Collaboration Agreement
Joint Implementation Committee

Partnering for Prosperity

2018 Report
to English River First Nation Community Members
Our people...
Joint Implementation Committee Members

Cheyenna Campbell
ERFN

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Chief’s Message

When we first signed the Collaboration Agreement (CA) in 2013 we couldn’t have foreseen the drop in the industry. The news that McArthur River and Key Lake would not be coming back online as hoped after the ten months was hard to hear and devastating to many families. However, as we struggle with unemployment, we continue to make the most of the benefits flowing from the CA and our strong working relationship with our industry partners, Cameco and Orano.

Balancing multiple demands is our greatest challenge, but housing and education continue to be key priorities for our community.

Maintaining present housing has been essential given our winter freeze-ups, as has been dealing with mold. We continue to work to improve conditions and use this as an opportunity for employment for our members.

We are particularly proud of the support we are providing to those pursuing post-secondary education. More than $250,000 helped see more than 50 students through their programs in 2018.

While we look to support activities and opportunities for the youth on-reserve, we hold that same intention for our urban youth and provide funding where we can, including helping parents purchase school supplies and pay athletic fees.

As always we remain proud of the work and efforts of our community-owned business and their commitment to giving back and providing employment, especially during these challenging times.

We hope this report provides further insight into the efforts leadership and the sub-committees are making to ensure the CA has the greatest impact and we will continue to work under the support and recommendations of the English River First Nation leadership.
Business development

In 2018 Cameco identified an opportunity as part of the Vision in Motion Project for Tron to expand its services provided to Cameco to the Port Hope Conversion Facility in Ontario. Vision in Motion is a project addressing legacy waste at the Port Hope Conversion Facility from historic operations, and the specific opportunity identified for Tron was a large multi-discipline scope of work to remediate services tunnels between buildings.

Tron was engaged early in the project by Cameco to provide assistance in developing the scope of work to optimize construction activities and creating a detailed construction plan. The successful results of this collaborative effort resulted in the construction contract being sourced directly to Tron.

Project construction activities began in spring 2019 and over 65% of the workforce is from Saskatchewan. Cameco and Tron were able to work together to create an optimal construction schedule that enabled participation of Tron’s Saskatchewan workforce into the project. The Saskatchewan contingency includes both band members and Residents of Saskatchewan’s North, and to date 18% of all construction hours have been performed by ERFN band members.

Throughout 2018, Orano contracted services from the following businesses in which ERFN has varying ownership interest - Northern Resource Trucking, Athabasca Catering, Creative Fire and JNE Welding.

Community investment

An investment in education is an investment in the future.

The trust continues its focus on supporting students pursuing post-secondary education. In 2018 43 full-time and 15 part-time students received scholarship funding. The trust also helped urban parents provide school supplies to their children attending school at elementary and high school levels. Part of a well-rounded education includes being able to participate fully in sports and recreation. As such, the trust continues to fund the urban sports and recreation program.

Additional funds continued with the upgrade of the community fish plant (photo left) creating employment and reducing barriers for local fishermen who can now sell their fish within their permitted license area, reducing travel costs. It has increased traditional practices and provided a greater learning opportunity for students enrolled in the Land Based Learning program offered through the St. Louis school.

Other community support provided included elders’ programming, Treaty 10 celebrations, housing and funeral expenses.
Workforce development

With 2018 being another tough year for the uranium industry with layoffs at Key Lake and McArthur River, the labour service dollars were instrumental in creating opportunities.

The Tron CA program stepped in to offset the $20,000 shortage the community was facing in its housing maintenance program. It focused on elders with homes that required heating and plumbing upgrades. This also provided jobs for a couple of ERFN members.

In addition, Tron provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to five members which allowed them to find work, and supported several others through apprenticeship testing levels one through three, along with challenging interprovincial journeyman testing. This included covering fees and books with Sask. Apprenticeship.

Internal development through training remains a priority with ERFN members taking online, and classroom-based safety training, equipment and warehouse work training.

Community engagement and environmental stewardship

The ERFN JIEES committee members for 2018 were Norman Wolverine, Archie Campbell, Cheyenna Campbell, Jenny Wolverine, and Kristin Cuddington/Janna Switzer.

Due to continued market weakness, in July, Cameco made the difficult decision to put Key Lake and McArthur River into an indefinite state of care and maintenance. The community liaison position held by Jenny Wolverine was put on hold until production resumes. Cameco continues to update the subcommittee on the sites. For more information, please contact a local committee representatives who remains the point of contact as Cameco maintains its commitment in protecting the environment.

The sub-committee discussed the cross-over between the EQC and the JIEES representatives and building more capacity in the community. Plans were also made to do more outreach as a sub-committee to build more awareness on the role of the JIEES and share more information on the processes and programs surrounding Cameco’s operations.

A particular highlight was the JIEES’s participation in an environmental workshop with Cameco and Orano in June. It provided in-depth insight into the roles of sub-committees and the community in the decommissioning process, tailings management, and knowledge of the Federal and Provincial approval process.
2018 Financial Highlights

- Business Development: $29.4 M
  - $14.2 M - Cameco
  - $15.2 M - Orano
- Community Investment: $1.3 M
- Workforce Development: $2.5 M
  - $2.3 M - Cameco
  - $0.2 M - Orano

For more information: Contact your local member of the Joint Implementation Committee