

COTE FIRST NATION



Community Development Plan



Izayan Owitinikan - "Going into the future"

2018

RATIFIED Oct 25, 2019

FOREWORD & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF AND COUNCIL

Over the past five years, we have been working with Arlene Pinay, Robert Cote, Steven Bryant, Shawn Delorme and Judge Cote the community on creating the Cote First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP).

So many new and exciting ideas were presented and are reflected here in the plan. As Chief and Council we have understood from the beginning of the project the CCP would benefit all community members near and far. As leaders we are committed to ensuring that all community members whether on or off reserve have their voices heard and feel pride in being a member of Cote First Nation.

The Cote CCP is meant to be a guide, allowing us to grow and thrive for the next 25 years. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all the community members who came out to the sessions, who completed the surveys and who participated in the ways they felt comfortable. It is wonderful to see the wise voices of our youth and kici-anishnabae echoed throughout.

Finally, we would like to thank Arlene, Robert, Steven and Shawn our Community Navigators for their hard work, patience and spirit. Let us take the words and ideas of the community, the hard work of our community navigators to bring them to the page and together move Cote First Nation for the benefit of ourselves and our future generations.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS

In 2017, Cote leadership made the decision to participate in the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) program and hired two Navigators, Arlene Pinay and Robert G. Cote. On behalf of the CCP and Cote Navigators, tobacco was offered to an elder. A sacred sweat ceremony took place with leadership and kici-anishnabae to wish for a successful CCP.

We, as Community Navigators quickly embarked on our journey as Community Navigators. We participated and learned quickly the many roles and responsibilities of a Community Navigator. We attended training sessions and workshops, both provincially and nationally. We are very thankful for the positive relationships developed, community members we have met, and the knowledge that we have acquired because of our role.

First and foremost, we want to thank our community members who have taken the time to provide feedback since the inception of the CCP. As Navigators we provide an opportunity for the community to share their feedback. It is up to each community member to make the time to share their feedback, whether it is oral or written. We thank you for welcoming us into your homes and sharing your thoughts and ideas with us. We want to thank our kici-anishnabae for their prayers, and their valuable input to this plan. We want to thank our Cote leadership for believing in us to do the work in the community and for providing us with the support necessary to do a good job.



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INTRODUCTION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This Community Development Plan (CDP) integrates several priority areas for growth and development in the community. The use of the Comprehensive Community Planning Wheel provides a framework for the various community themes. This CDP provides direction for staff and the community to move towards self-sufficiency. It is a community-led plan to be used to leverage funding and partnerships from external agencies.

Cote First Nation (Cote) has undertaken significant work to develop this CDP. This is critical as our community grows and we forge ahead in a new future and create new opportunities. It is important that the community vision, goals, and proposed actions are clearly articulated and endorsed by our community. The community is committed to this CDP, which captures local ideas and aspirations, provides direction for the future and serves as a tool for immediate and ongoing action.

Planning helps a community to know where they are and identify where they want to be. Even more significant is its contribution in helping communities to understand how to get there. It establishes a basis for responding to immediate pressures, for using limited resources more effectively and for identifying community priorities.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process consists of following stages:

Stage
01



GATHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Collect facts about the community and review community documents, plans and policies.

Stage
02



IDENTIFY STRENGTHS AND ISSUES

Concentrate on recording and understanding concerns and identifying potential solutions.

Stage
03



IDENTIFY PRIORITY AREAS

Based on information gathered in the previous two sections, identify and select priority areas.

Stage
04



MONITORING THE PLAN AND PROJECTS

Evaluate the impact of individual projects as well as the effects of planning as a whole. Update data indicators to measure progress.

THE STRUCTURE

The CDP is made up of the following 7 sections:



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The most fundamental characteristic of the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) process is that it is community based. Ideas contained in this Plan have strength, power and endurance because they come from the people of Cote.

The ideas and strategies described in this CCP are a direct response to the concerns, suggestions and feedback of community members, band staff and Chief and Council.

Making a difference on the ground will require a continued commitment to the community vision. It will also require passion, ingenuity and imagination so that community supports are put in place, band members are inspired, and the community is fueled by pride and hope.

During the creation of this CCP the following community engagement opportunities were shared with members to contribute:

- Community Surveys – On-reserve and off-reserve
- Community Week Engagement (presentation, engagement poster feedback, survey)
- Education Engagement (presentation, discussion, survey)
- Staff Retreat / Kici-anishnabae Engagement (presentation, engagement poster feedback, survey)
- Elections Act Survey
- Staff Interviews
- Urban Members Engagement in Yorkton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Kelowna (presentation, engagement poster feedback, survey)
- Youth Engagement (colouring contest, survey)
- Community Camp
- Treaty Day
- Leadership Engagement Session
- Management Engagement Session



OUR VISION

A united Anishnabae Nation that honors the spirit and intent of our treaty and is empowered to prosper in self-sufficiency and economic stability.



We will achieve our MISSION through the protection of our land and traditions, and by working together to ensure the health of our Nation.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

By 1870 the buffalo had disappeared and the and the Indian hunting grounds were being infiltrated by a growing number of white settlers. Tensions were mounting among the Indians who were nearing starvation and did not have the technical ability to start a new way of life. To solve these problems, it was decided by the Government of Canada to make treaties with the Indians giving them financial and technical assistance if they would agree to surrender all of their land except certain small reserved portions to the crown. Nearly all the Indian bands agreed to this plan. September 15, 1874 the Treaty #4 was signed in Fort Qu'Appelle, Gabriel Cote, who was head Chief of the Prairie Onakawe-win in Saskatchewan. In this treaty they gave up 74,600 square miles of land to the crown and agreed to live on reserves.

The band had the right to choose the site of their reserve, the site for the Cote Band was not selected until 1877, that's why this is our Centennial year. It wasn't until 1880 that the Pelly Agency was established before that the Band was administered by Birtle Mountain Agency. Chief Gabriel Cote's headmen or councillors at that time were Wapiececake-cake(Whitehawk), Shingoish (Weasel) (Cote's oldest son) and Charle Keesick. At that time the Cote Reserve was 56.5 square miles and the population was 250, and now the Cote Reserve is 31.7 square miles and the population is 1350. In 1904 famine struck the reserve and this was the same time the town of Kamsack and the railway was being built, in order to survive the Indians were forced to surrender 24.8 square miles of land for a mere \$10.00 per acre, they received \$2,030.00 which was used to purchase cattle and equipment for farming. At the time these lands were surrendered Joe Cote was the Chief. About a year after this surrender taken place a town place was being built, it is now named Kamsack. In takin this surrender, the Department made a farce of its earlier statements to the Band about the desirability of turning to grain farming over cattle raising, and at the same time demonstrated that it did not have the interest of the band at heart. After the 1904 surrender, the Department in an effort to discourage cattle raising began to sell off the cattle, and encouraged the young men to break land for growing wheat. However, just as this land was made ready for the first crop, the Department took this newly broken land as part of the 1907 surrender. Thus, the Department took this newly broken land as part of the 1907 surrender. Thus, the Department destroying the economic life of the Band. In getting rid of the cattle, it had removed the Band's earlier economic activity: by taking away some of the best lands, these being the newly broken lands, which the Department had led the Band to believe were to become the new economic base for the reserve.

Although difficulties arose over disposal of all the land from the 1907 surrender (not all the lands were sold at auctions, which is why they put more pressure on the civil servants to sell it privately) the Department by 1912 was willing to consider taking a new surrender of land from Cote Reserve.

However, by this time it was not the Department that took the initiative to open Indian land for settlement. The instigators of the idea of getting more land from Cote Reserve were the townspeople of Kamsack, and the settlers on the lands that had formerly belonged to the Reserve. These people were passing bribes and whiskey to the Chief and Councillors in the hope of convincing them to give up more land and were having a good deal of success in achieving their aim. Under the pressure and the inducement of bribes, the Band voted to surrender a two-mile strip of the Reserve.

At the signing of Treaty #4, Lt. Governor Morris had promised the Indians that the Government would teach them “The cunning of the Whiteman” and the “help them put something in their land” He also said that these obligations would extend to future generations, for the “Queen thinks of children unborn, the Queen has to think of what will come long after today...” The Cote Band was never taught “the cunning of the Whiteman”, in how to farm or develop its Reserve. Instead only bare rudiments of farming were passed on to the band, and this was done until 14 years after the signing of the Treaty.

In 1940’s a Community Farm had been tried, this had not been very successful, and the land was turned over to individual Indian farmers or was leased to non-Indian farmers.

Under the terms of the Treaty #4, the government was obligated to build and maintain a school on the Reserve, this obligation was carried out first by a residential school at Crowstand, on the south side of the reserve and later by Day Schools.

The Village of Badgerville was started in 1963 and it got its name from Hector Badger who was the Chief of the Cote First Nation at that time. The purpose of forming this village was to give the people better services and facilities at a lower cost. The present site of the old Agency was imposed on them by the Crown and residential schools were introduced.

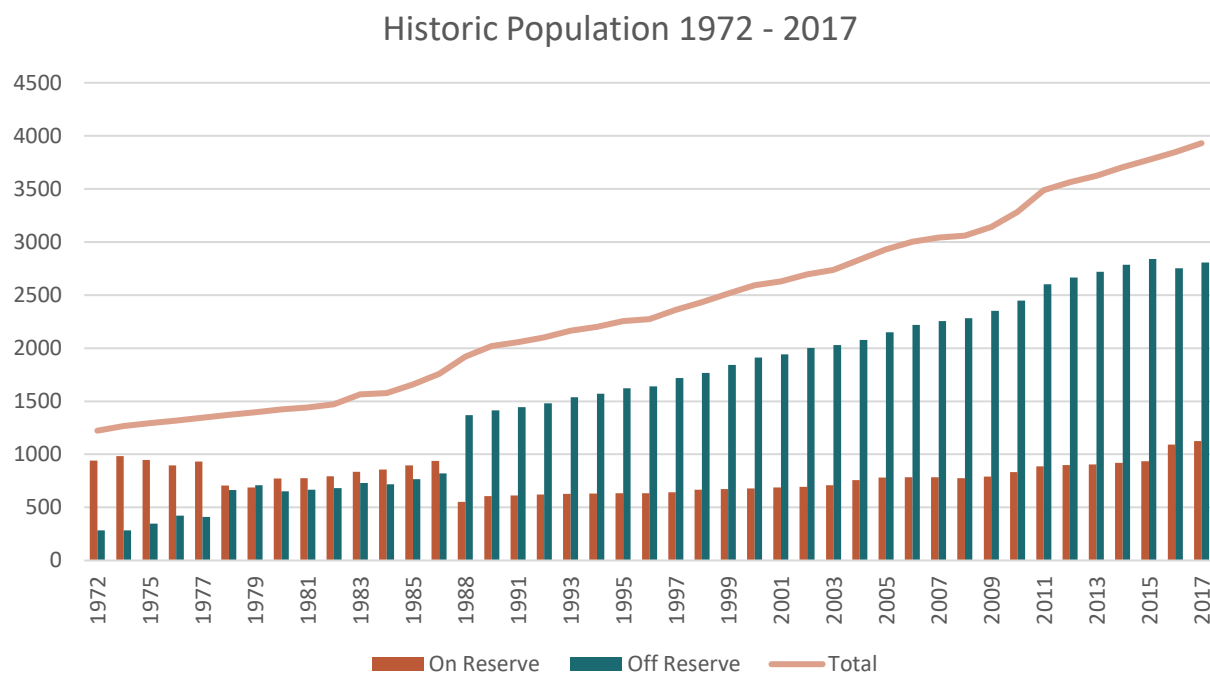
COTE CHIEFS SINCE 1874

1874 – Gabriel Cote
189? – Joe Cote
1912 – Jimmy Cote
1942 – Donald Cote
1944 – John Pelly
1946 – Allen Fiddler
1956 – Johnny Severight
1962 – Hector Badger
1964 – Johnny Severight
1966 – Albert Cote
1969 – Tony Cote
1974 – Richard Whitehawk
1974 – Tony Cote
1980 – Norman Stevenson
1982 – Alfred Stevenson
1984 – Norman Stevenson
1986 – Norman Stevenson
1988 – Hector Badger
1992 – Patrick Cote
1994 – George Tourangeau
1996 – Lawrence Cote
1996 – James Severight
2000 – Norman Whitehawk
2016 – George Cote
2019 – George Cote

COMMUNITY POPULATION

HISTORIC & CURRENT POPULATION

It is important to understand data related to population to determine future needs for housing, facilities, and services, and how growth may impact development on-reserve. Historically, the on-reserve population has fluctuated from 940 members in 1972, falling to a low of 551 members in 1988, then growing to reach 1,124 members in 2017. The off-reserve population has grown at a steadier pace from 282 members in 1972 to 2,807 members in 2017. In 2017, the total membership population reached 3,931.



Source: INSTAT – INAC 2017

PROJECTED FUTURE POPULATION & HOUSING NEEDS

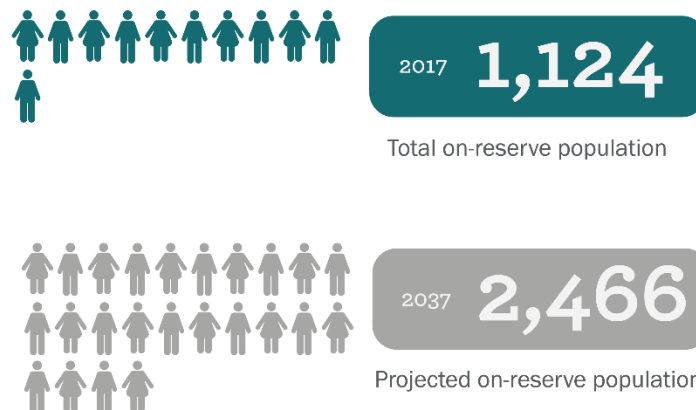
Based on historic population data, an Annual Average Growth Rate (AAGR) was calculated. Over the last 10 years, the on-reserve population grew at an AAGR of 4% and the off-reserve

population grew at an AAGR of 2%. If the community continues to grow at this rate, the total population could reach by 7,099 the year 2037.

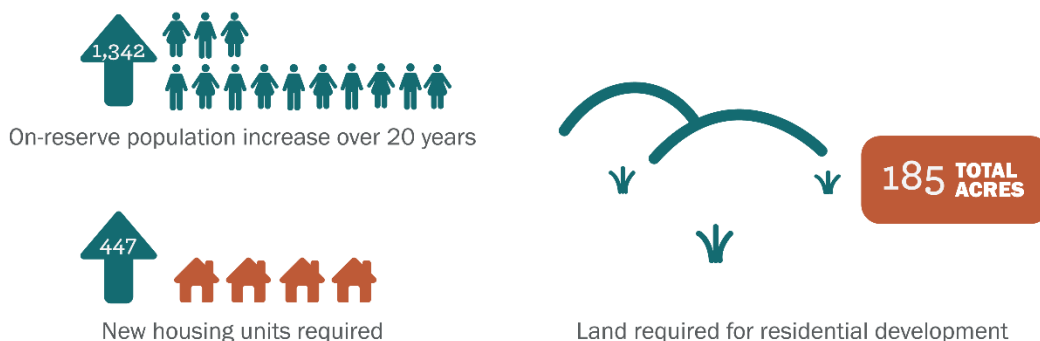
It is important to consider the impact of population growth on-reserve as it will affect many services that the community is responsible for providing. If Cote continues on the same growth trend, the on-reserve population could reach 2,466 by 2037. That would mean there could be an additional 1,342 members living on-reserve in 20 years.

Based on these population projections, Cote needs approximately 185 acres of developable land to accommodate new residential growth over the next 20 years, which would allow for 447 new residential units. These projections do not consider the current housing waitlist and housing demand. Population growth will also impact infrastructure services, education, and health services provided in the community, which Cote will have to carefully plan for.

POPULATION STATISTICS

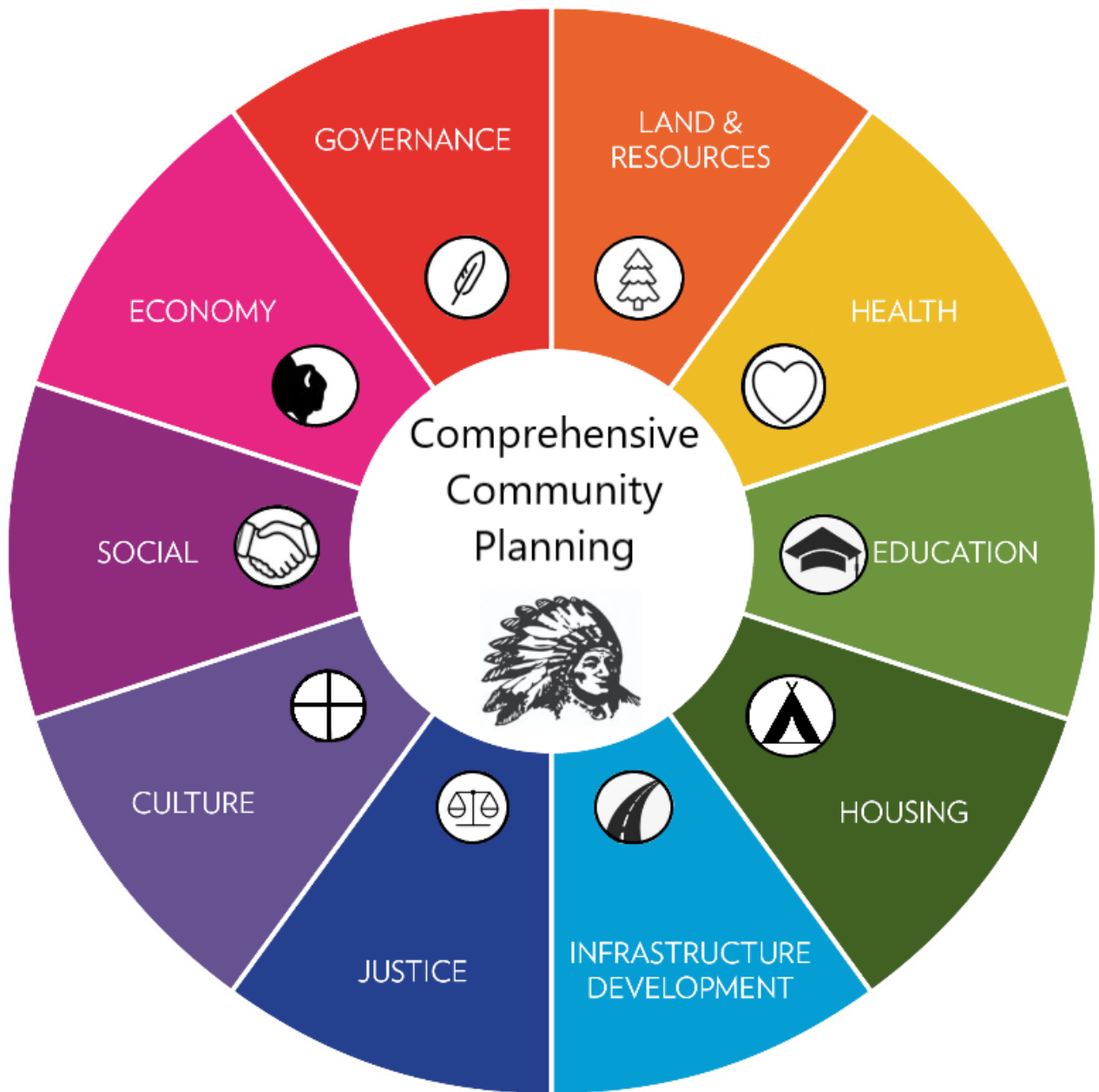


RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS



Planning for the Future

This section of the CDP was created from the goals and objectives identified by Cote members through the engagement efforts. Based on the input received by the engagement efforts, goals and actions were created for each of the 10 theme areas. For each theme, background information, data, and community goals are provided. As the CDP is implemented the Community Development Team will work to collect data currently listed as TBD.



GOVERNANCE

Background

Cote leadership consists of twelve (12) Council members and one Chief. Our Custom Electoral System governs the community, and every three years, an election occurs. Cote is interested in pursuing self-governance and is currently developing a constitution.

Cote First Nation has established Committees for Justice, Education, Finance, Health, Recreation, Housing, Cote Developments Ltd, Saulteaux Healing and Wellness, Youth Committee, Community Safety Planning Core Team, Prevention Services Committee and an Emergency Management Team.

The community has enacted the following policies and bylaws:

- Code of Ethics
- Code of Conduct
- Chief and Council Handbook
- Personnel Policy
- Governance Policy Manual
- Housing Policy
- Post-Secondary Manual
- Cote Revenue Account Bylaw

Currently working on the development a Information Technology Policy and Finance Policy and revising the Personnel Policy and Governance Policy ,



Community Goals

Establish bylaws and policies to support community development.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Develop a Constitution
- Review and update all policies to ensure business is conducted equitably
- Update Custom Election Act (to reflect member preferences from 2017-2018 engagement)

Build leadership capacity.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Provide governance and leadership training for Chief and Council (communication, conflict resolution, finance, etc.)
- Develop orientation for new leadership, as per Election Act
- Develop a Strategic Plan every 3 – 5 years to set goals and a vision for the community
- Review policies and bylaws to ensure they are being implemented
- Implement and enforce a Code of Ethics and Social Media Waiver
- Establish a Youth Council

Build staff capacity.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Train staff to effectively deal with crisis or emergency situations in the community
- Hire a Kici-anishnabae Coordinator to address the needs of kici-anishnabae and coordinate support services
- Enforce and ensure compliance with the Personnel Policy and Financial Management Act.

Address issues with drugs and alcohol in the community.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Develop a Curfew Bylaw to limit the hours that youth can be in public places unaccompanied
- Develop a Drug and Alcohol Bylaw to prohibit such substances in the community
- Promote awareness and prevention of drug and alcohol use through youth programs

The Band Office will be a safe, respectful, and effective work environment

Actions to achieve goal:

- 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.

Improve communication between leadership and members living on both on and off-reserve.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Develop a community newsletter and distribute online and via mail
- Regularly update community website
- Utilize social media to share information with members
- Hold additional band meetings on-reserve
- Hold regular meetings with off-reserve members
- Update membership mailing list
- Ensure members can contact council members
- Communicate the difference between Income Assistance and Treaties to members
- Provide Treaty education to members highlighting the spirit and intent of the Treaty

Support off-reserve members.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Establish an urban office in Saskatoon and Regina
- Establish an Urban Councillor position
- Provide off-reserve members with transit subsidies
- Provide off-reserve members with opportunities to attend culture meetings
- Provide off-reserve members with an opportunity to participate in community matters from where they live
- Provide off-reserve members with financial support to start businesses

Address issues with domestic animals in the community.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Enforce animal control bylaw to address issues with domestic animals in the community
- Partner with the University of Saskatchewan Veterinary Department to spay stray dogs
- Establish a dog pound in the community

Community Data

- Male: Female Ratio for Chief and Council – 11 Males, 2 Females
- First Nation election turnout – percent of eligible voters – TBD
- General Assessment Score – TBD
- Change in General Assessment Score – TBD
- Number of general band meetings held annually – 4
- Average length of time served in role of Chief & Council members – TBD

LANDS AND RESOURCES

Background

Cote has a large land base that consists of 22,970 acres which equals 9,295.63 hectares. Our on-reserve land is 19,600 acres. Our fee simple land is 2,480 acres. In 2008, Cote entered into the Specific Land Claim Settlement Agreement with the Federal Government of Canada: this specific land claim is referred to as the Pelly Hay Lands Specific Claim. Cote received a one-time payment of twenty-one million dollars. In 2012, Cote entered into another Specific Claim Settlement Agreement, referred to as the Cote Legacy Specific Land Claim, for which Cote received a one-time payment of \$130,700,361. Current claims being negotiated are: Canadian National Railroad Claim, Road Allowance, Cows & Ploughs, Misadministration Claims and Veterans Claim.

Community Goals

Protect the environment.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Limit chemical usage on farmland
- Pick up garbage and litter in the community
- Establish a community recycling program

Improve land management.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Limit the leasing of farmland to non-members
- Develop a Land Management Act
- Protect culturally and traditionally significant areas including graveyards, ceremonial grounds, Pee Paw Plains, hunting areas, and Chief Gabriel Historic site
- Provide members with information about community lands and resources
- Provide training for lands department staff to build capacity
- Develop awareness of traditional hunting and gathering areas
- Utilize lands revenues and land trust revenue for lands department projects and administrative support (i.e. cemetery mapping/expansion, re-establish Cote Band Farms, etc.)

Pursue land development opportunities.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Acquire additional reserve lands
- Acquire land in urban centres

Community Data

- Size of current reserve land – 19,600 acres
- Size of fee simple land – 2,480 acres
- Population density, registered persons per km² – 14.4
- Number of urban reserves currently in addition to reserve process – 0
- Active number of leases – 5
- Active number of permits – 9
- Active number of Certificates of Possession – 11
- Active number of buckshee leases - 4
- Active # of band trust land purchases – 1
- What is the revenue we receive on band trust land – \$539,993.88
- How much land is in the process of reserve conversion – TBD

HEALTH

Background

The Cote Health Clinic provides the following services and programs for community members:

Currently, the following First Nation and Inuit Health Branch programs are being funded:

- Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Children's Oral Health Initiative
- Building Healthy Communities: Mental Health
- National Native Alcohol and Drug Prevention: Addictions
- Healthy Living: Public Health (CHN & CHRs)
- Communicable Disease Control & Management: Public Health (CHN & CHRs)
- Immunization Prevention – Promotion and Education
- HIV/AIDS Prevention – Harm Reduction
- Home and Community Care
- Medical Transportation: Client Insured Services & Administration
- Health Research & Engagement
- Community Facilities O & M
- Headstart
- DayCare
- Youth Centre
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Predominant health concerns in the community include diabetes, HIV, addictions, flu viruses, and injuries caused by dogs. The Health Clinic is tracking cases of diabetes, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, birth rates, and immunization rates.

Members have access to the Cote Rec-Plex, Cote Arena, and Cote Youth Centre. Recreation programs in the community include floor hockey, volleyball, badminton, rollerblading, cross country skiing, fastball, FSIN Youth Hockey, intermural softball, umpire clinics, and softball coaching clinics. Cote supports athletes financially by providing transportation, sponsorship, and in-kind donations.

Community Goals

Ensure access to health-related programs and services offered in the community.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Provide medical transportation services
- Provide addictions counselling services for youth and adults – provided at school and youth centre to older youth
- Provide detox treatment services and support for individuals reintegrating into the community
- Provide AA/NA meetings
- Provide mental health support programs
- Provide programs to prevent health issues and increase awareness
- Provide lateral violence prevention workshops
- Provide parenting classes
- Provide day care services
- Provide assisted living support services for individuals with disabilities
- Provide support services for individuals with physical disabilities
- Provide community nurse home visits for Kici-anishnabae
- Provide dental and optometry services in the community
- Establish a safe needle depository
- Establish an after-hours crisis team or hotline
- Recruit health care professionals to hire in the community
- Provide land-based healing programs and facilities for families and children

Support members in obtaining required health services/treatments.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Provide financial assistance to members who must travel to receive emergency medical treatments
- Provide financial assistance to members to cover the cost of prescriptions, dental services, emergency procedures, etc.
- Provide financial assistance to members who must be hospitalized for extended periods to support their families

Increase awareness of available health services.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Conduct home visits to share health services information
- Hold health forums to spread awareness of health services and seek feedback from members
- Hold weekly prevention and awareness health workshops on different topics

Improve community safety.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Invest in community owned emergency services and equipment to reduce emergency response wait times
- Increase police and security presence
- Educate members on gun safety
- Educate members on driving and vehicle safety
- Educate members on bicycling safety
- Ensure a safe community for children (e.g. traffic safety, abuse, etc.)
- Ensure a safe community for kici-anishnabae (e.g. kici-anishnabae abuse, financial abuse, etc.)

Promote physical activity.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Develop a multi-purpose recreation centre
- Provide additional recreation programs for members of all ages
- Provide afterschool activities for youth
- Host sports tournaments in the community
- Provide financial support for off-reserve members to cover costs for sports and recreation activities
- Establish a Recreation Board comprised of community members
- Establish leagues for organized sports (e.g. figure skating, lacrosse, soccer, high school football, etc.)

Community Data

- Tenure of health services staff – TBD
- Number of health clinic visits – TBD
- Unfunded requests – TBD BMA- Darcy
- What is the cost of unfunded requests – TBD

EDUCATION

Background

The Chief Gabriel Cote Education Complex is located 3 kilometers North of Kamsack. There are approximately 180 students enrolled in programs ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 12. 30 staff/support staff members offer high school classes as well as Adult Education courses. The school offers a varied curriculum that includes Levelled Literacy Intervention, math courses, language and cultural programs, Onakawewin land-based education (collaboration with YTC, YTCCFS, TEA) and language teaching, garden projects, physical education program, and spelling bees. We are focusing on indigenizing our secondary education curriculum: incorporating treaties teachings, teaching our history, language, identity, culture, and customs in the classroom, with the support of our knowledge keepers. Will be embarking on developing a curriculum history for our students.

In May 2022, a MOU was signed in collaboration with Cote First Nation, Treaty Education Alliance and the federal government to establish our own First Nation funding agreement meeting or exceeding provincial funding for TEA schools.

Community Goals

Enhance youth education programming.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Update the school curriculum to ensure it is on par with other schools
- Ensure sufficient qualified staff in place to provide education services to our children
- Pursue additional funding opportunities for education programming
- Provide education and career counselling services for high school students
- Establish an anti-bullying program
- Establish discipline policies through the school
- Provide immersive programs in math and science
- Provide literacy development programs
- Encourage parents to volunteer at the school and participate in student activities
- Provide student transportation services to and from school
- Incorporate traditional teachings and Onakawe-win language in education curriculum
- Provide lands-based teachings
- Educate youth on Treaty rights and governance of Cote First Nation
- Provide life skills classes i.e. cooking, nutrition, cleaning, personal hygiene, etc.
- Ensure there are education assistants on staff to support students with disabilities
- Provide awareness and prevention programming regarding drugs and alcohol use

- Provide trades and job readiness programs for youth
- Acquire a 15-seat van for student transportation

Build teacher and staff capacity.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Hire additional education professionals; guidance counsellor, tutor, resource kici-anishnabae, etc.
- Establish daily teacher and staff debrief sessions
- Provide professional development training for teachers and staff
- Provide stress management, conflict resolution, and communication training for teachers and staff
- Provide safe and well-maintained busses for student transportation

Enhance adult education programming.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Develop a permanent adult training centre in the community
- Pursue additional funding opportunities for education programming
- Provide trades training programs in the community (e.g. electrical, carpentry, plumbing etc.)
- Provide medical professional training programs in the community (e.g. nursing)
- Provide computer/technology training courses in the community
- Provide student transportation services
- Provide education opportunities for our young parents/pregnant teens

Invest in post-secondary education.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Pursue additional funding opportunities for education programming
- Provide adequate post-secondary funding to members living both on-reserve and off-reserve
- Communicate the application process and selection criteria for post-secondary funding opportunities
- Provide select post-secondary courses in the community
- Research and provide information regarding Canada Student Loans and other education/learning opportunities (ie. Army, policing, etc)
- Research and provide information regarding bursary/grant/proposal opportunities.

Community Data

- Population on-reserve with a High School Diploma or equivalent – TBD
- Population on-reserve with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree – TBD

- High school graduation rate on-reserve – 67% (4 of 6 - 2020)
- High school graduation rate on-reserve – 100% (8 - 2019)
- High school graduation rate on-reserve – 100% (9 - 2018)
- High school graduation rate on-reserve – 75% (3 of 4 - 2017)
- Students funded by post-secondary program – 74 (Fall 2019)
- Students funded by post-secondary program – 74 (Winter 2019)
- Students funded by post-secondary program – 14 (Spring 2020)
- Students funded by post-secondary program – 69 (Fall 2020)
- Graduation rate for PSE – 19 (2019)
- Graduation rate for PSE – 13 (2020)
- Waiting list for post-secondary program – 21 (2019)
- High school graduation rate of students that attend off-reserve schools and reside on-reserve – 100% (8 of 8 - 2018), 75% (3 of 4 - 2017)
- Grade 12 graduates that attended post-secondary school – 20 (2020); TBD (2019) 2 university (2018)
- Certificates last 5 years -TBD
- Diplomas last 5 years - TBD
- Degrees last 5 years – 7 (in 2020)
- Masters last 5 years – 1 (in 2020)



HOUSING

Background

Cote First Nation has 296 homes in the community. Cote First Nation owns 111 of these homes, and 177 homes as under Section 95 housing. No new units have been built since 2013 when 40 new units were constructed. Eleven (11) new units were purchased and built-in October 2019. The current waitlist for a home in the community includes 200+ families.

Cote developed a Housing Policy in 2014 and recently revised the Housing Policy and Lease Agreement in October 2020: through which community housing is administered. Cote collects rent payments from members who are employed and are living in band-owned homes. Cote also assists our Elders by covering rent and utilities on reserve.

Cote First Nation has been dealing with a drug issue. On January 6th, 2020, the Chief and Council passed a Band Council Resolution to mitigate the buying & selling of any drug substance (i.e. distribution of prescription narcotics, etc.) in our community homes.

Community Goals

Ensure members have access to appropriate housing.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Enforce the Housing Policy (e.g. appropriate rents being charged and collected)
- Develop a Matrimonial Real Property Law
- Develop a Universal Rental Rate
- Develop a variety of new housing types in the community to address overcrowding
- Build housing on-site in the community
- Provide home ownership option
- Provide housing support for off-reserve members (ie. Kamsack, urban centres)
- Provide housing for students off-reserve
- Establish a transition house in the community for members in crisis
- Provide subsidizes for homeowners
- Provide lodging for families during medical procedures off-reserve
- Identify housing for kici-anishnabae preferences
- Provide transition housing for homeless

Maintain housing stock.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Collect fees for reoccurring repairs required in band owned homes
- Obtain replacement and fire insurance on all band owned homes
- Address issues with sewage backups in homes
- Address issues with flooding basements in homes
- Pursue additional funding opportunities to renovate community homes
- Survey members to understand the current condition of their homes and where repairs are needed
- Renovate houses to ensure they are habitable
- Create jobs and apprenticeship and trades opportunities for our members in renovating community homes
- Compensate local labour and contractors fairly for their services
- Provide training and education to members so they will have the skills to build/maintain and their homes

Community Data

- Number of on-reserve housing units – 296 (Oct 2020)
- Average persons per household on-reserve – 5.2
- Percent of dwellings that are crowded – 31%
- Percent of dwellings that are adequate condition – 100%
- Percent of dwellings that require major renovations – 0
- Percent of dwellings that need replacement – 5.3%
- Occupied on-reserve dwellings without water services – 0
- Occupied on-reserve dwellings without sewage services – 0
- Number of housing units that were uninhabitable – 23 (July 2020)
- Number of housing units that are now habitable – 15 (Oct 2020)
- Number of housing units that were deemed vacant in the rural areas are being moved into our subdivisions – 5 (Nov 2020)
- Number of families on the housing waitlist – 51 (2021)



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Background

Community infrastructure and facilities are the essential services and buildings that support the community. The community maintains the rink, recreation centre, youth centre, daycare centre, band hall, health clinic, store/gas station, and the school. Cote operates and maintains the community water treatment plant, wastewater lagoon, landfill, and roads. The community provides garbage pick up and sewage pumping services for members.

Cote assets have been purchased to assist with all Public Works. Cote had a ground breaking ceremony in April 2022 to construct a new Arena. Future planning of assets includes the construction of 2 bay facility, fire hall and a new transfer station.

Community Goals

Provide quality maintenance and necessary upgrades to community infrastructure.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Upgrade the sewage collection truck
- Upgrade the water treatment plant
- Provide training for water treatment plant staff to ensure operators have the required certification
- Repair community roads
- Revive traditional grounds
- Pursue additional funding opportunities to renovate community facilities
- Increase frequency of garbage disposal services
- Test community water supply for contamination to ensure safe drinking water
- Remediate vandalised properties
- Maintain partnerships with the Province to ensure provincial roads are well maintained and repaired appropriately

Invest in community infrastructure.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Develop a new band administration building and renovate existing band administration office for other use.
- Develop a new rink/multipurpose recreation complex
- Create a Kichi-anishnabek Centre

- Decommission landfills and establish a solid waste transfer station
- Support a recycling program
- Plant additional trees in the community
- Install solar panels on community buildings
- Ensure buildings have access to fire hydrants or a water truck for fire suppression
- Install fibre optic wireless services
- Pave village roads

Community Data

- Number of public works staff – 6 (2018)
- Number of trained water technicians – 2 (2020)
- Length of roads on reserve by category (kms) – 52.6 km
- List of public buildings, public spaces, parks – TBD
- Internet connectivity speed, point of presence – TBD
- Garbage management – TBD
- Fire protection services and/or fire protection agreements – TBD
- Signage & incorporation of language of community streets and roadways - TBD



JUSTICE

Background

Yorkton Tribal Council (YTC) provides justice programs and services for Cote First Nation. YTC has been providing justice programs and support to its member nations for the last twenty (20) years. Programs offered by YTC include the Alternative Measures program, Court Worker program, Adult Reintegration, Youth Reintegration, Facilitators, Justice Coordinators and training, First Nation Mediation, Victim Offender Mediation, Youth Reintegration, and Restorative Justice.

Cote has expanded their security detail from one (1) security personnel to nine (9). They monitor and patrol the First Nation.

Community Goals

Crime reduction in the community.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Increase security (human resources and technology)
- Establish Tribal Police service
- Increase RCMP presence
- Establish a Justice Committee comprised of community members
- Support Youth Justice workers in the community
- Create Justice worker position in the community
- Encourage members to anonymously report criminal activity
- Hold community meetings regarding justice and crime prevention with Chief and Council
- Support those in the criminal justice system to break the cycle of crime
- Education, information and awareness for our children and youth. (i.e. Stranger danger, bike safety, walking alone, self-defense for women, block parent program/sober house program, community neighborhood watch, Bear Patrol type, etc.)
- Develop a public safety plan

Our community will be safe.

Actions to achieve goal:

- 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

Community Data

- Ask rcmp for different crime rates? i.e. How many times they come out? Offences? Etc? youth involved in crime?

Culture

Background

We would like to have more fluent Onakawe-win speakers in our community. We want to see the language used more in our daily interactions.

Our language has been incorporated into our school's curriculum. However, we would like to utilize our language in our community and beyond. We want to offer it to our community members who are interested in learning, both on and off-reserve.

The impact of the residential schools has negatively affected our ability to speak our Onakawe-win language and practice our culture daily.



We still hunt, fish, and practice our songs and dances. We eat traditional foods like wild game, berries, and fish. Some people use traditional medicines and some people also smudge and do sweats. Several people still practice traditional crafts like beadwork and drum making. One of the biggest threats is that many of our youth are not interested in learning and practicing the language and culture, though some young people are carrying on the traditions.

Community Goals

Connect members with their culture.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Hold community powwows
- Hold community feasts
- Provide Onakawe-win language classes for youth and adults
- Hold ceremonies with youth and Kici-anishnabae
- Support our Kici-anishnabae
- Hold story telling events

Provide opportunities for members to learn traditional skills.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Pursue additional funding opportunities for cultural initiatives
- Hold culture camps for youth and adults
- Identify people in the community who are willing to teach and share traditional knowledge
- Provide traditional teaching sessions with Kici-anishnabae monthly
- Organize culture nights for youth and Kici-anishnabae
- Establish a youth drumming group
- Provide youth programs for berry picking, bannock making, girl guides, etc.
- Teach youth skills such as hunting and gathering, nature hikes, gun safety, etc.
- Establish an 'kici-anishnape room' in the Band office/school/youth centre to promote cultural learning and teach the Onakawe-win protocol
- Teach the youth the history and stories of our Onakawe-win.
- Teaching and sharing the Onakawe-win philosophy of NIKA – ONCINE (karma)

Preserve the Onakawe-win language.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Provide classes for youth and adults led by Kici-anishnabae
- Encourage people who do speak Onakawe-win to use the language
- Support members in learning "one Onakawe-win word a day"
- Utilize technology to support members in learning Onakawe-win

- Hold sing songs in Onakawe-win
- Use Onakawe-win in community signage
- Conduct ceremonies in Onakawe-win
- Streamline to only one Onakawe-win dialect
- Create awareness of Onakawe-win through the Language Protection Act

Community Data

- Number of culture camps held – 0
- Number of community camps held – 1 annually
- Onakawe-win language as mother tongue – 8.8% (2016)
- Knowledge of an Aboriginal language – 12.8% (2016)
- Number of Kici-anishnabae – Men & Women – over 1200 registered.

SOCIAL

Background

The social characteristics of Cote First Nation are complex, rich in diversity, and respectful of differences. There is an influence of traditional spirituality that is embraced and expressed in many ceremonial opportunities: sweat lodge, sun dance, seasonal lodges, fasting, medicine picking, and teaching the moral values of our Onakawe-wak way of life. We take pride in our ability to unite in times of loss. We hold traditional wake services and light the sacred fire.

Sports are a part of Cote First Nation's past and present. We take pride in our athletes. All ages and genders participate in hockey and fastball and many of our teams are champions! Social environments include the indoor ice arena, ball diamonds, youth centre, rec-plex in our community. We have a play structure for our children to exercise and have fun.

We take pride in our Onakawe-win heritage, we are dedicated to the annual celebration of Treaty Day, or annual Sports Day and we are dedicated to our weeklong Community camp. These events include treaty money distribution, games, social events, food, song, dance, visiting the family, and welcoming visitors. We also host an annual winter carnival and powwow.

Our community hall is used for meetings, gatherings, and recreational activities.

We have a Head start program and daycare. We have a Saulteaux Health and Wellness Centre in the community.

Cote First Nation takes care of the people; for instance, during the Christmas holidays, a food hamper is gifted to each household and Cote First Nation hosts a community dinner. Cote First Nation members enjoy playing games and taking chances, often fundraisers are held to support each other at a variety of charity causes, including:

- Bingos
- Weddings
- Support for Sports teams
- Sick children and families with special needs.

Community Goals

Bring members together.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Hold events off-reserve to provide an opportunity for members to get to know each other and build community support
- Hold community potlucks
- Hold community meetings

Provide care and support for community members.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Provide childcare services for members
- Provide motivational and personal development training

Our Community will be a vibrant and enjoyable place to live

Actions to achieve goal:

- Cote will have year-round recreation for all ages
- The Community will gather in celebration regularly

We will take care of our kici-anishnabae

Actions to achieve goal:

- Kici-anishnabae will feel valued and important part of the community
- Kici-anishnabae will have access to a variety of program to support their well being
- Kici-anishnabae will have a role in decisions made in the community

We will take care of our youth

Actions to achieve goal:

- Youth will feel 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

We will have happy healthy families

Actions to achieve goal:

- 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 and happy children
- Community gathering and building well be accessible for all ages, so that parents with young children and babies can participate fully in the community

- Expecting mothers will have a healthy environment, supports, and good self-care skills in order to have healthy babies

Our community will have a strong feeling of unity and trust

Actions to achieve goal:

- People will work together to accomplish goals
- People will treat each other with kindness and respect
- Community gathering will be positive and enjoyable
- Community members will be positive and optimistic
- Community members will open up to and trust each other
- Parents will raise their children with good values, self-discipline, respect and love

Community Data

- # of community meetings - 4
- # of Community kichi-anishnabek forum held - TBD
- # of personal development training held – TBD
- # of community members attending Band Meetings – 30 in person and virtually 50 (2020)



ECONOMY

Background

Cote currently owns and operates Cote Market Developments (full-scale grocery store in the community), Cote First Nation Landscaping & Excavation Inc. and Cote Resources Inc. (oil and gas development).

Cote has developed a new Economic Development Corporation, Cote Developments Ltd. Here are some potential projects that the Economic Development Corporation may undertake in the future: a tire and oil change shop, a car wash, or a business plaza with a laundromat, hair salon, post office, and office space.

Some barriers limit members from obtaining employment on the reserve. For example, there are limited employment opportunities, some members need further education, some members carry unpaid fines, some members do not have transportation and have a criminal record.

Community Goals

Generate own source revenue.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Establish an Economic Development Corporation
- Develop a Terms of Reference for the Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors
- Develop a Business Charter for the Economic Development Corporation
- Pursue resource exploration and extraction opportunities on community lands i.e. oil, gas, etc.
- Pursue alternative energy production opportunities i.e. solar, geothermal, etc.
- Establish commercial enterprises i.e. restaurant franchise, grocery store, automotive mechanic shop, gas station, hotel, etc.
- Invest in agricultural operations i.e. crops, horticulture, livestock, etc.
- Financially support both community and privately-owned businesses
- Build partnerships with industry, other First Nations, etc.

Create employment opportunities for members.

Actions to achieve goal:

- Support member entrepreneurs in establishing small businesses in the community and off-reserve
- Ensure members have equal and fair opportunities to be employed in the community

Community Data

- Income assistance dependency rate – 17.8%
- Employment rate – 32.6%
- Employment growth – -1.1%
- Percentage of employed individuals working full time – 51.2%
- Average employment income for full-time full year workers – \$34,922.00
- Percent of self-employment income – TBD
- Own source revenue as share of government revenues – TBD
- List of economic development policies and procedures – TBD
- Average commuting distance to work – TBD
- Economic leakage – TBD
 - Keynesian model of economics: capital/ income diverging from the reserve.



COMMUNITY IN ACTION

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The CCP is everyone's plan. We all have roles in implementing it. The following are some examples of what community members, champions, Chief and Council, the Director of Operations and community staff will do.

Community members will:

- Contribute strategies based on individual passions and strengths
- Participate in activities and events that bring the vision alive
- Commit to be informed, provide input and share with family
- Honour the work that has been done

Champions will:

- Provide advice and encouragement to help develop a detailed plan for each theme
- Hold knowledge in that topic area
- Connect and encourage community members to participate in plan implementation
- Meet with other champions to share information coordinate among themes and review progress toward the vision
- Identify and mentor potential future champions

Chief & Council will:

- Champion the plan, and each theme within it
- Approve, implement and report on the plan
- Work with champions related to the various Council portfolios
- Liaise with and lobby other organizations and governments.

The Director of Operations will:

- Create opportunities for Champions to connect
- Ensure that strategic activities for each theme are developed and coordinated with each other
- Support community staff who are organizing and collaborating in activities that will achieve the goals and objectives.

Community Staff will:

- Use the plan objectives as a guide for ongoing work and development of proposals for new initiatives and funding
- Engage and facilitate community members and Champions to develop plans for each theme

Overall, we will use broad strategies such as the following to move toward our vision:

- Empower ourselves and each other: we are all leaders, with opportunities to take initiative
- Think proactively, when you sense something coming, consider what needs doing and how you can contribute to a proactive response
- Cooperate in teams, working and playing together creates opportunities for synergy, learning, mutual support and fun
- Use our values and principles: remembering who we are, what is important to us, and how we work together will help us succeed
- Keep it positive: be constructive, building on individual strengths and community assets;
- Treat conflict as an opportunity for learning: practice compassion and reflective listening when we have disagreements
- Celebrate and recognize achievements: honour the contributions of individuals and teams toward our success in implementing the plan.
- Add new community reports to the master copy of this CCP, which will ensure a 'library' of documents is maintained and available for leadership and various departments to review

MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND UPDATING THIS PLAN

The CCP is a living, breathing plan. To nourish and sustain it, we will pay attention to how we are implementing it (monitoring), assess how well we are moving toward our community vision (evaluating), and revise the plan based on what we learn (updating).

Monitoring

We will document activities and achievements that contribute to the plan and its implementation on an ongoing basis. Once a year, we will celebrate what we have accomplished together. Recognition of steps towards that visions, both small and large, will help energize us to keep moving forward. We will repost on progress annually, using this plan as a guide for communicating about what has been done and how.

Evaluating

We will assess the process and results of plan implementation every 5 years, or more often if needed. The Director of Operations will ensure that the evaluation of progress toward implementing the Community Strategic plan occurs in a timely and inclusive way. Champions and staff will carry out the evaluations and engage interested community members.

Updating

We will review our visions, values, principles, goals and objectives following each evaluation of progress toward plan implementation (every 5 years, or more often as needed). We will update the CCP based on community needs and priorities identified through community engagement. This updating will help up make sure we continue to grow and evolve as a community. We must remain willing and able to respond to changes in the world, taking advantage of emerging opportunities and addressing external challenges.

The Director of Operations, in consultation with Chief & Council, will ensure that the updating of the Comprehensive Community Plan happens as part of the plan evaluation and renewal process. Chief & Council, champions and community members will participate in this updating.