

## Financial Law Update

### WHY DO ORGANIZATIONS CHANGE?

Change is always happening around us. How will we adapt?

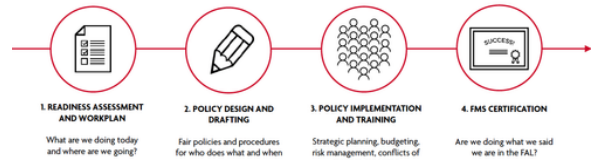


 Seven generation thinking: changing to meet the future needs of the community  
 Continuous improvement, always working towards a better future

### THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CHANGE JOURNEY



### HOW DO I BRING MY FAL TO LIFE?



Abegweit continues to work diligently to implement its financial law. Since signing on to begin this work in 2022, the community has made progress in many areas to bring this change to life, through various community, staff and Chief & Council information/training sessions. We have grown so much since 2019 that this work is more important than ever to help the community change with the growth so that Abegweit can sustain all these positive changes.

Staff has worked hard to draft and implement policies that are required in this new Governance model and this work will continue to be shared with the staff & community moving forward to help everyone embrace the changes that are coming. Chief & Council has given its full support in moving this work forward as quickly as possible in order to reach compliance with the Financial Management System so that the entire organization can be set up for success for the generations that will come after us. Stay tuned for more information and training sessions on these positive changes.

## New Abegweit Health Centre



## Blueberry Season



Like many summer seasons in recent years, the island is experiencing drought conditions which is challenging in the blueberry industry. Fortunately for the community an irrigation system, which was installed last year, has helped to keep the berries growing and we were able to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> best yield per acre of all fields being sold to Wyman's for 2025! Big thanks to the team at the Abegweit Greenhouse for processing the berries for the community and for sale to Wyman's!



# The Abegweit Update

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED

August 2025

## Abegweit Development Corporation

Abegweit Development Inc. is the new economic development arm of Abegweit First Nation. The Development Corporation is governed by a board of directors that currently includes:

- **Chief Roderick "Junior" Gould** – Chief of Abegweit First Nation
- **Olive Crane** – Director of Strategic Planning for Abegweit First Nation
- **Lee Bragg** – Vice Chair of Eastlink and its associated companies
- **Doug Newson** – CEO of the Charlottetown Airport Authority
- **Jauvonne Kitto** – Owner of the Saa Dene Group of Companies



Abegweit Development Inc. was established to lead the economic development and equity investment strategy for the Band. Its primary objectives are to build community wealth, promote financial independence, and enhance economic sovereignty. The Corporation achieves this through the development and oversight of strategic investments in new partnerships and diverse business ventures that create jobs, generate revenue, and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

The Corporation is currently advancing several exciting initiatives that will soon be showcased on our online platforms. Stay tuned for exciting updates!

## Lands Update

Starting in September 2024, Courtney Sark was hired to create a Land Use Plan for Abegweit. Since that time, she has been doing community engagement, as well as research into land plans created by Bands across the country.

The Land Plan for Abegweit will be a living document, meaning it can be amended if anything changes, or more band land is purchased, and will also be fully updated every 5-10 years. The plan contains policies for how band land will be used i.e. Residential, agricultural, recreational, spiritual/cultural, industrial, and commercial. Courtney is still taking comments from the community, and can be send via email to [csark@abegweit.ca](mailto:csark@abegweit.ca)

After completion of the Land Plan, Courtney will be switching gears to continue work on the Land Code. A Land Code is a legal framework developed by a First Nation to manage their reserve lands and resources independently, taking the First Nation out of 44 sections of the Indian Act under land management. This gives a Band more jurisdiction over their lands and will no longer have to ask government permission when using reserve land.

The Land Code requires a vote by Band members, so Courtney will be doing community engagement through out the Land Code process to make sure everyone is informed and will be able to answer any questions!

### Land Code - Abegweit



Abegweit is in the Developmental Phase (as of April 2023)

Takes Federal Gov't power away within 44 sections (land management) of the Indian Act and gives it to the band

Example: If Abegweit was doing construction and struck oil, that belongs to the Federal Government, not the band.

### Land Code – Framework Agreement



\*This is NOT a treaty and does NOT affect existing treaty or constitutional right of AFN and our membership\*

Land Code = Land Law

Abegweit is a Signatory First Nation

Takes a band out of 44 sections of the Land Management portions of the Indian Act

Must be passed by member vote

## Hillsborough River Update



After 25 years of hard work the Band has finally got the Hillsborough River marked for safe navigation! Big thank you to Shad Qadri -Design and Review Specialist, Aids to Navigation and Waterways, Canadian Coast Guard with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - who met with the team and helped to get the work done.