

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

Annual Report

2007-2008

*dedicated to
our environment*



*2007/2008
dedicated to the environment*

Piñal



dedicated to our environment

Pjila'si

Welcome to our 2007/2008 Annual Report.

The staff and Board of Directors at Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources are, in a word, dedicated. Dedicated 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 has nourished us both emotionally and literally for thousands of years.

This is no small task.

Looking over the past year, our staff has been involved in many projects that have significantly contributed to our goal of establishing Netukulimk in Unama'ki.

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.

Lisa Young, *Interim 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 of 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.



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A person wearing a blue jacket with a logo on the chest is leaning over a wooden box outdoors. The background is a blurred natural setting with grass and trees. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

2007/2008 was a busy time at UINR with new publications and new projects underway. Our involvement with other organizations strengthened and grew.

Early in the year, we published *The State of the Bras d'Or Lakes Marine Environmental Water Quality Background Report* which looked into the current state of the Lakes' water quality. This exhaustive report was published in two versions—the complete scientific report with its background data and a summary report intended for the general reader interested in the health of the Lakes.

This year we produced our first promotional video to give an overview of what we do at UINR. It is available on our website in Mi'kmaq and English versions.

As a contribution to the Bras d'or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative we developed branding, educational materials, and a new website for the initiative. *Bras d'Or Lakes are Golden* shows the importance our Mi'kmaq place on the Lakes.

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.

UINR teamed up with Natural Resource Officers from Eskasoni, We'koqma'q, and Membertou to collect data on water temperature, salinity, oxygen, and secchi disk readings around the waters of Unama'ki .

UINR has always been involved in Species-At-Risk and this year we participated in a project that saw American Martens released in the Cape Breton Highlands in an attempt to diversify the genetic pool and increase the almost-extinct population of martens here.

We distributed over 300 mekwe'k kawatkw (red spruce) seedlings to students at the annual Kids in the Forest event in Whycocomagh. Staff met with students and talked to them about a wide range of natural resource issues important to Unama'ki Mi'kmaq.

We started a pilot project to train fully-licensed Mi'kmaq fisheries officers to be posted in Unama'ki and have full enforcement powers. We think that this pilot is the beginning of an expanded role for our people in natural resource enforcement.

UINR worked closely with the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative—Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn—about concerns on environmental impacts of the proposed Lake Uist hydro-electric project.

A group of approximately 15 people, including men, women, and children, are gathered outdoors in a wooded area. They are wearing various outdoor jackets and hats. In the center, a group of people is holding up a large, light-colored piece of fabric or a tarp that has several holes in it. The background shows trees and a building partially obscured by the foliage.

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UINR's Moose Management Initiative published a brochure *Good Principles and Safe Practices for Mi'kmaq Hunters*. Copies were distributed throughout the Highlands. The Initiative also hosted a moose-tanning workshop where Unama'ki Mi'kmaq re-learned traditional tanning skills.

UINR published *Unama'kik Jakejue'ka'timk: Food, Social, and Ceremonial Lobster Fishery Management Plan for Unama'ki*, voluntary guidelines developed through consultation with lobster fishers, elders, members of the Grand Council, and other knowledgeable community members to address concerns with current conservation provisions set out in the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy agreements.

Another project saw the creation of an information map for each of the Unama'ki Mi'kmaq communities. Using the Geographic Information System, these maps are a valuable resource for long-term monitoring and community planning. The maps contain information on drinking water monitoring sample sites, infrastructure, and land contours in a format that can be easily understood by community members.



funding partners
funding



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Funding Partners



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



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



BEAHR
 Building Environmental
 Aboriginal Human Resources



Kwllmuk Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative
 Our Rights. Our Future.

**CAPE BRETON
 UNIVERSITY**

STORAENSO

GP Georgia-Pacific

Partnerships



staff & board
staff &



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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 Wilbert Marshall
Potlotek First Nation

Chief Lester Peck
Wagmatcook First Nation

Staff

Charlie Dennis
Executive Director

Lisa Young
Director of Administration/Executive Director

Blair Bernard
NRO Coordinator

Weldon Bona
Director of Communication

Mary Collier
Director of Administration

Shelley Denny
Biologist & Research Coordinator

Alyssia Jeddode
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
Administrative Assistant

Laurie Sutor
*Intergovernmental Relations &
Partnership Advisor*

Dale Sylliboy
Forestry Technician

Financial statements



2007-

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Balance Sheet

March 31

2008

2007

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 289,122	\$266,531
Receivables	<u>310,952</u>	<u>179,608</u>
	600,074	446,139

Property and equipment (Note 3) 25,689 38,845

\$ 625,763 \$ 484,984

Liabilities

Current

Payables and accruals \$ 188,344 \$ 237,257

Equity

Surplus 437,419 247,727

\$ 625,763 \$ 484,984

On behalf of the Board



Director



Director

Financial statements

2007-

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Statements of Operations and Surplus

Year ended March 31

2008

2007

Revenues

Cape Breton University	\$ 13,946	\$ 1,700
Government contributions	1,004,476	908,145
Forestry	926,241	410,526
Mining royalties	63,279	65,906
Other contributions	79,379	22,859

2,087,321

1,409,136

Expenses (Page 7)

1,897,629

1,550,318

Excess of (expenses over revenue)
revenue over expenses

\$ 189,692

\$ (141,182)

Surplus, beginning of year

\$ 247,727

\$ 388,909

Excess of revenue over expenses
(expenses over revenue)

189,692

(141,182)

Surplus, end of year

\$ 437,419

\$ 247,727



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