“Mawiusgu'tmnej aqq mawlugutinej gulaman glu'lgt'tew mimajuaqan ugjit Mi'gmewaq”

“Discussing and working together, for a better Mi’gmaq future for all of us”

SUMMARY

The feedback from the recent Listuguj Community Social Services Directorate (LCSSD) community engagement sessions (2 - 5 February 2026), including:

- **The community’s *draft* VISION for healthy, safe, flourishing Mi’gmaq families as a united and engaged community.**
- **Our respective responsibilities in achieving our VISION.**
- **Our top priorities for action.**

Here is a summarized version of the key elements the Listugujewa'q want to see in our VISION, for the LCSSD and other Directorates.

Our VISION is of Listugujewa'q empowered by our Mi'gmaq culture and language living…

- **Healthy, active, informed, safe, nurturing, capable and autonomous Mi'gmaq families, including our respected Elders, flourishing at the core of a united, healthy, engaged, addictions-free and caring Mi'gmaq community where all basic needs are assured.**

Our VISION includes…

- Parents who willingly accept their primary duty to ensure the consistent safety, security, care, nurturing, education and optimal development of their children and youth, and who serve as consistent good role models for their children.
- Elders enjoying the recognition and gratitude they deserve, fully participating in the lives of their families and community, and confident and secure in the care and support they receive from both their families and the designated support services.
- Members with special needs fully engaged and participating in the lives of their families and community and enjoying the support they need to confidently aspire to and achieve their personal goals.
- A unified and mutually supportive community where all members deal with and relate to each other with sincere mutual respect, understanding and kindness.
- Families and individuals who are experiencing difficult times can count on the timely, competent, dedicated support of LMG personnel to "go to where they're at" and help them regain wholistic well-being and balanced, productive, autonomous and empowered lives.
- A community where all dealings between any member and the LMG Government, including Chief and Council and the Administration, are consistently founded on doing the right thing in a fair and equitable way, consistent with our policies, and there is no favouritism.

REMEMBER: A vision does not represent the current situation. Rather, it outlines and describes what we deeply want to see for ourselves, our children, youth, Elders, families and the community. It serves to guide all planning, and *to unite the community in common undertakings for the benefit of all*.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Here are the respective responsibilities we identified, if we are to successfully achieve our VISION.**

ADULTS and PARENTS HAVE THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

All adult members, including those in healing, and our youth share in the primary responsibility for achieving and sustaining our VISION.

PARENTS have a special responsibility / duty to:

a. Ensure a safe, secure, nurturing Mi'gmaq home for their children, free of violence, and to ensure the optimal education and development of their children and youth, including those with special needs. This includes guiding them in the proper use of social media, and living lives free of unhealthy addictions;
b. Serve as consistent role models for their children and youth, including healthy, Mi'gmaq lifestyles;
c. Engage fully with the teachers, coaches and others involved in regular activities with their children to ensure optimal outcomes for their children and youth;
d. Work collaboratively together with other parents for the optimal benefit of all children.

LCSSD has the responsibility to:

a. Execute their approved Plans, *consistent with the priorities identified by the community members*, with full accountability through Chief and Council;
b. Provide timely (proactive), competent, non-judgemental and sustained support to those requiring assistance, based on genuine mutual respect and trust, including the protection of confidentiality and the elimination of all stigma;
c. Share all relevant knowledge with the members to support and inform their competent and responsible decisions and behaviours;
d. Initiate and foster collaborative approaches with other departments of the LMG, and with external partners, to ensure the best outcomes for their clients;
e. Celebrate successes: recognize and acknowledge the accomplishments of their clients, fostering self-confidence and healthy self-esteem;
f. Be accountable for their actions, or lack of actions, based on the approved plans and resources entrusted to them, and respect for all applicable policies;
g. Ensure all Listugujewa'q are fully aware of whom to access for any required services or support, with user-friendly and timely channels of access, 24/7;
h. Obtain the required funding and resources to fulfill their planned commitments.

CHIEF & COUNCIL have the responsibility to:

1. Implement and ensure an effective, fair and accountable Mi'gmaq governance framework, including:
    a. Clear, relevant and prioritized plans to guide the work of each Directorate, including the LCSSD;
    b. Clear, effective and fair policies and procedures to ensure everyone is dealt with on an effective, fair and equitable basis, with no favouritism;
    c. Ensuring each directorate has the resources it requires;
    d. A regular (quarterly) progress report directly to the Council to ensure full accountability, followed by a report to the members to ensure full accountability to them.

2. Fostering a unified, mutually supportive community, including participating, as a Council, in more community events to show support and a willingness to listen.

LCSSD PRIORITY GOALS for 2026 - 2028

These are the nine (9) top priority goals identified by the Listugujewa'q in the engagement process and accepted by the Council to be addressed in the LCSSD Strategic Plan. Some will involve other Directorates.

1. **Address / eliminate the drug and alcohol problem (a "drug / addictions free community"), including prohibiting the delivery of alcohol, drugs, mushrooms or vapes to youth or households in the community, and,**
   - **Strictly control gambling and gaming.**

   "…so we stop destroying our healthy, secure homelife, and ruining our futures" **(as shared by some of the youth).**
   Includes: our LMG regulations for better policing and control of those having access to the community (no drug dealers). <<LCSSD+>>

2. **Fully support all parents, including foster parents, in their primary duty to provide a consistently safe, secure, healthy Mi'gmaq homelife, and the optimal education and development of their children and youth, while serving as good role models. <<LCSSD>>**

3. **Provide:**
   a. **A 24-hour safe space for youth;**
   b. **A 24/7 hotline for emergency services, fully aligned with other emergency call numbers, all well publicized for easy access and use.**
   c. **A de-tox facility within the community, plus treatment and the full continuum of care.**
   <<LCSSD+>>

4. **Expand our sports and recreation facilities and programs to provide a full range of engaging and developmental activities for the youth and all members of the community, with a particular focus on:**
   - **An arena;**
   - **Indoor swimming pool;**
   - **Larger gyms;**
   - **Outdoor basketball and volleyball;**
   - **Full fitness centres;**
   - **A larger youth centre; and**
   - **A center for social activities ("healthy connectivity"). <<LCSSD+>>**

5. **ELDERS: Provide the full array / suite of support (health, financial, transportation, regular check-ins, medications, a Liaison Officer, in-house legal counsel) for our Elders to enable them to fully engage and participate in the life of their families and the community in a secure and fulfilling way. <<Health & LCSSD, shared>>**

6. **YOUNG PARENTS: Educate / train all new parents in Mi'gmaq parenting, including follow-up and full in-house support for new mothers. <<LCSSD & Health, shared>>**

7. **Mental health and healing: more effective support to address the growing mental health issues, including a Mental Health Unit. <<Health Directorate, with contributions from LCSSD>>**

8. **Unite and connect the community in mutually respectful and supportive Mi'gmaq ways, for the greater benefit of all. <<Integrated, collaborative LMG approach>>**

9. **Develop and implement a timely, effective, fair and non-political "Citizen's complaint / remediation procedure" to address any perceived or alleged unfairness in the application of LMG policies or programs, and ensure all members have user-friendly access to it. <<CEO and all Directorates>>**

RESOLUTION approved by Chief & Council (6 February 2026)

WHEREAS Council has received the Summary of the thinking of the members who participated in the engagement sessions with LCSSD, which includes:

a. The community-based approach of the LCSSD in developing its Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2028, including the final step where the proposed Plan will be submitted to the community for ratification, following the "approval in principle" and recommendation by the Council;
b. The proposed *draft* of a guiding VISION to guide the development of the 2026 – 2028 Strategic Plan for the LCSSD;
c. The identification of the respective responsibilities in pursuing that VISION; and
d. The top priority goals to be pursued in the LCSSD Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS Council strongly commends and thanks those members, including our youth from both Alaqsite'w Gitpu School and the Sugarloaf Senior High School, and our Elders, who took the time to come forward and share and discuss their views with the intent of identifying the most important things they believe must be addressed to bring about a better quality of Mi'gmaq life for all members of the community;

WHEREAS these recommendations also clearly state that:

a. It is the members (adults, parents and youth) who have the primary responsibility to assure the health, safety, security, education and wellbeing of their respective families;
b. The LCSSD must provide the competent support and expertise needed to help families and persons in need, and this will include working in effective collaborative ways with other directorates of the LMG;
c. The Council must provide an effective, fair and accountable governance framework to ensure the best possible outcomes with the resources we have;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that **the Council accepts*:***

1. The "community-based" methodology undertaken by the LCSSD in developing and implementing its Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2028;

2. The proposed *draft* VISION which will serve to guide both the development and the implementation of the Strategic Plan, subject to Council's approval in principle at the final stage of the planning process, and subject to ratification by the community;

3. The proposed outline of the respective responsibilities in pursuing the VISION;

4. The nine (9) proposed priority goals to be addressed in the Plan. Council accepts that the LCSSD can, in collaboration with other LMG Directorates, bring forth proposals to address the very serious issues arising from the presence of drugs and alcohol in the community and that those recommendations can include a better control of drugs and alcohol in the community, including a possible reduction or elimination.

6 February 2026