

Listuguj Community Plan  
Community Engagement Notes  
Workshop – December 10-12, 2012

As part of the two community sessions held on December 11<sup>th</sup>, participants were asked to think about the underlying causes of the issues and concerns. The following notes are compiled from the discussions about root causes. They are categorized into themes.

## **Root Causes**

*What are the roots or sources of the main issues in the community?*

### **Lack of Skilled Volunteers**

- Lack of volunteers, people don't want to get together
- Lack of training among volunteers (e.g. Host to coach a team)
- Lack of commitment to seeing things through

### **Need to Empower Youth**

- Not knowing how to volunteer or work with youth
- Number of youth is daunting
- Youth need to stop looking in community for all the answers

### **Drug Abuse**

- Drug/substance abuse

### **Loss of Culture, Language and Identity**

- Loss of culture – sent out of community to NB / Mi'gmaq culture is not part of the curriculum
- Religion – church on reserve causes a loss of culture
- Residential schools
- Values of the First Nation people have been lost
- Language loss due to:
  - Parentage, TV, Losing Elders, School, Church, Location, Government
- Education Issues
  - Money, Racism, Mi'gmaq ways of being, Did not want to leave, disrespect, government, limited opportunity, church, fear, assimilation
- Loss of traditional knowledge and medicines that brought us to use western medicines (prescription meds and products brought free by NIHB)
- Assimilation (fees)
- Lack of identity – more than a status card
  - Cultural
  - Language
  - Blood lines “membership”
- Education – lack of actual Canadian history

### **Residential Schools**

- Residential schools and Indian Day Schools
- Residential schooling
- Loss of language going to school outside of community created loss of culture and loss of values
- Assimilation efforts brought on by GOC
- Loss of identity – stems from residential schools and Mission Indian day school
  - Creates cycle of negativity – family violence

### **Dependency**

- Dependency on the Band
- Loss of self-esteem created dependencies
- Welfare system created apathy (self pity)
- Dependency

### **Lack of Community Unity**

- Unity or lack of unity
  - Crisis and special occasions
- “Me” mentality instead of “We” mentality
- Can’t work together as a community
- Lack of communication (needs to be door to door)

### **Fear and Discomfort of Change**

- People don’t like change
- Fear of the unknown and fear of change
- Finding comfort in habits
- Established people are not responsive to new knowledge and education e.g. Trades
- Our inability to see beyond yesterday
- Things are allowed to stay the same
- People have to take responsibility for the change they want to see

### **Negative Attitudes**

- Not appreciating what the Great Spirit gave us
- Oppression
- Jealousy and Forgiveness
- Stereotyping
- Racism
- Elder/youth incarceration
- Trust
- Greed – insecurities and fear
- Jealousy
- Fear
- External blame

- Gossip breeds negativity
- Undervalued services
  - Ignorance leads to negativity

### **Boredom**

- Nothing better to do

### **Pressure of Negative Influences**

- Influence of media
- Peer pressure
- Ease of access to harmful influence

### **History of Negative Family Behaviour**

- Cycle of abuse – somebody has to break the cycle, it starts with the family
- Young parents not taught how to parent
  - Some kids are bullied by their parents so they don't understand why its wrong at school
- TV as a babysitter
- History of negative family behavior
  - Smoking and drinking in front of kids and when pregnant

### **Lack of Trust in Governance**

- Lack of transparency
  - Inherited/ Elders/ Greed/ Power/ Control/ Money
- Lack of Transparency = root cause
  - Not reporting to community or members = lack of trust/accountability
- Fear – uncertainty – transparency
- No records of what has been said
- Lack of motivation and follow through from C&C
- Hidden agendas of Chief & Council, individual agendas and plans
- Lack of Transparency – maintain an open dialogue
- Power Hungry
- Mismanagement
- People can't come together without proper information and communication

### **Unconstructive and Unjust Government Structure**

- 2 year cycle – no changes
- Indian Act legislates the two year mandate – must have a referendum to make changes
- Leadership has a responsibility to the people that they must uphold
  - Can't please everybody all of the time
  - The majority always wins
- Loss of rights
- Indian Act

- Became second class citizens on our own land
  - Lost right to vote
  - Lost right to pay into pension plans CPP
- No follow through – 2 year election cycle
- Inequality
- Current volunteer run activities
  - Pow wow committee
  - New year's eve committee
  - Fund raising to support families in times of crisis

### **Economics**

- Economic development
  - Jobs, businesses, resources, money, allocation issues
- Economic Development
  - Access to local training and education
  - Dependency on federal transfers
- Need political stability to attract investment
- Giving people something for nothing doesn't work
- Lack of access to capital
- Listuguj is ready to go with 150 megawatt wind farm, just need power purchase agreement from Hydro Quebec
- Lack of life skills