



Finance and Administration Department

3rd Quarterly Report 2022-2023

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Reflecting the Strategic Plan

LEADERSHIP

GOAL: SELF-GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL IDENTITY OF SIB.

- As we have recently updated our Financial Administration Law towards Financial Management Systems Certification, Seabird has taken another step forward self-government where our update policies reflect the cultural and traditional values of our community.
- Under the 10 Year Grant Funding Agreement, Seabird Island has been able to manage its own funding and utilization of funding through changes in policies and reporting requirements that reflect the cultural and traditional values of SIB.
- We continue to ensure that all staff is provided the indigenous perception training within 3 months of being employed by SIB to have a better understanding of SIB's cultural and traditional identity.
- We continue to strive for more SIB cultural related staff activities which include sharing of stories and experiences from elders.
- We continue to work with all departments and stakeholders to build financial frameworks that are sustainable and in the best interest of all band members and stakeholders.
- We are governed under the Seabird Island Financial Administration Law (SIFAL) which has allowed us to develop policies and a framework for a successful self-government community. In addition, we are currently progressing to the next stage of implementing Financial Management Systems (FMS) Certification and First Nation Finance Authority (FNFA) Borrowing Partner Certification to better meet our organizational and community development goals.
- The Finance and Administration department continues to partner and share SIB's cultural and traditional identity with external neighbors and stakeholders as we continue to be more self-governed.
- As we become more self-governed through initiatives such as Education Jurisdiction and increasing sources of own source revenues, SIB has been able to incorporate more SIB cultural practices and traditions into its curriculum such as land based learning and the construction of the SIB Cultural Centre.

MEMBERSHIP

GOAL: ENGAGED, EMPOWERED AND SELF-SUFFICIENT SQ'EWQELO:MEXW

- The continuous development of SIB's new websites, media sites, and the new band member's only portal has helped promote and engage SIB band members (our primary stakeholder).
- Staff meetings between staff and supervisors and among Directors to discuss and implement goals, directives, rights and responsibilities.
- As SIB continues to grow its own revenue sources, membership will become critical stakeholders in influencing, empowering, and being more self-sufficient as a member and as an organization.

- Through other economic development initiatives, SIB is working towards being a self-sustaining community through its own source revenues.

ENVIRONMENT

PROTECT AND ENHANCE S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW, INCLUDING LAND, WATER AND AIR CONSISTENT WITH TÓMIYEQW

- As Administration, we have continued to focus on going paperless and digitizing our permanent records to reduce the amount of paper usage and waste, and its consequent impact on the environment. For example, for this quarter, SIB recycled approximately 11,000lbs of paper or 90 trees from being harvested. With the help of technology, SIB continues to strive for being more paperless and reduce its environmental footprint on the land.
- Our purchasing and procurement department continues to source and utilize products that are more environmentally friendly for all SIB departments and programs.
- With the growth in technology and SIB's IT infrastructure, more services and paperless options have had a significant impact on having a lesser footprint on the environment. An example of this is Adobe Sign which allows multi-signer document to be all paperless.
- As SIB continues to utilize technology for meetings, the reduction in the carbon footprint from SIB stakeholders travelling to meetings all over Canada is a significant benefit to the environment.
- The Records Management department has a monthly free shredding even for the SIB community that has been highly successful which allows us to recycle more as a community to help the environment.

CULTURE, HEALING, HEALTH & WELLNESS

GOAL: ÁY:MEXW – HEALTHY PEOPLE, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.

- The Finance department continues to work with ECD, Health, and Social Development departments to develop and optimize funding opportunities to maximize our service delivery to SIB members.
- The Finance department is currently working on the budget development of a 10 year Community Health Plan with FNHA which has been delayed to due COVID 19. The existing budget is being utilized until the new 10 Year approved budget and Community Health Plan is in place.
- All Finance and Administration staff continue to have strong health and safety protocol at home and work to ensure the well-being and safety of all staff.
- All Finance and Administration staff are encouraged to have work life balance and lunch time walks to manage the day to day stress at work.

INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL: AN ECONOMICALLY STABLE COMMUNITY THAT MEETS THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

- As part of the development of better connectivity at Seabird, we have recently started our Shaw project with an infrastructure assessment and walk-through of Seabird fibre infrastructure at the end of September. This project will include infrastructure upgrades, higher internet speeds, and additional Shaw Services such as Shaw Open. The goal of this project is to provide the SIB community with internet and other Shaw related services that are offered off-reserve in larger communities such as Chilliwack/Agassiz. We are hoping to have this project completed by 2023.

- As SIB have continuous demanding for growth and new facilities, the IT department has continued to work with Directors, engineers, contractors, and telecommunications experts to continue to build IT infrastructure that will support the continued growth of SIB and the needs of the community. We have adapted our infrastructure to facilitate remote working alternative for staff to keep them and their families' safe while having the ability to work from home and provide high level of service to the community. Upgrades to our off reserve facilities such as Pioneer (SIB's satellite office) has also been completed.
- As the demand for new facilities and housing needs continue to grow at SIB, the finance department has been working diligently with banking partners, CMHC, ISC, and other funders for funding and debt financing options to build these facilities in a sustainable way to minimize impact on the service delivery to band and community members.
- SIB has also started to invest in off-reserve facilities and land acquisition to meet its growing needs on-reserve as part of its long-term investment strategy. Currently, the spaces are being used as staff office space, SqDC's administration office, Records Storage facility, and Nations Creations store front and manufacturing facility. We also have other facilities such as the Trauma Healing Centre, a residential rental dwelling, a 45 unit apartment rental dwelling, and a 136 acre bare land as part of our off-reserve portfolio.