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**COMPREHENSIVE
COMMUNITY
PLAN 2022**



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INTRODUCTION

Sweetgrass First Nation (SFN) received funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in 2017-2018 under the community development initiative. The main goal was the development of a Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) for Sweetgrass First Nation. Included in the funding agreement was salary and related costs to employ a Community Navigator who would be responsible to create the comprehensive community plan.

A CCP addresses key planning areas, all of which are interrelated and interdependent: governance, land and resources, health, infrastructure development, culture, social issues and the economy. Consideration of all key planning areas through one unified process defines community planning as a wholistic and integrated exercise that can lead to sustainable development.

The Sweetgrass First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan provides a framework and process for the community to explore its core values, and to establish a vision for the future and work toward achieving it. The SFN CCP will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure consistency in all areas of future development.



WHAT'S NEEDED TO MAKE PLANNING WORK

There are some basic needs that apply to all phases of the planning process:

- Community engagement and support
- Capacity building and training
- Communications
- Social Media
- Resources
- Mentorship



HISTORY OF SWEETGRASS FIRST NATION

Chief Sweetgrass (Weekaskookwasayin) signed Treaty 6 on September 9, 1876, with the Fort Pitt Indians but was killed about six months later. He was succeeded by his son, Apseenes (Young Sweet Grass). He was unable to hold the band together, which began to splinter. In 1882, Young Sweetgrass & seventeen followers joined Wah-wee-kah-oo-tah-mah-hote (Strikes Him on the Back), who had signed Treaty 6 at Fort Carlton on August 28, 1876. Wah-wee-kah-oo-tah-mah-hote was chief from 1876 to 1883: but he was deposed in 1884 and Young Sweet Grass became chief. A reserve was surveyed west of Battleford in 1884 for the melded band members, who sold hay & wood and maintained gardens & livestock.

Currently the band has 51,183 acres of land, the largest block of which is located 26 kms west of North Battleford. There are 2,141 registered band members (as of Dec. 31/2021), 852 people live on reserve which includes non-first nation people as well as people from other first nations.

HISTORICAL CHIEFS

1876: Sweetgrass

1876 - 1883: Wah-wee-kah-oo-tah-mah-hote (Strike him on the back)

1884 - 1886: Apseenes (Young Sweetgrass)

1920 - 1924: Harry Atcheynum (Son of Strike him on the back)

1925 - 1964: Sam Swimmer (Son of Yellow Mud) Last hereditary Chief

1956 - 1957: Andrew Swimmer

1957 - 1958: Ben Atcheynum

1958 - 1959: James Favel

1959 - 1960: Solomon Albert

1961 - 1962: John Weenie

HISTORICAL CHIEFS—CONTINUED

1963 - 1964—Adam Paskemin

1965 - 1966—Ben Atcheynum

1967 - 1970: Joseph Weenie

1971 - 1972: Ben Atcheynum

1972 - 1973: Stephen Pooyak

1973 - 1974: Ben Weenie

1974 - 1979: Stephen Pooyak

1979 - 1982: Gordon Albert

1983 - 1984: Roderick Atcheynum

1985 - 1988: Don Pooyak

1989 - 1999: Edward Wayne Standinghorn

2000 - 2003: Tommy Whitecalf

2003 - 2005: Rod Atcheynum Jr.

2005 - 2011: Edward Wayne Standinghorn

2011 - 2017: Lorie Whitecalf

2017 - 2019: Laurence Paskemin

2019 – Present: Lorie Whitecalf

COMMUNITY POPULATION

Registered population @ 2021 is 2,094

Year	Total
2021	2,141
2020	2,069
2019	2,051
2018	2,044
2017	2,008

On-Reserve Registered population @ 2021 is 852

Year	On-Reserve	Off-Reserve
2021	852 (39.9%)*	1,289
2020	837 (40.5%)	1,232
2019	833 (40.6%)	1,218
2018	832 (40.7%)	1,212
2017	814 (40.5%)	1,194

(* percentage of registered population living on-reserve)

Note: on-reserve non-registered population in 2016 was 15

1.3 % - on-reserve average annual growth rate, 2017-2021

48.9 % female, on reserve, 2021

22.3 % of registered population, under 15 years, 2021

17.3 % of registered population, 15-24 years, 2021

52.4 % of registered population, 25-64 years, 2021

8.0 % of registered population, 65+ years, 2021

32.5 % average age of registered population, 2021

VISION, MISSION STATEMENT, & VALUES

The Sweetgrass First Nation Chief and Council (2022) affirms the following statements and values:

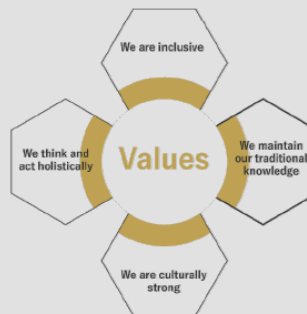
VISION

Sweetgrass First Nation's vision is to preserve and protect our Treaty Rights.

MISSION

Our mission it to empower every Sweetgrass First Nation member to understand their culture and Treaty Rights and support them to achieve their full potential.

VALUES



Sweetgrass First Nation – Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 (December 2022)

7

PRINCIPLES

WE PRACTICE THE 7 TEACHINGS BASED ON OUR PLAINS CREE CULTURE:

sakihitowin	Love
iyinisowin	Wisdom
poneyihtamakewin	Forgiveness
tapwewin	Truth
sohkitehewin	Courage
manatisiwin	Respect
tapahteyimisowin	Humility

SWEETGRASS COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

KEY AREA – GOVERNANCE

Official Name: Sweetgrass

Number: 348

Membership Authority: Section 11 Band

Election System: Custom Electoral System

FIRST NATION OFFICIALS

Title	Surname	Given Name	Appointment Date	Expiry Date
Chief	Whitcalf	Lorie	12/01/2021	11/30/2023
Councillor	Albert	Trina	12/01/2021	11/30/2023
Councillor	Arcand	Donovan	12/01/2021	11/30/2023
Councillor	Atcheynum	Roderick	12/01/2021	11/30/2023
Councillor	Fox	Raymond	12/01/2021	11/30/2023
Councillor	Paskemin	Hazen	12/01/2021	11/30/2023
Councillor	Thomas	Isaac	12/01/2021	11/30/2023

Sweetgrass First Nation Chief and Council have an extensive system of portfolios to manage Sweetgrass programs, services and partnerships. Each councillor is assigned responsibility for several portfolios. An organizational chart has been developed which outlines the portfolios assigned to each councillor, the administrative staff dedicated to each program area, and relevant committees and Boards that provide guidance to portfolio issues.

Chief and Council has established Committees for Justice, Health, Education, Housing, Child Day Care, Kanaweyimik Local Advisory Committee, Pandemic Committee, Election Committee, TLE Trustees, and Sweetgrass Investments Board.

There are approximately 63 band employees in all program areas.

KEY PLANNING AREAS

GOVERNANCE

Chief and Council updated its Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2027. Program Managers and Staff also undertook strategic-operational planning. Chief and Council is determined to work collaboratively and inclusively with Program Managers and staff to achieve the best possible outcomes for its membership.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY—GOVERNANCE

Sweetgrass First Nation operates competently under governance and leadership that promotes and supports accountability and fairness.

OBJECTIVES:

- develop and maintain a long-term strategic plan that defines the Nation’s direction and long-term goals, creating specific plans to achieve them, executing those plans, and evaluating the results.
- Chief and Council lead the Nation and are responsive and accountable to the Nation through consultative process (ie: elections, referenda, etc).
- the Nation determines Sweetgrass’ membership, land code, election process and by-laws
- Sweetgrass First Nation has a long-term, holistic vision for the community

ACTION PLANS

Goal: Update Sweetgrass First Nation Legislation

Activity: Update Sweetgrass Election Act

Goal: Strengthen Policy Governance

Activity: Inventory all laws, by-laws and policies

Goal: Strengthen Committee Structures

Activity: Ensure Elder and youth representation on Committees

ADMINISTRATION

The attached organization chart (appendix i) articulates the portfolios assigned to each Councillor, the administrative staff dedicated to each program area, and relevant committees and Boards that provide guidance to portfolio issues.

The Program Managers developed operational workplans for each of their programs which will be reviewed and updated regularly. The following are some examples of program goals, objectives, and action plans.

Finance

Goal: Finance Policy and Procedures Updates

Objective: Update to meet First Nations Financial Management Board standards

Action: Establish Finance Committee to do policy work

Look at FMB template as a place to start

Goal: Annual Audit

Objective: Annual Audit completed

Action: Work with Auditor to ensure all information is compiled and ready

Goal: Annual Budget

Objective: Complete an annual budget for/with all programs

Action: Prepare budget worksheets for managers

Have Managers take charge of program budgets

Goal: Contract Chief Financial Officer

Objective: Separate out duties for Contract CFO

Action: Define CFO duties

Prepare quarterly financial statements

Goal: Reporting

Objective: Financial parts of program reporting

Action: Assist Program Managers with program reporting

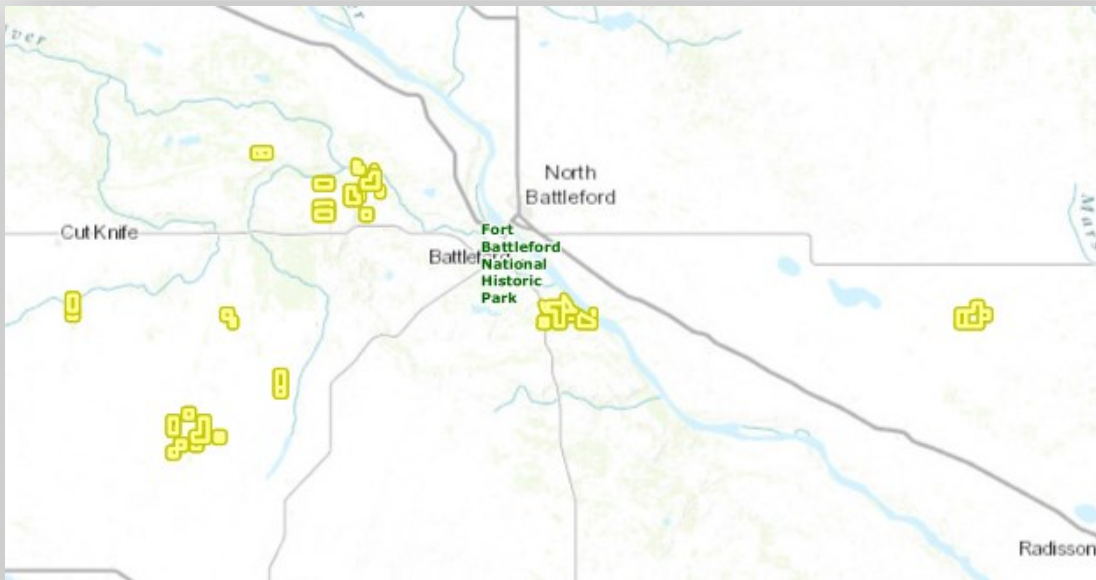
LAND AND RESOURCES

In 1884, a reserve was surveyed west of Battleford. Currently, the First Nation has 51,183 acres of land, the largest block of which is located 26 kms west of Battleford, Saskatchewan.

On September 22, 1992, 25 First Nations in Saskatchewan, including Sweetgrass First Nation, signed the TLE (Treaty Land Entitlement) Framework Agreement to settle their outstanding TLE. Shortfall acres 8,192.

All Sweetgrass First Nation and TLE lands total 57,320 acres. Land in Rural Municipalities #439 (Cut Knife), #438 (Battle River), #436 (Douglas), #409 (Buffalo), #406 (Mayfield).

Sweetgrass TLE Lands



COMMUNITY DATA

Size of current reserve land – Sweetgrass I.R. #113 is 38,400 acres

TLE acres is 17,704 and includes the shortfall of 8,192 acres and 5.6 acres of urban land in the City of North Battleford.

Population density, registered persons per km² – 4.235/Km² as of 2021

Active number of permits – 34 active permits both on Main reserve and the TLE lands that have gained reserve status. These statistics will change early next year.

Active number of Certificates of Possession – none

Active number of bucksee leases – approximately 15

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Sweetgrass has a sustainable land base that meets the current and future needs for cultural, residential, recreational, commercial and community land use.



OBJECTIVE

Lands are developed to support mixed-use, with a range of options for members.

ACTIVITIES

Engage community members in the development of the Nation’s Land Use Plan, including workshops, open houses, surveys, etc.

ACTION PLAN

Goal: Create Land Use Plan (CORP/LEDSP)

Activities: Create Land Use Funding Plan Agreement, Land Mapping/GPS Mapping (land use – medicine picking, sun dance sites, outfitters, Traditional Land Holders, housing etc.)



HEALTH

The Sweetgrass Health Clinic is located in the townsite and is close to other community buildings such as the school, administration office, the community centre and band hall. In an agreement with the Chief and Council of Sweetgrass First Nation, Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre (BRT6HC) provides the following community based health programs:

- Community Health Nursing
- Home Care
- Health Promotion

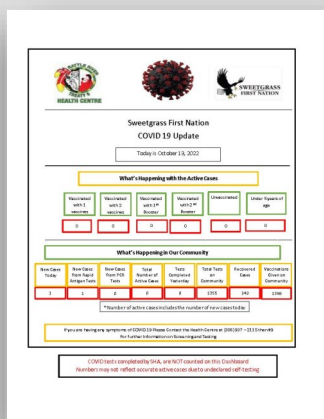
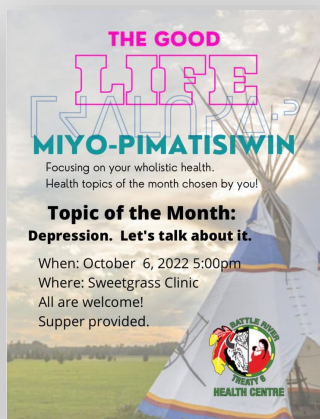
Environmental Public Health Program provides disease prevention and education and staff are knowledgeable about drinking water, food safety, substandard housing, wastewater, solid waste disposal, communicable disease control/surveillance and emergency preparedness.



BRTHC employs staff in the following positions:

- Community Health Nurse (*)
- Sexual Health Nurse
- Community Nutritionist
- Dietician
- Exercise Therapist
- Environmental Health Officer
- Water Quality Technician
- Emergency Management Coordinator
- Home Care Nurse (*)
- Diabetes Nurse Educator
- Home Health Aide (*)
- Hospital Liaison Worker
- E-health Coordinator
- Adult and Youth Wellness Counsellors (*)
- Community Wellness Worker
- Youth Transition Worker
- OARS/MAP Case Manager
- Elders
- Cultural Facilitators
- Community Outreach Worker
- Urban Liaison Worker
- Family Health Workers (*)
- Community Child Daycares
- Head Start Home Visitors (*)
- Early Childhood Outreach Worker
- Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator
- Dental Therapist and Dental Assistant
- COHI/Dental Aide
- Head Start Support Worker
- Cultural Facilitator

(*) these positions are assigned full-time to Sweetgrass First Nation



Medical transportation services are coordinated through BRT6HC and staff include the Medical Transportation Coordinator and two full-time medical taxi drivers. The majority of the trips are made to the Battlefords and Saskatoon. Private mileage is an option if the medical taxis are full, and the reimbursement rate is 26 cents/km. The FNIHB medical transportation policy guides the eligibility requirements for accommodations, meals and mileage.



The Sweetgrass Daycare Centre is administered by BRT6HC and has been in operation for about 27 years. The Centre is open from 8 am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday and currently has 13 spaces in total for toddlers, preschool and school aged children. Two staff are employed by the Centre. The new school will include a new daycare as well.



Battlefords Family Health Centre is a primary health care facility and provides many services, such as: Primary Care Providers, Opioid Assisted Recover Services, Sexual Health Clinic, Circle of Learning, Kids First Home Visiting Program, Toddlers Activity Group and Healthy Living. The programs for kids and toddlers through BFHC are targeted to local residents.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Community Wellness and Safety

OBJECTIVE

Promote health/wellness and physical activity

ACTIVITIES

Normalize discussions around mental health and other stigmatized illnesses and supports.

ACTION PLAN

- Promote health clinic programs.
- Provide mental health supports, programs, counsellors (primary and seconded prevention), Traditional as well as the Western approach



EDUCATION

Sweetgrass School opened in 1979 and is located in the townsite. Currently there are approximately 68 students enrolled in programs ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 7. Twenty-five staff including support staff are employed by the school. There are a total of 5 bus contracts, 3 of which provide transportation to urban high schools. Bus transportation to urban schools for elementary students is not covered as per education policy. An Education Committee comprised of community members makes recommendations of decisions to Chief and Council such as staff contracts and the yearly school calendar. The school was closed to in-class learning for the 2020/21 term due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Treaty 6 Education Council provides second level education services to Sweetgrass School. Their office is centrally located in North Battleford, Sask. They provide the following services to Sweetgrass School:

- Supporting the education committee
- IT technician support
- Early learning and literacy support
- Implementing the high cost special education program
- Assisting with screening and assessments for speech pathology



The building which houses the school is 44 years old and space is very limited for any type of expansion. In 2020, the SFN Project Management Team submitted a proposal to ISC to build a new school, from Pre-K to Grade 12 which would also include a daycare centre and a Headstart program. Last year, ISC approved the proposal with completion scheduled for 2024.

The new school will be built in the townsite to ensure accessibility and close proximity to those students living in that area. The new school for Sweetgrass First Nation is scheduled to start construction in Summer 2023 and will be completed in late fall 2024.



The design features 12 classrooms, a Cree Language room, a combined Science/ Multipurpose Room, a Resource Room, and a full-sized gymnasium with a stage and a mezzanine level indoor running track, a fitness centre, a Daycare centre and Headstart. A Land-based Learning Lab will support Cree cultural and land-based



learning curriculum. The grounds will include a soccer field, a running track, a hockey rink and a baseball diamond, as well as play structures. This project is being funded jointly by Indigenous Services Canada, Infrastructure Canada through a Green and Inclusive Buildings grant, and Sweetgrass First Nation. It is designed to achieve the CAGBC Net Zero Carbon Ready standard.

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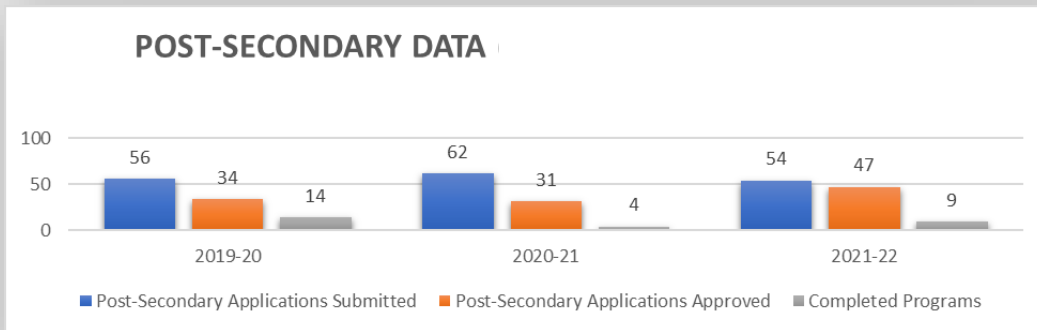
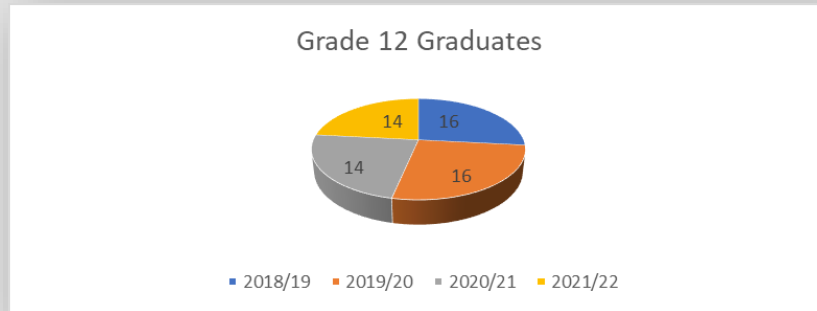
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COMMUNITY DATA



HOUSING

Sweetgrass First Nation has 202 homes in the community.

156 homes are owned by Sweetgrass First Nation and 45 are under Section 95.

Year 2016—11 new homes were built

Year 2015-2016—7 new trailers were purchased to replace aging trailers in the core area

Year 2019: 1 duplex was built in the core area

Year 2021: 2 new units were purchased to replace burnt units and installed in 2022

Year 2022: 5 new units and 1 duplex were purchased and located in the core area

Year 2021-2022: 146 housing applications on file

2022 – Kanaweyimik Child & Family Services purchased an RTM for an emergency foster home to be located in the core area.

All serviced sites in the core area are now full. Plans are in place to explore options for further development of serviced sites.

Sweetgrass First Nation developed a Housing Policy in 2012 and needs to be reviewed and ratified by Chief and Council. An occupancy agreement has been developed and all tenants in new units are required to sign it. A Housing Committee is in place.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Sweetgrass has a sustainable land base that meets the current and future needs for cultural, residential, recreational, commercial and community land use.

OBJECTIVES

- Lands are developed to support mixed-use, with a range of housing options for members.
- Increase housing on-reserve
- Promote pride and responsibility in tenants

ACTION PLAN

Goal: develop a Land Use Plan

Activity: create land use funding plan agreement

Activity: land mapping/GPS mapping (land use – medicine picking, sundance sites, Outfitters, traditional land holders, housing).

ACTION PLAN

Goal: Complete Housing Policy

Activity: Update and ratify Housing Policy

Activity: Provide training to the Housing Committee to implement the policy

ACTION PLAN

Goal: Increase housing on-reserve

Activity: explore opportunities for additional funding for new houses

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Sweetgrass First Nation maintains the following community facilities and provides essential services that support the community: the administration office, school, health clinic, daycare centre, lands and registry, community centre, community hall, water treatment plant, wastewater lagoon, landfill, roads, bridge, public works building, laundromat, store/gas station and fire hall.

Sweetgrass First Nation provides garbage pick up and water delivery on contract with local community members. It contracts out sewage pumping services for its members. An outside contractor provides garbage pick up at the local landfill for transportation to North Battleford.

The following assets have been purchased to assist with public works activities: grader, fire truck, tractor lawn mow, skid steer, & garbage truck.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Sweetgrass First Nation's community infrastructure adequately supports the current and future needs of the First Nation.

OBJECTIVE

To meet the current and growing population of Sweetgrass First Nation

ACTIVITIES

- Explore the Asset Management Program (MAP) to assist in long term infrastructure planning
- Build capacity in housing
- Explore options for food security ie: food bank, greenhouse garden, bison herd

- Development of new townsite location/subdivision (pre-existing lots for new builds)
- Feasibility study for TLE Lands and Urban TLE Lands

Goal: Ensure safe water for the community

Activities:

- Create capital plan for new lagoon
- Upgrade water treatment plant/new community well
- Revisit rural water distribution plan created in 2011 but never funded.

Goal: Improvements in sanitation

Activity: Conduct feasibility study on moving the solid waste transfer facility

Goal: Expand housing infrastructure

Activity: develop a long-term vision for subdivisions/lot servicing, utilities, roads and bridges



JUSTICE

A Justice Committee is in place comprised of a Portfolio Councillor, who chairs the committee and five community members. Terms of reference for the justice committee were developed, however, they need to be reviewed and ratified by Chief and Council. A Community Safety Plan was developed for the period 2017-2022. That plan will be reviewed and updated with the assistance of staff from the Aboriginal Community Safety, Crime Prevention Branch, Public Safety Canada.

The Justice Committee works closely with the RCMP under the CTA (Community Tripartite Agreement). Court worker services are available through Battlefords Tribal Council. A provincial probation officer has use of an office in the administration building on a regular basis. Security personnel provides services 7 days/week from 8 pm – 8 am. A grant was submitted to the provincial government, Policing & Community Safety Services, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety for an awareness campaign to keep Sweetgrass First Nation safe. A grant was also submitted to SGI to purchase speed display signs. An Animal Control bylaw was developed, however, enforcement remains a challenge. Within the past few years, several serious criminal incidents have occurred in the community involving dangerous high speed chases and the presence of police tactical units. Chief and Council have signed BCRs for two individuals, not registered to Sweetgrass, prohibiting them to stay away from the community.



The RCMP compiles a quarterly report and is provided to Chief and Council.

RCMP – INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT – JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 2022

Offences Reported and/or Committed on Sweetgrass First Nation:

A. Criminal Code

- Sexual Assault – 3
- Assaults-Spousal/Other -22
- Mischief – 19
- Break, Enter & Theft – 2
- Thefts – 17
- Impaired Driving/Over 0.08% – 2
- Disturbing the Peace – 6
- Other criminal offences – 22

B. Drugs

- Possession of Drugs – 0
- Trafficking - 1

C. Liquor

- Liquor offences - 1
- Above case band by-law related - 0

D. Traffic

- Accidents - 2
- Charges - 0

E. Assistance/Services

- Missing person - 8
- Sudden deaths - 0
- Assistance-General Public -5
- FNs bylaws – 0
- Mental health - 4

Total reported offences for Sweetgrass First Nation in this time frame – 167



COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

The 2017-2022 Community Safety Plan has 3 main goals:

1. To provide opportunities for the people of Sweetgrass to come together to building greater harmony in the community.
2. To go back to our cultural roots as a common thread
3. To develop an educational approach to community safety through training.

ACTIVITIES

- Develop a community garden on Sweetgrass
- Apply for grants for community functions
- Re-establish the Cowboy Society
- Engage Sweetgrass Youth
- Capture Elder's oral history
- Build a new site for pow-wow grounds (*)
- Build a cultural centre within Sweetgrass
- Train Emergency Responders group in the community in SAFE talk and ASIST
- Train more fire fighters in the community
- Investigate Community Prevention and Safety Officer Program for Sweetgrass



(*) It should be noted that one of the major projects has been completed. A new arbour has been built on a new site in an area where other cultural activities take place. Sweetgrass hosted the BATC Pow-wow in August, 2022. The last pow-wow held on Sweetgrass was in 2005. Future plans include hosting our own Sweetgrass pow-wow.

Moving forward, the Sweetgrass First Nation Community Safety Plan will be updated utilizing data from different sources, discussions with the Justice Committee and other committees, and Chief and Council. The Community Navigator will play an integral role in the development of the updated Community Safety Plan.

CULTURE

Culture is an umbrella term which encompasses the social behaviour and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities and habits of the individuals in these groups.

Sweetgrass First Nation is a vibrant community rich in its inherent beliefs, traditions, and knowledge of ceremonies. The Plains Cree language is dominant in the community. Ceremonies such as the sundance, horse dance, feasts and numerous others, are events which are still honored and practiced today. There is specific land on Sweetgrass which has been set aside to host ceremonial events.

There are two sacred sites which are located on Sweetgrass, Sliding Hill and Drumming Hill. These sites are gifts from the Creator and require deep respect and understanding of their origin. The community members are protective of these sites and continue to honor and respect them. Sliding Hill can be seen from Hwy 40 west. Drumming Hill is located further north and can only be seen from a certain location.

Sweetgrass School offers land-based activities to its students and Elders are part of the support staff. Land-based activities include learning how to play handgames, berry and medicine picking, making dancing regalia, learning how to dance pow-wow, cultural camps in the summer and winter, bannock making, and how to prepare wild game for cooking. Cree is taught in the school. Every attempt is made to hire staff who speak and understand the Plains Cree language.



Strategic Priority—Culture

Sweetgrass is a united Nation where the Cree language and culture are practiced by the membership – who carry a proud sense of self-identity.

OBJECTIVE

Sweetgrass youth and Elders have a voice, inclusion, and contribute to the Community.

ACTIVITIES

- Youth and Elder representation on Boards/Committees
- Celebrate youth for their achievements ie: school, family, sports, culture

OBJECTIVE

Traditional and spiritual knowledge/skills/teachings are maintained and promoted as integral to the life of a Nation.

ACTIVITIES

- Identify/support “champions” who are knowledgeable, promote and maintain traditional practices (ie: hunting and processing wild game, ceremonies).
- Bring Elders together to do Asset Mapping of their gifts and traditional practices
- Host cultural workshops



OBJECTIVE

On and off-reserve Sweetgrass members practice in the Nation's events, celebrations and cultural practices

ACTIVITY

Invest in infrastructure such as establish and maintain a "complex" in the community to house events

OBJECTIVE

Band members will be speaking the languages at home, work and school

ACTIVITIES

- Incorporate the Cree language into all education and training programs
- Use the language in council and community meetings
- Name programs/buildings/roadways, etc using the language and history

ACTION PLAN

Goal: Revitalize Language and Culture

Activity: Work collectively to integrate a Cree language plan that includes the daycare, Headstart, the administration office, possible Cree immersion

Activity: Develop measurements/baselines for determining level of Cree-speaking

Activity: Increase Jordan's Principle funded, land based cultural camps

Activity: Resurgence of Elders in the school as part of the TLC curriculum

Activity: Update language and culture resources – transfer VHS to digital

SOCIAL ISSUES/PARTNERSHIPS

Sweetgrass First Nation faces challenges similar to any other communities across Canada. Eight of the key issues of most significant concern for First Nations people in Canada are complex and inexorably intertwined. It is hard to isolate one issue as being the worst. Where data is available, the rates for Sweetgrass First Nation are shown.

- poorer health
- lower levels of education
- inadequate housing and crowded living conditions
- lower income levels
- higher rates of unemployment
- higher levels of incarceration
- higher rates of unintentional injuries and early death among children and youth
- higher rates of suicide

Sweetgrass First Nation has developed positive working relationships with its partners to deal with the ongoing challenges facing its community members.

The key partners include:

Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs (BATC)

BATC provides support to the members of the seven (7) first nations it serves. Historically, the tribal council was created to facilitate advisory services to the areas of, housing (community planning), economic development, band governance (development of policies and procedures), financial management, justice, and sports and recreation. Social development, employment and training, industry relations, and investments have been added to the list of services to date. These are the current programs & services:

- Training and employment (Atoskewin Success Centre)
- Income Assistance Program/Social Development
- Beautification workers
- Ka-miyosit salon
- Urban services
- Shuttle services to and from all BATC communities for training/work purposes
- Elder Counselling

- ID Blitzes
- Apprenticeship Training
- Pre-employment Services
- Work placement
- Youth Sports & Recreation
- Investments
- Community Development Corporation (BATC CDC)
- Emergency Homeless Shelter

Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre (BRT6HC)

Delivery of comprehensive community-based services (refer to section on Health for details of programs/services)

Programs offered out of the Wellness Program in North Battleford:

- Matrix Intensive Outpatient Addictions Program
- Rapid Access Addictions Medicine (RAAM Clinic)
- Opioid Addiction Recovery Services (OARS Clinic)

Kanawayimik Child & Family Services

The mission of Kanawayimik Child and Family Services is to protect children and to aid in their healing and the strengthening of families through the provision of holistic, culturally relevant services that respect the heritage, values, ceremonies, and traditions of our member communities.

- Protection services
- Prevention services
- Foster parent program
- Counselling program
- Domestic Violence program
- Traditional parenting program
- Structured parenting program
- Warrior program
- Tapwe Youth Warrior Program

The following community wide programs and activities are offered on Sweetgrass First Nation. The Local Advisory Committee comprised of community members assists in the delivery of some of the activities:

- Elders lunches/activities
- Ladies sewing club – weekly
- Ladies Wellness – monthly
- Men’s Wellness - monthly
- Traditional parenting
- Structured parenting
- Youth workshops
- Community workshops
- Land based learning activities/camps

Canine Action Project

offers the following programs and services to Sweetgrass First Nation: spay/neuter clinics including statistics; Offsite spay program; shared costs on certain fees, dog house program, donations of dog/cat food; and educational outreach.

RCMP

Sweetgrass has a CTA (Community Tri-partite Agreement) with the RCMP. Officers make regular on-site visits and participate in local activities to create trust and respect with community members. They also assist with judging different contests held in the community. Refer to the section on Justice for 2021 Stats.

Hillsvale Farming Company

partnership was crucial in the supply and delivery of food during the Covid-10 pandemic. Food hampers were made and delivered by local community staff/volunteers to each household at least 4 times over the two years of the pandemic. Food items included meat, potatoes, eggs, vegetables, berries, pies, and beef fat to make seeksakanak, commonly referred to as “Indian popcorn.”

SIIT/SITAG

offers Adult Basic Education; Post-Secondary Programs, Career Centers – Trades Pathway Programs, Trades and Industrial – Diploma and Apprenticeship Level Programs and Testing/Certification. The SITAG Network of Tribal Councils and First Nations increases employment, skills, education, and training opportunities for First Nation people in Saskatchewan.

Battlefords & Area Sexual Assault Centre

A counsellor is assigned to Sweetgrass First Nation based for one day a week. One-on-one counselling is offered and they are working on getting a support group in place.

Cut Knife Library

Library books are available at the Band Office during office hours, Monday to Friday. All books are to be returned by the last business day of the month and new books are brought out on the first business day of the new month.

SWEETGRASS FIRST NATION RATES**Aged 15 and over, on-reserve with a high school diploma or equivalent (2016)**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
2006	36.8%
2011	47.4%
2016	56.8%

Aged 15 and over, on-reserve with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree (2016)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>
2006	19.1%
2011	28.2%
2016	31.8%

Elementary and Secondary Student Enrollment

Year	Total
2017-2018	74
2018-2019	61
2019-2020	46
2020-2021	71
2021-2022	76

Children in Care

Year	Total
2013	10
2016	8
2021	9

Percent of Lone Parent Families

2011			2016		
Total lone parent families	Male Lone parents families	Female Lone parent families	Total lone parent families	Male lone parent families	Female lone parent families
43.3%	13.0%	30.0%	61.8%	23.5%	38.2%

BATTLE RIVER TREATY 6 HEALTH CENTRE

Sweetgrass First Nation Stats 2021-2022

Headstart

Home Visits = 1,145
 Deliveries = 1,145
 Car seats provided = 19

Exercise Therapist

Group education sessions = 1
 # of clients seen = 8
 # of clients on a caseload = 11

Dietitian

Group education sessions = 1
 # of clients seen = 18
 # of clients on a caseload = 29

Community Health

Pre/Post natal services
 # of babies born = 13
 Prenatals that accessed traditional supports = 6
 Prenatals that attended school/work during the day = 6
 # of clients receiving the Oral Glucose Tolerance Test = 11
 # of Well Baby Clinics provided = 365.5 hrs

Immunization Data

One yr old population = 13	41% average
Two yr old population = 25	41% average
Seven yr old population = 14	88% average

Other services:

Telehealth sessions = 14 (total of 840 kms saved)
 Communicable Disease follow-up Sexually Transmitted Blood Born Infections = 71
 Syphilis case and contact follow up = 22
 Hep C treatment and follow-up = 1
 COVID vaccinations provided from April 01, 2021 to April 01, 2022 = 1,156
 # of PCR tests provided = 1,355

Harm Reduction

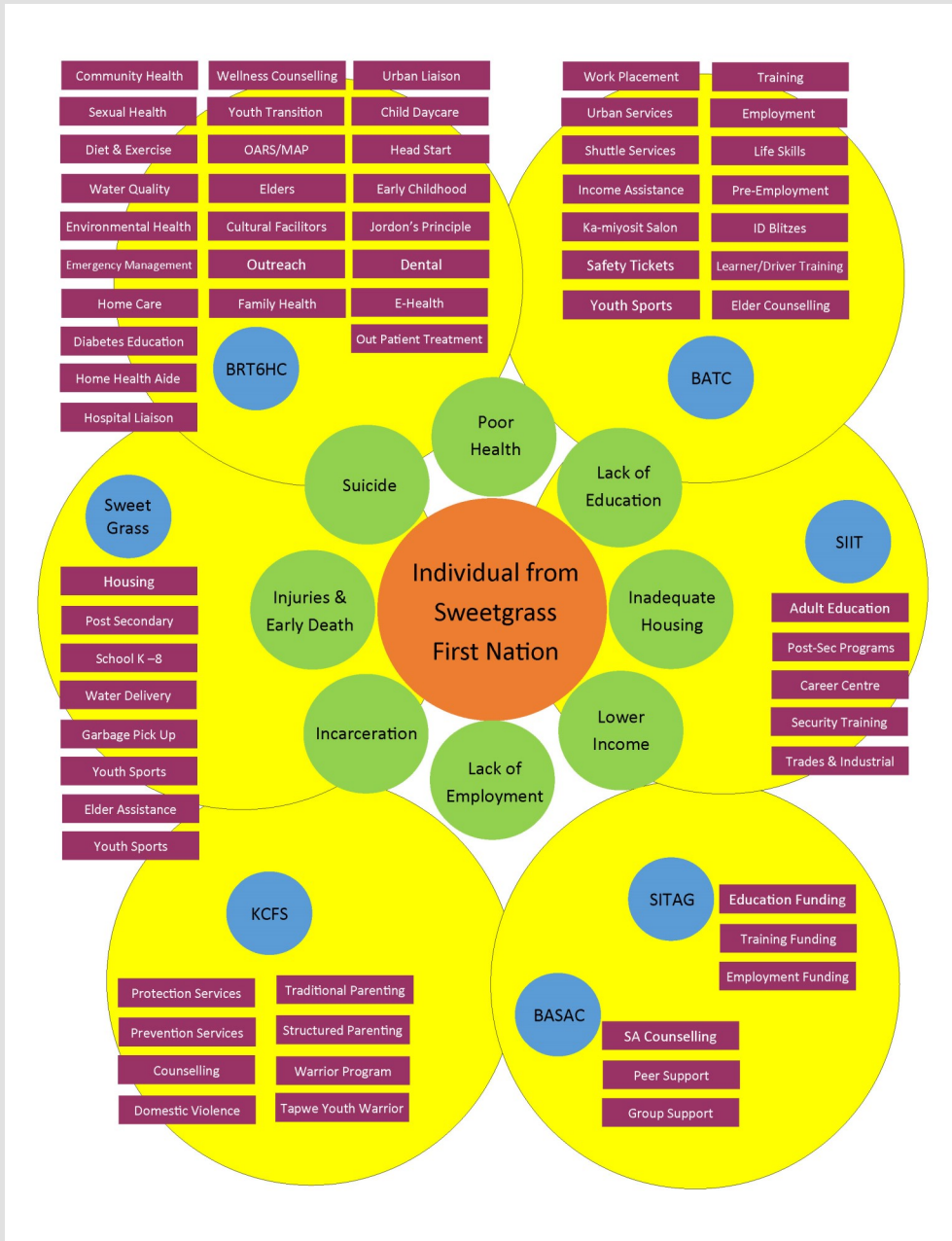
of needle packets (10/pack) provided = 20
 # of crack pipes provided = 2
 # of meth pipes provided = 12

Home Care

of home visits = 1,394
 Total hours of assisted living = 196.5
 Total hours of nursing services = 1,054.25
 Total hours of personal care = 0
 Total hours of professional therapies = 80.75
 In-home respite = 345.75
 # of clients = 299
 # of palliative care clients = 6

Environmental Health

of bacterial samples collected = 390 (388 were acceptable results)



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Sweetgrass First Nation engages in positive, productive collaboration for the benefit of members, staff, and partners

OBJECTIVE

To make connections through mutual partnerships

ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen relationships and surrounding municipalities, service organizations, and all levels of government.
- Facilitate regular inter-agency meetings to gain full understanding of partners' mandates, services available and inform staff and members of the same.

OBJECTIVE

To promote a healthy workplace

ACTIVITIES

- Teamwork and team building among staff
- Professional development for leadership and staff

OBJECTIVE

Improve alignment and collaboration between the members and administration.

ACTIVITIES

- The Nation routinely reviews and updates the Sweetgrass First Nation Strategic Plan based on changing circumstances and member input.
- Continue to improve and learn across government, enhance training and seek ways to have productive respectful discussions at all levels of Sweetgrass First Nation.

- Enhance and coordinate member communications and engagement practices by providing more opportunities for leadership-member interaction, collaborative discussions and problem solving, while also tracking how member input is considered.

ACTION PLAN

GOAL

Advance Child Welfare Reform – Bill C-92

ACTIVITIES

- Develop Prevention Plan
- Explore child and family services' future with Local Advisory Committee
- Investigate Child First Law
- Update organizational structure
- Member engagement

GOAL

Explore options for policing

ACTIVITY

Revisit CTA (Community Tri-partite Agreement) – information gathering for decision making

GOAL

Community Wellness and Safety

ACTIVITIES

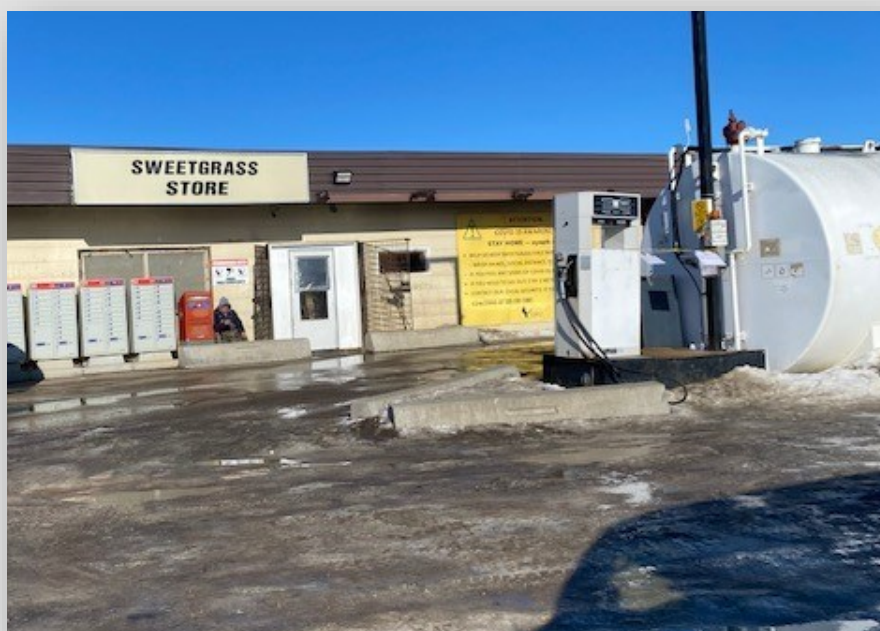
- First Nation Police Force: information gathering, decision making. Look at
- Qu'Appelle model
- Strengthen government relationships (federal, provincial, municipal, First Nations)

ECONOMY

Sweetgrass First Nation owns and subcontracts the Sweetgrass General Store located in the community. Other funding sources for the community is derived from land leases, tags for outfitters, pasture leases, and interest earned from trust accounts. Sweetgrass uses its own source revenue to pay for power and energy costs for its total membership age 65 and over. Funeral costs for food and related costs not eligible from ISC are paid for as well regardless of residence.

The Sweetgrass Investment Board has been exploring options for possible businesses such as gravel production and future development of the urban land located in the City of North Battleford. Based on a feasibility study approved and funded by ISC, Sweetgrass First Nation has decided to enter into an agreement with a fuel partner for a business to be located on the urban land. A service agreement with the City of North Battleford is the next step to formalize the business venture.

Economic development opportunities are available to community members for business development, however funding from ISC is limited.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Sweetgrass has a thriving economy which the members actively participate, contributing to the Nation's financial prosperity and self-reliance.

OBJECTIVE

The Nation will have and support Band-owned and Band Member-owned businesses On and Off-Reserve.

ACTIVITIES

- Promote and support businesses owned by members.
- Offer entrepreneurial training programs

OBJECTIVE

The Nation generates surplus income that supports community priorities and invests in the future of Sweetgrass.

ACTIVITIES

- Implement multi-year integrated planning to ensure annual budget and operational plans are aligned with short and long term strategic priorities and monitor progress towards goals and objectives.
- Balance trust funds, preserve capital for future generations and invest in current community needs and priorities.

OBJECTIVE

The Nations owns and operates successful and diverse business ventures.

ACTIVITIES

- Evolve governance structure as appropriate – continue building capacity for boards, particularly in economic development.
- Develop existing tourism partnerships and create new partnerships as capacity expands.
- Leverage land holdings for revenue generation through leasing and commercial development.

ACTION PLAN

GOAL

Increase Own Source Revenues

ACTIVITY

Develop investment strategy through CORP funding

GOAL

Enhance opportunities for self-sufficiency

ACTIVITIES

- Investigate opportunities for farming bison
- Link economic development for food security initiatives
- Develop a marketing plan to utilize gravel and aggregate
- Promote buy local/support for band-owned member-owned businesses

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Successful comprehensive community planning processes are those that are community-driven. All sectors of the community should have an opportunity to participate, including Elders, youth, and members residing within and outside the community. The plan must accommodate the needs of community members in order to have validity, credibility and member support for ongoing implementation.

With engagement, the community becomes a source of new ideas for discussion and action. Participation encourages people to take responsibility for initiating and implementing projects, and also creates momentum and sustains support. Engagement expands the leadership base of the community and presents opportunities to transfer planning and responsibility to other community members over time.

Establishing effective community engagement can be a difficult task. The following diagram provides some suggested

Practical Barriers:

- Unaware of meeting
- Not enough notice provided
- Lack of understanding about planning process
- Meetings held at inappropriate times
- Other obligations at home or work
- No transportation/inaccessibility
- Lack of daycare/child care
- Weather related



SOLUTIONS:

- Create a communications strategy
- Book meeting at set time and dates
- Supply agendas to show meeting content
- Provide minutes or notes for those who were unable to attend
- Show progress with newsletters, posters
- Provide information to the public
- Use a survey rather than a meeting
- Book individual meetings, lunches, home visits at flexible times
- Provide transportation to meetings
- Provide childcare services
- Hold meetings indoors

Data from the following surveys and activities were gathered.

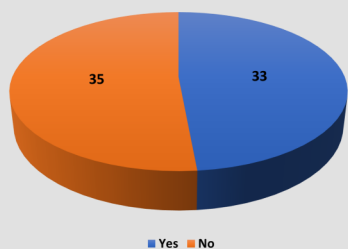
- Community Plan – On-Reserve Member Survey (attached)
- Off-Reserve Survey
- Elders Gathering
- Community Engagement hosted by SFN Justice Committee

The data was compiled and the following results are highlighted from each source of information. Although further analysis and interpretation of the findings need to be done, this is a very good start of the potential for useful information which can be utilized to make informed decisions. If necessary, there can also be new surveys developed to target specific groups such as the youth and people with disabilities.

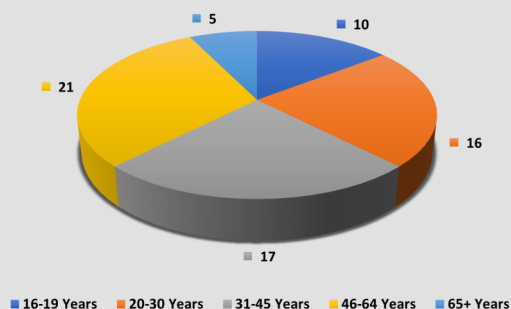
Community Plan On-Reserve Member Survey (survey attached)

The survey was conducted at various on-reserve events in 2018 with a total of 70 band members participating. When the total number in each survey is less the 70 responses, some participants chose not to answer. If there are more than 70 responses, some participants provided more than one answer.

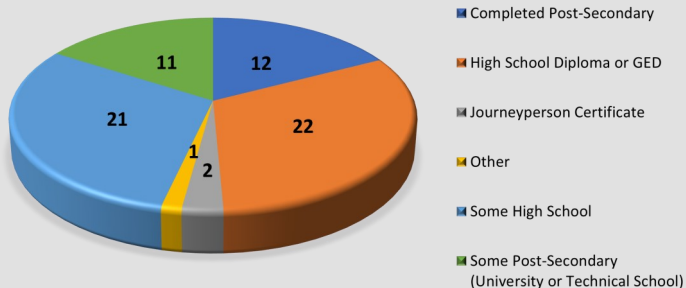
CAN YOU SPEAK YOUR TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE?



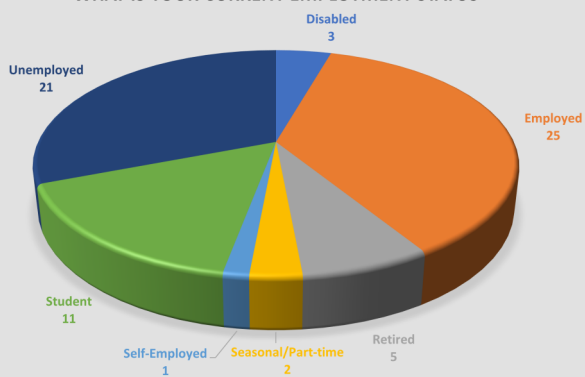
Number of Participants by Age



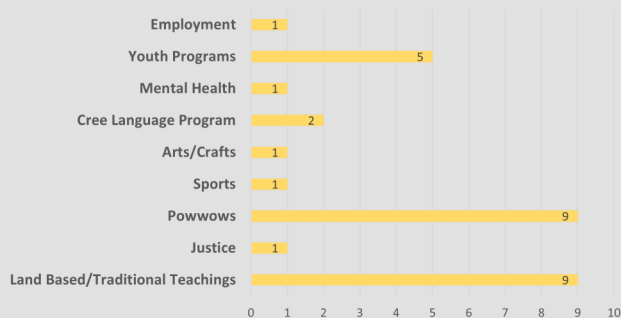
HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOL/EDUCATION COMPLETED



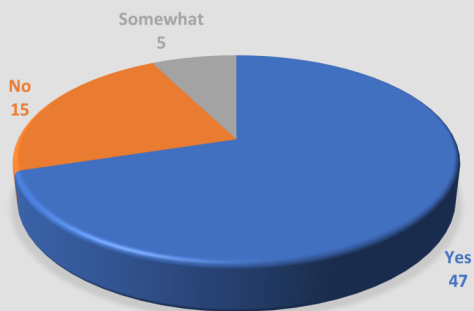
WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



WHICH CULTURAL EVENTS/PROGRAMS/ SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CREATED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

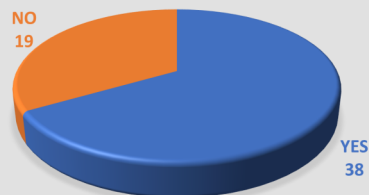


DO YOU FEEL SAFE WHILE ON RESERVE?

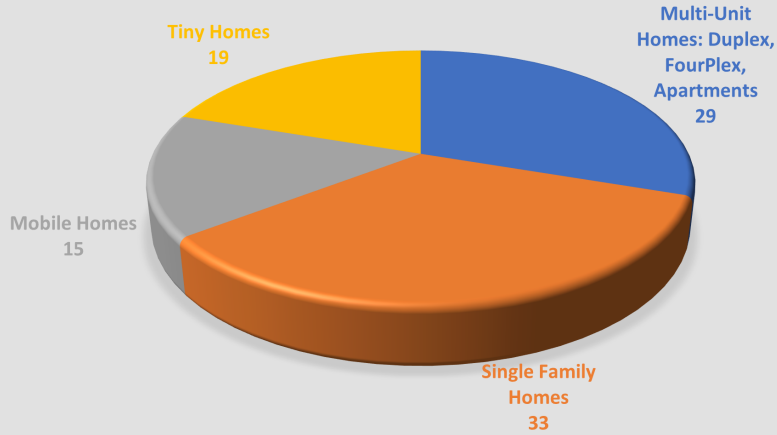


Most of the NO responses were due to: drugs, dogs, speeding, and break & enters

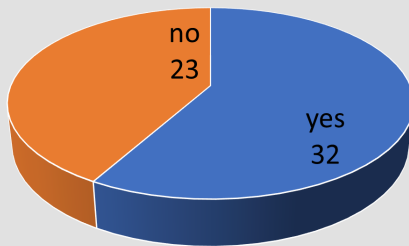
DO CURRENT COMMUNITY FACILITIES (I.E. HALL, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY CENTRE, ETC.) MEET YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S NEEDS?



WHAT OTHER HOUSING TYPES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OFFERED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

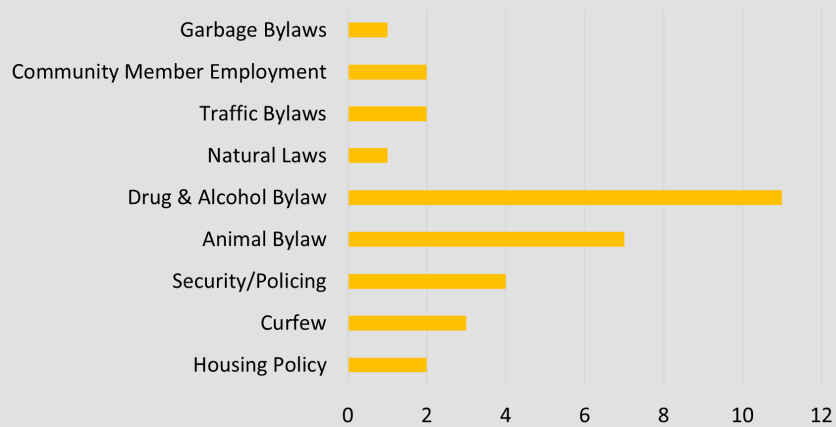


ARE THERE TRADITIONAL OR HISTORIC SITES IN YOUR COMMUNITY THAT NEED TO BE PROTECTED?

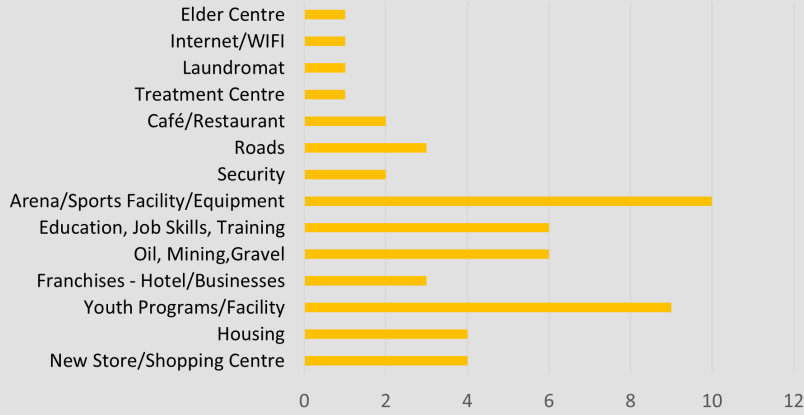


Most responses included Drumming Hill & Sliding Hill and some stated the cemetery sites & sun dance grounds

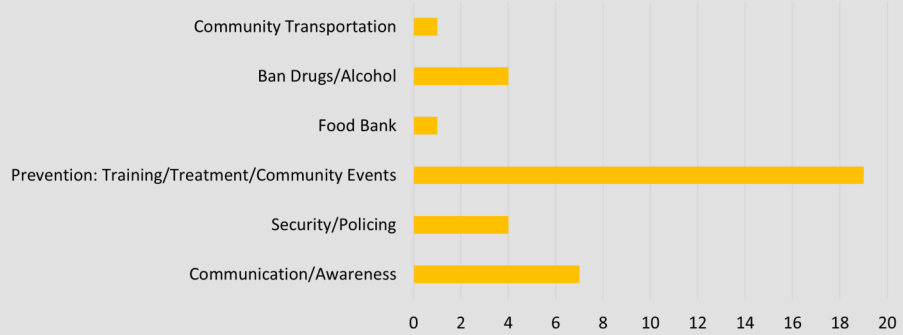
WHAT POLICY OR BYLAWS SHOULD LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON DEVELOPING?



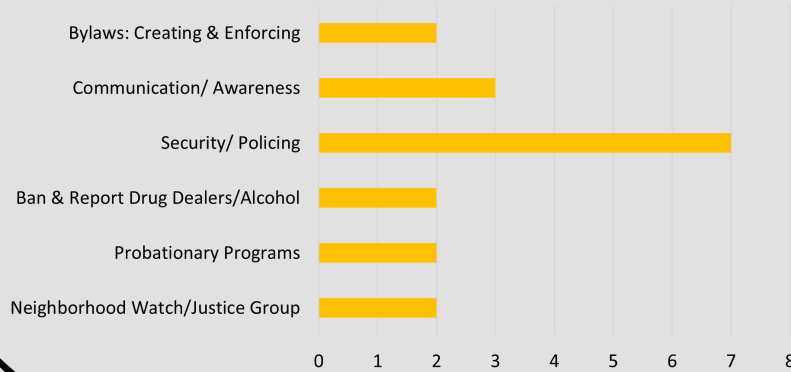
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE COMMUNITY INVESTING IN?



PLEASE PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS SOCIAL RELATED ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY

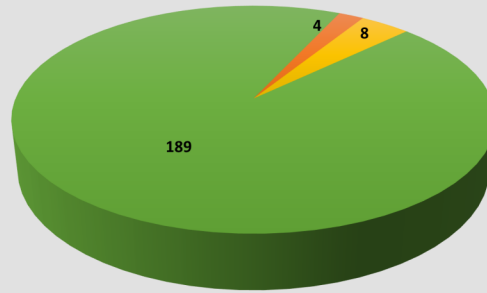


PLEASE PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS JUSTICE RELATED ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY



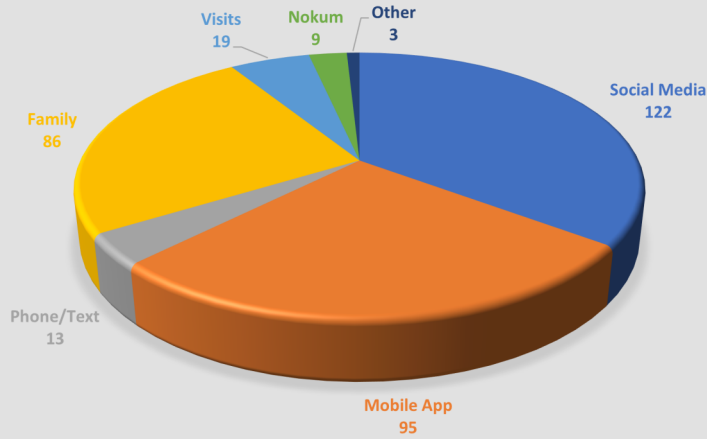
OFF-RESERVE SURVEY—FALL 2022

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

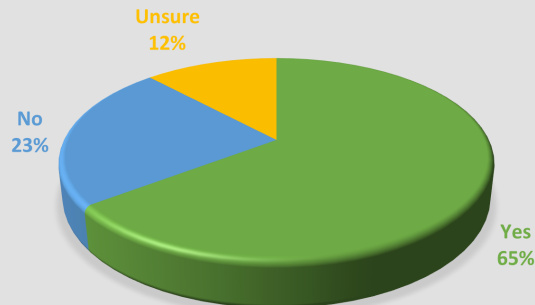


Other First Nation Rural Off-Reserve (Acreage) Urban Centre (City or town)

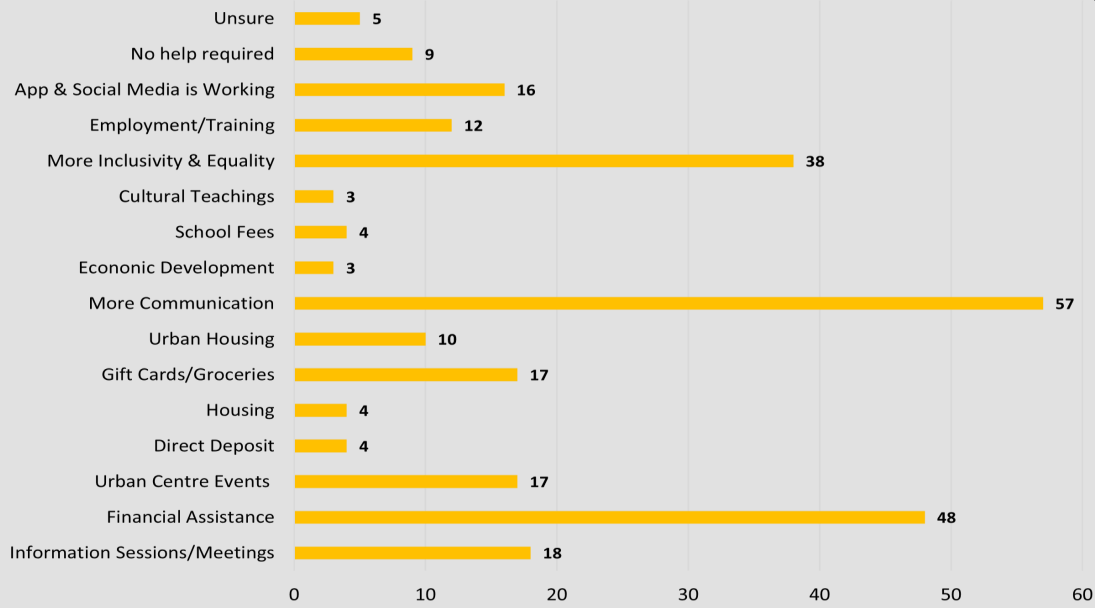
HOW DO YOU STAY CONNECTED TO SWEETGRASS?



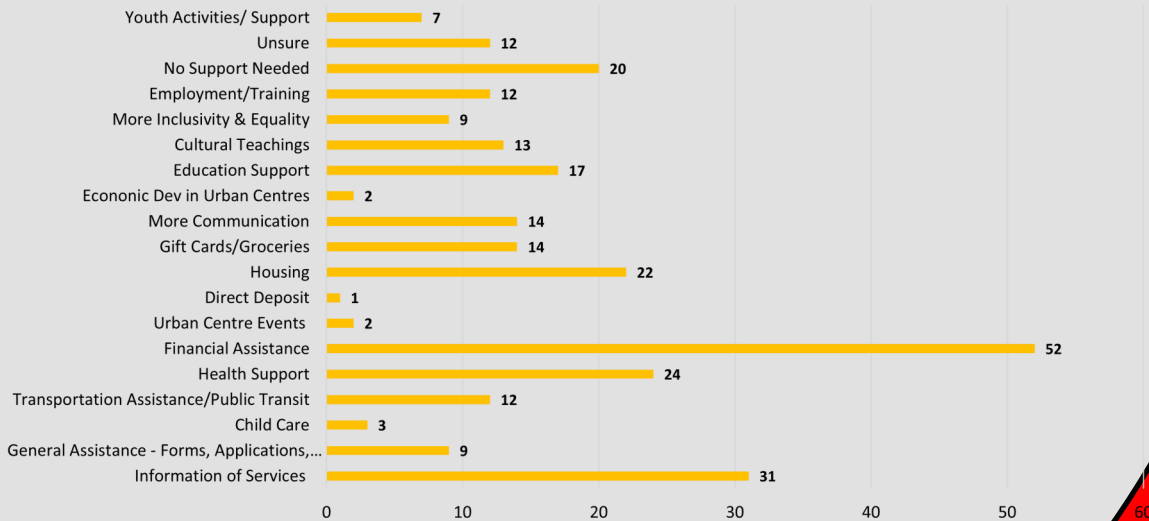
WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER MOVING TO SWEETGRASS?



HOW CAN SWEETGRASS MEET THE NEEDS OF OFF-RESERVE MEMBERS?



WHAT SERVICES DO YOU NEED AS AN OFF-RESERVE MEMBER?



ELDER'S GATHERING

Sweetgrass First Nations – Elder's Retreat

Saturday, August 27, 2022
River Cree Casino & Resort
Enoch Cree Nation, Alberta

In Attendance:

Elders:

Gordon Albert
Marlene Albert
Elmer Albert
Agnes Albert
Gary Albert
Carma Albert
Eugene Albert
Sheila Andres
Albert Atcheynum
Mary Favel
Juliette Fineday

Freida Fineday
Wilfred Lonesinger
Robert Myo
Eileen Pooyak
Wes Pooyak
Lillian Pooyak
Leona Pooyak
Penny Swindler
Robert Swindler
Evelyn Thomas
Agnes Tupone

Bernadette Watson
Sylvia Weenie
Omer White
Lucy Whitecalf
Eli Whitford
Stonewood Room
9:20 AM

Leadership:

Chief Lorie Whitecalf
Councillor Trina Albert

Councillor Donovan Arcand
Councillor Hazen Paskemin

Councillor Isaac Thomas

Staff:

Chris Albert
Krista Albert

Terralynn Fox
Kaitlyn Montour

Damion Kahpeaysewat

Recorder:

Vivian Whitecalf

Opening Prayer – Sylvia Weenie

Opening Comments – Chief Lori Whitecalf

1. ELECTION ACT – Discussions & Recommendations

Chris Albert – Lead

Chris & Hazen are in discussions with lawyer, Rangi with MLT Aikins, on the Election Act and the lawyer indicated that reviews need to be held annually.

THE FOLLOWING ARE RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FROM BAND MEMBERS IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS:

- 1) Proposed amendment is to remove the clause; E. Term of Office, 4.

By a show of hands, the majority for the Elder's recommendation is to remove the following clause:

E. TERM OF OFFICE

4. A person Elected to the office of Chief or Councillor under the Sweetgrass Band Election Act, 2017 shall serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person Elected to the office of Chief or Councillor under the former Sweetgrass Election Act may service an additional three (3) consecutive terms under the Sweetgrass Band Election Act, 2017
- 2) Proposed amendment is the term of office be 3 years instead of 2 years.

E. TERM OF OFFICE

1. Subject to a vacancy of office as set out in Article P of this Act, the term of office of a person Elected to the office of Chief or Councillor shall be two (2) years.

By a show of hands, majority for the Elder's recommendations is to change the term of office to three (3) years from two (2) years, as such:

E. TERM OF OFFICE

1. Subject to a vacancy of office as set out in Article P of this Act, the term of office of a person Elected to the office of Chief or Councillor shall be three (3) years.
- 3) Proposed amendment is for one polling station in Sweetgrass only:

J. MANNER IS WHICH VOTING SHALL BE CARRIED OUT

8. The Electoral Office shall arrange for a polling station at the Sweetgrass Band Hall and at any other location(s) determined by Council, in its discretion, pursuant to Subsection H. 1(b) of this Act.

By a show of hands, majority for the Elder's recommendations is to change to one polling station in Sweetgrass, as such:

J. MANNER IS WHICH VOTING SHALL BE CARRIED OUT

8. The Electoral Office shall arrange for a polling station at the Sweetgrass Band Hall.
(other subsections/articles that reference more than one polling stations will need to be amended)

4) Other Notes:

- The recommended amendments are being recorded and will be provided to the lawyer for collection & review

- Data is being gathered along with proposed amendments for future consultation with band members and to possibly have a referendum beginning in January or February of 2023

2. CULTURAL CAMP

Lead - Donovan Arcand & Isaac Thomas

Sweetgrass First Nation was provided with funding during the COVID-19 Pandemic, to host a cultural camp. Leadership chose to delay the camp to a time when the pandemic was not a factor. The Cultural Camp is scheduled for either September 18 – 23 or 25 – 30 at powwow grounds.

The elders recommend having the camp from September 18 – 23, 2022.

The organizers (Donovan & Isaac) are looking for elders from Sweetgrass to teach their knowledge to our youth. They have some elders lined up already, however they are looking for as many as are willing to work with our youth. Asking any elders to come forward.

Some of the activities lined up for the camp are:

- Drying meat
- Storytelling
- Fire teachings
- Treaty teachings
- Teepee settings
- Creation stories

The purpose of having this camp during the school year is so that various schools from the surrounding areas can bring their students. Many schools have already committed to attending. The target is to have at least 150 youth in attendance.

3. OTHER DISCUSSIONS

- 1) Powwow
 - Elders are in agreed that Sweetgrass should start hosting an annual traditional pow-wow
- 2) Elders Committee
 - A recommendation is brought forward to have an elders committee. Majority of elders agree to this recommendation
 - It would be in the capacity of an advisory committee
 - About 5 – 8 committee members
 - Recommendation that members represent different families

Closing Prayer – Sylvia Weenie

JUSTICE COMMITTEE—COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LET'S TALK – WHAT IS COMMUNITY SAFETY? CHALLENGES? PRIORITIES?

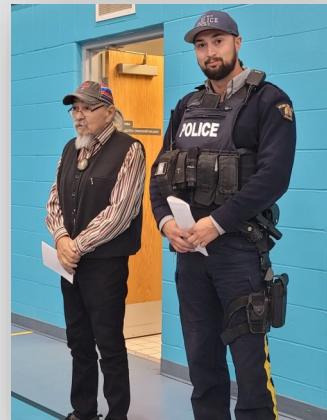
What can be done to shut down drug dealers in our community?

Can drug dealers be banned from the reserve?

Do the RCMP officers receive cultural awareness training?

RESPONSES

- Need for more traffic signs throughout the community
- Upgrade lighting in the townsite area
- Need education sessions on ATV, Quad, Motorcycle safety and the importance of wearing helmets especially for the youth
- Roaming and dangerous dogs, need a bylaw to address that issue
- Implementing natural law in our community
- Areas for improvement – housing mandates, housing policy needed, housing agreements need to be implemented and enforced
- Drug awareness sessions – RCMP did bring their drug display and had a question and answer session
- Banishing people off the reserve only creates problems. Finding resources and help for the addicts is needed.
- Offer mental health resources



COMMUNITY IN ACTION

The Sweetgrass First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan endeavours to be inclusive of all its members regardless of residence. In order to ensure that everyone is aware of the Comprehensive Community Plan, it is vital to communicate the plan through various means. Effective communication provides a foundation for the successful development and implementation of a comprehensive community plan. Social media websites and applications allow users to interact with one another by sharing.

Sweetgrass First Nation has its own website and Facebook page, and other platforms such as Twitter and Instagram. The Sweetgrass First Nation Mobile App currently has 600+ users.

It is also vital that the following community groups be engaged and involved in the implementation process:

- Chief and Council
- Administration
- Elders
- Youth and Children
- Committees (i.e.: school, health, sports & recreation)
- Champions
- Off-reserve community members
- Other: partner organizations/agencies



The Sweetgrass First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan is at the early planning stage and it would be very useful to develop an action plan on how each community group will be engaged in the CCP process. Some examples include community meetings, home visits, focus groups, open house, surveys, newsletters, social media, mapping exercise, site tours, community action projects, radio advertising and talk shows.

It's not possible for one person to implement the Comprehensive Community Plan, and an option to consider is to develop a Steering Committee consisting of community members only. Terms of Reference would need to be developed including lines of authority and reporting to Chief and Council. The Community Navigator will chair the Steering Committee meetings.



KEEPING THE PLAN ALIVE

The Sweetgrass First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan is a living document and will constantly evolve and deliver new benefits, and will help our community become healthy and sustainable. Involving the community in a regular review of the plan helps our members stay engaged and gain the skills, enthusiasm and confidence to move on to more ambitious projects.

We will:

- Stay true to our values and traditions
- Use every opportunity in the Comprehensive Community Plan process to develop skills and create training, mentorship and employment opportunities for our community
- Integrate our Plains Cree language, arts, and culture into all our programs and projects
- Look for economic development opportunities in projects, short and long term
- Continue to build on our successes, providing benefits to our community for many generations to come.



Monitoring, Evaluating, Revising and Updating the CCP

A crucial component of the Sweetgrass First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan is to identify a process for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the plan. These include regular timelines for evaluation, process for monitoring and evaluation, community involvement, and process for accepting revisions to the Sweetgrass First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan.

These stages are necessary to:

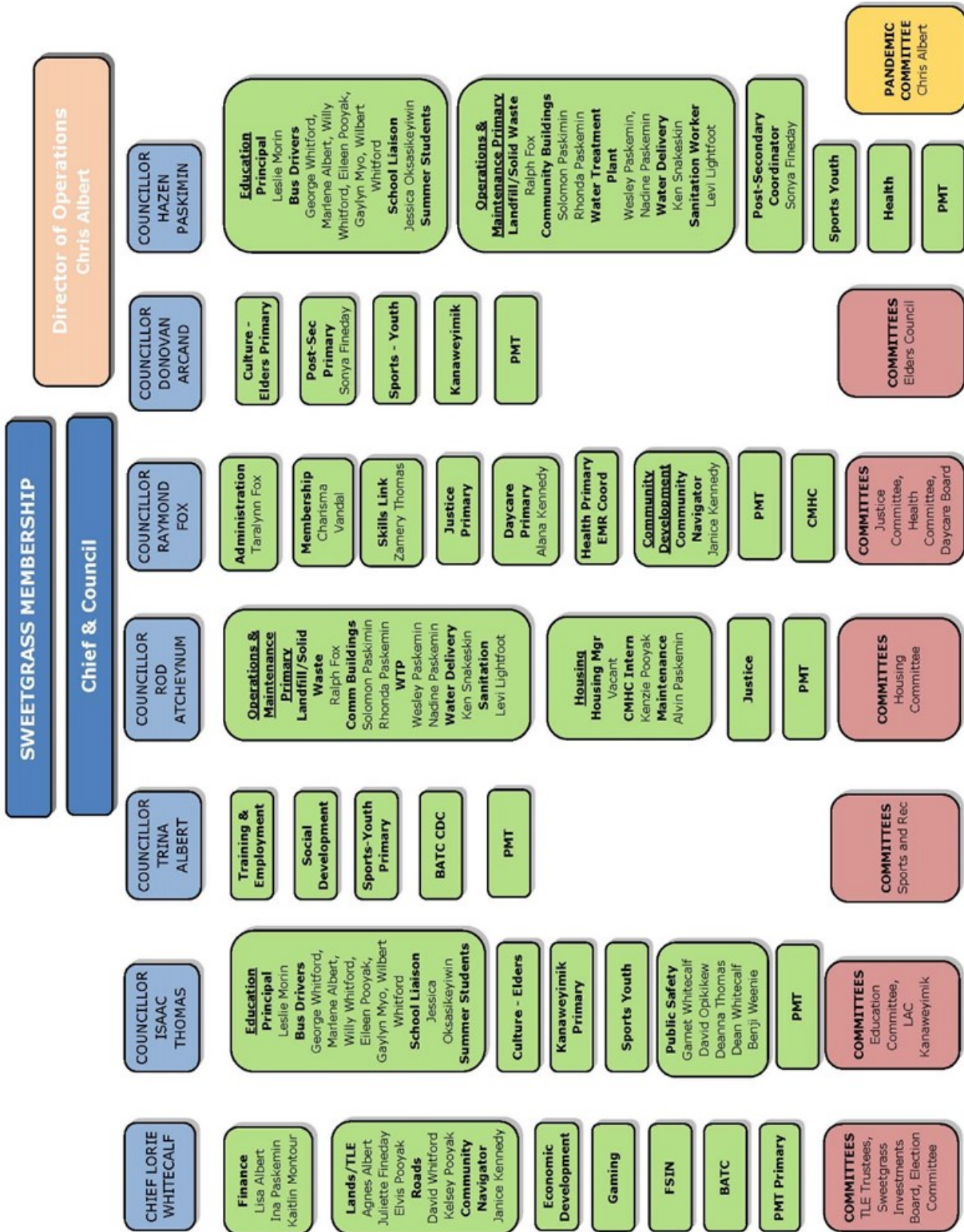
- Make sure the projects are benefitting our community
- Assess the progress in implementing the plan
- Make revisions, as required, so that the plan remains relevant
- Keep the plan alive and adjust it to external and internal changes, and
- Keep the community excited and informed about the results achieved through comprehensive community planning

“WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER”



**SWEETGRASS
FIRST NATION**

APPENDIX i



Community Plan - On-Reserve Member Survey

Tansi,

My name is MARLENE OPEKOKEW and I am the new Community Navigator for Sweetgrass First Nation. My role is to coordinate and align all planning projects in the community, with the end result being the development of a long-term Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP). The CCP will enable members to improve the community themselves by working together, building consensus on priorities and actions, building on community assets, and well-being of the community.

Sweetgrass First Nation has begun the process of creating a CCP that will help to guide the community for many years into the future. The CCP is made up of the following key areas: governance, land, resources & environment, health, education, infrastructure/public works, housing, culture, social, and economy.

The goals for the CCP are to:

- Confirm/create the community's "vision";
- Create a baseline to measure progress from;
- Create objectives to guide planning and land use decisions;
- Set policies to achieve objectives; and
- Ensure the wishes of all community members are reflected in the final document.

Community consultation is a very important part of this planning process. We are asking community members living both on and off reserve for input on what you like most about your community, what you like least about your community, and what your biggest concerns are over the next 20 years. The feedback from this survey will be presented at a community meeting and will help to create the CCP.



If you are a member of Sweetgrass First Nation and are 12-16 years please complete this survey and return it to the Band Office by January 31, 2019 to be eligible to win a prize!!!

Name: _____

Phone#: _____

E-mail address: _____

****Your personal information will not be associated with this survey; it will only be used for the prize draw****

Demographics & Priorities:

1. Please indicate your age:

- 13-16
- 16-30
- 31-45
- 46-64
- 65 and over

2. Gender:

- Male
- Female

3. Can you speak your traditional language?

- Yes
- No

4. If you can speak your traditional language, please indicated your level of fluency:

- Somewhat understand
- Can speak and understand
- Can carry conversations

5. Do you understand your traditional language?

- Yes
- No

6. Please share any hobbies/goals/dreams for Sweetgrass First Nation.

7. What Grade are you presently in?

8. Where do you attend school?

9. What do you like most about your community?

10. What would you like to see changed in your community?

Culture

11. Are you involved in traditional or cultural activities in your community?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

12. Which cultural events/programs/services would you like to see created in your community?

Health

13. Which health services/programs do you currently access?

14. What could be done to improve health services/programs in your community?

15. Do you feel safe while on reserve?

Yes

No

If no, please explain:

16. How effective are the following emergency services in the community? (Please circle)

	Very Ineffective	Somewhat Ineffective	Neutral	Somewhat Effective	Very Effective
Fire	1	2	3	4	5
Ambulance	1	2	3	4	5
Police	1	2	3	4	5

17. Please explain any concerns you may have with emergency services in the community:

18. Which recreational activities do you, or your family, currently take part in?

19. Which recreational facilities, program or services would you like to see for yourself, your family or youth in the community?

Education

20. Which educational services/programs do you, or your, family access?

21. How could educational services/programs be improved in your community?

22. What would your "ideal" role or job in the community be? What training would you need to acquire to achieve your "ideal" role or job?

23. Can you achieve your career goals now?

- Yes
- No

If no, what is required?

Infrastructure/Public Works i.e. *water, waste water, landfill, roads, community buildings, etc.*

24. Are you satisfied with community road conditions?

Yes

No

If No, what improvements could be made?

25. Does your current water system meet your household's needs? i.e. safe drinking water

Yes

No

If No, what improvements could be made?

26. Does your current sewage treatment system meet your household's needs?

Yes

No

If No, what improvements could be made?

27. Do current garbage collection services and the landfill meet your household's needs?

Yes

No

If No, what improvements could be made?

28. Do current community facilities (i.e. hall, school, community centre, etc.) meet your household's needs?

Yes

No

If No, what improvements could be made?

29. Please provide any additional comments or concerns you may have with community infrastructure:

Economy

30. Are you comfortable with resource exploration and extraction on community owned lands?

Yes

No

31. What would you like to see the community invest in?

32. What types of enterprises should be allowed in the community?

- Community owned businesses only
- Privately owned businesses only
- Both community and privately-owned businesses
- Other (please specify): _____

33. What kinds of economic development partnerships should the community explore?

Housing

34. Does your current housing situation meet you, or your family's, needs?

- Yes
- No

If No, please explain:

35. How many people live in your household? _____

36. How many bedrooms are in your home? _____

37. How many bathrooms are in your home? _____

38. Are there repairs or renovations required in your home?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain:

39. Are you interested in home ownership option in your community (i.e. taking a loan to build your own home)?

- Yes
- No

40. What other housing types would you like to see offered in your community?

- House
- Multi-unit homes (i.e. duplex, four-plex)
- Apartment
- Mobile Home
- Alternative Home (i.e. tiny home, off-grid home)
- Other: _____

Governance

41. What policy or bylaws should leadership focus on developing in the near term?

42. How could communication between leadership and community members be improved?

43. Are you in favor of Sweetgrass establishing a community Facebook page?

- Yes
- No

Land, Resources & Environment

44. Do you have any environmental concerns in your community?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain:

45. Are there traditional or historic sites in your community that need to be protected?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain:

46. Do you have any land use concerns in your community?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which ones?

Social

47. Are you aware of any social related issues in the community? i.e. poverty, addictions, gangs, violence, lateral violence, physical abuse, mental abuse, substance abuse, etc.

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

48. Please provide suggestions on how to address such social related issues in the community:

49. What types of programs/services are needed in the community to support youth?

50. What types of programs/services are needed in the community to support Elders?

Justice

51. Do you have any concerns related to justice in the community?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

52. Please provide suggestions on how to address justice related issues in the community:

53. Do you have any final questions or comments?

Community Volunteers

Your help is needed to implement initiatives recommended by members and included in the Comprehensive Community Plan. This is your opportunity to contribute to making positive change in the community for the benefit for all members. If you are interested in taking on a volunteer role, please complete the following questions:

1. Which of the following focus areas are you interested in volunteering in (please select all that apply):

- Cultural events/programs
- Health services/programs
- Social services/programs
- Recreation services/programs
- Education services/programs
- Housing services/programs
- Governance advisory committees
- Economic development initiatives
- Land/resources/environment initiatives
- Infrastructure/public works – related tasks
- Other, please specify:

2. Please outline any skills, training, or experience you may have that relates to the areas you are interested in volunteering in:

3. Based on your availability to contribute to community plan initiatives, please describe the amount of time you may be willing to commit to community projects:

- Occasionally (i.e. providing assistance on a casual basis when you have time)
- On a regular basis (i.e. casual program volunteer, providing weekly or monthly support)
- On a consistent basis (i.e. committed program volunteer, providing consistent daily support)
- Other, please specify:

4. Please provide your contact information (for volunteer purposes only).

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____