



2016-2018

Committee Summary Report

KISCHI SIPI
NAMAQ



Profile

Lake Sturgeon have a social and historical significance in Manitoba and a strong cultural significance to Indigenous peoples in the province. Over the past 100 years, a combination of intensive commercial fishing and habitat disruption has had serious effects on Manitoba sturgeon populations.

The Kische Sipi Namao Committee (KSNC) was established in 2013 as a partnership committed to protecting and enhancing Lake Sturgeon populations in the lower Nelson River. Committee efforts focus on the Lower Nelson River from Kelsey Generating station to Hudson Bay, including the Hayes River system (Hayes, Gods and Echoing rivers).

Membership includes representatives from Fox Lake Cree Nation, Shamattawa First Nation, Tataskweyak Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation, as well as Manitoba Hydro and Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership. Manitoba Sustainable Development participates in the committee as a non-voting member.

Manitoba Hydro has committed to a 20 year funding arrangement that will allow the committee to undertake a variety of core activities. Funding for the KSNC is allocated from Keeyask and the existing stations on the Nelson River. The community led, collaborative structure of the KSNC will ensure the incorporation of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) into the important work of protecting and enhancing Lake Sturgeon populations.

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Committee Executives



Darcy Wastesticoot, York Factory First Nation

“During my childhood, mom and dad taught the lessons of life, Cree views and traditions, and how to survive off what the land and water has to offer.”

Committee
Chair



James Lockhart, Fox Lake Cree Nation

“I am participating in this stewardship initiative to ensure that Lake Sturgeon are present for my children and future generations.”

Committee
Vice Chair

Plan

The Lake Sturgeon Stewardship Plan

In June of 2016 the KSNC completed their Stewardship Plan. This document was the first activity listed in the committee Terms of Reference and it sets overall research, monitoring and enhancement measures, objectives and strategies for protection and enhancement in the lower Nelson River for the immediate, medium and long term future. The objective of the plan is to provide guidance and set priorities for the Committee. A workshop and meetings were held to develop the plan by consensus of Committee members.

During these workshops and meetings the Committee developed their vision, goals, and priorities.

KSCN Vision

Members of the Committee feel that Lake Sturgeon Stewardship should be approached proactively in a way that incorporates family, knowledge and spirituality.

Goals

Short Term:

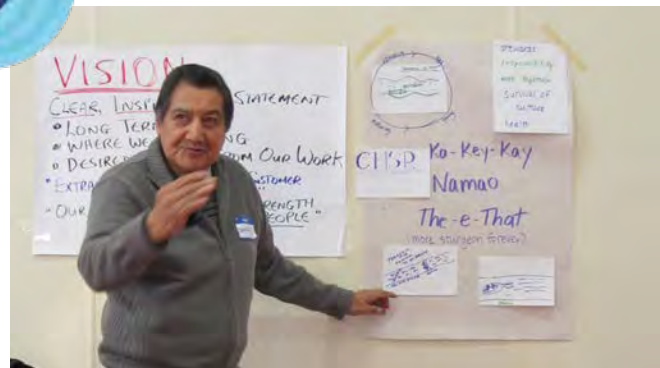
- Gather information and develop our message
- Spread our message
- Increase functionality of the Committee

Medium Term:

- Bring communities together
- Engage youth

Long Term:

- Achieve community commitment to sturgeon conservation



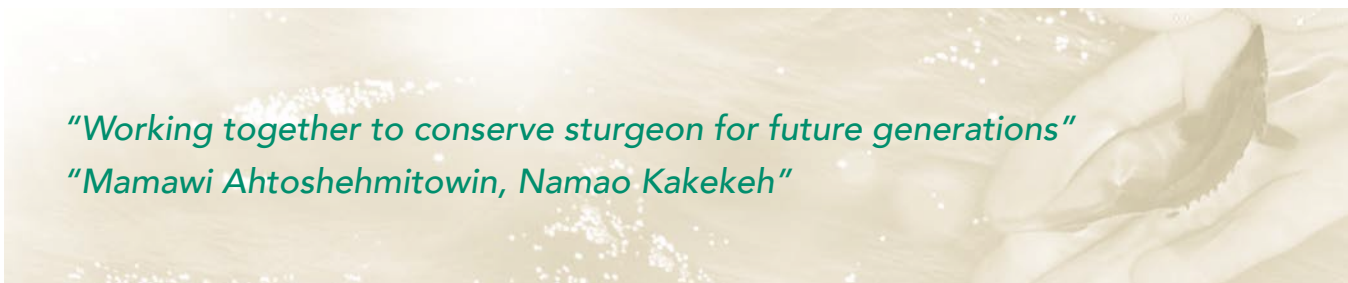
Priorities

The following priorities were selected to lead the committee toward achieving their vision:

- Increasing KSNC Functionality
- Gathering Information; Community & Traditional Knowledge
- Sharing Our Message; Educating our communities
- Bringing Communities Together; Building cohesiveness
- Engaging Youth; Involving the sturgeon stewards of the future
- Conserving and Enhancing the Lake Sturgeon Population

"Working together to conserve sturgeon for future generations"

"Mamawi Ahtoshehmitowin, Namao Kakekeh"



Summary of Activities

Completion of Annual Work-Plan and Budgets

For the last three years the Committee has completed and worked from a Work-Plan and Budget for their core activities. This has helped the committee to focus on identified priorities and ensure appropriate allocation of resources , resulting in significant progress on many of their chosen strategies.

Policy and Procedure Document

The KSNC completed an amendment to their original agreement which allows them to work from a Policy & Procedure Document. This document provides structure to the annual activities and clarifies the committee's processes.

Increasing KSNC
Functionality

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*"We must protect sturgeon
for future generations"*

*– Audrey Ouskan,
War Lake First Nation*



KSNC Information Collection

The KSNC facilitated collection of information, traditional knowledge, stories, quotes and photos from each of the communities represented by the KSNC. This collection is for use in future KSNC communications

Gathering Information



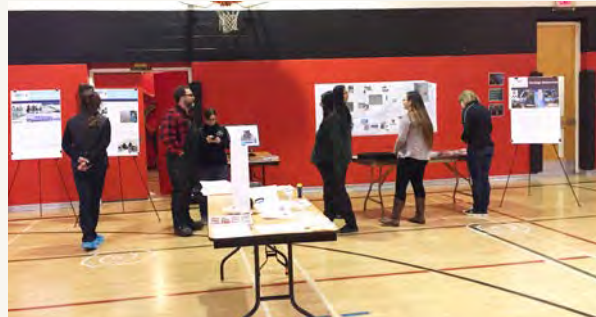
KSNC Website

The KSNC is ONLINE! We have a comprehensive website with information on committee activities and priorities, including descriptions and photos of meetings, stockings and other events, information about the cultural importance of Lake Sturgeon, and links to Lake Sturgeon resources. Visit us at www.KSNC.ca.



Presentations

Boat Patrol Orientation: The KSNC was invited to present during the Manitoba Hydro Boat Patrollers Training week. On May 26, 2017, two KSNC members attended the training and spoke to the boat patrollers about the KSNC, our goals and strategies, and how we hope the boat patrollers can assist us by acting as KSNC ambassadors on the water. The presentation was well received, with lots of discussion and questions from the group.



MAC Open Houses: In January 2017 the KSNC had representatives at the MAC open houses; the Committee Representatives displayed the KSNC Story Boards and were available to answer questions and distribute KSNC brochures, pens, and floating key chains.

*"KSNC is a voice for the sturgeon and the future"
– Gilbert Beardy, Tataskweyak Cree Nation*



Youth & Communities

Engaging Youth & Bringing Communities Together

The KSNC continues to engage youth, and encourage and facilitate the transfer of knowledge within families. The youth are the stewards of the future, and the long lived Lake Sturgeon will need their help!

Letter inviting partnerships with community schools

The KSNC Chair, Darcy Wasesicoot, wrote a letter communicating the KSNC's willingness to work with the schools in a way that fit their curriculum and resources. The committee has developed some activity sheets and continues to work on ways to inform and engage youth.

Field Trips to Sturgeon stockings by Grand Rapids Fish Hatchery

The KSNC has been attending fish stocking events since they were first formed in 2013. The Committee views these events as opportunities to engage the public, connect youth and elders, share in the traditional cultural importance of sturgeon and foster interest in Lake Sturgeon conservation. The KSNC member communities attended the following stockings over the last three years:

- Burntwood May 31, 2016: community members from TCN & WLFN
- Butnau Marina June 15, 2017: community members from TCN, WLFN & FLCN
- Burntwood Oct 12, 2017: community members from YFFN

Scholarship Program

To further encourage involvement and education the Committee established a post-secondary scholarship program, available to students from each of the five participating First Nations. The first scholarship was awarded to Elizabeth Ryle of York Factory First Nation in September 2017. Congratulations to Elizabeth!

Partnership with the Thompson Boreal Discovery Centre

The KSNC held their January 2018 meeting at the Thompson Boreal Discovery Centre (BDC) and received a presentation from the BDC Chair. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to pursue a partnership with the BDC as the Thompson staff could facilitate and deliver educational programs to the member community school children. Discussions have begun for future collaboration between these two groups.



Meetings



2015-16 Year:

- May 5, 2015 in Thompson
- July 21, 2015 in Winnipeg
- September 22, 2015 in Thompson
- December 12, 2015 in Winnipeg – Workshop
- February 2, 2016 in Thompson

2016-17 Year:

- April 5, 2016 in Winnipeg
- June 14, 2016 in Thompson
- August 9, 2016 in Winnipeg
- October 26 in Thompson
- December 21 in Winnipeg

2017-18 Year:

- April 4, 2017 in Thompson
- June 13, 2017 in Winnipeg
- August 24, 2017 in Thompson
- November 7, 2017 in Winnipeg
- January 11, 2017 Meeting in Thompson at the Boreal Discovery Centre
- March 8, 2017 in Winnipeg

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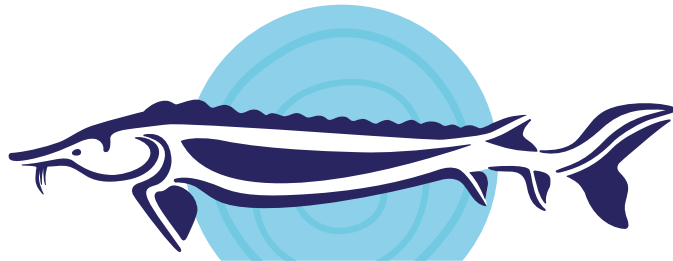
Future Initiatives



The KSNC will continue to pursue strategies and activities that will contribute to their priorities. Some of the strategies planned for the next year are:

- Lake Sturgeon release event
- Partnership with the Thompson Boreal Discovery Centre to increase programming opportunities for school children in the KSNC member communities
- KSNC Calendar
- Signs promoting sustainable practices
- Continued offering of the Post-Secondary Scholarship





KISCHI SIPI
NAMAQ

“Working together, sturgeon forever”



Available in accessible formats upon request.