



Press Release

For Immediate Release

June 14, 2015

Qalipu holds third Annual General Assembly

June 14, 2015 Stephenville, NL—The Days Inn in Stephenville was the site of Qalipu's third Annual General Assembly, held on June 13. This yearly event provides an opportunity for membership to connect with Qalipu Chief, Council and Executive staff, to hear about activities in the year gone by and ask questions of their elected officials. More than 80 individuals from across the region were in attendance.

The meeting opened with songs shared by the Bay St. George Sharing Circle. A range of Qalipu member communities was represented when the Sharing Circle invited drummers and singers from other women's groups in attendance to join them: Flat Bay, St. Theresa's, Corner Brook, Benoit's Cove, and Exploits women's groups.

Chief Brendan Sheppard welcomed members and thanked them for their involvement with the Band over the past year. He said "Reflecting on the year gone by, I am perhaps most proud of the level of participation we saw from our membership at times when we reached out to talk and request input."

Sheppard referenced a number of surveys, consultation meetings and studies where membership provided their feedback to help guide the organization.

Chief Executive Officer Annie Randell shared a report on the Qalipu Business Trust, a branch of the organization that has been created to focus on regional partnerships and building enterprises that can help the Band achieve shared goals. She said "Generating our own revenue will allow us to fund initiatives that are important to our membership."

Randell made reference to the Strategic Planning survey in which membership identified Culture and Heritage as their number one priority for Qalipu. She noted that while Qalipu does not receive regular support for this, the Qalipu Business Trust is the way forward for achieving the shared goals of the organization and membership.

Shane Snook, a member in attendance from the Flat Bay Ward, asked "Does Qalipu have green and sustainable business initiatives on its radar for partnerships through the Business Trust?"

Randell noted that wind energy is an area that Qalipu has met with industry on and that they are open to discuss partnering opportunities with any business.

Departmental reports were given by the Operations Department, Work Force Qalipu and Service Qalipu, the three main branches of the organization. Important milestones from these departments included a financial surplus which was detailed in the auditor's report indicating good financial health of the Band and excellent financial policies and procedures from the Operations Department, the funding of all



students who applied for educational funding through Work Force Qalipu, and the successful test pilot of Non Insured Health Benefits administration by the Band through Service Qalipu.

The final presentation of the day was made by Heidi Kirby, Public Engagement Coordinator with EmeraNL. Kirby gave an overview of the Maritime Link Project, made note of recent milestones, and spoke to EmeraNL's commitment to engaging Mi'kmaq on the project both on the workforce and as sub-contractors with various project components. Kirby also noted that one of EmeraNL's main contractors, Abengoa, will be hosting a job fair on June 19 at the AES office in Stephenville and invited all who are interested in employment to check it out.

The complete Annual Report which was reviewed at the meeting is available online at Qalipu.ca

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