2018 was a year of transition for Ya’thi Néné as an interim executive director and a management consultant were hired to assist with day-to-day operations. We also developed a number of policies and procedures that included implementing financial controls in accordance with best practices.

Eager to develop our skills, the board, along with new member, Raymond MacDonald, attended a training program in Fond du Lac focused on governance. We also participated in AJES, JIC, leadership, business and stakeholder meetings, as well as the CNSC hearing in Ottawa to present our recommendations on the decommissioning of uranium mines and mills in Canada.

As always, we remain committed to making sound decisions on behalf of the communities to ensure the land, water, air and all natural resources in our region are preserved for future generations. We continue to promote and enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and well-being of the Athabasca Basin while respecting traditional protocols and guidance from our Elders. We hope this report provides some insight into the highlights of the work undertaken in partnership with Cameco and Orano.

Respectfully, Ya’thi Néné Board of Directors
Mag Broussie (finished December 2018), Mary Denechezhe, Victor Fern, Raymond MacDonald, and Al Sayn

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Community Investment

Seeing our communities benefit from additional services, special programs, cultural events and other opportunities made possible from payments from Cameco and Orano flowing to the Athabasca Community Trust makes us proud.

Under the guidance of a Corporate Trustee (TD Wealth) and community trustees, projects are reviewed based on a broad criteria of permitted uses aimed at enhancing and supporting the basin communities. This includes improvements to infrastructure; language and cultural preservation; disaster relief and much more.

Business Development

$100 million was spent with "eligible businesses" in 2018.

- Fire Truck (Stony Rapids)
- Fishing Derby (Uranium City)
- Fishery (Hatchet Lake)
- Sound Equipment (Black Lake)
- Hunting Assistance (Fond du Lac)
- Class Technology (Stony Rapids)
- Homecare (Hatchet Lake)
- Garden Summer Students (Fond du Lac)
- 50th Annual Winter Carnival (Fond du Lac)
- Garden Students in Fond du Lac
- Christmas Hamper (Uranium City)
- Family Conference (Stony Rapids)
- Fine Arts Festival (Fond du Lac)
- Arena (Hatchet Lake)
- Garden Summer Students (Fond du Lac)

While based in different basin communities, the benefits from several of the investments extend beyond community lines to make life better for many Athabasca Basin residents.

Workforce Development

2018 Athabasca Basin Employment Numbers:

- Cameco: 68
- Orano: 51

This includes summer students and the three community liaisons in Fond du Lac, Black Lake and Wollaston Lake.

The Ya’ thi Néné Land and Resources (YNLR) office formed an interagency group to identify training opportunities and options for the Athabasca and initiated a Driller’s Helper training program, as well as hiring a summer student. The post-secondary scholarship program supported 24 students with a total contribution of $45,000.

Environment and Engagement

The Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee (AJES) continues to meet, enhancing knowledge, understanding and programs to ensure the safety of the environment and build capacity. They met twice in-person and twice by teleconference in 2018.

In place of the Rabbit Lake site visit, members met in Saskatoon for a workshop focused on decommissioning planning and approval processes, site updates, a tailings overview across sites, and an update on Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP).

A focus on traditional food continues with sampling completed in 2018 in Black Lake and Stony Rapids. More information on the CBEMP can be accessed through the community liaisons.

Business Development

Business development remains a key pillar in the collaboration between the Athabasca Basin communities, Cameco and Orano. $100 million was spent with “eligible businesses” in 2018.

Eligible businesses are majority-owned by the Athabasca Basin communities or which the majority economic interest accrues to the communities, or those designated by leadership.

- West Wind Aviation
- Athabasca Basin Security
- Team Drilling
- Athabasca Catering Limited
- Points Athabasca Contracting Limited
- Flyer Electric