



# The Abegweit Update

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED

February 2026

## Natural Resources Update

### Abegweit Fisheries Celebrates Achievement in Fishing Master 4 Program

Abegweit Fisheries is proud to congratulate Shannon LaBobe, Brody Knockwood, and LB Jadis on successfully completing the Fishing Master 4 program. This achievement reflects their passion for fishing, commitment to professional growth, and strengthens the community's long standing presence in sustainable commercial fisheries.

The Fishing Master 4 certificate, issued by Transport Canada, provides advanced training in navigation, seamanship, vessel operations, and marine safety. It is a critical qualification for leadership roles within Canada's commercial fishing industry and ensures the highest standards of safety and operational competence on the water.

Our Fisher's accomplishment speaks to the dedication, discipline, and effort required to complete this rigorous program. Their certification directly supports the continued strength of the Abegweit Fisheries fleet, while upholding Mi'kmaq values of stewardship, responsibility, and respect for the ocean.

Completion of the Fishing Master 4 program marks an important milestone in their careers and in the ongoing development of community owned fisheries operations. Abegweit Fisheries is proud to recognize their achievement and looks forward to their continued leadership and contributions to a strong and sustainable future for generations to come.

Abegweit Fisheries remains committed to building internal capacity through education and training, supporting a collaborative and conservation focused approach to fisheries management.

Congratulations to Shannon LaBobe, Brody Knockwood, and LB Jadis on this well earned accomplishment.



## Climate Change Gathering

Our Natural Resources Department was pleased to co-host and participate in a recent **Climate Change Gathering** in Charlottetown!

Bringing youth and Elders together in one space created an opportunity for sharing knowledge, lived experiences, and perspectives on how climate change is impacting our community.

Through storytelling, collaboration, and intergenerational learning, we continue to protect our land and waters for future generations.

📷: Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI | Patricia Bourque

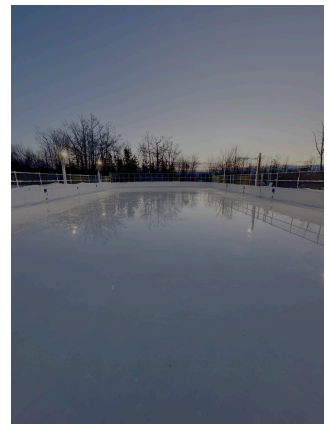
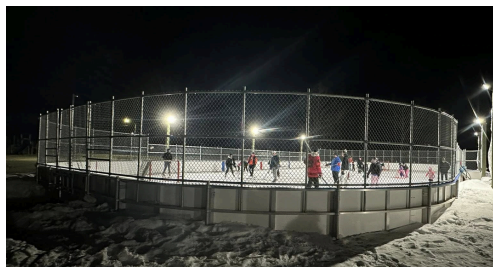


## Community Rink

Our 120 x 60 foot outdoor community rink has been up and running for close to two months now! We did experience a water issue at the beginning of the season, but it was quickly resolved and we've been going strong ever since. It's been wonderful to see so many of our youth and community members out enjoying the ice — from young skaters just finding their balance to those putting in hours of practice and play.

Most importantly, we're proud to share that we had very few, if any, nights of the rink being closed this winter. That consistency is largely thanks to Stephen Gould, whose dedication and hard work kept the ice in great shape all season long.

Thank you to everyone who came out, laced up, and made this winter another great one at the rink!





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## Health Update

**Little Buds Valentine's Day Photoshoot:** Our Mom and Baby group hosted a Valentine's Day photoshoot at the daycare, giving families a special opportunity to capture memories together. It was a lovely morning filled with smiles and sweet moments.

**Hungry Man Breakfast:** Our Hungry Man Breakfast had a great turnout this month. Community members enjoyed a warm breakfast and spent time visiting with one another. In recognition of Heart Health Month, information about heart health was also shared with participants.

**Winter Wellness Challenge:** To help community members stay active and connected during the winter months, the Health Centre launched a four-week Winter Wellness Challenge. Each week focused on a different area of wellness, including healthy eating, movement, rest and reset, and social connection. Weekly participation prizes were awarded, and one overall participant will be recognized at the end of the challenge.

**Community Wellness Walk:** As part of our Winter Wellness Challenge, we hosted a Community Wellness Walk to encourage movement and fresh air. MCPEI and Sports Circle joined us in supporting this initiative, and it was great to see community members come together for exercise and connection.

**Games, Puzzles, and Tea Event:** As part of the Winter Wellness Challenge, we hosted a board game, cards, and puzzle social. This event provided a relaxed space for community members to gather, enjoy friendly competition, and spend quality time together.

**Elder Bingo:** Due to winter storms, we hosted one Elder Bingo this month. Elders received Valentine's gifts as a small token of appreciation. As always, the turnout was wonderful, and everyone enjoyed the afternoon of Bingo and visiting.



## Housing Department



We are proud to share that Bethany Knockwood has officially passed her FNHP Certification Examination and earned her First Nations Housing Professional designation. Since beginning this journey in 2019, she has balanced work, family, and personal challenges while remaining committed to strengthening housing in our community. Her dedication reflects a deep commitment to addressing the systemic housing challenges faced by First Nations and to building stronger governance and long term solutions for Abegweit and the Atlantic region. Please join us in congratulating Bethany on this significant achievement.

## Education Update

We would like to extend our congratulations to our recent post-secondary graduates!

- Benjamin Gould, PhD in Clinical Psychology from University of Saskatchewan
- Bradley Knockwood, Bachelor of Arts, Major in Geography from Saint Mary's University

We are proud of your achievements and wish you continued success and exciting opportunities as you move forward into your next chapter.



Community members who would like to recognize and celebrate their graduate in the monthly newsletter, please send an email to [education@abegweit.ca](mailto:education@abegweit.ca)

We recently piloted the external high school credit "Epekwitk Netukulimk and Etuaptmumk Studies," taught by community member Barbara Jadis, M.Ed. This course introduces students to the two key Mi'kmaw concepts by providing a hands-on learning experience through land-based activities, local field trips and teachings from community members. The pilot is currently offered to a small cohort of students with plans to expand in the future.