

# **WOLASTOQEQY NATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK**

REPORT  
TO THE  
NATION

2023





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                                           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>ABOUT THE WOLASTOQEY NATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK</b>                                                       | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>                                                              | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM NIHKANATPAT</b>                                                             | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>OUR SIX COMMUNITIES</b>                                                                                | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>OUR STAFF &amp; RDCCS</b>                                                                              | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>ORGANIZATIONAL CHART</b>                                                                               | <b>10</b> |
| <b>OPERATIONAL FLOW</b>                                                                                   | <b>11</b> |
| <b>FUNDING BREAKDOWN</b>                                                                                  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>CONSULTATION FILE UPDATES:</b>                                                                         |           |
| MACTAQUAC LIFE ACHIEVEMENT PROJECT                                                                        | 13        |
| ADVANCED SMALL MODULAR REACTOR COMMERCIAL DEMONSTRATION UNIT                                              | 14        |
| SCOTT FALLS DAM REHABILITATION                                                                            | 15        |
| NEW BRUNSWICK 2023 FOREST STRATEGY                                                                        | 15        |
| NEW BRUNSWICK MAPLE RESOURCE STRATEGY                                                                     | 16        |
| DISTRIBUTION OF CAMP LOT LEASES                                                                           | 17        |
| AQUACULTURE                                                                                               | 17        |
| DFO – SMALL CRAFT HARBOUR BERM REMOVAL SOUTH MUSQUASH                                                     | 17        |
| TRACKING OCEAN CONTAMINANTS WITH BLUE MUSSELS                                                             | 18        |
| <b>RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES:</b>                                                                     |           |
| AV GROUP PARTNERSHIP                                                                                      | 18        |
| ELVER FISHERY                                                                                             | 19        |
| WABANAKI FOREST, CLIMATE, AND LAND-BACK PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY FORESTS INTERNATIONAL                  | 20        |
| ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF WOLASTOQEY RIGHTS AND CULTURE                                | 20        |
| <b>RESEARCH AND STUDIES:</b>                                                                              |           |
| WNNB APPEARANCE BEFORE THE STANDING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP | 21        |
| WOLASTOQEY RIGHTS MATTER PROJECT                                                                          | 22        |
| MAPPING PROJECT ON IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE                                                              | 22        |
| <b>CONTACT US</b>                                                                                         | <b>24</b> |
| RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION COORDINATORS                                                            | 24        |

# ABOUT THE WOLASTOQEY NATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick is a not-for-profit organization that was formed in 2017 to represent the six Wolastoqey communities in New Brunswick: Matawaskiye (Madawaska), Neqotkuk (Tobique), Bilijk (Kingsclear), Sitansisk (Saint Mary's), Welamukotuk (Oromocto) and Wotstak (Woodstock).

Our role is to provide technical support and advice to the Wolastoqey communities in New Brunswick on matters relating to our constitutionally-protected Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick is not the rights holder, nor the body to which the duty to consult is owed.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB) organization has provided key technical knowledge to the leadership of the six communities along the Wolastoq, including Matawaskiye (Madawaska); Neqotkuk (Tobique); Bilijk (Kingsclear); Sitansisk (Saint Mary's); Welamukotuk (Oromocto) and Wotstak (Woodstock) since 2017.

With the help of the WNNB technical staff, the Wolastoqey Chiefs have been able to stand their ground on numerous rights-based issues, affirming the application of Indigenous knowledge to the land, water and resources we've protected since time immemorial.



Now, more than ever, New Brunswickers are looking to the WNNB for input and consultation on a variety of matters, including resource development, healthcare, housing and education. Our communities must have the ability to respond in a timely and informed manner to these matters, among others. Facilitating mutually beneficial relationships that respect our inherent rights, culture and needs - as well as when to stand our ground - is critical for us to meet our collective goals.

In 2023, the six Wolastoqey First Nations and the New Brunswick forest product company AV Group NB Inc. signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining a path toward cooperative forest management and future economic development opportunities.

Through this MOU, we are pursuing a greater collaborative approach to forest management and exploring alternative forest tenure models that will incorporate meaningful application of Indigenous knowledge, while protecting the importance of sustainability in a spirit of joint responsibility and mutual benefit.



Last year also saw the abolishment of decades-long tax-revenue sharing agreements between our six communities at the hands of the Higgs government. While we work to find alternatives to fill the gap that this agreement provided, the sudden loss of this revenue has left some of our communities in difficult positions. Ensuring appropriate funding for education, healthcare and housing in our communities remains a top priority.

On another note, we would also like to thank former Nihkanatpat (Executive Director) Darrah Beaver as she moves on to complete her PhD in Education, focusing on Wolastoqey language revitalization. As Nihkanatpat, she helped elevate the profile of our organization and advance many important consultation files.

From all of us at the WNNB, we wish Darrah all the best with her continued education and thank her for her invaluable contributions.

With that said, the WNNB Board of Directors are delighted to announce that John Cloutier will begin as the new full-time Nihkanatpat on April 1st.

John is a proud member of Matawaskiye with a doctorate and master's degree in engineering from the University of Guelph. He also holds the esteemed title of Professional Engineer, registered in both New Brunswick and Ontario. This accomplishment stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to the field, a passion we know he will bring to his new position.

His time spent in the forestry industry coupled with a six-year tenure as a commercial fisherman provides him with a unique perspective on these industries and their interactions with Indigenous people.

Additionally, his exposure to a wide range of sectors, including nuclear, energy and natural resources has given him a solid understanding of the complex issues that affect the Wolastoqey people's rights and title.

Beyond academia and industry, John was deeply involved in his community as the Resource Development Consultation Coordinator for Madawaska.

We look forward to supporting John and wish him success in his new role.

We would also like to thank our Legal and Governance advisor Gillian Paul for taking on the role of interim Nihkanapat for the last number of months while we sought a full-time replacement. Gillian's enthusiastic support and ability to manage multiple roles at the same is a testament to her dedication to our organization and the communities we represent.

This report contains updates on the various files from our technical team. We encourage you to reach out to your community Resource Development Consultation Coordinator (RDCC) to connect you with the WNNB organization for further information.

Woliwon / Wəliwən,



Chief Ross Perley



Chief Shelly Sabattis



Chief Patricia Bernard



Chief Tim Paul



Chief Gabriel Atwin



Chief Alan Polchies

# A MESSAGE FROM THE NIHKANATPAT

Kwey/Qey,

I am honoured and humbled to join the Wolastoqey Nation of New Brunswick as the incoming Nihkanapat. As a proud member of Matawaskiye, I look forward to working with a highly talented and motivated team of people to improve life for everyone in the communities we call home.



In order for our communities to thrive, we need to stand united and ensure our rights are both protected and respected on important issues like healthcare, housing and education.

I believe that my background in various industries and my extensive education in the field of engineering will be a tremendous asset in my new role as Nihkanapat. Through my education and work experience, I've seen firsthand how industry works and interacts with Indigenous people.

I would like to thank the WNNB Board of Directors for putting their faith in me to serve our communities in this important role.

Through positive dialogue and collaboration, I know that when we work together we can accomplish great things and build a better future for all members of our communities.

Woliwon / Wəliwən  
John Cloutier

## OUR SIX COMMUNITIES



### Sitansisk

*St. Mary's First Nation*  
Chief Allan Polchies Jr.



### Bilijk

*Kingsclear First Nation*  
Chief Gabriel Atwin



### Welamukotuk

*Oromocto First Nation*  
Chief Shelley Sabbatis



### Matawaskiye

*Madawaska First Nation*  
Chief Patricia Bernard



### Neqotkuk

*Tobique First Nation*  
Chief Ross Perley



### Wotstak

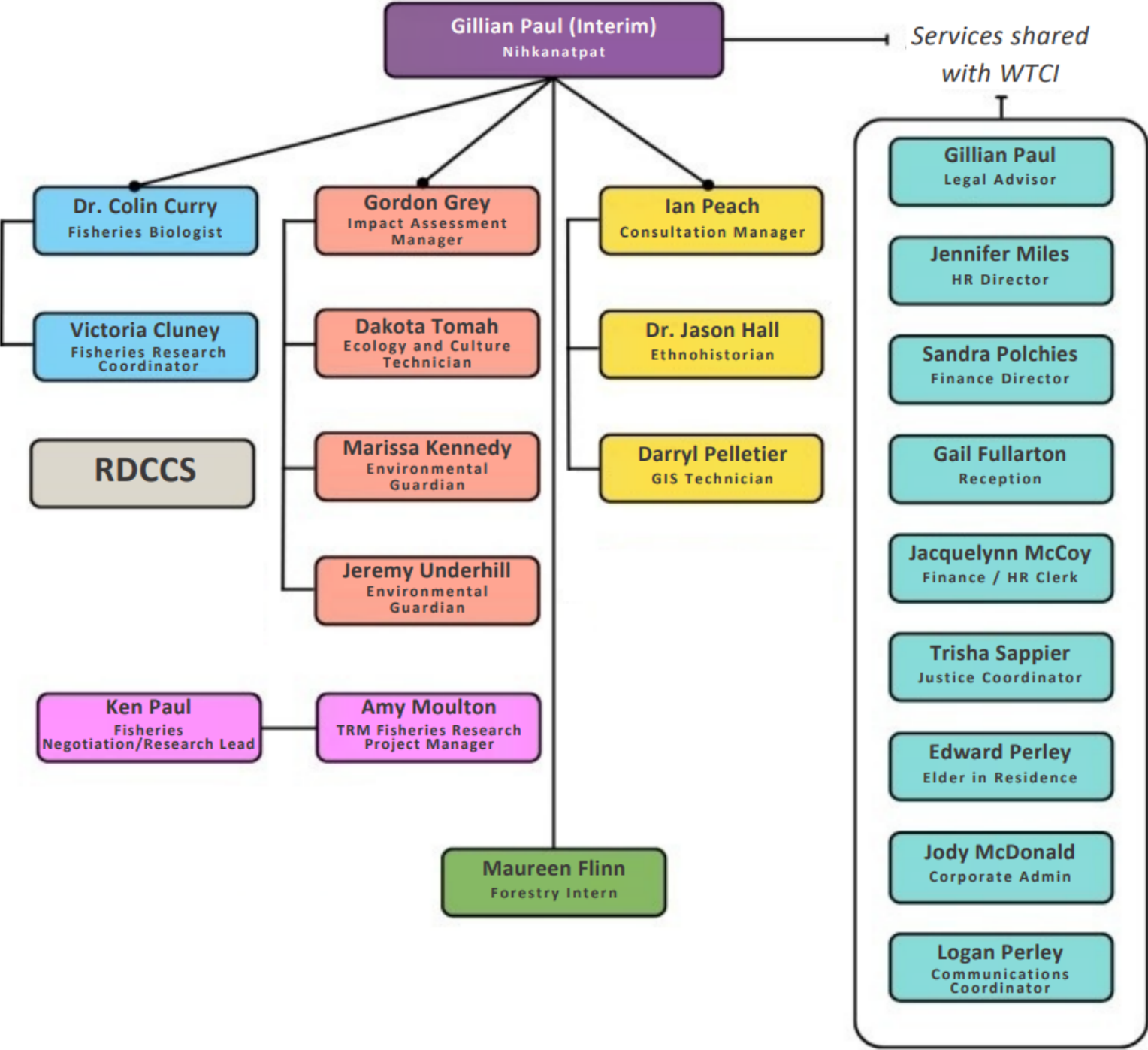
*Woodstock First Nation*  
Chief Tim Paul



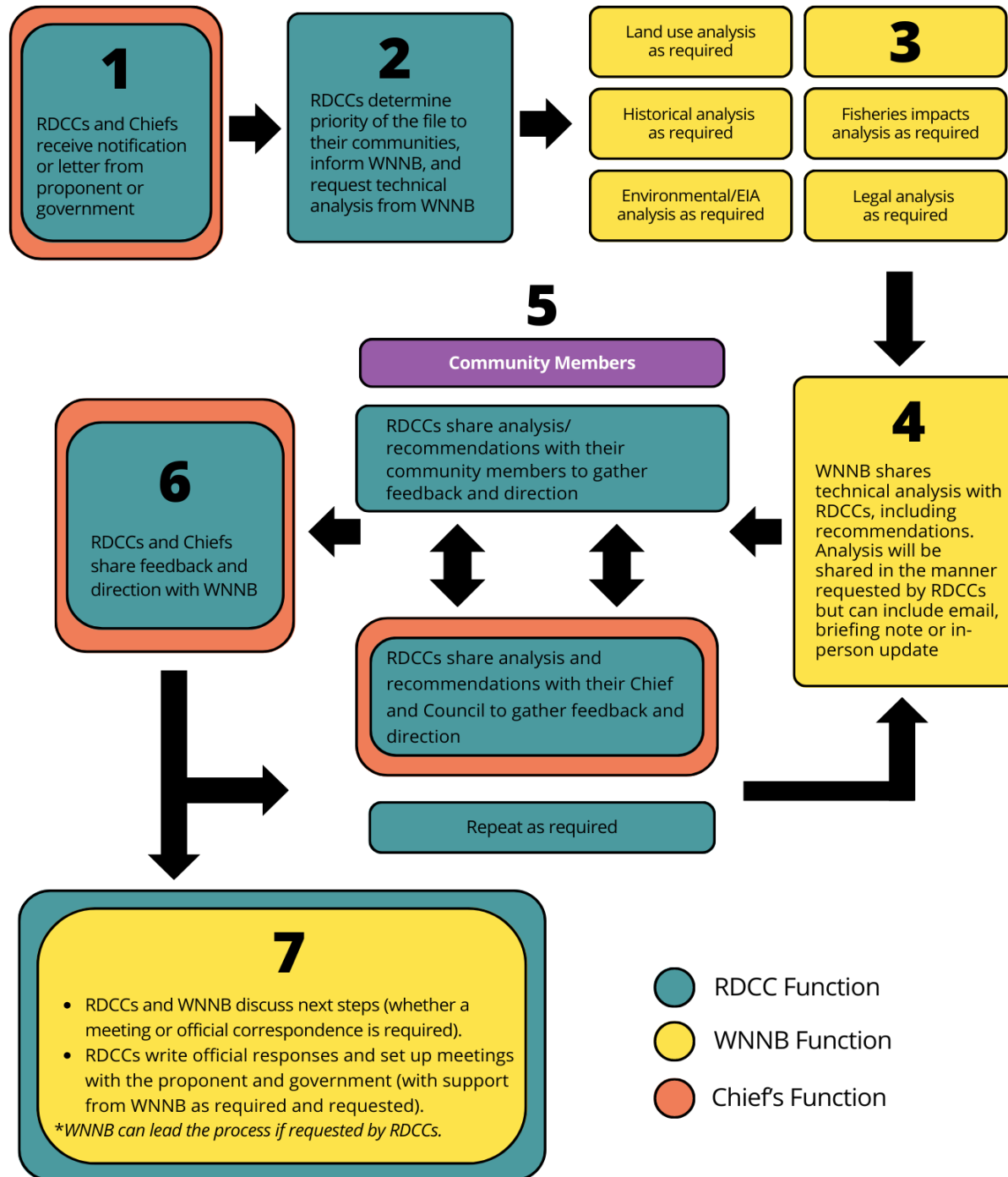
## OUR STAFF & RDCCS

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Gillian Paul (Interim) | Nihkanatpat/Executive Director |
| Gillian Paul           | Legal and Governance Advisor   |
| Dr. Collin Curry       | Fisheries Biologist            |
| Victoria Cluney        | Fisheries Research Coordinator |
| Sandra Polchies        | Director of Finance            |
| Dr. Jason Hall         | Ethnohistorian                 |
| Darryl Pelletier       | GIS Technician                 |
| Gail Fullarton         | Administrative Assistant       |
| Gordon Grey            | Impact Assessment Manager      |
| Dakota Tomah           | Ecology and Culture Technician |
| Jennifer Miles         | Director of Human Resources    |
| Edward Perley          | Elder-in-Residence             |
| Ian Peach              | Consultation Manager           |
| Logan Perley           | Communications Coordinator     |
| Marissa Kennedy        | Environmental Guardian         |
| Jeremy Underhill       | Environmental Guardian         |
| Jody McDonald          | Corporate Administrator        |
| Maureen Flinn          | Forestry Intern                |
| Trisha Sappier         | Justice Coordinator            |
| Jacquelynn McCoy       | HR and Finance Clerk           |
| Richard Francis        | RDCC – Kingsclear First Nation |
| John Cloutier          | RDCC – Madawaska First Nation  |
| Jamie Gorman           | RDCC – Tobique First Nation    |
| Tim Plant              | RDCC – St. Mary's First Nation |
| Fred Sabattis          | RDCC – Oromocto First Nation   |
| Trudi Cummings         | RDCC – Woodstock First Nation  |

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

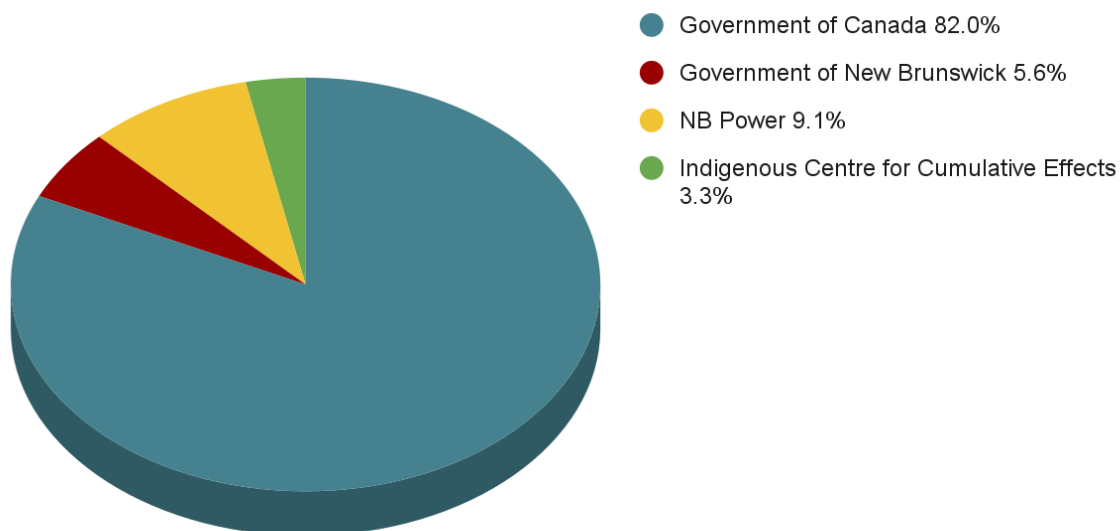


# OPERATIONAL FLOW

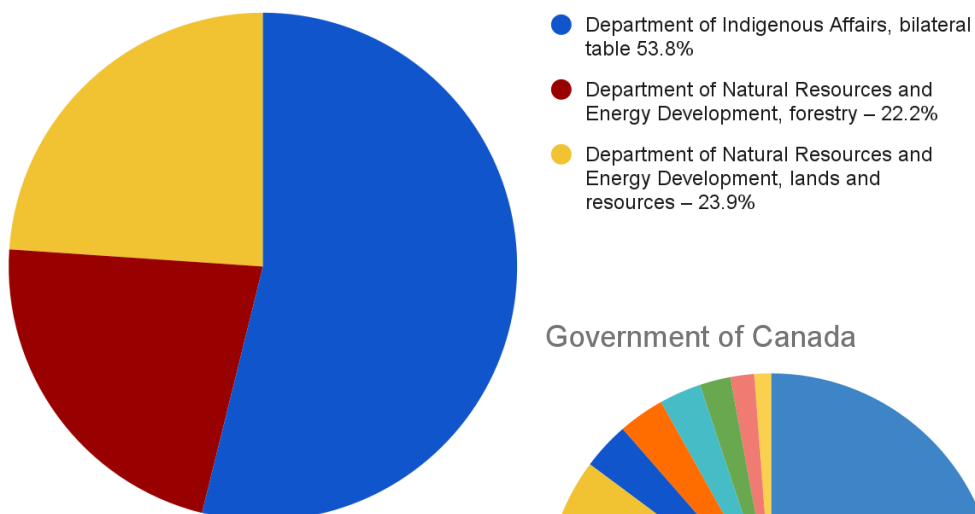


# FUNDING BREAKDOWN

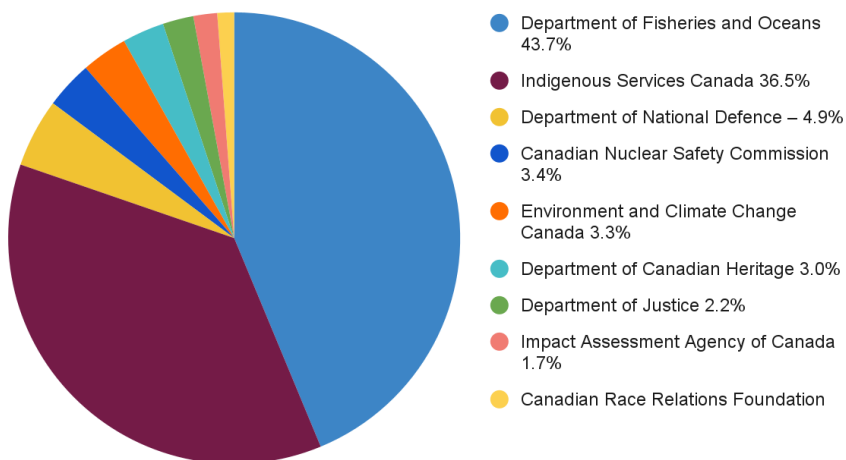
WNNB Funding breakdown



Government of New Brunswick



Government of Canada



# CONSULTATION FILE UPDATES

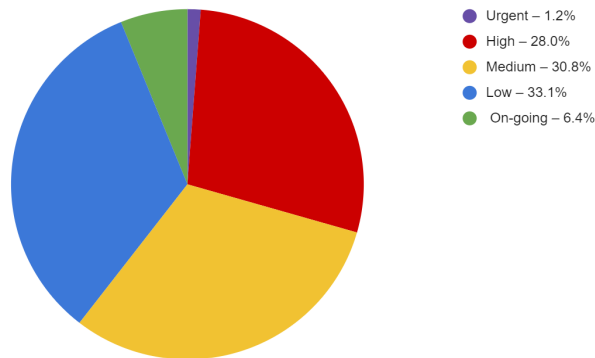
## Mactaquac Life Achievement Project:

The Mactaquac Generating Station is a hydroelectric facility on the Wolastoq (Saint John River) completed in 1968. The dam has a huge impact on Wolastoqey Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, including Aboriginal title. It has sped up the decline of Atlantic Salmon and other fish species, reduced access to fishing, and flooded Wolastoqey lands, culturally significant sites, and harvesting areas. It also creates a major navigation

barrier on the Wolastoq and interferes with our spiritual connection to the Wolastoq.

The concrete used to build the Mactaquac facilities associated with the dam is expanding due to a reaction with the water, and without significant repair, the dam will not last as long as originally expected. In 2016, NB Power decided to repair and upgrade the dam through the

Consultation files by priority



Mactaquac Life Achievement Project (MLAP). The Wolastoqey communities strongly advocated for the removal of the Mactaquac Dam and facilities and restoration of the Wolastoq at that time. As part of the MLAP, NB Power committed to improving fish passage at Mactaquac and accommodating affected communities.

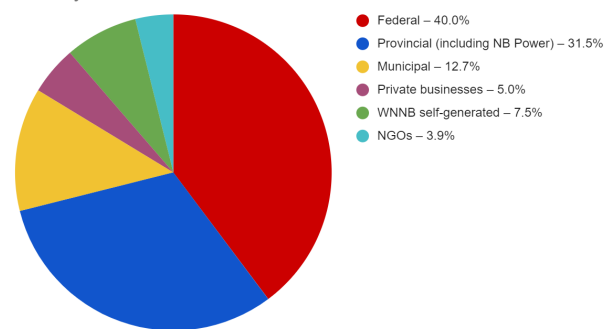
In July 2023 NB Power registered an Environmental Impact Assessment for the project with the provincial government. WNNB has identified 175 deficiencies with the EIA, including inadequate plans for fish passage and many other ways that the dam impacts Wolastoqey rights. NB Power held a meeting with the community of Bilijk in November, and a virtual session for all communities was held in early February. Wolastoqey communities remain opposed to the refurbishment of the Mactaquac Dam; however, WNNB, as requested by the Chiefs, is engaged in accommodation discussions with NB Power to address the impact that the continued existence of the Mactaquac Dam will have on our rights.

## Advanced Small Modular Reactor Commercial Demonstration Unit:

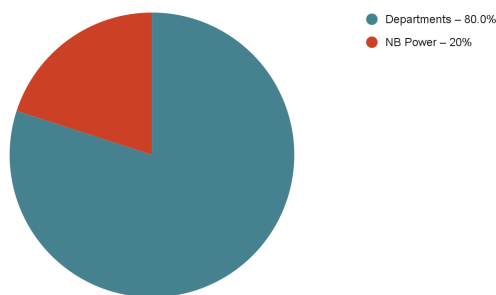
NB Power is working with ARC Clean Technology on the construction and operation of one advanced small modular reactor (SMR) at the site of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station. SMRs are small nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is about one-third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors. SMRs will be a low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission alternative for energy production, such as coal, which must be phased out by 2030. As well, in comparison to existing reactors, proposed SMR designs are generally simpler and can have a significantly lower potential for unsafe releases of radioactivity to the environment and the public in case of an accident.

On June 30, 2023, NB Power submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment registration document to the Department of Environment and Local Government, and a Licence to Prepare Site Application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Because the SMR demonstration unit is small

Files by source



Provincial files by source



and will be sited on the existing Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station site, it does not require a full review by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. WNNB is undertaking a review of the potential of this SMR demonstration project to affect the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Wolastoqiyik, as well as the environmental and financial implications of the project.

In November, pre-contact artifacts were found on the site; WNNB asked early in January that all work on the site be stopped until the Wolastoqiyik are consulted and conservation efforts acceptable to the Wolastoqiyik are completed. WNNB also asked that an archaeologist appointed by WNNB undertake a review of the discoveries to date and the work plan moving forward. As yet, we have not received a response to these requests.



## Scott Falls Dam Rehabilitation:

Built in 1923, Scott Falls Dam is located on the west branch of the Musquash River, about 20 kms west of Saint John, in Wolastoqey territory. When it was built, the dam cut off access to the Musquash River for salmon and other fish. Inspections in 2011 found the dam was in poor condition. After initially planning to remove it, the Province of New Brunswick decided to refurbish Scott Falls and add fish passage; they approached the Wolastoqey for consultation in late 2022. The continued existence of the dam infringes on Wolastoqey rights. As such, WNNB has raised numerous technical issues with the proposal. Most importantly, even if fish passage is provided, there is no suitable salmon habitat upstream for spawning and rearing. To date, the province has not provided detailed answers to our questions and refused to reconsider its decision to refurbish. WNNB has vigorously opposed the refurbishment of Scott Falls, instead supporting removal. Although a small number of camp lessees exist on the headpond, it no longer produces electricity, and the dam is a safety risk. In the long run, refurbishing the dam will also be more expensive than removing it. The province must also obtain a Fisheries Act Authorization from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO); we are demanding that DFO decline to issue this authorization because of the impact the dam has on Wolastoqey's rights.

## New Brunswick 2023 Forest Strategy:

Starting in late March 2022, WNNB led Wolastoqey consultation efforts with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED) and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) on the Government of New Brunswick's proposed Forest Strategy. The Wolastoqey Nation made its main set of recommendations by letter on July 15, 2022. On March 2, 2023, the Province released its final determination on the 2022 Forest Strategy following the year-long consultation period with all Nations, including WNNB. Three of WNNB's recommendations were accommodated in full, five recommendations were satisfied in part, and a total of 12 recommendations were not addressed to our satisfaction or at all. The Forest Strategy itself was released on August 30, 2023.

As part of the Province's 2023 Forestry Strategy, the government proposed establishing a Ministers and Chiefs Advisory Table and a Forestry Working Group of officials to share information on Forest Strategy decisions. MTI and Wolastoqey Chiefs have opposed participation on the Ministers and Chiefs Advisory Table, as it is a mere advisory board rather than genuine co-management, and is therefore inadequate. As the Province has insisted that participation in the Forestry Working Group, and involvement in Forest Strategy implementation at all, requires that the Chiefs sit at the Ministers and Chiefs

Advisory Table, WNNB is currently not involved in the Forest Strategy implementation. We continue to work to convince the Province to change its position on the Ministers and Chiefs Advisory Table and the involvement of officials in Forest Strategy implementation.

## New Brunswick Maple Resource Strategy:

The provincial government's Maple Resource Strategy proposes that an additional 5000 hectares of Crown land be leased for maple sugar operations. WNNB informed the government of the concern of the Wolastoqey communities that further restricting free access to Crown lands by leasing them out for maple sugar operations, which would create both legal and physical barriers to access, would have a significant impact on the exercise of the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Wolastoqiyik.

The government also asked Wolastoqey communities to identify potential maple sugary areas within New Brunswick that community members may be interested in leasing. We understand that several Wolastoqey community members are interested in getting involved in maple sugary operations and we have



informed the government of this fact. The government originally set a deadline of January 19th, 2024 for receiving information on locations of interest to community members. WNNB argued that this was unacceptable, so the deadline was extended to Feb 2nd; this is still unacceptable, however, as the deadline for New Brunswickers to submit proposals for maple sugary leases is March 31st, and there was no promise of leases being set aside for Indigenous communities. Where there are no set-asides for Indigenous communities, having a separate, earlier deadline from that for the rest of the population is arbitrary. WNNB has met with provincial government officials to discuss this issue and will continue efforts to have the government eliminate this arbitrary deadline, provide Wolastoqey communities with set-asides, and generally better consult Wolastoqey communities in making leasing decisions.



## Distribution of Camp Lot Leases:

On July 28, 2022, the provincial Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development informed WNNB that it proposed to lease out a number of vacant camp lots that had been applied for to members of the public, 98 of which were in Wolastoqey territory. During consultation with the Wolastoqiyik, 38 camp lots were initially identified as being close to areas of special significance or currently being used for cultural purposes, meaning the leasing of those lands to non-Indigenous New Brunswickers for camp lots would have a significant adverse impact on the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Wolastoqiyik. These 38 lots were held back from release to the public but the provincial government asked WNNB for additional information on these identified camp lots; as well, the government committed to leasing one five-hectare camp lot to each community. The 38 camp lot areas initially identified by WNNB were examined further and it was determined that only 28 locations were of interest to Wolastoqey communities; the other 10 camp lots, those which were not of interest to the Wolastoqiyik, were recently released to the public for application.

## Aquaculture:

Salmon aquaculture involves raising young salmon to adulthood in large pens along the Fundy Coast. It has negatively affected Wolastoqey rights for decades. Concerns include impacts on the ocean environment, wild salmon, lobster, scallop, and sea urchin fisheries. A new farm has been proposed at Rams Head near Beaver Harbour, New Brunswick, triggering consultation by the province and Kelly Cove Salmon Inc. WNNB is working to ensure that Wolastoqey rights are protected and accommodated during this process and has submitted detailed technical questions to the province and the proponent. We have received a high-level response, but have requested more detail. Given the scale of aquaculture in our traditional waters, some members have expressed a desire for benefits from the aquaculture industry such as equity, revenue sharing and employment. In the coming months, WNNB will be engaging with members to learn their views on aquaculture and inform our approach to consultation with the industry.

## DFO – Small Craft Harbour Berm Removal South Musquash:

Most recently the WNNB has worked with DFO – Small Craft Harbors (DFO – SCH) on the removal of a berm - a raised barrier that held back salt water - to reintroduce natural brackish conditions in the South Musquash area. We participated in the monitoring of the project and will be involved in the 5 years following the removal, which occurred this winter, to ensure that the rehabilitation of the system does not negatively impact

the ecosystem there, and that it returns to a state that is in line with the coastal marsh functionality that sweetgrass enjoys. This project is being used as a habitat offset credit for DFO – SCH and their ongoing dredging programs throughout the coastline.

## Tracking Ocean Contaminants With Blue Mussels:

Since 2021, WNNB has been researching how blue mussels grow and pick up contaminants in Saint John Harbour as part of the DFO-funded Coastal Environmental Baseline Program. Each year we have deployed mussels at different locations in the harbour for 3 months, retrieved them, and compared their size and contaminant levels to before they were deployed. Using mussels provides a longer-term picture of conditions in the harbour, compared to water samples that only provide a “snapshot”. So far, we have noticed that the mussels accumulate certain metals over time – further investigation is needed to determine where those contaminants are coming from. This information will support our calls to focus on the cumulative impacts of development on Wolastoqey rights. From 2024-2027 we plan to expand this work along the Bay of Fundy coast west of Saint John. The project has given Wolastoqey youth and community members a chance to participate in marine ecology work in support of protecting their rights.

## RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

### AV Group Partnership:

WWNB and AV Group signed an MOU in February 2023, to develop a new co-management model for forestry planning and stewardship, with meaningful participation of Wolastoqey community members and Indigenous knowledge embedded in the process. They also agreed to work toward an agreement to provide funding to carry out a study on AV Group’s freehold land and Crown land to identify values of importance to the First Nations, including via community interviews and field studies. The funding will also be put towards a model for cultural values development and protection initiatives including modified operations for sensitive sites, priority employment and business opportunities for First Nation members and businesses,



training opportunities, and a plan to cover co-management costs incurred by the First Nations during implementation of the Agreement.

Since the signing, regular meetings have been happening monthly to move this MOU forward and WNNB and RDCC staff have had several meetings to discuss and plan how this partnership will move forward. Recently, the AV Group invited RDCCs, WNNB staff, and Elders for a ride-along during their quarterly audit process. WNNB staff are excited about this unique opportunity, as it would be a first in New Brunswick and will demonstrate to others how collaboration between forestry companies and the



Wolastoqiyik can be successful for both parties. As part of this initiative, WNNB is hoping to have input from communities to establish criteria for lands that could be returned. If community members are aware of any AV Group lands that have extensive medicines, lake and waterway access, high density of sugar maple, high density of merchantable timber, or

something else of importance not identified above, please reach out to WNNB.

## Elver Fishery:

For years, Wolastoqey communities pushed for a livelihood elver fishery in New Brunswick. In 2022, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) issued an interim communal commercial license that authorized access. However, the quota was far less than a full commercial license and had to be shared amongst all members of our Nation. In 2023, another interim communal commercial license was issued by DFO with a modest increase to the quota, but DFO prematurely closed the fishery and our members were only able to catch 30% of this new quota.

In 2022, a commercial elver license holder launched a lawsuit against our Chiefs, citing personal financial loss and hardship, which prompted an injunction by the New Brunswick courts to prevent anyone from fishing elvers in the rivers in Southwest New Brunswick. WNNB has developed a management plan for our elver fishery and coordinated a legal defence against the court case being brought by the commercial licence holder in Southwest New Brunswick, while trying to have the injunction thrown out. We continue to push DFO to ensure our members have fair and reasonable access to the elver fishery. We are also pushing back against DFO's rushed consultation to

impose new regulations that could harm our fishers. Finally, we do not believe that DFO has strong science to support the current management approach to the fishery. We are implementing our own monitoring and science program for elvers so that better decisions can be made.

## Wabanaki Forest, Climate, and Land-Back Partnership with Community Forests International:

WNNB has partnered with Community Forests International (CFI) as a co-applicant on CFI's Wabanaki Forest, Climate, and Land-Back Partnership. The project intends to select privately-held land in the Wabanaki forest for purchase, based on its ecological and cultural importance. Along with its ability to sequester and store carbon, its biodiversity value, and its potential contribution to Canada's climate and conservation targets. Together, the partners will increase the land base that is set aside for conservation values, and land that is accessible and available for cultural, educational, and livelihood activities—activities which have measurably positive impacts on forest biodiversity and climate resilience. This includes returning lands in Wolastoqey territory to the Wolastoqiyik, to be managed by the Wolastoqiyik for sustainable uses.



Just before Christmas, CFI was informed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) that their application for federal funding to support this project was approved and CFI is now in negotiations with ECCC on the terms of the Contribution Agreement to transfer the funds from the federal government to CFI. Once these details are worked out, WNNB will receive \$1.5 million over three years to acquire land in Wolastoqey territory in New Brunswick for the Wolastoqey communities; community engagement will be key to selecting which lands that are available for purchase will be purchased for conservation, carbon sequestration, and traditional uses.

## Activities to increase public recognition of Wolastoqey rights and culture:

WNNB's engagement with the Town of Hartland has resulted in their Tourist Centre adding a slide show on Wolastoqey history and rights for the public as well as artwork

by Wolastoqey youth. The Hartland Community Complex that is under construction will also feature historical information and the work of a Wolastoqey artist.

WNNB's Ethnohistorian, Dr. Jason Hall, worked with Elders to assist with Saint John's renaming of Loyalist Plaza, a prominent public space by the harbour. The new name the Elders approved is Ihtoli-maqahamok, which means the gathering place. City Council voted to accept this name change in October. Replacing offensive colonial commemorative names like Loyalist Plaza with Wolastoqey names helps make known the deep connection of Wolastoqiyik to this part of your territory and contributes to language revitalization and fostering greater respect for Wolastoqey culture and rights.

A new Madawaska-Edmundston International Bridge and upgraded Canadian Border Services Agency facilities are under construction. It is currently anticipated that the new bridge will be operational in late March of this year, with opening ceremonies planned for August. Part of the new facilities will include flying the Wolastoqey flag on the new bridge and the installation of two sculptures by Wolastoqey artists in prominent places at the facilities.

## RESEARCH AND STUDIES

### WNNB appearance before the Standing Legislative Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship:



WNNB presented to the New Brunswick Legislature's Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship on key themes related to energy development. Themes included the importance of Wolastoqey co-management of resources and energy projects; respect for rights and meaningful consultation; supporting energy

development like wind farms that are in line with Indigenous values; and having a healthy environment to sustain Wolastoqey well-being traditions, and rights. In addition, WNNB shared concerns that community members have brought forward, like the fact that the Province considers hydro-dams a clean and positive energy source, despite them having had devastating impacts on the Wolastoqiyik, Wolastoqey culture, and rights. Presenters also discussed how the total area of all the mines, headponds, transmission lines sprayed with toxic chemicals, and other forms of energy

development is already massive, and the zoning of new projects on our lands and waters is, for our culture and way of life, a slow death by a thousand cuts. This is the third time the WNNB has stood before this committee. Previously, we have spoken about climate change and stewardship, and water quality concerns.

## Wolastoqey Rights Matter Project:

WNNB recently started the Wolastoqey Rights Matter project, in partnership with WTCI, to promote education about Wolastoqey experiences with racism and barriers to exercising Wolastoqey rights. Part one of the project involved training Wolastoqey youth to learn how to conduct professional interviews about racism and rights with Elders and land users. These interviews are taking place in communities now. A second part of the project is the writing and publication of a Rights Manual, to provide more information about rights and racism to community members and the non-Indigenous people. The project will conclude in late 2024 and early 2025 with a series of workshops for communities and general public on racism and barriers to exercising rights.

## Mapping Project on Impacts of Climate Change:

In 2023, WNNB completed a research and mapping project to help illustrate the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise, increased flooding, and storm surges) on coastal sweet grass habitat, as well as Wolastoqey harvesting of this sacred plant in this region. The data generated by this project helps raise awareness in Wolastoqey communities and informs the public on the negative impacts of climate change on Wolastoqey land use and coastal sweet grass. This research is an asset to WNNB in encouraging governments and the public to take steps to reduce those impacts on these sacred plants and Wolastoqey relationships with them.



More generally, the WNNB is also working with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and multiple partners on restoration and protection of coastal marsh systems which is where the most heavily accessed sweetgrass stands occur. Ultimately, the idea is to establish the threat level to community-used stands. Then, identifying where we can work with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to allow for these stands to acclimatize (by travelling inland) to sea level rise; by installing oversized culverts (larger than stream width) so the

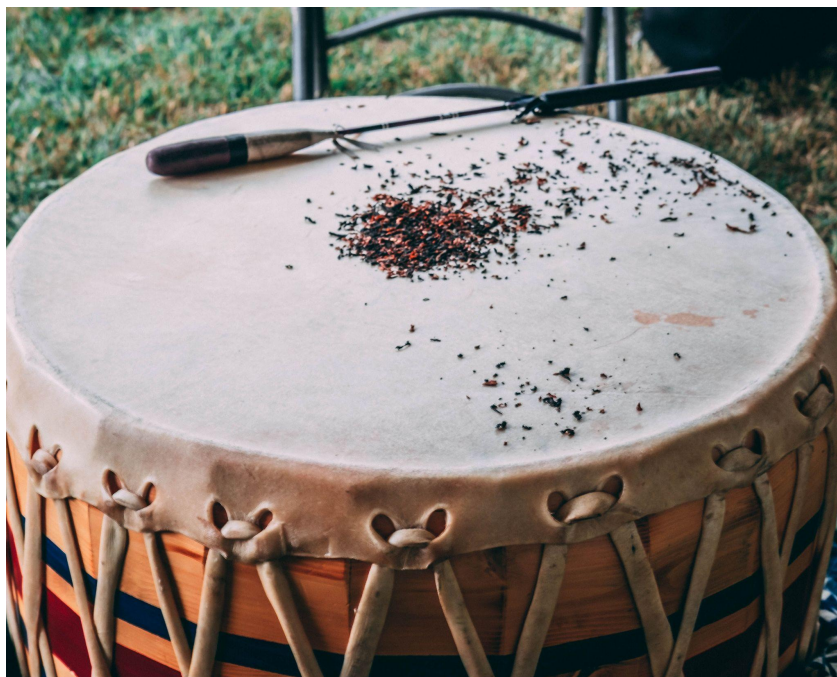


sweetgrass can spread via rhizome (root). Currently, most of these marsh systems border highways and developments so are blocked from spreading.

As an addition to this project, we are working to protect other coastline areas where there are known and unknown archaeological sites. This will require some ground truthing, an assessment of known sites in coming years to see what condition they are in, and in situations where they are unregistered, to document them so they have the protection of Borden status. If community members are aware of archaeological sites on the Fundy coast and want to work with our staff, we encourage them to reach out to join the field crew for this important work.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you wish to receive any additional information on these projects, would like to know how you can get involved and share your information on these projects, or have any ideas on restoration projects, contact your local Resource Development Consultation Coordinator.



## CONTACT US

*If you have questions, comments, or you'd like to be involved with any of these projects, reach out to the Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick offices in Fredericton or to the RDCC in your community for help. We'd love to point you in the right direction.*



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