

2017 **Annual Report**



Vision

The Six Rivers Fund will make a positive difference for northerners by sharing the benefits of uranium mining today, and for generations to come.

for the North

by the North

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Chair's Message



Victor Fern
Chairperson, Fond-du-Lac

The Six Rivers Fund is growing more successful each year. We are receiving more applications from all regions of the north, demonstrating the awareness and recognition of the Six Rivers Fund across northern Saskatchewan.

With a focus on funding youth projects, we are increasing the cultural awareness of who we are.

The **Fond du Lac Canoe Quest** is one such project. The sunset photo gracing the cover of this report was taken on this quest.

Last summer, eleven youth were guided and taught, by a full support team of elders, volunteers and leaders, about First Nations' traditional way of life. They spent time on the land and water, learning about hunting, gathering and preparing wild food, as well as about different plants used in traditional medicine.

These are the kinds of projects that touch the lives of young people and provide benefit to them for many years to come.

2017 Projects



We have one child, who is 30 months old... knows all his alphabets... numbers and is certain he can count to one hundred.

Pinehouse Lake Early Literacy Program

For the past decade, literacy data has been collected by staff at Minahik Waskahigan Elementary School and the Northern Lights School Division. The results showed that more focused attention to literacy education was required. The need was also identified for early literacy intervention to better prepare the community's pre-schoolers for school life.

Partnering with the Teen Infant Center, Magloire Kiddie Care and the Annie Johnson Aboriginal Headstart Pre-School program, and with funding from the Six Rivers Fund, the Minahik Waskahigan Elementary School launched its early literacy program in 2017. In the fall, school staff and directors from each center personally traveled to Saskatoon to hand-select more than 1,300 children's books and early childhood literacy resources.

All funding received from the Six Rivers Fund went directly to the purchase of these important resources. Travel expenses were funded from alternate sources.

Each center proactively engages parents in their early literacy programs, loaning books and establishing reading logs with incentives for the number of books read. The results to date have been very positive. Parental involvement has increased dramatically and, today, most pre-schoolers in the three centers can readily identify letters, letter sounds as well as numbers, shapes and colors.

These early literacy programs have sparked a quest for learning in parents and pre-schoolers alike. This knowledge has prompted a developing interest in learning colours and numbers in the Cree language, which is commonly spoken in the community.



Research has proven time and again that students learn best when they are engaged and active.

Learning Outside the Box in Sandy Bay

For youth representatives of the Hector Thiboutot Community School in Sandy Bay, expanding education programs to include areas that honour and teach local traditions and cultural heritage is very important.

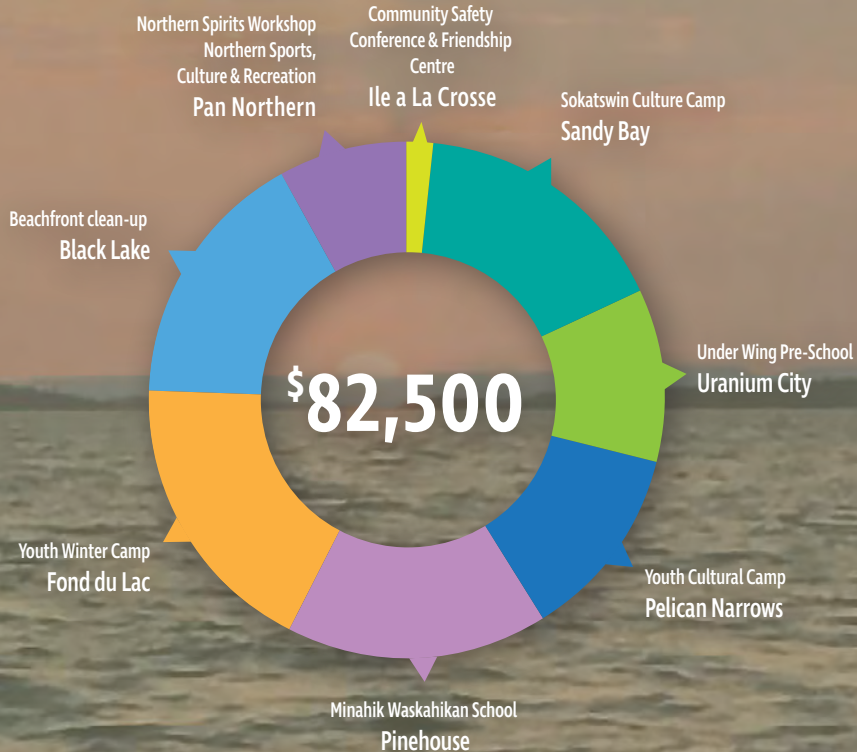
It's equally important to community members and Elders. Traditionally, many of the teachings of First Nations Elders occur in a natural environment.

In 2016, the school began pursuing learning opportunities beyond the regular confines of a classroom, offering curriculum-based and traditional teachings in a natural setting. Land was leased near the school, adjacent to Sokatsiwin Lake. It's an ideal location in the breath-taking beauty of the Precambrian Shield and easily accessible year-round.

What the school needed next was an onsite structure, a school cabin, from which to deliver year-round, land-based traditional education in a natural environment. A committee, consisting of a teacher, elder, school administrator and office personnel, began planning and fundraising. In the spring of 2017, with funding from the Six Rivers Fund and others, along with the support of many community members, volunteers and students, construction began.

The school cabin is intended to be a cultural and educational center for a number of functions including Northern Lifestyle classes, canoeing activities, orienteering, leadership camps, trapping school, ski-school, and culture camp. Its primary goal is to engage students and help them develop strong self-esteem, personal identities, improve their attendance and performance at school and ultimately increase graduation rates.

2017 Project Funding Highlights



2017 Financial Statements

www.sixriversfund.ca

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