

Aniimooziibing Caretakers

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Seventh Generation Waste Warriors

February 10-14th, 2020

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About the Project Team...



- ▶ Paris Paul, Joshua McLean, Bernadette McLean, Martin McLean
 - ▶ (Former members) Khristeen Lavalley, Brandon Spence.
- ▶ Lake Manitoba First Nation
- ▶ Population 1250 on reserve, 800 off-reserve.

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Project Summary

- ▶ We were unable to accomplish our goal, due to our community going through a number of tragedies, these were the evacuations of our community that occurred from the storm on October 11th that broke up to 150+ hydro poles in and around the community.
 - ▶ Our community also had to deal with tragedies in the reserve during and after the evacuation.
 - ▶ Our community was displaced for approximately a month and a half with water testing needed to be done in the homes, basements and crawl spaces being flooded from the sump pumps not having electricity.
- ▶ What materials/ waste streams did you focus on for your project?
- ▶ We decided as a group to focus on Plastic and Aluminum as they were our most concerned waste stream that was in our landfills.

Pictures from the project



- ▶ Our main focus with the waste diversion project was mitigating the amount of waste going into our south landfill site. The capacity to keep digging up cells is at maximum capacity, the more we use the land as a dumping ground, the more contaminated this area will be in future generations.

Pictures from the project



- ▶ In addition to the south landfill, we also wanted to target the north site that was made to tackle the 2011 flood garbage because it is located near a water stream that is connected to Lake Manitoba. This would have a devastating impact on the water as it would contaminate the lake.

Opportunities

- ▶ Did you accomplish everything you hoped to as a group?
 - ▶ We didn't accomplish what we had hoped to be a recycling system/facility, as we learned a facility for recycling is a big cost to create and operate. So as we went to other workshops (Kinonjeoshtegon) we had learned there are other types of facilities (Eco-Depot, Transfer Station) are available for other needs of a community
- ▶ We had Chief & Council involved with We Recycle Everywhere in a meeting back in July or August of 2019.
 - ▶ We focused on how many bins we would need to order for our community housing and facilities in the reserve.
- ▶ How were these people involved? We had a number breakdown of how many recycling bins we would need to order to get a recycling system started.

Challenges

- ▶ Were there any challenges?
- ▶ We all agreed as a group that our daily lives made focusing on the project a challenge, one of us went to school, one lived in the city, one went away to work in another province, and another has a job, so it was hard to meet and set up meetings consistently with an ever changing schedule.
- ▶ How can you advise others to avoid or minimize the same sort of challenges?
- ▶ Advice for another group would be to work on a strategy plan to meet on a weekend or one day out of the week.

Impacts

- We have only conducted one survey on February 8/2020
 - If you held an event - We held the 'Protecting Mother Earth' workshop on February 8th 2020, we had 9 attendance members with 7 Elders and 2 Youth as total.
 - The youth helped Bernadette with the workshop.
 - Bernadette had brought the surveys and other assortments of papers.
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- ▶ On March 14 2019, Martin McLean had presented a Land Use Planning workshop to the community with an attendance of 60 people (6 Elders, 15 Youth), he had mentioned to the audience that Lake Manitoba is a participant of Seventh Generation Waste Warriors in developing a waste diversion plan for the landfills.
 - ▶ On Saturday February 20, 2020, we had a Community Workshop Event, which we only had nine participants (7 Elders and 2 Youth). We introduced some Waste Management Issues, which were mainly about our Waste Sites, like how Hazardous Waste might be impacting our landscapes and others (like the Plant or Animal World). We had four Elders with us, and who were in support of our Community Waste Diversion Programs (Eco-Depot, Recycling Program, and Swap-Shop), which they had also given us the encouragement, by completing our Community Plans. Even though that, there might have not been enough participants, that we still had the courage by completing our Workshop, as we are responsible for our Community. If that means we changed a few minds, then were doing our Job as Caretakers of Mother Earth.

Paris Paul

What I learned from being in the Seventh Generation Waste Warriors program, is all the types of waste there is. What you can recycle and what you can not recycle, and how to use waste, what you can do with it. And what you can help other people do with it.

This project has changed me, made me want to take care of mother earth more, and better.

Every workshop we've been to has been a great memory with all of you guys that are apart of this waste warriors group. Learning and getting to know one another. Playing games, doing activities with all of you guys. Everything was great and well planned.

I think the biggest challenge was the timing, but everything was great and I'm proud of what I know now.

Being a waste warrior has already ready changed me, and I want to help and protect mother earth. And ill pass is on what I all know and learned to the future generation.

Bernadette McLean

- ▶ I am very thankful that I had been given the opportunity by participating in the Seventh Generation Waste Warrior Project 2019, which had taught us to be responsible, and accountable for our Community.
- ▶ This Project, has changed my mind by wanting to be a better Caretaker of Mother Earth, for the sake of our environment and future generations.
- ▶ I enjoyed all that was offered to us, and I very thankful for everything, I am able to Budget for a Community Workshop.
- ▶ Our biggest challenge was timing, but if anything that we are happy to be here with you today.
- ▶ I now consider myself to be a Caretaker of Mother Earth.

Joshua McLean

- ▶ I am honoured to of been able to participate in the 7th Generation Waste Warriors Project 2019, it taught me to be a bit more considerate of our planet, and natural environment in my community.
- ▶ Since I have joined the Waste Warriors, the information I have taken in, I shared with my family and friends, in hopes of educating and convincing them to go green and recycle.
- ▶ One of my favourite presentations was when we went to Brandon for the tour of their landfill site, seeing how they recycled and tackled the flow of waste from the city.
- ▶ My favourite memory was when Dakota took us on a tour of his community of Kinonjeoshtegon, to check out the limestone caves near the community too.
- ▶ The biggest challenge with the project was timing, other than that, I really enjoyed my time here with all the Waste Warriors.
- ▶ All together, the 7th Generation Waste Warriors program has been a real eye opener and I will take the knowledge I have gained to teach my family and home community about what it means to take care of our planet and natural environment.

Martin McLean

- ▶ Being a part of Seventh Generations Waste Warriors has taught me the importance of accountability in mitigating the impact of waste in our communities.
- ▶ SGWW has impacted my life with the way I look at everyday products we use, I tell my friends, co-workers and family the alternatives of a product, and whether or not it can be recycled.
- ▶ My favourite presentation throughout the workshops was 'We Recycle Everywhere' in Kinonjeoshtegon, as they showed us we can recycle everywhere by requesting bins for our communities.
- ▶ My favourite memory was in Jackhead (Kinonjeoshtegon) when Dakotah had his 4-wheeler and was pulling the garbage we collected in the morning, and when he rode back to the start of where we started picking, some of garbage fell off his trailer without him knowing. Lol
- ▶ The biggest challenge for me was not living in the community and having work as my main focus while trying to do something great for my rez.

Photos



Next Steps

- ▶ Here everyone in your group must come up with a recommendation to Chief and Council in your community to take action! With our Chief being here, he is in full support with what we are trying to accomplish, a recommendation we thought of is creating by-law in future times to prevent certain waste-streams into the landfills (White-appliances, E-Waste, etc.)
- ▶ We are going to meet with our band leadership finish our project in the next two months, as we have learned most of all the key requirements in creating an eco-depot and a possible swap-shop, with an end goal in organizing a recycling system to take to Coldwell-Eriksdale Waste Disposal Grounds.

Mii'gwetch

- ▶ We also would like to extend a special thank you in recognizing Shianne McKay and Cheyenne Ironman for their hard work in organizing Seventh Generation Waste Warriors over the past year. A thank you to the other Waste Warriors that hosted us and travelled to our community.
- ▶ Also a special thank you to the funder Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

