



# Mistawasis First Nation Comprehensive Community Planning Action Areas Workshop Summary Report

Cities & Environment Unit (CEU) and Mistawasis First Nation hosted a community engagement workshop for the **Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)** in February 2015. CEU staff travelled to Mistawasis for the meeting. It was the team’s fourth visit to the community, and an important stage of the planning process - an opportunity for the community to come together to develop a strategy for working together toward the Vision!

Over the course of two days, the CCP team spoke with leadership, youth, Band staff, Elders and community members.



## Action Areas Workshop February 26-27, 2015 Summary Report

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## Workshop Goals

The goals for the two-day workshop were to:

- Review the CCP process and work completed to date
- Finalize the Vision and Values statements
- Review Strengths and Issues and identify Root Causes
- Identify Action Areas
- Explore future development options
- Generate policy, program and project ideas

## Participation

A successful CCP is the result of broad participation in a community-based process, with many voices shaping the directions for future community development. The February 2015 CCP Action workshop included several productive meetings and conversations. The following is a list of meetings and sessions held during the two-day workshop:

- Meeting with Elders & Council (February 26)

- Band staff & community session (February 26)
- Radio Interview (February 27)
- Youth Focus Group (February 27)
- Meeting with Economic Development and Lands Trust Board members (February 27)

- » Shelter/group home for youth, elders
- » Gathering place
- » Drugs/alcohol awareness efforts
- » Address lateral violence
- » Health & safety education (use of chemicals, smoke detectors, etc.)

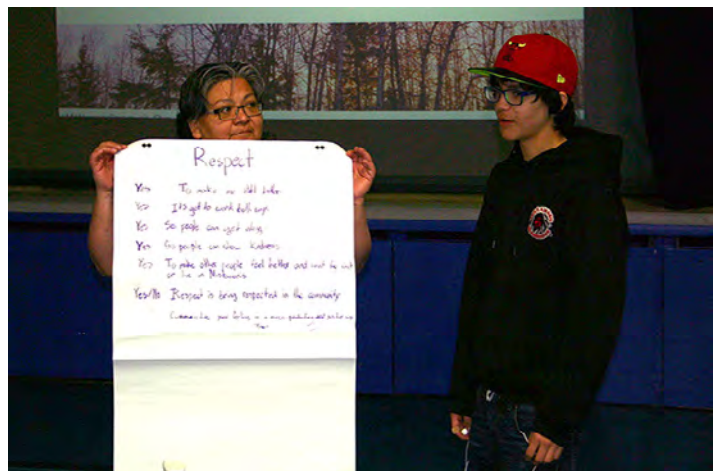
## Summary of Outcomes from Workshop Sessions

The following captures the common themes that emerged from the various workshop sessions and meetings. For more detailed notes from each session please see the following section (beginning on page 3).

### Vision and Value Statements

- Likes
  - » Self-sufficiency; respect; community leadership; health; natural environment; future generations
- Dislikes
  - » Unclear language (too wordy); too long; specific issues with “world,” “region,” “Treaty 6 Nations”
- Gaps
  - » Emphasis on diverse age groups; Change “build” to “rebuild”; Clarify “leader” and “capacity”; MFN has already “opened its doors”

- Youth & Education
  - » Youth representative on council
  - » Increased resources and support for education
  - » High school on reserve
  - » Training programs for employment
  - » Lower voter age
  - » Education a part of self-sufficiency
  - » Youth centre



### Action Areas & Policy/Project Ideas

- Governance
  - » Longer terms for chief and council – need more than 3 years to see projects through
  - » Greater community involvement & engagement
  - » Regular meetings for community planning
  - » Ongoing planning
  - » Community keeps leaders on track
  - » More reliable bylaw enforcement
  - » More interaction between governance and administration
- Health
  - » Fitness program (already started)

- Culture & Community
  - » Involve urban membership
  - » Improved communication and community involvement
  - » Door prizes
  - » Door-to-door communication
  - » Positive role models
  - » Teaching values & community history
  - » Use school facilities for community gatherings
  - » Respect
- Natural environment
  - » Clean-ups (lakes, transfer station)
  - » More respect for the natural environment

## • Economy

- » Restaurant/café development: create employment opportunities
- » Opportunity for collaboration
- » RRAC program builds shell of building
- » Public works builds parking lot
- » Casino to buy equipment
- » Iron Buffalo Centre initiates commitments with other departments
- » Youth create logo, name, branding
- » Increased training opportunities – multi-purpose training centre
- » Apprenticeships
- » Women in trades
- » Public works/administrative staff training
- » Community store
- » Picnic tables, garbage cans at lake
- » Improved signage for visitors



## Workshop Sessions

**DAY 1 - 26 February 2015**

### Meeting with Elders & Council

CEU introduced the goals of the two days and outlined the purpose of the Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) process. Elders and Counsellors shared their thoughts on the draft Vision and Value Statements that CEU presented at the meeting:

## Draft Vision and Values

- Current Chief and Council hope Band members will vote on the plan
- Need for plans to be coordinated and acted on
- Concern that plans exist but aren't acted upon
- Previous work done through community justice - work being done today will incorporate previous work
- Action Chapter - how governance might work, policies that exist
- Need to rebuild community
  - » Broken down by drugs and alcohol
  - » Engage people, get them involved
- Make Vision stronger
- Separate Council and Administration
  - » Define roles and responsibilities
  - » Community members have a responsibility to be involved
- How do you define "good governance"?
  - » Existing programs that are a model for other First Nations. Others are coming to MFN to see what they are doing.
  - » Council term is too short. Consider 3-4 year term
- Everyone has something to offer. Want to see MFN as more than a First Nation
- Vision for tomorrow: healthy and safe environment for our children

## Draft Value Statements

- The natural environment is very important
  - » Need to respect the environment more
  - » Transfer station is an example - it's being used as a dump
  - » We have beautiful lakes that are not respected
  - » Parent's responsibility to teach kids about respect
- Culture is the only thing that will save us from drugs and alcohol
- "We are survivors"
  - » Residential schools

- » Put on small reserves
- » Starvation
- » Slave labour (under Indian Agent)
- Words of values should be in the vision statement
- Recreation activities needed for youth (Volleyball, swimming pool with a water slide, at the lake)
- Aboriginal people are caught between two worlds – must leave culture to learn “white man’s” world and work. Young people are caught between both worlds – they lose their heritage (sweat lodges, ceremonies, pipes) because they need to learn other things to survive. Can’t find their identity
- There are struggles to pay for needed education supplies. Students don’t qualify for student loans – AANDC pays some but not enough
- Need to know own family to develop closeness
- Innovation in Education - include the Elders
- Need to teach the history - also outside of FNs

### Staff/Community Session - Action Areas

Turnout for this session was quite small, with only about 7 people in attendance. After some discussion of the Vision and Values the group decided to repeat the session the next morning with the hope of a larger turnout.

- Need to include urban membership – meeting in Prince Albert March 18
- Self-sufficiency/health – could be one Value
- Dealing with alcohol and drug addictions helps to promote health and self-sufficiency
- Youth: feel like what they say doesn’t matter
  - » Need a place to have a voice, say what they want, give ideas
  - » Mini Chief & Council meetings
  - » Want to see more activities (open gym exists, but need more)
  - » Funds are limited, which they understand – they need to fund raise, deal with the financial constraints
  - » Knowledge about finances limited, e.g., the

per capita cheque - youth don’t understand the history. They need to see the big picture, and have someone present the information at their level.



### DAY 2 - 27 February 2015

#### Staff/Community Session - Action Areas

CEU planners and Anthony Johnston facilitated several small group conversations to review the draft Values and Vision; review the strengths and issues and identify root causes; identify Action Areas and generate project ideas. Approximately 12 people participated. The following is a summary of the outcomes of the session.

#### Draft Vision

- Describes Mistawasis
- May need simpler terms for some
- Too wordy – need plain language
- Start with “Mistawasis First Nation”
- Too long
- Building capacity?
- Too long, wordy – need simple and clean wording
- Welcoming or inviting instead of “open doors”
- Don’t like the word “region”
- Benefit our future generations

## **Strengths and Issues**

### **Education**

#### *Strengths*

- Schools on reserve, events
- Transportation
- Lots of communication between school and parents
- Tablets – technology in the classroom
- IT support in residence – big screen in gym
- Resource materials
- Support for students and families
- Cooperative and compassionate staff
- Buildings are gathering places
- Well-maintained
- Criteria and standards to get funding

#### *Issues*

- Lack of space
- Special needs do get support
- Parental involvement - need to come in during the day and help out
- Parents need to get involved in their own child's education
- Lack of funding for e.g. Iron Buffalo High School
- Membership needs to take responsibility for their own continuing education
- Funding for higher education

### **Health**

#### *Strengths*

- More programs
- Accredited
- Better communication
- Educated and trained staff
- Elder employed

#### *Issues*

- Working on lateral violence

### **Governance**

#### *Strengths*

- Chief and Council turn up to events
- Meetings
- Transparency, accountability, available

#### *Issues*

- Respecting/enforcement of bylaws

### **Root Causes**

- Many need self-healing
- Lateral violence
- Lack of education
- Lack of communication
- Loss of traditions and culture
- Loss of parenting children

### **Action Areas & Project Ideas**

- Gathering place needed
- Youth centre
- Maps and wayfinding through the community
- Garbage cans (environment)
- Community store
- Elders and youth group home
- Emergency shelter
- Long term care for elders
- Short term treatment
- Healing circle
- Holistic building centre around a gathering place/healing centre
- Resident Elder program
- Café: gathering, social place for people to hang out. Health programs could fund it
- Women in Trades training program Could build shell of café
- Other departments could do interior/equipment
- Youth involved with logo, naming
- Training in all Administration areas for dealing with difficult people
- Health centre – fitness program
- Education is the key to success
- Multi-purpose training centre

- Restaurant – employment opportunity, training opportunity, band revenue, apprenticeship opportunity, catering

## Youth Focus Group at Chief Mistawasis School

In the afternoon the CCP team met with teachers and approximately 14 students at the Chief Mistawasis School. Students were asked to review the draft Value Statements, pick one Value and consider the following questions:

- *Does it describe a value that is important to Mistawasis members?*
- *Is the value being respected in the community?*
- *If not, how could Mistawasis restore the value in your community?*



## Values

- Values describe something that is special or important to you! They are different for everyone.
  - » Family
  - » Love
  - » Safety
  - » Water
  - » Nature
  - » Clothing
  - » Shelter
  - » Animals (pets & food)
  - » Education
  - » Friends
  - » Fun
  - » Transportation

- Respect
  - » Important to everybody
  - » Describes the value well
- “Respect” as a Value is being respected in:
  - » Sports
  - » Activities/events
  - » School
  - » Workplaces
- Not being respected:
  - » Drugs/alcohol
  - » Leadership
  - » School
  - » Social media
- Respect
  - » To make me feel better
  - » It’s got to work both ways
  - » So people can get along
  - » So people can show kindness
  - » To make other people feel better and want to visit or live in Mistawasis
  - » Is “Respect” being respected in the community? Yes and no.



- » Communicating your feeling in a more productive and positive way



- What do you like to do?
  - » Sleep, rest - don't have to do anything
  - » Sports, have fun
    - Basketball
    - Football
- What's important?
  - » Family
  - » Friends
- Youth
  - » Bring down the age to 16 to vote for Chief and Council
  - » More money for education
  - » One youth member on the council
  - » Bus rides to Leask for students of all ages
  - » Money and transportation so youth can play sports off reserve (e.g., hockey)
- Additional Values
  - » Stay in school
  - » Get a job to earn money
  - » Don't be dependent on others. Get things on your own.
  - » Independence
  - » Family is permanent. Friends come and go
  - » Community: place, people, wildlife, treaty, environment, mother earth
  - » Money

- » Health
- » Treat others the way you want to be treated
- » Respect to elders
- » Shake their hands
- » Being nice, not mean
- » There's a lack of respect for houses
- » Council can help
- » Get treatment for people
- » Youth
  - Adults think about themselves
  - Junior chief and council
- » Education
- » Money
- » Family
- » Something special
- » Math
- » Me
- » Friends
- » Land
- » Water/lakes
- » Dinosaurs
- » Natural resources



## Radio Interview

Following the Youth Focus Group Mark and Leah did a live interview on CHEC 93.7 FM to discuss the CCP project and provide an update to the community about what's happened so far and what's next in the planning process.

## Meeting with Economic Development Board and Specific Lands Trust Board Members

CEU planners Leah Perrin and Mark Nener met with Robert Daniels (Misty Ventures/Economic Development Board) and Gary Daniels (Specific Lands Trust) in Saskatoon.

Both the Economic Development and Specific Lands Trust have budgets from Chief & Council. All work is done by Committee; there are no full time employees.

- Specific Lands Trust has 5 Board members, \$13 million budget
- Economic Development Board has an \$84,000 budget
- Bridge Program
  - » Government funded program
  - » To look for acquisitions
  - » Board of Directors (6)
  - » Challenges with capital, no action
  - » Board with non-voting member of Council
  - » Sit on Saskatchewan Regional Development Authority (included in Comprehensive plan for Saskatoon)
- Mistawasis has lots of educated, skilled Band members
- For land that is designated, the Crown gives authority to the FN to head lease. This takes one year of legal work
- Misty Ventures is building a gas station outside Leask, they are at the financial stage for this project
  - » Project manager hired for this project
  - » \$6 million
- Using the Urban Systems plan to work through projects
- Other property outside Saskatoon (within the municipal boundary), 80 acres, has reserve status so Mistawasis has the right to build
  - » Looking at commercial development to earn money for the FN
  - » Took 10 years to go through the process
  - » Zoning limited it to 1 building without reserve status
  - » Feasibility study looked at:
    - Office
    - Storage facility (good because there is a limited sewer and water required)
    - Gas bar
    - Strip mall
    - Residential is not viable b/c of servicing requirements
- Would need to create own infrastructure
- Economic development should be the driver
- CPs: would have to buy land from the landowners. Band has tried to challenge this and were not successful.
  - » Not an ec.dev. problem, may be a community development obstacle
  - » Be creative and think about existing properties
    - e.g., certified organic land is perfect for cattle
- Martinsville is growing - just tied into Saskatoon infrastructure
- First Nations Land Management Act, Taxation Act – FN is in good standing and there is a sound Board.
- Community has an expectation that anything can be built. Need better understanding of solutions. Economic Development won't be a solution to social problems
- Priorities:
  - » Wealth – wealth reinvested into Corporation to get to self-sufficient status
  - » Jobs - Create jobs for members
- Need for communication: word of mouth, website, face-to-face meeting (often have low turnouts)
- Talks with an existing farmer about a transition plan for passing farm land back to the Band

## Next Steps

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- CEU planners will revise the Vision and Values based on workshop feedback and send to Anthony to share with the community.
- CEU planners will develop the first full draft of the Community Plan document, including the draft Action Areas, Structure Map and Future Development Map, and send it to Anthony to review and share with Chief & Council, staff and the community.