



# ABEGWEIT FIRST NATION

ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF                                     | 3  |
| BAND EMPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN                                  | 4  |
| EDUCATION  | 5  |
| ABEGWEIT EARLY CHILDHOOD – ABORIGINAL HEADSTART ON RESERVE | 8  |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT                                       | 10 |
| NATURAL RESOURCES  | 15 |
| SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT   | 21 |
| HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE                                 | 24 |
| HEALTH AND WELLNESS  | 28 |
| ABEGWEIT IN THE NEWS                                       | 38 |
| TOBACCO AND FUEL REBATES AND SPENDING                      | 40 |
| AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS                               | 41 |

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



It is my honour, as Chief of Abegweit First Nation, to present to you our 2024-2025 Annual Report. The information highlighted in this document showcases the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of our community between April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Over the last year, each department has put in a significant amount of time and effort to meet the needs of our community. This year, we saw continued investment in support for students, early childcare expansion, clean energy initiatives, housing development, as well as major capital projects that continue to strengthen our economy and jobs.

This includes the initial stages of a Community Recreation Centre and the Abegweit Active Transportation Centre and Cultural Grounds.

Housing remains one of our most important priorities, and we are grateful for the dedication of our Band staff, the leadership of Chief and Council, and the continued trust and patience of our community as we work to ensure safe, high-quality homes for members.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, I am proud of our work, and I look forward to another year of building growth for our community.

Wela'lioq

Chief Roderick Junior Gould

# BAND EMPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN

| Individuals Employed by the Band 2024-25   | Community Members | Non-Community Members |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Band Administration                        | 36                | 6                     |
| Construction                               | 12                |                       |
| Health Department & Early Childhood Centre | 36                | 29                    |
| Commercial Fisheries                       | 38                | 4                     |
| Band Owned Business                        | 5                 | 22                    |
| Summer Students                            | 15                | 1                     |
| Other (Stream Enhancement, Seasonal)       | 35                | 3                     |
| Grand Totals                               | 177               | 65                    |
|  | 242               |                       |

# EDUCATION

The 2024-25 school year was a busy year for our Education Department with new support and initiatives offered to students and community members.

The Indigenous Support Teachers continued to provide additional academic support for students in kindergarten through grade 12. After a review of student needs, the level of support was adjusted to two full-time and two part-time positions. Elizabeth Morrison and Alyx Ellis continued in their roles, and we welcomed two new hires, Aaron Young and Madison Murphy. Each teacher was shown to be a great fit for our students. The teachers worked collaboratively with our students, parents and programs within the community. We are grateful for the valuable support these positions have provided for our students.

Education staff attended the L'nui'sultinej Conference. The Mi'kmaw language conference provided an opportunity to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and build connections to support the revitalization of the Mi'kmaw language in the community and schools.

To further support the language, Georgina Francis provided Mi'kmaw translations for all classrooms and spaces within a school. The translated signs were created and are now proudly displayed at Mount Stewart School. We have plans to expand to other schools in the future. We are thankful for Georgina's support with this!

We received funding from the Three Nations Education Group Inc. to expand our educational virtual reality project, "It's Okay To Cry". The project uses new technology to educate students on the long-term effects of Residential Schools by hearing directly from descendants of survivors. The pilot project was showcased to two high school classes and a professional development day with social studies teachers within the Public Schools Branch. This was done with partnership with the Department of Education. There are plans to continue to visit more schools and a long-term goal of developing curriculum to support and expand the project.

Funding was successfully secured to purchase a new transportation van for students from Rocky Point. This new vehicle helps us maintain reliable and consistent transportation with student safety remaining our priority.

We continued to receive the allocation of funding for personal hygiene products. Recognizing there are expenses associated with all ages, we continued to extend the funding to all students from kindergarten to grade 12.

Students and families received a new allocation of funding for school lunches. The funding was provided directly to families as each student has their own individual need.

There was an increase in the funding for school supplies. This decision was made in response to the growing cost of supplies and the need to ease the burden on families.

We received funding for Adult Education programming. The funding supports educational resources and incentives for students receiving their high school equivalency certificate. Intake for the program begins in Fall for community members interested.

We expanded our annual bursaries to the graduating class of Morell Regional High School and Bluefield High School. The bursaries were available to all students, with each school's graduation committee selecting the recipient. The bursary is for students intending to continue their education and have demonstrated a commitment to the values of Truth and Reconciliation.

We continued to strengthen our relationships with local schools by inviting classes to our annual community events held in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and National Aboriginal Veterans Day. These events provide opportunities for students and school staff to learn more about our Indigenous history and culture. Community members also participated in our local schools' events for National Indigenous Peoples Day.

We maintained our partnership with UPEI's Faculty of Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies (IKERAS) for the introduction to Mi'kmaw language course and the Faculty of Nursing for the Indigenous focused nursing course. Plans are in place to continue the courses in 2025-26 school year.



(new Mi'kmaw signage for the Mount Stewart School)

### Student Breakdown (Over three years)

| Breakdown of Students Funded by Band | 2022-23   | 2023-24   | 2024-25   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Head Start Program (K4)              | 2         | 5         | 10        |
| Elementary                           | 39        | 49        | 50        |
| Junior High                          | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| High School                          | 25        | 22        | 23        |
| Post-Secondary                       | 10        | 8         | 13        |
| <b>Total Students Funded</b>         | <b>89</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>99</b> |
| <hr/>                                |           |           |           |
| High School Graduates                | 6         | 3         | 4         |
| Post-Secondary Graduates             | 2         | 3         | 0         |
| Post-Secondary Deferrals             | 0         | 0         | 0         |

# **ABEGWEIT EARLY CHILDHOOD – ABORIGINAL HEADSTART ON RESERVE**

The Abegweit Early Childhood Centre is a licensed early childcare centre that operates Monday to Friday 7:45 am to 4:15 pm. We provide care for children ages 9 months to school age. Our meals follow the provincial guidelines for nutrition and are overseen by the dietician from the Health Centre. We also follow the provincial Early Learning Framework, as well as the Assessment for Quality Improvement Framework to ensure high-quality childcare services.

We have an approved plan for expanding our childcare centre and it will break ground in July 2025. We will have an additional infant room that will allow us to double the number of infants we care for and have 52 children total in our centre beginning in January 2026.

We acknowledge that there has been a longer wait that is typical for infants starting at 9 months of age. We have not been able to keep up due the growing population, ratio and regulation requirements. We appreciate everyone's patience, and we hope that this expansion will help meet the needs of the growing community.

We are fortunate to have lots of community involvement. For example, we had Trunk 'n Treat happen at the Band Office and participated in some other community events. The children have also been loving going up to the camp to play and explore. We have Elder Georgina Francis who teaches the children and educators the Mi'kmaq language twice a week. We also have a Speech Language Pathologist and an Occupational Therapist who come to the centre once a week to support the children in need.

## Staffing List:

- One - Director
- Two - Infant Early Childhood Educators
- Two - Toddler Early Childhood Educators
- Two - Preschool Early Childhood Educators (Ages 3 & 4)
- One - Pedagogical Support Worker
- One - Cook
- One - Summer Student
- Two – Support Workers

Children's enrollment was:

- Six - Infants (9 months - 22 months)
- Ten - Toddlers (Ages: 2)
- Twenty- Preschoolers (Ages: 3-5)

If you are looking to add your child to our wait list, please email us at: [earlychildhood@abegweit.ca](mailto:earlychildhood@abegweit.ca) or you can call the centre at (902) 676-2412.



(Truth and Reconciliation Day)



(Trunk or Treat event with the children)

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Energy

As part of our ongoing commitment to clean energy, we are excited to share new energy initiatives, including the installation of solar panels and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. With support from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Province of PEI, solar panels will soon be installed on the Abegweit Connects Business Centre. Thanks to continued Provincial support, we are also working towards installing EV charging stations within the community.

We are pleased to have secured funding from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and ISC to complete a 6MW Solar Farm Feasibility Study. This work is already underway and is being supported by Coles Associates Ltd., MRSB Group, L'nu Energy and Joose Environmental Consulting Inc., through technical research, reporting and engagement components. This work is essential to ensure the community is informed about the project and has an opportunity to provide input on the projects design and development.

Energy Efficiency remains a priority in all new development projects, in alignment with the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (2024-2029) to ensure the community continues to explore ways to increase long-term sustainability while reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

## Hillsborough Park Community Development Project

The Hillsborough Park Community Development Project is an 85-acre site situated in East Royalty along the Hillsborough River. Owned by the PEI Housing Corporation, the site has been proposed for development. A project committee has been established, which Abegweit First Nation is part of, to design a development plan for 55 acres of the site, with the remaining 30 acres designated as a buffer zone.

Initial planning is well underway for the development and includes Indigenous consultation, approved rezoning and bi-laws, and a formal proposal to the City of Charlottetown.

The project will be completed in two-phases, with phase one being split into phase 1A and phase 1B. The proposed new community will include a combination of commercial, residential and high-density multi-unit structures, with access to transit, community services and green spaces.

Ten percent of all allowable units for the entire development will be allocated between Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation for development. It will be the responsibility of Abegweit First Nation to build and manage its portion of these units in a timely manner.

This is an exciting project for the Province of Prince Edward Island and Abegweit Development Inc. Work is ongoing on this project.



### **Capital Projects – Community Recreation Centre**

The tender has been awarded to Nine Yards and Architecture 49, who are leading the detailed design work of the new Community Recreation Centre. This work is on-going, with construction planned to begin in the spring of 2026.

The Community Recreation Centre will be an extension of the Abegweit Connects Business Centre. It will be an inclusive, publicly accessible, climate resilient, net-zero community building, with funding secured from the Province of PEI and Infrastructure Canada. The building will feature a fully functional gymnasium, walking track, multipurpose space, cultural space, kitchen, exercise/weight room, as well as office spaces.

Funding is secured for this project with \$9 million being contributed from the Federal Government of Canada under the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program, and \$8 million being contributed from the Province of Prince Edward Island.



## Capital Projects – Abegweit Active Transportation Centre and Cultural Grounds

This is an exciting initiative for the community, located along Route 2 in front of the Hillsborough River. The project includes an Active Transportation Centre offering storage and rental services for active transportation equipment such as bikes, e-bikes, and kayaks. It will also feature new walking trails, a pavilion with a lookout over the Hillsborough River, cultural grounds, and a floating dock system. The Active Transportation Centre will serve as a respite location with access to publicly accessible washrooms and changerooms, and it will provide a space to educate users on the safe use of rental equipment.

The overall project aims to welcome visitors to learn about the history and culture of the community and the Mi'kmaq people, while connecting to existing infrastructure and the Confederation Trail System. This development will support Abegweit First Nation in its ongoing efforts to foster connections with surrounding communities through land and water pathways.

Funding is secured for this project with \$5.7 million being contributed from the Federal Government of Canada under the Active Transportation Fund. Abegweit has completed the design work and are preparing to go to tender.



## **Abegweit Development Inc.**

Abegweit Development Inc. is a newly established entity created to lead the economic development and equity investment strategy of Abegweit First Nation. Its mandate is to drive business acquisition and build revenue for the Band. The primary objectives of Abegweit Development Inc. are to build community wealth, foster financial independence, and strengthen economic sovereignty. The Development Corporation aims to create sustainable employment opportunities and provide long-term financial support for community priorities and initiatives.



The current Board of Directors for Abegweit Development Inc. includes:

- **Chief Roderick “Junior” Gould** – Chief and Leader of Abegweit First Nation
- **Olive Crane** – Director of Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs, Abegweit First Nation
- **Lee Bragg** – CEO and Vice Chair of Eastlink and its associated companies
- **Doug Newson** – CEO of the Charlottetown Airport Authority
- **Vacant** – Community Board Member
- **Tyler Gould** – Acting Chief Executive Officer

The Corporation is supported through funding from Innovation PEI, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and Abegweit First Nation. Social media pages and a website for the Development Corporation will be launching soon – stay tuned!

## **Abegweit Development Inc. Joint Venture**

Abegweit Development Inc. has launched a joint venture with Arsenault Bros Construction, known as Abegweit Arsenault Group Inc. This 51% Indigenous-owned partnership combines the strengths of both entities. Arsenault Bros Construction brings significant market insight and

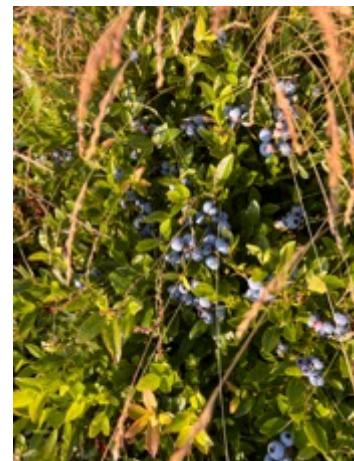
industry connections, while Abegweit Development Inc. contributes a strong understanding of investment and development opportunities.

This joint venture will lead Abegweit's involvement in the commercial and real-estate development sectors, and in federal procurement opportunities.

### **Abegweit Blueberry Fields**

PEI, and our Scotchfort fields, continued to feel the effects of climate change, drought, and low prices impacting our wild blueberry operation in August of 2024. The overall yield for our Abegweit crop was down, as were yields on other island farms. The Band installed an irrigation system which became operational in the fall of 2024. This system will start to have positive benefits to the sprout and crop year in 2025.

A partnership between Health, our greenhouse and the blueberry operation, had several community members use a blueberry sorting table to clean and freeze berries for use by the community and the health centre.



# NATURAL RESOURCES

The 2024-2025 fiscal year for the Abegweit Natural Resources Department reflected steady progress in long-term recovery from Hurricane Fiona. While immediate disaster response ended earlier, the storm's footprint continued to shape operations across the department. Wharf damage and vessel repairs influenced fishing seasons, and extensive blowdowns, blocked access roads, and in-stream debris slowed forestry and conservation work. These challenges required adaptive planning, increased coordination with partners, and sustained staff effort and resources.

At the same time, the NRD advanced its core mission to protect, restore, and sustainably manage the natural resources of the Abegweit First Nation. The department balanced urgent recovery work with forward looking initiatives, ensuring that essential services were maintained, conservation programs stayed on track, and new opportunities were explored to strengthen community resilience.

## **Department Overview**

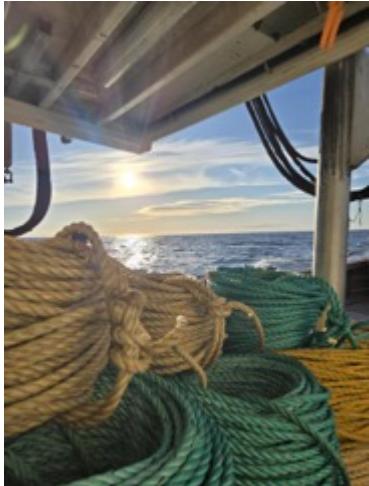
The NRD operates through several specialized divisions, each with distinct responsibilities but closely interconnected in delivering services and supporting the community.

- Fisheries, managing communal commercial fisheries for snow crab, lobster, and bluefin tuna, and supporting Mi'kmaq harvesters.
- Guardians, delivering conservation support, conducting field monitoring, and assisting with fisheries operations and traditional harvesting.
- Abegweit Conservation Society (ACS), advancing biodiversity and habitat restoration through three program areas:
  - Forestry, managing and restoring forested areas on Abegweit and co-managed lands.
  - Stream Enhancement, restoring river systems and aquatic habitats.
  - Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery (ABEH), rearing and releasing Atlantic salmon and brook trout to support wild populations.
- Emergency Measures Organization (EMO), coordinating preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for emergencies affecting the community.

Together, these divisions form an integrated structure that supports immediate operational needs and long-term environmental stewardship.

## Fisheries

The Fisheries Division continued to navigate the operational challenges left after Hurricane Fiona. Damage to wharves and related infrastructure, combined with repairs to NRD vessels and buildings, created logistical hurdles for both lobster and snow crab operations. These impacts required careful scheduling and adaptive resource use, along with close coordination with fishers to keep seasons on track.



### Lobster Season 2024-2025

- Employed 21 community members across the fishery.
- All vessels underwent full repairs in the prior year, restoring operational readiness.
- The start of the season was delayed slightly due to adverse weather, but operations stabilized quickly.
- Market prices averaged 7.25 for canner and 6.00 for market, offering more predictability than in recent years.
- Landings were up for all vessels, supported by favourable fishing conditions and the fisheries mentorship program, which strengthened crew skills and operational efficiency.

Infrastructure recovery combined with targeted training improved performance and capacity, while maintaining safe, sustainable, and profitable operations.

| Lobster Landings 2024-25 |          |             |             |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Vessel                   | Harbour  | 2024 Pounds | 2025 Pounds |
| Fermoy Fisher            | Red Head | 15,747      | 18,065      |
| Madison & Noah           | Red Head | 12,055      | 14,326      |
| Captian's Quarters       | Red Head | 13,636      | 17,817      |

|                      |          |        |        |
|----------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Weather Oar Knot     | Red Head | 16,599 | 14,792 |
| Covehead Rover       | Naufrage | 31,382 | 25,100 |
| Gone Gulfing         | Naufrage | 30,872 | 17,684 |
| Christopher's Future | Naufrage | 14,021 | 12,505 |

### Snow Crab Season 2024

- Employed 10 community members in harvesting operations.
- The season opened on schedule, April 5, after pre-season preparations ensured vessels and gear were ready.
- While DFO biomass projections led to a reduced base quota, Chief and Council successfully negotiated an additional 50 tonnes, helping offset the impact of the quota cut and maintaining strong catch potential.

Favourable weather conditions and skilled crews contributed to a productive season, allowing the division to adapt to quota changes while sustaining economic returns for the community.

| Snow Crab Landings 2024-25 |         |             |             |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Vessel                     | Harbour | 2024 Pounds | 2025 Pounds |
| Crabn Fever                | Souris  | 163,105     | 127,401     |
| Max'D Out                  | Souris  | 163,419     | 127,312     |

### Abegweit Conservation Society (ACS)

The Abegweit Conservation Society entered 2024-2025 with its operations still heavily shaped by Hurricane Fiona's aftermath. Much of the year's work was devoted to regaining safe access to priority areas and restoring conditions for field programs. Clearing roadways, re-opening access points, and removing extensive in-stream blockages became central tasks, delaying some planned enhancement projects but also reinforcing the importance of adaptive management and partnerships.

### Forestry

- Operations were significantly hampered by blowdowns that blocked key management roads and access points across Abegweit and co-managed lands.
- Recovery efforts centered on debris removal, restoring transportation routes, and re-establishing access to high-priority forest management zones.
- The forestry team also addressed community priorities by clearing debris around residential homes and Band infrastructure to support safety and accessibility.

- Additionally, they contributed to community development by clearing select forested areas to facilitate growth and housing projects.
- Work progressed on long-term sustainability plans, integrating storm recovery with future project scheduling and climate adaptation considerations.

### **Stream Enhancement**

- The majority of fieldwork focused on clearing hurricane-related debris and in-stream blockages, which delayed the launch of scheduled enhancement projects.
- Restoration of access to critical rivers such as the Morell and Midgell continued, aided by strong collaboration with local partners and community volunteers.

### **Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery (ABEH)**

- Brood stock collection and fish release operations were disrupted by blocked river access and storm damage to key sites.
- Despite these barriers, the hatchery met its production goals for Atlantic salmon and brook trout, supporting biodiversity restoration efforts across Prince Edward Island.
- Operational adjustments and contingency planning during recovery strengthened the hatchery's resilience for future seasons.

### **Guardians**

The Guardians provided essential cross-functional support throughout the fiscal year. They delivered conservation services, conducted field monitoring, and assisted with fisheries operations and traditional harvesting. Their work helped maintain program momentum during prolonged recovery.

In fisheries, Guardians supported vessel readiness, wharf repairs, and safe harbour access. In conservation, they worked with ACS crews to clear trails, roads, and streams, accelerating the return to regular habitat restoration.

### **Mi'kmaq Harvester Support**

The Guardians continued to promote and protect Mi'kmaq harvesting traditions, ensuring that cultural practices remained integral to natural resource management. Their work included:

- Supporting Indigenous harvesters in accessing traditional harvesting areas.
- Observing and upholding customary practices on the land and water.
- Integrating traditional knowledge into conservation planning.
- Monitoring for prohibited fishing and overharvesting.
- Educating community members on sustainable harvesting practices.

- Partnering with local and regional organizations to protect wildlife and habitats.

Through this dual commitment to conservation and cultural preservation, the Guardians ensured that resource sustainability was grounded in both ecological science and Mi'kmaq tradition.

### **Emergency Measures Organization (EMO)**

The Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) remained a cornerstone in guiding the Abegweit First Nation through the extended recovery from Hurricane Fiona while advancing community safety and emergency preparedness. The EMO's efforts this fiscal year balanced repairing critical infrastructure, providing ongoing support to affected residents, and strengthening long-term resilience strategies. Close collaboration with local, provincial, and federal partners ensured a coordinated, efficient, and sustainable recovery process.

### **Ongoing Hurricane Fiona Recovery**

Long-term recovery from Hurricane Fiona continued as a primary focus. The EMO coordinated repair and restoration projects across Abegweit reserves to re-establish essential services impacted including power, water, and housing. Managing volunteering was key, facilitating debris clearance, development assistance, and support for community members still facing challenges stemming from the storm. Through detailed planning and sustained action, the EMO helped move the community steadily toward full recovery.

### **Community Safety Initiatives**

Beyond immediate recovery, the EMO prioritized improving overall community safety and readiness for future emergencies. Firesmart initiatives became a key focus due to increased fire risks resulting from extensive blowdowns and forest damage caused by the hurricane. These efforts targeted reducing wildfire hazards through community education, hazard assessments, and strategic vegetation management. In addition, the EMO refined protocols for storms, power outages, and other hazards, updated emergency response plans to enhance coordination, and expanded training for volunteers and staff. Safety drills and workshops further raised preparedness awareness among residents. Collectively, these measures strengthened the community's capacity to respond effectively to future crises, supporting both short-term safety and long-term resilience.

### **Partnership Development**

Building on networks formed during prior recovery efforts, the EMO deepened partnerships with local, provincial, and federal agencies. A major advancement this year was initiating

the Multi-Lateral Agreement (MLA) process involving ISC EMO, PEI EMO, and Abegweit EMO. This initiative aims to formalize roles, responsibilities, and collaboration frameworks among all parties. Abegweit First Nation is leading the country in progressing this innovative partnership model, setting a precedent for Indigenous emergency management cooperation. These collaborations continue to secure funding and resources for rebuilding, enhance disaster response capabilities, and advance community resilience planning. Ongoing partnership development also opens doors to new training opportunities, improved access to resources, and strengthened emergency planning frameworks.

Overall, throughout 2024-2025, the EMO played a vital role balancing sustained hurricane recovery with proactive safety and resilience measures. Its commitment to infrastructure repair, community support, and preparedness initiatives helped ensure that the Abegweit First Nation remains strong and ready for future challenges.

## **Conclusion**

The 2024-2025 fiscal year was largely defined by the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Fiona, which tested the resilience and capacity of the Abegweit Natural Resources Department (NRD) across all divisions. Despite the significant challenges posed by damaged infrastructure, disrupted operations, and environmental impacts, the department demonstrated adaptability and determination. Through focused effort, innovative problem-solving, and strong community collaboration, the NRD successfully balanced urgent recovery work with the continuation of its core mission: sustainably managing and restoring the natural resources vital to the Abegweit First Nation.

This period reinforced the importance of integrated approaches that blend traditional knowledge with modern practices, ensuring that natural resource stewardship supports both ecological health and community well-being. The department's staff, partners, and harvesters showed remarkable commitment, advancing conservation initiatives, fisheries management, and emergency preparedness even in a highly complex context.

Looking ahead, the NRD is fully committed to building on this foundation of recovery and resilience. Priority will be given to strengthening infrastructure, enhancing habitat restoration, supporting sustainable fisheries, and deepening community engagement. These efforts will help secure a sustainable and thriving natural environment that honors Mi'kmaq traditions and benefits future generations of the Abegweit First Nation and the broader ecosystem.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Abegweit First Nation's Social Development program continues to deliver short and long-term financial support to individuals and families who are experiencing financial adversity. Our Social Development team is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the community through a holistic case management approach. We continue to renew our license with the Aboriginal Statistical Assistance Programs (ASAP) software system.

The Social Development team has been working vigorously over the past year in developing the Social Development Program policy update to best suit the needs of our growing community. We have been working alongside MacEwen Initiatives Ltd. The review included a financial analysis of Abegweit First Nation, a review of the Provincial Social Assistance Program and other First Nation's Social Development programs in the Atlantic Region. We have conducted interviews with community members and current recipients of the program. The need for program flexibility and adaptability to best suit our growing community has been highlighted along with additional employment support and reduced barriers for community members receiving assistance. We are looking forward to implementing our new policy this year and are pleased with the work and collaboration that has been ongoing throughout the development process.

The Social Development team had the opportunity to attend the National Income Assistance forum in Calgary, Alberta. Discussions and information sessions were held on Case Management, Pre-Employment and Income Assistance best practices. The Social Development and Pre-Employment team also completed the Certificate in Case Management through the University of Prince Edward Island.

The Director of Social Development has been working with the National Technical Working Group for the Assembly of First Nations on reforming the Income Assistance Program for First Nations across Canada. Work has been done on developing a funding model specific for First Nations Income Assistance Programming, based on First Nations recommendations.

The Social Development program continues to be diligent in providing individuals and families enrolled in the Social Development program with essential appliances for houses.

## Income Assistant Pre-Employment Program

The Income Assistance Program provides targeted support to individuals currently receiving social assistance who are deemed pre-employment ready. Within Abegweit First Nation, this initiative is proudly known as the "Future Community" Program—a name that reflects the belief that those striving toward personal and professional growth represent the future of the community and are key to sustaining economic development.

This program offers holistic support across a wide range of personal and professional development areas, including:

- Financial Literacy and Money Management
- Budgeting Strategies
- Life Skills Development
- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- General Educational Development (GED) Preparation
- Mental Health and Wellness Support
- Organizational ills
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- Certificate-Based Training (e.g., First Aid & CPR, Food Safety, WHMIS, Naloxone Administration)
- Gender-Specific Health and Wellness (Women's and Men's Health)
- Social Media Awareness and Online Etiquette
- Home Cleaning and Maintenance Basics
- Access to Cultural and Traditional Ceremonies and Workshops
- Job Placements in areas such as construction, landscaping, maintenance, greenhouse operations, gardening, and janitorial services

Participants in the Future Community program receive individualized support to enhance self-sufficiency and prepare for employment or further education opportunities. This approach not only empowers individuals but also contributes to community-wide prosperity by supplying local employers with a workforce that is skilled, prepared, and ready to support entry-level job needs.



# HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2024–2025 fiscal year has been another busy and productive one for the Housing & Infrastructure Department. Housing remains one of the most important and sensitive topics in our community. We understand that many members are eager to see their repair requests completed and new projects delivered. While capacity challenges and the scale of work mean that some projects take time, our commitment to improving housing for all members remains unwavering.

We extend sincere gratitude to Chief and Council, whose support, approvals, and advocacy at all levels of government continue to open doors for funding and partnership opportunities. We also recognize the hard work of Chris, our Housing & Infrastructure Director, and the dedicated construction crew, whose skill and determination make our plans a reality. On the administrative side, Olive and Bethany have worked tirelessly to secure funding through highly competitive federal and provincial programs, ensuring our community receives the resources it needs to address both immediate and long-term housing needs.



## Major Projects & Achievements

### Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) 3 – 12 New Homes

We successfully completed the RHI 3 project, delivering **12 new homes** in Scotchfort. These homes have provided safe, modern housing for 12 families, directly improving quality of life and easing overcrowding.

### Section 95 & ISC-Funded Builds – 4 Additional Homes

In addition to the RHI units, we built **4 more homes** using Section 95 and ISC funding, expanding our housing supply and addressing critical needs.

## Home Inspections & Renovation Planning

The final round of community-wide home inspections was completed this year, identifying deficiencies and prioritizing urgent repairs. These assessments have also strengthened our funding applications, helping us secure resources for major renovations. As of March 2024, **14 homes** have undergone extensive repairs, with many more planned for the coming year.

## Oil to Heat Pump Affordability (OHPA) Program

We began and successfully secured approval for the OHPA program, which will allow us to replace oil furnaces with heat pumps in eligible homes. This initiative will lower heating costs for families, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen our partnership with the Province of PEI.

## 26-Lot Subdivision Completed

Our new subdivision in Scotchfort is now complete, providing 26 fully serviced lots. Several of these are already home to new builds, with more to follow.

## Rocky Point Expansion

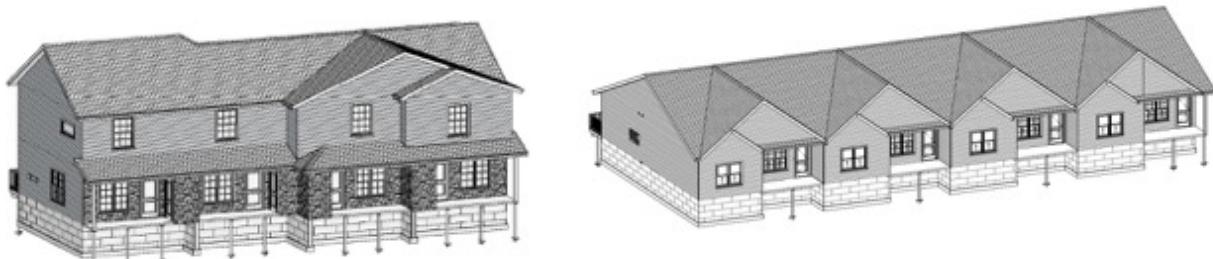
We completed the extension of Birchwood Drive in Rocky Point and have begun new home construction on additional lots, expanding housing options for members.

## Foundation & Septic System Repairs

This year, we completed **foundation repairs on 20 homes** and have started advanced septic system upgrades, ensuring safety, structural integrity, and environmental protection.

## Affordable Housing Fund – Multi-Unit Build

Through one of the most competitive funding streams available, we secured financing for the construction of **three 4-unit, two-bedroom multiplexes** (12 units total). One of these buildings will be fully accessible and designed specifically to meet the needs of our Elders.



## Community Engagement & Capacity Building

This year, we prioritized education and collaboration through workshops and conferences:

- **Abegweit Community Housing Workshop (March 11, 2025)** – Delivered sessions on heat pump/HRV maintenance, mold prevention, energy efficiency, plumbing/filter maintenance, and fire safety to help members maintain their homes.
- **Housing Maintenance Workshop – IST CA** – Provided practical guidance on home care, preventive maintenance, and energy savings.
- **APC & AFNHA Engagement Series (Moncton, October 2024)** – Participated in strategic discussions on housing transfer, governance, funding, staffing, and policy priorities for First Nations housing.
- **Urban, Rural & Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy Engagements** – Supported national work to develop funding approaches and priorities that meet the needs of Indigenous communities, with a focus on elders, youth, and those in greatest need.



## Moving Forward

We continue to balance urgent repair needs with ambitious new construction targets. With a small housing team managing large-scale builds, emergency repairs, and day-to-day maintenance, we ask for patience as we work through the backlog. Every project we complete moves us closer to ensuring all members have safe, secure, and high-quality housing.

The year ahead will focus on:

- Continuing the renovation rollout for homes identified in inspections.
- Breaking ground on the 12-unit multiplex project.
- Expanding our OHPA heat pump conversion program.
- Advocating for new funding streams to address long-term housing needs.

We thank the community for its trust and patience, and we reaffirm our commitment to working tirelessly for housing solutions that meet the needs of today while planning for the generations to come.

| Abegweit Homes on Reserves |             |        |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Scotchfort                 | Rocky Point | Morell |
| 93                         | 20          | 9      |
| Total                      |             | 122    |

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Wellness Centre provides many different programs and services while supporting the community and administration office in many more ways than are listed below.

- Visiting Professional Clinics: Weekly/Monthly clinics are held at the AFNMWC for various health professionals such as Family Physician, Psychiatrist, and Diabetes Nurse Educator.
- Blood Collection Clinic (Venipuncture): A Blood Collection Clinic (Venipuncture) is offered at the AFNMWC weekly. Blood work requisition form provided to you by your physician and your provincial health card is required.
- Diabetic Foot Care Clinic: The AFNMWC offers a foot care clinic every six weeks.
- Blood pressure & glucose monitoring: Can be requested from the client.
- First Aid/CPR Course: Instruction is available to various programs and staff of the AFNMWC. Scheduled group training will be given at various times. Individual recertification training sessions may be offered based on scheduling.
- Sexual Health: Information sessions on sexual health topics such as sexually transmitted diseases, sexuality issues, HIV/AIDS, birth control options etc. take place at AFNMWC.
- Private individual info sessions for individuals or groups are also available. At AFNMWC we also provide condoms free of charge.
- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control: The Community Health Nurse works within the community to reduce, or if possible, eliminate communicable disease.
- These are diseases that can be passed from one person to another. This includes surveillance, investigation, follow-up, prevention, and outbreak management.
- Immunization: The Wellness Centre has registered nurses that are certified to provide

immunizations to all ages.

- Home Visits: We encourage requests by individuals for home visits for those who are new mothers, diabetics, shut-ins, physically challenged, hospital aftercare and/or chronic care patients.
- Medical Transportation: AFNMWC has a medical vehicle for transportation to the nearest appropriate medical facility. However, it does provide clients the option of a private driver covered through Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB). The use of an ambulance for emergency purposes or travelling out of town due to a medical condition may be covered under the NIHB Medical Transportation Framework.
- Coordination of Non- Insured Health Benefits and Medicare (dental, vision, medical equipment, special medical approvals, medical application renewal, medical drivers): Abegweit First Nation Mi'kmaq Wellness Centre staff work closely with the First Nations & Inuit Health Branch Non-Insured Health Benefits staff regarding applications for dental, vision, medical transportation, medical equipment, and for special authorization for medical approvals.
- Well Women's Clinics: Every stage of a woman's life from adolescence to mid-life and beyond is unique and valuable and every woman deserves safe and satisfying well woman care. The AFNMWC offers a Well Women's Clinic yearly. Topics and services during these clinics include, but are not limited to pap screening, self-breast exam education, birth control options, menopause etc.
- Men's Health Clinic: Our Men's Health Clinic is aimed at providing information on the health conditions and risks that are most common to men to promote optimal physical, emotional, and social well-being. An annual clinic will include various topics of interest such as Prostate Health, Testosterone, etc.
- Enhanced Home and Community Care Program: This program currently conducts home visits to assess and assist clients' needs. The goal is to promote the clients' ability to live independently in their home. The Enhanced Home and Community Care Program will be providing client assessments, case management, home care nursing, personal care, home support and respite services. Service is for all community residents of any age. This program includes but not limited to, weekly Elder drop-in,

monthly Elder meal, monthly Elder Advisory Committee meeting, Meals on Wheels, Lifeline assistance.

- Mental Wellness and Addictions Program: This program provides a safe, confidential, and compassionate environment for our community members. Our Mental Wellness and Addictions Team are available to help with difficulties that clients/families may be experiencing without judgement, shame, or stigma. The Mental Wellness and Addictions Team delivers a holistic program that provides the following services: individual counselling, alcohol and drug addiction support, workshops and educational sessions, referrals, MMIWG support, Indian Residential Care support, Indian Day School support, Sixties Scoop support, Cultural support, and access to a care facilitation team.
- Cultural Services: At AFNMWC, we provide cultural services that include but not limited to; Mi'kmaq language classes, seven sacred teachings, seven hoops of inter-generational trauma, medicines, ceremonies, sweats, regalia making, healing circles, and traditional healer/Elder support etc.
- Maternal Child Health Program: Supports the health and wellness of infants and children through the strong involvement of parents and family. This program includes, but not limited to; pre-natal/post-natal classes, milk/food vouchers for pre-natal and breastfeeding mothers, car seat safety sessions, breastfeeding support, etc.
- Child Health Clinics: These clinics provide opportunities to get your baby weighed and ask questions about your baby's general health or any questions you may have. This service is available anytime by stopping in or by contacting the Community Health Nurse.
- Health Promotion Program: The Health Promotion Program is coordinated by a Registered Dietitian whose focus is health promotion and injury/illness prevention which includes maternal health, infant health, child health, school health, adolescent health, adult health, and elder health. This program includes, but is not limited to, cooking classes, weight loss challenges, nutritional consultations, one-on-one counselling, community gardens, early years menu support, etc.

- Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Program: The overall goal of the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) is to improve the health status of First Nations individuals, families and communities through actions aimed at reducing prevalence and incidence of diabetes and its risk factors. AFNMWC supports activities targeted at healthy eating and food security, increasing physical activity as a healthy living practice, increasing the early detection and screening for complications of diabetes. This program includes but is not limited to; good food box program, walking group, diabetes breakfast, etc.

### **Mental Awareness and Addictions**

The Healing Centre of the AFNMWC's Mental Wellness and Addictions Program continues to provide numerous personalized supports for the community. Within its walls, counselling services flourish, fostering a sense of connection and healing. Over the past years, the program has evolved, integrating cultural traditions and innovative therapies to create a holistic approach to mental wellness and addiction recovery.

For example, while the program addresses the needs of individuals and families affected by addiction through sessions designed to support loved ones in safe and healthy ways, it also offers culturally framed activities such as "Beading, Bannock, and P'tewey" sessions where participants gather around a table to create beautiful beadwork while sharing positive stories and traditions. Culturally driven women's groups and events, such as ribbon skirt sessions and candle making with traditional medicines like sage, provide other opportunities for connection and growth. These kinds of activities, combined with training like the Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST), equip staff and community members with the skills needed to support those in crisis.

The Centre's Elder plays a pivotal role through regular debriefing and talking circles, creating a safe space for individuals to share their experiences and seek guidance. His one-on-one sessions are transformative, offering personalized support and expanding the center's ability to provide culturally relevant wellness services.

In June of 2023, the Acting Dean of UPEI's Indigenous Knowledge Education Research and Applied Studies (IKERAS) program, Gary Evans, asked the Healing Centre's Elder to develop and teach a course for them. The class selected by the Elder focused on Indigenous Health and Wellbeing. The Elder served as instructor of record but developed and delivered the course as an Abegweit designed, developed, and delivered course together with the

staff of the Wellness Centre. Its second iteration is to be delivered in Winter term 2026, and the course is on track to become a fully Abegweit owned course that year, to be required for graduation in the UPEI Nursing Program.

The Healing Centre's dedication to addressing addictions has led to the expansion of the addictions and outreach positions. The addictions worker diligently connects community members with First Nations treatment centers and other essential supports, including one-to-one supports, providing Naloxone training, and ensuring that no one faces their struggles alone. Monthly psychiatric clinics with Dr. Schnieder and psychological services provided by a regularly attending psychologist, further enhance the comprehensive care offered at the Healing Centre.

Professional development continues to be a priority, with staff participating in Trauma-Informed Care, Grief Support Training, and Gender Sensitivity Training. These efforts ensure that the team remains equipped to address the complex needs of the community. Mental health first aid training has also become a crucial part of the program. This training equips individuals with the knowledge to assist those in a mental health crisis, enhancing the overall support network within the community.

Partnerships with external organizations further enrich the program's offerings. Together, they increase community awareness and understanding of the MMIWG issue, attending, and participating in events like the Aboriginal Women's Association Red Dress Walk and the Family Violence Prevention Walk. The Family Violence Prevention Walk itself, stands as a testament to the community's commitment to fostering safety and support.

The program's achievements have not gone unnoticed. After a rigorous Accreditation Canada survey, the Mental Wellness and Addictions Program proudly stands as an accredited program with exemplary standing.

Through these diverse and culturally enriched initiatives, the AFNMWC's Mental Wellness and Addictions Program continues to transform lives, empowering individuals and strengthening the community's bonds. The Healing Centre stands as a testament to resilience, hope, and the unwavering spirit of the Abegweit First Nation.

## Health Promotions

### Individual Consultations

One-on-one consultation between community members and the dietitian occur on an as needed basis. Individuals are referred by other health care professionals (i.e. provincial dietitian, nurse, or physician), or they may self-refer. Topics of discussion included diabetes prevention and management, meal planning, blood sugar monitoring, blood work review, sick day management, chronic disease prevention and management, meal planning, weight loss/weight gain. These assessments or follow up visits are being done at either the health centre or in the home of the client to maximize access. Referrals are made when necessary.

### Diabetes Support Group

Diabetes Support Groups are offered monthly. These groups are offered to members living with diabetes and are client-focused and led.

### Hypoglycemic Kits

The HPC is responsible for updating the hypoglycemic kits. These kits are available to clients living with diabetes and who may be susceptible to having lows. These kits include Dex 4 tablets, apple juice and a Glucerna protein bar. Clients were provided education around how to treat lows by the HPC using the 'Hypoglycemia: Low blood sugar in adults' handout from Diabetes Canada (hardcopy provided in kit).

### Wellness & Activity Challenges

We've introduced a variety of Wellness & Physical Activity Challenges to encourage community members to engage in fun and motivating activities. These challenges are designed to promote physical activity, mental well-being, and healthy lifestyle habits. The challenges vary from cooking challenges and recipe sharing to mindfulness journaling and community walks.

Each challenge comes with resources, tips, and motivational content to keep participants engaged and motivated. Additionally, we offer incentives and rewards for participation and achievement, creating a sense of accomplishment and community pride. Through these challenges, we aim to build healthier habits, improve overall well-being, and strengthen our community's interest in physical and mental well-being.

## **Group Training and Fitness Classes**

Weekly group training classes provide structured, instructor-led sessions that cater to various fitness levels and interests. These classes are led by a qualified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, ensuring that participants receive expert guidance and support. The classes foster a supportive and energetic environment, making exercise enjoyable and social.

By participating in these classes, community members can improve their physical health, build strength and connect with others who share similar goals. In addition to group classes, 1-on-1 training sessions are available at request for community members seeking personalized attention. These sessions provide an opportunity to work closely with our Strength and Conditioning Specialist to achieve specific goals, address individual needs, and receive customized support.

## **Recipe Bags**

We introduced Recipe Bags to make healthy eating fun and more convenient for our community. Each bag contains pre-measured ingredients and simple instructions to prepare nutritious meals at home. This initiative not only promotes healthy eating habits but also reinforces community interest in preparing home-cooked meals.

The convenience of having all the necessary ingredients ready to use gets people into the kitchen more often, sparking interest in preparing homemade food. With easy-to-follow recipes, those with little to no cooking experience can gain confidence and enjoy the process of creating meals from scratch. This initiative helps build a foundation of essential cooking skills that can lead to a lifelong appreciation for healthy, home-cooked meals. This not only enhances food literacy but also brings families together, creating opportunities for shared experiences and bonding over meal preparation.

## **Subsidized Produce Boxes**

Our 'Good Food Box' program aims to make fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable and accessible to all community members. By providing these boxes at a reduced cost, we ensure that everyone can incorporate more fresh produce into their diets, promoting overall health and well-being. This initiative supports interest in trying new foods and strengthens our community's connection to sustainable and nutritious food sources.

## **Health Literacy**

We organized a variety of programs and workshops aimed at enhancing knowledge on critical health topics such as nutrition, mental health, and chronic disease management. Our Lunch and Learn sessions were particularly successful, featuring expert speakers and interactive discussions that educated attendees on important health issues. Some specific Lunch and Learns included Alzheimer's Awareness, Liver Health, and Sexual Health. These sessions not only increased health knowledge but also encouraged participants to adopt healthier lifestyles. Educational materials, including brochures, pamphlets, and online resources, were widely distributed, ensuring that valuable health information reached a broad audience. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting improved health practices and a better understanding of health-related topics.

## **Cultural Events**

Our cultural events this year focused on traditional teachings and skills, celebrating and preserving cultural heritage. We organized events such as basket making, ribbon skirt making, and sweet grass picking, which were well-received by the community. These activities provided participants with hands-on learning experiences, allowing them to connect with their cultural roots and gain practical skills. These cultural events fostered a sense of community, pride, and connection to cultural heritage.

## **Community Events**

Community involvement has been a cornerstone of our efforts each year, with a strong focus on social engagement. We established partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and healthcare experts to support our initiatives. Our community events, including Men's and Women's Health Events and annual Community BBQ, were designed to engage the community in fun and educational activities. The Men's and Women's Health Events offered targeted health screenings, informative workshops, and opportunities for social interaction, addressing specific health concerns and promoting overall well-being. These events were well-attended and provided valuable resources and support to the community. The annual community BBQ was a highlight of the year, bringing together families and individuals for a day of fun, food, and fellowship. Overall, our community events have fostered a sense of belonging and encouraged healthier lifestyles among participants.

### **Jordan's Principle**

Continues to be successful in providing our children with accessibility to recommended health, social, and educational services. A few of these services include speech language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, educational assistants, tutoring, assistive technology, and psycho-educational and neurological assessments.

Another success for Jordan's Principle was the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) 36 ruling. The CHRT ruling has extended the eligibility criteria under Jordan's Principle. The updated eligibility includes a child must be under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence, permanently reside in Canada and meet one of the following criteria:

- the child is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act,
- the child has one parent/guardian who is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act
- the child is recognized by their Nation for the purposes of Jordan's Principle
- the child is ordinarily resident on reserve

For any parent or guardian interested in learning more about Jordan's Principle and/or the updated eligibility criteria, please contact the Wellness Centre.

### **Enhanced Home and Community Care Program**

The Enhanced Home and Community Care Program continues to provide services to clients through wellness check-ins, grocery pick-ups and transportation to and from doctor appointments. Enhanced Home and Community Care Program is offered through self-referral, family/caregiver referral or physician referral. The Elder Social, Christmas Elder Social, and the Meals on Wheels program are facilitated through the Home Care Program.

For more info: contact Dominique at the Wellness Centre at 902-676-3007.

### **Maternal Child Health**

“Little Buds” is a program for moms and babies to get out of the house to have time to socialize and meet new moms. Once a week moms and babies get together to have lunch,

socialize, and participate in an activity/field trip such as Island Hill Farms, apple picking, Jewells Country Market, a pool day, making sensory bags, making ribbon skirts and shirts, and baby food making classes.

## **Mi'kmaq Health Systems Navigator**

As we all know, navigating our Provincial Health System is becoming an increasing challenge. Crissy Riley, LPN knows all too well the challenges we all endure to get quality, timely health care. Crissy's role as Health Systems Navigator for Abegweit is to assist community members with gaining access to any individual's health care needs:

- Physician access
- Dental access
- Pharmacy questions and access
- NIHB assistance
- Off island appointment arrangements
- Lifeline access
- Mental Health and Addictions access
- Traditional Healing arrangements
- Advocacy for Community Members
- Medical Equipment Procurement
- Working with other Health Systems Navigators within the PEI Health Care System
- (Cancer & Stroke Navigators)
- Attend appointments with clients
- Arrange Transportation for clients

In addition to her role of assisting Community Members, she is also a strong advocate for the Community of Abegweit Members and Mi'kmaq people across PEI. She represents Abegweit at the table with Health PEI Leadership, Chief Public Health Office and NIHB Navigators across Canada. Her goal is to improve treatment, care and ultimately to improve health outcomes for Community Members and other First Nations Peoples. Anyone with questions or concerns are encouraged to reach out to Crissy at Abegweit First Nation Mi'kmaq Wellness Centre.

# ABEGWEIT IN THE NEWS

## Zachary Gould of Abegweit First Nation Becomes Member of RCMP – July 2024



A special ceremony was held to honour the welcoming of Zach Gould as a member of RCMP PEI. Elder Terry Leblanc provided a blessing, carrying words of the importance of family and the support of all those gathered that will be needed to help Constable Gould on his career journey. Zach's father, retired RCMP member Joe Gould passed Zach his badge after being sworn in. Senator Brian Francis was also part of the day, and we were pleased to have his support.

## Abegweit Donates 10,572 Pounds to Charlottetown Food Bank – November 2024

Nova Scotia > Lifestyles

### Abegweit First Nation donates 10,572 pounds to Charlottetown food bank

Vivian Ulmer - Reporter | Posted: a day ago | Updated: a day ago | 8 Min Read



Abegweit First Nation Chief Junior Gould was happy his community's food bank donations from the Chief's Haunted Barn surpassed last year's haul. He said plans are already underway for next year's event. - Vivian Ulmer/The Guardian

Abegweit First Nation donates 10,572 pounds to Charlottetown food bank. Each year, the community hosts a Chief's Haunted Barn, a Halloween haunted house event where visitors are given free entry but encouraged to bring non-perishable food items.

"There's a lot of First Nations that are in a situation where they can't give, we're in a situation where we can give back. We're a productive part of society, we're an active part of society, and this contribution that we give back to the food banks to contribute to society is something that I'm very proud of." - Chief Junior Gould

### **Abegweit Hosts Annual Indigenous Veterans Day Ceremony – November 2024**



Each year, we host an Annual Indigenous Veterans Day Ceremony to honour and pay our respects to the Mi'kmaw and Indigenous Veterans who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war. Our community has a proud history of service, and we are grateful for their bravery.

# COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTIONS FUNDED BY FUEL AND TOBACCO REBATES

| April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025                                     | 2024/25                 | 2023/24                 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Fuel & Tobacco Tax Rebates (Received)                         | 1,159,618               | 1,147,444               |
| Total Fuel & Tobacco Tax Exemptions Given to FN Members (Reference) | 695,771                 | 688,466                 |
| Amount of Rebates Available for Community Distributions             | <b><u>\$463,847</u></b> | <b><u>\$458,978</u></b> |
| Distributed to Band Members   |                         |                         |
| - Summer  | 205,800                 | 117,750                 |
| - Christmas   | 378,750                 | 248,200                 |
| Total Community Distributions                                       | \$584,550               | \$365,950               |

**Note: When fuel and tobacco are purchased from the wholesaler, the Gas Bar pays fuel and tobacco taxes on all purchases. Sales to First Nation members are exempt from these taxes, and no tax is collected at the point of sale. The Province reimburses the Gas Bar for this point-of-sale tax exemption, so the Gas Bar is not at a loss. After accounting for the actual tax exemptions given and the portion of the rebate relating to them, the Band calculates funds available for community spending, primarily in the form of Band member distributions, as shown above.**

Consolidated Financial Statements

Abegweit First Nation

March 31, 2025

## Contents

|   | Page    |
|---|---------|
| Management's responsibility for financial reporting | 1       |
| Independent Auditors' report                        | 2 - 3   |
| Consolidated statement of operations                | 4       |
| Consolidated statement of financial position        | 5       |
| Consolidated statement of cash flows                | 6       |
| Consolidated statement of changes in net debt       | 7       |
| Notes to the consolidated financial statements      | 8 - 16  |
| Schedule of segmented disclosure                    | 17 - 18 |
| Schedule of tangible capital assets                 | 19      |

## Management's responsibility for financial reporting

The accompanying consolidated financial statements and schedules of the Abegweit First Nation and all the information in this annual report are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Chief on behalf of the Council.

The consolidated financial statements and schedules have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards prescribed for governments as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. Consolidated financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgements. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances, in order to ensure that the consolidated financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.

The Band Council maintains systems of internal accounting and administrative controls of high quality, consistent with reasonable cost. Such systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and the Band's assets are appropriately accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The Band Council is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the consolidated financial statements.

The Band Council meets periodically with management, as well as the external auditors, to discuss internal controls over the financial reporting process, auditing matters and financial reporting issues, to satisfy themselves that each party is properly discharging their responsibilities, and to review the annual report, the consolidated financial statements and the external auditors' report.

The consolidated financial statements and schedules have been audited by Teed Saunders Doyle in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the members. Teed Saunders Doyle has full and free access to the Council.

  
John Doyle Chief  
NOV 4 2025 Date

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Chief, Councillors, and Community Members of the Abegweit First Nation,

*Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Abegweit First Nation (the "Band"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the consolidated statements of operations, changes in net debt and cash flows, and schedules for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Band as at March 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

*Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with those requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Band's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Band or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Band's financial reporting process.

*Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

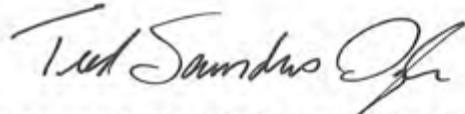
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

(continues)

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Band's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Band's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Band to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Saint John, New Brunswick  
November 4, 2025

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

3

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Consolidated statement of operations**

| March 31                                  | Budget<br>(Unaudited) | 2025                       | 2024                |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                            |                       |                            |                     |
| Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)          | \$ 11,476,600         | <b>\$ 11,651,088</b>       | \$ 7,917,722        |
| ACOA                                      | 95,300                | <b>264,006</b>             | 558,221             |
| Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation     | 1,375,000             | <b>688,357</b>             | 2,481,788           |
| Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada   | 1,537,968             | <b>1,571,021</b>           | 1,285,372           |
| CANDO                                     | -                     | -                          | 894,306             |
| Fuel & tobacco rebates                    | 1,147,444             | <b>1,320,497</b>           | 1,147,444           |
| Government of Canada                      | 638,008               | <b>605,943</b>             | 550,925             |
| Government of PEI                         | 961,400               | <b>1,416,547</b>           | 5,217,685           |
| Health Canada                             | 6,955,256             | <b>5,883,060</b>           | 4,355,443           |
| Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI                | 1,017,008             | <b>1,306,662</b>           | 968,411             |
| PEI Mikmaq Holdings                       | 175,000               | <b>150,000</b>             | 475,000             |
| Affordable Housing Grant                  | -                     | <b>1,000,000</b>           | -                   |
| Miscellaneous                             | 1,071,084             | <b>934,964</b>             | 716,371             |
| Gain on sale of assets                    | -                     | <b>14,072</b>              | -                   |
| Revenue from sale of products or services | <u>10,214,960</u>     | <u><b>11,724,926</b></u>   | <u>9,635,694</u>    |
|   | <u>36,665,028</u>     | <u><b>38,531,143</b></u>   | <u>36,204,382</u>   |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                       |                       |                            |                     |
| Administration                            | 5,170,023             | <b>4,990,167</b>           | 4,142,615           |
| Capital, Operating & Maintenance          | 2,864,000             | <b>4,371,296</b>           | 3,046,284           |
| Conservation Society                      | 807,707               | <b>688,125</b>             | 740,863             |
| Early Years Centre                        | 740,470               | <b>899,317</b>             | 764,571             |
| Economic Development                      | 1,775,174             | <b>2,188,751</b>           | 1,363,676           |
| Education                                 | 1,929,996             | <b>2,039,568</b>           | 1,846,363           |
| Epekwith Gas Bar                          | 8,375,240             | <b>8,523,642</b>           | 7,904,760           |
| Fisheries                                 | 2,697,418             | <b>2,798,988</b>           | 2,483,242           |
| Fisheries – AFS                           | 150,000               | <b>151,026</b>             | 143,378             |
| Hatchery                                  | 131,702               | <b>176,412</b>             | 182,331             |
| Health Services                           | 3,745,010             | <b>5,963,901</b>           | 4,310,018           |
| Social Services                           | 893,073               | <b>695,723</b>             | 797,791             |
|   | <u>29,279,813</u>     | <u><b>33,486,915</b></u>   | <u>27,725,892</u>   |
| <b>Net revenue</b>                        | <u>7,385,215</u>      | <u><b>5,044,229</b></u>    | <u>8,478,491</u>    |
| Accumulated surplus, beginning of year    | 25,902,376            | <b>25,902,376</b>          | 17,423,885          |
| <b>Net revenue</b>                        | <u>7,385,215</u>      | <u><b>5,044,229</b></u>    | <u>8,478,491</u>    |
| <b>Accumulated surplus, end of year</b>   | <u>\$33,287,591</u>   | <u><b>\$30,946,605</b></u> | <u>\$25,902,376</u> |

See accompanying notes and schedules to the consolidated financial statements.

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Consolidated statement of financial position**

| March 31                                 | 2025                 | 2024                 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Financial assets</b>                  |                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents                | \$ 9,792,219         | \$ 4,328,107         |
| Accounts receivable (Note 3)             | 15,891,768           | 13,572,085           |
| Inventory held for resale (Note 4)       | 225,287              | 215,600              |
| Replacement reserve (Note 5)             | 224,006              | 209,803              |
| Trust Funds ISC (Note 6)                 | 15,891               | 15,603               |
| Restricted cash                          | <u>157,152</u>       | <u>157,152</u>       |
|  | <u>26,306,324</u>    | <u>18,498,350</u>    |
| <b>Financial liabilities</b>             |                      |                      |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 1,409,632            | 2,418,569            |
| Severance liability                      | 158,761              | 129,516              |
| Deferred revenue                         | 20,333,353           | 13,388,522           |
| Long-term debt (Note 9)                  | 2,921,727            | 2,736,129            |
| RRAP liability (Note 10)                 | <u>70,789</u>        | <u>223,220</u>       |
|  | <u>24,894,261</u>    | <u>18,895,956</u>    |
| <b>Net assets (debt)</b>                 | <u>1,412,063</u>     | <u>(397,605)</u>     |
| <b>Non financial assets</b>              |                      |                      |
| Prepays (Note 7)                         | 149,214              | 88,987               |
| Intangible assets                        | 445,000              | 445,000              |
| Tangible capital assets (Page 21)        | <u>28,940,328</u>    | <u>25,765,995</u>    |
|  | <u>29,534,542</u>    | <u>\$26,299,982</u>  |
| <b>Net assets</b>                        | <u>\$ 30,946,605</u> | <u>\$ 25,902,376</u> |
| <br>                                     |                      |                      |
| Accumulated surplus                      | \$ 30,706,647        | \$ 25,676,970        |
| Replacement reserve (Note 5)             | 224,066              | 209,803              |
| Trust Funds ISC (Note 6)                 | <u>15,891</u>        | <u>15,603</u>        |
|  | <u>\$ 30,946,605</u> | <u>\$ 25,902,376</u> |

On behalf of the Band Council



**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Consolidated statement of cash flows**

March 31

2025

2024

Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

**Operating activities**

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Revenues   | \$ 5,044,229 | \$ 8,478,491 |
| Items not affecting cash                             |              |              |
| Amortization   | 2,436,792    | 1,611,399    |
| Gain on sale   | (14,073)     | -            |
| Change in non-cash working capital items             |              |              |
| Increase in accounts receivable                      | (2,319,683)  | (8,159,143)  |
| Increase in inventory                                | (9,687)      | (12,741)     |
| (Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses              | (60,227)     | (6,396)      |
| Increase in Replacement Reserve                      | (14,204)     | 12,790       |
| Increase in Trust Funds ISC                          | (288)        | (502)        |
| Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (1,008,936)  | 1,441,447    |
| Increase (decrease) in severance liability           | 29,245       | (4,054)      |
| Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue              | 6,944,831    | 5,501,907    |
| Increase (decrease) in RRAP liabilities              | (152,432)    | 128,324      |

10,875,567 8,991,525

**Financing activities**

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Proceeds from issuance of long term debt | 441,900   | 836,733   |
| Principal repayments of long term debt   | (256,303) | (169,838) |
|  | 185,597   | 666,895   |

**Investing activities**

|                                     |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Purchase of tangible capital assets | (5,626,552) | (9,984,477) |
| Proceeds from disposal of assets    | 29,500      | -           |
|                                     | (5,597,052) | (9,984,477) |

Net change in cash and cash equivalents 5,464,112 (326,057)

Cash and cash equivalents,

|                   |              |              |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Beginning of year | 4,328,107    | 4,654,164    |
| End of year       | \$ 9,792,219 | \$ 4,328,107 |

See accompanying notes and schedules to the consolidated financial statements.

6

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Consolidated statement of changes in net assets**

| March 31                                      | Budget<br>(Unaudited) | 2025         | 2024         |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net revenues                                  | \$7,385,215           | \$ 5,044,229 | \$ 8,478,491 |
| Gain on sale of asset                         | -                     | (14,703)     | -            |
| Amortization                                  | 1,384,400             | 2,436,792    | 1,611,399    |
| Acquisition of tangible capital assets        | (7,953,588)           | (5,626,552)  | (9,984,477)  |
| Proceeds from sale of tangible capital assets | -                     | 29,500       | -            |
|   | 816,027               | 1,869,896    | 105,412      |
| Use of prepaid expense, net of acquisitions   | -                     | (60,228)     | (6,395)      |
| Change in net assets                          | -                     | 1,809,668    | 99,017       |
| Net debt beginning of year                    | -                     | (397,605)    | (496,622)    |
| Net assets (debt), end of year                | -                     | 1,412,063    | (397,605)    |

See accompanying notes and schedules to the consolidated financial statements.

---

## Abegweit First Nation

### Notes to the consolidated financial statements

March 31, 2025

---

#### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

##### Consolidation

These consolidated financial statements consolidate the assets, liabilities and results of operations of the Abegweit First Nation's reporting entity.

##### Reporting entity

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenditures, cash flows and changes in net debt of the reporting entity. The reporting entity is comprised of all organizations and committees that are accountable to the Band for administration of their financial affairs and resources and which are owned by the Band. Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

##### Basis of presentation

The consolidated financial statements of Abegweit First Nation are the representations of management prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

The focus of PSAB consolidated financial statements is on the consolidated financial position of the Band and the changes thereto. The Consolidated Statement of Financial Position includes all of the assets and liabilities of the Band.

##### Revenue recognition

Government transfers and rebates are recognized as revenues in the period in which the events giving rise to the transfer and rebates occur, providing the amounts are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made. Transfers associated with capital projects are restricted in their use and are recorded as deferred revenue until the qualifying capital project funds have been expended. All other revenues and unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributions from other sources are deferred when restrictions are placed on their use by the contributor and are recognized as revenue when used for the specific purpose.

Revenue from sales of fish products are recognized when the price is fixed or determinable, collectability is reasonably assured and upon shipment to, and acceptance by, the buyer.

##### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks and term deposits net of any bank overdraft. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

##### Inventories for resale

Inventories of supplies and goods available for resale are recorded at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Inventory is tracked using the first in first out method.

## Abegweit First Nation

### Notes to the consolidated financial statements

March 31, 2025

#### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)

##### Intangible assets

Fishing licenses have indefinite lives, are not amortized and are tested for impairment annually or more frequently, if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the assets might be impaired. Fishing licenses are determined to have infinite lives as the annual renewal fee is nominal, the Band has both the ability and intent to renew or extend the life of the license and there has been a history of being able to obtain renewals from government. The impairment test compares the fair value of fishing licenses to their carrying values. When the fair value is less than the carrying value then an impairment loss would be recognized in the consolidated statement of earnings and retained earnings.

##### Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost, which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development and betterment of the asset. The cost of the tangible capital asset is amortized using the declining balance method at the following rates:

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Boats                     | 15%   |
| Buildings                 | 4%    |
| Computer hardware         | 30%   |
| Computer software         | 100%  |
| Equipment                 | 20%   |
| Fencing                   | 8%    |
| Furniture and equipment   | 20%   |
| Headstart renovations     | 33.3% |
| Housing – CMHC Section 95 | 10%   |
| Infrastructure            | 10%   |
| Landscaping               | 8%    |
| Office furniture          | 20%   |
| Parking lot               | 8%    |
| Sign                      | 20%   |
| Vehicles                  | 30%   |

##### Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenue over expenditures, provides the consolidated change in net debt for the year.

##### Use of estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepting accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the year. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include valuation of accounts receivable and the estimated useful lives of property and equipment. Actual results could differ from these estimates used in these consolidated financial statements.

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Notes to the consolidated financial statements**

March 31, 2025

**1. Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)**

**Asset Retirement Obligations**

Liabilities are recognized for statutory, contractual or legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible capital assets when those obligations result from the acquisition, construction, development or normal operation of the assets. The obligations are measured initially at fair value, determined using present value methodology, and the resulting costs capitalized into the carrying amount of the related tangible capital asset. In subsequent periods, the liability is adjusted for accretion and any changes in the amount or timing of the underlying future cash flows. The capitalized asset retirement cost is amortized on the same basis as the related asset and accretion expense is included in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. As at March 31, 2025, no material asset retirement obligations have been identified by management.

**Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

**2. Band employee benefits**

The Band matches employee's contributions to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP). During the year there was \$263,117 (2024 - \$165,720) contributed to RRSP plans. This represented both the Band's and the employees' portion of the contribution and was included in expenses for the year.

| <b>3. Accounts receivable</b>      | <b>2025</b>         | <b>2024</b>         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Indigenous Services Canada         | \$5,467,454         | \$4,095,060         |
| Health Canada                      | 6,645,377           | 4,038,025           |
| CANDO                              | -                   | 627,639             |
| ACOA                               | -                   | 90,669              |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans | 1,249,000           | 935,805             |
| Government of Prince Edward Island | 102,469             | 2,350,255           |
| CMHC                               | 5,805               | 4,263               |
| Epekwitk Assembly of Councils Inc. | 767,939             | 480,788             |
| Government of Canada               | 835,575             | 476,240             |
| Miscellaneous                      | 509,507             | 353,142             |
| PEI Regional Chief's office        | 81,103              | -                   |
| Payroll advances                   | 5,740               | 5,874               |
| Loans to members                   | 77,062              | 27,318              |
| Ultramar                           | 79,916              | 63,398              |
| Canada Revenue Agency              | 64,821              | 23,609              |
|                                    | <b>\$15,891,768</b> | <b>\$13,572,085</b> |

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Notes to the consolidated financial statements**

March 31, 2025

**4. Inventory held for resale**

Inventory held for resale included in the consolidated statement of financial position are comprised of the following amounts:

|                                    | <u>2025</u>       | <u>2024</u>       |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Gas bar inventory                  | \$ 177,068        | \$ 166,561        |
| Redstone Auto and Marine inventory | <u>48,218</u>     | <u>49,039</u>     |
|                                    | <u>\$ 225,287</u> | <u>\$ 215,600</u> |

**5. Replacement reserve**

Under the terms of an agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the replacement reserve is being credited annually based on \$1,000 per unit, per year pro rated in the year of acquisition. The funds for this reserve are maintained in accounts that are secured by the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation and may be used as approved by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

**6. Trust funds ISC**

|             | March 31,<br>2024 | Additions<br>2025 | Withdrawals<br>2025 | March 31,<br>2025 |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Trust funds | <u>\$ 15,603</u>  | <u>\$ 288</u>     | <u>\$ -</u>         | <u>\$ 15,891</u>  |

The trust funds arise from monies derived from capital or revenue sources as outlined in Section 62 of the *Indian Act*. These funds are held in trust in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Government of Canada. The management of these funds is primarily governed by Sections 63 to 69 of the *Indian Act*.

**7. Prepays**

Prepaid expenses included in the consolidated statement of financial position are comprised of the following amounts:

|   | <u>2025</u>       | <u>2024</u>      |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Post-secondary education – living allowance | \$ -              | \$ 4,760         |
| Insurance                                   | 99,714            | 84,224           |
| Down Payment – Fisheries Vessel             | 49,500            | -                |
|   | <u>\$ 149,214</u> | <u>\$ 88,987</u> |

**8. Bank indebtedness**

The Band has access to operating lines of credit with approved borrowing amounts of \$750,000 from January 15 to April 2 and a borrowing limit of \$500,000 for the remainder of the year. The credit facility bears interest at a rate of prime plus 0.90%. As of March 31, 2025, \$750,000 (2024- \$ 750,000) of the line of credit was unused.

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Notes to the consolidated financial statements**  
March 31, 2025

| <b>9. Long-term debt</b>   | <b>2025</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| 0.68% demand loan maturing in 2025, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$460.   | \$ 52,054   | \$ 57,201   |
| 6.03% demand loan maturing in 2028, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$671.   | 56,022      | 60,639      |
| 1.88% demand loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$548.   | 69,829      | 75,055      |
| 2.27% demand loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$569.   | 72,224      | 77,368      |
| 2.27% demand loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$569.   | 72,222      | 77,366      |
| 2.27% demand loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$578.   | 72,997      | 78,236      |
| 1.13% demand loan maturing in 2026, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$542.   | 68,299      | 74,008      |
| 1.13% demand loan maturing in 2026, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$542.   | 68,299      | 74,008      |
| 5.85% demand loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$1,940. | 138,542     | 153,240     |
| 5.72% demand loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$646.   | 45,513      | 50,901      |
| 5.72% demand loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$646.   | 45,311      | 50,901      |
| 4.66% demand loan maturing in 2028, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$586.   | 47,536      | 52,285      |
| 4.66% term loan maturing in 2028, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$725.     | 85,260      | 89,950      |
| 0.73% term loan maturing in 2025, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$539.     | 87,097      | 92,914      |
| 1.22% demand loan maturing in 2026, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$547.   | 94,545      | 99,929      |

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Notes to the consolidated financial statements**

March 31, 2025

| 9. Long term debt (cont'd)   | 2025                | 2024               |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| 0.68% term loan maturing in 2025, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$540.   | 85,541              | 91,420             |
| 1.22% term loan maturing in 2026, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$617.   | 122,392             | 128,248            |
| 1.5% term loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$1,104.  | 143,760             | 154,789            |
| 4.17% term loan maturing in 2025, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$2,775. | 63,776              | 93,715             |
| 6.5% term loan maturing in 2027, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$2,005.  | 207,990             | 218,163            |
| 3.58% term loan maturing in 2029, repayable in equal monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$2,583. | 339,308             | 358,001            |
| 4.49% term loan maturing in 2028, repayable in monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$1,372.       | 168,266             | 177,109            |
| 6.51% term loan maturing in 2028, repayable in monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$2,240.       | 288,249             | 296,679            |
| 4.08% term loan maturing in 2029, repayable in monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$1,609.       | 208,681             | -                  |
| 3.63% term loan maturing in 2029, repayable in monthly instalments of principal and interest of \$1,620.       | 218,013             | -                  |
| Loans repaid during the year   | -                   | 54,000             |
|  | <u>\$ 2,921,727</u> | <u>\$2,736,129</u> |

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Notes to the consolidated financial statements**

March 31, 2025

**9. Long term debt (cont'd)**

Based on these terms the principal repayments in the next five years are due as follows:

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 2026       | \$ 214,136   |
| 2027       | \$ 221,641   |
| 2028       | \$ 195,545   |
| 2029       | \$ 202,317   |
| 2030       | \$ 210,065   |
| Thereafter | \$ 1,878,023 |

Demand loans are secured by a general security agreement constituting a first ranking security interest in all property and irrevocable Band Council resolution authorizing borrowings.

**10. RRAP liability**

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation ("CMHC") has granted forgivable loans to Abegweit First Nation through the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program to finance modifications for the accessibility of disabled members. The loans are only forgivable if the First Nation fulfills a list of conditions proposed by CMHC and must be repaid if these conditions are not met. The loans are forgivable over periods of three to five years and give rise to a liability until the funds are fully forgiven. The liability for the remaining balance of the loans to be forgiven as of March 31, 2025, totals \$70,789 (2024 - \$223,220).

**11. CMHC funding**

Abegweit First Nation is an eligible recipient under the Section 95 housing program operated by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

**12. Commitments**

The Abegweit First Nation has provided a letter of guarantee to Ultramar Ltd. and has a franchise agreement with Merrik Franchising (Maritimes) Limited relating to the gas bar operation.

**13. Economic dependence**

The Abegweit First Nation receives a major portion of its revenues pursuant to a funding arrangement with Indigenous Services Canada. As this is the major source of revenues, the organization's ability to continue viable operations is dependent upon maintaining this funding source.

## Abegweit First Nation

### Notes to the consolidated financial statements

March 31, 2025

#### 14. Contingencies

Abegweit First Nation has entered into contribution agreements with various federal government departments. Funding received under these agreements is subject to repayment if the First Nation fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreements.

In addition, in the normal course of its operations, Abegweit First Nation may become involved in legal actions. Some other potential liabilities may become actual liabilities when one or more future events occur or fail to occur. To the extent that the future event is likely to occur, and a reasonable estimate of the loss can be made, an estimated liability is accrued and an expense recorded on the Abegweit First Nation consolidated financial statements.

#### 15. Government transfers

|  | 2025<br>Operating    | 2025<br>Capital     | 2025<br>Total        | 2024<br>Operating    | 2024<br>Capital     | 2024<br>Total        |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Federal Government Transfers:</b>   |                      |                     |                      |                      |                     |                      |
| Indigenous Services Canada             | 7,367,304            | 4,288,661           | 11,655,965           | 7,057,224            | 860,498             | 7,917,722            |
| Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency   | 264,006              | -                   | 264,006              | -                    | 558,221             | 558,221              |
| Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation  | 688,357              | -                   | 688,357              | 118,312              | 2,363,476           | 2,481,788            |
| Department of Fisheries & Oceans       | 1,571,021            | -                   | 1,571,021            | 1,285,372            | -                   | 1,285,372            |
| Government of Canada                   | 605,943              | -                   | 605,943              | 560,325              | -                   | 550,925              |
| Health Canada                          | 5,568,758            | 316,302             | 5,885,060            | 4,138,416            | 216,927             | 4,355,343            |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>16,063,388</b>    | <b>4,604,963</b>    | <b>20,668,352</b>    | <b>13,150,249</b>    | <b>3,999,122</b>    | <b>17,149,371</b>    |
| <b>Provincial Government Transfers</b> |                      |                     |                      |                      |                     |                      |
|  | 1,249,164            | 100,000             | 1,349,164            | 804,983              | 4,322,703           | 5,217,686            |
|  | <b>\$ 17,312,553</b> | <b>\$ 4,704,963</b> | <b>\$ 22,017,516</b> | <b>\$ 14,045,232</b> | <b>\$ 8,321,825</b> | <b>\$ 22,367,057</b> |

#### 16. Budgeted figures

Budgeted figures have been provided for comparison purposes and have been derived from the estimates approved by the Band Council.

#### 17. Funding reconciliation

|                 | Opening<br>balance   | Funding<br>Received  | Revenue<br>Recognized | Closing<br>Balance   | 2025                 | 2024                 |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ISC             | 6,311,584            | 9,817,319            | 11,651,088            | 4,477,815            | 4,477,815            | 6,311,584            |
| Health Canada   | 4,339,239            | 9,146,483            | 5,883,060             | 7,602,662            | 7,602,662            | 4,339,239            |
| CMHC            | 1,932,570            | 5,004,111            | 688,357               | 6,248,724            | 6,248,724            | 1,932,970            |
| Province of PEI | 202,600              | 1,400,473            | 1,416,547             | 186,526              | 186,526              | 202,600              |
| DFO             | 350,002              | -                    | 250,002               | 100,000              | 100,000              | 350,002              |
| Lennox Island   | 95,000               |                      | 95,000                | -                    | -                    | 95,000               |
| Heritage Canada | -                    | 55,000               | 15,000                | 40,000               | 40,000               | -                    |
| Four Pillars    | -                    | 1,123,500            | 183,500               | 940,000              | 940,000              | -                    |
| EAC             | -                    | 1,417,462            | 1,306,662             | 110,800              | 110,800              | -                    |
| Other           | -                    | 119,300              | -                     | 119,300              | 119,300              | -                    |
|                 | <b>\$ 13,231,395</b> | <b>\$ 28,083,647</b> | <b>\$ 21,489,216</b>  | <b>\$ 19,825,826</b> | <b>\$ 19,825,826</b> | <b>\$ 13,231,395</b> |

## Abegweit First Nation

### Notes to the consolidated financial statements

March 31, 2025

#### 18. Segmented reporting

The presentation by segment is based on the same accounting policies as described in the summary of significant accounting policies as described in Note 1. Funds were created for the purpose of recording specific activities to attain certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations. Band services are provided by departments and their activity is reported in these funds. The services provided by these departments are as follows:

##### Administrative

This segment includes departments that are responsible for the overall financial and local government administration. The tasks include, but are not limited to, daily accounting functions, preparation and coordination of the annual audited financial statements, coordination of the development of the annual budget, human resource functions for the entire municipal unit, economic development initiatives and maintenance of bylaws and policies. This would also include administrative and policy support for the Chief and all members of the Council.

##### Capital/Housing

This segment is responsible for providing housing and capital infrastructure for the Band's residents. This includes the operation of water and sewer utilities.

##### Social Services

This segment is responsible for providing social assistance to band members in need. This includes the basic needs and social needs programs.

##### Education Services

This segment is responsible for providing education funding. This includes tuition agreements, student's costs and supplies as required.

##### Health Services

Services provided by the Heath department are included in this segment. The following tasks are delivered by this department: Aboriginal diabetes initiatives, adult care, brighter futures program, the early learning centre, health planning and various other programs depending on the funding obtained.

##### Epikwitk Gas Bar

The Band operates a gas station on the reserve. The revenues and expenses associated with the operations of the gas station are included in this segment.

##### Fisheries/Fisheries AFS

This segment is responsible for the commercial fishing of lobster, snow crab, etc. and other related fishing projects such as the hatchery.

##### Economic Development

The Band is involved in activities to promote economic development that benefits its community and members.

##### Abegweit Conservation Society

This segment is a registered charity, with the purpose of protecting the environment of Prince Edward Island by saving, supporting, protecting and assisting stressed and endangered fish, plant and animal species as well as cleaning, remediating and protecting streams, rivers, watersheds and forests.

## Abegweit First Nation

### Schedule of segmented disclosure

March 31, 2025

The following table presents the expenses incurred and the revenue generated by main object of expense and by major revenue type. The segment results for the period are as follows:

|                                      | Admin          | Capital/<br>Housing | Social Services<br>Services | Education    | Health Services<br>Bar | Electricity/Gas | Utilities    | Hirehury   | Fahees ABS<br>Development | Economic<br>Development | Abegweit<br>Conservation<br>Society | Total         | Less<br>Intercompany<br>Eliminations | Less<br>2025  |               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                      |                |                     |                             |              |                        |                 |              |            |                           |                         |                                     |               |                                      |               |               |
| Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada | \$ 2,504,591   | \$ 5,881,940        | \$ 972,205                  | \$ 2,108,152 | \$ 137,590             | \$ -            | \$ -         | \$ -       | \$ 277,000                | \$ -                    | \$ 511,651,018                      | \$ 11,651,088 | \$ 9,012,387                         | \$ 11,651,088 |               |
| Other Federal government             | 48,792         | 688,217             | -                           | -            | 588,360                | -               | 784,077      | -          | 89,537                    | 88,537                  | 508,178                             | 2             | 5,012,387                            | 9,012,387     |               |
| Provincial government                | 140,630        | 100,000             | -                           | -            | 81,455                 | 786,711         | -            | 169,360    | 37,260                    | 81,040                  | 4,445,547                           | 1,416,547     | 1,416,547                            | 1,416,547     |               |
| Métis/Ng Confederacy of PEI          | 818,844        | 70,432              | -                           | -            | 4,877                  | 248,723         | -            | 42,815     | 38,336                    | -                       | 40,487                              | 1,817,614     | (10,952)                             | 1,206,612     |               |
| Economic activities                  | 514,207        | -                   | -                           | -            | -                      | 15,641          | 8,521,986    | 2,565,508  | -                         | 642,021                 | 2,513                               | 221,150       | 11,882,675                           | (394,453)     |               |
| Fuel & tobacco revenue               | -              | -                   | -                           | -            | -                      | 1,320,487       | -            | -          | -                         | -                       | 1,320,487                           | 1,320,487     | -                                    | 1,320,487     |               |
| Other revenue                        | 477,288        | 1,338,883           | -                           | 14,073       | 839,434                | -               | -            | 332,944    | 54,480                    | 259,652                 | 2,957,777                           | (924,381)     | 1,913,396                            | 1,913,396     |               |
|                                      | \$ 4,384,537   | \$ 7,940,312        | \$ 972,205                  | \$ 2,208,557 | \$ 7,751,100           | \$ 948,481      | \$ 3,747,682 | \$ 209,296 | \$ 155,764                | \$ 2,184,912            | \$ 744,678                          | \$ 259,652    | \$ 38,760,915                        | \$ 11,223,521 | \$ 38,551,148 |
| <b>Expenses</b>                      |                |                     |                             |              |                        |                 |              |            |                           |                         |                                     |               |                                      |               |               |
| Salaries & benefits                  | \$ 2,084,995   | \$ 734,184          | \$ 165,573                  | \$ 510,100   | \$ 3,156,487           | \$ 641,565      | \$ 1,256,132 | \$ 144,184 | \$ 134,218                | \$ 351,869              | \$ 380,350                          | \$ 29,515     | \$ 2,710,238                         | (10,952)      | \$ 699,381    |
| Goods & services                     | 3,279,335      | 1,757,080           | 828,479                     | 1,522,726    | 4,073,319              | 7,786,715       | 1,339,392    | 32,228     | 18,807                    | 1,469,769               | 222,377                             | 189,512       | 2,238,672                            | (1,218,460)   | 21,157,832    |
| Amortization                         | -              | -                   | -                           | -            | -                      | -               | -            | -          | -                         | -                       | -                                   | -             | -                                    | -             | 2,438,792     |
| Interest                             | 11,175         | 1,783,710           | 1,054                       | 6,631        | 246,527                | 48,930          | 210,978      | -          | -                         | 176,986                 | 80,998                              | 189,010       | -                                    | -             | 189,010       |
| Other                                | -              | 96,212              | -                           | 110          | 375                    | 48,432          | 18,266       | -          | -                         | 13,975                  | 2,391                               | -             | -                                    | -             | -             |
|                                      | \$ 3,375,724   | 4,377,205           | 977,296                     | 2,039,568    | 7,386,108              | 8,572,642       | 2,115,360    | 176,412    | 155,026                   | 2,045,542               | 679,625                             | 109,128       | 34,710,297                           | (1,223,722)   | \$ 3,485,515  |
| Net revenues (expenses)              | \$ (1,051,457) | \$ 3,578,026        | \$ (1)                      | \$ 163,983   | \$ 370,982             | \$ 1,318,840    | \$ 359,321   | \$ 26,884  | \$ (5,242)                | \$ 139,370              | \$ 48,022                           | \$ 90,574     | \$ 5,044,229                         | \$ -          | \$ 5,044,229  |

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Schedule of segmented disclosure**

March 31, 2024

| Revenues                             | Admin               | Capital<br>Housing  | Social Services<br>Services | Education<br>Services | Health Services<br>Bar | Elder/Health/Gas<br>Fisheries | Fisheries<br>Hatchery | Fisheries<br>AFS  | Economic<br>Development | Abegweit<br>in Society | Total               | Less<br>Intercompany<br>Eliminations | 2024              |                      |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada | \$ 1,810,841        | \$ 2,935,367        | \$ 982,639                  | \$ 2,015,411          | \$ 65,000              | \$ -                          | \$ -                  | \$ -              | \$ 504,464              | \$ -                   | \$ 7,417,722        | \$ -                                 | \$ 7,927,722      |                      |
| Other Federal government             | 5,000               | 3,979,094           | -                           | -                     | 4,355,443              | -                             | 758,748               | 66,465            | 164,174                 | 872,146                | 527,985             | 10,116,054                           | 10,116,054        |                      |
| Provincial government                | 674,852             | 200,000             | -                           | -                     | 53,2014                | -                             | 139,040               | -                 | -                       | 37,706,719             | 44,160              | 5,217,685                            | 5,217,685         |                      |
| Metis/Native Conference of PEI       | 571,956             | 65,361              | -                           | 9,386                 | 288,028                | -                             | 18,109                | 7,986,543         | 1,714,576               | -                      | 37,500              | 988,411                              | 988,411           | 988,411              |
| Economic activities                  | 475,000             | -                   | -                           | -                     | -                      | -                             | -                     | -                 | -                       | 147,018                | 8                   | 10,383,264                           | (250,570)         | 10,130,694           |
| Fuel & tobacco rebates               | -                   | -                   | -                           | -                     | 1,147,444              | -                             | -                     | -                 | -                       | -                      | 1,147,444           | 1,147,444                            | 1,147,444         |                      |
| Other revenue                        | 470,296             | 266,053             | -                           | -                     | 459,072                | -                             | 7,975                 | 16,681            | -                       | 44,303                 | 64,372              | 1,231,392                            | (515,021)         | 716,372              |
|                                      | <b>\$ 4,008,045</b> | <b>\$ 6,345,078</b> | <b>\$ 982,639</b>           | <b>\$ 2,024,927</b>   | <b>\$ 5,727,596</b>    | <b>\$ 9,113,598</b>           | <b>\$ 250,258</b>     | <b>\$ 223,173</b> | <b>\$ 164,174</b>       | <b>\$ 5,312,160</b>    | <b>\$ 837,025</b>   | <b>\$ 495,969,973</b>                | <b>\$ 765,591</b> | <b>\$ 36,204,382</b> |
| Expenditures:                        |                     |                     |                             |                       |                        |                               |                       |                   |                         |                        |                     |                                      |                   |                      |
| Salaries & benefits                  | \$ 1,867,771        | \$ 532,776          | \$ 146,434                  | \$ 482,760            | \$ 2,055,344           | \$ 643,181                    | \$ 1,077,942          | \$ 108,936        | \$ 114,924              | \$ 363,302             | \$ 354,885          | \$ 7,900,033                         | \$ 7,200,033      |                      |
| Goods & services                     | 2,451,872           | 1,551,619           | 834,218                     | 1,356,211             | 3,051,184              | 7,184,830                     | 1,201,833             | 72,345            | 28,454                  | 395,850                | 18,825,387          | (765,591)                            | 18,059,666        |                      |
| Amortisation                         | -                   | 912,680             | -                           | 9,469                 | 1,47,592               | 48,624                        | 208,363               | -                 | -                       | 174,226                | 103,653             | 1,611,399                            | 1,611,399         |                      |
| Interest                             | 13,809              | 70,638              | 2,037                       | 59                    | 247                    | 46,145                        | 7836                  | -                 | -                       | 14,562                 | 1,450               | 154,963                              | 154,963           |                      |
| Other                                | -                   | -                   | -                           | -                     | -                      | -                             | -                     | -                 | -                       | -                      | -                   | -                                    | -                 |                      |
|                                      | <b>4,339,452</b>    | <b>\$ 1,071,713</b> | <b>982,779</b>              | <b>1,853,089</b>      | <b>5,205,164</b>       | <b>7,904,760</b>              | <b>2,455,954</b>      | <b>182,511</b>    | <b>149,378</b>          | <b>3,263,676</b>       | <b>255,228</b>      | <b>28,493,483</b>                    | <b>(765,591)</b>  | <b>27,728,892</b>    |
| Net revenues/(expenditure)           |                     |                     |                             |                       |                        |                               |                       |                   |                         |                        |                     |                                      |                   |                      |
|                                      | <b>\$ (325,406)</b> | <b>\$ 3,173,305</b> | <b>\$ (100)</b>             | <b>\$ 177,708</b>     | <b>\$ 392,491</b>      | <b>\$ 1,229,228</b>           | <b>\$ 5,344</b>       | <b>\$ 40,811</b>  | <b>\$ 20,795</b>        | <b>\$ 3,948,484</b>    | <b>\$ (118,201)</b> | <b>\$ 8,478,491</b>                  | <b>\$ -</b>       | <b>\$ 8,478,491</b>  |

**Abegweit First Nation**  
**Schedule of tangible capital assets**

Year ended March 31, 2025

|   | Boats        | Infrastructure | Housing       | Buildings    | Vehicles     | Equipment    | 2025          | 2024          |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Cost:</b>                              |              |                |               |              |              |              |               |               |
| Opening balance                           | \$ 3,166,096 | \$ 12,111,383  | \$ 13,912,133 | \$ 8,574,312 | \$ 1,092,721 | \$ 5,228,330 | \$ 44,084,975 | \$ 34,100,498 |
| Acquisition of tangible capital assets    | -            | 3,327,452      | 1,651,651     | 257,805      | 227,478      | 161,838      | 5,626,224     | 9,984,477     |
| Disposal of tangible capital assets       | -            | -              | -             | -            | (48,595)     | -            | (48,595)      | -             |
| Balance, end of year                      | \$ 3,166,096 | \$ 15,438,835  | \$ 15,563,784 | \$ 8,832,117 | \$ 1,271,604 | \$ 5,390,168 | \$ 49,662,604 | \$ 44,084,975 |
| <b>Accumulated amortization</b>           |              |                |               |              |              |              |               |               |
| Opening balance                           | \$ 2,394,005 | \$ 4,386,280   | \$ 5,632,714  | \$ 1,560,719 | \$ 637,848   | \$ 3,707,534 | 18,319,080    | 16,707,681    |
| Annual amortization                       | 115,814      | 742,725        | 806,038       | 279,928      | 171,025      | 321,261      | 2,436,791     | 1,611,399     |
| Accumulated amortization                  | -            | -              | -             | -            | (33,168)     | -            | (33,168)      | -             |
| On disposals                              | -            | -              | -             | -            | -            | -            | -             | -             |
| Balance, end of year                      | 2,509,819    | 5,129,009      | 6,438,752     | 1,840,647    | 775,705      | 4,028,795    | 20,722,703    | 18,319,080    |
| Net book value of tangible capital assets | \$ 656,277   | \$ 10,309,826  | \$ 9,125,032  | \$ 6,991,470 | \$ 495,899   | \$ 1,361,373 | \$ 28,940,328 | \$ 25,765,995 |

