

Tell me more... about the 10 year Plan

Over the past two months, over 250 NPA community members have attended community engagement sessions, stepping up to help build our region's Ten Year Plan.

The concept of the plan is this: it is created by community members and implemented by community members.

It is not created for the community by an outside entity. Rather, Mayor Bernard Charlie has contacted independent consultant Annalise Jennings, to work with our communities to create a plan that will suit them, to achieve the region's common goals, to make a plan that reflects what *the community want*.

Mayor Charlie says his biggest hope for this plan is to see unity and cohesion across the communities of the NPA.

This plan will align resources and services already working within the region, to improve what is working well and build up what is needed.

It will not replace previously made plans created in response to statutory requirements, but will unite them, with community interest and community drive at the heart.

During the community engagement process, members of the community from all walks of life came together and set down goals for the region's future. They began with a discussion about their own values, the driving force behind their own day to day decisions.

What was discovered is that regardless of heritage, upbringing, wealth or education, each group were representing the same core values.

In a recent session, group members found through their discussions that sometimes beliefs and agendas can keep us apart, labeling us as one thing or another, but if we set these aside for a moment and look at the very core values that we identify with, we will find these are what unites us.

From there, the groups worked together to discuss what they loved about their community and lifestyle, what they want to see supported in their community and others.

Cultural practices such as hunting, tombstone openings and dancing were identified as assets to our region that should be nurtured. They also identified services and infrastructure that was working well and should be replicated or expanded.

Next they discussed what is important to their community and to themselves, that needs to be supported or reinvigorated. These are the areas that we want to see improve over the duration of the plan.

So in a few short hours, each group had discovered what they were willing to support, to work for to see grow and develop in the region.

Through incorporating local businesses and organisations, service providers, Government and NGO's and community members from each of our five communities, the data collected through the community consultation process will clearly reflect a balanced view of what is important to our region as a whole.

From there it can be ensured that each voice is represented within the plan, and ensure equity throughout the region, so each community will benefit and prosper.

In the following steps, this data will be collated to reveal the essential common goals and values that were brought up in each session, and these will create the core focus of our regional 10 year plan.



These common goals and values will be discussed between community leaders, elders and selected youths to discuss means of achieving these, in a three day intensive workshop.

Invitations have been sent to community leaders; including representatives of core organizations (health/ education/ Police), community elders and cultural leaders, elected representatives and youth leaders.

The workshop will be attended by around 35 representatives, who will be presented with the data collected from the community engagement, and will work together to build a plan that will achieve these goals.

The process utilized to create this plan will focus on the region's strengths and build a future that is tailored to promoting and supporting these. through doing so, the weaknesses in our community will begin to fade naturally.

If we put all our efforts into working together to achieve these goals, focusing on the values that drive us and that created this plan, there will be no more time or effort to be put into the things that we dislike, they too will fall away naturally.

Any plan will only succeed with full support, interest and passion, so it is upon our core values, interests and passions that *this* plan is to be built.

So far, the plan's creation has already been supported by a range of representatives from emergency service providers, local service providers including Police, health and family services, as well as Church groups, mens and womens groups, education, Government, local businesses and employment agencies and community members from a range of local work places, and from varying age groups from youths to elders.

With many of the same values and goals expressed in each session, it is clear we are all already working for the same things– to see our future generations benefit from education, training, job opportunities, housing, strong culture, health, aged care and sustainable environmental management...

A frequently asked question is *who will implement this plan once it's made?*
The answer is us.
You, me, everyone.

All of us; each community member, each business, organization, school and church group, down to each street and each home. This is a plan for our communities, to be upheld by our communities. There will be no-one coming in to 'enforce' this plan, it will e put into action in our day to day activities and actions.

The plan will allow our resources and funding to be utilized and focused on what we have deemed is important to our communities and our region. The NPA 10 year plan will work as a reminder of what we really want, to keep us focused so that these goals can be achieved and our future generations can have the best possible opportunities.

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**one mob
one group
in unity for our future**



Esso to Sandra Sebasio for creole translation.