

**COUNCILLOR MARTY SCOTT
PORTFOLIO REPORT
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KINISTIN SAULTEAUX NATION
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Housing Committee

The Housing Committee members for fiscal year 2009/2010 are:

- Elder Louise Smokeyday
- Committee Members Delaney Deaflad
- Committee Members Ida Lumberjack
- Committee Members Craig Thomas
- Committee Members Kevin Scott
- Committee Members Janice Scott

The Committee reviews housing related matters and they make recommendations to Chief and Council for approval. They meet on a regular monthly basis and ensure that minutes are kept of their

meetings. These minutes are available to the membership through the Band Office. They review the annual operating budget and recommend its approval to Chief and Council. They review and recommend major purchases, rental arrears, and bank records.

It is the mission of the Housing and Community Works Committee to use the powers and authorities conferred upon the committee to do its best to ensure that Kinistin Saulteaux Nation is a safe and healthy place to be for community members, employees, the traveling public, and other invited guests. In pursuing its mission, the Committee shall be respectful of the traditions and culture of KSN, while finding a balance between the ways of the past and the ways of the future.

The Goals and Objectives of the KSN Housing and Community Works Committee are to ensure the efficient, equitable, and innovative maintenance and development of the community infrastructure.

CMHC (Section 95 Housing)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provide assistance to help offset project expenses allowing reduced rents on behalf of the federal government. It is a contract between the First Nation and the federal government to provide rental housing for low and moderate income First Nation members. The First Nation agrees to collect rents, pay the loan, income test tenants, maintain the housing portfolio and fund separate accounts.

The federal government, through CMHC, makes available to the First Nation assistance up to an amount equal to the difference between the actual loan rate and 2% on the eligible building costs calculated over 35 years. The assistance is sometimes greater than the loan payment because the subsidy is based on the cost to build the housing, not the amount of money borrowed from the bank. The first nation also puts money up front for this agreement.

The housing portfolio councilor along with chief financial officer has decided to defer the building of new houses for this fiscal year until the following fiscal year. The moving and the set up of the eight new trailer units have been very costly. It would not be fiscally responsible

for the housing department to build any new housing for the remainder of the fiscal year as it would create a greater deficit.

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)

The RRAP program is an agreement with CMHC housing and the Saskatoon Tribal Council. The main objective of this agreement is to repair, modify, and improve existing family housing units. First nations are only allowed to apply for this program if they have units available that have not had major renovation for fifteen years, and are under the level of Saskatchewan's building code regulations. The funds for these units flow fully when the RRAP is complete, the funding agency gives approximately \$10000, and the band gives approximately \$5000 for each unit that is approved at the Saskatoon Tribal Council. The housing coordinator has applied for RRAP units this year and was approved for two units. These units will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Community Housing Database

The community housing database is currently in the creation process and will hopefully be completed by the end of the fiscal year. The housing coordinator by mandate from the housing committee and the housing portfolio councilor has agreed to start this database for the improvement of all KSN owned houses. This encompasses taking pictures of all the houses before and after tenant has occupied or vacated a KSN house, and also having tenants sign housing occupancy agreements. This process is essential for the housing department as it will help keep track of all the expenditures of all KSN houses.

Water Treatment Plant

The water treatment plant will be under going inspection in the spring 2010 by INAC. This is a process INAC has decided to undertake as they will be looking for deficiencies in water treatment plants for all of the first nations across Canada. They will also be replacing and upgrading water treatment plants that are running at and/or over capacity levels for their first nations.

Future Plans

- ∅ Renovations for the band hall. The start date for this initiative will be determined in the spring of 2010 by the Chief and Council.
- ∅ Gasification for the new subdivision and the lake front lots.
- ∅ Section 95 housing to start building units in the new subdivision.
- ∅ To research and develop the building of green and eco-friendly homes for KSN membership, and also energy efficient heating and lighting.
- ∅ Creation of a new housing policy and procedure manual with the lake front development and the new matrimonial law.
- ∅ The housing committee will be taking committee training in January 2010.

I would also like to thank the previous chief and council for their commitment and hard work in bringing their own initiatives forward. In the end we all have to try and work together to improve the well being of our community for the future generations. This is not an easy job but it can be very rewarding for everyone if we can all put our personal differences behind us, my new motto is that I cannot change the past, but I can and will look to the future to improve the livelihood of our people.