



Happy Spring and soon to be summer to all Band Members! Finally the weather has improved!

### COVID-19

It has been a stressful few years for everyone. The staff have especially felt the pressure of this pandemic as they tried to continue offering programs to the Community. Thank you to each and every staff member who did their best during these strange and hectic times. As we continue to live with Covid-19 we would like to thank all Community Members who have done their part to help stop the spread.

### STORMS

What a year we had of storms that created havoc and made day to day living more difficult. Thank you to all those who stepped up to help when needed. We continue to work on an emergency plan so we are as prepared as we can be. You will see work being done to repair the damages done to the Public Building roofs.

### SACRED FIRE

Thank you to Councillor Carol Ann and all those involved for holding a sacred fire in such a short time frame to pray for healing, strength and peace not only for Ukraine but for our Community.

### LANGUAGE SURVEY

Thank you to all who answered the language survey. I will take these answer as asked by Mi'kmaw Kina'manewey (Education) back to reiterate how Band Members see Language moving forward for our Community.

### ENTRANCE TO THE COMMUNITY

The entryway into the Community continues to be priority and while it is a slow process we continue to move towards a fix. The geotechnical portion has been completed. We are now sending out a request for proposal (RFP) to begin the design of the entrance.

### ANNUAL AUDIT

The annual audit begins this week. Please have patience with the staff, especially the finance staff in every building as they will be focusing on this for the next little while. We also ask that you be mindful of this when entering buildings during this week.

### STATUS OF OUR CHILDREN

The Indian Act's blood quantum "Status" system is severely impacting Bear River. We are beginning to see children born, raised and loved by our Community left without recognition from Canada's system. As Chief I understand and continue to take your concerns and move forward with the Assembly of First Nations, Membership, KMKNO (Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative), Ministers etc. and will continue to do so.

### BAND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

We currently have a proposal for a new Band Administration Building/Multi Use Building submitted. We wait patiently to hear back from the funder. The building design was based on need and feedback from the Community.

### BLOCK FUNDING

We are now entering into our next five year block funding agreement with Indigenous Services Canada and Health Canada. This process means we will be reaching out to the Community to work on plans for the next five years. You will be invited to participate in ways such as surveys, workshops and focus groups. These plans help guide the Chief, Council and staff in decision making. Please watch your notices for these invites so your input can be considered when developing these plans.

### MODERATELY LIVELIHOOD FISHERIES

Please see attached notice.

### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

We are pleased to be celebrating this day a little different this year by holding this annual celebration in our traditional Kespuwick territory of Kejimikujik National Park. Please get your name in as soon as possible if you are able to stay overnight during this time. You do not have to stay overnight to come and celebrate. Day visitors are welcome. We have some great events happening this year, an agenda will be sent out closer to June 21st. We look forward to celebrating with you all.

### ST. ANN'S DAY

We are planning to celebrate St. Ann's Day this year and have been working on some details. Please check your notices closer to July for more information once we have everything confirmed.

### GAS BAR EXTENSION

We are pleased the L'sitkuk Gas Bar will be receiving a necessary addition. Construction will begin soon. We ask for your patience and understanding as we do our best to keep the work from impacting services.

### HOUSING

Housing continues to be priority for the Chief and Council. We continue to work on the long term housing strategy and search for funding opportunities to help alleviate the housing list.

### AQUACULTURE

The Aquaculture Crew are back on the water and cages are back up for the growing season. There was lots of cleaning and preparing that needed to be done from being dormant and on the bottom of the ocean for the winter. The aqua crew worked hard to get them back to pristine condition. For the next few months the crew will continue to monitor growth, mortality etc. Reminder - at each site in the Annapolis Basin there are three (3) cages and each cage has six (6) bags of oysters consisting of three (3) different classes (age in the growing process).

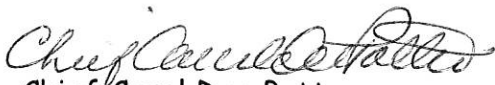
### FINAL REMARKS

Please note the Band Office, Health Center and Muin Sipu Learning Center will be closed from July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>. Once we are back we will begin preparation for our annual Harvester's Gathering.

I, as Chief, continue to meet with the higher levels of Government to ensure our rights, environment, resources, future generations, fishing, hunting, roads, schools and treaties continue to be protected.

If you would like to see information on a particular program or service in our next update please email the Band Administrator at [kerry payson@bearriverfirstnation.ca](mailto:kerry payson@bearriverfirstnation.ca) and we will do our best to give information following within the confidentiality and privacy laws.

Wishing you all a positive and healthy spring and summer.

  
Chief Carol Dee Potter  
On behalf of Council

Attachment: Moderate Livelihood Community Notice