STRATEGIC PLAN

2018 – 2024
Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc was incorporated in April 2016 with a mandate to build and take up business opportunities related to the forest sector. Two years later, after undergoing transition planning from the activities of the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs’ Forum to a functioning regional business development corporation, it is time to share with our member communities, shareholders, and partners where we see ourselves, our opportunities and our path forward.

We grew out of the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs’ Forum to be an action-oriented implementation body for economic development. We emerged from a time of truth and reconciliation; a time when there is a need for adaptation to mitigate the ‘busts’ of a boom and bust economy; a time when people need to get back to the land; and a time when – more than ever – role models and inspiration are needed for youth.

*Wahkohtowin* stands for kinship and connectedness, and recognizes the complexity and interconnectedness of people, resources, and land.
Miyopimatisowin (Cree)

Mino-Bimadzawiin (Ojibway)

Living the Good Life

People are living in a good way; in harmony with each other, the land, and its resources.

The people in the Northeast Superior Region, surrounded by a bounty of natural resources, are benefiting from and sustain those resources, and are involved in decision making about them.

**OUR VISION**

Advance an inclusive, regional, and collaborative approach to economic development that enhances social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being for the long term health and prosperity of the Northeast Superior Region.

Drive First Nations business to build the conservation economy – economic activity should not only generate wealth but, as importantly, it should also generate environmental and social/cultural benefits. This includes:

- Providing meaningful work and good livelihoods
- Supporting vibrant communities, cultures, and the recognition of Indigenous rights and title
- Protecting or restoring the environment; and
- Not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

**OUR MISSION**
We are non-political
We are driven by community needs
We respect that rights are held at the community and Nation level
We respect natural law
We have a responsibility to be stewards
We believe and undertake to ensure that culture should be supported and enhanced through our activities
Our actions and decisions are transparent
We act complementary to, and in collaboration with – not in competition to – existing and community economic development corporations
1. Develop Wahkohtowin’s financial sustainability, free of dependence on outside sources of capital and credit, and build value for our Shareholder Communities.

2. Demonstrate professionalism and respect in the delivery of the professional services we offer.

3. Build and retain regional strategic capacity: invest in and support local and regional capacity; strengthen existing institutions and businesses; build partnerships; and become a Forestry Centre of Excellence.

4. Enable more women and youth to be part of the economy.

5. Support cultural and spiritual renewal, particularly reconnecting youth to the land, through our Guardian Program.

6. Conserve and enhance resources for current and future generations: enable more decision making and benefits from natural resources; and assist regional communities to be full participants in resource management.

7. Build a resilient and diversified regional economy: increase the value of local resources as well as the benefits derived from resource development while increasing the level of environmental scrutiny.
OUR STRATEGIES
1. Forest sector participation
   a. Work towards realization of and participation in the eSFL
   b. Provide policy guidance and direction
   c. Realize benefits and opportunities from investment in Hornepayne mill and co-gen facilities

2. Regional energy and biomass
   a. 100km heat diet, including exploring and developing regional pellet supply
   b. Sustainable biomass harvesting
   c. Realize role as regional aggregator

3. Promote a softer ecological footprint
   a. Promote moose recovery
   b. Ecological preservation of the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve

4. Promote collaboration
   a. With First Nations, municipalities, industry, governments, and others in region – Collective Impact and Transformation to conservation economy
   b. Regional community engagement and economic development models

5. Diversify and increase the value of forest lands and resources
   a. Non timber forest products, including birch syrup
   b. Carbon
   c. Value added facilities
   d. Tree to Home

6. Attract, retain, and engage youth, women, and Elders
   a. Guardian program
   b. Workforce development

7. Increase capacity of member communities
   a. In forestry sector and land use planning and development
   b. Forestry Centre of Excellence

8. Resource revenue sharing
How we’re measuring success

We want to increase the benefits from resources to the region, and recognize there are many forms benefits can take. It is also important to look at trends in indicators over time, and progress towards identified goals and strategies.

**Quantitative (measurement) indicators**

- Jobs per cubic meter: expect this number to increase if we are cutting less trees but getting more value from the resource
- % of local ownership: expect this to increase as opportunities are incubated and grown in the region
- Jobs available in the region
- Dividends

**Qualitative (descriptive) indicators**

- Culturally appropriate livelihoods: not simply that a job exists, but the type of job matters. Does it allow you to provide for your family, and is compatible with your culture?
- Natural law is a part of decision making, and is respected: the region benefits because natural law is strengthened
- Local involvement in decision making: more than seats at a table, local interests are represented in forestry decision making, and the resulting decisions reflect their values

What is important to us in how we operate

We are an implementation body, providing support to the region.

We offer a number of assets to advance our vision: physical assets; human capacity; agreements; and relationships.

We want to be complementary to, not in competition with, existing entities and economic development corporations that are also serving the region.

Current Shareholders

Chapleau Cree First Nation and Missanabie Cree First Nation.

*We want to be inclusive to other First Nations in the region and are exploring models for on-ramping new shareholders and affiliates.*
CHI-MEEGWETCH

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