

# **Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre**

## **45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**



**Honoured to serve the Chibougamau urban  
Aboriginal community since 1969**

**June 17, 2015**

**95 rue Jaculet, Chibougamau, Québec G8P 2G1  
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### MISSION AND VISION

#### Mission

Our mission is to provide quality services to the Aboriginal people residing in the urban area by:

- Providing a cultural gathering place for Natives living in Chibougamau;
- Promoting a multi-cultural centre that highlights Native culture and traditions and acts as a bridge to understanding between the Native and non-Native community;
- Facilitating and supporting Native participation in urban society and socio-economic development;
- Offering a comfortable and welcoming place that meets the various needs of the Native population.

#### Vision Statement

To fulfill its mission, the CEFC will carry out projects that will maintain, develop and promote health, culture and community values. To attain this vision the CEFC will build quality infrastructure providing a healthy, secure and functional place of respite. This will be done with respect for members, its human resources and its budgetary parameter.

### PORTRAIT OF THE CHIBOUGAMAU EENOU FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



The Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre is proudly in existence since 1969. The Centre is a non-profit organization that has been providing a multitude of services to Aboriginal people in Chibougamau for more than 40 years. This Centre is one of ten (10) Friendship Centres in Québec. The Centre is affiliated with the Regroupement des Centres d'amitiés autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ), as well as the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC).

The town of Chibougamau has a population of seven thousand five hundred people (7500) and the vast majority are francophone. However; due to the proximity of the Cree communities, many Cree call Chibougamau home. The Chibougamau Aboriginal community now numbers close to eight hundred (800) members, the majority of whom are Cree. Most community members choose to relocate to town from their home communities for work, housing, education, medical obligations and so on.

According to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in 2013 the urbanization trend in Québec demonstrated that thirty percent (30 %) of Native people now live off-reserve in Québec. This represents more than 28 401 Native people across the province. Note that numbers for Métis and Inuit were not available. These increases of First Nations people migrating from their communities and choosing to reside in urban areas has increased demands on urban-based organizations, such as the Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre and other Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

Throughout the years, Chibougamau has responded to the demands of this increasing population by promoting healthy balanced lifestyles through culturally appropriate programs, services and activities. This Centre will continue to serve its community and build upon its current services to move in a brighter direction with the mandate set forth for the Board of Directors and Executive Director.

### A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

We are grateful for your presence today that marks the 45<sup>th</sup> annual general assembly of the Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre. These walls and spaces carry many stories and a wealth of change. In 45 years, our community has gone from economically unwelcome to courted for contracts and collaborations. I'd like to say that the mission of the Indian Centre is complete and that we have gone full circle but that path needs still be walked and we have still much to do to attain that goal. And in the meantime, you continue to be the reason we turn the Centre lights on each day, the meaning for our striving. Thank you for 45 years of inspiration.



When we look back in a few years' time, 2014-2015 will have been the year of consultation. Although ever attentive to the evolving needs of our community, the pressing socio-political and economic landscape within which exist Friendship Centres and other community organisations have provided a diverse range of opportunities to identify, explore, validate and otherwise address needs-issues-opportunities-population segments-best practice-and more. Throughout this report you will encounter acronyms: UAS, UP, CCS, SAA, AADNC as well as names: Ninan, Odena, Wiisht. Each will be explained, as well as their influence on our Chibougamau community and sometimes beyond. These are stimulating challenging times in which member participation is vital. It is no longer a "qui dit mot, consent" world. It is a "carpe deum" world, we must "seize the day".

Heartfelt thanks go to the family that is our community.

- ❖ To our 2014-2015 staff at the Centre, to Agnes Moore, Jessica Thisdale, Fabienne Boulanger, Jessica Marceau, Mélanie Labonté, Nicolas Paillard, Annabelle Awashish, Catelyne Shecapio, Angie Mark, Mary-Jane Wapachee, Scott Trapper, Shannon Paddy, Charlotte Renaud, Walter Pawlikowski, Brandon Pecina and Frédéric Launière – you are the vital links that make the Centre work. Misti meegwich.
- ❖ To our Board of Directors: Melissa Rodgers, Pierre Pelletier, Sarah Pashagumskum, Manon Richmond, Cindy Morisson, LeeAnn Neeposh and Jessica Thisdale; time is so very precious and yet you invest yours in the work and mission of the CEFC. It is deeply satisfying to be able to rely on your talents and commitment to the community to accomplish our work. My sincerest thanks.
- ❖ And you, dear members and partners? I say it each year, you make getting up and coming to work each day a worthwhile endeavour. Thank you for the inspiration to be the change we seek.

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### 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

There is deep satisfaction in actualising a core aspect of our mission: to help community members integrate and participate fully in the community life of our town. Consultations in 2013-2014 made it clear that Chibougamau organisations rely on the CEFC to help them reach the Aboriginal population and share their services more widely to all town community members. This in turn has had a profound influence on every conversation, initiative and effort invested in the past year. Indeed, every year.

The Board and staff are in the process of a long-term strategic plan upon whose foundation which future reporting will stand. In the meantime, this year's report will be broken down by program and project and initiative.

#### Community Capacity Support

The objectives identified within the Community Capacity Support program under the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy funding stream for 2014-2015 are as follows:

- Provide varied services to the Aboriginal community living and transiting through town
- Review and develop the position of liaison officer within the Centre organisation chart to better meet the needs of urban Aboriginals accessing services in town
- Complete the development of an Aboriginal Childcare Centre to facilitate families returning to the workforce
- Parley community partner relations into structured projects to access to skills development

#### Services to the Community

Although as familiar as breath, services to the community require an attentiveness and capacity to turn on a dime to remain true to the preoccupations expressed. We have come to realise that many of our community members stay in town for a period of four to seven years. Others choose to reside in town for the long-term. And some are, figuratively, just passing through. The needs and interests of each group may coincide but there are important variations to which we are asked to respond.

Referral, access to information and community gathering opportunities like crafting and potluck, the shop, workshops, a hot lunch and coffee – these make up the daily life of the Friendship Centre. Multitudes of meetings with collaborators on new projects, on evolving services, on creating awareness of the needs of the urban Aboriginal community are also an important part of that fabric woven to serve our members. We translate, we intervene, we advocate and we share.

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In 2014-2015, the CEFC responded to more than 10 715 requests for service. Many are for the children of our families. Many are referrals and support services disguised as staff communications. Decreases are noted in youth participation and shop custom. Both are on-trend.. We knew the fallout we would experience from the change in programs as well as trying to fill Melanie's shoes. Next season will see us back on track.

Many stats are missing. Cell, social media and email use is common now in the workplace and that constant pinging is not accounted for in formal statistics-keeping. In preparing this report, we realised that our small program has not stood the test of time and is in dire need of update to keep up with newer computers! We will be looking at means to respond to our collaborators as well as funders in the types of stats we maintain while respecting the autonomy of our membership.

### Liaison Officer

In the course of the 2014, within the framework of the *Urban Aboriginal Strategy* consultations, local and regional organisations that participated in the 2013 events were invited to validate the veracity and current status of the statements and expressions of need shared in that year. All available participating organisations (6 of 9) responded in the affirmative, many stating that the budgetary constraints were actually increasing the pressure and desire to collaborate.

This corroborates the internal data and evolving tasks of professional staff who have found themselves increasingly on the frontline, responding to member needs beyond referral and orientation. Three of our staff were called upon to meet the increase in demand because of the lack of dedicated staff to provide that service. This in itself confirms the need to add a liaison position in the short-term. It is a fortunate thing that staff is qualified to intervene to a certain measure and are well connected to our local network of collaborators.

To counter the lack of resources, we have worked to create awareness in the greater community as a means to decrease the need for intervention, amongst others for housing, social aid, access to employment and education, countering the symptoms of poverty. However, over half of members continue to require assistance after referral due to language and cultural security issues.

A funding opportunity arose under the Aboriginal Homelessness program and a proposal has been developed in complement to a proposal launched by la Maison Oxygène that responds to the needs of men without a fixed address. This project will enable the development of tools for the Liaison position as well as community members and participating community organisations. It will also train a resource person into the position, giving us time to find further funding for the position. A response is expected in May. (NB: the project was not funded)

### CPE Awash Utamet Childcare Centre

By March 31, the CPE Awash Utamet was ready to receive from the architect (Anicet Tremblay et Serge Harvey Architectes) its substantial acceptance certificate! Construction began in mid-October along with the first winter storms. Despite the biting cold and heavy snow, Construction A Ouellet had the building going up soundly. At press time, the playground is receiving its finishing touches as its provisory Board races to complete the varied documents and policies required by the Ministry in order to obtain their permit.



1 March 2015, CPE Awash Utamet under construction

### Development of Skills Development Programming

The Regroupement Bouche à oreille is a local organisation whose mandate is helping people without formal education develop their skills to access the job market or further their education. Their services include francisation classes. There has been continued sharing of services between our organisations for a number of years and they responded with enthusiasm to a request for further partnership. Services and activities displaced to the CEFC were promoted towards community members. Unfortunately, response has been very weak in part due to various mining companies that have been hiring for remote site employment. Because language skills are a major requirement to access employment in town, and more recent community consultations have again brought to light the desire for French language courses, another attempt will be made in the Fall 2015.

The Centre continued to promote the English and French language of instruction Adult Education courses provided by the Commission scolaire de la Baie-James through our various channels of communication. We have taken note of an increase in requests for information as awareness of services increases.

### Urban Partnerships

In December 2014, the federal government opened up new project funding opportunities for 2014-2015. The CEFC presented two projects for consideration and won both.

#### *Wiisht*

Wiisht is a social economy project looking at the potential for the development of a crafting venue that would teach both traditional Cree crafting and business management. The aim is to create viable self-employment for urban community members while responding to a need for

merchandise for the Centre's shop as well as partners like Aanischaaukamikw and other entities.

The three-month project included two consultations with community members as well as multiple interviews with potential training partners to clarify the feasibility of the project. Was also considered; the potential for a pilot project exportable to other communities.

The report for this project is currently in writing and is anticipated to generate discussion and further collaborations in the coming year.

### *Implementation of a Proximity Clinic in Chibougamau – Phase 1*

This innovation project sought two objectives: to compile literature regarding existing culturally-secure health services and the need that created them, and hearing the community's need for such services in Chibougamau. To that end, in the course of the winter, a comprehensive survey of the literature available regarding cultural security nationally and abroad was completed. Existing models in Val d'Or and La Tuque were studied for initial understanding of the scope of services provided as well as their implementation. Finally, a series of interviews and a focus group were held with community members to determine the clientele, services currently used as well as those desired.

The report and its translation will be forthcoming in the course of the summer.

### **Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones**

The Secrétariat has been providing *Support of the Mission funding through the Fonds d'initiatives autochtones I and II* for more than 11 years now. Objectives to be undertaken beyond the usual services and activities of the centre include

- Long-term planning
- Community strategy, psycho-social needs assessment, building reconstruction project, entrepreneurial symposium 2014
- Community communications: Increase visibility.

### **Long Term Planning**

Board and staff held a retreat in early January 2015 to develop a collective Strategic Vision, accompanied by Niska Consultants. A 20-year orientation was sought. In light of the socio-political environment in which we find ourselves at this time, it was thought wise to consider short and mid-term orientations with a 20-year overview. A 3-5 year action plan should be completed in the course of the summer to implement this vision and orientation.

The multiple consultations and validations that took place in the course of the year pointed out various services necessary to the community if the funding and staff can be found to create

them. The challenges that organisations face in the North regarding both funding and human resources will need to be addressed differently in the years ahead to meet our objectives and mission.

### Community Strategy

#### *CPE Awash Utamet*

As reported earlier, the construction of the CPE Awash Utamet has been accomplished. The permit is pending the production of the various tools necessary to meet Ministry requirements. It is anticipated that families will be accessing the daycare centre in the course of the summer.

Amongst the needs expressed by the community is the wish to receive psycho-social and proximity health services through the Centre. A funding opportunity became available to allow us to gather together documentation confirming the pertinence of such an initiative as well as consulting the community to validate the types of services that could be offered (see Urban Partnerships, above)

#### *CEFC Building Project*

The Board dedicated resources from September to June to hire Walter Pawlikowski as project manager to move the reconstruction project forward. In the course of his mandate, a number of points have been addressed.

The business plan for the project will be complete in late Spring. The conceptualisation of the building according to the needs assessment with its implantation on the site and derogations accepted by the Town of Chibougamau is finalised. Floors plans are drafted in preparation of a call to tender for formal plans. Costs have been projected and the Board will be launching the Fundraising committee in early Fall. Although every opportunity is being explored as they arise!

#### *Entrepreneurial Symposium 2014*

The Symposium gathered around itself five (5) new partners for the 2014 edition bringing the steering committee to nine organisatio-members. The success of the 2013 format inspired a new event to be held in June 2014 in Chisasibi. Funding constraints and elections pushed the event to September when it was ultimately cancelled despite due to low registration from the Jamesian sector. Distance and time away from businesses were the primary reasons explaining the low registration despite interest in the program and networking opportunity.

#### *CSERT Social Economy Conference*

As member of the Cree Social Economy Round Table, the Centre was active in helping promote and develop the conference held in March in Val d'Or. Alfred Loon, outgoing Dlrdirector of Economic Development and Sustainable Development, and Centre Executive Director, Jo-Ann Toulouse hosted and facilitated the two-and-a-half day event.

### *UAS*

Nation-wide, Friendship Centres and their collaborators were called upon to pursue the strategic planning undertaken in 2013. The objective is to determine how best to orient federal funding streams for services required by the communities served. To this end, the CEFC pursued discussions with its collaborators and this in turn contributed to the provincial forum held in Quebec City, in March

### *NINAN*

Another province-wide research initiative led by the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtone du Québec, is Ninan – Together. Supported by the Avenir d'enfant, the aim of this three-year project is to identify and develop a plan to meet the needs of Quebec urban Aboriginal children and their families to positively influence academic and socio-economic wellbeing.

Consultations took place in Chibougamau twice in the course of the winter with the parents of young children to explore their knowledge of existing resources as well as inventory the lapses in service that would benefit from development.

### **Centre Communications**

After many years of discussion, work was begun on the Centre's website. Emails were changed to reflect the new domain: [www.eenoukamikw.ca](http://www.eenoukamikw.ca). It is anticipated that the site will be up and running in the course of the summer.

Community members turn to the internet and cellphones to obtain information about events and activities. To meet that trend, effort was put into professionalising the Centre's Facebook presence, Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre. As with all thing social media, it is a continual work in progress!

## **Governance and Administration**

### **Governance**

Two (2) Board meetings were held over the course of the year as well as two executive committee and two extraordinary meetings and a strategic vision working session. Key discussions focused on funding, building reconstruction and Centre orientations.

### **Administration**

Staffing has remained fairly stable over the 2014-2015 fiscal year at 84%, i.e. a 17% turnover rate.. Replacement in Chill Zone has been necessary due to sick leave and the lunch monitor position is always difficult to fill. Through projects and regular programming, the Friendship Centre maintained seven (7) full-time positions and four (4) part-time jobs throughout the year. Fifty-four (54%) of staff over the year were (are) Aboriginal.

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A short-term position was created to move forward the reconstruction project. Walter Pawlikowski was hired from September 2014 to June 2015 for this purpose.

We also welcome back Shannon Paddy in the shop for a few months to expand the business hours and see how the community reacted.

### CEFC Partners and Collaborators

The work of any Aboriginal Friendship Centre takes place as much outside its walls as within. Below is a non-exhaustive list of the partnering organisations and collaborators that actively worked with us this year to provide service to the community.

#### Local:

Awash Utamet CPE Board of Directors  
CAVAC  
Carrefour communautaire  
Carrefour jeunesse-emploi de la Jamésie  
Centre de femmes les Elles du Nord  
Centre d'entrepreneurship nordique  
Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau  
- Services aux entreprises  
Centre Jeunesse du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean  
Centre local d'emploi de Chibougamau  
Chibougamau Chamber of Commerce  
Chibougamau Poverty and Social Inclusion  
Committee  
Commission scolaire de la Baie-James  
Développement Chibougamau – Pacte de la  
ruralité  
École Vatican II

École Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire  
École secondaire la Porte du Nord  
MacLean Memorial School  
Maison des jeunes le Sac ados  
Maison Oxygène–Raymond-Ross et  
Réseau Hommes Québec  
Ministère de l'Économie, innovation et  
exportations Québec  
Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité  
sociale  
Office municipal d'habitation de  
Chibougamau  
SADC Chapais-Chibougamau  
Sûreté du Québec  
Ville de Chibougamau

#### Regional:

Central Québec School Board  
Centre régional de la santé et des services  
sociaux de la Baie-James  
Comité Alliance-familles  
Comité condition féminine de la Baie-James  
Comité de développement social de la Baie-  
James  
Comité de saines habitudes de vie

Commission loisirs et sport de la Baie-  
James  
Commission scolaire de la Baie-James  
Conseil régional des élus de la Baie-James  
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of  
James Bay  
Aainschuukamikw Cree Cultural Institute  
Cree Human Resources Development  
Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association

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Cree Nation Government  
Cree Social Economy Regional Table  
Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association  
Centre local de développement de la Baie-James  
Eeyou Economic Group  
Emploi-Québec regional office  
Femmessor  
Jean Boucher, Ungava MNA, Ungava  
Mouvement jeunesse Baie James

Ouje-Bougoumou Band Council  
Programme de travaux compensatoires  
Pôle de l'économie social Baie-James  
Québec Human Rights Commission  
Roméo Saganash, Member of Parliament of  
Abitibi-Eeyou Istchii, Baie-James –Kativik  
Tourisme Baie-James  
Tourism Eeyou Istchee  
Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

### Provincial:

Alliance ODENA / Réseau DIALOG  
Regroupement des Centres d'amitiés autochtones du Québec and affiliated Centres  
Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones

### National:

National Association of Friendship Centres and associated Centres

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Under the care and guidance of our Community Coordinator, Jessica Marceau, the Centre's activities and events came together through the teamwork and attention to detail she invests in all she does.

#### Activities and Projects

##### Chibougamau Eenou Women's Circle and Local Association

The Chibougamau Eenou Women's Circle is a loosely woven group of Aboriginal women living in Chibougamau that gather around the activities and initiatives of the Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre, especially craft.



The Women's Circle exists since 2006 and was initially created after the Centre obtained a grant from Status of Women to host empowerment workshops focused on feminism and leadership. The workshops did not last long but the desire to meet around crafting projects did. The Friendship Centre provided resources; a facilitator, a space, supplies, and more to enable our ladies to gather and weave ties of friendship while they share and learn traditional and contemporary crafting techniques.



After a few months' break, the Circle reinstated activities in February. The format has been changed from weekly to monthly. The group decide together the projects that are to be completed. So far, the women have done needle bags, moccasins, and gun cases.



Since 2014, LeeAnn Neeposh is the Chibougamau delegate to the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association. Elections during a founding assembly of the local association will be pending in Chibougamau to turn that delegation into a full voting member of the CWEIA Board of Directors.

#### Homework Assistance

The Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sport financially supports the existence of this program, enabling local children to benefit from additional help with their lessons and assignments free of cost.

This year, the CEFC received 23 registrations for the homework assistance program. Among these are students from Maclean Memorial, Notre Dame du Rosaire, Vatican II, and Bon

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Pasteur. Even though not all 23 attended the homework sessions on a daily basis, some were present regularly. Our trilingual tutor ensured a pleasant atmosphere and that children received the support needed to carry out their assignments. Every day, the students were welcomed with a healthy snack to get their tummies full and their mind straight to attack their homework!

Given that the French schools gave primarily reading and study assignments rather than homework this year, for a second year in a row, the focus was on reading aloud and practicing vocabulary to help third-language learners strengthen skills and confidence in the classroom and school yard.

### Groupes Neurones

In January, the CEFC, in collaboration with Groupe Neurones, attempted to put in place the Meegwin Gamkw youth homework assistance project. Unfortunately, a lack of response from the target clientele forced the project to be cancelled. Therefore, we are planning to reinstate the project in the Fall.

### Leçon à leçon - Vatican II

Also a Groupes Neurones project, Leçon à Leçon is an extraordinary inter-school student collaboration to launch learning tools developed by students for students that took place late autumn 2014 and can be seen on Youtube. The Centre was honoured to be called upon to morally support this École Vatican II initiative.

### Chachabayoaw (Young Parents Group)

March 26th marked the first young parents meeting (Chachabayoaw). Working in collaboration with the Centre Jeunesse, this open group was put in place in order to work with young parents using youth protection services in Chibougamau. It is interesting to note that the parents do not currently have children in public care, the collaboration is a preventive measure to maintain children in the families and provide parents away from extended family with the support to build their confidence as parents. The group has specific objectives such as helping to improve parenting skills by providing tools, breaking isolation, and encouraging a healthy family lifestyle. So far, we have welcomed three (3) parents with their children.

## EVENTS

### Community and Potluck Suppers

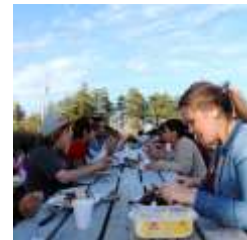
The CEFC hosted nine (9) suppers in the course of the year from September to June. Some had themes like Thanksgiving, Intercultural Friendship, Goose Break or the annual Aboriginal Day *macouchan* but some also were just an opportunity to gather friends and neighbours together for an evening of catching up. Each supper gathered together between a dozen and seventy people each time.



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### Nisk Supper

We held our annual Nisk Supper, celebrating the return of the geese in the our territory and the hunt associated with it. We are happy to celebrate this ancestral event the best way possible, by honouring the gift the geese made to the hunters with a community feast. The hunters brought us plenty of geese this year and everybody enjoyed the meal!



### Youth Gala

As each year, we held our Chishteyihaakusuu Youth Gala to highlight how our youth lives by our traditional teachings and keep our ancestors' wisdom alive.

The seven teachings are:

**Honesty**

**Humility**

**Wisdom**

**Love**

**Respect**

**Courage**

**Truth**

We stress the importance of the seven teachings in the everyday life and honour our youth living by these. Parents and friends were invited to celebrate and share a delicious feast with us.

#### We were proud to honour:

Alicia Bosum-Longchap  
Tyrallynn Coon  
Jessy Etapp  
Tamara Gunner  
Karyn Neeposh  
Silas Petawabano  
Creelynn Shécapié  
Michelle Sutherland Jean  
Jessyca Thisdale

Lee Burton  
Jalen Coon-Come  
Shirleann Etapp  
Allayna Hughboy  
Kyana Vachon Ottereyes  
Indya Polson  
Layla Simard  
April Trapper  
Deleah Vachon

Jiyâmeyihtam Brousseau Fayed  
Zephaniah Coonishish-Coon  
Kobee Gunner  
Gabrielle Knapton Ironside  
Hannah Petawabano  
Kinsley Rabbitskin  
Annalisa Sutherland Jean  
Audrey Trapper  
Gabriel Wapachee



### Aboriginal Day 2014

We celebrated the 33rd edition of our Chibougamau Eenu Friendship Centre Aboriginal Day this June 7 at the Gilman Beach. Aboriginal Day is a special moment to gather, celebrate our heritage and share our culture with Chibougamau's population. More than 300 people answered the call and celebrated with us.

The format of the 2014 edition was modified to streamline the event as well as meet resource constraints as much monetary as labour! Rather than hosting a feast as has been our wont in years past, we offered tastings throughout the day. This was a great success with people who drop in rather than spend the day. Many planned their visit according to the menu! And the music!



The day began with the Walking out Ceremony for Rylee Heaven Faith Longchap Lapointe. Afterwards, Chibougamau's own Paula Menarick, and Gabriel Whiteduck's Traditional Dance Troop entranced the audience with breathtaking performances to the sound of Washeshkun Singers. Throughout the day, Aboriginal artists, games, tastings, arts and crafts expressed the breadth of our traditions carrying forth into tomorrow. Special thanks again to Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute for their participation. And grateful shout outs to the craftspeople, vendors, performers, volunteers, staff and guests for having celebrated the day so beautifully with us.

### Sisters in Spirit



October 4th, countless Canadians supported our murdered and vanished sisters by participating in a Sisters in Spirit event. The Chibougamau Eenu Friendship Centre organized an evening of sharing and remembrance on October 2nd. The evening started with a sacred fire. Then, Wayne Rabbitskin, who led a walk of 21 days from Chisasibi to Mistissini to raise awareness of violence towards the women and children of Eeyou Istchee, shared his views on the central place of women and children in our society. Afterwards, Jo-Ann Toulouse, Executive Director of the Chibougamau Eenu Friendship Centre, advocated for the implementation of a national commission of inquiry by the Harper Government to address this particular issue. To close the event, a candlelight solidarity walk made its way across town centre.

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### Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtone du Québec Annual General Assembly

The Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre was happy to host a working session and the Annual General Assembly of the Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtone du Québec (RCAAQ). We held this event at the Mont Chalco ski lodge from October 16 to 18, 2014. All guests enjoyed legendary Cree hospitality that culminated in a hand drum presentation by the Waseskun Drummers, a rousing evening of song with John Boudrias as well as a memorable contemporary moose bourgignon.



Within this event, major decisions were made about concerted actions to be carried out by members of the RCAAQ to help Centres position themselves for the serious challenges ahead.

### Christmas Community Supper



We held our annual Christmas supper December 17<sup>th</sup> to which all the community was invited. 30 people were present at this beautiful gathering. After the supper, a scavenger hunt kept people scrounging throughout the Centre and lo and behold! Santa Claus came to give an early treat to 11 children before leaving to prepare for Christmas eve!

The supper was again a happy success and we look forward to welcoming you again next year.

### Family Sliding Day

February 21<sup>st</sup> was our annual Family Sliding Day at the Mont Chalco. Parents and children, 25 in all, came and enjoyed an afternoon of gathering, fun, joy, and tubing. We served hot chocolate and healthy snacks to the participating families to warm them up!



### Festival Folifrets

This year at the Festival Folifrets Baie-James Family Day, the CEFC staff offered cultural food tastings such as donuts, indian pogos, and bannock to the families and other curious members of the community who came inside our teepee on main street. We also took this opportunity to talk about the CEFC's history, activities, services offered and upcoming events.



### 11th Annual Intercultural Friendship Week

#### Wedokodadowiin training

During our 2015 Intercultural Friendship Week, we provided the opportunity for health, social and education workers to learn more about Natives' way of life, specifically the Cree Nation. This workshop was offered by the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue. With this information, the workers present at the event will be more apt to give culturally adapted services to our people. We would like to extend our thanks to Janet Mark who gave an entertaining and informative session.

#### Gym Night with the Maison des Jeunes <<Sac-Ados>>

In collaboration with the Maison des Jeunes <<Sacs-Ados>>, 15 children and youth came to enjoy an evening of sports and entertainment at the Polyvalente la Porte du Nord gym. The participants had fun playing basketball and soccer while making new friends.

#### Drum workshop with Gabriel Whiteduck

On the evenings of March 18 to 20, Gabriel Whiteduck animated drum workshops for youth and adults who desired to learn the art of drumming. Few participants attended, but those who did appreciated their time with Gabriel and were thankful for the teachings he gave them.

#### <<Myths et réalités>> workshop at Place le Chainon

On March 19th, the CEFC had a kiosk at the mall with our <<myths et réalités>> workshop to test the knowledge of Chibougamau shoppers on Aboriginal culture. In all, 12 people stopped by and took the test with the help of the staff member. The results were surprising, with more than half obtaining more than 50% correct answers!

#### Earring Workshop

The CEFC and Ville de Chibougamau worked together to give an earring workshop at the Chibougamau municipal library. Melissa Rogers gave the workshop to the 12 women who had registered. The participants had a great time beading and exchanging on a common interest of handmade earrings.

#### Intercultural Friendship Supper

March 21<sup>st</sup> marked the last day of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of our Intercultural Friendship Week. For this occasion, we had our International Potluck Supper at the bowling hall where the participants each brought casseroles from their cultures so everyone could taste. Even though only 9 people attended the event, the evening was very enjoyable and the participants got to enjoy delicious food!



**Pink Shirt Day**



**Family Day  
Folifrets**



**Intercultural Friendship Week**

2014 was a busy year. With the help of the community, we promoted our culture, philosophy and wisdom. The huge success of Family Day (with the collaboration of Oujé-Bougoumou Tourism), Intercultural Friendship Week and Aboriginal Day are due to our ability to connect with the citizens of Chibougamau and our capacity to create lasting bonds of friendship with other Nations. We are proud to have celebrated with you the achievements of our youth, a key in the future success of our community.

For this marvellous year, the Centre thanks you, our community, for your involvement and support.



**Aboriginal Day**



**Nisk Supper**



**Chishteyihaakusuu Gala**



**Christmas 2014**

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Socio-Economic Development Sector ensures that the CEFC contributes to its financial autonomy by creating means of sustainability, profit and longevity. A social enterprise long before the term became current in Québec, the Centre adheres to the principle that profit returns to those who generate it – the artisans, employees and community members - through programs, activities and respectful mark-up. The two key services that enable us to work towards our goal of sustainability are the Lunch Program and the Craft Shop.

#### Lunch Program

The Centre is a very lively place at lunch time with nine (9) to thirty-five (35) starving children and teens clamouring for food and attention. This program encourages students to feel at home in town while eating a healthy, low-cost meal in good company.

Pricing was again reviewed this year to shorten the gap between actual cost and modest family cost. A hard look was also taken at the veggies that go uneaten and meals that are snubbed for fast food in town. Nutrition workshops both for youth and staff helped change attitudes somewhat although carrots still do not beat poutine on Thursday noons. While still in some deficit, the social gain in providing a known and valued place for lunch for our children makes the program a success.

Elementary-aged children benefitted from the crafting talents of Angie, Jessica and Charlotte as well as numerous occasions to play out of doors before heading back to school. The occasional movie crept in as a treat when behaviour was exemplary and the weather uninviting.

Our teens are very much enjoying the opportunities provided by Frédéric to play the various games available, as well as hang out, do homework or step into a quick game of street hockey!

#### Craft Shop



The Friendship Centre is renowned for its Craft Shop. Over the past years, it has gained the reputation for being the best place to find Cree crafts in the lower North. Native community members, local residents and tourists make the shop a popular spot for supplies and quality traditional merchandise.

Despite increased diversity in supplies and finished craft, the shop is feeling the economic downturn that is current in Chibougamau and indeed, all of Québec. Increased competition from online venues is also affecting sales of craft supplies. We anticipate that bringing the shop online on our future website ([eenoukamikw.ca](http://eenoukamikw.ca)) will be of great benefit for customers and crafters alike.

## 2014-2015 CEFC Annual Report

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As is the Centre's custom, the major part of the sale price goes to the craftsperson who created the item. More than 76% of the shop's clientele is Aboriginal which suggests that we are indeed hearing and responding to the needs and interests of the community through the shop. We note also a modest increase in local non-Native sales as shoppers discover the varied wares on offer, many of whom seek gifts and personal items that reflect the peoples of the region.

As mentioned earlier, through the 2014-2015 *Urban Partnerships* stream of federal project funding, the Centre undertook a pre-feasibility study and community consultation to explore opportunities to develop cooperative crafting as both a means of knowledge transfer and preservation, and stable source of supply for the our shop, Aanischaaukamikw, and others across the region. Final results are pending.

### Chibougamau Eenou Friendship Centre Team

#### Board of Directors

Melissa Rodgers – President

Manon Richmond – Vice-President

Pierre Pelletier – Secretary-Treasurer

Cindy Morrison – Director

Sarah Pashagumskum – Director

LeeAnn Neeposh

Jessyca Thisdale – Youth Representative

#### Administration

Jo-Ann Toulouse – Executive Director

Agnes Moore – Accounting Clerk

Jessyca Thisdale – Reception/Shop

#### Community Services

Frédéric Launière – Youth Animator

Jessica Marceau – Community Coordinator

Nicolas Paillard – Communication Coordinator

Fabienne Boulanger – Cook

Angie Mark – Lunch Monitor

#### Homework Monitor

Annabelle Awashish

## APPENDIX

**2014-2015 Statistics**

## FICHE D'INFORMATION

### PROFIL SOCIAL ET ÉCONOMIQUE DE LA POPULATION AUTOCHTONE À CHIBOUGAMAU

Faits saillants tirés de Cartographie sociale et économique de la population autochtone des villes du Québec. La ville de Chibougamau et la zone d'influence territoriale du Centre d'amitié Eénou de Chibougamau. Rapport de recherche, Carole Lévesque, Philippe Apparicio, Martin Gagnon, Édith Cloutier, Jo-Ann Toulouse et Josée Goulet. 2011. Cahier ODENA no. 2011-03, Alliance de recherche ODENA, Réseau de recherche et de connaissances relatives aux peuples autochtones (DIALOG) et Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, Montréal.

[www.odena.ca](http://www.odena.ca)

#### LA POPULATION AUTOCHTONE À CHIBOUGAMAU

Entre 1996 et 2001, la population autochtone de la ville de Chibougamau a augmenté de 50%: cette population se chiffrait à 105 en 1996 alors qu'elle se chiffre à 145 personnes en 2001.

Depuis 2001, la population autochtone de la ville de Chibougamau est pratiquement stable. Elle est de 140 personnes en 2006.

#### UNE POPULATION NOMBREUSE D'INDIENS INSCRITS

Pratiquement toutes les personnes ayant une identité autochtone sont inscrites au Registre des Indiens : en 2006, cette proportion atteint 98,5% dans la zone d'influence, soit plus que dans toute autre zone.

#### SITUATION FAMILIALE

Une majorité de la population est formée d'enfants vivant avec au moins un parent : ils constituent 52,1% des effectifs autochtones de la zone d'influence en 2006, la seule où ils sont majoritaires avec la zone d'influence de La Tuque.

#### INDICATEURS ÉCONOMIQUES

Une forte proportion des revenus provenant des emplois : elle atteint 75,6% en 2005 dans la zone d'influence du CAEC, soit davantage que dans toute autre zone ainsi que dans la population du Québec (73,2%).

Plus d'un homme sur cinq au chômage : le taux de chômage des hommes autochtones de la zone d'influence atteint 21,9% en 2006, en baisse de seulement 0,5 % depuis 1996.

#### LA SITUATION ÉCONOMIQUE DES FEMMES AUTOCHTONES EST PLUS PERFORMANTE

Le revenu des femmes autochtones est presque aussi élevé que dans la population du Québec : leur revenu atteint 95,8% de celui des Québécoises en 2005, soit la plus forte proportion de toutes les zones d'influence.

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[www.odena.ca](http://www.odena.ca)

#### LANGUE AUTOCHTONE

**La plupart des résidents autochtones de la ville de Chibougamau parle la langue crie.**

#### QU'EST-CE LA ZONE D'INFLUENCE TERRITORIALE D'UN CENTRE D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONE ?

La zone d'influence territoriale d'un centre d'amitié autochtone est l'aire de distribution et de circulation de la population autochtone à l'intérieur d'un territoire donné. Ce territoire est déterminé selon plusieurs échelles : municipalité, agglomération, municipalité régionale de comté (MRC) et regroupement de MRC, et intègre, selon le cas, les villes, villages, communautés ou autres lieux de rencontre saisonniers ou permanents. Ce territoire est également traversé de nombreuses infrastructures. Cette zone d'influence territoriale est le théâtre d'un ensemble de relations de diverses natures (sociales, commerciales, économiques, etc.). À l'intérieur de cette zone, le centre d'amitié agit comme un pôle de convergence qui engendre une nouvelle mobilité ou circulation des individus. La zone d'influence se mesure à la fois sous l'angle démographique et sous l'angle des services offerts à la population concernée.

#### La portée spatiale d'un centre d'amitié autochtone

La présence d'un centre d'amitié autochtone dans une ville engendre une nouvelle dynamique territoriale pour la population autochtone de l'endroit et des environs. À partir des données du recensement canadien, nous proposons un nouvel agencement des données statistiques et spatiales relatives à la population autochtone résidant dans ces villes ou dans les communautés environnantes en matière d'identité, d'âge, de sexe, de situation socioéconomique, de langue et de mobilité.



Source : Statistique Canada, le recensement de 2006, les données de la région (1). Carte : (2).

#### LA ZONE D'INFLUENCE DE CHIBOUGAMAU

La zone d'influence de Chibougamau comprend l'essentiel du territoire équivalent à une MRC de Baie-James (la partie sud de la région administrative Nord-du-Québec), ainsi que le village et la Terre crie de Whapmagoostui. En sont exclues les populations des municipalités de Baie-James, Lebel-sur-Quévillon et Matagami. La zone d'influence comporte au total dix-sept localités, soit deux villes (Chapais et Chibougamau), huit villages crie, huit Terres crie et un établissement crie. Elle occupe une superficie totale d'environ 303 680 km² en date du recensement de 2006. En 2006, elle compte une population totale de 23 310 personnes dont 13 800 ayant déclaré une identité autochtone. En plus des habitants de la municipalité de la ville de Chibougamau elle-même, la zone d'influence du CAEC considère les résidents de la totalité du territoire de la Baie-James précité (Eeyou Itchee) notamment celle des neuf communautés crie.

**FICHE D'INFORMATION**  
**RÉSULTATS PRÉLIMINAIRES DE L'ENQUÊTE RÉALISÉE**  
**AUPRÈS DE LA POPULATION AUTOCHTONE DE LA VILLE DE**  
**CHIBOUGAMAU, MAI 2013**  
**(échantillon = 59 personnes)**

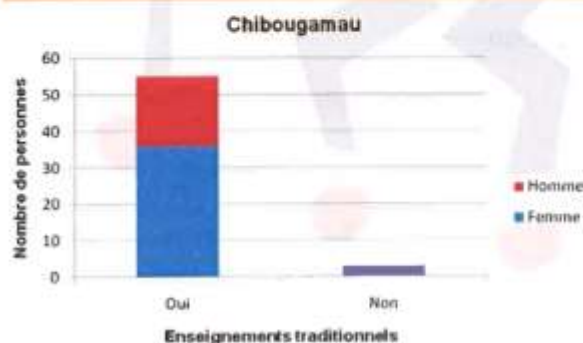
## Diplomation

**56 % des personnes détiennent au moins un diplôme**



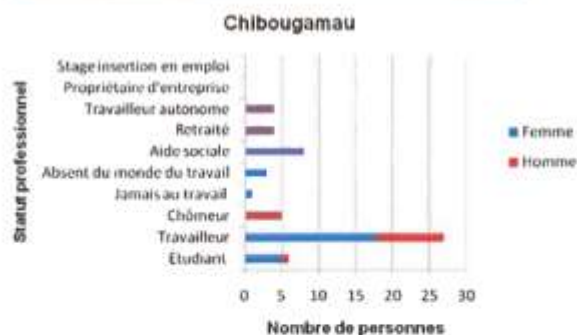
## Savoirs traditionnels

**94 % des répondants ont reçu des enseignements traditionnels**



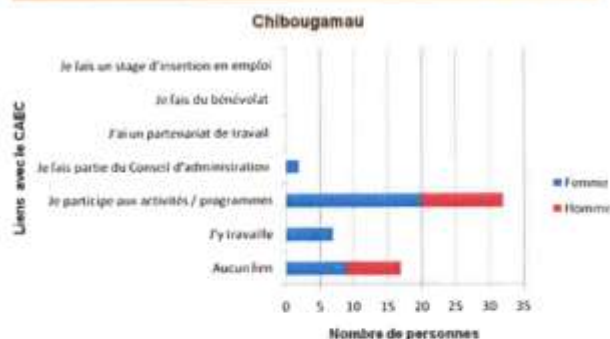
## Statut professionnel

**52 % des personnes sont sur le marché du travail**



## Liens avec le CAEC

**70 % des personnes rencontrées ont un lien avec le CAEC**



## Centre d'amitié Eenu de Chibougamau

Mis sur pied en 1969, le Centre d'amitié Eenu de Chibougamau fut le premier centre d'amitié autochtone à ouvrir ses portes au Québec (sous le nom de Centre indien Cri de Chibougamau). Sa mission est d'encourager la compréhension entre Autochtones et allochtones et de favoriser la participation des Autochtones à la société urbaine. Le Centre participe aussi à la promotion de la culture et des traditions autochtones à travers une boutique d'artisanat qui propose une vaste gamme d'objets artistiques.

# FICHE D'INFORMATION

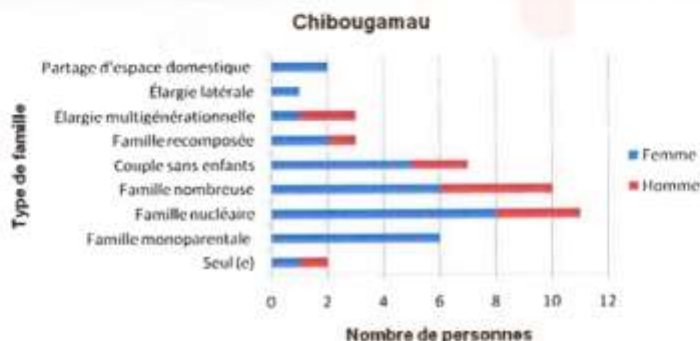
## RÉSULTATS PRÉLIMINAIRES DE L'ENQUÊTE RÉALISÉE AUPRÈS DE LA POPULATION AUTOCHTONE DE LA VILLE DE CHIBOUGAMAU, MAI 2013 (échantillon = 59 personnes)



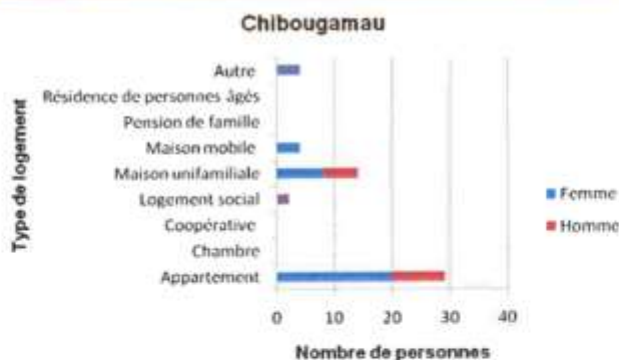
L'enquête provinciale de l'Alliance de recherche ODENA vise à recueillir des informations de première main sur les conditions de vie des Autochtones qui résident de manière permanente ou temporaire dans les villes du Québec. Cette fiche présente les résultats préliminaires de l'enquête en cours. Pour en savoir plus, consulter : <http://www.odena.ca/fr/recherche/enquete-provinciale-110/>.

### Ménages

24 % des personnes habitent avec leur famille nucléaire ; 22% vivent dans une famille nombreuse



54 % des personnes habitent en appartement



### Mobilité

16 % vivent un mode d'alternance résidentielle ou professionnelle entre une ville et une communauté autochtone

