



BIRCH BARK REPORT

Ahtahkakoop First Nation #104

SEPTEMBER 2006

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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Greetings to the membership of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation!

I would like to take this time to give you an update on the activities that have been transpiring since my last report of November 2005. In my last report, I indicated the need for strong accountability measures, in order for the Band to reach its goal of presenting itself to our membership, our creditors, our funding sources and, least but not last, our stakeholders who are the youth of this First Nation. For this, we needed to present an audit that would be sufficient enough to properly achieve the goals that we have set. Since then, the Staff and Council have worked diligently and cooperatively to achieve a better financial standing which allowed us to report a good audit report this year. This is an accomplishment and puts us on more solid ground in improving the current assets and resources that we have on this First Nation.

N.R.A. & Associates have assisted the Band to work towards this accomplishment by introducing a Remedial Management Plan to assist the Band in eliminating the deficit within three years or sooner. The plan was put into place as a short term remedy. This plan has been implemented to ensure that budgets, as set out and adopted by Chief and Council, are followed and adhered to in ways that will bring consistency and accountability in the overall management of our operations.

We have had to say no to many Band members on certain requests that did not meet the maximum guidelines that we had set in order for the Band to reach its financial objectives. These were not easy decisions to make; however, we have tried in other areas to create employment and assist our youth and adults in getting involved in schooling and upgrading to assist them with their long term goals. In addition, the growing demographics of Aboriginal youth in the urban locations are growing so fast that all cities are also concerned. They too want to see our children educated and obtain employment in the regular workforce and to be a contribution to the economy of Saskatchewan overall.

In my last report, I also indicated that we were going to schedule Band Meetings to keep the membership informed of current activities and plans of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation. I am pleased to announce that the following schedule has been set:

Ahtahkakoop Community Meeting - September 26, 2006

- Ahtahkakoop Band Hall
- 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon

Ahtahkakoop Urban Meeting - September 28, 2006

- Prince Albert Inn / Maple Leaf Room
- Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
- 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Lite Supper at 5:30 pm

Ahtahkakoop Urban Meeting - October 3, 2006

- Ramada Inn / Diefenbaker Room
- Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Lite Supper at 5:30 pm

We have scheduled these meetings to hear any issues that the Membership of this First Nation has to share and that will assist us in our long term planning.

Meetings have also taken place for the planning of a new Band Hall and an upgrade to the Lonesome Pine Convenience Store which may include a Post Office. Most of the initial information required to obtain a post office has been completed and we are now looking for support from various avenues for this Post Office. These meetings have been fruitful in that we now have blue prints and are seeking additional dollars and plans to improve our existing core locations.

Another proposal that we have on the table is for a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Station. As you are full aware, our First Nation is suffering from several different social problems which stem from the use of drugs and alcohol. I welcome any initiatives that we can enforce on our First Nation that will alleviate the conditions that we do not want to see our children growing up in. Remember, we want to better the lives of our existing membership in order to meet the needs of our youth and the needs of our future children who deserve a good life. Most of the initiatives start in our very own homes and this is something else that we all need to think about and work towards in our existing family lives.

Again, I say to you, you are part of this community and with your support we can be even stronger to make Ahtahkakoop a healthier and happier place to work and to live.

Sincerely,

Chief Larry D. Ahenakew

Co-Manager's Report to the Membership of Ahtahkakoop First Nation

September 27, 2006

Part 1 - Introduction

On November 1, 2005 the Chief and Council engaged the services of NRA & Associates Management Consultants Ltd. (NRA) to be the Co-Manager for the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. NRA & Associates is a management consulting company, which specializes in the development and implementation of First Nations management systems.

Since being hired as the Co-Manager, I have taken the lead role in the implementation and administration of the operational plan developed by NRA for the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. The operational plan is a comprehensive document that was presented to the Chief and Council, which details the financial and administrative changes necessary to address the concerns identified by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for Ahtahkakoop.

Other NRA team members that have been assigned to the file who assist me on implementing the operational plan for Ahtahkakoop include Dave Patola, Barry Quon, Ron Waddington, and Gerald Hyman. Each of these individuals brings a different area of expertise all necessary to ensure the operational plan objectives are successfully met.

The objectives of the operational plan are to:

- Eliminate the debt/deficit of Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.
- To implement a formalized management structure that fosters accountability and promotes effective management, planning, and control.
- To enhance the capacity of leadership, management, and support staff to achieve positive audit opinions and enable leadership to assume full management control of future funding agreements.

It is NRA's objective to implement this operational plan in a timely and professional manner as this will allow the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation to once again independently manage future funding agreements, which will enable leadership to make decisions to best meet the needs of its membership.

Part 2 - INAC's Intervention Policy

1) Why is a Co-Manager required?

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation receives a majority of its funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada through an agreement called a Comprehensive Funding Arrangement (CFA). Under this agreement, the recipient

acknowledges and accepts the responsibility to maintain a system of accountability and transparency to the Minister and to the membership of the First Nation. INAC considers a recipient to have defaulted in those responsibilities when any of the following situations occur:

- a) The terms and conditions of the agreement are not being met.
- b) A denial or qualified opinion on the audited financial statements.
- c) A cumulative deficit level over 8% of the recipient's annual revenue.
- d) The health, safety, or welfare of membership is compromised.

If a Band defaults on any one of the terms and conditions of the funding agreement, INAC has the authority to place the Band under some level of intervention. The objective of INAC's intervention policy is to ensure that the First Nation has an action plan to address the problems that resulted in the default of the agreement. Depending on the severity of the situation, a First Nation can be placed in any of the following levels of intervention:

- **Recipient Managed RMP** - The Band must develop a Remedial Management Plan (RMP) that details how they propose to eliminate their debt/deficit and how it plans to address its administrative deficiencies.
- **Co-Manager** - The First Nation must hire external professional help to assist them in developing and implementing a RMP.
- **Third Party Management** - INAC suspends funding to the Band and re-directs it to a Third Party Manager (TPM) for administration.

Usually First Nations are given an opportunity to resolve their problems internally and are placed in the first level of intervention. If the first level of intervention does not rectify the problems or improve the situation, the level of intervention escalates until it reaches Third Party Management, which is the most severe level of intervention.

2) What is a Remedial Management Plan (RMP)?

A Remedial Management Plan (RMP) is a multi year revenue and expenditure plan that addresses debt/deficit retirement. The RMP determines the potential savings from operations that may be available for debt/deficit retirement. A RMP is also required when negotiating with financial institutions for debt financing, since the plan will clearly identify the availability of funds for debt repayment. Once the RMP is approved, the budgets and targeted savings will become the benchmark for measuring management's success in addressing the deficiencies that led to the default of the funding agreement.

A RMP may also include other detail such as the development of operational policies and formal organizational structures to ensure the plan can be executed efficiently and effectively. These additional conditions are usually required in situations where the deficiencies are more than just debt/deficit reduction problems.

3) Audit Opinions

Under the INAC funding agreement, there is a requirement for the Band to complete an audit report on an annual basis. An audit is conducted when the Band engages an independent chartered accounting firm to review its financial records to ensure they fairly represent the financial position of the First Nation.

In the course of conducting the audit, the chartered accounting firm not only evaluates the accounting records and provides an opinion; they also review management policies and procedures and highlight potential areas of concern and make recommendations to improve the operations of the First Nation.

There are three main types of audit opinions an auditor may issue:

- a) **Un-qualified:** Accounting records and books are in order
- b) **Qualified:** The records are in order, but are qualified due to gaps in the accounting records
- c) **Denial:** Records are missing or incomplete to the point that the auditors cannot determine the true financial position of the First Nation.

Part 3 - Ahtahkakoop Situation (Pre-Engagement)

Summary of the Ahtahkakoop Situation

Ahtahkakoop has been experiencing financial and administrative problems for the past several years. Ahtahkakoop's operating deficit problems were compounded by its inability to properly account for all of the funding it received, this resulted in denials of opinion on its 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 audit reports.

As a result of these financial and administrative problems, Ahtahkakoop has been under some level of intervention since 1998. During this period of time, Ahtahkakoop has developed and approved several RMP's and has engaged the services of numerous Co-Managers in an effort to address their financial problems.

Ahtahkakoop is currently continuing to operate under its most recent RMP, which was formally approved by INAC in September 2004. This RMP requires the Band to save a minimum of **\$296,200** per year over a four year period, which would ultimately eliminate the total cumulative operating deficit of **\$1,178,269**. It is

imperative that the Band continue to meet the minimum requirements of their current RMP, failure to do so, could result in INAC placing Ahtahkakoop in the most severe level of intervention – Third Party Management.

Part 4 - Financial Update

1) Debt/Deficit Reduction

The first year of Ahtahkakoop's current four year RMP ended on March 31, 2005. Based on the financial performance for this period, the Band fell short of meeting its targeted savings by **\$151,046**. However, after accounting for an additional **\$53,029** in revenue with respect to prior period activity, the RMP savings target shortfall for this period was reduced to **\$98,017**.

To convince INAC not to increase the level of intervention for not meeting the targets as identified within the terms and conditions of the RMP, an update or amendment was immediately developed and implemented to reflect how the Band proposed to make up for this shortfall.

The Band's proposal as identified within the RMP update was to increase the minimum savings for Year Two (2005/2006) by adding the Year One shortfall amount to the planned Year Two savings target. This amendment would put the Band back on target at the end of Year Two, without having to adjust saving targets for the remaining two years of the RMP. This RMP amendment was approved by INAC on January 10, 2006.

The revised minimum savings for Year Two was successfully achieved, and in fact, was exceeded, as the actual savings was **\$632,154**, as per the March 31, 2006 audited financial statements. Ahtahkakoop is now ahead of its targeted savings as identified in its RMP.

At March 31, 2006, the Ahtahkakoop operating deficit stands at **\$354,673**. In accordance with the 2006/2007 fiscal year Revenue and Expenditure plan, the Band is projecting to save **\$296,455**. Based on current internal financial statements, the Band should have no problem in meeting or exceeding this target.

Continuing to reduce the operating deficit to a manageable, balanced, or surplus position will put the Band in a solid financial position. This will demonstrate to INAC that the level of intervention should be adjusted to reflect the Band's ability and commitment to reducing its operating deficit position.

2) Audit Opinion

The other problem preventing Ahtahkakoop from moving out of Co-Management is its audit opinion. Ahtahkakoop's audit opinion for March 31, 2005 was a **denial of opinion**.

This problem area has been immediately addressed through the implementation of several significant changes with respect to financial processes, systems, and controls. The result of implementing these changes proved to be successful, with Ahtahkakoop's March 31, 2006 audit improving to one with a **qualified opinion**.

One of the major contributing reasons why the Band was able to improve its audit opinion was due to the improved record keeping and management at Lonesome Pine Convenience Store. Since taking over responsibility for the store operations, Elmer Masuskapoe has been doing a terrific job and must be commended for addressing the past deficiencies.

The improvement of operational processes and systems will continue to occur throughout the current year. The goal of these changes is to improve the audit opinion for the 2006/2007 fiscal year to one that is clean and unqualified.

3) Financial systems and processes

Ahtahkakoop's entire financial administrative and control processes have been re-structured. Changes have been made to the accounting system, financial reporting formats, banking arrangements, and other financial systems. The finance department has been consolidated and centralized for all Band operations. Accounting functions such as accounts payable, payroll, and the maintaining of the general ledger are now under one department.

Recent changes within Ahtahkakoop's accounting and finance department include:

- New chart of accounts.
- Revised financial statement formats.
- The consolidation and reduction of bank accounts.
- Amended financial regulations, reporting, and control processes.

All of these changes have been implemented effective April 1, 2006, which should improve the financial performance of operations. These changes will also improve the accuracy and reporting of financial information, which will be available on a more timely basis to leadership, program managers, and membership.

Part 5 - Management Update

Accountability Frameworks

Ahtahkakoop has gone through major changes in its management structure. A comprehensive organizational structure that clearly defines protocols, lines of authority and levels of responsibility for all employees, boards, and committees has been developed and implemented.

Formal policies, procedures and reporting requirements that complement this structure are also being developed. Formal job descriptions, employment contracts and relevant employee/employer documentation for all employees are also being developed.

The purpose of these frameworks and policies is to establish clear rules and protocols to which all departments, managers, and employees of Ahtahkakoop will be held accountable. Accountability systems need to be implemented whereby program managers are responsible for the day-to-day management of their program. Program managers will be ultimately accountable and responsible for their program and will be subject to reprimands or dismissal based on their decisions and performance.

These policies also extend to the leadership where their function is to approve policies, budgets, and agreements. It is management's responsibility to ensure that what leadership has approved is followed and implemented, since they will be ultimately held accountable. Leadership should not unduly influence or pressure management as they carry out their administrative duties. Leadership will also be subject to conflict of interest policies relating to their elected positions of authority.

The overall focus of these frameworks is to work in partnership with Ahtahkakoop to develop systems to ensure that problems that occurred in the past do not happen again in the future.

Part 6 - Conclusion

It is expected that the objectives of the operational plan that was put together for Ahtahkakoop will be fully met and completed by March 31, 2007. At this point, Ahtahkakoop should be in a balanced or surplus position, have unqualified audit opinions, and have accountability systems in place. With clean unqualified audit opinions, Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation will once again demonstrate to funding agencies, businesses, and

membership that they are accountable and responsible for the administration of their affairs, and are committed to rehabilitating relationships with all stakeholders. This should enable Ahtahkakoop to regain full management control of future funding agreements.

In closing, I want to commend the Chief and Council and management for their support in implementing NRA's operational plan for the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. Without their support and political will to make these changes happen, the implementation of the operational plan objectives would have been more difficult to achieve, and may not have yielded the successful results we have seen to date.

I also want to commend the membership for their sacrifice towards achieving our operational plan goals. There may have not been much financial aid and assistance over the past couple years but your sacrifice will lead Ahtahkakoop to economic prosperity for future generations. Now that the deficit has been addressed, funding can be re-directed into tangible assets such as new halls, new stores, improved roads and other improvements.

Report from Austin J. Ahenakew, Band Administrator

Good day to members of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.

Communications Processes:

The Birch Bark Report Newsletter was implemented to ensure that a good communication system is in place for the membership to keep informed on current events of the reserve and what the leadership and staff of the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation are doing. We also wanted to ensure that we are accountable and open with the band members of Ahtahkakoop. However, this is only one part of the communication that is needed. Your attendance at Band Meetings is another way for you to stay informed on current and future Band business. Staying in touch with staff, councilors and board members is crucial to being informed and ensuring that your input is heard. As you are also aware, we have a partnership with Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation whereby we will broadcast directly to the Reserve. We are hoping that our radio station will be an ideal way of keeping band membership informed on events and current issues that affect our reserve. Stay tuned for this in the very near future.

Debt Reduction:

Since April 1, 2005, and until now, the Ahtahkakoop Administration has experienced a significant reduction in the Band's overall deficit. This was done through cooperation and dedication of the Chief and Council, Department Heads, Staff, NRA & Associates and the membership at large. I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone for their unwavering commitment to the direction that has been set by the Chief and Council. As a result of the deficit being reduced, we have been able to invest in new projects and investments that will benefit the Band in both the short term and long term.

Since the operational plan was adopted and implemented by Chief and Council, we are anticipating that we will be out of debt by the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2007). Again, this is all about accountability, transparency and consistency.

New Organizational Structure:

With the assistance and coordination of NRA & Associates, an accountability structure has been put in place to ensure that the programs and services provided by the band are run more efficiently. This includes an organizational structure to show the lines of authority and who reports to whom. Policies and procedures have been and are in the process of being developed for Finance, Administration and Human Resources. The Human Resources Department will have a full orientation package for new employees and job descriptions and salary grids will be in place for all positions hired within the various departments. This is an accountability framework that clearly defines roles and responsibilities for all staff, a provision of guidelines and policies to empower staff and allows management to do their jobs more effectively.

I would like to thank all the Department and Program Managers for their patience as the new systems and policies come into place.

New Staff:

*New staffing at the Ahtahkakoop Band Office includes the following:

- Education Coordinator, Brenda Ahenakew
- Director of Finance, Carmen Little
- Accounts Payable Clerk, Shelley Little
- Administrative Assistant, Lanny Ahenakew

* A more detailed listing will be provided in the Payroll / Human Resources report.

Staff on Leave:

Wayne Ahenakew is running for Third Vice Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. Due to the guidelines of the FSIN Election Act, Wayne will be on leave until the end of October and at the same time we wish Wayne Good Luck in his bid to represent all the Bands of Saskatchewan in his chosen platform. Any issues during this absence can be directed to Kerry Sasakamoose, A/Director of Health at the Ahtahkakoop Health Station.

New Projects:

New Band Hall:

- A new band hall will provide a new venue for weddings, band meetings, wakes/funerals, graduations, gatherings and community workshops;
- A new band hall will reduce the amount of school lost for the students due to wakes/funerals, etc.
- As you may already know, the current band hall is not suited to our weather; it is either too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter.
- The floor is rotting and there are continued mold problems due to its age (33 years old).
- The new band hall will be 9,800 square feet (140' x 70').
- The Chief and Council have decided to make a new band hall a priority. This project will start this fall or in the spring.

New Convenience Store:

- A new store will increase revenues and therefore profit.
- This store will provide more space and therefore a wider variety of groceries, produce, automotive products and confectionary products.
- A submission is being made to Canada Post to provide mail service for the Ahtahkakoop membership.
- The store will also provide bottled water, tire repairs and a hair salon.
- By providing a wider array of goods, we hope to save our customers from having to drive greater distances such as Debden, Canwood, Shellbrook, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon to do their shopping.
- As well, the store will not only provide goods to our membership but we also plan to attract the neighboring communities as well.

- The new store will be 4,968 square feet (92' x 42').
- The construction of the store is projected to start next month.

Police Station:

- The construction of a new RCMP Station on the Ahtahkakoop First Nation will provide better response times for crimes and service calls.
- An increased presence of RCMP will help ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians and visitors to our community.
- The construction of the Police Station will start next summer and should be complete by the fall of 2007.

New Backhoe & Dump Truck:

- A new backhoe & dump truck are being purchased to save money for the O & M and Housing Departments, while providing better service and creating employment.
- In the past, we have spent thousands of dollars on services that we could have done ourselves had we purchased the proper equipment.
- With the investment of equipment, the money we receive to deliver our programs will go further and therefore benefit all of the Band members and band programs in the long run.

Arena Renovation:

- A renovation is underway at the Sandy Lake Recreation Centre (Arena) that will include an expanded indoor viewing area for a more comfortable and enjoyable hockey experience;
- The existing Sandy Lake Recreation Centre Café has also done some remarkable upgrades to the restaurant décor and have served foods that are commendable.
- When the new store is completed, the Café will expand into the area that the Lonesome Pine Convenience Store is now located.
- I would like to thank the regular patrons of the Café for their support.

Radio Station:

- With the opening of the radio station on Ahtahkakoop, we will be hiring a deejay.
- Belinda Nelson, Coordinator for Communications, has been overseeing the equipment requirements and working with Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation and other agencies in the start up and set up of the required equipment for broadcasting.
- We hope to have the Radio Station operational by mid-October;

At this time, I would like to thank the Chief & Council, Staff and Membership for their patience as we work through the operational plan and as we work towards long term planning. Thank you for taking the time to read the Birchbark Report and please feel free to stop in the office and visit with myself or the staff.

Austin J. Ahenakew

Band Administrator

Finance Department

Tansi, I hope that everyone is in good health and doing well.

For those of you that do not know the Finance Department is the newly formed area of the Ahtahkakoop Band that is intended to help the band business run more efficiently and effectively. To help reach this goal we have pulled the financial responsibilities from various departments and centralized them under one new department.

Changes to previous financial functions have been done under the recommendations of NRA and Associates. These changes, along with corrective actions recommended by our auditors', continue to be underway to help strengthen our fiscal management and accountability by enhancing internal controls and weaknesses in some of our current financial processes.

Improving financial performance involves efforts from both staff and members of the community as we continue to work towards making financial information an integral part of decision making. Decisions from daily operations to new community projects all involve financial information. Part of the Finance Department's responsibilities is to provide accurate and timely information not only to Program Managers, but also to the members of the community. This information improves the efficiency and effectiveness of our band's activities and enhances our accountability to our members.

We have recently completed our Audit with our new Auditors; PriceWaterHouseCoopers. The process involved a lot of time and attention to detail, but it was completed and ended in a positive note. I have included some of the key pages that you may want to review. Some of the highlights of the audit are that we have continued to decrease the 2005-2006 opening deficit of \$986,827. With the 2005-2006 operating surplus of \$632,154 we have successfully reduced our cumulative deficit down to \$354,673. With this decrease, along with our current annual targeted savings of \$296,200 we should be very close to having a balance budget at the end of this fiscal year.

At this time I would like to thank the staff and the members of the community for having the time and patience to assist us in our transition and hope that we are able to provide a service that is both easy and timely to our members and vendors. We will continue to be of assistance to the various departments and programs in the Band Office and hope that if people see a need for improvement in any area, please bring it to the attention of the staff.

Speaking of improvements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for having the patience to deal with the changes that have and continue to take place in the Band Office. We are proud of our accomplishments and will continue to strive to improve and promote sound business practices to better meet organizational goals and increase the service to our community members along with the various vendors that the Band deals with.

In closing I would like to thank the staff and members of the community for their time and cooperation, please feel free to drop in and say hello.

Sincerely,

Carmen Little

Greetings!

Report Coming from the O & M Department:

This year has been busy so far! We only have a limited amount of dollars in the program and with these dollars we made some capital purchases. We have purchased a new water truck for \$78,000 dollars, so this takes away from this program. There are also the fuel and maintenance costs, so this year we are trying to make do with one driver. It is a big demand on the water drivers. They work five days a week from 8 to 5. I can not say it is 100% perfect yet, but the services have improved dramatically. We are still working on smoothing out all the problems.

We are also cleaning the cisterns. This obviously adds a greater delay for water delivery. This is why we are having an extra driver help the regular water truck driver. We are cleaning cisterns earlier this year, before the cold water sets in.

Warning!

When your water is cleaned and chlorinated, do not drink the first fill of water. Run the water through all the taps in the house until the tank is empty. Then when the water truck fills the tank, it will be safe to drink.

The band has also made some other recent capital purchases. We have bought a gravel truck and a backhoe. In the end, this is going to save the band thousands of dollars that can be more wisely spent in the band. So look out band members, we might be putting so much gravel on your road's approaches you will be begging us to stop!

We are also building a new maintenance shop. This is where we will store all our supplies such as; tools, materials, lumber, lawnmowers etc. We are also making a compound around the shed, so we can store all of our inventory; the grader, water truck, gravel truck, backhoe, tractors, bandwheels and vans. I mean everything! No more storing inventory and supplies all over the rez. We will then be able to keep better track of the equipment, lumber, tools, vans etc. This will also provide a full time job for someone to keep track of the supplies that are coming and going. They would also order supplies so inventory does not run out. They would also be responsible for the upkeep of the machinery. This would be a big responsibility as this person would also be required to keep everything within the budget provided to this program.

We have a lot of work to do before the cold weather sets in. We have to repair waterlines, pump outs, lagoons and culverts. So bear with us, as we will eventually get around to everyone. We are also going to be busy doing some work at the Sport6s Grounds, for example we will be fixing a new soccer field. This way we will be prepared before hand for next year's Sports Day.

With this added work, the boys will be very busy this fall, but with our new machinery and equipment, we will be able to provide a better service for the band.

The O & M Department is assisting the Chief and Council in pursuing funding for a new band hall. We have made applications to various agencies. This is something the band is in great need of. The project is looking very promising. We are also involved in the development of our band store that is going to be built between Virginia Bird's and the sports grounds. We are also renovating the rink so people will be able to watch hockey

in a warm comfortable place this winter. Another project the band is also involved in, is looking into an R.C.M.P. station. So you can see, the band is pursuing these endeavors so our community will be a better place for our band members and kids.

I would like to say that I enjoy working for the band, and I like the challenge it is providing for me.

Last of all, if you are having any maintenance problems, don't be afraid to contact Dennis Masuskapoe or myself at the Band Office.

Thanks!
For now,

Ronald Ahenakew
O & M Director

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation**Housing**

Good day band members. I just wanted to provide you an update on the Section "95" Program, which is the CMHC Housing Program. We have 85 units under this program and have built another twenty new houses under this program. Members of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation have taken advantage of these shelters and are all now full. It is expected that the tenants will continue to take good care of these homes. With respect to the additional six elders' houses under this same program, the construction of these homes continues.

The next project for fiscal year 2006-2007, is an additional thirty-eight new houses, which include the clean-up of old sites where new houses will be constructed. We expect to start construction on 19 houses this fall, and another 19 in the spring.

As well, we are pleased to report another job opportunity has arisen from the construction of these homes. Harry Williams, is the newly hired Maintenance Worker for the units that are completed and have tenants in them. Harry Williams will be the contact person in regards to any repairs to these homes, however, keep in mind that the tenants *are* responsible to recognize immediate repairs before the problems spin off into other major problems.

Finally, another opportunity has developed which will include training someone who is responsible, serious and committed to eventually take post as Assistant Housing Coordinator. This person will be trained in all aspects; construction maintenance and the Administration that is required for this program. Please be insured that you come see me should you be interested in a career path for yourself in this area. A screening process will take place sometime after we have received enough interest, and as soon as monies are in place for the training in the spring.

Again, thanks to the tenants who are taking the time to ensure that these homes are kept in a clean and orderly fashion, remember its you shelter, so please respect it.

Thank you,

Marty Ahenakew

CAPITAL HOUSING AND RENOVATIONS

The following houses are under construction on:

1. Dionne Knife #955 – is at 60% complete.
2. Anita Ahenakew #956 – blue print is under review, also the last estimate.
3. Willard Ahenakew #957 – is at 70% complete.
4. Brock Peekeekoot #958 – is at 30% complete.

MAJOR RENOVATION PROGRAM

1. Eliza Masuskapoe – 50% complete.
2. Harold Peekeekoot – 90% complete.
3. Sheila Reimer – 95% complete.
4. Fletcher Greyeyes – Greg Lowe is doing estimate.
5. Larry Benjamin – 90% complete.
6. Lenny Sasakamoose – 50% complete.
7. Eldon Bird – 70% complete.
8. Eugene Little – 70% complete.
9. Jason Masuskapoe – No work done as yet.

MINOR RENOVATIONS – (allocation \$3,000.00)

1. Eliza Sasakamoose – no work done as yet.
2. Lynn Peekeekoot – 100% complete.
3. Raymond Little – 90% complete.
4. Trina Little – 30% complete.
5. Ryan Sasakamoose – 100% complete.
6. Eric Peekeekoot – 95% complete.
7. Kerry Sasakamoose – 90% complete.
8. Russel Ahenakew – no work done as yet.
9. Brian Little – 60% complete.
10. Brian Genereaux – 90% complete

EMERGENCY RENOVATIONS

1. Augustine Martin – no work as yet.
2. Florence Nayneecassum – no work as yet.
3. Eric Bird – 80% complete.
4. Eugene Starblanket – 50% complete.
5. Wilson Sasakamoose – 100% complete.
6. Conrad Albert – no progress.
7. Percy Masuskapoe – no progress.
8. Tim Peekeekoot – no progress.
9. George Masuskapoe – no progress.
10. Carol Sasakamoose – 80% complete.
11. John George Snake – no progress
12. Kenny Ahenakew – no progress
13. Ann Benjamin – no progress
14. Nora Tait – no progress

R.R.A.P.

1. Dennis Masuskapoe
2. Harry Williams
3. Dorothy Ahenakew
4. Leon Masuskapoe
5. Sandra Peekeekoot
6. Ronald Isbister
7. Alex Ahenakew
8. Melton Peekeekoot

The final approval on these units will be given till the end of September 2006.

For those people who are interested in getting their names on the "Housing List" and the "Renovations" list, as it was in the past year: Applications must be filled out. These forms can be picked up at the capital office. I will also leave some at the front desk.

For the Fall, the Housing Authority will be scheduling a Housing Policy workshop, which is intended for the public.

Jeffery Sasakamoose
Housing Coordinator

AHTAHKAKOOP SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Good day to all you fine folks out there. First of all I would like to welcome the latest member to our team here at Social Development, Valerie Williams. She started as Welfare Clerk on July 3rd, 2006. Welcome aboard Val, we are sure to keep you busy.

Well yep, it's that time of the year again, summer is drawing to a close and the dreadful cold is creeping upon us, but that doesn't slow us down in this department. Aside from the day-today client-worker interactions there are a multitude of activities occurring with the Social Development Program. We are in the process of ordering and purchasing new and used furniture from different vendors throughout the surrounding community. These grants are mostly on an emergency basis and are determined through an application process and home visits. Although not completely finished with ordering the furniture we have already received huge gratitude from many of our clients who are quite grateful with what they have received. A point to mention here is that with the sofa sets, the clients are expected to cover half the cost. This will be as an overpayment on their file with a \$25/ month deduction for the recovery rate.

Earlier this summer, back in August, Social Development purchased 280 bracelets for the Prince Albert exhibition. These were given to the clients with children between the ages of 3-17 years of age. Due to the time constraint of purchasing these bracelets at a discount, we were unable to purchase more than we had hoped. Unfortunately there were a few children that did not receive them, but we will be sure to consider these shortfalls in future years, so that this does not happen again. Summer holidays always means great things for the children and youth everywhere. In addition to the bracelets there were many children and youth who participated in the summer long Bible Camp sessions held at Big River. Social Development and other departments were able to take care of the fees and some transportation costs associated with the camp. Even though it was entirely up to the parents to transport the child/ren to and from the camp it turned out to be quite successful. We were also able to provide school clothing allowances to a great number of our clients who currently have children attending school. This initiative was based on the huge need of those who just couldn't meet the demands of a new school year. There was \$150/ child allowance given to those who qualified and the client was expected to hand in receipts for the clothing. So for those of you who have received these allowances, we hop it eased some of the pressure with the children starting a new school year.

Many of our clients have been fortunate to seek out and land employment. There have been large numbers of clients who have been given Work Start money to assist them in starting a new job. In order to be eligible for Work Start, a person first of all must be on assistance with the band. A confirmation letter must be turned in or faxed in (468-2500) to the office stating that the said person does indeed have employment with them. There is usually a \$250 allowance given when the letter has been received. However, to avoid misuse, Social Development requires a three month waiting period before reapplying for assistance, the client is only allowed to receive this once a year as well. As mentioned above, the cold winter season is heading our way, meaning the Christmas season too. Social Development will be giving out turkeys once again before Christmas, at one per household. (As well as hams during the Easter season)

The following policy/changes will become effective October 1, 2006:

- 1) Purchase orders will now only be given out during the months of January and July and August. Otherwise they are only going to be issued in an emergency. ie. Pampers, baby formula, immediate family crisis' and funerals.

- 2) Purchase orders must be requested before 11:00 a.m. each day and will be given out before noon.
- 3) Cheques will only be issued Tuesdays and Thursdays after 2:00 p.m., unless, once again, in an emergency situation.
- 4) Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. ie. Cursing, threatening, swearing, inebriation (drunkenness), under the influence of prescription drugs or other. The R.C.M.P. and/or Peacekeepers will be contacted. If necessary you may be banned from the office.

We appreciate your patience and cordial behavior with all band staff, and hope that all families remain healthy, hopeful and happy. Until next time we meet, from all of us at Social Development, TAKE CARE.

Pat Isbister
Social Development Director

Justice report
“Justice is everyone’s responsibility”

Tansi! To all my relations,

The justice department is busy again this year. There are some areas that need more work, the drug issue in particular. There are problems in the area of gang recruitment on reserve. Domestic violence is also a major concern for our community and we need to support those people who want to make healthy choices. We have been doing quite a bit of alternative measures work with our band members, however, we need more of our justice committee members trained in mediation, family conferencing, community forums etc.

We plan to have an R.C.M.P. station built on our reserve within a year. We have been meeting with CESO who offers services to aboriginal people for a small fee. They have been helping us with project planning and business plan development along with a feasibility study. Feasibility study and project plans have been completed and we now have to secure funding to build an R.C.M.P. station. This will improve response time and make R.C.M.P. more visible on the reserve. We think it would be a good thing to have a detachment on the reserve to serve surrounding communities. We envision a “stand alone” tribal police force who will serve our community in the future. We will take direction from the community.

With two full court days per month our court worker is busy with numerous files within the reserve and many more from the other surrounding court points he services. It is estimated that he takes care of at least 300 files per year. The court worker also assists in doing mediation work. Eric is a trained mediator and can also train others to be mediators. We are fortunate to have a person readily available to advocate for our band members and assist them in justice issues.

We have run out of funding for our Women’s Wellness project however we are in the process of waiting for replies to two proposals that were submitted earlier. We will let you know if we were successful. We need programming of this nature in our community.

We are fortunate to have Judge Gerry Morin as our presiding judge in the Ahtahkakoop First Nation for two years. Every second Monday and Wednesday of each month we have court on the reserve. The Monday is for criminal matters and the Wednesday is designated for family court, however, criminal matters also overflow into the Wednesday court day.

The success of any initiative is the support and backing from the community. Together we can make a healthier and safer community for our children and grandchildren. We need not be fearful for the safety of our children if we can convince our people to make healthier choices.

Fletcher Greyeyes
Justice Coordinator

Greetings from Ahtahkakoop Child and Family Services

It's been awhile since the last Birchbark Report went out. I hope that everyone is in good spirits now that our children and youth are returning to school. It is time to adjust again to a new season and getting back to the normal routines of being a parent. I wish you all the best in the upcoming academic year. Education is so important, especially for our children and youth, as they all have and will have something to offer in the future.

ACFS employs 8 staff members on a full-time basis. The employees are:

Director - Anita Ahenakew

Supervisor - Virginia Ledoux

Family Support/Caseworker - Lisa Sasakamoose

Caseworker - Derek Ahenakew

Financial Administrator - Cheryl Sanderson

Finance Assistant/Data Entry Clerk - Rhonda Thomas

File Clerk - Peggy Ahenakew

Receptionist - Tracey Genereaux-Isbister

We also hire workers in contract positions to perform various duties when needed. This past summer we had two post-secondary students with ACFS. They are both currently furthering their education to work towards a degree. Also, Francis Ahenakew is on contract assisting in various areas, mainly cover-off and child protection. As well, Margaret Laliberte was helping out until she was successful in gaining a new position. The extra help was greatly appreciated. Thank-you!

We also have a three-member childcare committee who deal directly with families, mainly to support and give recommendations. There will be one vacancy in the near future. If you are interested, it will be posted and we will be working on a newsletter as well. The members currently are: Gail Sasakamoose, Margaret Laliberte and Dwayne Ahenakew.

The ACFS Board consists of five members: Board Chair – Jason Masuskapoe, Portfolio Councillors are Marvin Genereaux and Russel Ahenakew, and Members at Large are Cathy Williams and Kathy Ahenakew. The Board has just completed a three-day Board training workshop, which I am confident will help our agency to work as a team and understanding their roles and responsibilities as a board.

This summer ACFS took our children in care and their natural parents to Camp Okema in the Emma Lake area. This is the second year of hosting this kind of camp., where the parents take back the responsibility, their children. We had an awesome camp that included teachings, sharing and entertainment and fun and games for the children. We had a great response from those who attended. A big Thank You! to everyone who was able to help with your hard work and dedication, you know who you are! Everyone can make a difference in a life and it feels good to know you have been a part of that. Everyone needs support in our community and elsewhere no matter who you are and where you come from. We also had barbeques throughout the summer. A barbeque was held for caregivers and children and also for two families who are caring for our children out of province. The families were able to visit our children and care-givers and meet them. It was a good turnout for both families and a positive place to help our children connect with their culture, families and our community.

The care-givers and children also traveled to Saskatoon to attend the exhibition and stayed at the Travelodge where the children could enjoy swimming. Some caregivers were selected to attend the

second annual caregivers conference in Saskatoon. There were many helpful workshops to participate in and I am hopeful that new skills were learned in order to benefit our families. There will be upcoming training at ACFS for those interested in caring for children. We are always in need of good homes to place children who are in crisis. Also, we are in need of bnd members who are able to assist families in different ways. Sometimes it is only to visit and provide support. We would like to expand our services to the community, but we need help from others. As the saying goes, "It takes a whole community to raise a child!"

Anita Ahenakew
ACFS Director

Lands and Trusts
Membership Registry

Dear Sirs/Madams:

It has been some time since our last communication. I have been working from the Social Assistance Office, since January 2006, but have been recently moved back to my old office in the main Band Office as of September 2006.

Wow! It seems as you get older that the summers fly by too fast. It has been a very difficult year dealing with the passing of so many of our elders and our budding youth. Deepest condolences to all our relatives and friends who have had a loved one pass from our midst.

I am still churning out status cards, registering children, filing tax returns and family allowance and Old Age Security applications.

Our TLE (Treaty Land Entitlement) claim is still in the process of final research and we only need to establish the eligibility of a few more individuals in order to establish a legitimate claim.

We are also working on a Band Custom Election Code, which would see a change in some of the rules and regulations that we are governed under the Indian Act. There are presently surveys being sent out to the Ahtahkakoop membership for their scrutiny. We are hoping to have these Election Act changes in place for the next spring election.

At the time of this writing, September 15, 2006, our community band fields are still not harvested, but hopefully this wet weather will change to the hot, sunny weather we have all enjoyed this summer, and everything that needs to be done will get done.

That's about it for now. Thanks for your attention.

Garvin Bird
Lands and Trusts
Membership/Registry

AHTAHKAKOOP SCHOOL REPORT
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2006

Tānisi,
Asay mīna kimacītānanaw mīna kotak masinahikan:

Welcome to the Ahtahkakoop School report for August/September 2006. Presently the school population stands at 434, (24 ACA) students as at September 13.

The 2006-07 school year started off on a positive note. The teaching staff and students are working very hard. The students are more relaxed, cooperative, working hard, and aware of school rules and procedures. The following report will cover some events that took place during the orientation and other happenings that have taken place at the school.

Wednesday, August 30, 2006

Some of the highlights:

- The staff orientation started off with an opening prayer by Marie Ahenakew.
- Staff introductions took place. The items of discussion were:
- Ray Wanhella (Teacher Evaluation Services); Keith Powell (Education Psychologist) and Edna Blind-Strongeagle (INAC Special Education) to visit our school on August 31st and September 5th, respectively.
- New teachers were asked to submit school orders for their classrooms.
- Daily Plan & Record Book handed out.
- Note: Daily Registers – For nominal roll (INAC) purposes, daily registers will be closely monitored – all student information must be entered in the register.
- Long Term Plans to be handed in September 30 (Elementary & Middle Years); and Grade 10 – 12 (1st week of each block)
- Teachers to submit their paperwork to Finance for salary purposes – degrees, qualifications, years of experience, etc.
- Staff contracts signed September 8th – teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Monthly Staff Attendance to be recorded by the Secretary.
- Dress code - Casual; absolutely no blue jeans or sweat pants, except Blue Jean Friday's.
- Extra Curricular Activities (100 hours).
- Staff Annual Leave - 15 days @ 1.5 days per month @ 10 months.
- Staff Meetings - 2nd Tuesday of each month (September 12, 2006).

Thursday, August 31 and Friday, September 1, 2006

- Administration Day

The Ahtahkakoop Board of Education

Larry Ahenakew	Chief/Ex-Officio	Wanda Starblanket	Board Member
Clifford Ahenakew	Elder	Carma Lynn Ahenakew	Education Clerk
Stanley Sasakamoose	Chairman		
Fred Sasakamoose	Board Member		
Russel Ahenakew	Board Member		
Byron Genereaux	Board Member		

Teaching Staff

Bernice Hyman	Kindergarten	Sandy Belair	Special Education (Hi Cost)
Marvel Ahenakew	Grade 1	Gloria Isbister	Low Cost
Eldeen Williams	Grade 1	Keisha Newton	PE (Maternity)
Lorna Little	Grade 2	Paulette Montgrand	Alternate Education
Travis Little	Grade 3	Blanche Little	Cree & Culture
Audrey Fineday	Grade 4	Marie Ahenakew	Librarian
Kathy Alexander	Grade 5	Annette Williams	Librarian Assistant
Judy Halkett	Grade 6	Leslie Ledoux	Career/Guidance Counselor
Patrick McKenzie	Grade 7	Iona Ahenakew	Secretary
Jolene Everest	Grade 8	ACA	
Steve Heibert	Grade 9	Wendy Watrin	Principal
Diane Peekeekoot	Grade 10	Cora Ahenakew	TA
Irene Dumais	Grade 11	Sonia Masuskapoe	TA
Lea Littlewolfe	Grade 12	Daphne Isbister	TA

Support Staff

Blair Ahenakew	TA	Gene Isbister	TA
Danielle Ahenakew	TA (Maternity)	James Isbister	TA
Beverly J. Ahenakew	TA	Hugh Little	TA
Jessica Ahenakew	TA	Celina Masuskapoe	TA
Lillian Agecoutay	TA	Florence Nayneecassum	TA
Anne Benjamin	TA	Alana Sahpassum	TA
Joan Genereaux	TA	Chris Sahpassum	TA
Mavis Genereaux	TA	Tanya Sasakamoose	TA (Maternity)
Darlene Hyman	TA	Carol Starblanket	TA
Lila Hyman	TA	Erin Williams	TA (Maternity)
Tracy Hyman	TA		

Administration

Shaun Sasakamoose	Vice Principal
Steve McKay	Principal

ELDERS

Irene Hyman
Gordon Williams
Clifford S. Ahenakew

**AHTAHKAKOOP SCHOOL
SCHOOL CALENDAR
2006-2007**

	DATES	NOTES	DAYS OPEN
2006			
AUGUST	August 30 & 31	Staff Orientation	2
SEPTEMBER	September 1	Administration Day	20
	September 4	Labor Day	
	September 5	Classes Start	
OCTOBER	October 9	Thanksgiving Day	21

BIRCH BARK REPORT	Ahtahkakoop First Nation		SEPTEMBER 2006
NOVEMBER	November 10	Remembrance Day	20
	November 13	First Nations Unity Day	
DECEMBER	December 19	Last Day for students	14
	December 20	Last day for staff	
2007			
JANUARY	January 3	School Reopens	21
FEBRUARY	February 12-16	Winter Break	14
	February 19	Indian Government Day	
MARCH	March 16	EDO	21
APRIL	April 6	Good Friday	15
	April 9-13	Easter Break	
MAY	May 21	Victoria Day	22
JUNE	June 1	High School Grad	14
	June 15	Awards & Last day for students	
	June 18 & 19	Administration Days	
	June 20	School Closed for the summer	
SUBTOTAL			184
BANK DAYS			13
TOTAL			197

Happenings at the school:

- **School Newsletter** – like last year, the school will again have two types of newsletters (monthly and quarterly). It improves communication with parents and community.
- **Education Personnel Policy** – Paulette Montgrand will be the staff representative for our school in the review and writing of the Education Personnel Policy.
- **Extra Curricular** – Patrick McKenzie has registered our school teams with Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association (SHSAA) – teams entered are Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Track & Field and Volleyball.
- **Staffing changes due high enrollment in Grade 1** – Eldeen Williams from Alternate Education to Grade 1; Paulette Montgrand from Low Cost to Alternate Education; Jolene Everest from Modified to Grade 8; and Gloria Isbister from TA to Low Cost pull out).

There are also some minor changes in the high school timetable due to staffing. However, the Board of Education has accessed funding to hire additional staff, which will enhance the high school and high cost programming. A full time Computer Teacher, temporary Physical Teacher and full time Resource Teacher will be hired shortly. Ms. Kesia Newton will return from maternity leave in March 2007. When school started staffing had an impact on the high school timetable. It's a relief to know our students will have additional teachers to make the school programming more efficient and effective. When the additional staff members are hired the timetable will change to accommodate the needs of the high school students. Our students deserve the best in order to make it in our world today.

In closing, we do not have much to report at this time; however, we will have more news at the end of September when school administration distributes its monthly newsletter. We are pleased with the overall behaviour and attitude, academic performance, and attendance of students. Also, the maintenance and custodian staff is doing a good job to keep the school and facilities in fine form. And the staff is happy the Education Board is so supportive to help our students attain quality education. Therefore, the staff must work collectively to follow the school's vision in attaining a model school whereby our children are given the opportunity to excel in academics, sports, and to learn about and to appreciate their culture and language.

Respectfully submitted by,

Vice Principal, Shaun Sasakamoose

&

Principal, Steve McKay

Ahtahkakoop Post Secondary Student Support Program

Hello to all!!! It's me Pearl Vandall reporting on Post Secondary and Training. Septembers almost over and all students are pretty much settled and full fledged in their studies. This year we are currently funding 92 students whom are enrolled in full and part time studies. 48 of the students are enrolled in University Degree Programs and 44 enrolled in Technical Training Programs. Fortunately this Fall we were able to fund all those whom applied for funding, that met deadlines dates and had all required information submitted.

I would like to start by congratulating this year's graduates.

Shelly Little	Payroll & accounting Certificate - CDI College of Business
Becky Kuffner	Masters of Education – Educational Foundations – University of Saskatchewan
Leanne Martin	Information Technology Certificate Program - CDI College of Business
Ruby Williams	Batchelor of Commerce Degree - University of Saskatchewan
Lois Jane Ahenakew	Educational Assistant Certificate Program - SIAST
Tiffany Ledoux	Medical Office Assistant Program Certificate Program - CDI College of Business
Ricky Masuskapoe	Aboriginal Police Studies Certificate - Grant McKeewan
Alana Madill	BA International Relations Program with a minor in Spanish – University of Calgary
Alana Dodwell	Indian Teacher Education Program (College of Education)-University of Saskatchewan
Tina Williams	Addictions Certificate - Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology
Sharon Peekeekoot	Batchelor of Science (Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan) – University of Saskatchewan
Marvel Ahenakew	Indian Teacher Education Program (College of Education)-University of Saskatchewan
Colleen Venne	Batchelor of Social Work Degree – University of Calgary
Shannon Desjarlias	Diploma Addictions - Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology
Kishey Baker	Batchelor of Science (Education) - Montana State University
Ethel Ahenakew	Masters in Theological Studies Degree – College of Emmanuel St. Chad – University of Saskatchewan
Cindy Isbister	Batchelor of Arts Three year degree in Sociology with Aboriginal Justice and Criminology – University of Saskatchewan
Erin Ahenakew	Early Childhood Education Certificate Program – SIAST
Macia Little	Management Studies Diploma Program - Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology

This year some funding was put towards other programming as follows.

This year we were able to offer Adult Basic Education 5-10 which has been purchased from Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology(SIIT)The program is for Adults whom are over 21 years of age and unable to attend the regular school system. We had 60 clients interested in the program and were able to take a max of 25 applicants. Students started September 16, 2006 and will go through to June 2007. Diane Roberts is the Instructor for the program.

This past summer we were able to employ 6 Post Secondary Students for the period of May-August. I would like to thank those departments whom set aside dollars for subsidy wages for these students and giving them the opportunity for the employment experience.

These students were placed in different departments, The Lonesome Pine Convenience Store employed 2 of the students, Ahtahkakoop Child and Family Services were able to employ one for the full summer and one for two months. The remaining were placed in the Administration, C.M.C.H. and Post Secondary Department. I would also like to thank those students for there dedication and hard work!!!

We were able to offer a Firearm Safety Course for 15 clients which was held on April 8 & 9th, 2006.

This past April we offered some training through Job Source Safety Services and were able to certify 20 clients with there First Aide, CPR A, TDG, WHMIS, Fire Awareness, and H2S Alive.

Our Community Access Program is again officially on the go meaning our computer lab is open now open to the public. Nathaniel Ahenakew will be available for assistance and will be offering basic computer program classes, such as resume writing, using word /spreadsheet documents and internet use. Programming and hours of operation will be posted.

Drivers Education Programming please be advised that for those who are on social assistance Ahtahkakoop Post Secondary will pay for the fees for the two hours in class training and four hour on road training. Those whom are employed, we will pay half the cost of these fees.

In September we met with students in Saskatoon, being that a majority of our students are located in Saskatoon. The meeting was a good turn out, we were able to collect information from the students, introduced students to one another and meet the post secondary board members, reviewed our post secondary student hand book. The purpose of this meeting that takes place once a year is primary for providing important information for first year students and giving student a chance for any questions or concerns.

For those whom are interested in applying for funding, funding applications can be faxed mailed or picked up at our office which is located in the band office. You may also gain access to the application and post secondary students hand book by downloading it from the following web site: www.ahtahkakoop.ca. The student handbook gives information regarding funding, deadline dates and required information.

In closing I would like to congratulate and welcome our new fellow employees in there positions.

Pearl Vandall
Ahtahkakoop Post Secondary
www.ahtahkakoop.ca
Phone 1(306)468-2100
Toll Free: 1-800-268-6222
Fax 1(306)468-2275
pvandall@sasktel.net
vandall2004@hotmail.com

AHTAHKAKOOP DAYCARE

Tansi,

Welcome everyone to another year, and to the students at A.B.E. Our enrollment at Daycare has increased but we have a few spaces left. Our hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Child Care providers are Joanne Ahenakew, Carol Sasakamoose and part-time is Blanche Isbister.

We are now in the process of getting our out-door playground in place.

Connie Genereaux is taking her Early Childhood Development Program (E.C.D.P) in Prince Albert and will complete her studies in two years. Terry Isbister is taking A.B.E and her goal in life is Emergency Medical Technician (E.M.T). Good Luck girls! It has been a pleasure working with you in childcare.

The children are given breakfast on arrival and get a hot meal at noon and a snack at 2:30 p.m. Some of the children have a nap after lunch. There is a schedule posted by the door that we try to follow.

Ekosi

Sheila Reimer
Daycare Director

September 20, 2006

Communications Coordinator

Well it has been awhile since we have come out with the Birchbark Report.

My job is to set up the radio studio here in Ahtahkakoop. As I said in the last report this is coming along slowly. But now we are finally nearing the reality of our own station. We have been dealing with Pippin Technical in Saskatoon, in regards to our studio set-up and equipment. Dave Ellis from there was telling me all the equipment is in so far except for the Audio Mixer, which is coming from Italy. At the time he was telling me that it would take another 7-10 days, and that he would calling me within two weeks to set up a day for studio set up. I had assumed that the current computer lab would become our radio studio but now we have to rethink the final space that will be used.

Once the studio is set up we will have a four day training session for those who are interested. This training will consist of how to work the radio equipment, what can or can't be said on-air (code of ethics), and how to use your voice on-air. Once the training is done we will be providing another job opportunity for someone as a DJ. So watch out for any upcoming postings! It is nice to see so many job opportunities popping up in our community!

I have also been helping Leona Ahenakew with the Indian Residential School Applications. These applications are for the elders who turned 65 before May 31, 2006. I am pleased to say that many of the elders we helped have received their advance payment of \$8000.00.

Hearings are currently underway for the Indian Residential Schools settlement process. Once these hearings are over the Final Agreement will be set in place. For those of you under 65, applications are expected to come out sometime early next year. So far, I have heard as early as January. Once the Final Agreement has been signed these applications will be made available to us for distribution.

If you have any questions you may call Indian Residential Schools Resolution at 1-866-879-4913. Or you may come see me at my office or the Band Office and I will be glad to assist you in any way I can.

If you have any communication needs or would like to make any sort of announcement with MBC Radio, please call me or come see me and I will assist you.

Belinda Nelson
Communications

Portfolios and Board Committees

ADMINISTRATION / FINANCE COMMITTEE / STAFF

Elder: John George Albert

COUNCIL

Jason Masuskapoe
Brian G. Little
Barry Sasakamoose

BOARD COMMITTEE

Kerry Sasakamoose
Myrna Ahenakew
Pearl Vandall

EDUCATION

Elder: Clifford S. Ahenakew

COUNCIL

Stanley Sasakamoose – chair
Russel S. Ahenakew
Fred Sasakamoose

BOARD COMMITTEE

Wanda Starblanket
Byron Genereaux
Sheamona Masuskapoe

POST SECONDARY

Elder: Burton Ahenakew

COUNCIL

Barry Sasakamoose
Jason Masuskapoe
Brian G. Little

BOARD COMMITTEE

Vacant
Cheryl Bird
Eric Ahenakew

HEALTH

Elder: Joan Nelson

COUNCIL

Russel S Ahenakew
Stanley Sasakamoose
Fred Sasakamoose

BOARD COMMITTEE

Clifford S. Ahenakew
Virginia Bird
Stanley Masuskapoe

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COUNCIL

Barry Sasakamoose
Marty Ahenakew
Marvin Genereaux

BOARD COMMITTEE

Dwayne Ahenakew
Alex Ahenakew
Aaron Masuskapoe

ACFS

Elder: Roy Peekeekoot

COUNCIL

Jason Masuskapoe
Marvin Genereaux
Russel S. Ahenakew

BOARD COMMITTEE

Cathy Williams
Kathy D. Ahenakew

LONESOME PINE CONVENIENCE STORE

COUNCIL

Fletcher Greyeyes
Stanley Sasakamoose
Marty Ahenakew

BOARD COMMITTEE

Joan Genereaux
Ron C. Ahenakew
Crystal Bird

POLICE MANAGEMENT BOARD/JUSTICE/PEACEKEEPERS

Elder: John George Albert

COUNCIL

Jason Masuskapoe
Raymond Williams
Glen L. Bird

BOARD COMMITTEE

Linda I. Williams
Stanley Masuskapoe
Francis Ahenakew

HOUSING / CHMC*Elder: Ralph Peekeekoot***COUNCIL**

Raymond Williams
 Marvin Genereaux
 Brian G. Little

BOARD COMMITTEE

Ryan Sasakamoose
 Margaret Laliberte
 Raymond Masuskapoe

DAYCARE*Elder: Gail Peekeekoot***COUNCIL**

Barry Sasakamoose
 Fred Sasakamoose
 Glen L. Bird

BOARD COMMITTEE

Gail Sasakamoose
 Katherine Ahenakew
 Wanda Starblanket

FORESTRY*Elder:***COUNCIL**

Wilson Sasakamoose
 Marty Ahenakew
 Raymond Williams

BOARD COMMITTEE

Edwin Johnstone
 Sheldon Bowman
 Richard Masuskapoe

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT*Elder: Rosalie Genereaux***COUNCIL**

Fletcher Greyeyes
 Stanley Sasakamoose
 Russel S. Ahenakew

BOARD COMMITTEE

Diane Martin
 Audrey Little
 Gail Peekeekoot

RECREATION/YOUTH**COUNCIL**

Brian G. Little
 Glen L. Bird
 Raymond Williams
 Wilson Sasakamoose

BOARD COMMITTEE

Travis Little
 Quentin Sasakamoose
 Lenny Sasakamoose
 Cindy Williams

AGRICULTURE**COUNCIL**

Brain G. Little
 Wilson Sasakamoose
 Marvin Genereaux

BOARD COMMITTEE

Dwayne Ahenakew
 Lenny Sasakamoose
 Leonard Jr. Peekeekoot

OPERATIONS & MAINTAINANCE**COUNCIL**

Glen Bird
 Marty Ahenakew
 Wilson Sasakamoose

BOARD COMMITTEE

Henry Ahenakew
 Jesse Masuskapoe
 Wilfred Little

AHTAHKAKOOP BAND EMPLOYEES**Chief and Council** **468-2326****Administration**

Main Office	468 – 2326
Toll Free	1-888-857-8858
Fax	468 – 2344
AJ Ahenakew	Band Administrator
Lanny Ahenakew	Administrative Assistant
Wilna Masuskapoe	

Finance

Carmen Little	Director of Finance
Sharon Ahenakew	Human Resources
Shelly Little	Accounts Payable
Geraldine Pratt	Accounts Payable

Recreation

Stanley Sasakamoose	Recreation Coordinator
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Land / Membership

Garvin Bird	Membership
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Housing

Jeffrey Sasakamoose	Housing Administrator
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CMHC

Marty Ahenakew	CMHC Coordinator
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Operations and Maintenance

Ronald Ahenakew	Director of Operation and Maintenance
Verna Sasakamoose	Maintenance
Emil (Dicker) Ahenakew	Plumbing and Heating
Leon Masuskapoe	Plumbing and Heating
Vincent Sasakamoose	Water Delivery

Contractors

Dallas Peekeekoot	Grader Operator
Glen Peekeekoot	Water Delivery
Conrad Albert	Sewer Pick-Up
Alex Sasakamoose	Garbage Pick-up

Social Development

Main Office:	468-2342
Fax:	468-2500
Pat Isbister	Welfare Administrator

Sheila Johnstone Welfare Clerk
Valerie Williams Welfare Clerk

Education

Main Office 468 – 2744
School 468-2854
Education 1-877-534-4437
Fax 468 – 2994
Brenda Ahenakew Director of Education
Carma Ahenakew Education Clerk

Post Secondary

Main Office 468 – 2100
Toll Free 1-888-268-6222
Fax 468 – 2275
Pearl Vandall Director of Post Secondary Education
Leona Ahenakew Receptionist

Justice

Main Office 468-2100
Fax: 468-2275
Fletcher Greyeyes Director of Justice
Eric Ahenakew CourtWorker
Brian Genereaux Maintenance

Health

Main Office 468-2747
Toll Free 1-800-807-6072
Fax 468-2967
Confidential Fax 468-2884

ACFS

Main Office 468 – 2520
Toll Free 1-888-745-0470
Fax 468 – 2524
Anita Ahenakew Director of ACFS
Virginia Ledoux Supervisor
Lisa Sasakamoose Family Support / CaseWorker
Derek Ahenakew CaseWorker
Cheryl Sanderson Finance Administrator
Rhonda Thomas Finance Assistant
Peggy Ahenakew File Clerk
Tracey Genereaux Receptionist

Daycare

Main Office 468 – 2998
Fax 468 – 2344
Sheila Reimer Director of Daycare
Carol Sasakamoose Child Care Provider

Joanne Ahenakew Child Care Provider
Blance Isbister (p/t) Child Care Provider

Store

Main Office **468 – 2660**
Fax **468 – 2309**
Elmer Masuskapoe 468 – 3177 Store Manager
Jason Ledoux 468 – 2534 Assistant Manager

Arena

Main Office 468 – 3082
Eugene Ahenakew 468 – 7154 Arena Director

RCMP

Main Office **468 – 2969 / 747 – 2606**
Fax **468 – 2322 / 747 – 2607**
Cst. Nathan Venne
Cst Devon Esquirol
Cst. Dion Eddy
Darla Ahenakew

Peacekeepers

Ronald Isbister 468 – 3024
Jessie Masuskapoe 468 – 2095

First Responders

Sheila Reimer 468 – 2733
Terry Williams 468 – 3031
Janice Sasakamoose 468 – 2356

Volunteer Fire Department

Dennis Masuskapoe 468 – 3078