



The Abegweit Update

www.abegweit.ca
902-676-2353
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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED

August 2024

Chief's Message

Staff Spotlight



Bethany Knockwood
Housing and Infrastructure Office
Manager

As the Housing and Infrastructure Office Manager, I manage all administrative tasks for our housing department. I am about to begin my third year of pursuing the First Nations Housing Professional Certification, a 4 1/2-year program offered by the First Nations Housing Professional Association. This certification aims to standardize high levels of service and ethics in housing management, while also providing the latest practices and strategies for addressing housing service issues at both community and federal levels.

Since I joined the department four years ago, our housing portfolio has experienced significant growth. I continue to work closely with our Director of Housing, Christopher Jadis, as well as with Chief and council, to further expand our efforts and ensure that each of our homes is healthy and sustainable.

Building homes for our future generations while protecting our history is our mandate.

"Be proud of who you are. Know where you come from because only you and your choices will determine your future"

Chief Gould

Blueberry Update



Abegweit First Nation has a wild blueberry farm that totals 42 acres, divided into two parcels of land. Parcel one (20 acres) is in the sprout year, while parcel two (22 acres) is in the fruit year.

The 2024 season was very disappointing for the lower-than-normal yield the crop produced. Discussions with the two main buyer/processors in the area confirmed that we were not alone, most farmers had lower than normal yields.

Since Fiona, our climate continues to change impacting on our fields, from the impact of new weeds, frost, winter kill, and drought, our crop yields like many blueberry farmers on PEI have continued to see their crop yields dwindle.

To combat drought, Abegweit has installed an irrigation system that is operational for the fall and next years season. By supplying the plants water, our yields will start to recuperate.

Our blueberry field staff worked in partnership with greenhouse, and Health Centre, Melody Swan to sort some of our blueberries to be frozen and used for community members, and meals at the Health Centre. This was the first year of this initiative and we look forward to continuing this relationship and expanding the volume of the crop for food security.



WIN! WIN! Share your feedback for a chance to win \$100 **WIN! WIN!**
We want to hear from you! As we plan for the future of Abegweit First Nation, your input as community members is invaluable. Share your ideas and priorities for Abegweit for a chance to win a \$100 gift card. Submit your responses to info@abegweit.ca by Sept 30th, 2024 for a chance to win.



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Chief's Day Celebration



On August 6th, the staff held a celebration to say thank you to the Chief and Council for all the work they have done over the last few years in the community. It is with their continued dedication every day that Abegweit is able to grow and create a community that members can be proud of.

Chief's Day was recognized the next day on August 7th.

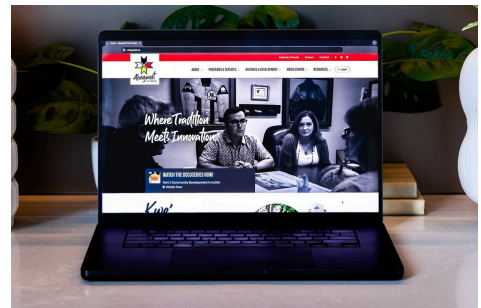
Abegweit Women's Group



The Women's Group started to come together mid-April 2024 and to this day continues to do so. The women of the group participated in regalia/ribbon shirt and skirt making project to learn to sew, mentor each other, and to prepare all those in the community for the upcoming 2024 powwow in Abegweit. The women were facilitated by our Abegweit community member and artisan Melissa Peter-Paul. Throughout the weeks, the women worked daily, nightly and at home to sew skirts/shirts and even jingle dresses for dozens of band members. Great Job ladies!

CFCY 100th Birthday Bash!!!

NEW ABEGWEIT WEBSITE!



In collaboration with Lake Design we recently launched a new website. This site is more than just a website; it's a hub for the community and a valuable resource for partners and allies. We can now update the community on key initiatives and events.

Check it out - www.abegweit.ca

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