



Presenters: Robbie Tapiatic & Marc Dunn

Directors – Niskamoon Corporation

Working Together to Guarantee the next  
Generation of Cree Land Users

November 14-15, 2018



# A bit of History...

- Hydroelectric development began in Eeyou Ischtee, QC (James Bay) with the *La Grande Complexe* mega project (16,527 MW) in the 1970s which led to the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), Canada's first comprehensive land claim agreement.
- Since then there have been several entities created to implement different Impact-Benefit Agreements (IBA), programs and funds was negotiated with Hydro-Quebec.
- Confusion was developing at the community level as to which entity was managing which fund.
- Many people in the Communities felt that the benefits were not reaching them.



[illegible]

The map displays the coastal area of Basse-Normandie, France, with a network of distances between various towns. The distances are provided in kilometers (km) and are organized into a grid-like structure. The towns listed include:

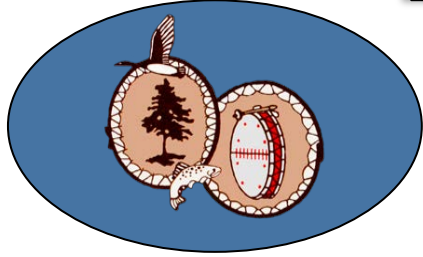
- La Grande-1**
- La Grande-2**
- La Grande-3**
- La Grande-4**
- La Grande-5**
- La Grande-6**
- La Grande-7**
- La Grande-8**
- La Grande-9**
- La Grande-10**
- La Grande-11**
- La Grande-12**
- La Grande-13**
- La Grande-14**
- La Grande-15**
- La Grande-16**
- La Grande-17**
- La Grande-18**
- La Grande-19**
- La Grande-20**
- La Grande-21**
- La Grande-22**
- La Grande-23**
- La Grande-24**
- La Grande-25**
- La Grande-26**
- La Grande-27**
- La Grande-28**
- La Grande-29**
- La Grande-30**
- La Grande-31**
- La Grande-32**
- La Grande-33**
- La Grande-34**
- La Grande-35**
- La Grande-36**
- La Grande-37**
- La Grande-38**
- La Grande-39**
- La Grande-40**
- La Grande-41**
- La Grande-42**
- La Grande-43**
- La Grande-44**
- La Grande-45**
- La Grande-46**
- La Grande-47**
- La Grande-48**
- La Grande-49**
- La Grande-50**
- La Grande-51**
- La Grande-52**
- La Grande-53**
- La Grande-54**
- La Grande-55**
- La Grande-56**
- La Grande-57**
- La Grande-58**
- La Grande-59**
- La Grande-60**
- La Grande-61**
- La Grande-62**
- La Grande-63**
- La Grande-64**
- La Grande-65**
- La Grande-66**
- La Grande-67**
- La Grande-68**
- La Grande-69**
- La Grande-70**
- La Grande-71**
- La Grande-72**
- La Grande-73**
- La Grande-74**
- La Grande-75**
- La Grande-76**
- La Grande-77**
- La Grande-78**
- La Grande-79**
- La Grande-80**
- La Grande-81**
- La Grande-82**
- La Grande-83**
- La Grande-84**
- La Grande-85**
- La Grande-86**
- La Grande-87**
- La Grande-88**
- La Grande-89**
- La Grande-90**
- La Grande-91**
- La Grande-92**
- La Grande-93**
- La Grande-94**
- La Grande-95**
- La Grande-96**
- La Grande-97**
- La Grande-98**
- La Grande-99**
- La Grande-100**

The distances are provided in kilometers (km) and are organized into a grid-like structure. The towns listed include:

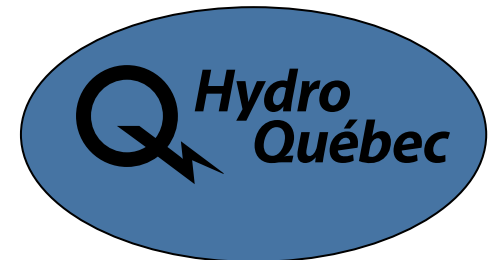
- La Grande-1**
- La Grande-2**
- La Grande-3**
- La Grande-4**
- La Grande-5**
- La Grande-6**
- La Grande-7**
- La Grande-8**
- La Grande-9**
- La Grande-10**
- La Grande-11**
- La Grande-12**
- La Grande-13**
- La Grande-14**
- La Grande-15**
- La Grande-16**
- La Grande-17**
- La Grande-18**
- La Grande-19**
- La Grande-20**
- La Grande-21**
- La Grande-22**
- La Grande-23**
- La Grande-24**
- La Grande-25**
- La Grande-26**
- La Grande-27**
- La Grande-28**
- La Grande-29**
- La Grande-30**
- La Grande-31**
- La Grande-32**
- La Grande-33**
- La Grande-34**
- La Grande-35**
- La Grande-36**
- La Grande-37**
- La Grande-38**
- La Grande-39**
- La Grande-40**
- La Grande-41**
- La Grande-42**
- La Grande-43**
- La Grande-44**
- La Grande-45**
- La Grande-46**
- La Grande-47**
- La Grande-48**
- La Grande-49**
- La Grande-50**
- La Grande-51**
- La Grande-52**
- La Grande-53**
- La Grande-54**
- La Grande-55**
- La Grande-56**
- La Grande-57**
- La Grande-58**
- La Grande-59**
- La Grande-60**
- La Grande-61**
- La Grande-62**
- La Grande-63**
- La Grande-64**
- La Grande-65**
- La Grande-66**
- La Grande-67**
- La Grande-68**
- La Grande-69**
- La Grande-70**
- La Grande-71**
- La Grande-72**
- La Grande-73**
- La Grande-74**
- La Grande-75**
- La Grande-76**
- La Grande-77**
- La Grande-78**
- La Grande-79**
- La Grande-80**
- La Grande-81**
- La Grande-82**
- La Grande-83**
- La Grande-84**
- La Grande-85**
- La Grande-86**
- La Grande-87**
- La Grande-88**
- La Grande-89**
- La Grande-90**
- La Grande-91**
- La Grande-92**
- La Grande-93**
- La Grande-94**
- La Grande-95**
- La Grande-96**
- La Grande-97**
- La Grande-98**
- La Grande-99**
- La Grande-100**



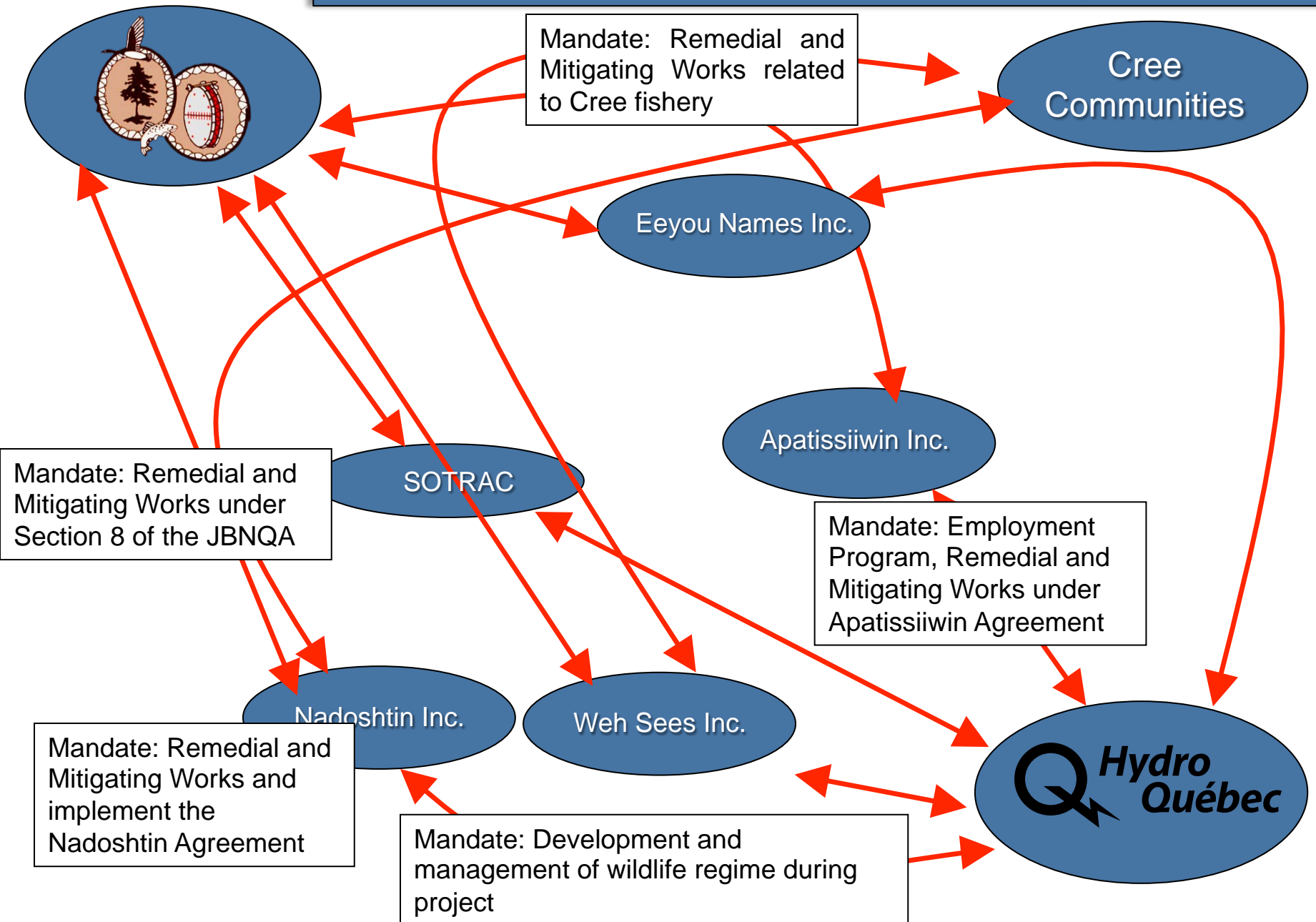
# Before Niskamoon Corporation



Cree  
Communities



# Before Niskamoon Corporation

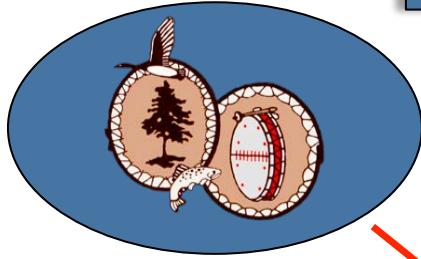


# Niskamoon Corporation

- Cree representatives and Hydro-Quebec representatives negotiated an Agreement to harmonize and simplify the administration of as many Cree Hydro-Quebec Agreements as possible.
- The substance of the Cree Hydro-Quebec Agreements was not affected.
- The Niskamoon Corporation was incorporated and held its first Board of Directors meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004.



# Niskamoon Corporation



Cree  
Communities



## **Mandate:**

Implement all Agreements  
between the **Cree** and  
**Hydro-Quebec**

**Q** *Hydro  
Québec*

# Niskamoon Corporation Structure



One small Board of Directors: five Cree members and three Hydro Quebec members (majority Cree)



Director of Remedial Works, Director of Environment, Director of Training and Employment, Director of Finance.



One Officer in each community working for the Band Council, paid by the Corporation:

- Trained by the Corporation on the content of the Agreements,
- Community workshops,
- Project managers,
- Drafting project proposals,
- File reports
- \*\*Represent their community on various committees with Hydro-Quebec



A simplified procedure for project submission with continuous evaluation and improvement.





## Board of Directors

**William Macleod, Chairman, Mathieu Boucher, Vice-Chairman,** Ryan Erless, George M. Bobbish, Emily Whiskeychan, Matthew Wapachee, Real Courcelles and Daniel Lauzon

### Director

#### Remedial Works

Robbie Tapiatic

### Director

#### Environment

Marc Dunn

### Director

#### Training & Employment

Diane Thibault

### Director

#### Finance

(vacant)

### Local Officers\*

#### Chisasibi

Sam Cox

#### Waskaganish

Ernest Moses

#### Eastmain

Gregory Mayappo

#### Waswanipi

Joshua Blacksmith

#### Mistissini

Matthew Longchap

#### Whapmagoostui

Allan George

#### Nemaska

Stella Jolly

#### Ouje-Bougoumou

Tommy Rabbitskin

#### Wemindji

Geraldine Mark

# Mission Statement

Niskamoon Corporation provides an efficient framework for cooperation between the Crees and Hydro-Québec in respect to the implementation of the Cree-Hydro-Québec Agreements, by continuously facilitating and simplifying access to funds and programs for Crees, Cree communities and Cree entities.

Niskamoon Corporation seeks to develop projects in close collaboration with Cree land users and other beneficiaries that alleviate the impacts of hydroelectric development in Eeyou Istchee.



# Funding Core Values

Niskamoon Corporation funds projects that adhere to our main core values:

1. Projects that ensure the autonomy and self-sufficiency of Cree land users over time.
2. Projects that promote and enhance the passing of traditional Cree knowledge to future generations.
3. Projects that maximize the benefits for as many Crees as possible.
4. Projects that enhance and promote the continued use of lands impacted by hydroelectric development.



# Funds to be Managed

- Hydro-Quebec Eeyou Fund (La Grande Project) - *Forever*
- Apatissiwini Fund (La Grande Project) – *committed; ends in 2017*
- Eeyou-Nameess Funds (La Grande Project) – *mostly depleted*
- Opimiscow Eeyou Indoho Fund (Allocation determined by Agreement with Chisasibi and Wemindji)
- Nadoshtin Remedial Works Fund (EM-1)
- Nadoshtin Indohoun Fund (EM-1)
- Nadoshtin Mercury Fund (EM-1) – *mostly depleted*
- Boumhounan Remedial Works Fund (EM-1A/Rupert)
- Boumhounan Indohoun Fund (EM-1A/Rupert)
- Boumhounan Mercury Fund (EM-1A) – *mostly depleted*
- Reappropriation and Continued Use Fund (EM-1A/Rupert) - *Forever*





# Programs

Niskamoon Corporation supports the traditional way of life as follows:

1. Remedial Works - Direct support for impacted land users through Trapline Projects.
2. Cultural Programs - Support for the Cree Way of Life through the Social Innovation Fund.
3. Fisheries and Health – Support for the continuity of Traditional Cree Fisheries.

# Remedial Works Program

- Goal: To alleviate the negative impacts of hydro-electric development through the funding of projects identified, developed and implemented by Cree land users themselves.
- Funds are used mainly to improve and enhance Cree harvesting on the land.

# Remedial Works Program

## Examples of projects:

1. Goose ponds and corridors
2. Wildlife feeding areas (coastal enhancement project; rejuvenation cutting of poplar stands)
3. Boat landing areas
4. Traditional shelters
5. Wood cutting
6. Spring and fall airlifts
7. Trans-Eeyou Trail

# Remedial Works Projects









# Cultural Projects



# Social Innovation Fund

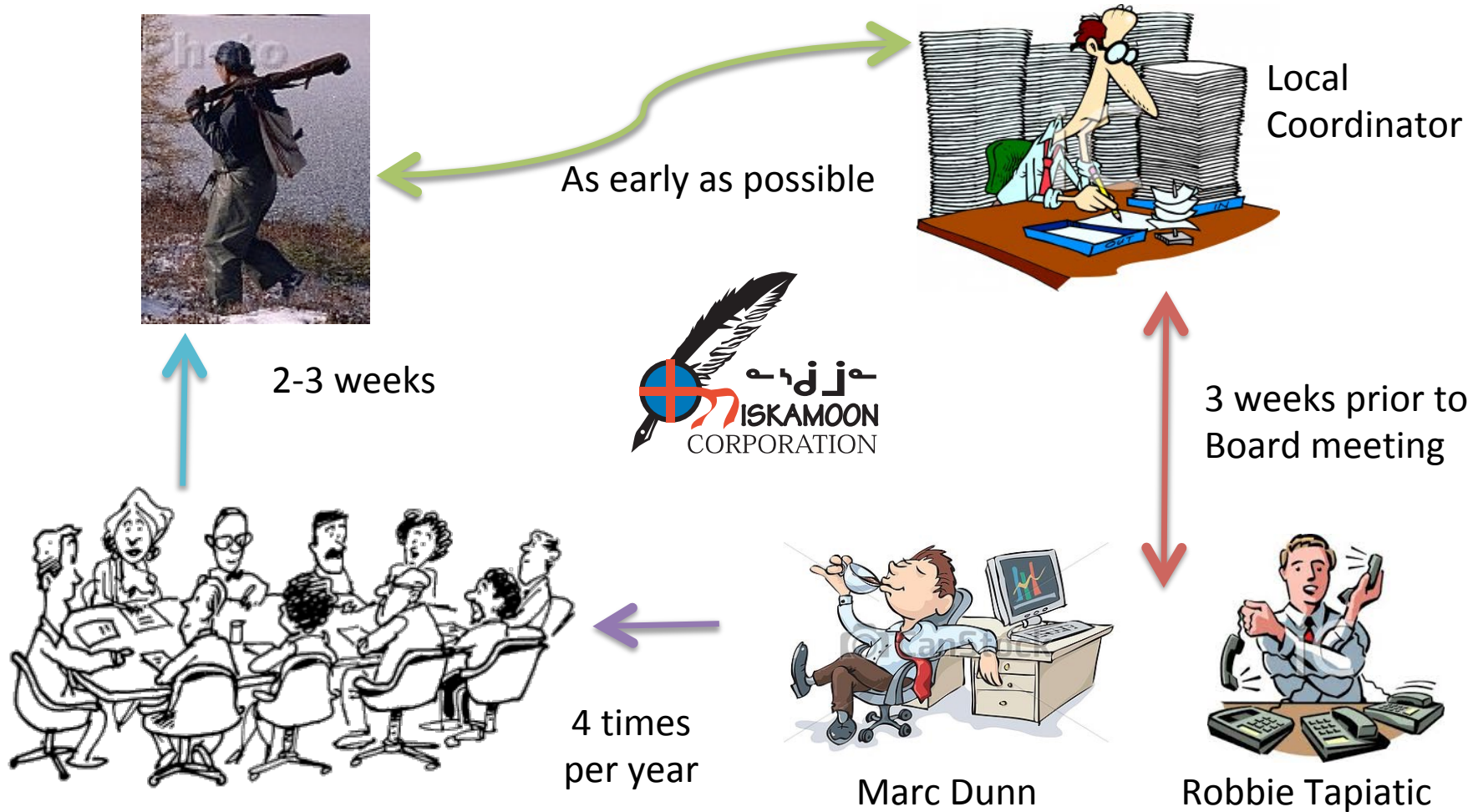
- New program that seeks to support *sustainable long-term* projects that address a social issue.
- Cree traditional way of life must be *central* to project – Increase in Cree Land Users is KEY.
- Projects must have long-term plan including revenue sources (other than Niskamoon).
- Workshops to assist proponents in fall 2017.
- First round of projects in Feb. 2018.

# Fisheries Enhancement Program

- Last year of program.
- Building of infrastructure must be included in proposal.
- Training of traditional fishing methods.
- Short-term projects (2-3 weeks).
- Monitoring must be included.



# How to Submit a Project





## Niskamoon Corporation “The Ideal Project”

### Proposal Development

- LC's keep records of all correspondences with potential proponents.
- Regular communication is maintained with proponent to finalize proposal and to clearly communicate expectations towards them.
- ALL LOCAL PROJECTS pass through the office of the LC.



### Funding Agreement (approved projects)

- LC goes over funding agreement and budget with proponent.
- Local authorities develop separate engagement directly with proponent.
- Agreements are signed by local authorities as soon as possible to avoid any delays in the project.



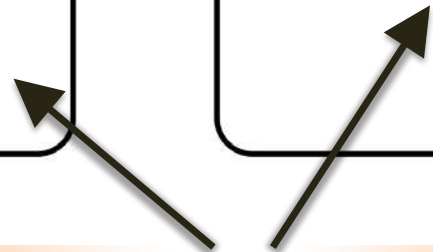
### Execution of project

- LC maintain communication with proponents at all times during the execution of project.
- Any potential issues are dealt with in a timely manner while the workers are mobilized.
- LC conducts a site visit during construction.



### Completion of project

- Proponents submit a log of project; photos.
- Additional site visit by LC if necessary.
- Reports are completed as soon as possible.



**Pictures!! Pictures!! Pictures!!**

**And then... More pictures!!!**





# Environmental Regulations

1. Niskamoon promotes projects that utilize human power (i.e. chainsaws, brush cutters, small machinery) and discourages the use of heavy machinery.
  - Limited economic benefits.
  - Complex environmental authorizations.
2. Exceptions are possible **BUT** will require as much information as possible.
  - **ESPECIALLY NEAR WATER...**

# Programs under Development with Regional CTA

## Cabin Program

- Joint program for all beneficiaries.
- To be managed by CTA.

## Eeyou/Eenou Ituun Program

- Year-long training in traditional way of life.
- Cree instructors; provincially-recognized.
- Currently undergoing accreditation process

# Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program



- Large-scale research program: involves six research teams from four different Universities.
- Along entire eastern James Bay coast (480-km coastline).
- Understanding the depletion of eelgrass beds.
- Cree Land Users play essential role.

# Meegwetch!

