

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

Annual Report

2011-2012

continuing the tradition



Piel



continuing the tradition



The staff and Board of Directors at Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR) take our responsibility for the natural environment seriously. We speak for species that can't speak for themselves and work so that future generations will enjoy the beauty and bounty that nourished our people 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 to see just how much we accomplished and the progress we've made in reaching our goals.

As we look back on the past year and plan for the future, we take the 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.

Looking toward the coming years, UINR reaffirms our dedication and responsibility to the natural resources and environment that make Unama'ki unique.

For over twelve years UINR has taken responsibility for natural resources and our environment. The result of our work has led to the establishment and subsequent successes of our partners—Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative, Pitu'paq partnership, Moose Management Initiative and Collaborative Salmon Initiative. Our work on species at risk and a host of marine science, forestry and other environmental projects has resulted in major accomplishments.

With long-term, core funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and through other project partnerships, our full-time staff give us the ability to continue 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.

continuing the tradition

Our contributions 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.

2011/2012 was busy at UINR. One of the highlights was our contribution to the release of *The Spirit of the Lakes Speaks*. Created by Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI). The process plan describes a way to work together to address environmental management issues around the Bras d'Or Lakes. Inspired by the medicine wheel and two-eyed seeing, the plan proposes guiding principles to help decision-making and action.

This year also saw the launch of our new UINR website, uinr.ca, and a new Facebook page and Twitter account to keep our people informed.

Our youth project, Unama'KIDS was also busy this year. They produced and toured a puppet show, *Apistane'wj*, on the endangered American Marten and attempts to reestablish it in Unama'ki. They researched the story, helped write the script, constructed all of the puppets and presented the show to their fellow schoolmates in all five Mi'kmaq communities.

The American eel has long been a focus of our research at UINR. This year we completed a study to help us understand the local eel population in the Bras d'Or Lakes. The research, supported by Aboriginal Funds for Species At Risk, documented eel habitats outside Unama'ki Mi'kmaq communities.

After five years of research, community meetings and discussions with Elders and fishers, we released a new publication, *Kataq—Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge: Bras d'Or Lakes Eels*.

Work to protect our important Mi'kmaq burial ground—Malikewe'j Cemetery—progressed at a fast pace. First Nations Construction did the work on the project and UINR worked closely with KMK archeologist **Ben Pentz** to ensure that correct protocols were followed.

This spring UINR installed a rotary screw trap or smolt wheel in Middle River to collect data on salmon smolt, to contribute to our knowledge on why salmon are on the decline in Cape Breton. The wheel was in the river for several weeks, from the beginning of the migration until the run was over. The project is to estimate the number of smolt in Middle River and to collect biological information about the salmon population in Cape Breton rivers.



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UINR with our partner the Cape Breton Collaborative Salmon Initiative hosted a Salmon workshop that brought together Mi'kmaq and non-native people from around the Island to look at ways to work together towards the common goals of increasing the plamu/salmon population and the health of its environment. The workshop gathered traditional knowledge from Elders and other resource users who attended the two-day event that began with a dinner followed by presentations and discussion where participants shared their traditional knowledge.

In recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month, UINR joined Cape Breton University's Unama'ki College in its dedication of Kina'matnewey Na Klinkn (Strengthening Knowledge) in a ceremonial planting of culturally significant Mi'kmaq plants in the University's courtyard.

UINR's Kluskap Cave committee continued its research on Kluskap legends in preparation of an application to formally recognize the area's cultural significance to Mi'kmaq people. We are working with our partners Parks Canada and Cape Breton University on the project that will research the traditional oral history of how the cave holds personal meaning in people's lives.

UINR and the Moose Working Group organized a gathering in the Cape Breton Highlands to celebrate the annual moose hunt and spread the word of its activities in moose management. Feast in the Highlands continues to be a focus for the group's activities and the gathering has become a much anticipated event every fall.

Health Canada funded a project that allowed UINR to add Malagawatch to our sites for water testing. We were able to provide a solution to the problem of unsafe drinking water for the residents. Six homes now have an ultraviolet light and micro filtration system that will kill microorganisms and remove particulate matter, including parasites.

funding partners
funding



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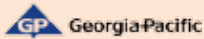
Funding Partners



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



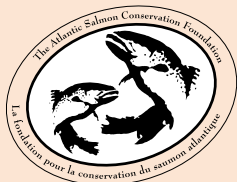
Department of Environment and Labour
Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Aboriginal Affairs



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq



Emera Newfoundland & Labrador



USG Canadian Mining

Partnerships



2011-2012

staff & board

Staff &



Board of Directors

Chief Terry Paul *President*

Membertou First Nation

Chief Leroy Denny

Eskasoni First Nation

Chief Roderick Googoo

Waycobah First Nation

Chief Wilbert Marshall

Potlotek First Nation

Chief Norman Bernard

Wagmatcook First Nation

Staff

Lisa Young

Executive Director

Weldon Bona

Director of Communications

Keith Christmas

Unama'ki Guardian Program Coordinator

Charlie Dennis

Senior Advisor

Angela Denny

Research Assistant

Shelley Denny

Biologist & Research Coordinator

Annie Johnson

Director of Administration

Mark MacPhail

Director of Forestry

Albert Marshall

Elder Advisor

Lorraine Marshall

*Community Drinking Water &
Sanitary Shoreline Survey Technician*

Jason MacLean

Forest Manager Assistant

Anthony Morris

CEPI Coordinator

Hubert Nicholas

Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinator

Clifford Paul

Moose Management Coordinator

Tyson Paul

Research Assistant

Serena Paul

Administrative Assistant

Shelley Porter

CEPI Coordinator

Billy Taylor

Finance Officer

Financial statements

2011

2012



Balance Sheet

March 31	2012	2011
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 415,332	126,651
Receivables	<u>364,188</u>	<u>819,455</u>
	779,520	946,106
Property and equipment	<u>65,777</u>	<u>79,305</u>
	<u>\$ 845,297</u>	<u>\$ 1,025,411</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Payables and accruals	\$ 217,756	\$ 318,105
Deferred revenue	<u>-</u>	<u>63,746</u>
	217,756	381,851
Deferred contributions	<u>16,110</u>	<u>23,014</u>
	<u>233,866</u>	<u>404,865</u>
Equity		
Surplus	<u>611,431</u>	<u>620,546</u>
	<u>\$ 845,297</u>	<u>\$ 1,025,411</u>

On behalf of the Board


Director


Director

2011 2012

Financial statements

2011

2012



Statements of Operations and Surplus

Year ended March 31

2012

2011

Revenues

Government contributions	\$ 1,215,585	\$ 1,278,202
Forestry	(37,591)	64,107
Mining royalties	3,229	18,010
Other contributions	196,518	132,820
	<u>1,377,741</u>	<u>1,493,139</u>

Expenses

1,368,158 1,328,876

Excess of revenue over expenses
before amortization

9,583 164,263

Amortization of deferred
contributions related to
capital assets

6,904 9,863

Amortization of capital assets

25,602 27,370

(18,698) (17,507)

Excess of (expenses over revenue)
revenue over expenses

\$ (9,115) \$ 146,756

Surplus, beginning of year

\$ 620,546 \$ 473,790

Excess of (expenses over revenue)
revenue over expenses

(9,115) 146,756

Surplus, end of year

\$ 611,431 \$ 620,546

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