It's been a trying time for our members with the loss of our loved ones in all three communities of Little Red River Cree Nation in the past couple of months. Our prayers, thoughts and love are with you all.

It's now been a year and the success and determination of this Council is still going strong! But this would not have been possible without our staff and again, thank you for your continued service to our people.

This is going to be a very busy summer for us. We will be gravelling and rebuilding our existing roads, building new homes, repairing our bridges and installing the fibre optic (high-speed internet). Please watch your speeds when passing construction workers.

To the community members, thank you for coming out to our community meetings! Since we have started, we have had a total of twenty-seven community meetings covering a wide range of items to help guide this Council in building a better tomorrow for our children's children.

Lastly, through the community action plan meetings, our members of Fox Lake have asked Chief and Council to come up with ways to lower the price of living in Fox Lake. We are pleased to announce that the Little Red River Cree Nation Barge will now offer free crossings for everyone!

With Love, Peace and Respect

Chief Conroy Sewepagaham
LITTLE RED RIVER CREE NATION
SOVEREIGN WEALTH
FUND
Report to The Nation—April 5, 2019

Goals and Objective
The Trust has a very long-term investment horizon. The investment objectives are to:

• Maintain the real purchasing power of the Trust after inflation, costs and spending. The Trust needs to grow more than the cost of goods and services do.

• Provide a stable 4% Annual Payment to the First Nation's Revenue Account.

• Using 2% as an estimate of long-term annual inflation, to satisfy both requirements an after-cost average rate of return in excess of 6% will be needed.

Investment Plan
The Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) investments will be held in trust at CIBC and allocated to different types of investments (also called "asset classes") to attempt to generate average long-term returns higher than 6%.

Specialist Investment Managers from around the world have been hired to manage the investments in the SWF.

Baillie Gifford from Edinburgh (U.K.) is managing Global Equities (Growth style).

ValueInvest (Macquarie) based in Luxembourg is managing Global Equities (Value style).

Leith Wheeler in Vancouver is managing Canadian Equities, Bonds and Cash.

Each of these three firms have an outstanding history of managing investments in the area that they have been hired to manage.

SWF Allocation

- Global Equities Growth 20%
- Global Equities Value 20%
- Canadian Equities 20%
- Bonds 35%
- Cash 5%

Continued on page 3
Types of Investments

The SWF is invested in three different types of investments: Equities (also known as Stocks), Bonds and Cash.

"Stocks" represent a share of the ownership in some of the greatest companies in the world. The SWF will invest in the very best companies from around the world. The chart below shows how Canadian Stocks and U.S. stocks have performed since 1950. It shows what $1 invested back in 1950 would be worth at the end of 2013 if all dividends had been invested. Some companies pay their shareholders a portion of the company's profits – this is called a "dividend".

"Bonds" are guaranteed I.O.U.s that pay interest, issued by the Government of Canada, Provinces and quality Canadian corporations. SWF will own over 250 different bonds.

"Cash" can be short-term I.O.U.s that must be repaid in less than 1 year, or cash in an interest-bearing account. Treasury Bills (Canadian Government I.O.U.s) in the next chart represents the returns for "Cash".

A "Balanced Portfolio" is a combination of the three types of investments. For long-term higher returns owning Stocks is essential. However, for most investors owning only stocks would be too volatile. A combination of guaranteed bonds and stocks gives an investor the best of both worlds. Notice that in certain periods returns are negative.

Asset Class Returns 1950-2013

Source: Morningstar
Historical Performance

The allocation of investments was chosen to attempt to meet the long-term goals of the SWF. It is a mix of Global Stocks, Canadian Stocks, Canadian Bonds and Cash. The following shows returns in each calendar year since 1986, if the SWF had invested in market indices in the chosen mix of investments. A market index is just a measure of how a particular market has performed (e.g. S&P/TSX Index, MSCI World Index). We would expect our expert managers to do better than the indices over the long-term.

The important thing to note is that returns are very erratic, and in some years the returns are negative. Since 1986 there have been 5 negative years for the chosen mix.

Investment Implementation

The stock markets have been exceptionally strong over the last nine years. To protect the Trust from any initial large negative market moves, the investing will occur in stages. Should the stock markets decline during this period the SWF will have greater protection. Potential returns could be lower during this period if stock markets remain strong, if weak the SWF could have opportunities to buy companies at lower prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Immediately</th>
<th>June 30, 2019</th>
<th>December 31, 2019</th>
<th>June 30, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Equity</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Equity</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universe Bonds</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CIBC will provide ongoing reports as to the value of the investments in the SWF.
Companies That You Would Have Owned in Your Trust on December 31, 2018

Here are some examples from the approximately 100 companies that you would have owned in the LRRCN SWF. This information will be updated in future reports.

Bailie Gifford "Long Term Global Growth Fund"

Some of the 33 different companies they hold in their portfolio include:

Amazon.com  Tencent  Tesla Inc  Facebook  Alibaba  Alphabet  Illumina  Baidu.com  Kering  Netflix  L’Oréal  Hermès  Salesforce  HDFC  Under Armour  Spotify  Intuitive Surgical  NVIDIA  Nestle  Pfizer  Roche  Asahi Group  General Mills  G4S  KDDI Corp  Adidas  Securitas  Swatch  Danone  Ahold Delhaize  Kirin  Clorox  Merck  GlaxoSmithKline  CN Railway  RBC  Canadian Natural Resources  CI Financial  Canadian Tire  Toronto Inds.  Mullen Group  BNS  Open Text  Sun Life  Finning  Great West Life  Manulife  A&W  Brookfield AM  CIBC  Leith Wheeler Canadian Dividend Fund

Some of the 33 different companies they hold in their portfolio include:

CN Railway  RBC  Canadian Natural Resources  TD  Mullen Group  BNS  CI Financial  CIBC  Sun Life  Finning  Canadian Tire  Saputo  Manulife  A&W  Toromont Inds.  Great West Life  Hydro One
On April 16-17, Community Services staff and facilitators organized sessions to present ISC (Indigenous Services Canada) with recommendations to improve the Income Assistance system for our people and our communities. Participants from Beaver, Tallcree, Dene Tha' and LRRCN First Nations attended these sessions to give feedback and voice concerns, suggestions and solutions. We thank everyone who worked hard in these sessions. Funding was proposal driven and was awarded to us by ISC.

Information and recommendations
Health Services

In the short time since the December Newsletter, we are happy to report on important Health Services' news!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Services General Highlights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three (3) new, custom-made ambulances for each community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. McKnight will be providing services at JDP for a full 2 weeks at a time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional physician services to be added in the coming months for Fox Lake and Garden River with dental services to be increased for each of our communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRRCN is taking over Transportation Services from North Peace Tribal Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRRCN Health Services are being accredited so that services meet the same high standards as health facilities/programs anywhere in Canada. A coordinator has been hired to move accreditation forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For children, we have added a dental therapist assistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fox Lake infant formula and nutrition project is progressing with additional funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A positive wellness &amp; leadership program for youth, called Aweena Niya has been started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A driver has been hired to transport patients to and from the nursing station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A driver has been hired to take prescription medications to and from Garden River and JDP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are working on a new initiative regarding improving accommodation for expectant mothers in High Level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LRRCN HEALTH SERVICES ACCREDITATION

Over the next year or so, in order to improve all levels of health services, we are becoming accredited.

**What is accreditation?**

Health care accreditation is an ongoing process of assessing health care organizations against standards of excellence to identify what is being done well and what needs to be improved.

Accreditation is important because it helps create better health care for you, your family, and our communities. It will allow us to understand how to make better use of our resources, increase efficiency, enhance quality and safety, and reduce risk.

**How does accreditation work?**

Health Services has chosen to take part in this accreditation process because we know that accreditation will improve quality, reduce risk, and strengthen accountability.

We will devote time and resources to identify what we are doing well and what could be done better—and then take action to address issues to provide the best possible care and service to patients and clients in order to save and improve lives.

Accreditation will mean that we are receiving quality health care based on Canadian and international standards. Our goal is to eliminate any present and on-going concerns and issues regarding access to quality care in our communities and through the Alberta Health Services’ system.

Through FNHIB’s partnership and continued assistance, Sandra Laboucan was hired in October 2018 as the Accreditation Coordinator for LRRCN Health Services and is serving all 3 communities. Since we started off late in the fiscal year, we are still in the learning process and working on meeting all standards according to Accreditation Canada’s requirements. If everything goes as planned, we are hopeful that we’ll be ready for, and pass, our first survey that will be taking place in February 2020.

“We encourage everyone to join in, by talking to us and offering ideas about health care. You are community members using health services and we value your suggestions!”

Want to learn more? Sandra can be contacted at the Health Centre in John D’Or and will do her best to answer all your questions.

Continued on page 8
CHILDREN’S ORAL (MOUTH) HEALTH
The Children’s Oral Health Initiative (COHI) is an early oral health intervention service targeted for First Nations children living on-reserve and eligible Inuit children. Having finished her training, Winter Moberly has been working as the COHI Aide since October 2018 and working with Steve Benoit, the Dental Therapist. We go to all three communities, work in partnership with other Health departments such as MCH (Maternal Child Health) and Education and provide oral health services for children and youth.

Between January 1st and March 31st we have seen 240 children, with services including fluoride varnishes and sealants for the 110 students at Fox Lake Elementary, 90 students at John D’Or Prairie and another 40 students at Sister Gloria School.

**HEALTH HINT** - Brushing for 2-3 minutes is best!

**FUN FACT** - Giraffe’s only have bottom teeth!

Our goal is to promote more oral health and reach twice as many children last year.

Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming Health Fair and Teddy Bear Fair too!

**HOME CARE** – Staff provided a total of 794 home visits and/or meetings with clients (GR 35, FL 502, JDP 259). Meals on Wheels were delivered 19 times.

**Staff Training:** In order to keep staff up to date, staff regularly take training. This quarter training included Palliative Care, Trauma Recovery Certification and Trauma informed Care.

**Partnerships:** in Garden River - Occupational Therapist, NWHC, STGH, Fort Vermilion and High Level Medical Clinics, Pioneer and High Level IDA Pharmacies, ISC; in JDP - Kidney Clinic, Peritoneal Dialysis Clinic, NWHC, STGH, Fort Vermilion and High Level Medical Clinics, Occupational Therapy, FNIHB ET Nurse, Pioneer and High Level IDA Pharmacies, ISC, Diabetes Educator; in Fox Lake - Peritoneal Dialysis Clinic, NWHC, STGH, Fort Vermilion and High Level Medical Clinics, Occupational Therapy, FNIHB ET Nurse, Pioneer and High Level IDA Pharmacies, ISC.

**Plans: Garden River** - A new Registered Nurse from Solutions Staffing will be providing assistance until mid-May. Lori Blesse, LPN will be returning from leave, in May. We will be re-posting for a Home Care Aid position.

**Training and Professional Development:**
JDP - Second half of Trauma Recovery Certification will be completed in April along with Opioid Awareness and Naloxone Training and working closely with new Doctor (McKnight) for comprehensive care of Home Care clients.

Fox Lake - Second half of Trauma Recovery Certification in April, Opioid Awareness and Naloxone Training. The Home Care Aid will take the water sampling course.

**MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH (MCH)** – Family Visitors served 160 clients this quarter, with clients receiving pre-natal and post-natal services either getting ready for birth or following up with parents until their babies are 3 years old.

There were almost 700 meetings/case conferences where we met with partners to discuss how to work together and provide the most effective care and supports for infants and children and their families.

**Individual Support Sessions**
- Education/ counselling sessions about alcohol, drugs, and smoking.
- Stages of labour and delivery.
- Baby food making work shop for young moms.
- Sexual health and sex during pregnancy.
- Post-partum sex and birth control.
- Self-care, dental and nutrition (safe foods).
- Warning signs during pregnancy, testing, diabetes and pre-term labour.
- Safety: crying and shaken baby, car seats, sleep, falls, poison, OD and PPD.

Group sessions in each community included pre-natal classes, Christmas dinners (160 people attended!) or community feasts with a focus on good health, as well as additional activities where/when possible such as a Valentine’s Day Dinner.
Training: With the goal to always improve knowledge and skills and services to families, Family Visitors have been busy with learning about the Health Services accreditation process, the MMIW Families of the North gathering, in High Level and Trauma Recovery Training, for a full 5 days in St. Albert. Partners work with us so that clients have the best supports available. They include: Hearing specialist, Doctors, Pre Natal Nutrition program, Infant Formula supports, Dental Therapist and Dentist, Community Resource Worker, Northern Lakes College, MAS, Legal Guardianship Order, Northern Store, Housing Authority, ISC, Medical Transportation and others.

NEW INFANT NUTRITION PROGRAM
Helping our babies grow up healthier, the Infant Nutrition staff, Marlene Peecheew provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Babies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Lake</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDP</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden River</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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</table>

NATIONAL NATIVE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM (NNADAP)
Hello from the NNADAP Staff!

The healing power of Traditional Knowledge
This year in NNADAP we are switching things up a little and taking all our session teachings to the Traditional side for the first 2 quarters of the fiscal year. If it is a success then we will take this same approach to continue until the end of the year. We will be starting up support groups within all 3 communities. Workshops will be facilitated by our own people with a few from neighboring communities as well.

We are currently drafting up lesson plans for the support groups and are looking into reaching out to our “Traditional Knowledge Holders” to come and do some lessons with us. We will also be inviting our elders to share life stories about related topics in support groups, as well as inviting them to talk with our youth in their evening sessions.

“If there are any ideas or topics you would like the staff to speak about in these sessions please feel free to call or message us and we can implement these into our plans for the following months.”

We welcome everyone who can volunteer their time and share stories with our groups and youth.

We are still helping those individuals who prefer 1 on 1 meetings for help with their addictions. If you want to talk, need support, information or a referral, please come in to see any of the NNADAP workers at any of the Health Centre sites in our Nation.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES (CHR) ADI/DRINKING WATER SAFETY
CHRs served 347 clients this quarter (GR 103, FL 142 and JDP 102), provided 86 transportation services from homes to clinic appointments and completed 38 Home Inspections and weekly water tests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHR Group Sessions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Deficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast Feeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Partum Depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Seat Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Deficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Contest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training: Staff took training in car seat safety, diabetes and nutrition. They also attended numerous workshops at the Families of the North Gathering in High Level.

Partnerships to improve coordinated services: Staff partnered with Home Care, MCH Family Visitors, Health Canada nurses, Home care, Infant Nutrition and other Jordan’s Principle program staff, NNADAP. FNIHB, First Town Foods, Fifth Meridian Market, Northern Store, Canadian Tire, Value Drugs Pharmacy, Doctors, Dental Therapist/Dentist, Registry Clerk, Public Works, School Staff, RCMP, Medical Transportation Coordinator.

Continued on page 10
Health Successes – More immunizations at the Immunization Clinics; Less members got sick and/or were hospitalized; Greater community awareness about disease control; More patients attending appointments due to transportation arrangements.

Working closely with the Health Centre staff: CHRs completed 85 errands to patients including information on upcoming appointments for bloodwork, sugar drink, doctor, chronic/high risk and pre-natal; and providing information to patients on Public Health, Well Baby and Immunization Clinics.

Highlights to look forward to: Connecting Common Threads Workshop, Indoor Games with health information, Diabetes Camp, Tipi Teachings and Elders and Youth Camp, Teddy Bear Fair and our staff Team Building event!

**STI/HIV PROGRAM**

The good news is that there has been no new diagnosis of HIV in LRRCN since November 2017, however there continues to be a high number of gonorrhea and chlamydia STIs. Therefore, we continue to ramp up our education and awareness campaigns.

Over the winter months Grades 10, 11 and 12 students received reproductive health classes, presented by Dr. Brian Parker of Compass Center for Sexual Wellness and HIV/STI Annual meetings delivered by HIV North and Alix McGregor, RN. Alix also completed a full 3 days of STI testing and treatment training.

Plans for the future include a partnership between Health, Education and ISC to start providing reproductive health education classes for Grades 4-9 as resources. We are also looking at incentives for clients to come to the Health Centres/Nursing Station for STI/HIV testing.

Be responsible - we continue to distribute free male condoms and will start to distribute female condoms and dental dams!

**MENTAL WELLNESS AND CRISIS RESPONSE COMMUNITY TEAMS**

Our goal is to provide better trained supports and coordinated mental health services in each community. Meeting together every month, we join forces with Mamawi Awasis Society, NNADAP, Aweena Niya Program for Youth as well as with Education and others departments who are working towards better mental health for everyone in LRCN.

“Focus on the positives in life and the negatives will fade away.”

We are committed to learning more skills together. Over the past few months we have taken First Aid/CPR training, Mental Health First Aid, Straight Talk for Youth, Tattered Teddies, Trauma Informed Care with plans for a 10-Day certificate program from the CTRI Institute that includes PTSD, Suicide Prevention, Crisis Response Planning, Ethics of Healing and more.

Mental Wellness Team members are supported by Elder Floyd Noskiye and include Sylvester Auger (Aweena Niya Youth Wellness Program Coordinator), Roberta Alook, (NNADAP Supervisor), Dorothy Shupac and Lester St. Arnault (NNADAP workers), Deanna Cardinal, Jimmy Nanooch and Kevin Ribbonleg (Youth Workers), along with Caitlin Seeseequon (Coordinator) and Donna D’or (Assistant).

Supported by community Elders, Crisis Response Team members include for Fox Lake: Valerie Nanoock, Sharon Noskiye, Kevin Seeseequatum, Rose Loonskin, Jackie Loonskin; for Garden River: Hubert D’or and Gloria D’or and for John D’or Prairie: John D’or, Stella Alook, Linda Noskiye.

We continue to build our team which respects, honors and includes traditional helpers and community volunteers. Thank-you everyone.

**AWEENA NIYA YOUTH WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Activities for youth are based on the needs of each individual young person, so it is important to know each youth as their own awesome individual. Every youth has their own hopes, dreams, interests and fears.
Building positive relationships with youth develops trust and helps youth feel that they are cared about and their thoughts and feelings, concerns and troubles are heard. Much of the work of Aweena Niya involves talking and visiting with youth to know their concerns and support them as they go through the changes and challenges of life.

“This quarter has been about involving youth in activities that help youth know they are part of a caring community.”

Youth participated in workshops, youth-adult day trips out into the bush - the land heals us all; a Winter camping trip at Margaret Lake Lodge with ice fishing, ice fish netting, rabbit snaring, snow shoe adventures, rock picking, talking circles and more! We were also involved in hand games, volley ball tournaments and a ski rally.

It was great to attend training and group sessions with MAS, the Mental Wellness Team, Education and a 3-day session with Gerald Kiesman on Healing from Trauma.

“Looking forward to new recreation supplies being delivered, supporting youth activities everywhere, developing youth outreach services in each community and possibly a canoe trip down the Mighty Peace River, in July!”

If you would like more information, please be in touch with me, Sylvester Auger – Coordinator.

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**Capital Projects Update**

1. **School Modernization Project: 2015-16 (Ongoing)**
   All three schools are substantially complete with some commissioning and training going on with deficiencies being repaired.

2. **John D’or Prairie Headstart 2017-18 (Ongoing)**
   The Headstart project is now complete and operational.

3. **Fox Lake Lagoon Project 2017-18 (Ongoing)**
   This project is approximately 97% complete with the sewage pumping station commissioned and a few deficiencies being corrected.

4. **Garden River Lagoon Project (Ongoing)**
   This project is approximately 97% complete with the sewage pumping stations commissioned and a few deficiencies being corrected.

5. **John D’or Prairie Water Treatment Plant 2017-18 (Ongoing)**
   The project is approximately 65% complete with the new groundwater wells, raw water intake, and distribution lines installed. At the Water Treatment Plant site the expanded concrete cell has been completed with the building expansion also complete.

6. **Communication Project 2016-17 (Ongoing)**
   The community of John D’or Prairie now has 3-4 bars of cellular service in the core area. Fox Lake also has service around the schools area. We have also added another tower to try to improve the service area.

7. **Gravel Haul and Crushing (FNDF) 2016-17 (Ongoing)**
   The Nation has completed the gravel haul to all three communities.

Continued on page 12
8. **Multi-unit Housing 2016-17 (Ongoing)**
The Nation has all ten units in place. The 4 in Fox Lake are complete with water/sewer services currently being installed in the 3 units in Garden River as well as the 3 in John D'or.

9. **Solid Waste Management Facility Design 2017-18 (Ongoing)**
This project is approximately 90% complete with the design completed for the community of Garden River and design for the other two communities near completion.

10. **Lot Development (FNDF) 2017-18 (Ongoing)**
The project to develop 6 new lots in Garden River is now complete.

11. **Garden River Water Treatment Feasibility Study**
The Nation has awarded the contract to perform a water treatment feasibility study for the community of Garden River to Tetra Tech. The project is approximately 30% complete.

12. **Fox Lake Water Treatment Feasibility Study**
The Nation has awarded the contract to perform a water treatment plant study for the community of Fox Lake to Tetra Tech. The project is approximately 30% complete.

13. **Ambulance Garage Project**
The Nation has hired H&M Carpentry to construct ambulance garages in Fox Lake, Garden River and John D’or. The garages are completed in John D’or and Garden River with the one in Fox Lake to be completed in the spring/summer.

14. **Bridge Assessment project**
The Nation has hired Bullee Consulting to conduct bridge assessments on the one lane bridges in the communities of Garden River and John D’or.

15. **Bridge Repair Project**
Now that the assessments and additional inspections of the two bridges is complete, the Nation is putting the work out for tender.

16. **John D’or Prairie Wastewater Feasibility Study**
The Nation has hired Bullee Consulting Ltd. to conduct a Wastewater Feasibility Study for the community of John D’or Prairie. This project is approximately 50% complete.

17. **Garden River Waste Transfer Station Project**
The Nation has received tenders for the construction of a Waste Transfer Station for the community of Garden River. Construction is planned to begin this spring/summer.

18. **John D’or Road Remediation Project**
The community of John D’or Prairie has been dealing with flooding over the road by the bridge, cutting off access. The Nation is in the process of getting a design to build up the road to prevent any future flooding and address the access cut off to the members that live east of the Lawrence River.

19. **Purchase of Water/Sewer trucks**
The Nation has purchased 1 Water truck and 2 Vacuum trucks for the community of Fox Lake. A Vacuum truck is also being purchased for the community of John D’or Prairie.

20. **Purchase of office units**
The Nation is in the process of purchasing 2 office units for O&M (Public Works), one for the community of John D’or and the other for the community of Garden River with delivery expected by the end of April.
Mamawi Awasis Society

Mamawi Awasis Society (MAS) continues to serve the children and families of our nation and prioritizes their needs, safety, and well-being.

MAS Management, Staff and Units
Mamawi Awasis Society welcomed new Director, Pearl Auger, in January 2019. Veronica Nanooch is the Assistant Director.

Child Intervention:
A total of 9 staff work under this unit; this includes caseworkers and supervisors from all three communities. Our child intervention team employs their work in a manner that minimally disrupts the child while preserving the family unit, in so far as possible. Various supports and services are offered to children & families, including extended family, cultural connections, community partners and others to address concerns.

Foster Care:
This unit consists of 3 staff, one staff member from each community. The foster care team dedicate their jobs in providing support to foster parents to maximize their abilities to care for foster children. Recruitment and training foster families is also an ongoing responsibility for our team. This summer at the Gathering of Generations, a booth for recruiting foster families will be set up at the site for anyone who is interested in becoming a foster parent or a kinship care provider.

Family Enhancement:
This unit also has 3 workers. Family Enhancement (FE) is the less-intrusive alternative to child protection/intervention. FE is a prevention program, a proactive process that empowers individuals and systems to create conditions that promote the well-being of our children & families. Different workshops, trainings, supports, services and community resources (including outside sources) are provided to families under the FE program.

Cultural Program:
To ensure our children and families maintain their culture and their cultural identity, our cultural workers continue to host cultural events in the communities. MAS hosts annual cultural camps (1-week long) for our children/youth in care, these camps have been very successful and continue to grow each year. The cultural staff will be expanding the camps by offering them to the other children & youth in the nation.

Upcoming Events
It is our goal to increase our community involvement and improve our relationships with the other agencies, departments, and community members. As a way to begin building these stronger relationships, we have begun providing more community events.

• There was an Easter Egg Hunt for children/youth and adults in each community in April.

• A Mother's Day Poker Rally & BBQ will be held in each community on May 12, 2019. A Father's Day Poker Rally & BBQ will also be hosted in each community on June 16th, 2019.

Continued on page 14
Kayas College enters the 2019-20 fiscal year with a number of new and returning academic and skills training programs for nation members of LRRCN.

**ABE and UCEP upgrading** – We are excited to announce a new “Video on Demand” format for our upgrading programs coming this Fall. This new approach will offer increased flexibility for students to complete upgrading while attending to their responsibilities outside of school.

This method has been developed based on feedback from current and prospective Kayas students and will be entirely unique to Alberta upgrading programs. Now is a great time to see how Kayas can help you upgrade your academic standing!

Applications will be open in the second week of April for students who wish to enroll in the Fall 2019 semester.

**Summer Student Work Program** – Kayas staff will be visiting High School classes in April to raise awareness for the annual SSWP. Applications will open by the end of April.

**Home Building and Renovation Program** – This new program that teaches community members the basics of working on a building job site is expected to launch for Summer 2019. Get exposure to the main three building trades and see if plumbing, electrical, or carpentry are for you!

Graduates of this program may be eligible for employment as labourers for upcoming band infrastructure projects. More details will follow as we expect to offer this training to 30 students in JDP.

**Safety Tickets** – Need WHMIS and TDG? Time to renew CSTS? Are you “aware” of bears?

Your favourite safety ticket offerings are available along with brand new options on Kayas’ updated safety ticket system. We’re currently accepting applications and will be working with Community Services to have new ticket options available for May.

**Other Programming** – There’s more to come this Fall as Kayas opens a new “Cultural Programming” offering to promote the preservation of Cree language, arts and tradition. We’re also working with Blue Quills University to offer our Daycare Level II graduates their supervisor certification with Daycare Level III.

More details on these programs and more are always available on our website at kayascollege.ca and at your local Kayas College.

Learning is lifelong and we are here to promote that!
Economic Development

UPDATE for PROJECTS IN PROGRESS/RECENTLY COMPLETED:

1) Economic Leakage Study

Preliminary results of this study were remarkable showing that the LRRCN contributes over $106 million dollars annually to the regional economy. The report also confirms leakage points that can be turned into economic opportunities for new business starts in the communities and throughout the region. Final Report was completed at the end of March and will be shared in coming months.

2) Margaret Lake Lodge Feasibility Study

The Nation applied for $25,000 grant from Alberta Indigenous Relations (AIR) under the Aboriginal Economic Partnerships Program (AEPP) for a Feasibility Study to re-open the lodge. We received a $15,000 grant contribution, the Nation committed an additional $19,000 to the project and hired Legacy Tourism Group from BC to assist with business planning. The Market Feasibility was completed in July with very positive outlooks. The Feasibility Study was completed at the end of March 2019 and will be shared in coming months.

3) 12 Mile Junction Travel Centre

The Nation applied for $25,000 grant from AIR under AEPP for this Feasibility Study and received $15,000 in 2018. The project scope was increased so the Nation committed an additional $50,000 and hired Mark Walsh & Associates to assist with business planning. The Feasibility Study was completed in September and the Nation applied to Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) under their Community Opportunity Readiness Program (CORP) for $93,000 grant to bring the project to a 'shovel ready' state. The grant was approved, and the Nation committed an additional $23,000 towards the project.

The Business Plan is to build a 4000 sq ft retail fuel station with convenience store and quick serve restaurant, open 7 days a week. The business will create eight (8) full-time jobs initially and increase to seventeen (17) with increased operating hours. The total project start-up cost is estimated at $5.5M. Estimating 10 months to build, from start to grand opening. Additional contracts and employment will be available for Nation Members during construction: Heavy Equipment, Operators, Labourers, Safety, Security, Tradesmen, Meal Truck, water supply, etc.

January 2019, the Nation submitted application to ISC for CORP Major Projects grant funding for a maximum $1M federal contribution towards the 12 Mile Travel Centre construction and start up. This proposal was presented in Ottawa by ISC Regional staff in February 2019 and we are waiting to hear the results.

4) RTM Home Manufacturing Plant Acquisition

The Nation hired Coyes & Associates to assist with business planning services in relation to purchasing and operating a home building construction business (Rose Construction/Rosewood Homes located east of High Level). A Business Plan was completed and the Nation made grant funding application to Alberta Indigenous Relations (AIR) under the Aboriginal Business Investment Fund Program (ABIF). The application was successful, and the Nation has been approved for a grant in the amount of $725,000 towards this property and business purchase. The acquisition has multiple lasting benefits for our communities and fits well into the Nation’s vision, goals and priorities. The Nation anticipates the purchase to be complete in April 2019.

Continued on page 16
5) **Group Home On-Reserve Feasibility Study**

Fall 2018, Nation applied for $25,000 grant from AIR under AEPP towards Feasibility Study for a Group Home Enterprise.

We received $20,000 and Coyes & Associates were hired. The firm utilized an expert consultant to work with our EDO and Mamawi Awasis Society to complete the study. The Draft Report was finalized in February and it demonstrates that a 'Kids in Care' Group Home on reserve has high potential for on-going viability. Presentation to be made to Chief and Council for decisions on next steps for moving this development plan forward.

With very generous support from a long time, very good friend of the Nation, DAVID NATCHER, the work of 25 Senior Agri-Business Students and a Professor at the University of Saskatchewan is nearly complete on 5 new Business Plans for LRRCN:

6) **Bison Production Business Plan**
7) **Elk Production Business Plan**
8) **Grain Farm Production Business Plan**
9) **Cannabis Production Business Plan**
10) **Hydroponic Greenhouses Business Plan** - vegetables and berries

These business plans will be presented to the newly appointed Board of Trustees after the corporate re-structure is completed and details from each plan will be shared in the next newsletter.

**UPDATE FOR NEW PROJECTS:**

1) **Climate & Capacity Development Project**

Fall 2018, Nation applied for $100,000 from AIR under the AICPP grant program towards this project. Funding was approved and the Nation has committed an additional $67,000 to support the project completion by November 30, 2019.

2) **Economic Development Capacity & Opportunity Project**

Fall 2018, Nation applied for $100,000 from AIR under the AEPP grant program for this project. Funding was approved in February and the Nation has committed an additional $25,000 for this project completion by March 31, 2020.

3) **Mulcher Machine(s) Purchase**

The Nation recently applied to Canada Natural Resources under the Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI) program for a $120,000 grant for 20% down payment on the purchase of two (2) Mulcher Machines. We anticipate hearing the results of this grant application by the end of March.

4) **Climate Monitoring-Hunter, Trapper, Harvester Support Program**

The Nation submitted a project proposal to Environment Canada Climate Change Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program for a $450,000 grant over 3 years towards this project and expects to have results of the application assessment and a decision on funding soon.

**MOVING FORWARD,** the Economic Development Department is researching and working on several ideas generated from input gathered through previous strategic planning engagements, including recent CAP meetings held in each community. We will continue to build project proposals and source funding while supporting the implementation of economic development plans necessary to improve outcomes for the Little Red River Cree Nation and its members.
Board of Education

Our education system has been very active this year. There has been strides in quality and program improvements throughout the year. We have increased community hiring once again and created new community-based positions. These supports have had a very positive impact on the schools. Staff are busy planning the culture weeks in each community. We had requests, which we plan on accommodating, to hold each of these on different weeks so community members could visit other community’s events without missing their own.

LRRBE & the Chief and Council have been very busy with education system negotiations with Canada. Canada has sent out national media releases saying they will provide funding which matches what provincial schools receive from Alberta. Canada provided their understanding of this to LRRCN based on our student population. The school board has replied stating Canada is grossly misunderstanding the circumstance of the LRRCN communities, and Canada has not interpreted the provincial formulas accurately. This conversation is still ongoing, but, LRR has been successful in numerous of these arguments.

One of the areas that our schools are working to expand in is the offering of higher level school courses. This is often referred to as the dash one courses. These are requirements to get into university and some college courses. The schools currently do offer many dash one courses. These courses have a more intense learning experience and require more school work, home study, and attention to learning in class. Our youth can understand and do well in these courses. However, successfully passing and the level of a student’s marks are seriously affected by low, or, irregular attendance and a lack of sleep.

The LRRBE is in final negotiating stages with a college to offer University transfer courses in our Nation. Once these are completed the students would transfer into the University of Alberta’s Teacher Education Program. The ATEP program has already agreed to partnership with LRRBE, we are finalizing a transfer program. Our goal is to have this in place ASAP, but, there have been some delays on the college side of planning. Feedback and concerns on any of our school operations, programs and activities is always welcome.
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