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# SAYISI DENE

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## Comprehensive Community Plan

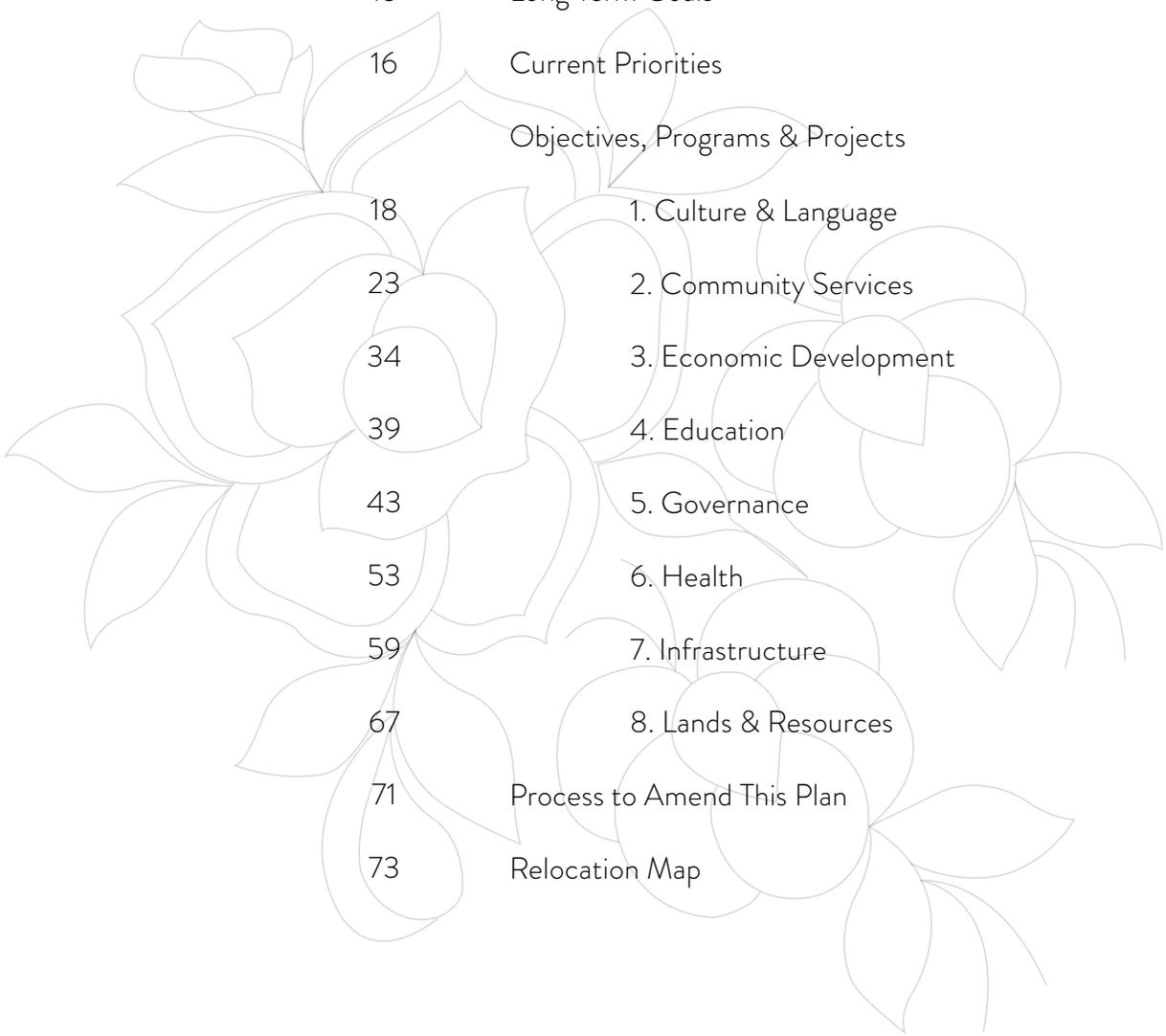
2016



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Chief Ernie Bussidor

# Message from the Chief

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The opportunity is finally here, for our community to turn the page and to plan for a positive future.

When our parents and grandparents escaped from the death clutch of the failed Relocation, they ran as far away as possible to get away from so-called “civilization” and ended up here in Tadoule Lake. This was to be our “stronghold” - to heal, to revive and to grow as the proud people we once were. We’ve been here for four decades now, and we’ve been waiting. The leaders of yesterday held on to the belief that a tremendous wrong was done to our people, and that justice would soon prevail. It took many years and many leaders – starting with Chief Peter Yassie and every Chief since, that carried this torch of grievance to the Federal government and to everyone else that would listen.

Even though the grievance was documented and studied for many years, it was the assistance of Arne Peltz and the Public Interest Law Centre who advocated on our behalf through the Federal Court of Canada to get the Government’s attention. Special Federal Appointee Jeremiah Bartram was also brought in to record and document our grievance. This was effective.

With a financial settlement offer, healing opportunities, land and an apology we now have the ingredients to grow, and to prosper financially, spiritually, culturally and academically. The time has finally arrived for us to take the lead in our lives and to push forth in putting this issue of Relocation Claim to rest, and to start a new path for our people. Our children unfortunately witnessed many of the dysfunctions we brought with us when we moved here, and it is time to roll up our sleeves together and to start making concrete plans for a positive and prosperous community for the youth and their children. It is highly unlikely that we will ever get another opportunity like this for our community and the Sayisi Dene people wherever they may live. Let's take this offer, and with optimism let our dreams for our community come true. We've waited forty years, almost half a century to seek justice, and it is now here in our laps.

A detailed comprehensive community plan will be our roadmap, if followed, to plan for expansion and development. The CCP comes from the people, and all age groups have taken part, so the path before us is clear and concise and captures all aspects of evolution for the Sayisi Dene First Nation.

*Ernie Brown*



# How to Use This Plan

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This plan belongs to the Sayisi Dene First Nation. The community created it, and it represents the desired future of our community.

We all have the responsibility to make this plan a reality. Chief and Council can use it to guide their strategic planning. Staff can use it to guide their program development and activities. Community members can use it to guide our volunteer efforts and the way we participate in our community. Outsiders can use it to better understand us, to understand where we've come from and where we are going.

This plan should be in constant use, and should be considered a living document. It may be amended as required, following the described amendment process, and it should be updated every five years to make sure that the vision and goals continue to represent the vision and goals of the Sayisi Dene people.

## ***Community Members***

There are many projects in this CCP that do not require any funding – just the will and commitment of the people. Our community will thrive if we take it upon ourselves to do these things, such as speaking Dene in our homes, treating each other with kindness and respect, and getting involved in committees.

## ***Leadership***

This plan represents the goals and vision of our community members. The words in here are the words of our people. Please use this plan to guide your strategic planning, use it as a tool to seek funding and support from the government and other supporters and funders. Use quotes from this CCP to demonstrate the thoughts and desires of our community members, and feel confident that if you follow this plan, you are following the dreams of our people.

## ***Staff***

This CCP can be one of your most helpful tools. Use it to guide your work planning, so that your programs and activities are in line with what our community wants and needs. Use it to prove, on funding applications or in meetings with funders, that these are the goals of our community and we need support to accomplish them. You can follow this CCP knowing that you will have the support of the community behind you.



Late David Duck and late Jorah Solomon playing traditional game

# History of the Sayisi Dene First Nation

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Our name for ourselves is Sayisi Dene. This means “People under the sun”. We are the most eastern of all the Dene. The sun rises on us first. There are other names for us that other people have made. Chipewyan is a word from the Cree that means “pointed hats”. The English called us the “Northern Indians”, through the early days of the Fur Trade. Today Sayisi Dene is the name we prefer to be called. Dene means “people”.

Tundra, tundra-forest, and taiga are ecological terms used to describe the land of the Sayisi Dene. The “Land of Little Sticks”, the land of the caribou, the land needed to support a way of life best described as a “seasonal round”. Our word, Dene-Nene means the land of the Dene - a word also used to mean “the backbone”.

Prior to contact with Europeans, all of our clothing was made out of fur and hide. Teepee covers were made out of caribou hides. Tools were made from stones, bones and wood. Fire was made by striking chert and quartz. Bracket fungus was used for carrying fire. Toboggans and snowshoes were used for winter travel. Dogs were used as pack animals in the summer, to pull sleds in the winter. People used the stars, lakes, rivers and landmarks for navigation. They told time by the position of the sun. They predicted the weather by observing the condition of the sky... People used medicinal plants for curing illnesses.

The smallpox epidemic of the 1780's killed nine tenths of the Sayisi Dene. This led to the Sayisi Dene becoming trappers, bringing furs to Churchill, Reindeer Lake or Knapp's Bay (now Arviat.) The Sayisi Dene (apparently) signed an adhesion to Treaty 5 on August 1st 1910 in Churchill, N.W.T. (Manitoba claimed the land two years later in 1912.) In 1929 the Hudson's Bay Company established Caribou Post at Caribou Lake. Now the Dene had a store closer to the caribou migrations and their trap lines.

In 1941 the store was moved further west, to Little Duck Lake. Duck Lake Post became a focal point for the Dene community, living in summer tents and winter cabins nearby. They built a church. Religion became part of their daily lives. It was also from here children were first sent to the residential schools. It was abandoned in 1956, when the Sayisi Dene residing at Little Duck Lake in Northern Manitoba were relocated to Churchill.

Many were not prepared to move, when a big plane came for them. Haphazardly they packed, like sardines – piled into the plane with dogs and a few belongings. They left without ever seeing their homes again. The cabins filled with their possessions – traps, winter clothes and equipment – had to be abandoned. Indian Affairs had said they would be supplied with building materials for new homes and hunting and trapping equipment would be replaced.

Only a few supplies of tar-paper, roofing and lumber were brought to the new community in North River, near Churchill, and left on shore. High tide came and washed them away. A few log cabins were built, but it was nearly impossible for the community to maintain their way of life. Eventually people began moving to Churchill, where they had to scrounge at the dump for food. From waste lumber and cardboard, people began to build shacks. The federal government eventually built some one-room shacks but people continued to live in extreme poverty and hardship. After eight years in Camp 10, the people and houses were moved to Dene Village, 5 miles out of town. In 1969 people tried to move to Knife Lake, but it could not support the people for a long time. In 1973 the Sayisi Dene moved back to Tadoule Lake, Manitoba. The move was initiated by a group of men who broke the trail on dog team, over a 13 day journey.

The Relocation of the Sayisi Dene people is viewed as one of the most grievous errors committed by the federal government of Canada. The forced relocation caused much destruction in families, approximately 130 deaths that were all related to alcohol. It stripped the Sayisi Dene of a productive life and almost destroyed the existence of Sayisi Dene.

Tadoule Lake means “floating ashes on water”. Many years ago, when people travelled to this part of the land, they often camped along the shores of this lake. Upon leaving, they threw the unfinished burnt wood into the lake... In times when there were no caribou, people often headed for this lake, as it had plenty of fish... The present community site is known as “Thay nu tuay”, meaning rock reef bay.<sup>1</sup>

In the 1990s a land claims process was initiated. The Sayisi Dene entered into the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process with the province of Manitoba, and the North of 60 process between the Nunavut and Dene people. A Relocation Claim was also started, with a settlement agreement being negotiated between the Sayisi Dene, Government of Canada, and the Province of Manitoba. This Comprehensive Community Plan has been funded through that Relocation Claim process. The Settlement Agreement also includes a financial settlement, land offer, and formal apology from Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> Sections taken from A BRIEF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE SAYISI DENE AND THEIR LAND by Mary Ila Code) 1993



Children being entertained at the meeting at Tadoule Lake

Today, the Sayisi Dene people are mostly spread between the reserve in Tadoule Lake and the cities of Thompson, Winnipeg and Churchill, Manitoba. Tadoule Lake has an airport, accepting flights from Thompson. There is also a Manitoba Hydro station to supply power, a water treatment plant, and approximately one hundred homes housing about 300 people. A nursing station provides basic health services and housing for visiting health staff, and the on-reserve elementary school, the Peter Yassie Memorial School, provides education between kindergarten and grade 12. The Northern Store provides basic groceries, household items and fuel, and some people continue to hunt, fish and trap for food, furs and fun. The elected chief and councilors (three councilors in total) work out of the band office, along with department managers in social assistance, finance, training and employment. There is also a health department, education board, and operations and maintenance department.

Separate from the band office is the land claims office, with three staff members, and a daycare that employs two people.



Bernice Thorassie, CCP Coordinator and Jessie Hemphill, CCP advisor

# How the CCP Was Made

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In the mid 2000's the Sayisi Dene First Nation began negotiations with the Government of Canada to receive recognition of and compensation for the 1956 relocation. As part of that process, the Government of Canada made the requirement that Sayisi Dene complete a Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) before any settlement claim funds were released.

In the spring of 2013, a team of Comprehensive Community Planners from British Columbia visited Tadoule Lake, including Bronwen Geddes, Elaine Alec (Penticton Indian Band) and Jessie Hemphill (Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations.) They shared stories with the community, about their homes and their own CCP processes. After this meeting, Jessie was hired to help the Sayisi Dene First Nation with our CCP.

After Jessie was hired, Bernice Thorassie was hired as the CCP Coordinator, and Ernie Bussidor was hired as the CCP Assistant. After Bernice and Ernie were hired in November, 2013, they began doing community meetings, house visits and surveys (on-reserve and in Thompson, Winnipeg and Churchill) to learn about the community's vision and goals.

In November and December of 2013 Bernice and Ernie organized seven community meetings – one to

introduce the community to the CCP process, two advisory committee meetings, one youth meeting, one meeting with all of the students at the school, one elders' meeting, and one meeting with the health director. A website was also created, [www.sdfncpp.weebly.com](http://www.sdfncpp.weebly.com) but it was challenging to keep this updated due to the poor Internet in Tadoule Lake. Bernice also used Facebook to share updates with community members.

Between 2014 and 2016 many more meetings and workshops were held, including off-reserve. While not all of them were specific to CCP, there was opportunity for discussion and questions regarding the CCP as Bernice was present at each one. They included:

## 2014

- Jan. 5-12: Jessie Hemphill in Tadoule Lake
- Feb. 21: Trust Meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Mar. 10: CCP Advisory Committee Meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Mar. 26: Community CCP Meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Apr. 30: Community CCP Meeting in Tadoule Lake
- May 6-8: Trust & Investment Workshop in Niagara Falls (staff training)
- Jun. 2: Trust Meeting in Thompson
- Jun. 10: CCP Advisory Committee Meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Jul. 25-29: CCP Work Planning with Advisor Jessie Hemphill in Tadoule Lake
- Aug. 19: Community CCP & Trust Meeting in Thompson
- Aug. 26: Community CCP & Trust Meeting in Winnipeg
- Aug. 28: Community CCP & Trust Meeting in Churchill
- Sep. 8-12: Trip to Duck Lake
- Oct. 4-7: CCP Work Planning with Advisor Jessie Hemphill in Nanaimo, BC
- Oct. 4-6: Bernice Thorassie in BC for CCP Workshop
- Oct. 7-9: CCP Workshop in Victoria, BC
- Nov. 14: Band Meeting with CCP Update in Tadoule Lake
- Nov. 17-21: CCP work with Advisor Jessie Hemphill in Tadoule Lake & Thompson
- Nov. 17: Community CCP Meeting on Governance in Tadoule Lake
- Dec. 10: CCP Gathering at the Band Hall
- Dec. 12: Trust meeting in Winnipeg

## 2015

- Jan. 20: Meeting with MNP and Chief & Council
- Jan. 22: Michelle Nalge hired as CCP Assistant
- Jan. 27: Education workshop in Tadoule Lake
- Nov. 17-21: Jessie Hemphill in Tadoule Lake and Thompson
- Feb. 18 : Child Welfare workshop in Tadoule Lake
- Feb. 19 : CCP workshop in Tadoule Lake
- Mar. 20: Trust meeting in Churchill
- Mar. 13: Health workshop in Tadoule Lake
- Mar. 17: Trust meeting in Winnipeg
- Mar. 18: Trust meeting in Thompson
- Apr. 14-16: Relocation & Trust meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Apr. 28: Trust meeting in Churchill
- May 6: Community Open House in Tadoule Lake
- May 7: Apology & Relocation meeting in Tadoule Lake
- May 11: Apology & Relocation meeting in Tadoule Lake

- May 21: Relocation meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Jun. 28-29: Trust meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Jul. 29: Trust & CCP meeting in Churchill Aug. 10: Trust meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Aug. 26: CCP & Relocation meeting in Winnipeg
- Aug. 27: CCP & Relocation meeting in Thompson
- Aug. 28: CCP & Relocation meeting in Churchill
- Sep. 2-9: Trip to Little Duck Lake
- Sep. 29-30: Trust meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Sep. 30: Meeting with school principal in Tadoule Lake
- Oct. 7: Trust meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Oct. 26-30: Jessie Hemphill in Tadoule Lake and Thompson
- Oct. 28-29: CCP meetings in Tadoule Lake to review draft CCP
- Nov. 2-5: Trust conference in Regina
- Nov. 19: Elders meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Nov. 24-26: Apology meetings in Churchill, Thompson and Winnipeg

## 2016

- Jan. 13: Trust & CCP meeting in Thompson
- Jan. 14: Trust & CCP meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Jan. 26: Trust & CCP meeting in Tadoule Lake
- Feb. 17: Trust & CCP meeting in Winnipeg
- Feb. 18: Trust & CCP meeting in Churchill
- Mar. 22: Trust & CCP meeting in Winnipeg
- Mar. 23: Trust & CCP meeting in Thompson
- Mar. 24: Trust & CCP meeting in Churchill
- Mar. 28: Jessie Hemphill in Tadoule Lake
- Mar. 29: Trust & CCP meeting in Tadoule Lake

Meetings were often done in an interactive way, using activities like World Café, discussion groups, using play dough and other fun activities with the children, using stickers and post-its to gather ideas from the community, and always incorporating a meal, translation into Dene, and often traditional practices like drumming and singing or hand game afterwards. After Ernie was elected Chief in 2014 Michelle Nalge was hired as the new CCP Assistant.

After many meetings to gather ideas for programs and projects, the draft community plan was put together in 2015. Several more on- and off-reserve meetings followed to review the draft. Aubrey Emlyn was hired to do the graphic design and layout for the final document. The visual designs in the plan are taken from Sayisi Dene beadwork, and all of the quotes come from community members themselves. The final version of the plan was completed in the spring of 2016 and distributed to all households in Tadoule Lake while also being made available to off-reserve members and staff, as well as online.

# Off-Reserve

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Last page, TOP: Group picture of members in Winnipeg, Manitoba  
BOTTOM: Group picture of members in Thompson

This page, TOP: Elders in Churchill  
BOTTOM: Group picture of members in Churchill





# Story of The Logo

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We held a logo design contest among the SDFN students in 2014. Many great designs were submitted, but Shirlena Cheekie's was the winner, with colour and the medicine wheel added by Lucas Soulier.

The logo represents all members of the community, as well as the caribou, fish, eagle, drum, and a house, to represent the culture and teachings of the Sayisi Dene.



# Sayisi Dene Vision

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*We are the Sayisi Dene, united in our identity as keepers of our language and traditions. We come from a safe, happy, healthy community where everyone is respected and valued, from our eldest elders to youngest babies.*

*We are a wealthy and self-sufficient nation of hard workers and well-educated people of all ages, taking pride in our accomplishments and helping our community thrive and prosper. We will be the keepers of our lands for the rest of eternity, as we have been since time immemorial.*

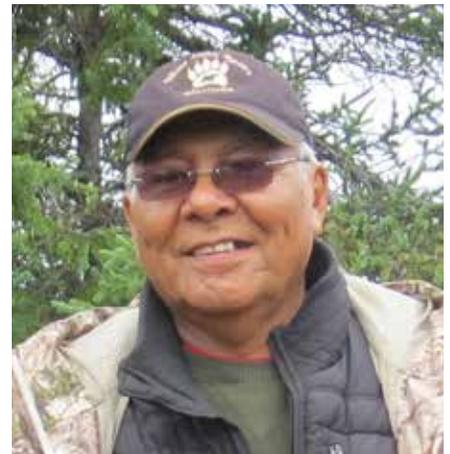
*Our leaders and staff are strong role models, leading us to a better future and self-government through integrity, professionalism and community service, keeping our members involved and informed every step of the way. We will use all of the tools of the modern world to our advantage, while preserving and passing on the tools of our culture, to create a community that is connected, beautiful, and safe for residents and visitors alike.*

*We recognize our past for all of the joys and sorrows, and look forward to a bright future for all future generations of Sayisi Dene.*

# We Are Sayisi Dene

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Elders - left to right, TOP ROW: Joe Thorassie, Jessie Cutlip, Eva Thorassie  
MIDDLE ROW: Maria Duck, Moses and Albert Thorassie BOTTOM ROW: Ronnie Bussidor, Jimmy Clipping, Mary Thorassie



# Long Term Goals

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1

## ***Culture & Language***

- a. We will be a Dene speaking community
- b. We will continue to practice our traditions, and make sure they are passed on

2

## ***Community Services***

- a. Our community will be safe
- b. Our community will be a vibrant, enjoyable place to live
- c. We will take care of our elders
- d. We will take care of our youth
- e. We will have healthy, happy families
- f. Our community will have a strong feeling of unity and trust

3

## ***Economic Development***

- a. We will be a wealthy and self-sufficient nation
- b. Those who can work will want to, and will be able to find good employment

4

## ***Education***

- a. Our people will be well-educated in school
- b. We will be a community of life-long learners

5

## ***Governance***

- a. Our elected leaders will be effective and accountable for their actions
- b. Our administration will be effective and accountable for their actions
- c. The Band Office will be a safe, respectful, effective work environment
- d. We will have an effective, transparent system of policies and laws
- e. We will have effective communication and community engagement

6

## ***Health***

- a. Our community will heal from the past
- b. We will have healthy members, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually
- c. Community members will have year-round access to healthy food, and will eat nutritious diets
- d. Our community will prevent and be prepared for emergencies

7

## ***Infrastructure***

- a. Our community will have year-round access to clean drinking water and flushing toilets
- b. We will have reliable year-round access to affordable electricity
- c. We will have enough good housing for all members who want to live in Tadoule Lake
- d. Our community will be easily accessible all year long
- e. Our community will have reliable, affordable access to technology and communications

8

## ***Lands & Resources***

- a. We will have enough land for our nation to prosper and thrive forever
- b. We will take care of our lands and resources

# Current Priorities

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## ***Culture & Language***

1. Dene language apps/computer programs developed and distributed
2. Cultural camps on the land for all ages
3. Dene lessons for community members of all ages

## ***Community Services***

1. Build a recreation facility with (in order of priority) a skating rink, pool hall, arcade, music recording studio, library, weight room, gym, pool and computer lab
2. Create a youth safe house/program with mental health support, cultural activities and skills training
3. Create assisted living housing in Tadoule Lake for elders and those with a high need for in-home support

## ***Economic Development***

1. Address high cost of living by working with Northern Store to reduce cost of groceries (or start a band-run store/business)
2. Start job training in Tadoule Lake
3. Start (a) tourism business(es) such as a hotel, fishing/hunting lodge, or charter/tour company

## ***Education***

1. Training for Dene language teachers
2. Adult education & training centre in Tadoule Lake
3. Add a shop/trades training centre/program in Tadoule Lake

## ***Governance***

1. Staff & Council will regularly meet and report to the community at least quarterly
2. Employee drug testing to make sure they're not under the influence of drugs at work
3. Ongoing governance training for Chief & Council

## ***Health***

1. Build cabins on the land for healing trips/detoxification "boot camp"
2. Build a healing/wellness centre
3. Start (a) community garden(s)/greenhouse(s)

## ***Infrastructure***

1. Build new homes to address housing need, with high-quality materials
2. Rebuild hockey rink
3. Improve Internet infrastructure and install alternative power production facilities

## ***Lands & Resources***

1. Establish a rangers and junior rangers program in Tadoule Lake
2. Establish a recycling program in Tadoule Lake
3. Reserve Expansion



# **Objectives, Programs *and* Projects**

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Sirus Thorassie posing with caribou antlers in Little Duck Lake

# 1. **Culture *and* Language**

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Most people in the community over age forty speak Dene, and about fifty people know how to read and write using the Dene syllabic alphabet. Dene has been taught at the on-reserve school, and some books are available that are written in the language. Although the disease epidemics, impact of residential schools and the relocation negatively affected our ability to practice our culture daily, many elements of it remain.

We still hunt and use caribou, practice our songs, dances and hand game, and we still eat many traditional foods like dry meat, fish, labrador tea and tree gum. Some people still use traditional medicines, and some people also smudge and do sweats. Several people still practice traditional crafts like beadwork, moccasin making, soapstone carving and making tools. The biggest threat is that many people from the younger generations are not as interested in learning and practicing the language and culture, though there are some young people who are carrying on the traditions.



Left: Michelle Nalge prepares fresh caribou meat. Right: Ethan Bjorkland Clipping catches his first lake trout

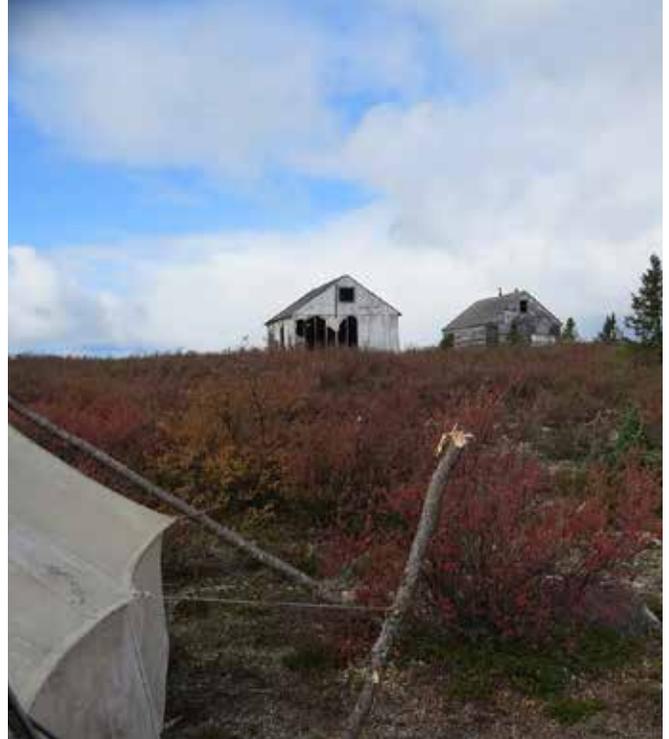
## Goal A: We will be a Dene speaking community

### Objectives

- Dene will be the most common language used in homes
- Parents will teach their children Dene at home
- Dene will be taught in school starting in nursery
- All band correspondence will be available in syllabics as well as English
- All band gatherings will be translated into Dene
- Resources will be created to support Dene teaching/learning in the home and in school
- Fluent Dene speakers will be publicly acknowledged and celebrated
- New speakers will be recognized for their efforts
- Youth will visit elders to learn Dene
- The Dene language will be a visible part of our community

*“Only speak the dene language at home.”*

*“We need to teach dene to all Sayisi Dene on and off reserve.”*



Left: Children feasting on cooked caribou head. Right: Little Duck Lake post

### **Programs**

- Dene lessons for community members, especially parents, at least twice a week
- Dene lessons for teachers and staff
- Cultural activities taught in Dene, especially for youth
- Dene classes in the school, taught by our elders and other speakers
- Documents and community events translated into Dene/syllabics
- Dene programs on the radio, on-reserve and in Thompson, Winnipeg and Churchill
- Dene Master-Apprentice program to encourage new speakers
- Dene language nest/daycare on-reserve

### **Projects**

- Develop/use Dene language app and/or computer program to help teach the language
- Develop children's books, posters, flashcards, and other resources in Dene and syllabics
- Distribute language learning/teaching resources to all families
- Create signage in Dene for Tadoule Lake
- Highlight language role models in the community



Granny's handcraft, mitts and slippers

## **Goal B:** We will continue to practice our traditions, and make sure they are passed on



*"I love hunting with my kids and family. Without caribou we'd starve."*

*"Off reserve members [should] be provided our traditional values and beliefs."*

### **Objectives**

- All community members will have opportunities to learn cultural practices like hunting, tanning hides, ice fishing, beadwork, trapping and preparing furs, and making tools
- There will be strong connections between all generations to share cultural knowledge
- Sayisi Dene culture and traditions will be recorded and passed on to future generations
- Sayisi Dene culture and traditions will be celebrated and made a part of all community gatherings
- Sayisi Dene culture will be a visible aspect of our community
- Dog sledding will be a common method of transportation in the community



Smoking caribou meat

### **Programs**

- Culture camps in our lands with all ages, to teach traditional practices
- Community lessons in traditional practices such as tanning hides, making dry meat, beadwork, trapping, tanning and preparing furs, and making tools and snowshoes
- Gatherings to celebrate our culture, with ceremonies, singing, dancing, hand games, gift exchanges and story telling
- Cultural exchanges with other communities to share our culture and language
- Host performances to showcase the culture
- Hunting and camping equipment library for community members to borrow to get out on the land
- Drum singing and dance practices in the community for everyone
- Dog sledding training
- Lessons in the school that teach about Sayisi Dene culture, land and history

### **Projects**

- Create a digital archive of cultural materials like recordings of elders, photographs, and old documents
- Signage around the reserve that represents the culture
- Business development to promote the culture and handicrafts
- Cultural centre/museum



Church in Tadoule Lake

## 2. **Community Services**

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Tadoule Lake has some community services such as our church (which doesn't have a minister currently, and isn't used) and our community hall, which is well used for meetings, social gatherings and recreational activities. There is an elders council that helps to advise chief and council. We have a daycare which is not always operational. There are band constables who help with law enforcement, and when needed, the RCMP are called in to deal with issues around safety and crime.

Regular community events and celebrations include the summer carnival, Treaty day celebration, winter festival, Halloween party, Christmas dinner and party, athletes in action week with events for parents, and the annual camping trip to Little Duck Lake.

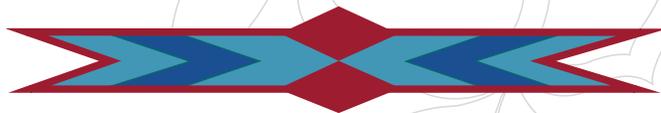


Members visiting behind the Northern Store in Tadoule Lake

## Goal A: Our community will be safe

### **Objectives**

- The community will have an effective policing presence
- Laws, bylaws and policies will be enforced fairly
- Buildings will be secure from theft and vandalism
- Community members will treat each other with respect
- We will be a community free of violence and crime



*“Work together, get rid of the hate and gossip, elect leaders to work with young people”*



Youth with siblings on a hike in Tadoule Lake

### **Programs**

- Improve community policing with training, uniforms, etc.
- Bring restorative justice, projects for people to work off their community service hours, and other alternative/culturally appropriate justice practices to Tadoule Lake
- Better screening of incoming mail and freight at the airport and post office to prevent drugs and alcohol from coming to the community

### **Projects**

- Improve security of community buildings by rekeying/improving locks, installing security cameras, and having regular patrols of community buildings
- Women's shelter for women suffering from domestic violence at home



Ryan Duck with Santa Express visit in Tadoule Lake

## Goal B: Our community will be a vibrant, enjoyable place to live



*“We need to expand youth programs (like a youth centre)” - youth*

*“[The] only reason they do drugs is because they are bored” - youth*

### **Objectives**

- Tadoule Lake will have year-round recreation options for all ages
- The community will gather in celebration regularly

### **Programs**

- Sports and recreation coordinator and program, especially for youth and children
- Workshops on prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol addictions and safety
- Continue with regular community events to bring people together in celebration, such as the Christmas dinner and party, Halloween party, and winter carnival

### **Projects**

- Recreation facility with all or some of: skating rink, roller skating rink, swimming pool, gym, arcade, pool hall, music studio, weight room, library, and computer lab



Elder Hazel Nalge and Bernice Thorassie, Little Duck Lake

## **Goal C:** We will take care of our elders

### ***Objectives***

- Elders will feel like a valued and important part of the community
- Elders will have access to a variety of programs to support their well-being
- Elders will have a role in decisions made in the community
- Elders will have regular visitors



*“More youth and elders working together.”*

*“Look after each other more than we do. We have to respect each other and ourselves.”*



Elder Maria A. Duck

### ***Programs***

- In-home care for elders and those with injuries, illness or special needs
- Better community accessibility for those with mobility issues
- Keep the Elders' Council and expand their roles and responsibilities
- Hire an Elders' Coordinator to organize regular activities for and social visits with the elders
- Provide transportation for elders to get around the reserve
- Provide traditional foods for elders who can't gather their own

### ***Projects***

- Elders' homes for those who need daily assistance
- Elders' Centre or Elders' Room in Band Office (or future healing centre) for elders to hang out, teach skills to others, and have meetings



Youth outside Northern Store in Tadoule Lake

## Goal D: We will take care of our youth

### **Objectives**

- Youth will feel like a valued and important part of the community
- Youth will have access to a variety of activities to support their well-being
- Youth will have a role in decisions made in the community

### **Programs**

- Establish a youth council
- Establish a youth mentorship program for staff positions in Tadoule Lake
- Provide incentives for students to stay in school, and to recognize role models

### **Projects**

- Recreation facility with all or some of: skating rink, roller skating rink, swimming pool, gym, arcade, pool hall, music studio, library, and computer lab
- Safe house with mental health supports/ counseling, skills training, cultural activities, and fun recreational activities

*“Develop retreat programs directed towards our youth.  
Eg: fix old pool hall, land base activities”*

*“Take young people to meeting on the outside”*



Little girls in Tadoule Lake

## Goal E: We will have healthy, happy families

### **Objectives**

- Parents will raise their children with good values, self discipline, respect and love
- As much as possible we will keep our children in our own community
- Good parents will be acknowledged for their efforts
- Parents will have the supports needed to raise healthy, happy children
- Community gatherings and buildings will be accessible for all ages, so that parents with young children and babies can participate fully in the community
- There will be strong connections between all generations in the community
- Expecting mothers will have a healthy environment, supports, and good self care skills in order to have healthy babies
- Awasis will be more effective and accountable to the Sayisi Dene people when it comes to supporting children and families

*“Build a better life for the next generation to come, for the future and today”*



Family in Tadoule Lake

### **Programs**

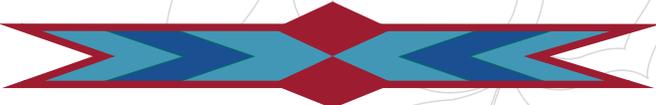
- Establish a pre- and post-natal care program
- Establish a parent support group to share stories and learn good parenting skills and life skills such as financial literacy/budgeting and healthy cooking classes
- Community gatherings will be planned with families in mind, with babysitters, kids activities, and during hours that are accessible for children
- Have regular family gatherings to bring all the generations together for informal story telling and sharing
- Babysitter training so that babysitters have first aid and other important skills
- Take advantage of programs that support children and families
- Provide more training to encourage people to become foster parents in Tadoule Lake
- Provide culture camps to children instead of sending them to group homes or juvenile detention

### **Projects**

- Fix up the play ground
- Establish a community daycare



**Goal F:**  
 Our community will  
 have a strong feeling  
 of unity and trust



*“Work together, be honest, be strong, have faith”*  
*“Learn from our past and especially support one another”*

**Objectives**

- People will work together to accomplish goals
- People will treat each other with kindness and respect
- Community gatherings will be positive and enjoyable
- Community members will be positive and optimistic
- Community members will open up to and trust each other

**Programs**

- At community gatherings, take time to acknowledge the elders and people who have positive achievements
- Workshops/counseling to teach anger management, personal healing and other skills to help people heal from the past and treat each other more kindly
- Regular healing and sharing circles in the community

**Projects**

- Collaborative cabin-building projects in the traditional territories
- Create a Healing/Wellness centre



*“Work together, be honest,  
be strong, have faith”*



Northern store in Tadoule Lake

### 3.

# Economic Development

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Most people who are working in Tadoule Lake are employed in community services at the band office, school, or nursing station. Other employers include the airport, Manitoba Hydro station, and the Northern Store. Some community members also sell handicrafts or do odd jobs for each other to make money, and most community members in Tadoule Lake are on social assistance.

Most economic development in the community has been as a result of members' entrepreneurship. In 1978 the Dene Trading Post opened in Tadoule Lake. Around 1990 Owls Enterprise started in the community, as well as Thorassie's Enterprise. The Northern Store arrived in the mid 1990s and remains the only store in Tadoule Lake.

Access makes economic development a challenge. The community is accessible only by air or a seasonal winter road. There is no cellular coverage or high speed internet, though satellite internet is available. Economic advantages include a large land base with the potential for tourism business development.



Walter Mowatt, soap stone carver

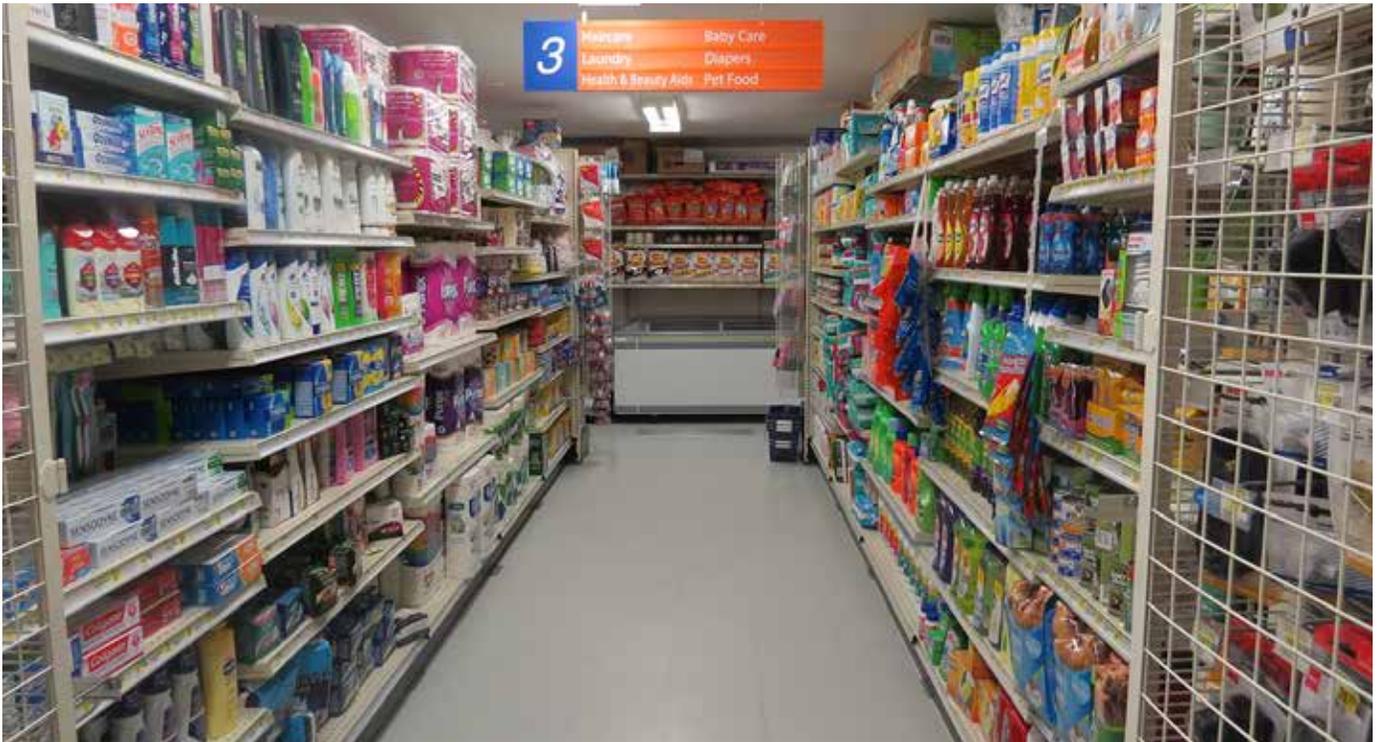
## Goal A: We will be a wealthy and self-sufficient nation

### **Objectives**

- Sayisi Dene will regain control of our financial management
- The Trust will be well managed and accountable to members
- Sayisi Dene will have a culture of good money management
- Community members will be financially literate, with the skills to budget and meet their needs with the money they have
- Sayisi Dene will develop sustainable businesses and increase own-source revenue
- Administration and leadership will maximize the employment benefit to Sayisi Dene community members for all on-reserve projects such as housing and road maintenance

*“Invest in trust accounts then with the interest can allocate what is being proposed”*

*“[Re: relocation settlement funds] Dish out \$5 million, and put \$27 million in trust fund - do stuff with income from interest.”*



Hygiene and cleaning supplies aisle at the Northern Store in Tadoule Lake

### **Programs**

- Establish Trust Committee for relocation settlement funds
- Establish financial management policies for the Trust that support those who went through the relocation, while also leaving funds for future generations
- Training for Trust Committee members and for the community to understand and support the activities of the Trust Committee, including selection of new trustees
- Establish an economic development corporation to support business development
- Create/revise policies to manage funds in a professional, effective, transparent way
- Training for staff and leadership on good money management
- Financial literacy training for community members
- Training, support and guidelines for would-be entrepreneurs
- Put policy into place to support training and hiring band members to work for the band
- Improve financial planning, budgeting and reporting for all band-run programs and businesses

### **Projects**

- Work with INAC to get out of co-management
- Band-owned store or working with Northern Store to better meet the needs of the community
- Tourism business(es) (hotel/motel, lodge, fishing or hunting charters, tours)
- Community services (café, laundromat, babysitting, taxi/shuttle, mechanic)



Ray Powderhorn getting ready to leave for Little Duck Lake

## **Goal B:** Those who can work will want to, and will be able to find good employment



*“Train youth about C&C positions and departments”*

*“Train people for whatever job is offered on reserve and only hire people who are qualified.”*

### **Objectives**

- Social Assistance and unemployment rates will decrease
- Community members will have access to job training in the community
- A variety of sustainable jobs will be available in Tadoule Lake, to meet the interests and needs of community members
- Community members will increase their economic self-sufficiency through home ownership, planning for retirement, and having savings/emergency funds put away
- Role models will be celebrated and acknowledged



Second crew hunters and helpers, Rodney Moise and Brian Yassie leaving for Little Duck Lake

### **Programs**

- Employment training and certification programs
- Life skills training
- Staff will organize community events and workshops, like a career fair
- Staff will receive professional development opportunities
- Create staff recognition and role model recognition programs
- Staff will receive health, dental and retirement benefits
- Community members will have opportunities for job mentoring and training to help prepare them to work for the band

### **Projects**

- Create capacity building and succession plan to show how band members will be trained and encouraged to fill all staff positions for the band
- Training centre for trades and other job skills



Shylie and Rylie in Little Duck Lake

## 4. **Education**

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Tadoule Lake had an elementary school (K-8) that was built in 1974, and then in 1995 a new school (K-12) was built and named the Peter Yassie Memorial School. Students have to leave the community get post-secondary education, though there is some funding support through the federal government.



Peter Yassie Memorial School

## **Goal A:** Our people will be well-educated in school

### **Objectives**

- Students will meet or exceed provincial educational standards
- Students will receive the same amount of school hours in Tadoule Lake as elsewhere
- The school will be a safe, supportive environment for students
- School staff will be well trained and effective
- School programming will incorporate Sayisi Dene culture and language
- There will be a strong connection between the school and the community
- Students requiring extra support (or extra challenge) will be able to receive additional instruction outside of school hours, and additional support during school hours
- Students will have access to a diversity of programs beyond the core courses
- Post-secondary students will be supported, and held accountable for that support

*“[We want our] students [to] meet or exceed provincial standards”*

*“Set up guidelines for being able to access education money.”*



CCP workshop with students at PYMS

### ***Programs***

- Tutoring
- Weekend educational programs
- Porta-potties and bottled water to prevent school shut downs when pipes freeze
- Diversify the school's course offerings – trades, music, art, sports, computers
- Training for school board
- Training for Dene language teachers
- Ongoing professional development for teachers, including instruction in Dene
- Field trips to learn culture on the land
- Improve hiring process for teachers and school staff, including criminal record checks and child abuse registry checks
- Develop policy for funded post-secondary students-proof of attendance/courses taken

### ***Projects***

- Improve school (renovations or new construction) to be a safe, beautiful space
- Shop/trades training facility added to school
- Create a computer lab that is accessible to all ages
- Build or add on a separate high school



Youth workshop

## Goal A: We will be a community of life-long learners



*“Create more opportunities for younger people and employment”*

*“Youth office for Jr C&C – make them feel like they’re a part of the organization”*

### **Objectives**

- All community members wishing to further their education in Tadoule Lake will be able to do so
- Off-reserve members will be supported in their educational endeavours
- Community members will have access to life skills and other training in Tadoule Lake

### **Programs**

- GED program in Tadoule Lake
- Post-secondary training in Tadoule Lake
- Cooking classes, parenting classes, life skills training, traditional teachings available to community members
- Trades training (plumbing, heating, mechanics, carpentry and electrical) in Tadoule Lake

### **Projects**

- Library and computer lab for community members
- Adult education centre



North of 60 Claims Office

## 5. Governance

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Sayisi Dene has one chief and three councilors who are elected every three years. The chief and councilors work out of the band office and manage many administrative affairs, alongside the staff. The band has been in third party management for many years, with Winnipeg-based MNP now managing much of the administrative work on behalf of the band.

Staff who work in the band office include the social administrator, training & employment coordinator, finance clerk, health finance officer, band office receptionist, and the operations and maintenance staff. There is also an education board that advises the principal, and an elders' council that advises chief and council. Sayisi Dene is part of Treaty 5 and is also involved in land claims through the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process and North of 60 process.



Community meeting in Tadoule Lake

## Goal A: Our elected leaders will be effective and accountable for their actions

### Objectives

- Improve the election code with community participation
- Chief and Council will be transparent about their activities, including use of the tobacco tax funds and their council-related duties and responsibilities outside of Tadoule Lake
- Chief and Council will hold regular meetings (at least quarterly) to communicate with staff and community members
- Political leadership will be separated from administration
- Sayisi Dene leadership will combine traditional governance models with the elected Chief and Council model
- Chief and Council will abide by a code of conduct agreed to by the community
- Chief and Council will be role models in community, taking care of themselves/others
- Chief and Council will meet in public, unless there's a legal reason for going in-camera

*“C&C must be visible all the time”*

*“Chief should be compassionate and considerate”*



Former Chief Peter Thorassie and John Cutlip attending CCP meeting

### ***Programs***

- Establish a formal swearing-in ceremony for newly elected Chief and Councillors
- Governance training for Chief and Council
- Secretarial support for Chief and Council
- Form a tobacco tax committee with elders and community members
- Create a council policy with a code of conduct
- Improve/maintain connection between Elders' Council and Chief and Council

### ***Projects***

- Chief to use Head dress
- Create Chief & Council office away from the administration building
- Elected Chief & Council to speak the Dene language



Rubina Moise, Transportation Referral Clerk with Health Canada

## Goal B: Our administration will be effective and accountable for their actions

### **Objectives**

- Sayisi Dene will have all necessary staff positions to run its administration effectively
- All staff will be hired through a fair and transparent process
- All staff will be qualified for their positions, or trained into them
- Staff will receive ongoing training and professional development
- Policies for staff will be created/revised as needed, and enforced
- Staff will have regular meetings, with each other, the community, and leadership
- Staff will regularly communicate their activities with the community
- Staff will feel safe and supported in their role
- Staff will be free from unreasonable political influence
- Staff members will follow a personnel policy and do their work well
- Contracted staff will be qualified, hired through a transparent and fair process, and held accountable for their work and for funds spent

*“Ensure that all staff are accountable for their department.”*

*“Staff incentives and recognition for dedication and work effort.”*



### **Objectives Cont'd**

- Staff members will be respected members of the community, not professionally impacted by any addictions and not partaking in illegal activities
- There will be succession plans/actions in place for all positions so that when people leave/retire there is no gap in services
- Off-reserve members will have access to Sayisi Dene services and will have ways to get information about those services and community activities

### **Projects**

- Establish an office in Winnipeg for off-reserve members to access services and support
- Create organizational chart

### **Programs**

- Find funding and recruit new staff to create/fill new positions in the organizational chart
- Update/create job descriptions and personnel files for all personnel
- Training and ongoing professional development for staff
- Self-care for staff – smudging, counseling, health program
- Establish a life insurance, pension and benefits program for staff
- Regular staff meetings and reports (at least monthly)
- Governance training for staff
- Develop/revise policies as needed, including personnel policy
- Employee drug testing to make sure they're not on drugs while at work
- Employee of the month/year or other staff recognition program put in place
- Establish regular communications, online and in print, for on-reserve and off-reserve members



Chief and Council Trustees meeting in Tadoule Lake

## **Goal C:** The Band Office will be a safe, respectful, effective work environment

### **Objectives**

- The band office will be a secure building where staff can leave valuable belongings
- The band office will be open to community members and staffed during work hours
- The band office will have proper storage for important records
- The band office will be kept clean and in good repair
- Everyone will follow a code of conduct while in the band office
- The band office will have all the necessary utilities and technology for the administration to function effectively

*“Show respect for one another, councilors should not argue in public.”*

*“Working 9 – 5 daily mandatory.”*



Administration Building (Band Office) in Tadoule Lake

### ***Programs***

- Staff will develop/follow a personnel policy which will include guidelines about work hours and staff conduct and professionalism (work ethics)
- Develop a code of conduct for the Band Office
- Establish an office policy re: use of board room, phone, computers etc.

### ***Projects***

- Improve security of the band office by rekeying, installing security cameras and having regular security patrols, registration process for staff and guests to track who enters and leaves the building, and when
  - Improve the internet at the band office
  - Improve the storage system at the band office
  - Renovate the band office to keep it in good repair, and/or build a new one to meet the needs of the administration (maybe combined with a wellness centre?)



Elder John Cutlip, Tadoule Lake

## **Goal D:** We will have an effective, transparent system of policies and laws

### **Objectives**

- All required policies will be revised/developed
- All policies will be reviewed, and updated if necessary, on a regular schedule
- Policies will be enforced in a universal, fair and transparent manner
- All policies and laws will be available to band members, staff and leadership at all times
- Governance training will be offered to improve staff, community and Chief and Council's knowledge about the role of policy in an administration

### **Programs**

- Form a policy committee to revise/create policies as needed, with representation from staff, leadership and the community, using external support if required such as legal counsel
- Governance workshop for staff, leadership and community members
- Post policies and laws in a public place and online

### **Projects**

- Create a policy binder for the band office and for each staff member

*"The Band needs to get serious and start pushing pen to paper. We need more bylaws and amendments, who and when will those changes be arrived at?"*

*"Legal and technical information needs explaining..."*



Children at PYMS designing a future community blue print

## Goal E: We will have effective communication and community engagement



*“Keep people informed, document meetings and distribute minutes to everyone off reserve as well, meet with us regularly for our input.”*

*“End gatherings with a drum song and prayer.”*

### **Objectives**

- Community members on-reserve will have the opportunity to meet regularly with staff and leadership
- Community members on- and off-reserve will have regular access to information such as policies, Band Council Resolutions, reports and contact information
- Staff will make home visits as part of their communication activities

### **Programs**

- Establish standard community meeting processes to keep them effective and respectful
- Hold events at a time and place most accessible for community members
- Put a suggestion box in a public place and follow up on suggestions
- Train staff to do home visits in a respectful and safe way
- Hold more meetings off-reserve (Thompson, Winnipeg and Churchill) when possible

### **Projects**

- Create SDFN band website



*“Build a better life for the next generation to come, for the future and today”*



Exercise area at the Health Office

## 6. Health

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The nursing station in Tadoule Lake provides basic health services to community members, and in addition to the regular staff, there are visits from dentists, optometrists and other specialists. There is also a fitness centre at the nursing station. Community members regularly have to fly out for medical treatment.

Access to healthy food is an issue for those who rely on the Northern Store, since food is flown in and priced by weight. Much of the healthy food is more expensive than the processed food. The Nutrition North program has been used to help subsidize the cost of groceries. Access to clean water is also an ongoing problem, with pipes often freezing in the colder months and the odd boil water advisory when there is a problem with the treatment plant.



Elder Betty Solomon in Little Duck Lake

## **Goal A:** Our community will heal from the past

### **Objectives**

- Community members will have access to a variety of healing methods, including traditional healing methods
- Community members will have opportunities to share their own stories about the past, and their experiences documented
- The relocation and traumas of the past will be publicly acknowledged and commemorated

### **Programs**

- Healing circles
- One-on-one counseling
- Community sweats
- Teaching the youth and staff about the history of the Sayisi Dene
- Staff training to help them work with the community (especially those who have been through a lot of trauma) in a respectful, effective way

### **Projects**

- Healing/wellness centre
- Sweat lodges
- Commemorative project in Churchill

*“Talk about [the relocation] and learn to forgive, sharing circles, documentary, workshops”*

*“Learn from past experiences to enjoy the future. Abstain from drugs and alcoholism.”*



Hand game in Little Duck Lake

## **Goal B:** We will have healthy members, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually



### **Objectives**

- Community members will take care of ourselves every day
- Healthy living will be an acknowledged priority for all band members and a part of all community activities
- Sayisi Dene community members will have access to all required health services, including mental health services
- Traditional healing methods will be preserved and practiced, when effective
- Spirituality and spiritual healing will be an important part of everyone's daily life
- Community members will be able to spend time on the land as part of their healing

*"We need program co-ordinators to utilize and initiate all the programs available" - Youth*

*"Many of us live with PTSD. This is an issue that nobody has looked at and should be dealt with."*



Betsy Anderson Memorial Clinic

### **Programs**

- Hire a full-time healing coordinator for Tadoule Lake to organize regular healing activities (maybe a counselor/psychotherapist who can also do one-on-one counseling)
- Regular one-on-one counseling in Tadoule Lake, available on evenings and weekends
- Drug and alcohol detoxification program (in Tadoule Lake, on the land, or in another community such as Thompson)
- Establish Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous support meetings in Tadoule Lake
- Improve access to healthcare in Tadoule Lake
- Improve access to traditional medicines and healing methods
- Hold regular health workshops hosted by staff
- Hold regular community sweats
- Hold regular detoxification “boot camps” on the land
- Provide cultural sensitivity and other training for health staff to understand and work with the community effectively and respectfully
- Improve in-home care, including social visits, for elders, people with special needs, and people with disabilities

### **Projects**

- Create a healing/wellness centre
- Improve services offered at the clinic by upgrading/adding equipment
- Establish medical receiving homes/ transportation in Thompson and Winnipeg for Sayisi Dene community members travelling for health reasons
- Build cabins on the land for people to take healing trips or to have detoxification boot camp



Fresh fish, Little Duck Lake

## **Goal C:** Community members will have year-round access to healthy food, and will eat nutritious diets



*“We need more healthy foods – not FAST FOODS.”*

### **Objectives**

- Community members will have access to reasonably priced healthy foods like fresh produce and whole grains
- Community events will promote healthy eating
- Traditional foods and food preparation will be part of everyone’s life

### **Programs**

- Healthy cooking classes
- Subsidize healthy foods in Tadoule Lake
- Work with the Northern Store or explore other options to bring in more healthy foods and reduce the costs to Tadoule Lake residents
- Start a Good Food Box program or other program to bulk-buy healthy foods and teach people how to prepare them
- Make sure that community gatherings have healthy meals and beverages

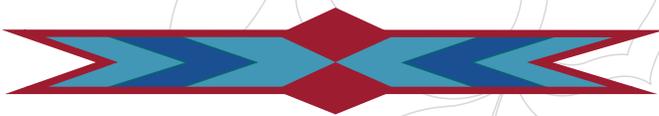
### **Projects**

- Build a community freezer and food storage to store bulk amounts of food
- Start (a) community garden(s) and/or green house(s)



Aircraft taking off to Little Duck Lake with members

## Goal D: Our community will prevent and be prepared for emergencies



*“We will be self sufficient”*

*“Youth and children be part of the planning”*

### **Objectives**

- Community members will be prepared to take care of ourselves, in our homes, for 72 hours with no outside assistance
- The community will have enough backup fuel, clean water, food and other supplies to stay safe during an emergency
- Community members, staff and leadership will be trained to deal with emergencies

### **Programs**

- Establish an Emergency Management Committee in the community, with training for people to deal with emergencies
- Train community members to prepare their own emergency kits and what to do in the event of an emergency

### **Projects**

- Create an Emergency Plan for the community
- Create a stockpile of emergency supplies



Fire hall in Tadoule Lake

## 7. Infrastructure

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Tadoule Lake is accessible by plane or by the winter road, which is only open seasonally. It takes about 12 hours to drive from Tadoule Lake to Lynn Lake on the road. The Manitoba Hydro plant, which burns diesel, provides electricity and many people also have diesel furnaces for heat. There is no cellular coverage, but there is satellite internet and television.

There are about one hundred houses in Tadoule Lake, and community buildings include the band office, nursing station, land claims office, community hall, daycare/guesthouse, school, RCMP station, fire hall, water treatment plant, church, and wastewater treatment plant.



Water plant for the community in Tadoule Lake

## **Goal A:** Our community will have year-round access to clean drinking water and flushing toilets

### **Objectives**

- Our water and wastewater infrastructure will be kept in good repair
- A backup system to deal with water and wastewater emergencies will be available to the community
- Community services such as the school, band office and nurse's station will not have to be shut down due to problems with water and wastewater
- Improve communications in the event of a problem with water/wastewater

*“We need adequate water and sewer system, our pipes freeze almost every winter”*



Manitoba Hydro building in Tadoule Lake

### ***Programs***

- Ongoing professional development for staff in charge of utilities
- Improve oversight of public works staff by hiring a public works director
- Establish a communications policy for water/wastewater issues so people know as soon as possible when there are potential problems, boil water advisories, and when those warning are lifted and it's safe to drink the water

### ***Projects***

- Repair sewage leakage(s)
- Establish a stockpile of backup parts for the most common types of problems with the water and wastewater treatment plants
- Establish a stockpile of porta-potties and bottled water in case of emergencies



Fuel delivery tank

## **Goal B:** We will have reliable year-round access to affordable electricity

### **Objectives**

- We will reduce our dependency on diesel, and reduce our use of fuel
- We will avoid running out of fuel/energy
- Our community will produce all of our own electricity
- Community members will be able to produce their own energy off-grid

### **Programs**

- Regular monitoring of fuel tanks in homes to avoid running out
- Community member training in energy/fuel use reduction (i.e. weather stripping)

### **Projects**

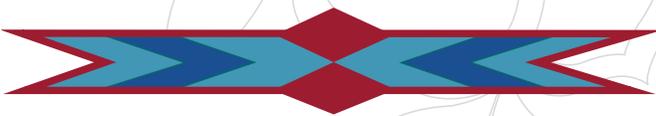
- Review power production options & create an updated feasibility study for power generation in Tadoule Lake
- Solar/wind turbine installation or other alternative energy installations
- Connection to Manitoba Hydro power grid

*“We need to think self-sufficiency – go solar or wind power at these locations, even here. We need to become independent again.”*



Old house on Rockville in Tadoule Lake

## **Goal C:** We will have enough good housing for all members who want to live in Tadoule Lake



*“We need to build houses that suit the geography and terrain.”*

*“From Churchill (Dene Village) to now Tadoule we live in paradise.”*

### **Objectives**

- Tadoule Lake will have enough houses for all of the community members that want to live here
- New houses will be built in a style and using materials that are suitable to the Sayisi Dene culture and the local geography and climate
- New construction and renovation will be done using high quality materials and high standards of construction
- A variety of housing options will be made available for those with special needs, such as wheelchair accessibility, large families, bachelors, etc.
- Community members will take care of their homes to prevent mould, unnecessary damage and vandalism
- Community members will pay rent for band-owned housing, to keep the housing program self-sufficient



New fence made of local logs

### ***Programs***

- Provide home maintenance training for community members
- Establish regular maintenance and renovation cycle for existing homes
- Build new homes with high-quality materials and construction
- Establish a housing policy
- Establish an asset management plan
- Establish a housing committee and regular schedule of renovations/construction

### ***Projects***

- Wood stoves in all homes
- New construction/renovations to meet housing needs



Winter road

## **Goal D:** Our community will be easily accessible all year long



*“A highway would sustain itself out here... tourists would visit us and explore our culture” - Youth*

*“Need a hotel and an all-weather road”  
- Youth*

### **Objectives**

- Tadoule Lake will be accessible all year, to those coming in and going out
- Access to Tadoule Lake will be safe and reliable
- Transportation to and from Tadoule Lake will be affordable for community members

### **Programs**

- Improve road maintenance, especially on winter road
- Add sidewalks and driveways where possible to make houses and community buildings more accessible
- Work with Perimeter to keep airfare costs as low as possible and explore other options for reducing the cost of air travel to and from Tadoule Lake

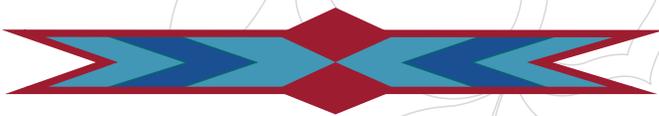
### **Projects**

- Create a year-round road to Lynn Lake
- Install traffic signs around Tadoule Lake (speed limits, stop signs)



Teacherage Residence in Tadoule Lake

## Goal E: Our community will have reliable, affordable access to technology and communications



*“Through technology we could plan for everything including education” - Youth*

*“Technology would make life easier” - Youth*

### **Objectives**

- Tadoule Lake will have reliable high-speed internet and cellular coverage
- Community members, staff and leadership will be able to use technology in their daily lives and to conduct business
- Community members, staff and leadership will have a good understanding of how to incorporate technology to their advantage
- Youth will be taught to use technology responsibly

### **Programs**

- Provide computer classes for all ages
- Provide internet safety training for youth
- Update technology in offices to meet the needs of staff and leadership

### **Projects**

- Improve internet infrastructure
- Improve cellular coverage



Home in Little Duck Lake

## 8.

# Lands *and* Resources

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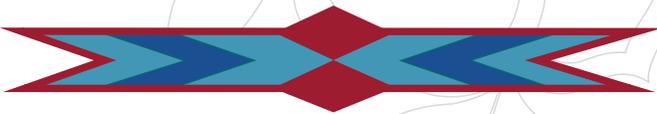
The Sayisi Dene traditional territories stretch from southern Nunavut down almost to Lynn Lake in northern Manitoba. The land is covered in rivers and lakes, including Seal River and Little Duck Lake, and much of the land base is either muskeg (in the south) or tundra (in the north.) There is a lot of wildlife throughout the territories, including caribou, bears, moose, muskrats, lynx, beaver, wolves, foxes, porcupines, rabbits and abundant birdlife. The lakes and rivers are home to pickerel, trout, whitefish and sturgeons. Blueberries, cranberries and Labrador tea are harvested by community members, and the abundant pine trees are used for everything from fences to firewood.

Many community members camp out on the land in the summer and take part in ice fishing, hunting and trapping as the weather gets colder. Winters can be very cold, and traditionally dogsledding and snowshoeing was used to get around the territories.



Elder Thomas Duck

## Goal A: We will have enough land for our nation to prosper and thrive forever



*“Take advantage of the solid land and forest around the lake, and towards Twin Lakes”*

### **Objectives**

- We will settle outstanding land claims
- We will expand our reserve to meet our current and future needs
- We will continue to use our land wisely to meet our needs

### **Programs**

- Create a committee to oversee land use and development in Tadoule Lake
- Ensure community input and engagement in major land use decisions

### **Projects**

- Create a map library
- Create a Land Use Plan
- Reserve expansion to:
  - In order of priority: Little Duck Lake area | Stoney Lake | Twin Lakes | The Big Hill peninsula | Tadoule Lake area | Ryan Lake
- Resolve Treaty Land Entitlement process
- Resolve North of 60 process



Caribou in Little Duck Lake

## **Goal B:** We will take care of our lands and resources

### ***Objectives***

- We will protect the health of our land
- We will have a thorough knowledge of our land
- Community members of all ages will spend time out on the land regularly
- Our community members will have the skills and knowledge to live off of the land
- We will be involved in any decision making about our land
- We will use our resources wisely so that we don't irreparably damage the environment



*“We need to get people interested in moving around like their ancestors, be active. We need to communicate from wherever we are if we do. We have a large land mass, we need to start getting out there. We should have cabins out there for us to use when we get there.”*



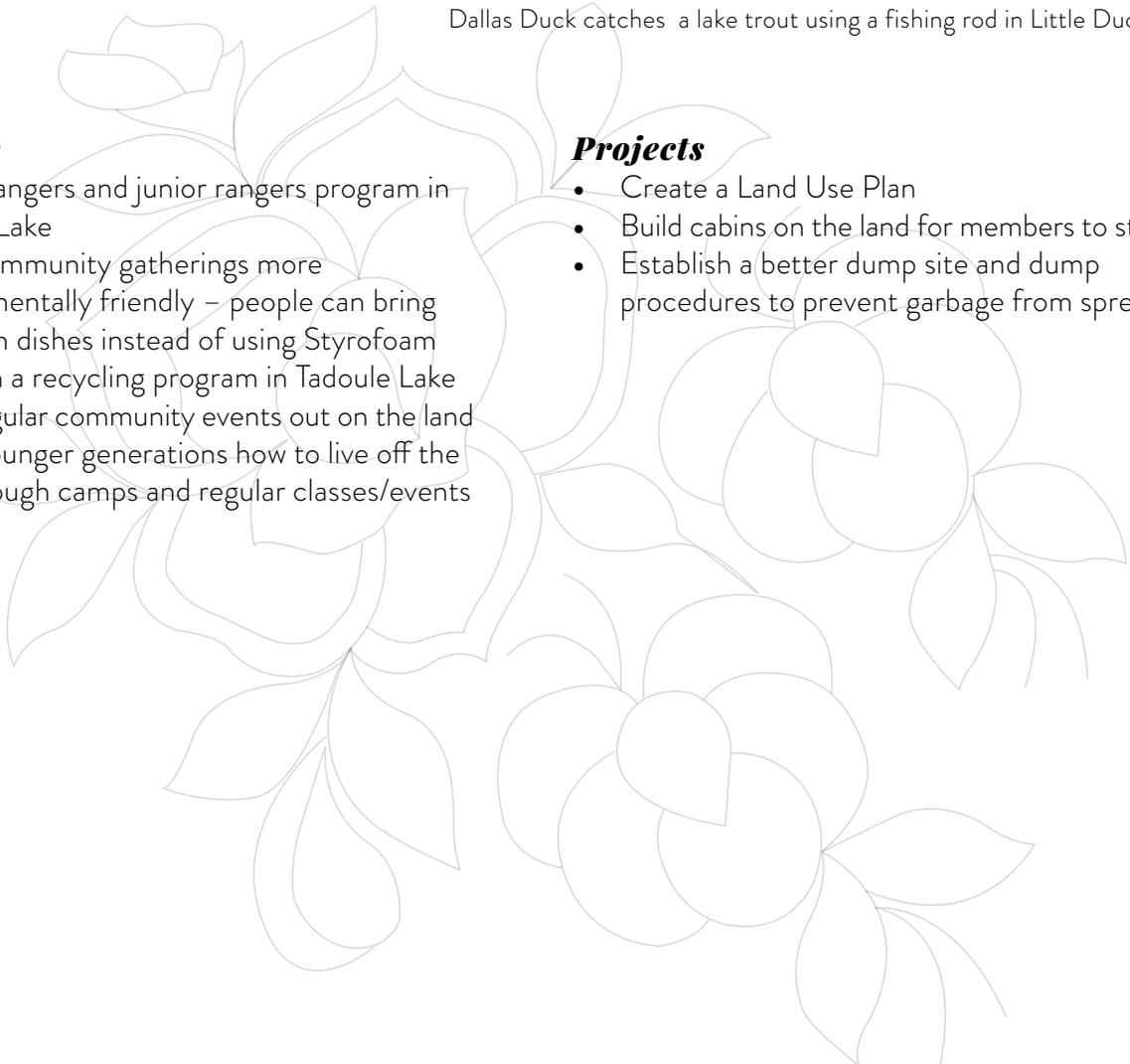
Dallas Duck catches a lake trout using a fishing rod in Little Duck Lake

### ***Programs***

- Start a rangers and junior rangers program in Tadoule Lake
- Make community gatherings more environmentally friendly – people can bring their own dishes instead of using Styrofoam
- Establish a recycling program in Tadoule Lake
- Have regular community events out on the land
- Teach younger generations how to live off the land through camps and regular classes/events

### ***Projects***

- Create a Land Use Plan
- Build cabins on the land for members to stay in
- Establish a better dump site and dump procedures to prevent garbage from spreading





Post in Little Duck Lake

# Process to Amend This Plan

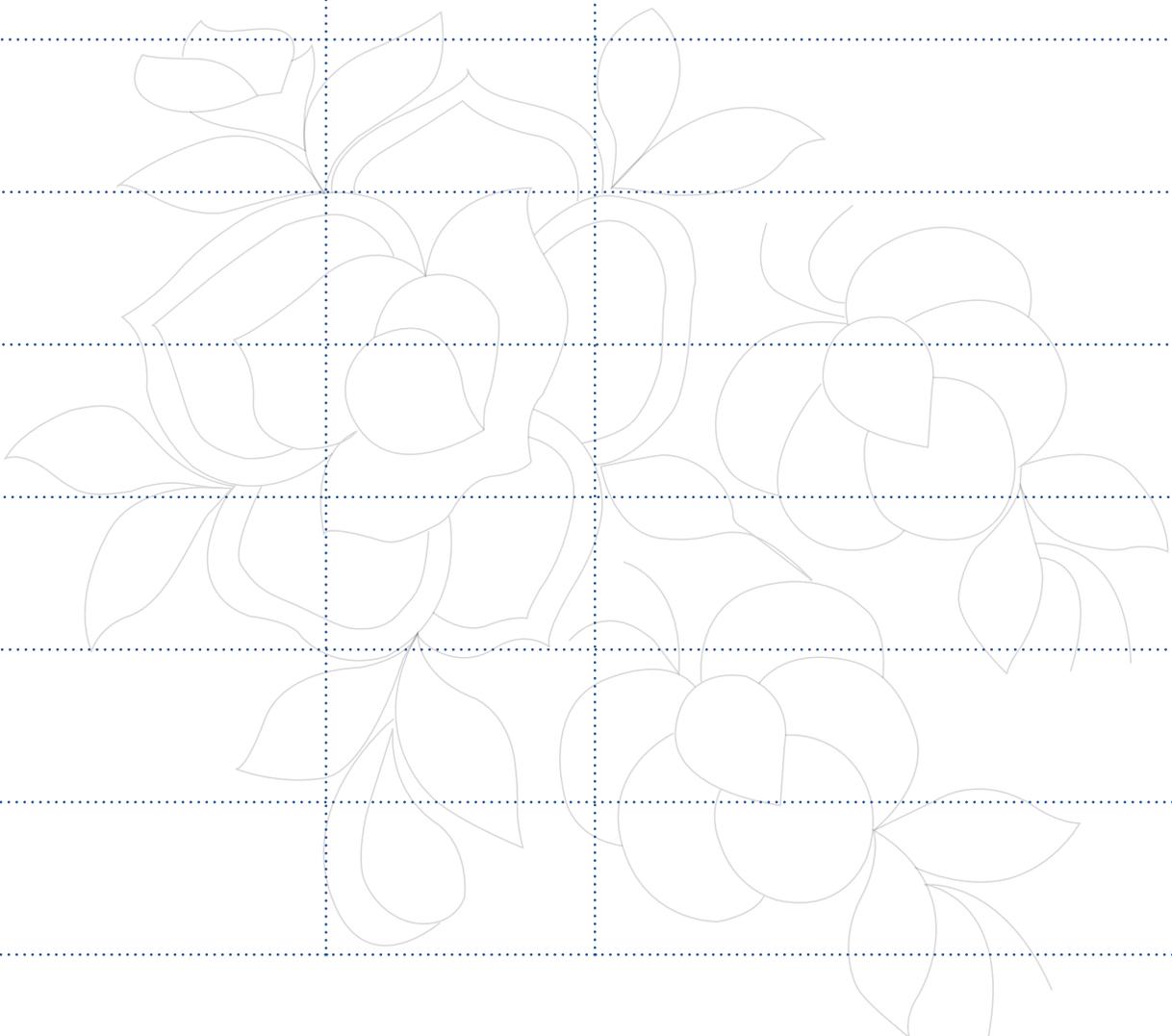
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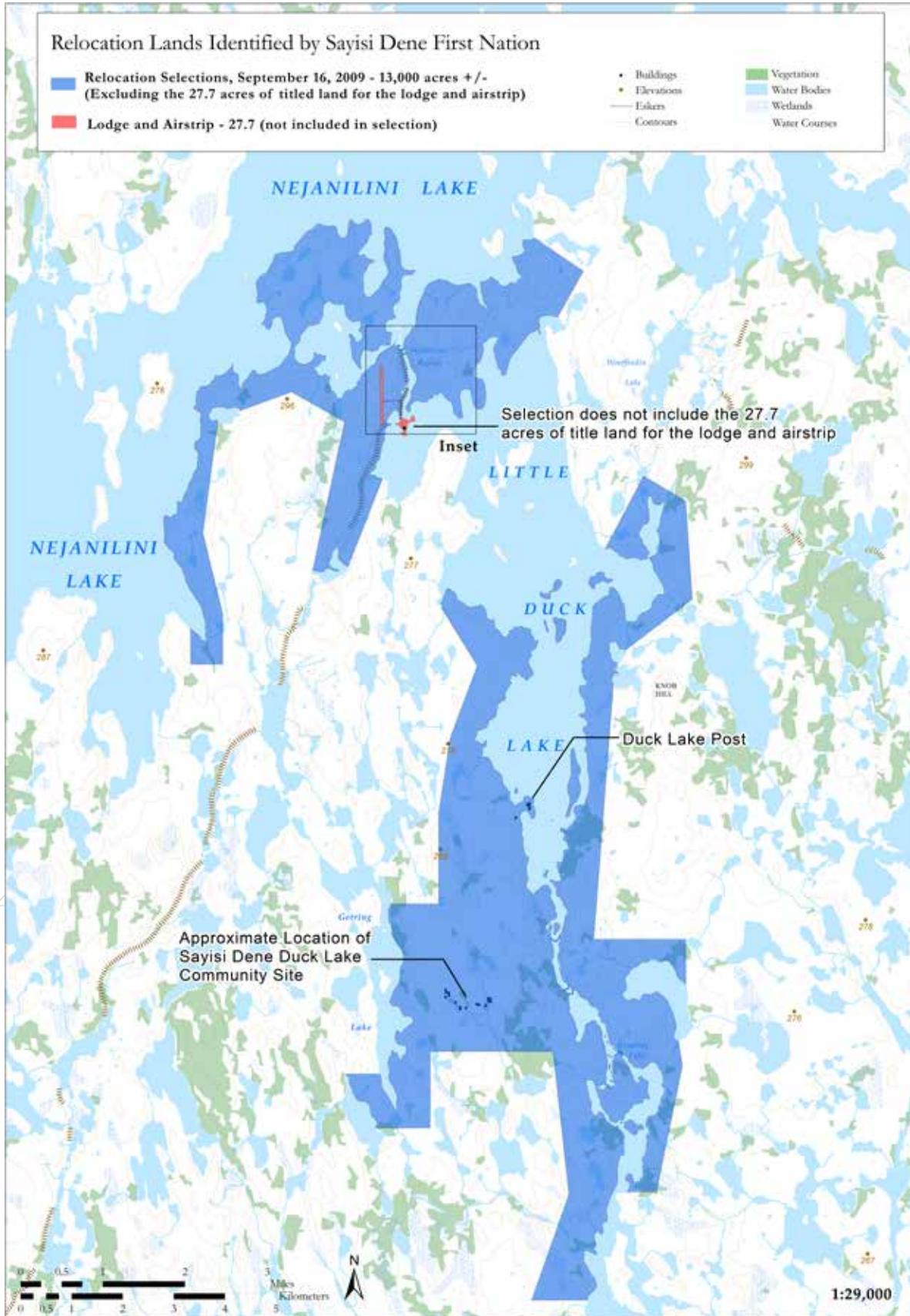
If there is a part of this plan that needs amendment beyond housekeeping (spelling, correcting factual information) and outside of the regular updating of this plan every five years, the following process must be followed:

1. A written memo describing the amendment in detail must be forwarded to Chief and Council, posted in the Band Office in a public place, and given to all staff
2. A community meeting must be held in Tadoule Lake to review the proposed amendment, and a vote taken of those present (minimum 50 people) to approve the amendment, which passes if there is a “yes” vote of 50%+1 or more people.
3. If the community approves the amendment, the final step is for Chief and Council to sign a Band Council Resolution (BCR) approving the amendment. There must be a public copy of the CCP available in the Band Office, with all amendments and accompanying BCRs attached

# Record of Amendments

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Proposed Amendment Wording and Page #	Date of Community "Yes" Vote	Date & Number of Council BCR Approving Amendment
		





SAYISI DENE FIRST NATION

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Tadoule Lake, Manitoba  
R0B 2C0  
Band Office: (204) 684-2022