

Sewer and Water Retrofit of Housing: from Pails to Cisterns in Wasagamack and Island Lake.

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TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



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Community

Demography

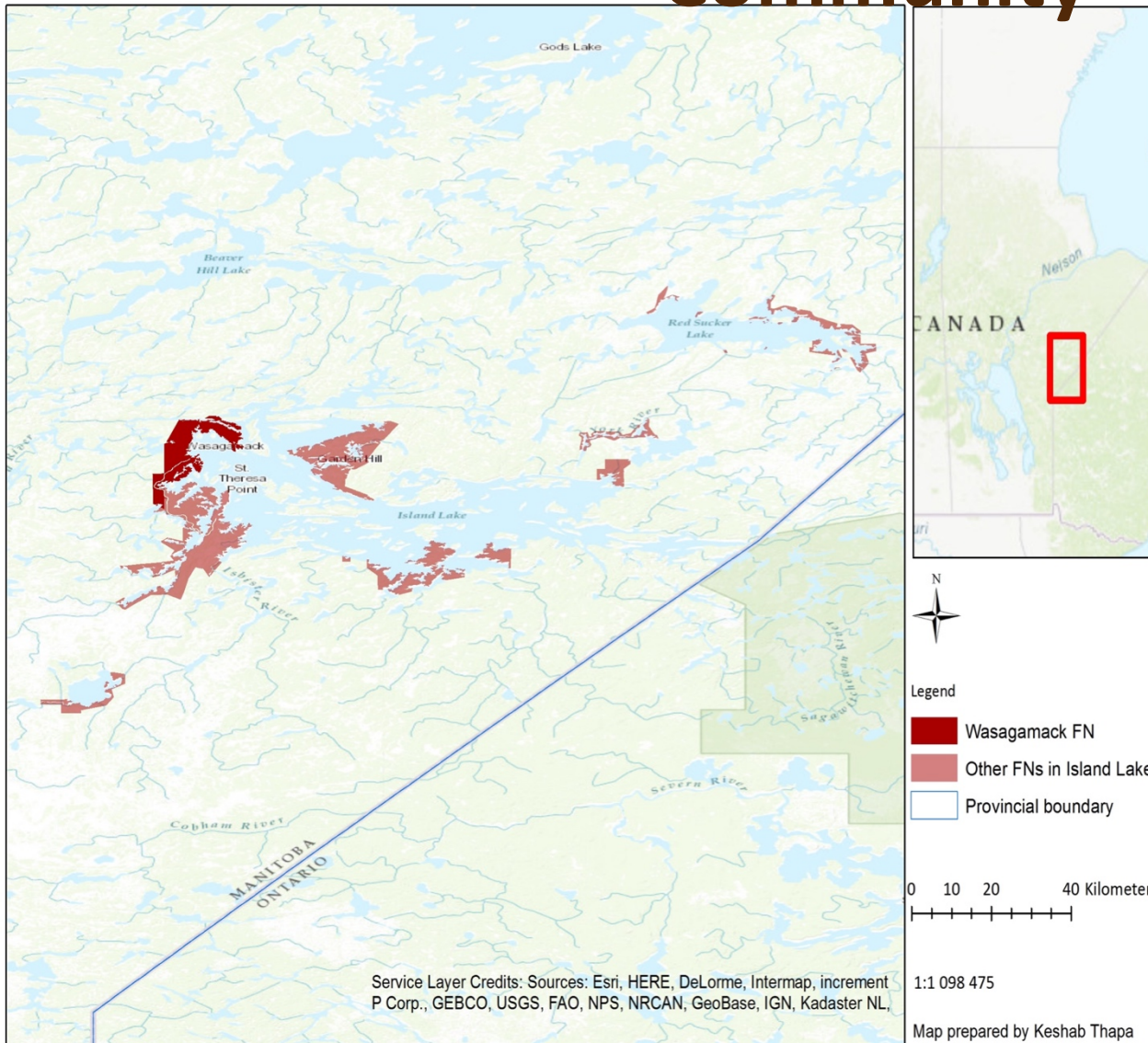
Total population: 1405

Total houses: 285

Reserve area: 80.91 sq km

Household size: 4.9

Mother tongue: Oji-Cree
(Statistics Canada, 2016)



Water and Sewer Project to Retrofit 800 houses began in 2011 In Island Lake



- Island Lake Tribal Council and Apprenticeship Manitoba started planning water and sewer project in 2011 with Wasagamack.
- Employ local people to do the work & develop local skilled tradespeople (electricians, plumbers and carpenters).
- 5 year retrofit program, starting in 2012 for Island Lake with 1:3 ratio of designated trainer to trainee for retrofitting houses for sewer, water and heating.

Water and Sewer Project Mixed Results

Apprenticeship: Failed.

No theoretical training, which is required for level 1 apprenticeship with 20% training to 80% on the job training at each level. 5 year program at Wasagamack had only 1 of its 20 trainees qualifying for level 1 apprenticeship.



- In Island lake 45 people entered the carpentry program.
- 1-2 persons from St. Theresa First Nation gained journeyman status but none from Garden Hill or Wasagamack.
- Some Level 1 apprentices were trained and a few Level 2 and 3 apprentices were trained.

Local labour retrofitted cisterns for water and sewer in housing:

- 769 housing units were retrofitted with water and sewer.
- Planned retrofits were completed in 4 years instead of the planned 5 years
- The 4 communities participated all 4 years with all accessing federal funding (taken from future capital funds without any new money offered, which left them in a deficit position in future)
- 3 of the communities accessed provincial funding for wage top up for apprentices although all 4 communities were approved for provincial funding – but some delayed for years due to 3rd party status.



Waste and Sewage Cisterns are a big service and financial burden

Currently Wasagamack has only:

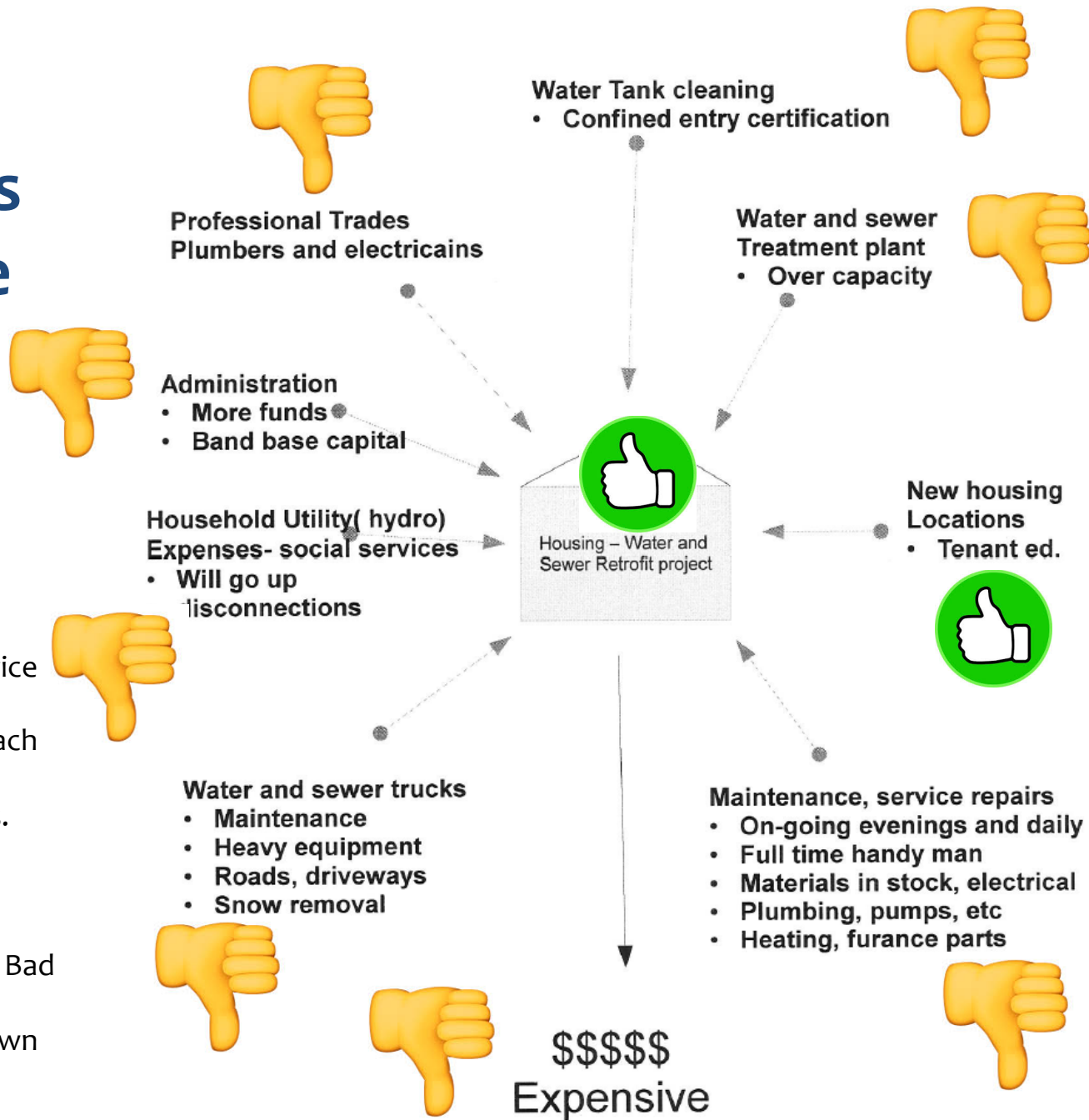
- 2 sewer trucks and
- 2 water trucks in operation.

Shortages: Each truck can only service 10 houses per day (100 per week) taking roughly an hour to service each house.

- Need >2x trucks to stop shortages.

NOTE: Trucks are having problems accessing holding tanks as without proper driveways trucks get stuck. Bad driving conditions cause excessive wear on service trucks and slow down delivery service.

Source: Larry Harper



Self-built houses and trailers not provided Cisterns and so still use buckets

Water and sewer Retrofit

Tanks on-site and remaining to be installed

Water tanks 21 (24 in-stock last fall 2015) 2 broken and unusable
sewer tanks 21 (28 in-stock last fall 2015) 4 broken and unusable

One set to Education Authority 1 sewer tank and 1 water tank

Trailors and houses(shacks and self-built)that **were deleted from the project** , no hydro and no CSA sticker, according to housing stock count done by Bob Kimball

Trailors

1. Joe S. Harper
2. John James Harper
3. David McDougall
4. Terry Knott (Lizzy Wood)
5. Jerry Knott
6. John A. Mason
7. Larry Harper
8. Etta Harper
9. Richard Andrews
10. Ian Knott
11. Epstien Knott
12. Able Knott
13. Gerald Harper
14. Soloman Harper
15. Clifford Mason
16. Trevor Harper

Self-built

17. Colleen Harper
18. Toby Wood
19. Collin Wood
20. Earl Harper
21. Unknown (Robin Harper)
22. Ryan Wood
23. Joseph Harper (Brian P. Harper)
24. Log Cabin (Epstien Knott)
25. Log Cabin (Tommy Harper)
26. Roland McDougall
27. Fabian Wood



Retrofitting houses with sewer, water and heat that were often falling apart

| Criteria | Wasagamack First Nation | Manitoba | REF |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Total number of occupied private dwellings by condition of dwelling | 280 | 465,805 | Statistics Canada (2016) |
| Only regular maintenance or minor repairs needed | 45 (16%) | 416,110 (89%) | |
| Major repairs needed | 235 (84%) | 49,695 (11%) | |
| One person or fewer per room | 155 (55%) | 452,570 (97%) | |
| More than one person per room | 130 (46%) | 13,235 (2.8%) | |

Housing and infrastructure including water/ sewage are the major issue in Wasagamack and all Island Lake communities





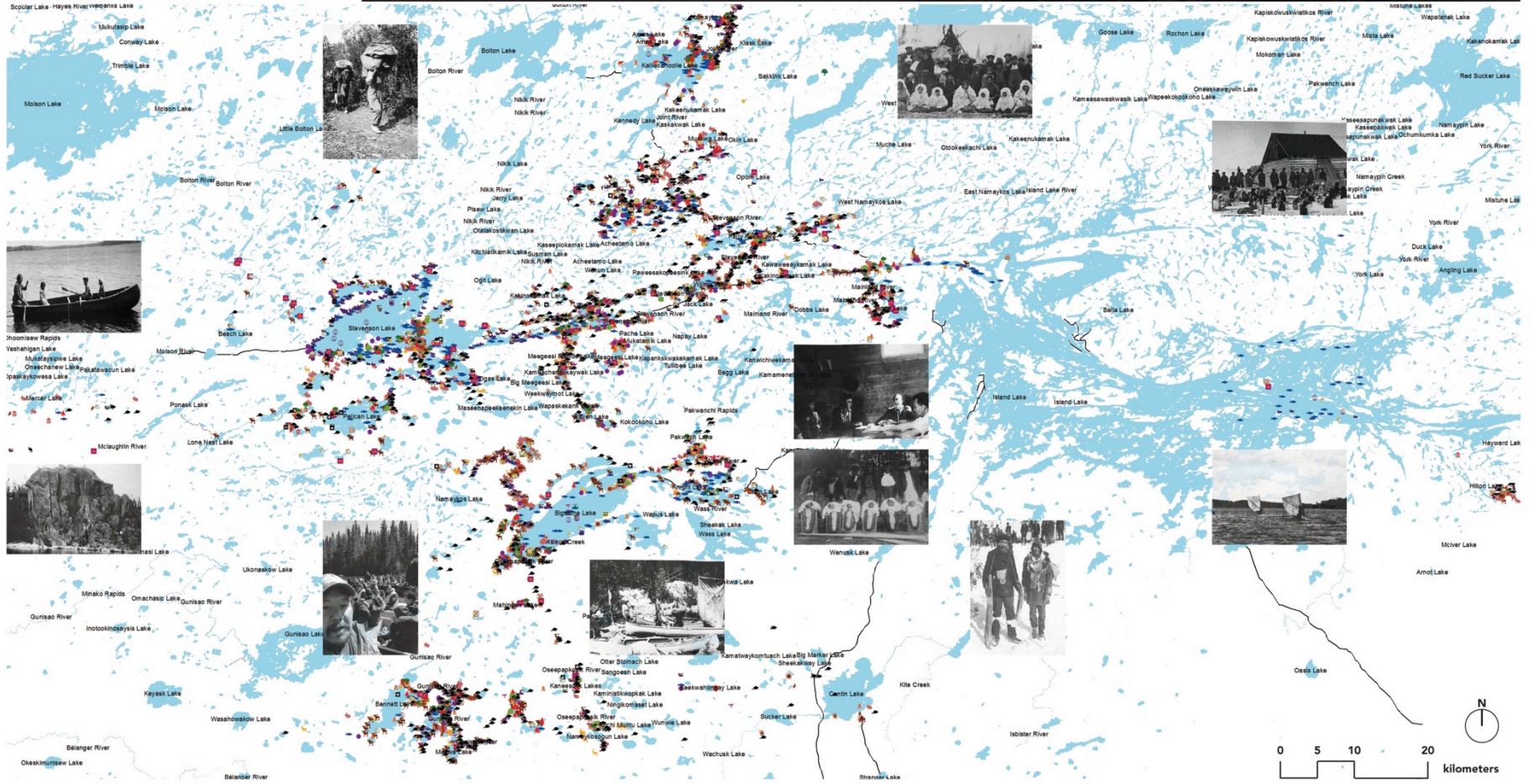
On trapline



WASAGAMACK

FIRST NATION

A KIW MASINAIHAN KE TWE PIMACHIHWIN E KWAMINA ANISININI OTAKI KISTIGANWACHEENG



WASAGAMACK ASININI OTAKI

KICHIKANSAN E KWAMINA NOPIMINK

- Mi ni san
- Ka ma ni apatisich mitik ke kon kiwi si chi katek
- A kink kawintinkatek kenon ke ki apachichikak
- Missi kapotawatek
- Ka mi chi nan wak
- Anisiniw maskiki
- A sakamik
- Kotak
- Ka ma ni apatisich mitik ke kon kawischi chi katek

KASIMANIKAPESINAWAK

- Miti kok ka wa ka a knotwa wakaihkan
- Mi nawach ka ki tipi kak
- Na pa ki sak wa ka ihkan
- Pa kwa ne ka mik
- Pa kwa ne ka mik iskotekanapik ka ki kiayak
- Piko kwam

ANISINIW PIMACHI OH WIN TANAPON

- Ka ki si ni taw kichi awiya
- Ni kwa kwan kasinaih ninch awiya
- Ka si ma wa chitinanwak kichi kekon onchi
- Ka ki si na ka ta kich
- Ka si ma wa chitinan wak
- Kete anisiniwak ka ki ihsitasi ne wakh
- Ko tak a wi yak opimachiohn
- Ayamiyawin kasimanito chi katek ekitenchikatek
- Kete anisiniwak ati sokewin

PINESISSAK

- Si sip pak
- Pinesis wawan
- Nik kak
- Pi ne
- Kotak ahwe pinesis
- Wa pi se
- Wa pi si

PISISKWAK

- Ma kwa
- A tik
- Moons
- Wachask
- Wapos
- Kotak pisisk

KI NO SE

- Ki no se
- WANIHKKE**
- Wa ni ke win
- Miikana (Road)
- Miikana (Trail)
- Nipi
- Amik

Commemoration of Historic Journey from Norway House to Island Lake





Housing for community healing and economic renewal

This research partnership is inspired by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) :

“Injection of capital and the integration of housing objectives with other social and economic activities in Aboriginal communities will create a synergistic effect, making housing a source of community healing and economic renewal.” (RCAP, 1996, Vol. 3, p. 341).



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Island Lake history: returning to Mino bimaadiziwin

TIMELINE - ISLAND LAKE COMMUNITIES

PRE 1818

Mino Bimaadiziwin translated to 'the good life', where people led nomadic lives and lived in clans. People in the area speak a dialect of Ojibwa mixed with Cree words, known as Oji-Cree or Anishiniimowin due to an influx of Ojibwa from the Indian Wars. Old Post was the summer meeting area for all clans.

1818

The Old Post Settlement was the main settlement for people of Island Lake and where the Hudson Bay Company once was, then abandoned.

1891

Island Lake Chief John Wood asks for treaty chest from the Canadian government.

AUGUST 1909

Island Lake signs onto Treaty 5.

1920

Roman Catholics set up a mission at Maria Portage, now known as St. Theresa Point.

1940

Registered Traplines administered under the province's Wildlife Act.

1818

A quarter of the Island Lake people were Cree from the Stevenson Lake-Gods Lake area to the west and north. The remainder were Ojibwa, originally from Deer Lake-Favourable Lake and Sandy Lake-Big Trout Lake areas of northwestern Ontario.

1903

United Church of Canada missionary resides at Island Lake.

1913

Surveyors arrive in Island Lake but Old Post was never made a reserve because of government mineral interests. People in the communities built their log homes along the water's edge to access unpolluted drinking water. Each clan was responsible for litter and latrine pits covered with logs.

1950s

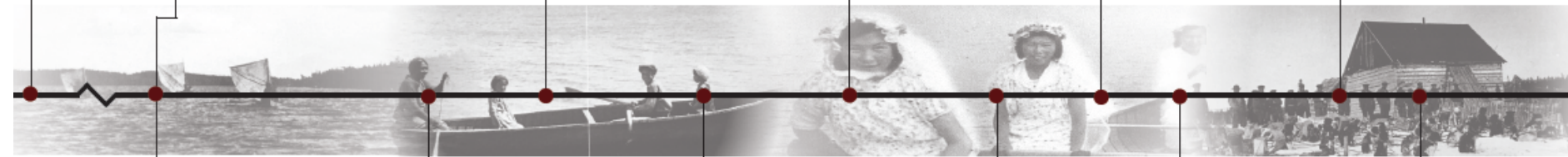
No or limited cash economy, but limited trading of flour, salt, ammunition, etc.

1864

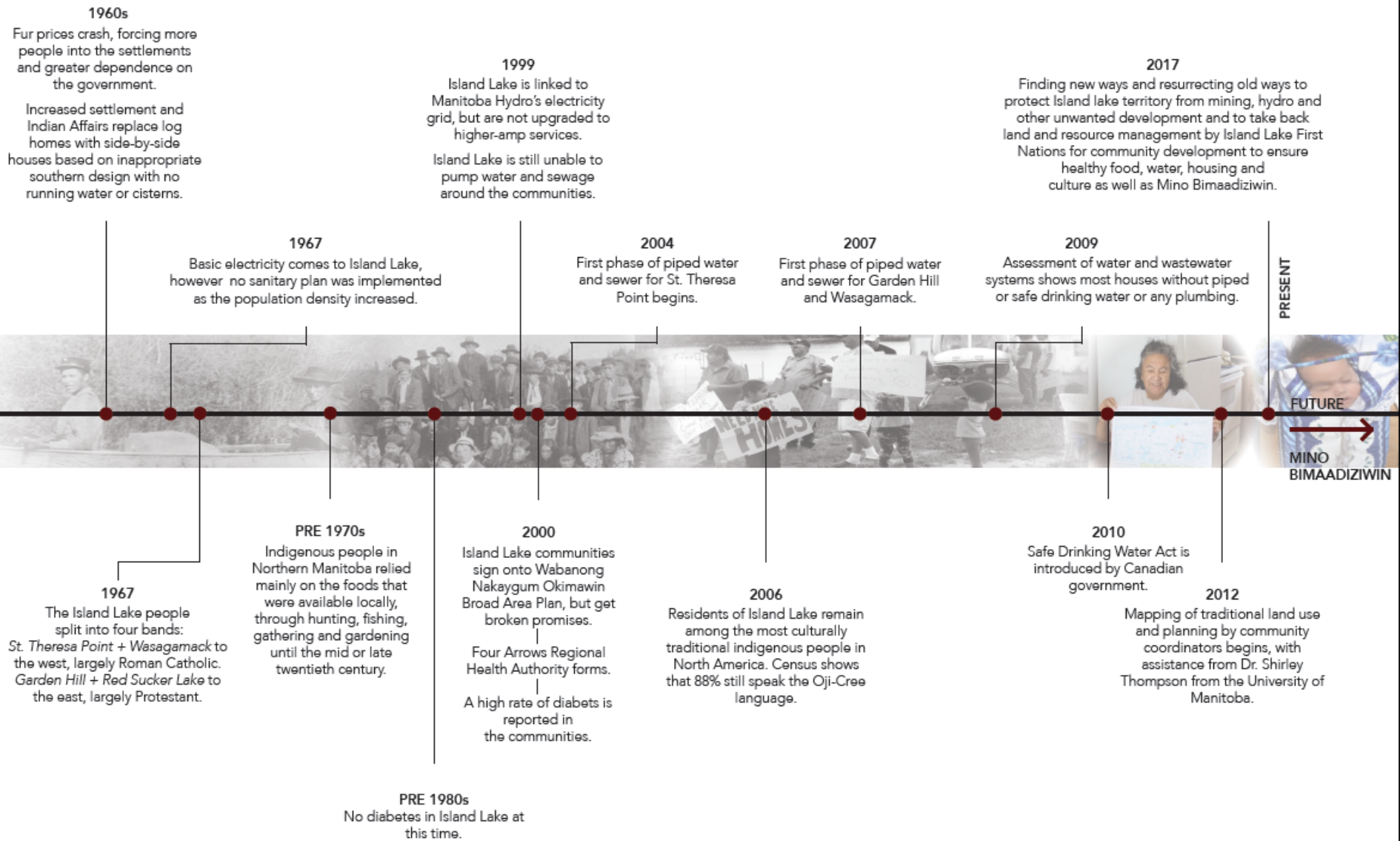
The Hudson Bay Company builds a permanent structure at Old Post. The area is among the most isolated First Nations in Manitoba.

1925

Island Lake was exempt from all the epidemics of infectious diseases overtaking other First Nation Communities during that time.



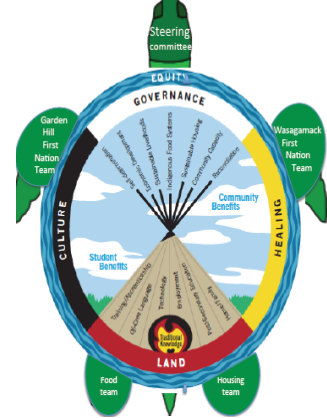
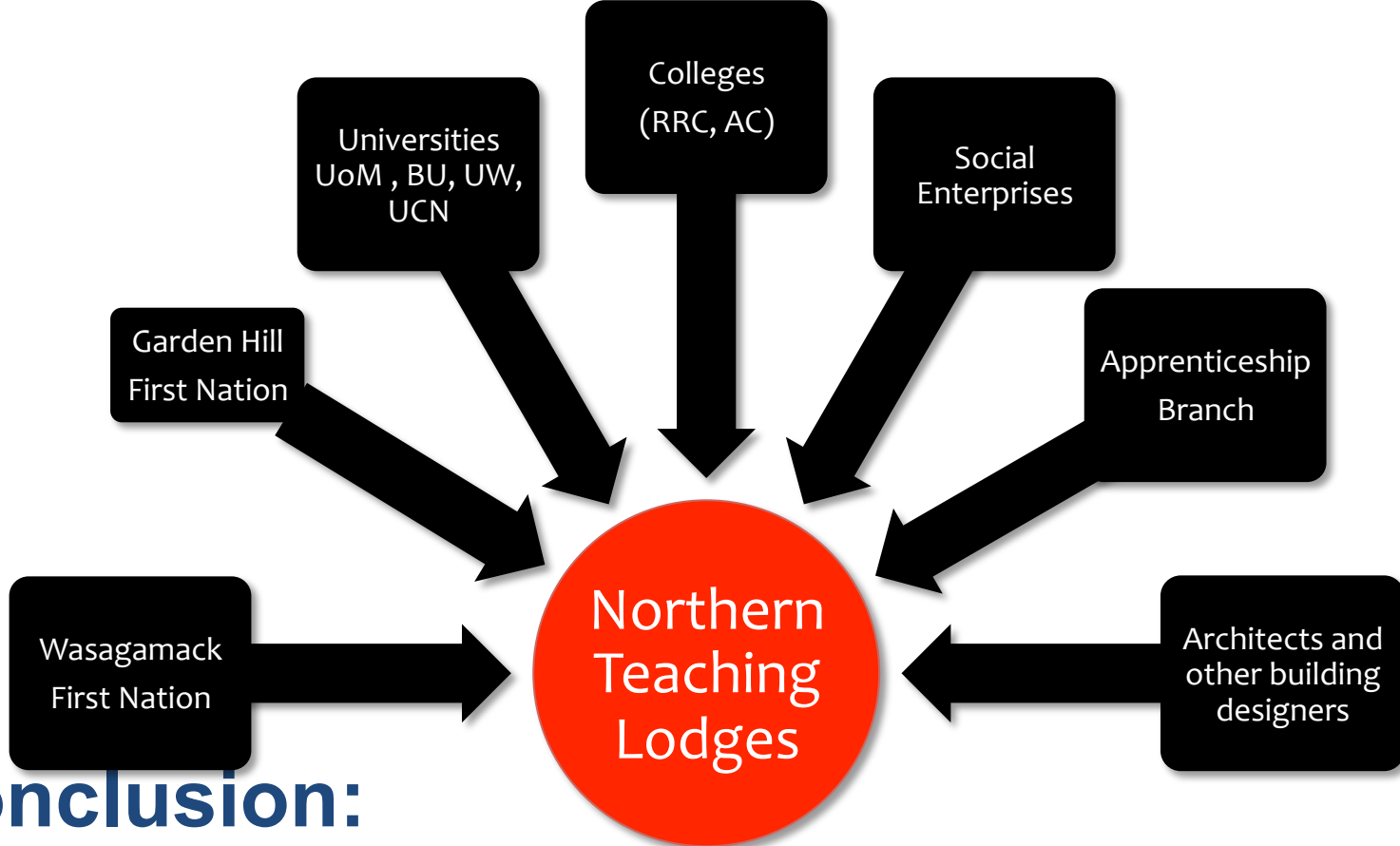
Island Lake history: returning to Mino bimaadiziwin



Sustainable benefits to FNs from development

Community-scale pilot response to the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Calls for Action to:

“Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have **equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities** in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects” (TRC, Section 92, ii).



| Application for a Grant | | Project Name |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| Project Description | | |
| Project Objectives | | |
| Project Budget | | |
| Project Timeline | | |
| Project Impact | | |
| Project Evaluation | | |
| Project Reporting | | |
| Project Contact Information | | |
| Project Approval | | |
| Project Status | | |
| Project Notes | | |

Conclusion:
 How can we partner and work together to build housing with sewer/water provisions for community healing and economic renewal? How can local people benefit through community development, training and education programs?