

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TOBIQUE FIRST NATION

TOBIQUE NEQOTKUK



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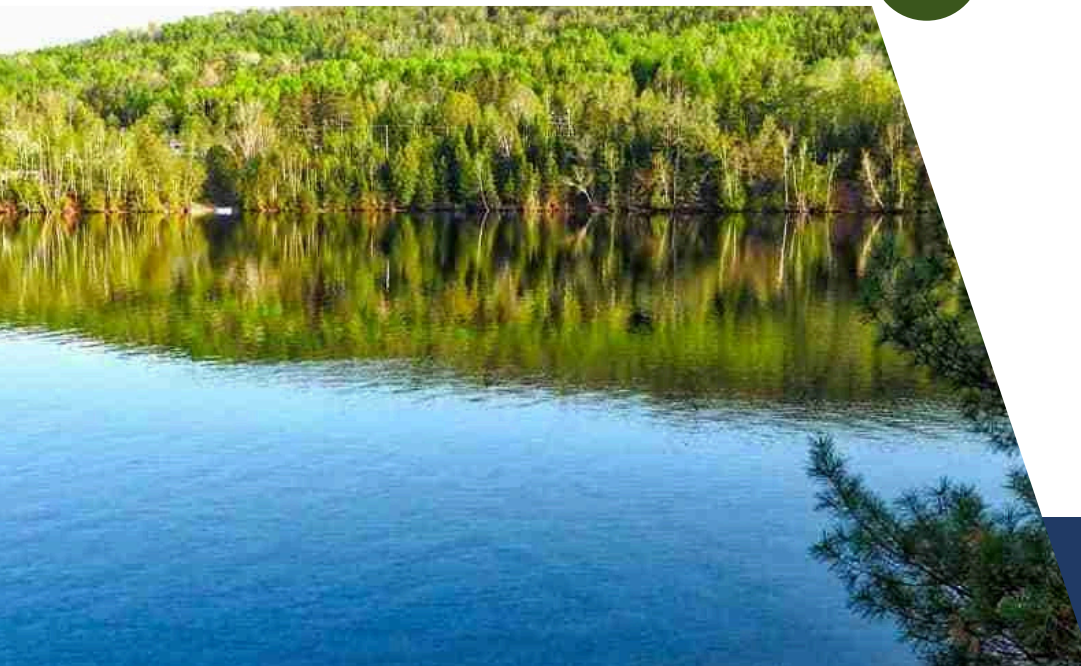
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# About Tobique

Tobique First Nation is a Wolastoqey community situated along the Wolastoq in North Western New Brunswick and is the largest of the six Wolastoqey First Nations in the province.

The continuously growing population has approximately 2,800 band members, with about 2,000 living on the reserve and 800 living off-reserve.



Tobique is a safe & vibrant community promoting healthy lifestyles while advancing its education, culture and traditions to secure opportunities for its next seven generations.

The band is dedicated to advancing Tobique forward by providing strong governance, leadership, financial management, and transparent communications to our membership.

# Meet Our Council

In November of 2024 Tobique held an election which elected three new Councilors, as well as nine returning Councillors along with the re-elected Chief, Ross Perley,



**Christian Perley**

*Roads, Housing and Infrastructure, Fisheries and Forestry, Language Revitalization, Elders and Bereavement Services*



**Kim Perley**

*Health Services and Public Safety, Social, Child and family Services, Language Revitalization, Elders and Bereavement Services*



**Tina Martin**

*Ec. Dev., Tourism and Energy, Social, Child and family Services, Elders and Bereavement Services, Lands, Membership and Border Relations*



**Stephanie Francis**

*Health Services and Public Safety, Education, Training and Employment, Social, Child and family Services, Communications*



**Jasmine Pirie**

*Education, Training and Employment, Ec. Dev., Tourism and Energy, Language Revitalization, Elders and Bereavement Services*



**Edwin Bernard**

*Finance and Audit, Ec. Dev., Tourism and Energy, Fisheries and Forestry, Lands, Membership and Border Relations*



**Donald Hafke**

*Roads, Housing and Infrastructure, Fisheries and Forestry, Social, Child and family Services, Communications*



**Ben Dee**

*Finance and Audit, Education, Training and Employment, Youth, Recreation and Parks*



**Richard Moulton**

*Finance and Audit, Youth, Recreation and Parks, Communications*



**Julian Moulton**

*Health Services and Public Safety, Roads, Housing and Infrastructure, Youth, Recreation and Parks, Lands, Membership and Border Relations*



**Aaron Nicholas**

*Health Services and Public Safety, Ec. Dev., Tourism and Energy, Roads, Housing and Infrastructure, Language Revitalization*



**Adam Saulis**

*Finance and Audit, Education, Training and Employment, Fisheries and Forestry, Youth, Recreation and Parks*



# Message from the Chief



I would like to thank the members of Neqotkuk for re-electing me for my fourth term as Chief of Tobique First Nation. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve our community as Chief for over ten years in addition to being a member of Council for several more years beforehand.

In the last decade as your Chief, I have lead with our future generations always at the forefront as the Council and I strive to make Tobique a better place to live for each member. We have seen many great wins and growth in several areas which will be outlined in this report.

Woliwon,

Chief Ross Perley

# Economic Development

## Menahqwesk Kisuhs Energy Hub

Tobique First Nation has partnered with Saint John Energy and Universal Kraft to develop the largest solar farm in New Brunswick. Universal Kraft and Neqotkuk (Tobique First Nation) will build, own and operate a solar farm of up to 10 megawatts on Old Black River Road in Saint John and supply 100 per cent of the power generated to Saint John Energy. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2026 and be complete by summer 2027. When operational, it will generate enough clean electricity to power about 1,200 homes and reduce carbon emissions by more than 10,000 tonnes per year.



## Salmon River Wind Farm

Tobique First Nation once again has partnered Natural Forces, as well as with the other five Wolastoqey First Nations (Madawska, St. Mary's, Oromocto, Woodstock and Kingsclear) as part of Wolastoqey Resource Developments Inc. to develop a 203 megawatt windfarm consisting of up to 34 wind turbines about 9km southwest of Hammondvale on provincial Crown land. This size of project would supply enough electricity to power an estimated 43,000 New Brunswick homes annually. A Power Purchase Agreement has been reached with NB Power. Pending environmental approvals, construction should begin in 2026.

# Economic Development

## Tobique Gaming Commission

Tobique First Nation has expanded its gaming portfolio beyond just our own Tobique Gaming Center. We have begun to issue online gaming licenses to international gaming partners under the Tobique Gaming Commission. To date we have over 100 license holders



## Wabanaki Engineering

Tobique First Nation is partnering with Engineering By Houghton on a joint venture organization called Wabanaki Engineering for the purpose of contract procurement. We are currently in the early development stage of a project in partnership with St. John Airport to develop a welcome hub and gas station.



## Two Rivers Casino

This summer we had a sod turning ceremony for the location of the new Two Rivers Casino, which is currently under construction with a opening date some time in 2026. The new building will include a restaurant, events hall, offices, as well as an outlook terrace to view Tobique River





# Economic Development

## New Tax Revenue Sharing-Agreement

This fall, Tobique along with the other five Wolastoqey communities signed new revenue-sharing agreements with the Provincial government. These agreements come after the former premier abruptly cancelled long-standing agreements in 2021. Under the new agreement there is a sliding scale on how the tax revenue is divided up.

- Below \$10m - 95% to band
- Between \$10m - \$16m - 70% to band
- Exceeding \$16m - 50% to band



## Two Rivers & Lucky's Lounge

Re-opened Two Rivers Restaurant in the Tobique Gaming Center, as well as renovated and opened Lucky's Lounge sports bar

## Perth-Andover Motor Inn.

Addition-to-Reserve application is in process with Indigenous Services Canada. The application is currently awaiting environmental site assessment.



## Debly Enterprises-Neqotkuk Joint Venture

Tobique First Nation is partnering with Debly Enterprises LTD on a joint venture organization called for the purpose of contract procurement in civil and construction work.





# Community Infrastructure

## Family Violence Shelter

The family violence shelter's construction has been completed and is now open. The shelter was given the name Cocahqi Kinapuwikuwam (Spirit of Courage Lodge). It was funded by ISC, CMHC and the Neqotkuk Health Center. The shelter has a sexual assault nurse examiner, as well as a nurse staffing the building two days a week. It is situated along Route 105 and is a single story building with 8 units for women seeking a safe place to stay during times of distress.



## Elders Center

The community elders center is currently under construction overlooking the lower part of the community at the end of Knights of Columbus Road. Construction is expected to be completed in 2026.



## Tobique Daycare Re-opening

The Tobique Daycare moved into the newly renovated space of the old training center across from the Madewas Park. The intake age was expanded to children 2-10 years old. A new sensory room was built for children with exceptional needs. The daycare has 60 children enrolled this year.

# Community Infrastructure

## Road Construction

Construction on Phase III of Main Street roads has been completed between 115-212 Main Street and is now open to thru-traffic.

Samaqan Street's road was paved this year as well.



## Housing

16 new houses have been built or are under development in the newly developed Pokanimus Street area.

The Samaqan Street housing expansion also began this year with another twenty homes to be built.

## Truck Stop

Renovations to Truck Stop completed. New band-owned restaurant opened called Wolastoq Cafe and manager (Matt Francis) hired.

A new Tribal Releaf store front was added, as well as a new VLT lounge.



# Community Infrastructure



## Outdoor Rink

The outdoor rink on New Road has been completed and was flooded for the first time earlier this year.

## Splash Pad

Well for the splash pad near New Road has been dug and installed, so that it is no longer drawing off the community water supply, a recycling system has also been installed as well



## Tobique Healing Lodge

Wolastoqwiyyik Healing Lodge (WHL) is an addiction treatment facility. It is located in along Route 105 on the outskirts of the community. The lodge closed in January for renovations to expand it's common areas and to increase the amount of beds available for new clients.



# Education

## Integrated Services

The Tobique Youth Hub is an integrated services delivery program for students ages 12-25 and is located at the Tobique Education building. The program is built on a shared vision that every young person deserves timely support for their mental, physical, social and emotional well being.



## Record High Gradation Rates

Tobique Education has recored its highest rate of graduation in 2025. This year we have had 36 of graduates from high school.

## Transportation Van

A new van has been purchased for transporting students with disabilities to and from school.





# Education



## Director of Education

Sheena Tremblay has left her position as Mah-Sos principal and has been hired as the new Director of Education.

## Mah-Sos Principal

Darcy Pirie has been hired as the new principal of Mah-Sos school and has started for the 25-26 school year.



# Language

## Language Coordinator

Tobique First Nation has hired Heaven Solomon as the community's language coordinator. In her role she will be integrating Wolastoqey language into all levels of community and implementing the 5-year language plan.



# Language



## Language Center

A language center development plan is being worked and sites are being assessed for potential construction.

## 5-Year Plan

A 5-year language plan has been developed and is being followed to implement Wolastoqey language in every aspect of the community.

## Wolastoqey Language

### Advisory Committee

A language advisory committee has been selected to help with integrating language into every part of the community and to help preserve our Wolastoqey language and help develop language curriculum. The committee is made up of 14 members from Tobique and include Connor Bear, Wyatt Moulton, Delbert Moulton, Kenneth (Scrappy) Perley, Vaughn Nicholas, Henrietta Black, Shelley Solomon, Julian Moulton, Ross Perley, Heaven Solomon, Darrah Beaver, Dave Perley, Imelda (Opolahsomuwehs) Perley and Aaron (Hiya) Nicholas.

# Fisheries



## Licenses

Buying LFA 38 lobster license

## Vessels

Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative secured \$8.5m grant held in trust to acquire access and new gear

# Forestry

## Jamer Mill

We have applied for funding for a new lumber kiln for Jamer Mill in Perth-Andover to reduce the moisture content of freshly cut wood in a controlled environment to a workable level which will improve efficiency.



# Other Community Updates



## First Nations Land

### Management Act

The second phase of environmental site assessment being completed. We are planning to move land management from ISC and into our own fully funded department with a lands manager. Community engagement and referendum is being planned as a next step.

## Tobique Narrows and Beachwood Dam Land Claim

The land claim has completed the historical assessment phase. In October, it was moved up to the specific claims legal review team.





# Other Community Updates



## Tobique Fire Department

Tobique Fire Department has hired Corey Nicholas as its new Fire Chief.

The Tobique Fire Department won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the 2025 Atlantic Firefighters Competition and went on to compete in the National Firefighting Competition where they placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

Members of the Tobique Fire Department are also part of the Wabanaki Wildland Wildfire Crew

## Treaty Day Celebration Host

This year was the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1725. We held a celebration that was held in Tobique at the newly completed outdoor rink event space. A ceremony was held to recognize Andrea Bear-Nicholas for her tireless work in treaty research as well as language. Chiefs and representatives of each Wolastoqey community were in attendance for the event.



## Indian Summer Games

Tobique will be host community of the 2026 Indian Summer Games. We will be seeking coaches and volunteers to help facilitate the events.



# Contact Us



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