

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WASKAHEGEN: A SUPPORT YOU CAN COUNT ON, EVEN DURING A PANDEMIC







Table of Contents	3
Message from the Chief Executive Officer	4 - 5
Message from the President of the Native Alliance of Quebec	6 - 7
Message from the Building Operations Supervisor	8 - 9
Message from the Socio-Community Workers Supervisor	10 - 11
Message from the Technical Services Director	12 - 13
Pourvoirie du lac Husky	14
The Waskahegen Classic	14
Board of Directors	15



WASKAHEGEN:
A SUPPORT YOU
CAN COUNT ON,
EVEN DURING A
PANDEMIC



Gilles Bérubé

Chief Executive Officer

The COVID-19 crisis has certainly affected Corporation Waskahegen. All planned repairs were postponed.

Only emergencies were attended to. This unexpected situation has required us to reorganize the way we work.

Social distancing, sanitary measures and teleworking have become features of our daily lives over the past few months.

Even if the pandemic has disrupted our activities, Corporation Waskahegen has remained strong and active. There has been a greater demand for our social services than ever. We have been able to count on the dedication of our social workers, who have taken care of our clientele. Our organization has used all the means necessary to ensure that our most vulnerable tenants suffer the least possible. We have been especially attentive to the elderly, who were confined to their homes.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, we are building on the lessons learned since last March. Thanks to our solid team, we know that we are ready to weather the storm by looking after the well-being of all our tenants.

Also, during a visit to gather information about customer satisfaction, we contacted tenants to ask them what they thought of our services. The results are presented in this annual report.

I would like to thank the entire Corporation Waskahegen team for its dedication and enthusiasm. The challenge still exists, but true to custom, we have shown that the well-being of our tenants remains our priority.

Gilles Bérubé



Gérard Coulombe

President-Grand Chief
Native Alliance of Quebec Inc.

It is my pleasure to share with you the activities accomplished by the Native Alliance of Quebec Inc. since my election in January 2020. During this time, the NAQ team has worked tirelessly to put our house in order. And determine the organizational procedures to respond to the needs of NAQ employees, and thereby ensure that there is much less delay in the delivery of membership cards and other services offered to our members.

MEMBERSHIP

When I arrived at the NAQ in October 2019, the membership office registered a delay of around 3 to 5 years for hundreds, even thousands, of files that hadn't been processed by the previous administration, but since the implementation of these new organizational procedures, memberships are now processed within a maximum period of two to three weeks if the applications are complete. As such, more than 2,200 late files have been processed.

NAQ WEBSITE

A few months ago, our new website was created. We are proud of this new website because it will allow us to post and update information about our communities. The site is still under construction and we are adding new information daily. Please visit the site at the following address: www.aaqnaq.com.

NEW PLATFORM

A new platform that will replace the Intranet will be up soon. This new database will have a lot more information and be more user-friendly for both the communities and the people responsible for membership in the communities.

CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The NAQ is still sitting on the board of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) and is the only Quebec organization to do so. A great deal of development is currently underway and a lot of files have already been completed.

In March, the NAQ presented a project to the CAP on urgent measures to be taken to counter the COVID-19 pandemic. A request was made to the federal government and the CAP was approved for an overall project that would group together all CAP-affiliated Indigenous associations in the provinces and territories, including the NAQ. The NAQ has received a subsidy and is currently working on the development of this new project. This phase of the COVID project will focus on providing information to NAQ communities in the midst of the second wave of the coronavirus.

The CAP is continuing its efforts with the federal government on the Political Accord and Daniels Decision for the recognition of our rights. This is an ongoing file.

The CAP's Annual Assembly will take place on October 2 and 3, 2020, during which elections for the positions of Grand Chief and Vice Grand Chief will be held.

Since the elections in January 2020, I must admit that we have a very good agreement with the CAP team and leaders. We continue to work together for the good of our members.

RENOVATIONS AT THE HEAD OFFICE

In December 2019, the head office, following a board decision, took initiatives for the workplace health and safety of all employees while ensuring the compliance and good repair of our building for several years to come.

CORPORATION WASKAHEGEN AND HABITAT MÉTIS DU NORD

It is important to inform you that since the Decree of September 5, the NAQ and service corporations have been working together closely and the rapport we have with Corporation Waskahegen and Habitat Métis du Nord has only benefited from this. We appreciate our service corporations for having reimbursed dues for services rendered.

As collaboration is the way to go, let's continue to work together for the good of all our Indigenous members.

Gérard Coulombe



Patricia Lebeuf

Building Operations Supervisor

Life, during this pandemic, requires constantly adapting to the changes we face. So, we had to quickly get into “problem-solving mode” to find ways to apply the various preventive measures promulgated by the government to protect the health of our tenants and employees and limit the spread of the coronavirus in our housing stock.

Solidarity and mutual support are important in this difficult period because we are currently going through an unprecedented crisis that keeps us on our toes and drains our energy. We have, without hesitation, assumed our support role as building manager, and to date, I’m very proud of our team, which has been able to demonstrate its values by exceeding expectations!

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Thanks to the Renoregion program, which we represent as an agent for the Société d’Habitation du Québec, we have been able to enhance the quality of life of six low-income families. Over the course of the program that started on April 1, 2019 and ended on March 31, 2020, these families shared a total of \$70,638.59 for the execution of work to correct major defects in their homes.

MESSAGE FROM THE BUILDING OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR



LA TUQUE COMMUNITY CENTRE

In June 2019, tenants in the La Tuque area had the pleasure of welcoming a cheerful and dynamic new coordinator, Joanie Simard, to their community centre. She has brilliantly continued in the footsteps of her predecessors by planning and organizing a variety of activities.

COMMUNITY GARDEN



"MY HOME, MY PRIDE!" COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In 2019, more than 15 community activities took place in the different branches across Quebec. The projects submitted to us must be based on the collaboration and active participation of residents. They should have concrete effects on the enhancement of the quality of life of our tenants. The aim of these projects is for better interpersonal relations in the neighbourhood and an increased sense of belonging. Here are some photos for you to see the eager participation of our tenants.



ART WORKSHOP



FLOWER BOXES



Véronique Bérubé

Socio-community
intervention supervisor

If we had to sum up the last year in one word, I think “adaptation” would be the one.

Corporation Waskahegen and Habitat Métis du Nord had to innovate and find new ways of working to stay connected with our clientele in the context of the pandemic. I’m proud of my team, which conducted a survey among our elderly and vulnerable clientele by phone. The solitude created by the lockdown affected people from all walks of life. This phone contact was greatly appreciated by our clientele. It was meant to be reassuring and allowed us to take the pulse of our tenants’ physical and mental health.

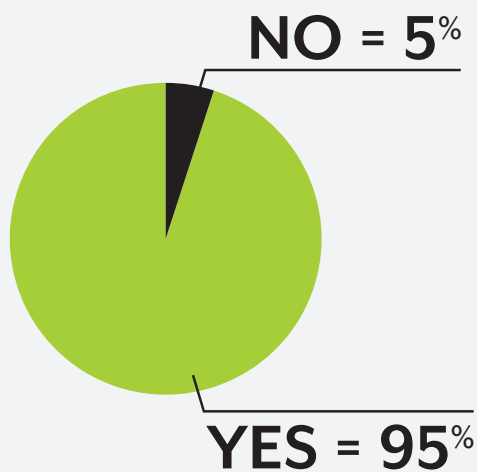
Subsequently, realizing that preventive health measures limited field visits, the management ordered socio-community workers to conduct a survey among a random sample of tenants from every area in Quebec. Our goal was to find out our clientele’s level of satisfaction and improve our services. You will find the results on page 11.

In general, we noticed a high level of satisfaction, but we still want to improve our services and our housing stock. I would like to thank our clientele for taking the time to respond to this survey. Your kind words keep our enterprise and employees going.

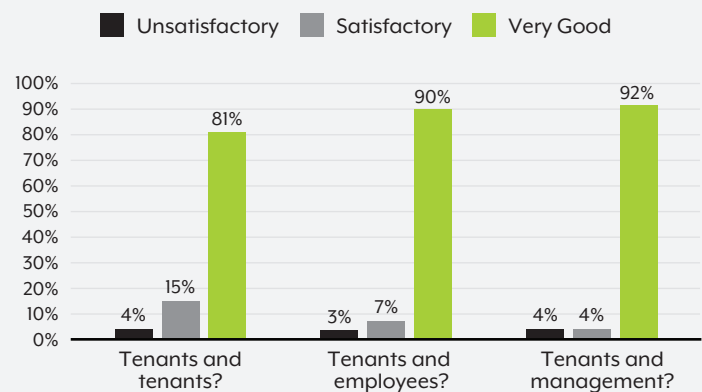
The pandemic is still there and we’ll still have to adapt, but I know that solidarity and mutual support are important values for Indigenous people and we will come out of this stronger. In this period when our living environment is more important than ever, we are proud to be able to offer off-reserve Natives a housing stock of more than 2,000 units.

HERE ARE THE PROVINCIAL SURVEY RESULTS:

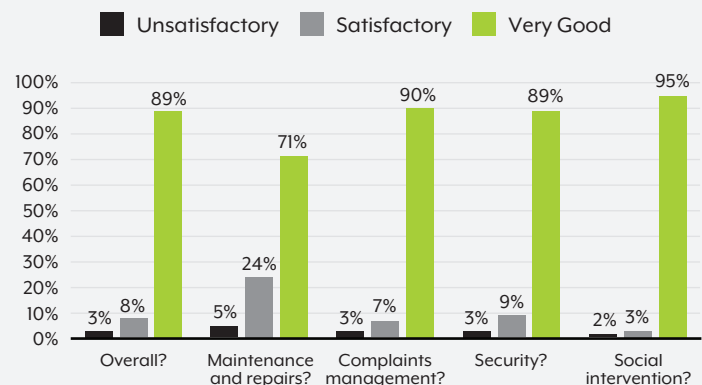
Are you still satisfied with
your decision to reside in a
HMN housing unit?



Overall, how is the
climate between:



Are the services offered by
HMN satisfactory for:





Christian Lafontaine

Technical services director

For a year now, I've been part of Habitat Métis du Nord/Corporation Waskahegen, an organization whose first and foremost mission is to contribute to the development of off-reserve Natives and enable them, among other things, to have well-maintained and safe housing. I take my job very seriously and am determined to continue improving our housing stock through healthy budget management and project planning.

For 2020, we had a total budget of \$3,245,500.00, which we allocated as follows to each region:

Region	Number of housing units per region	Investment by region	% invested
Val d'Or	120	\$207,712.00	6%
Rouyn-Noranda	197	\$340,993.87	11%
Mansfield	250	\$432,733.33	13%
Maniwaki	241	\$417,154.93	13%
Québec	255	\$441,388.00	14%
Montréal	108	\$186,940.80	6%
Dolbeau-Mistassini	306	\$529,665.60	16%
Baie-Comeau	155	\$268,294.67	8%
Sept-Îles	145	\$250,985.33	8%
Mont-Joli	98	\$169,631.47	5%
Total	1875	\$3,245,500.00	100%

For project planning, we rely on the expertise of an architectural firm to produce a building health report as well as a complete description of the work needing to be done and its urgency.

After verification, the field coordinators collaborate with our technical team to ensure that the works planned in the budget are executed by professionals at the best rate.

Obviously, the works needing faster action are prioritized. For example, a roof older than 20 years, a foundation with cracks or an end-of-life bathroom will take priority over flooring or kitchen cabinets.

We all know that this has been an exceptional year. With COVID-19, the safety of our tenants has been our primary concern. This is why we have adjusted to the situation and redoubled our efforts to continue providing the same service while respecting public health and safety requirements.

All projects in the RAM (major works) budget as well as all preventive and corrective works were completed despite the pandemic.

Every day, we work on reinventing how we do things to be able to keep up with this new reality.

To end, I would like to take the time to thank our partners (SHQ, CMHQ), our employees and those who contribute directly or indirectly to make all this possible.



POURVOIRIE DU LAC HUSKY: PLEASURE ... NATURALLY!

ALL-SEASON ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE:

- fishing
- hunting
- walking
- canoeing
- quad biking
- snowmobile rides
- snowshoeing
- etc.

Pourvoirie du Lac Husky

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Phone: 418 276-7551
Email: info@lachusky.com
www.lachusky.com

Do you want to go on an adventure and experience the unforgettable? The Pourvoirie du Lac Husky is the place for you! We invite you to come and enjoy the extraordinary panoramas of the Quebec boreal forest with its innumerable lakes and be charmed by the range of outdoor activities that we offer. This corner of paradise located roughly 200 km north of Dolbeau-Mistassini is the ideal destination for family vacations or great hunting and fishing trips. You can choose an American or European package, according to your needs, or yet, opt for a customized one for a holiday beyond your wildest expectations. Rest assured that your stay at the Pourvoirie du Lac Husky will be a success, with all the stops pulled out!

Accessible by vehicle, Lake Husky is located north of the 50th parallel. This headwater lake is the source of the Mistassibi River and stretches over a distances of 8 km, which is a lot of fresh water for fabulous fishing! Get off the beaten track by exploring the vast spaces of the Pourvoirie du Lac Husky!



THE WASKAHEGEN CLASSIC: 13TH EDITION CANCELLED

The 13th edition of the Waskahegen Classic, which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has in fact just been put off. Since the inception of the Waskahegen Classic, more than \$278,000 has been raised for the Fernand Chalifoux Foundation. Remember that the mission of this organization is to respond to the specific needs of Indigenous youths in healthcare and education. We sincerely hope that it can take place in 2021. We'll let you know later!



Gilles Bérubé

Chair



Fernand Chalifoux

Vice-Chair and Resource
Person



Jean Jolicoeur

Secretary-Treasurer



Denis Larche

Director



Sylvain Sasseville

Director



Roland Normandeau

Director



Raymond Bouchard

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