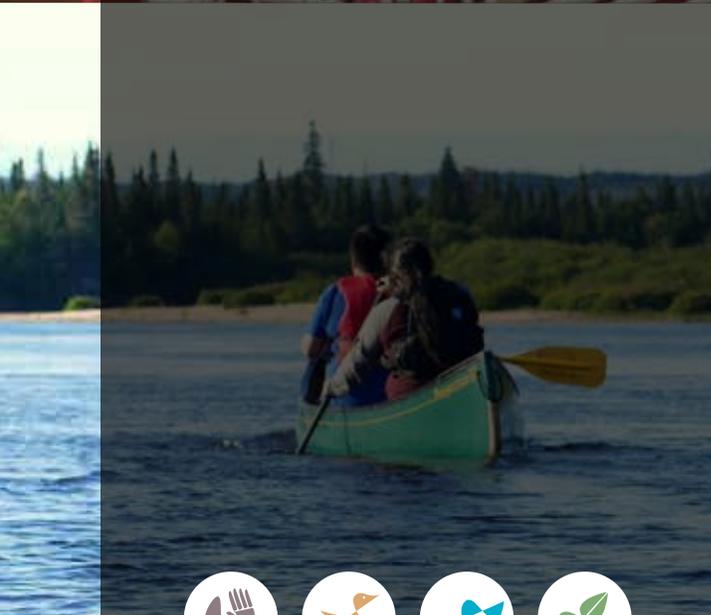


ACTIVITY REPORT

2016 • 2017



FNQSDI
FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Coordination, supervision and editorial:
The FNQLSDI team

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MESSAGE FROM THE PORTFOLIO CHIEF

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Kuei,

Since January 2016, I have been pleased to take on the role of portfolio chief for the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute. This mandate commits me to making political representations and acting as a spokesperson for the chiefs' table on issues related to sustainable development.

It is a great honor and a privilege for me to take on this role, because sustainable development of resources and territory is an important issue for all First Nations and for me. Important issues such as the sustainability of resources and the sound management of the territory are at the heart of the concerns of the chiefs of each of our communities and deserve their interest and involvement.

Since its creation, the FNQLSDI has played a significant role in the sustainable development of First Nations communities. In 2016-2017, the FNQLSDI demonstrated once again the high quality of the projects carried out and the expertise of its growing team. Many of these projects will have a significant positive impact on First Nations as a whole.

In conclusion, I invite you to read this activity report and to learn about the valuable involvement of the FNQLSDI team in the sustainable development of our communities. I personally would like to thank them for the great work they have accomplished!



David Kistabish
Chief of the Abitibiwinni community
FNQLSDI Portfolio Chief

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

...

Kuei,

The year 2016-2017 was a year of great changes for the FNQLSDI, which saw its team and the magnitude of its various projects more than double in recent months. As you will see in these pages, many initiatives have been added to our organization's previous mandates to support the sustainable development and conservation of natural resources on First Nations territory.

The last year was particularly exciting for the team dedicated to consultations and accommodations. Indeed, the FNQLSDI and its network have addressed many major issues such as the modernization of the National Energy Board and the review of environmental assessment processes, as well as holding two major events in order to foster greater involvement in and responsiveness to First Nations issues in consultation and accommodation processes. In view of the many requests made each year to our communities, the work of the team on consultations will be decisive in the years to come.

The FNQLSDI also inaugurated its Centre of Expertise on Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) in September 2016 with the objective of supporting First Nations at various stages of the complex process of negotiating an IBA, while avoiding the financial burden associated with such negotiations. The IBA team was promptly solicited by many communities for specific mandates. The Centre of Expertise also organized two days of conferences and workshops on IBA negotiation involving more than 70 people from various communities in Quebec.

The sustainability of Aboriginal languages is also an important aspect of the FNQLSDI's work. Two new titles on energy efficiency and sustainable development were added to our multilingual book collection in 2016-2017. The impact of the work of the FNQLSDI is therefore growing in the schools and homes of First Nations communities.

The FNQLSDI is proud to participate in these projects, and many more that you will discover in this report. I am pleased to present the results for 2016-2017.



Michael Ross
Director

ABOUT THE FNQLSDI

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The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI) is a non-profit organization, created in 1997 by resolution (13/1997) of the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL).

Origin of the FNQLSDI

Whereas the foundations of sustainable development are inspired by ancestral ways of life, and to anchor traditional values in the current context, First Nations in Quebec and Labrador decided to develop their own sustainable development strategy. Adopted by the Chiefs-in-Assembly on November 12, 1997, the first version of the strategy provided for the establishment of the FNQLSDI.

The FNQLSDI started in 2000. Since then, the Institute has made its expertise and knowledge related to the sustainable management of territories and resources available to First Nations.

Mission

The FNQLSDI's mission is to provide First Nations a dynamic range of services in support of their efforts in defense of the health of the territory and its resources, for the development of sustainable communities and for the recognition of First Nations rights.

ABOUT THE FNQLSDI

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Governance

The FNQLSDI supports and works, according to the mandates entrusted to it, with the Chiefs, interveners and staff of ten nations, in a total of 43 communities. As a First Nations regional organization, the FNQLSDI has no board of directors and remains under the authority of the Chiefs-in-Assembly and the Regional Chief. The FNQLSDI works closely with the AFNQL and its regional commissions.

Lines of authority between the Chiefs' Assembly and the regional institutions of the AFNQL:

AFNQL Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (41 Chiefs of the First Nations of Quebec and 2 Chiefs of the First Nations of Labrador)					FNEC Chiefs' Assembly
 SECRETARIAT OF THE AFNQL <i>Secretariat of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador</i>	 FNQLHSSC <i>First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission</i>	 FNHRDCQ <i>First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec</i>	 FNQLEDC <i>First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission</i>	 FNQLSDI <i>First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute</i>	 FNEC <i>First Nations Education Council</i>
Regional Chief Ghislain Picard	Annual General Assembly	Commission Meeting	Annual General Assembly	Technical Committees	
	Board of Directors	Executive Committee	Board of Directors	Chiefs' Assembly	Management Committee
Chief of Operations	Executive Director	Executive Director	Executive Director	Director	Executive Director
SAFNQL Staff	FNQLHSSC Staff	FNHRDCQ Staff	FNQLEDC Staff	FNQLSDI Staff	FNEC Staff

ABOUT THE FNQLSDI

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The multidisciplinary FNQLSDI team has accumulated many years of experience in different areas of sustainable development. The team consists of:

The team

Michael Ross
Director

Alain Bédard
Strategic Advisor

Sarah Zammit
Consultation Coordinator

Marie-Hélène Beaudry
Sustainable Development Project Officer

Catherine Béland
Planning Coordinator

Janek Vollant
Energy Efficiency Counsellor

Antoine Maranda
Planning Project Officer

Katherine Tremblay
Waste Management Project Officer

Marie-Pier Amyot
Consultation Project Officer

Joëlle Guérin
Consultation Project Officer

Catherine Lortie
Operations and Communication Manager

Jason Fournier
Planning Project Officer

Danielle Linnen
Lawyer

Laura Morgan
Energy Efficiency Counsellor

Andréanne Ferland
Climate Change Project Officer

Nathalie Hardy
Administrative Assistant



ACHIEVEMENTS 2016-2017

...

Over the last year, the FNQLSDI has consolidated its governance and practices to better meet the needs of First Nations. Concretely, the FNQLSDI is dedicated, through its activities, to strengthening the capacity and expertise of First Nations, through specific projects involving groups or individuals and through its ongoing involvement in issues that concern all First Nations.

Providing technical advice to the Chiefs of the AFNQL

The FNQLSDI attends the meetings of the AFNQL in order to provide support on issues relating to its field of expertise. The Institute's presence at the meetings enables it to be aware of the political issues of importance to First Nations and to orient its activities and support in response to the concerns raised at the meetings. Over the busy year, the FNQLSDI had several opportunities to consult the Chiefs of the AFNQL on various complex issues, providing them with the information necessary for informed decision-making.

The following issues have been of special interest to First Nations and were the subject of presentations by the FNQLSDI before the Assembly:

- April 2016, presentations on the comprehensive community planning pilot project to be launched and on the upcoming waste management regional profile. An update on the Energy East pipeline project was also introduced, as well as possible means of action;
- June 2016, presentations on the Centre of Expertise in consultations and the Centre of Expertise in Impact and Benefits Agreements projects;
- November 2016, presentation of the FNQLSDI's Activity Report for fiscal year 2015-2016. An update on the various consultations to which communities are subjected was also presented;

- February 2017, presentation on the various consultations to which communities are subjected, with an emphasis on the Energy East pipeline project and the NEB modernization.

The FNQLSDI has also presented its activities to the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council in the context of their annual meeting in August 2016. Activities with respect to consultation and accommodation as well as comprehensive community planning were presented.

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In keeping with its commitment to information-sharing among the various interveners in the communities, the FNQLSDI attended and made presentations to the meetings of the First Nations Band Council General Directors in June 2016 and January 2017. Furthermore, presentations on comprehensive community planning were delivered to the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) in Wendake in January 2017 and to the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) in Montreal in March 2017.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Representational activities

For a number of years, the FNQLSDI has participated as an observer in several tables and committees with a mandate to advise the ministers or their representatives on wildlife conservation and development. These working groups provide an opportunity for the FNQLSDI to highlight the interests of First Nations on these issues that they hold particularly close to heart.

The FNQLSDI sits regularly on the following tables and committees:

- *Ouranos maritime environment comity;*
- *Steering committee of the Acting on Climate Change: Indigenous Innovations project;*
- *Table nationale de la faune (TNF);*
- *Salmon table;*
- *Migratory birds table;*
- *Greater snow goose management round table;*
- *Woodland caribou recovery team.*

The FNQLSDI is also part of the Aquahacking Summit youth delegation in charge of putting forward a youth vision for the St. Lawrence River for 2030, and was involved in the Aquahacking 2016 Summit executive committee.

These meetings are also an opportunity for the FNQLSDI to become aware of the positions and interests of the different actors of the territory on these subjects and thus to assess their possible convergences and divergences with those of the First Nations.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Workshops and training

Through its activities, the FNQLSDI is dedicated to building the capacity and expertise of First Nations. The experience of the FNQLSDI and its knowledge of the interests and specificities of First Nations enable it to offer regular workshops, training and awareness-building that directly addresses the needs and concerns of First Nations. These are offered either by the staff of the FNQLSDI or through collaborators.

Sustainable Development

October 4-6, 2016

Youth awareness activity and assembling nesting boxes, Manikanetish high school (Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam).

Fall 2016

School workshops on sustainable development (Kiuna Institution, Odanak).

Winter 2017

Awareness of home energy efficiency among the Innu, Mi'gmaq and Anishinabe First Nations (Econologis program).

Consultations

September 20, 2016

Informational workshop on federal and provincial consultations processes (Montreal).

October 24-26, 2016

Workshop on the 4 components of the federal environmental review processes (Quebec City).

March 28-29, 2017

Workshop on consultations on territory and natural resources and the modernization of the National Energy Board (Montreal).

Climate Change

September 21, 2016

Workshop on First Nations involvement in the development of the Canadian framework for clean energy growth and fight against climate change (Montreal).

November 19, 2016

Youth workshop on climate change, organized in collaboration with the First Nation Youth Network (Kiuna Institution, Odanak).

December 1, 2016

Conference on First Nations' challenges and options when dealing with climate change (Université Laval, Quebec City).

IBA

February 15-16, 2017

Workshop on Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) and IBA monitoring tools (Wendake).

Documents provided in these meetings can be obtained by contacting the FNQLSDI.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Centre of Expertise on Impact and Benefits Agreements

Contractual agreements between private corporations and First Nations communities can play an essential role in the acceptance and implementation of projects for the development of the territory and its resources, including the elaboration of conditions under which the territory and its resources will be exploited. Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) are the most common type of agreement in Quebec between project proponents and Aboriginal groups, mostly in the mining sector.

A large number of projects are being carried out in First Nations territories, particularly in the mining, forestry and energy sectors. These resource development projects could provide new opportunities for social and economic development for First Nations communities. However, it is essential that First Nations communities have the capacity to negotiate and implement agreements to ensure that the exploitation (or extraction) of resources generates substantial benefits for their communities and that negative impacts, which may be associated with large-scale resource development, are avoided or mitigated.

The Centre of Expertise on Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) was created with the objective of supporting First Nations at the various stages of the complex process of negotiating an IBA while enabling them to avoid the financial burden associated with such negotiations. Through the

promotion of collaboration among communities, including sharing resource people and experiences, we have created a centralized Centre of Expertise to which First Nations can turn for support.

Tools and training

With regard to the implementation of IBAs, an analysis of the overall benefits and costs of more than a dozen different tools (software or applications) for managing negotiation and consultation activities was carried out. The analysis highlights the tools that can be used in activities related to IBA negotiation, implementation and consultation. The analysis also discusses the different aspects to be taken into account in choosing the best IBA management tool adapted to the needs of a community.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Centre of Expertise on Impact and Benefits Agreements

Since its inauguration in September 2016, the Centre of Expertise has been solicited by many communities for various specific mandates. The nature of the work carried out by the Centre of Expertise on IBAs varies from one mandate to another, but the demands placed by the communities have made it possible to carry out the following tasks:

- General training and workshops on best IBA negotiating practices;
- Negotiation of Memorandums of Understanding ("MOUs") and funding agreements for the negotiation of IBAs;
- Revisions to IBAs;
- Drafting of proposed provisions or chapters of IBAs;
- Creation of an IBA implementation committee and assistance to a community in establishing specific projects related to their IBA.

The Centre of Expertise also organized two days of conferences and workshops on IBA negotiation involving more than 70 people from First Nations communities in Quebec. In addition, the Centre made presentations at five other First Nations events in which the aim was to present the legal aspects of the negotiation of IBAs, including the consultation obligation. To achieve this, the Centre of Expertise worked closely with the Centre of Expertise in Consultations and other FNQLSDI teams to provide legal information to the communities.

The objectives of the Centre of Expertise on IBAs for the coming years will be to further develop the Centre's services and to share the various documents produced with other communities. Ultimately, the Centre's activities will strengthen the capacity of First Nations communities to address issues raised in negotiations with private companies and to promote the conclusion of positive agreements.



*Workshop on Impact and Benefits Agreements
and IBA monitoring tools
February 15-16, 2017, Wendake*

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Centre of Expertise in Consultations

The Crown is required to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate First Nations when making decisions that may affect aboriginal rights, aboriginal title or treaty rights. As a result, First Nations receive several hundred consultations per year, including on territory and natural resources.

For several years, the FNQLSDI has provided a range of services and resources to support First Nations, Chiefs and community experts in the analysis of the federal and provincial consultations submitted to them. During the year 2016-2017, the FNQLSDI strengthened its action in this area by setting up the First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Centre of Expertise in Consultations.

Objectives and areas of focus of the Centre of Expertise

1. Optimize First Nations participation in government-initiated consultation processes by providing them with the information necessary for informed decision-making and by fostering networking and engagement among First Nations.

- Newswatch, sharing information with the expert network;
- Production of tools for consultation and decision-making;
- First Nations networking;
 - Creation of committees and working groups and holding of meetings;
 - Organization and holding of provincial meetings among First Nations and with departments and other government agencies that initiate consultations;
 - Information and technical support to the AFNQL;
- Information to Chiefs on consultation files.

2. Equip First Nations and develop skills in consultation and accommodation.

- Development and sharing of tools on the technical and legal issues of consultations;
- Development of training and workshops.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Centre of Expertise in Consultations

3. Promote improved government practices in consultation and accommodation and raise awareness among project proponents and civil society on the issue.

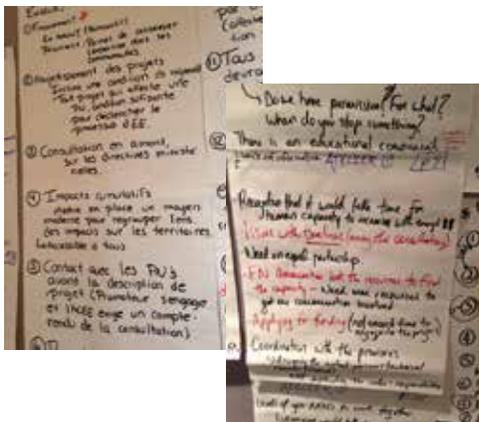
- Feedback to departments on their consultation arrangements;
- Presence as an observer at different tables and committees on issues related to territory and resources.

The activities undertaken by the FNQLSDI do not relieve governments of their constitutional obligation to consult with First Nations separately. The process of consultation analysis and activities is carried out in conjunction with formal processes of First Nations consultation by governments, and does not replace them.

In its first year of operation, the FNQLSDI's Centre of Expertise drafted and shared with First Nations 9 standard briefs and consultation analyses and set up 4 working groups, besides sending information notes and e-mails on a regular basis on the ongoing consultation processes. The Centre of Expertise also organized 3 provincial workshops, bringing together some thirty First Nations experts and elected representatives; a number of teleconferences; and made 4 presentations to the Chiefs of the AFNQL and the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council.



Workshop on consultation processes, September 20, 2016, Montreal



The activities carried out by the Centre of Expertise in Consultations primarily focus on consultations at the national and strategic level concerning several or all of the First Nations in Quebec. As each case is different, the support provided varies according to the targeted priorities, as well as the consultation methods (deadlines granted, information transmitted, etc.).

Results of the small group workshops on the review of environmental assessment processes, October 24, 2016, Quebec City

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Centre of Expertise in Consultations

Provincial files

In the provincial area, several important files have been initiated by the Quebec government this year. The activities carried out by the Centre of Expertise in Consultations focused mainly on providing information for First Nations.

The Centre of Expertise has worked on these files in particular:

- *Bill 106 on the implementation of the Energy Policy 2030 and to amend various legislative provisions* - MERN
- *Bill 102 – Modernization of the Environment Quality Act (EQA)* - MDDELCC
- Public support program for Aboriginal development - SAA
- Quebec's Aboriginal social development action plan - SAA
- Furbearer Management Plan 2018-2025 and Black Bear Management Plan 2018-2025 - MFFP
- *Draft Law for the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands* - MDDELCC

Federal files

The new federal government is committed to renewing its relationship with First Nations on a Nation-to-Nation basis in accordance with its constitutional obligations and the full endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These commitments marked a change in relations between First Nations and the federal government, which resulted in several engagement or consultation initiatives that took place in 2016-2017. The Centre of Expertise has therefore developed its support to meet the greater needs of First Nations in terms of accompaniment, information and networking in relation to federal initiatives.

The Centre of Expertise has mainly focused its activities on the following files:

- Area Response Planning Initiative – Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard
- Improving Marine Safety – Transport Canada
- Federal Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019 – ECCC

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Centre of Expertise in Consultations

- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* – Parliamentary Committee ENVI
- Policies impacting on the implementation of the *Species at Risk Act* – ECCC
- Federal Review of Environmental and Regulatory Processes, including:
 - Review of environmental assessment processes according to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)*;
 - Modernization of the National Energy Board;
 - The restoration of the lost protections and the introduction of modern safeguards into the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigation Protection Act*.

Tools and training

Skills development is a key focus for the work of the Centre of Expertise. During its first year, the Centre has focused primarily on identifying First Nations' needs. These needs relate to legal issues related to consultations, community engagement and communication issues, as well as management and information issues.

In 2016 - 2017, the following activities were carried out, in cooperation with the FNQLSDI's IBAs and planning teams:

- Survey of selected communities to identify their training needs on community engagement and consultation. This identification will serve as a basis for work in the coming years;
- Presentation to the Chiefs of the AFNQL on the obligation of governments to consult First Nations in the process of the adoption of their bills. An information document on the subject and a tool presenting the different stages of the passage of bills in Quebec were also shared with the entire network of First Nations experts;
- Workshop presentation to about thirty participants, in March 2017 by a lawyer of the FNQLSDI, on the legal aspects of the obligation to consult and to accommodate;
- The Centre of Expertise developed a follow-up chart listing the main ongoing and planned consultations. The main stages of consultation were defined and the activities carried out by the FNQLSDI listed. This table, updated regularly, is forwarded to the First Nations expert network.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016-2017

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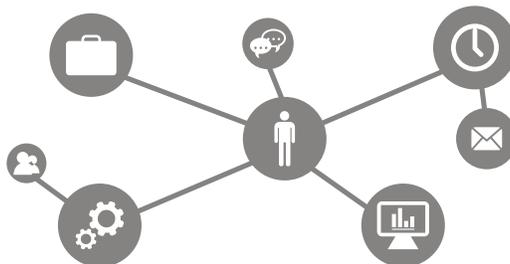
First Nations of Quebec-Labrador Centre of Expertise in Consultations

Energy East

The FNQLSDI has been monitoring the Energy East project since its inception. In order to promote exchanges between communities in relation to the project assessment process, the FNQLSDI established the First Nations Energy Committee following its workshop "*First Nations in Quebec and the Energy East Pipeline*" held in December 2015 in Montreal. Since then, this committee has met regularly to address technical and strategic issues related to the project.

In 2016-2017, the Centre of Expertise in Consultations held four conference calls with the Energy Committee specifically on the Energy East project. Three other calls were held to address NEB modernization and follow-up on the Energy East project. Information notes were also shared with First Nations Chiefs and technicians. The accompaniment provided by the Centre of Expertise in Consultations aims in particular to promote an integrated approach to the processing of these files and to ensure the identification of common strategies.

In 2017-18, with the resumption of the evaluation of the Energy East project and the government's decisions on the structure and mandate of the NEB, networking among First Nations will be even more necessary.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Projects

Waste management

As waste generation continues to increase, First Nations communities face many environmental, economic and social challenges related to the management of residual materials which affect quality of life for their members while having impacts on the land. The realities that are specific to each community entail particular stakes that require the development of solutions that are adapted to their situations. Since the sound management and protection of land is at the heart of the priorities of First Nations, the FNQLSDI is committed to developing tools that are aligned with their interests, principles and characteristics to encourage the improvement of practices related to the management of waste.

This year, the FNQLSDI worked on a project focused on developing a comprehensive regional portrait of residual materials management in First Nations in Quebec, enabling the identification of First Nations issues, problems and needs as well as the genuine costs related to the management of residual materials. The main objective of this project was to produce a visual and effective tool to assess the current situation to guide the development of future actions.

The project allowed for meeting with those responsible and visiting the residual materials management infrastructure in 29 First Nations communities. A database featuring information from all communities was created to provide a practical view of the information collected. Several issues faced by the First Nations have been identified, as well as characteristics or constraints that are specific to the environments encountered. Some recommendations were developed based on these findings.

The FNQLSDI will continue its residual materials management activities to support communities in improving practices by developing training and awareness-raising tools and providing technical support for project development. The team will work on the development of residual materials management plans with two communities as well as a traveling training project. Its mission of community knowledge transfer and capacity-building will be the guiding principles of the activities undertaken.



ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Projects

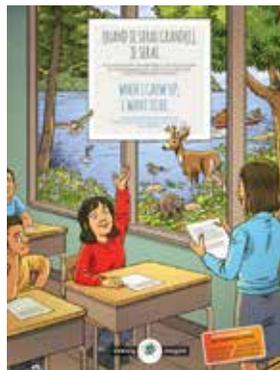
Enhancement of Aboriginal languages

Through the enhancement of Aboriginal languages as a means of expression of living cultures, the FNQLSDI hopes to contribute to building a sense of belonging and pride in this cultural wealth among First Nations youth and adults. The FNQLSDI also wants to provide a showcase for the beauty and diversity of this linguistic cultural heritage.

Let's talk environment in Aboriginal languages

The FNQLSDI is pleased to add two volumes to its collection of multilingual books on sustainable development. This year, the books showcase up to seven Aboriginal languages: Abenaki, Anicinape (Algonquin), Atikamekw, Innu-aimun, Kanien'kéha (Mohawk), Mi'gmaq, and Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), as well as French and English. Inspired by oral tradition and to allow readers to listen to the diversity of the languages, one of the books is accompanied by audio files. Like the rest of the collection, the books and audio files are available free online at www.fnqlsdi.ca.

Addressing sustainable development issues in the context of multilingual books goes hand in hand with the FNQLSDI's mission. The objective is to promote the integration of current thinking about sustainable development in territorial management practices, collective actions and values, and in First Nations' individual lifestyles and choices. These books are meant to be playful and educational tools for teachers, both in the teaching of Aboriginal languages and in the humanities and natural sciences.



Also in the collection:

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

...

Projects

Enhancement of Aboriginal languages

«Sustainable Development: Voices of First Nations Young Adults»

This year, the FNQLSDI met with students from the Kiuna Institution, the only Aboriginal college in Quebec, to oversee the production of a collection of multilingual and multicultural texts on visions of sustainable development of the young generation of First Nations in Quebec. In order to stimulate the creative process, the FNQLSDI, in collaboration with Kiuna teachers, created and facilitated thematic workshops. These activities were designed to be a space for meeting and exchange to encourage discussion and writing about sustainable development for and by First Nations, and to place the youth at the center of the reflection. As you read the book, you will find a series of twenty opinion pieces expressing the views and critical thinking of young First Nations adults about a sustainable future. They share their words, their ideas, their observations, their fears and their hopes.



«Energy Efficiency and Green Energy Among First Nations»



The FNQLSDI has developed a guide on First Nations energy efficiency and green energy in English, French and three Aboriginal languages (Anicinape, Innu-aimun and Mi'gmaq). This guide will help improve the energy efficiency of homes by taking small, easy steps. You will also find examples of green energy projects in your community! These guides have been distributed to community members in the nations involved in the Éconologis program in collaboration with Négawatts Production.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Projects

Biodiversity, protected areas and species at risk

The FNQLSDI works to preserve biodiversity, respecting the values and traditions of the First Nations. The projects developed in this area are especially designed to preserve species and habitats of particular importance to First Nations, for cultural or spiritual reasons, or having to do with food or other factors.

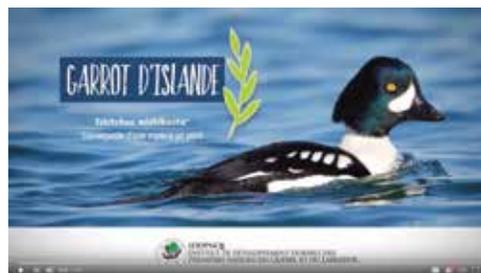
Saving the Barrow's Goldeneye

For the third consecutive year, the FNQLSDI worked with the Innu communities of the Côte-Nord to safeguard the endangered Barrow's Goldeneye, a species at risk. The activities are based on the *Plan de rétablissement du garrot d'Islande (2013)* and the needs and interests of First Nations. Several activities have been carried out annually, including observing the Barrow's Goldeneyes on the lakes in the spring, identifying fishless lakes, monitoring and maintaining nesting boxes in place in the summer, as well as an Awareness activity - Youth Action followed by the installation of new nesting boxes in autumn.

In addition, in order to reach the general public, the informative pamphlet presenting the situation of the Barrow's Goldeneye (status, biology, distribution, threats) as well as information about the project were highlighted in a video. The presentation is enhanced with video extracts and photos taken in the field since the beginning of the project. It has been publicized on our website and on social media, and is available (in French only) at: <http://iddpnql.ca/biodiversite/>.



Lake with nesting boxes nearby, for observation of the Barrow's Goldeneye, Nitassinan, Essipit



Images from the Barrow's Goldeneye awareness video

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Projects

Biodiversity, protected areas and species at risk

Spring/summer 2016: Observation of the Barrow's Goldeneye on the lakes, identifying fishless lakes and nesting boxes follow-up

During the heart of the breeding season of the species, from mid-May to mid-June, the FNQLSDI team travelled to observe the Barrow's Goldeneye on the lakes of the Nitassinan of Essipit and Pessamit. Later in the summer, a field project to identify fishless lakes was conducted for a second year in collaboration with the Council of the Innu Essipit First Nation. The proximity of a fishless lake provides a more favorable environment for the reproduction of the Barrow's Goldeneye, which feeds on aquatic insects, as do fish. Taking advantage of our presence on the ground during the post-nesting period, the FNQLSDI collected data and conducted maintenance of the 23 nesting boxes in place. Nesting evidence was also collected.



Nesting evidence, data collection and nesting box maintenance, Nitassinan, Essipit

Fall 2016: Awareness activity - Youth Action, assembling and installing nesting boxes

This year, some 50 committed teenagers from Manikanetish High School in Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam participated in a Youth Action Awareness Workshop, prepared and facilitated by the FNQLSDI, on the theme of the protection of the Barrow's Goldeneye and species at risk. The participants, informed of the precarious situation of the duck, took a concrete step to help the species by assembling nesting boxes that were subsequently installed on the territory of Essipit.



*Youth Action Awareness Workshop
Manikanetish High School
Uashat Mak Mani-Utenam*

At the same time, the team travelled to monitor and maintain the 26 nesting boxes installed on the Nitassinan of Pessamit.

Follow-up activities are planned in the coming years to analyze the impact of the installation of a network of nesting boxes on the productivity of the species.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Projects

Climate change

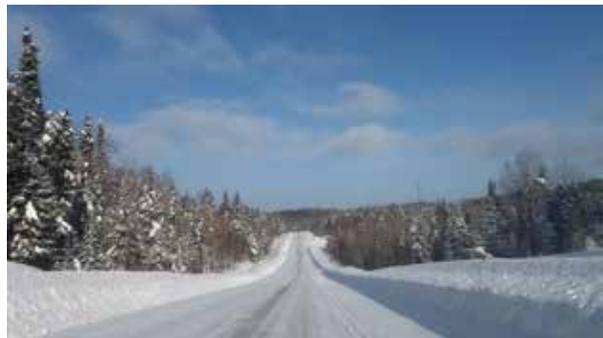
Climate change continues to be a major concern for First Nations, who perceive the impacts on their territory, their culture and economy. Dealing with such a challenge requires action at several levels: informing decision makers and managers of the impacts observed by community members; orienting action to the needs, challenges and opportunities of First Nations and engaging youth to participate in the fight against climate change.

Climate change and infrastructure

The FNQLSDI team documented the issues of infrastructure and emergency measures in the context of climate change. This portrait was constructed by distributing a questionnaire to the First Nations in order to identify the climate hazards observed in the communities and the impacts felt on the infrastructure and the management of emergency measures. Representatives of thirty-four communities responded to the survey, analyzing their current situation and making recommendations for climate change adaptation



programs to better respond to the priorities locally identified.



The FNQLSDI is also involved in a project to study the vulnerability of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in Akwesasne. As a member of the Monitoring Committee, the FNQLSDI has participated in four working meetings on the application of the Engineers Canada PIEVC Engineering Protocol. The FNQLSDI will continue to serve on the Monitoring Committee for the following year and will support the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation and the project manager in their activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016-2017

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Projects

Climate change

Workshops on climate change

The FNQLSDI organized a workshop on the participation of First Nations in Quebec in the development of the pan-Canadian Framework for clean growth and the fight against climate change. Held on September 21, 2016 in Montreal, the workshop was attended by more than 30 participants including chiefs, councillors, band council staff and representatives of indigenous organizations. At the event, participants spoke about what governments should do to address climate change in ways that respect the needs, challenges and opportunities of First Nations.



Participants and brainstorming during the workshop on climate change in Montreal

The FNQLSDI also co-organized a Youth Workshop on Climate Change with the First Nations of Quebec

and Labrador Youth Network (FNYN). The workshop, held on November 19, 2016 at the Kiuna Institution in Odanak, brought together 50 First Nations youth. The day included various testimonies of leaders active in the protection of the territory, as well as discussion activities in order to enable the young people to share their concerns and ideas of solution. Following the success of this event, the FNYN decided to make the environment the theme of their 6th Youth Summit. The FNQLSDI will continue its efforts to support the FNYN in order to prepare the event and ensure its smooth running in August.



Youth Workshop on Climate Change poster

Finally, the FNQLSDI team participated in several events to sensitize decision makers and the public to the impacts of climate change experienced by First Nations. Conferences were presented to geography students in Université Laval and at the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Forum in Halifax.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Projects

Strategic and territorial planning

Planning is an essential component of effective governance. Strategic planning, carried out at the level of a band council or a sector of activity, makes it possible to set short- and medium-term objectives and to develop the means to achieve them. Territorial planning, carried out at the level of the territory of a reserve or ancestral territory, enables the community to realize its vision for the use and occupation of the territory.

For a second year, the FNQLSDI received joint funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA) to provide strategic and territorial planning advisory services. The support offered by the FNQLSDI aims to support community elected officials and managers in the development of planning tools that reflect their vision, culture and values. In 2016-2017, the team worked with Listuguj and Ekuanitshit in addition to developing various training tools.

Listuguj

The team supported the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government in the development of its community economic development strategy. Project objectives include identifying practical ways to support entrepreneurship and facilitating networking and collaboration between the organizations involved in economic development, both inside and outside the community. The project was carried out in close collaboration with the local economic development

officer and the work methodology was guided and validated at each stage by local respondents. In carrying out its mandate focused on the



A participatory workshop took place with economic development stakeholders in Listuguj



development of a community economic development strategy in Listuguj, the strategic planning advisory service established a creative and flexible approach that generated an elevated level of involvement among the members of the community. Among other things, four focus groups were organized at the beginning of the process with

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Projects

Strategic and territorial planning

28 participants divided into the following categories: business owners, women, youth and seniors. These groups made it possible to conduct a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis and explore the main orientations in terms of development. Based on these results, the Planning for the Future event brought together more than 35 participants who discussed their vision regarding economic development and how to achieve that vision. This collaborative process has ensured that the objectives and actions identified in the Strategy reflect the needs and ideals of Listugujewaq. Subsequently, the actions were brought together in a five-year plan to facilitate their implementation.

Best practice sheets were also produced based on the main needs identified during the process. These sheets allow for inspiring and guiding community leaders in improving the governance of the economic development sector.

Ekuanitshit

For a second year, the team worked with the Innu Band Council of Ekuanitshit. This support was a logical follow-up to the organizational strategic planning project that was carried out in 2015-2016. The team offered its support for the continuation of the project focused on establishing a local territorial office, which is a priority in the 2016-2021 strategic plan of the Innu Band Council of



A meeting was held with elders from Ekuanitshit to discuss their vision of the land

Ekuanitshit. The support activities allow for achieving the following objectives:

- Consolidate and organize the geographic data of the community (structured database provided to the community);
- Propose ways of intervening to facilitate the official opening of the territorial office (report provided to the community);
- Develop an annual action plan for the first year of the territorial planning process (action plan delivered to the community).



Land visit with members of the community

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Projects

Strategic and territorial planning

Overview of practices

In order to support Ekuanitshit in its approach and inspire other First Nations in their reflection, the FNQLSDI developed an overview of First Nations territorial planning practices in Quebec.

The main objectives were as follows:

- Emphasize the diversity and wealth in terms of First Nations territorial planning practices;
- Draw on best practices in the field;
- Identify common issues and areas for collaboration;
- Facilitate networking and knowledge transfer among First Nations;
- Clarify certain basic concepts of territorial planning.

During telephone interviews and small group discussion meetings, stakeholders shared their knowledge regarding territorial planning initiatives



A discussion meeting took place on the territorial planning practices of the Innu communities in Pessamit

in 13 communities. The information was then structured and analyzed according to four main themes:

- The objectives of territorial planning processes;
- The legal framework for territorial planning;
- The acquisition and management of territorial data;
- The participation of the public in territorial planning.



In addition to the analysis, the overview presents many examples derived from the experiences of First Nations. Avenues for reflection on issues, challenges and best practices as well as collaborative avenues for learning on a Nation-to-Nation basis are also featured.

Training

As part of the support-related mandates in Ekuanitshit and Listuguj, the team ensured that they constantly collaborated with local respondents for the development of the planning methodology and the implementation of the activities.

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Projects

Strategic and territorial planning

This collaboration allowed respondents to familiarize themselves with the various stages of strategic planning, experiment with several public participation techniques and continue to develop various planning skills (documentary research, interviews, SWOT and other types of analyses, participatory methods, drafting of plans, etc.). The FNQLSDI also developed two training workshops on strategic and operational planning. The workshops, which are intended for First Nations elected officials and managers, include both theoretical content and practical exercises based on practical examples taken from the Aboriginal communities. They include exercises that allow participants to reflect on their own approach and begin some of the steps during the training.

First Nations' participation in the Aquahacking 2016 Summit

The Aquahacking Summit is an international event bringing together elected officials, scientists and developers of technological solutions on water-



The opening remarks of the Aquahacking 2016 Summit were provided by Chief Ghislain Picard

related issues. The 2016 edition focused on the St. Lawrence River section. The de Gaspé-Beaubien Foundation, organizer of the summit, worked with the FNQLSDI to ensure that the issues of the First Nations would have a prominent place in this event. The FNQLSDI therefore assisted the youth delegation and served on the executive committee of the Aquahacking Summit to raise awareness regarding First Nations water issues. Two young First Nations members helped to draft a youth vision of the St. Lawrence, which was presented to the mayors of Montreal and Quebec City.

During the summit, Regional Chief Ghislain Picard gave an opening address and Ms. Lynn Jacobs of Kahnawá:ke was invited as a speaker on a panel of experts. First Nations were therefore able to take advantage of this broad forum to raise awareness regarding their specific issues related to the river.



The youth delegation of the Aquahacking 2016 Summit

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016-2017

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Projects

Comprehensive community planning

Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) is a holistic process that allows a community to set a course for achieving sustainability, self-sufficiency and better governance. The plan addresses all aspects of the community and is based on the members' vision for their present and their future. It is rooted in the identity of the community and aims to guide its development in a sustainable way while respecting its culture and its roots.

In the spring of 2016, the FNQLSDI initiated a three-year Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) pilot project. The first objective of the project is to support communities in their CCP processes. Two communities will be supported throughout the three years (Kebaowek First Nation and Abitibi8inni First Nation) and two additional communities (Kahnawá:ke and Listuguj) will be supported for at least one year. Each process is led by a local coordinator who is assisted by an inclusive and diverse planning team.



First Nations Delegates in Quebec and the FNQLSDI participated in the National CCP Workshop



Presenters at the National CCP Workshop in Winnipeg

Over the course of this first year, the support provided took various forms depending on the needs expressed: support for the hiring of local coordinators, training based on the CCP, facilitation of meetings, presentations to elected officials and managers, documentary research, participation in the creation of planning teams, development and sharing of tools (fact sheets and document templates), translation, etc. To benefit from the experience and advice of First Nations elsewhere in Canada, the FNQLSDI also facilitated the participation of community representatives in two workshops on the CCP in Cranbrook, BC and in Winnipeg, MB, while being actively engaged in the network of experts on active CCP across Canada.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 - 2017

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Projects

Comprehensive community planning

The second objective of the project is to identify key elements to the success of the CCP in First Nations communities with the goal of basing support initiatives on the findings and recommendations of the communities themselves. To this end, pilot project evaluation meetings were organized with the local coordinators and the results of an evaluation questionnaire, including the comments and recommendations of the participants, were collated. Coordinators' comments were also presented by the FNQLSDI team at the meetings of the committee responsible for developing the national strategy to support community development.

the year in response to invitations received from various First Nations organizations including: The Chiefs' Assembly of the AFNQL, Chief and Councilors of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, Annual General Assembly of the Algonquin Nation Anishinabeg Tribal Council, the FNQLHSSC and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee). A regional workshop will also be held in the fall of 2017 to introduce the CCP to all interested First Nations through conferences, testimonials, hands-on workshops and discussion periods with various partners.

Finally, the project aims to facilitate access to resources in French on the CCP. Indeed, since this type of planning is mainly used by communities whose first or second language is English, there is little documentation in French. The FNQLSDI collaborated with external translators to make various tools available according to the needs identified by the local coordinators. Other documents will be translated in 2017 and the FNQLSDI is working actively to try to increase the funding available for translation.



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School and community workshops on the CCP were held in Pikogan

The third objective of the project is to introduce the CCP as a tool for community development. Thus, several presentations were made over the course of



A document on community mobilization translated by the FNQLSDI

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Projects

Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency enables us to use in smaller quantities the source of the most appropriate energy at the right time. Adopting behaviors that respect the issue of energy use leads to both economic and environmental benefits while improving the comfort of homes.

Éconologis

The Éconologis program is designed to provide information and advice on energy consumption patterns to citizens and offer energy-saving accessories to low-income households in order to help reducing energy bills and improving the comfort of their homes. In collaboration with our partner NégaWatts Inc., the FNQLSDI is working on offering the Éconologis program in First Nations communities.



Our mandate

Service offering consists of a visit of a building technician and an energy advisor to the customer's home in the communities of the administrative regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Côte-Nord and Gaspésie. During the visit, members of the household are informed by the adviser on what actions to take and tools to use to gain better control of their energy expenditures. In the meanwhile, the building technician is available to install certain energy-

efficient equipment to better control energy bills and improve comfort levels. Specific improvements include installing low-flow shower heads and weather stripping on doors, changing dryer exhausts and insulating windows with plastic, at a total cost ranging from \$85 to \$135.



Results

In 2016-2017, the FNQLSDI offered a personalized, free energy efficiency service to 539 homes located in the communities of Kitcisakik, Lac-Simon, Pessamit, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj. This project will possibly continue in 2017-2018 in order to provide the service to the remaining households in communities already visited in addition to communities in the three administrative regions that have not yet been served.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

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In 2015-2016, the FNQLSDI could count on the financial support of several partners.

Our partners

Canada

Government of Canada

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Natural Resources Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Canadian Heritage

Transport Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Québec

Government of Quebec

Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones

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Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

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Colleges and Institutes Canada

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Fondation de la faune du Québec

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Mountain Equipment Co-operative

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Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador

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