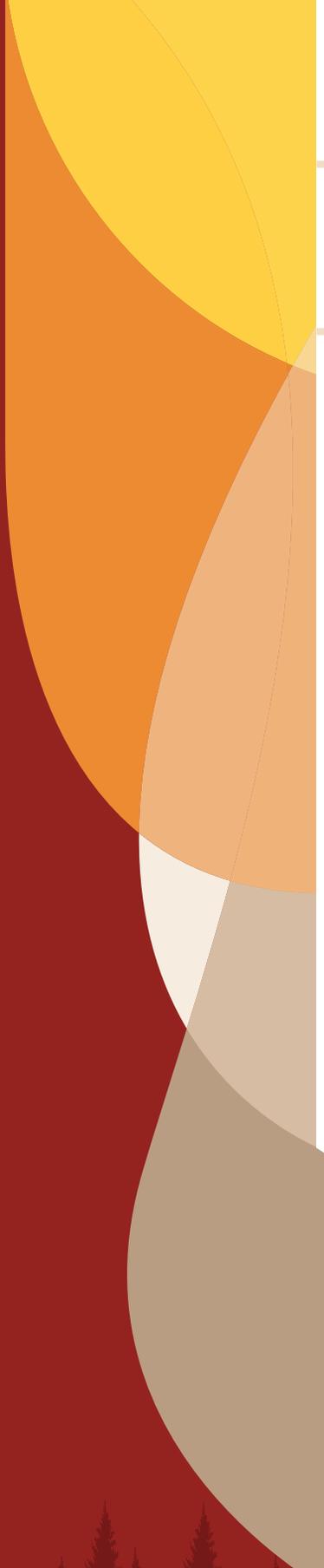




ATLANTIC REGION ABORIGINAL LANDS ASSOCIATION



Annual Report
2023 + 2024



+ VISION

Stewardship of our traditional territories that honours our traditional values, Nation-to-Nation relationships and the vision of Indigenous peoples.

+ MISSION

Professional and sustainable land management using a balance of cultural and technical knowledge on behalf of First Nations in the Atlantic region and future generations.

ARALA is comprised of Land Managers from Indigenous Communities across Atlantic Canada.



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GROWTH COLLABORATION PROGRESS

+ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and the Executive Director of ARALA, I am pleased to present our 2023-2024 Annual Report. This year has been one of growth, collaboration, and progress for the Atlantic Region Aboriginal Lands Association.

I extend a warm welcome to our new members: Fort Folly First Nation, Esgenoôpetitj First Nation, and Pabineau. Your trust in ARALA demonstrates the growing recognition of our

“mission to support professional and sustainable land management using a balance of cultural and technical knowledge.”

As we look to the year ahead, ARALA remains steadfast in our commitment to providing professional development opportunities, technical support, and networking opportunities that address land management issues across our communities. Together, we are building a legacy of stewardship that respects our traditional values and strengthens Nation-to-Nation relationships.

Wela'lin,

Audrey Ward BOARD PRESIDENT



Audrey Ward

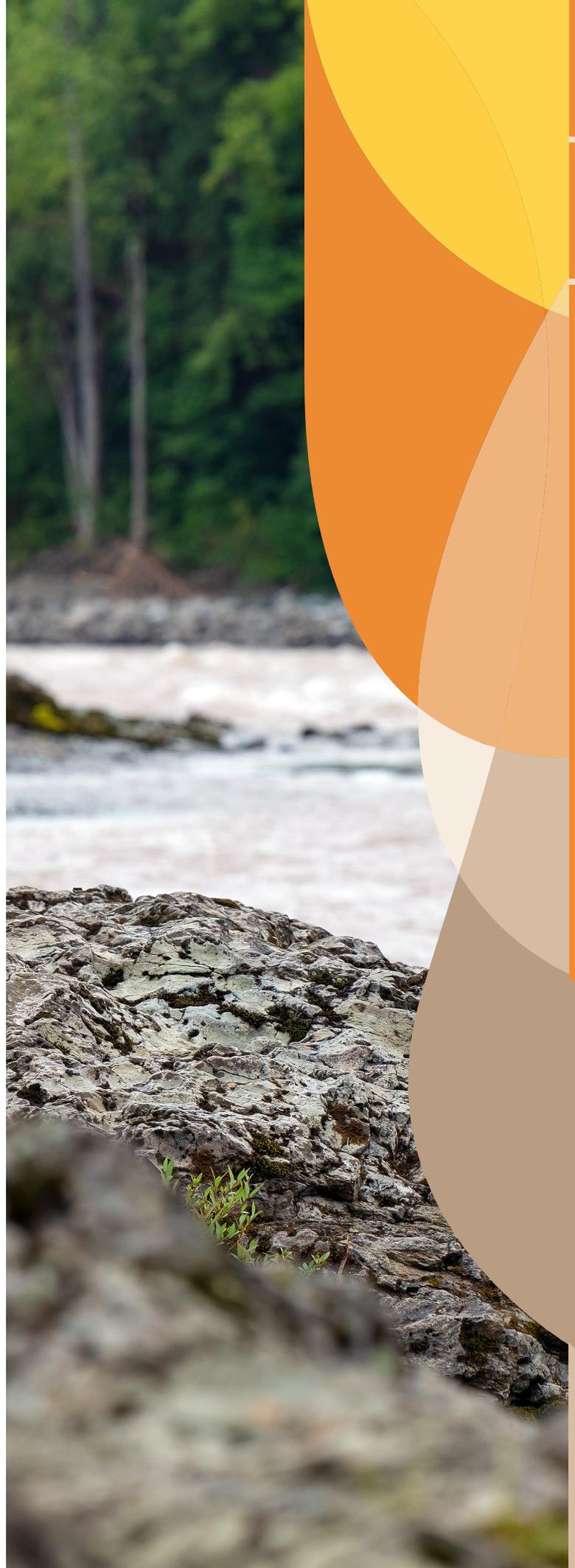
Woliwon Wela'lin

+ ABOUT ARALA

The Atlantic Region Aboriginal Lands Association (ARALA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting land managers across the Atlantic region. Headquartered in Elsipogtog First Nation, ARALA functions as a technical advisory board, offering professional development, training, and guidance on land management practices to First Nations communities.

+ ARALA GOVERNANCE

Audrey Ward	PRESIDENT
Rachel Stevenson	SECRETARY
Mary Sieben	TREASURER
Melissa MacDonald	VICE-PRESIDENT
Robert Paul	DIRECTOR
Cyrus Lambert	DIRECTOR
Norah Ward-Osmond	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



+ MILESTONES AND HIGHLIGHTS



Executive Board Meetings

ARALA held regular Executive Board meetings throughout the year to guide the organization's activities and strategic planning.

SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2023

Board met and focused on understanding financial statements and Board Governance.

NOVEMBER 1-2, 2023

Board met and focused on planning future training, discussion of membership Governance policy, and discussion of the NALMA meeting in Winnipeg.

JANUARY 18TH

Virtual Board meeting discussed activities for the new year.

DECEMBER 12-13, 2023

The Board focused on the rebranding of ARALA communication materials including stationery, envelopes, PowerPoint slides, telescopic banner, and kit folders. Which included logo edits to provide optimal dimensions. Mistral provided a discovery session which explores brand's essence, values, audience, and market positioning.

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Board met and focused on Board Governance review and update. Cybersecurity and NALMA board update.



Additions to Reserves Training March 2024

Members' Meetings



JULY 2023

Annual General Meeting

MARCH 26-27, 2024

Membership Meeting.

These meetings provided invaluable opportunities for members to exchange insights, voice concerns, and collaboratively explore and implement solutions to address a wide range of land-related issues, fostering a stronger sense of community and shared responsibility among participants.

Quarterly Reporting



ARALA submitted detailed operational and administrative updates to the National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association (NALMA) in quarterly reports.

Submission Dates: JULY 2023, OCTOBER 2023, JANUARY 2024, APRIL 2024 (FINAL REPORT)



Members Meeting March 2024

+ TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

By-Law Development Training

Date	JANUARY 15-16, 2024
Location	FOUR POINTS, MONCTON, NB
Facilitator	CYNTHIA WESTAWAY
Participants	17 ATTENDEES FROM 9 FIRST NATIONS

This two-day training focused on **empowering First Nations with the knowledge and tools to develop by-laws under the Indian Act**. Practical examples, engaging discussions, and participant feedback highlighted the session's success.

“Very good.
A lot of
empowering
information.
Great insight.”

| PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK |

Additions to Reserve Training

Date	FEBRUARY 13-15, 2024
Location	HOTEL HALIFAX, HALIFAX, NS
Facilitator	DARRELL LOYER
Participants	17 ATTENDEES (8 FIRST NATIONS, 5 ISC EMPLOYEES, 2 ARALA STAFF)

This three-day training addressed the **complexities of the Additions to Reserve process**, emphasizing strategic planning and collaboration.

Very helpful.
I learned a lot
of new things.
A highly
informative
session.”

| PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK |

Upcoming Training

-  Estate Management Toolkit JANUARY 2025
-  Commercial Leases on Reserves FEBRUARY 2025
-  Indian Land Registry System: A Guide for First Nations MARCH 2025

+ ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Changes to the Executive Board

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Paula Pictou, our former Board President, for her dedicated years of service and unwavering commitment to the organization. Under her leadership, we achieved significant milestones and strengthened our community's foundation. As we bid her a warm farewell, we also express our sincere appreciation for her invaluable contributions.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Audrey Ward as our new Board President.

“Audrey brings fresh perspectives and a wealth of experience, and we look forward to her guidance as we embark on this next chapter.”

Together, we celebrate this transition and remain committed to achieving our shared vision.

New Members!

We are excited to welcome new members representing:



**Fort Folly
First Nation**



**Esgenoôpetitj
First Nation**



Pabineau

+ CURRENT PROJECTS

Hosting the 2025 NALMA Gathering

ARALA is preparing to host this prestigious event in Halifax, showcasing Atlantic hospitality and expertise in land management.

Three-Year Plan Initiatives:

- Wills and Estates Planning Guide
- Cumulative Effects Conference

Communications Plan

Efforts are ongoing to improve member communications, ensuring timely and effective updates through enhanced tools and strategies.

LOOKING AHEAD 2024-2025

ARALA's focus remains on creating opportunities for networking, knowledge-sharing, and professional development in land management. We aim to strengthen our members' capacity through targeted training sessions, partnerships, and resources.

NALMA'S SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Please visit NALMA's website (www.nalma.ca/events) to confirm training dates and to register.



Acknowledgments

ARALA extends heartfelt

thanks

to its members, facilitators, and partners for their continued support and dedication to land management excellence. Together, we are shaping a future that honors our past while building sustainable systems for generations to come.



THE ATLANTIC REGION ABORIGINAL LANDS ASSOCIATION

Head Office
Elsipogtog First Nation, NB E4W 2S1

+ arala.ca



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