

GOVERNANCE & COMMUNITY

SURVEY RESULTS:

ESKASONI FIRST NATION

March 31st, 2008

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback about topics specific to the Eskasoni First Nation. There are 289 respondents to the survey which establishes a 95% confidence level and +/- 5.5% accuracy.

The questions that produced a greater than 50% positive response level were in the following categories:

- C-9 Do you agree that Mi'kmaq values and principles should play a part in our administration system?
- C-10 Do you support a government that would implement policies that reflect our cultural traditions?
- C-11 Should there be a minimum criteria to be nominated for Chief and Council positions?
- C-15 Would you support the concept of a custom election?
- C-22 Is learning Mi'kmaw important to you?

The questions that produced a higher than 50% negative response level were in the following categories:

- C1 - Are you satisfied with the way Eskasoni is currently governed?
- C3 - Do Chief and Council keep band members updated?
- C-14 Would you support the concept of a staggered election?
- Of significance is that the youth category between the ages 18 and 35 were supportive of a staggered election.
- C-16 Are you aware of the current “grievance and appeals” process provided by the Eskasoni Band Administration?

General feedback areas produced the following feedback:

- C-4 60% of the community would prefer communication using a community channel
- C-11 Education, Live in the Community and Knowledge of culture and history are the most favoured criteria for Chief and Council nominations.
- C-12 68% of the Community prefers a long term vision.
- C-13 57% of the Community prefers a two year election term length.
- C-17 66% of the Community would like to see Elders sit on the appeal board
- C-18 The areas of band administration that need the greatest improvement are housing, social assistance and employment.
- C-20 51% of the Community would prefer to use a vote to decide on who is a registered Band Member.

- C-21 The preferred avenues to spend band generated revenues are on jobs and housing.

The top five strengths of Eskasoni are:

- Language
- Culture
- Large population
- Unity
- People

The feedback about what you would like Eskasoni to look like in the future

- Eliminate Drugs
- More job opportunities
- More housing
- More business opportunities
- More sustainable, self-sufficient, and financially stable

1.0 PROJECT FOCUS

1.1 Project Filters

The scope of the project will include the following filters with regards to collection of data to get an accurate representation of the community's perspective:

Gender : Male 48.5% Female 51.5%
Age: 18-35 48% 36-55 38% 55+ 14%

1.2 Sampling Size Methodology

The sample size is based on determining a 90% confidence level with a +/- 5.5% accuracy on the responses to the questions.

Key Variables:

On Reserve members included in survey

18+ voters eligible for survey

Total population eligible is $3852/2 = 1926$

The required surveys for +/- 5.5% accuracy with a 90% confidence level is 201

The actual survey collection size was 289 which exceeds the target and produces a 95% confidence level with a +/- 5.5% accuracy.

2.0 DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY QUESTIONS

There are four demographic questions in this survey to help establish a profile of the community by specific demographics to assist in the survey implementation. Two of the questions have been used as filters to assess if the survey responses are representative of the Eskasoni First Nation members.

D.1 Are you male or female?

Count: Percentage:
Males – 129 Males – 45.7%
Females – 151 Females – 53.5%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 53.5% are female and 45.7% are male. This does not meet our target for males which was 48.5% but it does meet our target for females which was 51.5%. (9 participants chose not to answer this question).

D.2 What is your age?

Count: Percentage:
18 -35 – 134 18 -35 – 47.5%
36 - 55 – 113 36 - 55 – 40.1%
55+ – 32 55+ – 11.3%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 47.5% are categorized as 35 and under, 40.1% range between 36 and 55 and 11.3% are 55+. This meets our target for ages 18-35 which was 48% and it meets the target for ages 36-55 which was 38%, however, it did not meet the target for ages 55+ which was 14%. (10 participants chose not to answer this question).

D.3 Which most accurately describes your current situation?

Count: Percentage:
Student-43 Student- 15.2%
Employed-93 Employed- 33%
Unemployed-120 Unemployed- 42.6%
On Employment Insurance -17 On employment Insurance- 6%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 42.6% are unemployed, 33% are employed, 15.2% are students and 6% are on employment insurance. (16 participants chose not to answer this question).

D.4 What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Count: Percentage:

Elementary-7 Elementary-2.5%

Junior High-58 Junior High-20.6%

High School-149 High School-52.8%

Undergrad Degree-58 Undergrad Degree-20.6%

Graduate Degree-6 Graduate Degree-2.1%

Docterate-0 Docterate-0%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 52.8% listed high school as their highest level of education completed. 20.6% said junior high and undergrad degree, 2.5% stated elementary, and 2.1% said graduate degree. 0% stated doctorate. (11 participants chose not to answer this question).

3.0 ESKASONI FIRST NATION SURVEY QUESTIONS

C.1 Are you satisfied with the way Eskasoni is currently governed?

Count: Percentage:

No – 163 No – 56.2%

I don't know – 89 I don't know – 30.7%

Yes – 30 Yes – 10.3%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 56.2% are not satisfied with the way Eskasoni is currently governed. 30.7% were not sure or do not know. 10.3% were satisfied. (7 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.2 Are general band meetings run well?

Count: Percentage:

No-147 No-50.7%

Not Sure-119 Not Sure-40.1%

Yes-12 Yes-4.1%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 50.7% do not feel general band meeting are run well. 40.1% were not sure, and 4.1% feel general band meeting are run well. (11 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.3 Do Chief and Council keep band members updated?

Count: Percentage:

No-202 No-69.7%

Not Sure-58 Not Sure-20%

Yes-20 Yes-6.9%

Summary: Of the 289 responses, 69.7% do not feel Chief and Council keep band members updated. 6.9% felt that Chief and Council do keep band members informed. (9 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.4 How would you prefer communication be distributed to the community?

Count: Percentage:

Community Channel-175 Community Channel-60.3%

Community website-67 Community Website-23.1%

Community Newsletter-133 Community Newsletter-45.9%

Community Radio-45 Community Radio-15.5%

Other-33 Other-11.4%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey:

60.3% prefer communication be distributed using a community channel

45.9% stated they prefer communication to be distributed through a community newsletter

23.1% said they prefer communication to be distributed through a website

15.5% said they prefer communication to be distributed through the radio

11.4% stated other. Among this, the top answers were band meetings, live video meetings, in person, and a public announcement.

C.5 Do you understand the decision making process that Chief and Council use under the current Indian act?

Count: Percentage:

No – 115 No – 39.7%

Not Sure – 91 Not Sure – 31.4%

Yes – 73 Yes – 25.2%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 39.7% feel they do not understand the decision making process. 31.4% are not sure if they understand and 25.2% feel they do understand. (10 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.6 Do you think that the Chief and Council should have the authority to make and enforce laws and policies in our community?

Count: Percentage:

No – 102 No – 35.2%

Not Sure – 59 Not Sure – 20.3%

Yes – 118 Yes – 40.7%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 40.7% do think that Chief and Council have the authority to make and enforce laws and policies in the community whereas 35.2% feel they do not have the authority. (10 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.7 Do you agree that this “Nation Building Approach” works in the best interest for our community?

Count: Percentage:

No – 56 No – 19.3%

Not Sure – 110 Not Sure – 37.9%

Yes – 114 Yes – 39.3%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 39.3% do agree that the “Nation Building Approach” works in the best interest for the community. An interesting point to note was that 37.9% were not sure. 19.3% did not agree that the approach works in the best interest of the community. (9 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.8 Are you satisfied with the current election process under the Indian Act?

Count: Percentage:

No – 88 No – 30.3%

I don’t know – 57 I don’t know – 19.7%

Yes – 135 Yes – 46.6%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 46.6% are satisfied with the current election process under the Indian Act. 30.3% are not satisfied with the current election process under the Indian Act. (9 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.9 Do you agree that Mi’kmaq values and principles should play a part in our administration system?

Count: Percentage:

No – 13 No – 4.5%

Not Sure – 40 Not Sure – 13.8%

Yes – 227 Yes – 78.3%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 78.3% agree that Mi’kmaq values and principles should play a part in the administration system. 4.5% did not agree. (9 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.10 Do you support a government that would implement policies that reflect our cultural traditions and values?

Count: Percentage:

No – 22 No – 7.6%

Don’t know – 48 Don’t know – 16.6%

Yes – 210 Yes – 72.4%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 72.4% do support a government that would implement policies that reflect our cultural traditions and values. 7.6% stated that they would not support this type of government. (9 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.11 Should there be a minimum criteria to be nominated for Chief and Council positions?

Count: Percentage:
No – 39 No – 13.4%
Don't know – 33 Don't know – 11.4%
Yes – 208 Yes – 71.7%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 71.7% feel there should be minimum criteria for Chief and Council positions. 13.4% feel there should not be minimum criteria. (9 participants chose not to answer this question).

Count Percentage
Education-160 education -55.2%
Live in the community-157 Live in the community-54.1%
Knowledge of culture and history-150 Knowledge of culture and history-51.7%
Respect band laws and policies and rules-148 Respect band laws and policies and rules 51%
Speak the language-144 Speak the language-49.7%
Criminal record check-143 Criminal record check-49.3%
Other- 25 Other-8.6%
Among "others" top 3 responses where respects community, active in the community and speaks the Mi'kmaq language.

C.12 Which vision should Chief and Council use in planning a successful community?

Count: Percentage:
Short term Vision-71 Short term Vision-24.5%
Long term Vision-199 Long term Vision-68.6%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 68.6% stated that a long term vision should be used in planning a successful community. 24.5% stated that a short term vision should be used. (19 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.13 Which election term length would you like to see for our community?

Count: Percentage:
Two years – 168 Two years – 57.9%
Three years – 48 Three years – 16.6%
Four years – 55 Four years – 19%
Five years – 8 Five years – 2.8%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents:
57.8% said they would like to see a two year election time period for their community
19% said they would like to see a four year election time period for their community
16.6% said they would like to see a three year election time period for their community

2.8% said they would like to see a five year election time period for their community

C.14 Would you support the concept of a Staggered Election?

Count: Percentage:
No – 104 No – 35.6%
Don't know – 76 Don't know – 26.2%
Yes – 99 Yes – 34.1%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 35.6% would not support a staggered election. 34.1% stated they would support a staggered election. (10 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.15 Would you support the concept of a custom election?

Count: Percentage:
No – 48 No – 16.6%
Don't know – 53 Don't know – 18.3%
Yes – 178 Yes – 61.4%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 61.4% stated they would support a custom election. 16.6% would not support a custom election. (10 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.16 Are you aware of the current “grievance and appeals” process provided by the Eskasoni Band administration?

Count: Percentage:
No – 183 No – 63.1%
Don't know – 52 Don't know – 17.9%
Yes – 44 Yes – 15.2%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 63.1% are not aware of the current “grievance and appeals” process. 15.2% are aware of this process. (10 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.17 In a custom election, the band must develop its own appeal process. Who should sit on this appeal board?

Count: Percentage:
Elders – 193 Elders – 66.6%
Neutral non band members-76 Neutral non band members-26.2%

Band Manager – 66 Band Manager – 22.8%
Indian Affairs – 60 Indian Affairs – 20.7%
Students/youth-112 Students/youth-38.6%
Grand Council -108 Grand Council-37.2
Other – 23 Other – 7.9%

Summary: Of the 289 responses:

66.6% stated that elders should sit on the appeal board
38.6% stated that students or youth should sit on the appeal board
37.2% stated that Grand Council should sit on the appeal board
26.2% stated that a neutral non band member should sit on the appeal board
22.8% stated that the Band Manager should sit on the appeal board
20.7% stated that Indian Affairs should sit on the appeal board
7.9% stated that there were others who should sit on the appeal board. The top responses include anyone with interest, random person, or have the appeal board select.

C.18 Which areas of the band administration need improvement? Please circle the top three (3) that need improvement.

Count: Percentage:

Membership-24 Membership-8.3%
Elections-26 Elections-9%
Grievance/Appeals-24 Grievance/Appeals-8.3%
Land Management- 57 Land Management-19.7%
Housing-157 Housing-54.1%
Healthcare-75 Healthcare-25.9%
Economic Development-59 Economic Development-20.3%
Fisheries-58 Fisheries-20%
Gaming/Tobacco-47 Gaming/Tobacco-16.2%
Social Assistance/Welfare-135 Social Assistance/Welfare-46.6%
Education-99 Education-34.1%
Employment-134 Employment-46.2%
Other-18 Other-6.2%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents:

- 54.1% stated that housing needs improvement
- 46.6% stated that social assistance/ welfare needs improvement
- 46.2% stated that employment needs improvement
- 34.1% stated that education needs improvement
- 25.9% stated that healthcare needs improvement
- 20.3% stated that economic development needs improvement
- 20% stated that fisheries needs improvement
- 19.7% stated that land management needs improvement
- 16.2% stated that gaming/tobacco needs improvement
- 9% stated that elections need improvement
- 8.3% stated that membership needs improvement
- 8.3% stated that grievance/appeals need improvement
- 6.2% stated other. Among the top responses were: Chief

C.19 Are you satisfied with the current Band Membership Policies put in place by the Indian Act?

Count: Percentage:

No – 101 No – 34.8%

Not Sure – 95 Not Sure – 32.8%

Yes – 81 Yes – 27.9%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 34.8% are not satisfied with the current Band Membership policies placed by the Indian Act. A point to note was that 32.8% were not sure. 27.9% are satisfied with the current Band Membership policies. (12 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.20 How would you decide on who is a registered Eskasoni Band Member?

Count: Percentage:

Community Vote-149 Community Vote-51.4

Chief and Council Decision-40 Chief and Council Decision-13.8%

Community Band Membership Policy-116 Community Band Membership Policy-40%

Other- 17 Other-5.9%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents:

- 51.4% stated that they would decide by community vote
- 40% stated that they would decide by the community band membership policy
- 13.8% stated that they would decide by the Chief and Council decision
- 5.9% stated other. Among the answers, the top three responses where: someone living on the reserve right now, blood contingency, and elders.

C.21 How should the revenues generated by the community be spent?
Please circle the top two (2) that are most important to you:

Count: Percentage:

Economic development-83 Economic development-28.6%

Elders- 34 Elders-11.7%

Youth-81 Youth-27.9%

Housing-123 Housing-42.4%

Jobs-151 Jobs-52.1%

Per capita distribution-64 Per capita distribution-22.1%

Other-9 Other-3.1%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents:

52.1% stated that revenues should be spent on jobs

42.4% stated that revenues should be spent on housing

28.6% stated that revenues should be spent on economic development

27.9% stated that revenues should be spent on youth

22.1% stated that revenues should be spent on per capita distribution

11.7% stated that revenues should be spent on elders

3.1% stated other. Among the responses, the top three were: paying of debt, welfare and education.

C.22 Is learning Mi'kmaq important to you?

Count: Percentage:

No – 10 No – 3.4%

Not Sure – 14 Not Sure – 4.8%

Yes – 257 Yes – 88.6%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents, 88.6% agree that learning Mi'kmaq is important to them. 3.4% disagree that learning Mi'kmaq is important to them. (8 participants chose not to answer this question).

C.23 What are the top 5 strengths of Eskasoni?

The detailed comments can be found in Appendix B, but a synopsis of the comments is as follows:

Comments: Of the 289 respondents, 52.2% responded to the question.

The following are the top 5 responses:

- Language
- Culture
- Large population
- Unity
- People

C.24 What do you want Eskasoni to look like in the future?

The detailed comments can be found in Appendix C, but a synopsis of the comments is as follows:

Comments: Of the 289 respondents, 67.5% responded to what their 5 year vision for Eskasoni is.

The following are the top 5 responses:

- Eliminate Drugs
- More job opportunities
- More housing
- More business opportunities
- More sustainable, self-sufficient, and financially stable

C.25 Are there any comments you would like to add at this time on our Community Governance Approach

Count:	Percentage:
No-179	No-61.7%
Yes-83	Yes-28.6%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 28.8%% provided comments to Chief and Council about the governance approach which are included below. (27 participants chose not to answer this question).

The detailed comments can be found in Appendix D, but the top five comments are as follows:

- Eliminate Drugs
- Consult community before making major decisions
- Chief and Council pays reduced
- Keep current election system
- To be fair to everyone in the community

C.26 Are there any comments you would like to make at this time?

Count: Percentage:

No – 190 No – 65.5%

Yes – 73 Yes – 25.2%

Summary: Of the 289 respondents to this survey, 25.2% provided comments to Chief and Council which are included below. (26 participants chose not to answer this question).

The detailed comments can be found in Appendix A, but a synopsis of the comments is as follows:

Many respondents agreed that Chief and Council should have more communication with the Community. Comments were made that there should be more public meetings with the Community regarding the decisions that Chief and Council are making and the issues that the Community is facing. Respondents also stated that Elders should be a part of the decision making process.

The lack of activities and things for kids to do was also mentioned in the general comments section. Most believe that the Community should have more activities and programs for both Youth and Elders.

Comments were also made regarding the drug and alcohol abuse problems in the community. Many feel that something needs to be done to eliminate this problem. Many also feel that there should be self help centers for people who are addicted

Participants want to see opportunities in regards to housing and jobs. Community members would like to see more housing on-reserve either in the form of houses or apartments. They would also like to see more jobs available to them.