support by Unama'ki community members was key to UINR's efforts to address an erosion problem in Malagawatch that is jointly owned by our five communities. Community members pitched in to help stabilize a bank that is extensively eroding, threatening a culturally significant landmark and near-shore habitat.



2008-2009

funding partners
funding



natural responsibility

Funding Partners



Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Health Canada
Indian & Northern Affairs
Natural Resources Canada
Parks Canada
Transport Canada



Department of Energy
Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Aboriginal Affairs



Kwilmuk Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Our Rights. Our Future.



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq



NOVA
FOREST
ALLIANCE



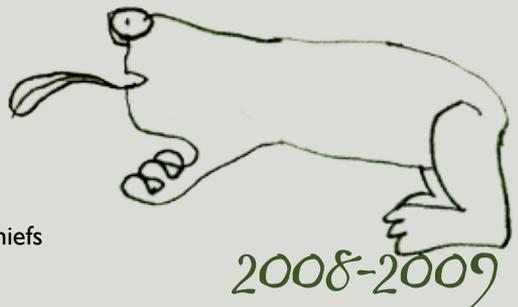
Atlantic Canada's
First Nation Help Desk



Membertou
Band Council

Eskasoni Band Council
Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs
National Indian Brotherhood

Partnerships



staff & board

Staff &



natural responsibility

Board of Directors

Chief Terry Paul *President*

Membertou First Nation

Chief Charlie Dennis

Eskasoni First Nation

Chief Sandy Googoo

We'koqma'q First Nation

Chief Kenny Basque

Potlotek First Nation

Chief Lester Peck

Wagmatcook First Nation

Staff

Charlie Dennis

Executive Director

Lisa Young

Interim Executive Director

Blair Bernard

NRO Coordinator

Cheryl Bérubé

Administrative Assistant

Weldon Bona

Director of Communications

Mary Collier

Director of Administration

Shelley Denny

Biologist & Research Coordinator

Alyssia Jeddore

Research Assistant

Annie Johnson

Finance Officer

Mark MacPhail

Director of Forestry

Albert Marshall

Elder Advisor

Lorraine Marshall

*Community Drinking Water &
Sanitary Shoreline Survey Technician*

Allison MacIsaac

Research Coordinator

Angela Morris

Research Assistant

Melissa Nevin

Administrative Assistant

Clifford Paul

Moose Management Coordinator

Janice S. (Paul) Googoo

Administrative Assistant/ Finance Officer

Serena Paul

Project Assistant

Laurie Sutor

*Intergovernmental Relations &
Partnership Advisor*

Dale Sylliboy

Forestry Technician

Tonia Sylliboy

Species-At-Risk Coordinator



Financial statements

2008.

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Balance Sheet

March 31

2009

2008

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 204,001	\$289,122
Receivables	<u>651,611</u>	<u>310,952</u>
	855,612	600,074

Property and equipment (Note 3) 49,164 25,689

\$ 904,776 \$ 625,763

Liabilities

Current

Payables and accruals	\$ 260,411	\$ 188,344
Deferred revenue	<u>10,000</u>	<u>188,344</u>
	<u>279,411</u>	<u>188,344</u>

Equity

Surplus 634,365 437,419

\$ 904,776 \$ 625,763

On behalf of the Board



Director



Director

Financial statements

2008.



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Statements of Operations and Surplus

Year ended March 31

2009

2008

Revenues

Cape Breton University	\$ 11,900	\$ 13,946
Government contributions	1,413,064	1,004,476
Forestry	1,118,115	926,241
Mining royalties	51,459	63,279
Other contributions	<u>138,635</u>	<u>79,379</u>
	<u>2,733,173</u>	<u>2,087,321</u>

Expenses (Page 7)

	<u>2,545,407</u>	<u>1,897,629</u>
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Excess of revenue over expenses
before gain on sale of property
and equipment

	\$ 187,766	\$ 189,692
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Gain on sale of property
and equipment

9,180

Excess of revenue
over expenses

	<u>\$ 196,946</u>	<u>\$ 189,692</u>
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Surplus, beginning of year

	\$ 437,419	\$ 247,727
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Excess of revenue over
expenses

	<u>\$ 196,946</u>	<u>\$ 189,692</u>
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Surplus, end of year

	<u>\$ 634,365</u>	<u>\$ 437,419</u>
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