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EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD
CONSEIL DE GESTION DES RESSOURCES
FAUNIQVES DE LA RÉGION MARINE D'EYYOU
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2015-16

Annual Activity Report

(September 13, 2016)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This annual report of the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) covers the period from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016; and outlines the activities of the EMRWB during this period, in fulfillment of its mandate as set out in Chapter 13 of the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement* (EMRLCA).

2. MANDATE

The EMRWB is an institution of public government that was established pursuant to the provisions of the *Agreement between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada Concerning the Eeyou Marine Region*, also known as the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement* (EMRLCA), which was signed by the respective parties on July 7, 2010.

The mandate for the EMRWB is set out under Chapter 13 of the EMRLCA, which specifies that the EMRWB is to serve as the main instrument of Wildlife management and the main regulator of access to Wildlife in the Eeyou Marine Region. The provisions of the EMRLCA, including the establishment of the EMRWB with the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person, were given effect by the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement Act* and came into force, by Order of the Government of Canada, on February 15, 2012.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The EMRWB consists of seven members including the Chairperson, three (3) members are appointed by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee); one (1) member is appointed by the federal Minister responsible for fish and marine mammals; one (1) member is appointed by the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Wildlife Service; one (1) member is appointed by the Minister responsible for Wildlife under the Government of Nunavut. The appointment of the Chairperson is decided by consensus amongst the members, and must be appointed by the federal Minister responsible for fish and marine mammals in consultation with the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Wildlife Service and jointly with the Minister of Wildlife for the Government of Nunavut.

In 2013, it was agreed by unanimous vote of the members that Mr. Roderick Pachano will be serving as the permanent Chairperson of the EMRWB (EMRWB, Resolution 2013-03). During the 2015-16 fiscal year, the EMRWB lost a member, namely Dr. Jules Dufour, as he resigned from his position on August 23, 2015. His membership has been vacant since. Furthermore, the term of two other members ended in 2016. Mr. Peter Kattuk’s term ended on April 25, 2016, and Mr. Claude Saint-Charles’ on February 19, 2016. However, Mr. Saint-Charles has been reappointed on March 22, 2016, and Mr. Kattuk’s on July 8, 2016.

Table 1: EMRWB’s membership

<p>CHAIRPERSON Roderick Pachano</p>
<p>GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYYOU ISTCHEE) APPOINTEES Isaac Masty Bert W. Moar Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux</p>
<p>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA APPOINTEES Jules Dufour (DFO¹) -vacant since August 23, 2015 Claude Saint-Charles (EC²)</p>
<p>NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT APPOINTEE Peter Kattuk</p>

¹ Department of Fisheries and Oceans

² Environment Canada

4. MEETINGS OF THE EMRWB

According to the EMRLCA (section 14.2.3), the Board "shall meet at least twice a year, and may meet as often as it deems fit". The EMRWB have held three (3) in-person meetings and one conference call meeting during this fiscal year. In addition, there were two (2) in-person joint meetings with the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission (EMRPC) and the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board (EMRIRB). An executive committee was also created in July 2014 to alleviate the increasing workload. The Executive committee met in-person twice and met once by conference call. The meeting dates and locations are shown in the table set out below.

Table 2: Dates and locations of the EMRWB's meetings (2015-16)

Meeting	Date of Meeting	Location
Executive Committee meeting	June 15, 2015	Conference call
EMRWB	July 20-21, 2015	Montreal
EMRIRB-PC-WB	July 22, 2015	Montreal
EMRIRB-PC-WB	November 25, 2015	Montreal
EMRWB	November 26, 27, 2015	Montreal
Executive Committee meeting	December 15, 2015	Montreal
Executive Committee meeting	January 5-6, 2016	Ottawa
EMRWB	February 2-4, 2016	Ottawa
EMRWB	February 18, 2016	Conference call.
EMRWB/IRB/PC	February 23, 2016	Montreal

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE EMRWB

As part of his operation, the EMRWB has developed a Human Resources Policy and Procedures Manual as well as a Governance Policy Manual. The Human Resource Policy Manual was prepared in cooperation with the EMRIRB and EMRPC, and approved during a joint meeting hold in Montreal, on November 25, 2015. The Governance Policy Manual was reviewed and approved by the EMRWB members at the February 2 to 4, 2016 meeting, in Ottawa.

A draft of the Financial and Administrative Policy manual was jointly prepared for the EMRWB, EMRIRB and EMRPC. It is a working document which will be reviewed by the staff and members of the EMRWB, EMRIRB and EMRPC.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEAD OFFICE

As specified under subsection 14.2.2 of the EMRLCA, the EMRWB is required to establish its head office in the Eeyou Istchee. In addition to this stipulation, the EMRWB is cognizant that the *EMRLCA Implementation Plan* specifies for the staff and offices of the EMRIRB and EMRPC to be shared. On November 19, 2014, the EMRWB, EMRIRB and EMRPC decided that their offices will be located in the Cree community of Waskaganish. The process of finding office space and staff housing, by the EMRWB, EMRIRB and EMRPC was initiated at the end of the fiscal year (FY) 2014-15; subsequently, an office location was chosen within the community.

The new Wildlife Management Director assumed the task, in collaboration with the EMRPC/EMRIRB Regional Planner, to purchase furniture, office supplies and computer equipment for all five staff members.

7. ENGAGEMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES TO CONDUCT EMRWB'S ACTIVITIES

As specified in subsection 14.5.1 of EMRLCA, within its approved budget, the officers and employees necessary for the proper conduct of business of the EMRWB are to be engaged and remunerated by the EMRWB. The staff positions that were anticipated as being hired by the

EMRWB are set out in Sheet # 14-1 of the *EMRLCA Implementation Plan*, and consist of a Wildlife Management Director, a Wildlife Liaison Officer and an Administrative Assistant.

The first three attempts in filling the Wildlife Management Director position were unsuccessful during FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15. The priority of the EMRWB was to recruit a qualified individual to fulfil the Wildlife Management Director position. Unfortunately, although the position was offered and accepted by one of the candidates, the individual subsequently declined the position. Ten applicants responded to the fourth posting for the Wildlife Management Director position, four were selected for interview on April 7 and 8, 2015. Ms. Manon Simard was chosen as the Wildlife Management Director and commenced on June 1, 2015.

The Wildlife Liaison Officer position was posted at the beginning of March 2015 and closed on March 16, 2015. The selection and interviews for potential candidates were held in FY 2014-15. Ms. Sophie Fillion was successfully chosen as the Wildlife Liaison Officer and commenced on August 3, 2015.

In FY 2014-15, the EMRWB agreed to collaborate with the EMRIRB and EMRPC to develop the job descriptions for the positions of Administrative Assistant and Accountant Administrator, both will report on a half-time basis to the Wildlife Management Director and the Regional Planner. The two positions were hired locally and their offices located in Waskaganish. The job descriptions were posted in early September 2015 and closed on September 21, 2015. The interviewing committee for the selection of the administrative assistant consisted of the Wildlife Management Director, the Regional Planner and the interim Administrative Assistant. Following the interview process, Ms. Eveleen Kapashesit was chosen as the Administrative Assistant.

Regarding the selection of the Accountant Administrator, the interviewing committee consisted of the Wildlife Management Director, the Regional Planner and the accounting consultant for the EMRIRB/PC. Ms. Laurianne Iserhoff was chosen as the Accountant Administrator. Both employees started on November 15, 2015. Even though the three EMR entities are sharing the two positions, for administrative purposes, the EMRWB is covering the salary and benefits of the Accountant Administrator, and the EMRPC/EMRIRB are covering for the Administration Assistant costs.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE FOR THE NEWLY HIRED STAFF

The housing goal of the EMRWB for FY 2015-16 was to determine housing in Waskaganish for the two newly hired staff members. At the end of March 2016, two houses were chosen, which were leased from the Crees of Waskaganish First Nation Housing Authority. Both houses will undergo cosmetic renovations.

9. ARRANGEMENT OF ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

During the course of the year, the EMRWB gradually switched its accounting system. The first step was to contract the company Ceridian to manage the payroll services. The second step was to find a bank that would offer the services needed. The main constraints were signing authorities living in different communities which requires an efficient electronic banking system, the emission of credit cards and the direct access to the bank. After receiving quotes from six (6) different banks (CIBC from Quebec and Val d'Or, Bank of Montreal from Waskaganish and Quebec, National Bank of Canada from Quebec, and the First Nation Bank of Canada (FNBC) from Chisasibi), the EMRWB chose the First Nations Bank of Canada. The EMRWB purchased the Sage 50 Pro Accounting program to be compatible with the First Nations Bank of Canada system. The third step was to train the Accountant Administrator, which occurred in March 2016. A contract was given to provide training on the new software and to offer support in setting up the new accounting system. Therefore, during the months of April 2015 to February 2016, the management of accounting was processed manually and payments were issued by wire transfers or cheques. By the end of March 2016, the accounting system was fully operational.

To monitor the EMRWB financial position, the General Ledger from the Cree Nation Government was regularly reviewed by the interim Administrative Assistant, the Financial Consultant and the Accountant Administrator. At the end of October, a first Revenue and Expenditure document was produced and regularly reviewed by the Executive Committee, and the final version presented to the EMRWB in November 2015 and February 2016. The budgets were provided to the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on October 15, 2015 and February 18, 2016. The latest are more detailed and were reviewed as the Revenues and Expenditures report.

At the November 2015 meeting, the First Nations Bank of Canada promised that the EMRWB would receive credit cards by January 2016, as they were working on partnering with Master Card. This new partnership took longer than expected. The credit card agreement between the FNBC and MasterCard had to be adapted to Quebec's laws and translated into French.

10. PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURE AND TRUCK

The office costs are shared between the three EMR entities for office furniture, office space rental, telephone lines, office, and health insurance. A payment procedure has been set by the EMR entities. The procedure is for the EMRPC to make the payments on behalf of the EMR entities and then invoice for reimbursement of a share the EMRWB and EMRIR, as appropriate. There are some items that the EMRWB has paid and where the EMRPC and EMRIRB have been invoiced for reimbursement of their shares.

As stated in our February 2, 2016, revised notes, the EMRWB approved the purchase of a truck to be used by the staff for their day-to-day work activities, for field work, and for travelling between communities due to the high cost of airfares. The carried-over money (\$37 856) from the FY 2014-15 was used for this purpose. A note to this effect was sent to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada on February 12, 2016. See Appendix 1 for the content of the note.

11. BUDGET 2015-16

The following table summarizes the EMRWB expenditures for FY 2015-16.

Table 3. EMRWB's summarized budget (FY 2015-16)

Operational budget³ (in dollars)	
Salaries and benefits	174,620
Board members honoraria	61,993
Professional Services	80,713
Travel, meals, accommodations	166,425
Operation and Administration	72,410
Special projects	17,704
Amortization	10,490
Cree Trappers 'Association	254,959
<i>Operational budget Total</i>	<i>839,314</i>
Wildlife research fund⁴	
Fair Value	<i>5,324,528</i>

³ Contribution from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

⁴ Research Trust Fund (5 000 000 \$) from Canada plus interest

12. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM AND OPEN FILE SYSTEM

The functions of the EMRWB necessitate the purchase and installation of a Geographical Information System (GIS). This subject was discussed jointly by the EMR entities, and it was agreed that a Task Force team will be established and composed of the interim EMRPC Chairperson, Regional Planner, Wildlife Management Director and the Wildlife Liaison Officer, who would define the EMR Entities needs. The first step was to hire a GIS Consultant to determine the tools and software needed, to find sources covering the Eeyou Marine Region area and corresponding digital data sets, to install the GIS management system on the computers and load relevant maps, as well as to provide training for the staff on the GIS software.

During the winter of 2016, the Task Force met with the GIS Consultant from the ESRI Company, located in Montreal, to discuss the software needs and organized a training session for the EMR staff. The digital maps requirements were also discussed with the GIS team from the Cree Nation Government, and it was determined that free access digital mapping data are highly available online and should be gathered prior to purchase additional mapping resources. It was also decided that the training and the purchase of the software and equipment would be postponed to the FY 2016-17.

As well, under the provisions of subsection 13.3.3 of the EMRLCA, the EMRWB is required to “establish and maintain an open file system for all raw and interpreted Wildlife data and information regardless of its source”. In order to meet this requirement, the EMRWB will have to review anticipated data access needs from various stakeholders; prepare standards for digital data management; recommend a cataloguing approach; prepare a strategy for data storage and retrieval; and purchase the required hardware and software to meet these needs.

To facilitate these requirements, the Task Force anticipated the need for an independent server to safely store archives, sensitive data, and administrative files. The new server requirements were determined and the purchase has been reported to FY 2016-17.

As a newly created organization, the EMRWB did not produce any raw and interpreted wildlife data yet. However, there is a need to determine what type of data will be made accessible to the public and ensure that traditional knowledge related data are protected in terms of ownership, access and usage. The EMRWB website has been chosen as the hosting platform for the open file system and proper actions will be undertaken to guarantee data safety and to monitor users' activities for statistical purposes.

13. WEBSITE AND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

During FY 2013-14, it was agreed at a joint meeting between the three EMR entities that Ms. Chantal Tétreault, interim EMRPC Chairperson, would be mandated to create a temporary website for the three EMR entities using "eeyoumarineregion.ca" as the domain name. It was also agreed that sharing the database and document management system could potentially result in significant costs savings resulting in the utilization of better technologies.

During FY 2014-15, Ms. Tétreault continued to work with the firm *Zerosum* to create and maintain a temporary website in order for the general public to access baseline information about the EMR entities. The website includes general information about the EMRLCA and corresponding implementation plan, a picture gallery and maps. The EMR website is accessible at <http://www.eeyoumarineregion.ca/>.

In March 2016, the temporary website was transferred to a permanent platform. The Wildlife Liaison Officer was trained to maintain and improve the website. The design of the website has been revamped, and a first inventory of content to be uploaded has been determined. However, updating the website content is an ongoing project accordingly to the EMR entities needs and capacity.

The use of an Open Source Bibliographic software called ZOTERO was defined to be best suitable for the EMR entities needs, until the EMRWB can determine its long-term capacity requirements. The open file system will be setup on the website once the data management system will be implemented.

14. RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADJACENT INSTITUTIONS

Under the provisions of subsection 13.2.1 of the EMRLCA, one of the aspects of the mandate of the EMRWB is “cooperating with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR” (paragraph h). In furtherance of these obligations, in FY 2015-16, various types of on-going consultations took place between the EMRWB, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB) and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB), in regard with the development of the EMRWB’s operational policies and procedures.

In addition to anticipating these general consultations of an on-going nature, it was recognized by the EMRWB that section 28.8 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA), and also subsection 30.6 b) of the EMRLCA reciprocally specify that the bodies created pursuant to their wildlife, land use planning, and Wildlife management regimes “shall sit together when making decisions or recommendations concerning the Joint Zone and render the same recommendations or decisions concerning the Joint Zone”, once both sets of management regimes have been established.

A joint session between the EMR and NMR Wildlife Boards occurred in Montreal, following which the EMRWB and NMRWB Wildlife Management Directors held a meeting concerning the development of a process for dealing with wildlife management issues in the overlap area. The two Wildlife Management Directors have met with the NMRPC and EMRPC Regional Planners to discuss decision-making process in the overlap area within a larger realm of potential issues. Further work on defining the relationships between the various institutions of public government created under the EMRLCA, NILCA and Nunavut Land Claims Agreements will continue during FY 2016-17.

The EMRWB, NMRWB, Cree Nation Government and Makivik Corporation have met twice during the EMRWB meetings to render a common decision regarding the Southern Hudson Bay polar bear Total Allowable Take (TAT). They discussed and concluded with the same decision and adopted the same resolution, which was sent to the appropriate Ministers separately. The

EMRWB has also been in contact with the NWMB regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Regulation Act. A meeting was scheduled between the Wildlife Management Directors of all parties, but it did not occur due to time imposed constraints. The EMRWB is also working closely with the other EMR entities. The EMRWB board members and staff were present at the EMRPC Land Use Planning Workshop on February 22-24, 2016.

Within the EMR region, the board has presented its mandates and activities to the Cree Nation Government, the Cree Trappers' Association and the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA). Some board members and staff have also participated at the Cree Nation Government Special General Assembly on Wildlife Habitat and Natural Resources on November 3-5, 2015, during which eelgrass and environmental issues were primarily discussed.

The EMRWB Wildlife Management Director and the Wildlife Liaison Officer attended the ArcticNet conference on December 7-11, 2015 in Vancouver. The conference aimed to tighten the board's relationships with its Nunavut homologous and the community of Arctic researchers. It allowed the staff to familiarize themselves with ongoing projects and research activities in the Hudson Bay area (Hudson Bay Consortium, BAYSIS, etc.), and most specifically in the EMR area, opening the discussion channel on future collaborations.

15. MEDIA KITS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

During FY 2014-15, the EMRWB began the process of developing a communications strategy for the general public of the Cree coastal communities adjacent to the EMR regarding the existence of the EMRWB, and its mandate related to Wildlife management and harvesting practices in the EMR. A letter of introduction was sent to all Coastal Chiefs (October 2015), proposing a presentation during one of their local general assemblies. Currently, only Waskaganish has responded so far, and the EMRWB was unable to attend their proposed meeting before March 2016, it was postponed to FY 2016-17. To optimize logistical costs, the EMRWB plans to coincide these meetings with the Research Priority consultations tour.

As for promotional material, the EMRWB designed and purchased a retractable display showcasing the EMR area and two stand-alone posters (one in Cree and one in English). The display material is used along with informational pamphlets regarding the EMRWB's mandate and activities. Pamphlets were also distributed at the Cree Nation Government, Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) Annual General Assemblies, ArcticNet conference, and the local Waskaganish CTA Annual General Assembly. EMRWB letterheads and Business cards have also been designed and printed. The website "eeyoumarineregion.ca" has been overhauled for the three EMR entities, it will be progressively improved during the FY 2016-17.

16. LIAISON WITH THE CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

The EMRLCA specifies, under section 12.6, that funding shall be provided by the EMRWB to the Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) and the five Local CTAs adjacent to the EMR in order to carry out the powers and functions as set out in Chapter 12, with respect to Wildlife management and harvesting practices in the EMR.

The EMRWB staff collaborates with the EMR-CTA Liaison officers in developing activities according to the CTA mandates stated in Chapter 12 of the EMRLCA. The EMRWB identified a need to improve CTA comprehension of respective mandate and responsibilities under the EMRLCA, in view of improving collaboration and efficiency. A workshop was held on March 1 to 3, 2016, to forge new and stronger relationships between the EMRWB and CTA (Liaison Officers and Executives).

A Funding Agreement which set out the terms and conditions related to the transfer of funds to the CTA and the reporting responsibilities of the CTA with respect to its EMR activities was signed by the Chairperson of the EMRWB and the President of the CTA on October 27, 2015; and funding was accordingly provided to the CTA.

17. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Another mandate included in the EMRLCA is to provide advice to any other management institutions as requested on all matters relating to management, conservation, protection and

regulation of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat; and cooperate with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR. In this context, the EMRWB addressed concerns regarding two species.

a) Polar Bear Management

In FY 2015-16, the EMRWB was involved in decisions concerning the Total Allowable Take (TAT) and Non-Quota Limitations for the Southern Hudson Bay Population (SHB) of polar bears. Several exchanges and correspondences occurred between the EMRWB, the NMRWB, the Minister of Environment Canada and the Government of Nunavut in order to render a decision on this matter. In February 2016, a revised joint decision was made by the EMRWB and the NMRWB, and sent to the Minister who requested to postpone a response until the end of June 2016. In the meantime, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Director and the Director General of Domestic and International Biodiversity Policy of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada sent a letter to the EMRWB and NMRWB Wildlife Management Directors regarding technical concerns related to the two boards' previous decision. A collaborated reply has been drafted and sent in July 2016.

Furthermore, the EMRWB has been consulted in the planning of an aerial survey for the SHB polar population across the James Bay and Hudson Bay areas. The survey will be realized during fall 2016.

b) Other Species at Risk

During 2015-16, the EMRWB received many requests from COSEWIC to comment on status reports of different species such as the Red knot, Rusty Black Birds, migratory Caribou, Red-necked Phalarope, Little Brown Bat and Nordic Bats. For each of the previously mentioned species, a briefing note and a letter of recommendation was sent to COSEWIC officials.

The EMRWB supported two complementary project proposals related to the monitoring of birds, including the Red knot in the Rupert Bay area. The first project was jointly led by the Cree Nation Government and Nature Canada, which was funded by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) for the monitoring of migratory birds and shorebirds. The second project was led by Nature Canada and funded by the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk, which

was to setup a satellite telemetry apparatus in strategic places of the area for the detection and tracking of birds, along with the surveying of the Rupert Bay area during the summers of 2016 and 2017. The EMRWB is involved in the field for monitoring activities, along with the CTA local officers.

18. WILDLIFE RESEARCH FUND

In the course of FY 2014-15, the EMRWB made arrangements to begin direct administration of the Wildlife Research Fund. On March 11, 2015, the EMRWB approved by resolution, the setup of an agreement with *Industrial Alliance* for the management of the Wildlife Research Fund. An investment portfolio and policy was developed and approved by the EMRWB on November 26, 2015. Due to the declining market, our investment manager advised the EMRWB to transfer the funds at three different times during the year. The funds were transferred from the Trust managed by the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) to *Industrial Alliance*, in three equal amounts, between the periods of December 2015 to February 2016.

19. DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENT FOR THE RESEARCH PROGRAM

As specified under subsection 13.3.1 of the EMRLCA, the EMRWB is responsible for undertaking a number of Wildlife research functions. During FY 2013-14, the EMRWB established a subcommittee (which was consisting of the following members: Ms. Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux, Dr. Jules Dufour and Mr. Claude Saint-Charles) to develop a strategic orientation on this issue, including the investment and use of the Wildlife Research Fund. The Wildlife Management Director and Wildlife Liaison Officer were integrated to the subcommittee during the fall of 2016.

Following the EMR Symposium on Science and Traditional Environmental Knowledge in James Bay and Hudson Bay held in March 2014, a consultation document was sent in 2015 to 21 stakeholders (boards, committees, local, regional and national governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, Cree entities and Cree First Nations), which resulted in the development of 12 research themes for the EMR. During the fall and winter 2016, the subcommittee concentrated his efforts on the screening process of the received information, by first developing scientific information sheets for each theme, to ultimately define the two most

important themes. A communication strategy for consulting the Cree communities on the research priorities was also developed. The consultation process itself was postponed to the FY 2016-17.

20. APPENDIX I- REVISED BUDGET, FY 2015-16

Notes

This year's projected surplus funds came from:

Staff (projected surplus of \$45,104)

The Wildlife Liaison Officer was hired 2 months later than planned.

The Administrative Assistant that is now an Accountant Administrator was hired in November 2015.

Surplus was also used (\$20 000) to train the Accountant Administrator using the EMRPC/EMRIRB and EMRWB funds.

CTA (surplus funds of \$166,250)

The projected surplus came from still to be hired staff, therefore, operational costs were not as high as originally planned.

Carry-over funds from FY 2014-15 (\$37,856)

The carry-over was used to purchase a vehicle to support the staff needs.

New items

Other items expected to have extra costs are:

- Bank charges: The changing of services with the FNBC is still not resolved, due to finance software incompatibilities and the need of credit cards.
- The board is relying on the Cree Nation Government (CNG) to cover Board meeting costs with 15% in administration fees (\$12,000).
- The Research Fund was transferred in a Trust by the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) with 15% in Administration fee (\$16,050).

During FY 2015-16, the board expects to carry over the following funds:

Geographic Information System (GIS) (\$16,000)

To purchase and install a GIS management system, we first need to comprehend the EMRWB's needs. We have started the process by consulting with GIS specialists. We will purchase the necessary equipment during the current year, however, a strategy needs to be elaborated in collaboration with the EMRPC/EMRIRB. Therefore, the board will carry over funds from this project to FY 2016-17.

Community consultation (Research priorities) (\$59,994)

Community consultation funds are transferred to the next fiscal year, since this year was spent on other priorities such as the setup of the office, recruitment, the development of research priorities, and the development of relationship with the CTA (definition of roles, mandates and projects supporting the EMRWB in fulfilling its mandates).

¹ *Note sent to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada on February 12, 2016.*