Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

Team Leader: Nancy Graham deMello,
Team Members: Barbra Johnson, PhD, Valerie Marshal Bowers, Nora Macdonald-Plourde,
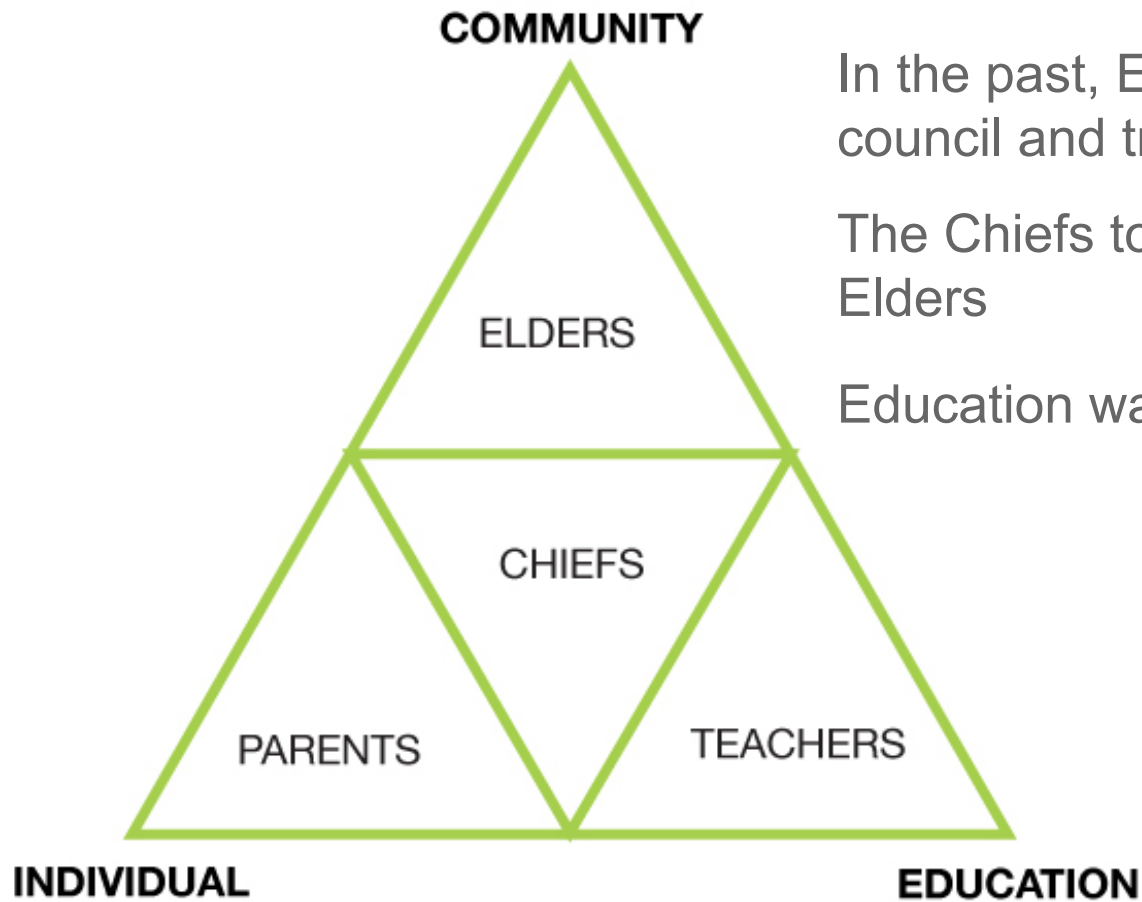**National Charrette Resource Team:** Karen Bailey-Romanko, Louis Haeck
Facilitator: Gerry Valentino,
Visualizer: Amanda Lo

1st Community Access Challenge | October 22, 2009 | Cape Breton, NS

THE ISSUES

COMMUNITY

ELDERS

CHIEFS

PARENTS

TEACHERS

INDIVIDUAL

EDUCATION

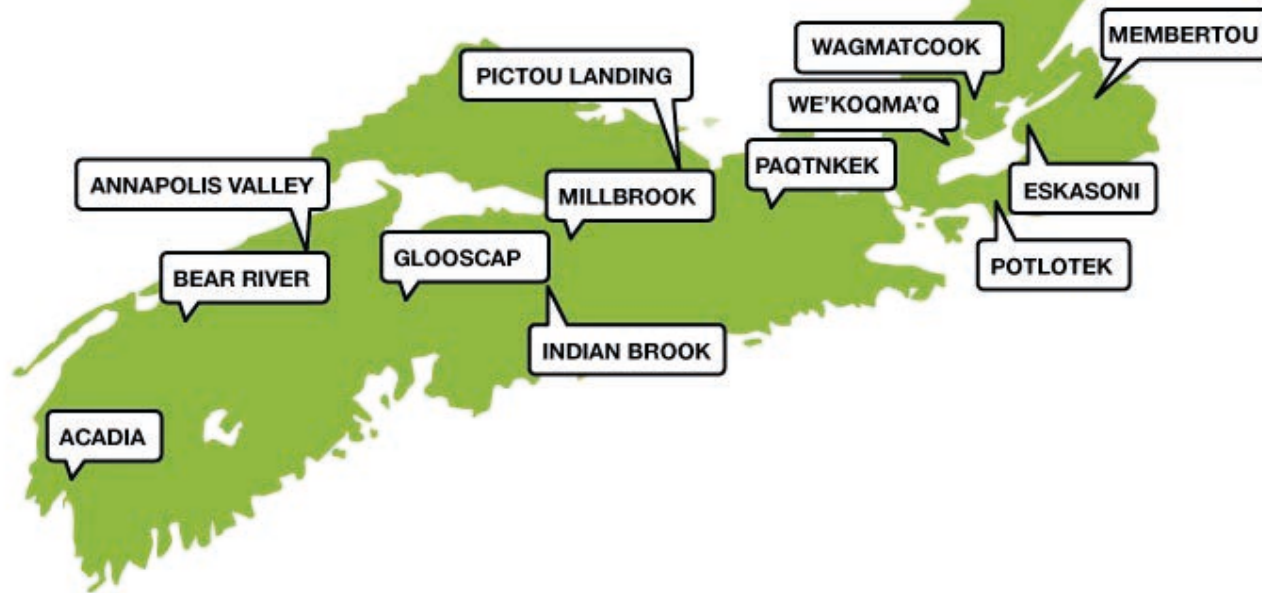In the past, Elders lead through wise council and tradition

The Chiefs took council from the Elders

Education was integral to survival

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The challenges and barriers to education on the reserves of Cape Breton seem insurmountable. A sense of disenfranchisement runs thick through the veins of the inhabitants. Lack of employment opportunity and fear of exclusion cancel out messages of building a better life for oneself through skills development and education.

Reserves In Nova Scotia

WAGMATCOOK
MEMBERTOU
PICTOU LANDING
WE'KOQMA'Q
PAQTNKEK
ANNAPOLIS VALLEY
MILLBROOK
ESKASONI
GLOOSCAP
BEAR RIVER
POTLOTEK
INDIAN BROOK
ACADIA

Building a Legacy

through
Wisdom Exchange

Develop an interactive vehicle to provide and promote generational learning.

Use web and print to disseminate answers.

- Children who lose their language and their culture lose a sense of themselves
- Children want to know their language, who they are, and where they come from
- Create an interactive experience that shares tradition through technology
- Connect students to their past while having them look to their future

The site will evolve into a portal for Elders and Mentors (Community Leaders or Peers) to share wisdom, hope and motivation.

ACTION PLAN

TRADITIONAL
knowledge
values
beliefs
customs
grounding

CONTEMPORARY
internet technology
tech savy
global knowledge
global issues
disconnected from tradtions
misinterpret global

WHAT:
Develop an interactive website for youths and elders

WHERE:
Potlotek

WHEN:
2009 (pre-planning), 2010 Implementation

WHY:
Sharing wisdom, bridging gaps,
Showing options outside the reserve

TIMELINE: PLANNING

**NOW – AUG 2010
PLANNING**

**YEAR ONE
SEPT 2010 – AUG 2011
IMPLEMENTATION**

**YEAR TWO
SEPT 2011 – AUG 2012
EXPANSION**

STEP ONE: Get Elders together to have a meeting
STEP TWO: Find the schools and teachers
STEP THREE: Find Tech Savvy builders and mentors
STEP FOUR: Access needs to hardware and software
STEP FIVE: Raise Funds, apply for grants, goal: $8000 for lift off/Year 1
STEP SIX: Acquire appropriate technologies
STEP SEVEN: Develop content for website with Elders and teachers to develop
             curriculum and content.

TIMELINE: IMPLEMENTATION

NOW – AUG 2010
PLANNING

YEAR ONE
SEPT 2010 – AUG 2011
IMPLEMENTATION

YEAR TWO
SEPT 2011 – AUG 2012
EXPANSION

Scope: Pilot Project
Where: Potlotek
Who: Grades 4 – 6

STEP ONE: Introduce students to the web builders; get students excited about the project
STEP TWO: Introduce students to the Elders; establish protocols for Elder visits
STEP THREE: Set up students in the WEST database to begin tracking success
STEP FOUR: Establish student roles in the web development process; artists, videographers, writers; chroniclers
STEP FIVE: Begin to create the website
STEP SIX: Chronicle the progress to promote the site; Blog, Tweet and Facebook
STEP SEVEN: Build the site Phase 1 over the course of the school year
STEP EIGHT: Celebrate 'SUCCESS' with a traditional feast
STEP NINE: Post Mortem on Phase 1 activities
STEP TEN: Begin to raise funds for an expanded project in Year 2
STEP ELEVEN: Evaluate curriculum and content to evolve Project Phase 2

TIMELINE: EXANSION

NOW – AUG 2010
PLANNING

YEAR ONE
SEPT 2010 – AUG 2011
IMPLEMENTATION

YEAR TWO
SEPT 2011 – AUG 2012
EXPANSION

Scope: Expanded Pilot;
Where: Potlotek and Provincial Middle Schools
Who: Grades 4 – 12

STEP ONE: Set up introductions and tasks as per year one, taking into account any adjustments as determined through the post mortem

STEP TWO: Establish appropriate Year 1 participants as mentors or guides in the project

STEP THREE: Set up any new students in the WEST system

STEP FOUR: Record/track data for Year 1 participants

STEP FIVE: Build and promote the site

STEP SIX: Celebrate 'SUCCESS'

STEP SEVEN: Continue Fundraising efforts for Year 3

FUNDRAISING

"Skills Based" Auction

An auction of goods and services, e.g Elders make quilts, kids learn traditional skills

Calender

A calendar of 13 Elders with their message, as well as youths, and graduates for the next year

Literacy Proposal

Could present the program for fundings from government

Sponsers

With support from local businesses and manufacturers of purple towels.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- The Community can begin to heal itself.
- The Elders can re-assume their responsibility as advisors.
- Youth have a way of reconnecting
- Community has a way of learning
- Mi'kmaq Nation Leaders will be more aware of and more connected to community need, contributing to intergenerational cultural transformation
- Mi'kmaq Culture will reawaken.

Wela'lioq