

JEAN MARIE RIVER UPDATED COMMUNITY PLAN 2013

Vision Statement

We, the Tthets'ek'ehdeli Got'ie, are proud of our Dene traditions, language, and beliefs. We value and respect the land, water, and animals that have sustained us for many generations. We shall continue to use and respect our natural resources.

Building on the knowledge and skills of our people, we shall work together to create a healthy, sustainable future for ourselves and for our children. We shall strive to find a balance between the traditional and modern ways of life.

Main Goals

In order to achieve our vision, the Tthets'ek'ehdeli Got'ie will:

- *Promote and support healthy, strong families*
- *Promote and support education and training*
- *Maintain and use traditional knowledge and skills*
- *Develop a sustainable, community-controlled economy*
- *Establish an effective self-government system.*

GOAL: PROMOTE AND SUPPORT HEALTHY, STRONG FAMILIES

Main Objectives and Actions

Reduce Alcohol/Drug Abuse and other Addictions

- Provide individual and family counseling services within community
- Lobby DHSSA to provide regular counseling services in community
- Promote awareness of the causes and effects of addictions
- Encourage people to attend treatment programs
- Acknowledge and honor people who choose sobriety
- Encourage adults to act as positive role models for children and youth.

Promote and Support Recovery and Healing

- Develop and provide timely and effective aftercare programming as a key priority
- Promote awareness of residential school issues
- Organize community healing workshops, with a family focus
- Organize self-esteem, stress, communication, and budgeting workshops
- Support individuals to attend healing and life skills workshops offered in other communities
- Provide access to traditional healers through DHSSA.

Support Parents and Families

- Organize parenting workshops
- Promote awareness of family violence, sexual abuse, and elder abuse
- Provide support to families in crisis
- Organize family gatherings
- Use Recreation Trailer for both youth and seniors' programming activities.

Encourage Physical Health, Wellness and Food Security

- Promote nutritional awareness and healthy foods
- Encourage the use of traditional foods, including meat, fish, and harvested berries and plants
 - Prepare booklet on locally available plants and herbs
- Provide basic medical services
- Organize regular recreation programming, with a focus on youth and elders
- Promote and support community gardens with assistance from Territorial Farmers' Association.

GOAL: PROMOTE AND SUPPORT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Main Objectives and Actions

Promote the Importance of Education and Training

- Encourage parents to support their children's schooling
- Provide incentives for youth who stay in school (awards/scholarships/jobs)
- Encourage career counseling for junior and senior high school students
- Encourage youth to attend college, university, or trades training.

Strengthen the School Program

- Develop local educational resources (ex. community history, cultural materials)
- Provide Slavey language instruction
- Integrate more cultural activities into the curriculum, using Dene Kede
- Encourage parent-teacher interviews and communication
- Implement further grade extensions as community expands

- Maintain formal working relationship between the DEA and Council.

Strengthen Adult Training Programs

- Maintain working relationship with Aurora College
- Ensure that the JMRFN regional training funding is utilized effectively
- Provide literacy/upgrading programming
- Promote and support trades and technical training, including apprenticeships
- Provide job-training relevant to existing or pending job opportunities
- Access training funding, as needed, through industry and other sources.

GOAL: MAINTAIN AND USE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Main Objectives and Actions

Document/Preserve Traditional Knowledge (TK)

- Maintain an inventory of TK research documents and data relevant to Jean Marie River
- Continue to document JMRFN TK
- Establish a Tthets'ek'ehdeli resource centre/historical centre using existing and future materials
- Encourage respect for Dene traditions
- Prepare books and other TK resources for school and community, based on existing TK materials

Protect and Preserve the Tthets'ek'ehdeli Territory

- Protect the land, water, and wildlife from impacts of development
- Gather and monitor baseline environmental data
- Encourage low-impact alternate energy sources.

Promote and Support the use of Dene Zhatie

- Encourage parents to speak Dene Zhatie at home
- Teach Dene Zhatie at the school
- Encourage and use Dene Zhatie at all youth cultural camps
- Promote Dene Zhatie literacy (reading and writing)
- Use bilingual signage within community
- Respect and encourage members who are learning Dene Zhatie
- Encourage use of Dene Zhatie at Band and community meetings.

Teach and Encourage Dene Culture

- Integrate Dene beliefs and practices in community activities
- Seek guidance from elders on cultural matters
- Promote and encourage traditional drumming

- Provide seasonal, on-the-land, cultural activities for children/youth
 - teach hunting, trapping, fishing and survival skills
 - teach how to prepare traditional foods (ex. dryfish)
 - teach traditional handicrafts and tool-making (ex. moccasins, snowshoes)
 - teach the gathering, preparation and use of traditional medicines
 - teach and use traditional beliefs and ceremonies
- Utilize elders to teach traditional ways to children/youth
- Organize community feasts and drum dances.

GOAL: DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED ECONOMY

Main Objectives and Actions

Develop Sustainable Businesses

- Encourage Business Awareness, Training, and Support for Members
 - Encourage youth involvement in community economic development planning
 - Encourage entrepreneurial training
 - Provide joint venturing/contracting/negotiations training
 - Encourage members to start private businesses.
- Maintain an Economic Development Officer/Corporation Manager
- Develop a Sustainable Forestry Operation
 - Assess forestry industry options
 - Ensure stable, competent management structure
 - Develop product/service, marketing, and business plans
 - Access operational funding
 - Provide industry specific training as required.
- Assess and Provide Local Retail Services where possible
 - Reassess options for retail services as population increases
 - Access funding for expanded retail services, as warranted
 - Provide retail management training as services expand.
- Expand and Strengthen Local Services/Infrastructure
 - Encourage members to take trades training
 - Maintain roads and water/sewage services

- Develop a long-term housing strategy to encourage young families to remain in the community, as a key priority.
- Develop Sustainable Tourism Operations
 - Maintain Samba Deh Territorial Park contract
 - Continue to assess feasibility of tourism services (ex. campground, guiding, cultural activities, craft sales, etc.)
 - Support the development of a Tthets'ek'ehdeli cultural centre as tourism attraction.
- Participate in Oil and Gas Development
 - Promote awareness of oil and gas industry
 - Assess potential for rights issuance, pre and post land claims
 - Negotiate impact benefit agreements, where warranted.

Manage Resource Development

- Participate in environmental assessment and regulatory processes
- Use traditional land use maps to screen development impacts
- Maintain a balance between traditional and modern economic activities
- Participate in the regional Interim Measures Agreement
- Participate in the regional Interim Resource Development Agreement
- Participate in the Dehcho Land Use planning process.

GOAL: ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE SELF-GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

Main Objectives and Actions

Strengthen Relationship between JMR Council and Membership

- Establish community newsletter to keep membership informed
- Encourage chief and councilors to make home visits
- Use surveys and community meetings to get membership input
- Encourage members to attend council and community meetings
- Encourage traditional values of respect, honesty, and open-mindedness.

Strengthen Operation of JMR First Nation

- Carry out effective, on-going community planning
- Provide on-going governance, management, and staff training
- Establish and utilize policies to guide decision-making
- Prepare for transition to Dehcho government
- Support finalization of the Dehcho Process
- Negotiate better funding/program arrangements with the GNWT and Canada

- Seek increased program and service funding
- Maintain financial accountability to membership
- Hire members for staff positions whenever possible
- Utilize skilled resource people, as and when needed
- Continue to upgrade office technology as needed.

Provide Leadership Training to Youth

- Involve youth in community planning
- Involve youth in community and regional meetings
- Send local delegates to youth conferences
- Encourage youth to train for local management, professional, and technical jobs.