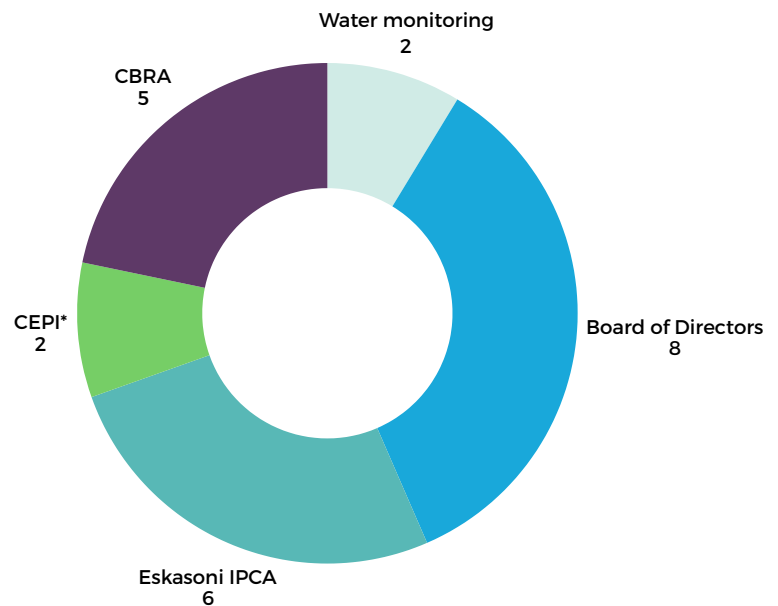


Theme 1: Governance and Management

A team member has attended all Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) committee meetings with research knowledge shared. The Eskasoni Watershed Protection Committee brings together technical experts and project partners to discuss the results of this project and to build upon the bigger scope of biodiversity conservation through watershed protection.



Board meetings were organized and attended to keep the BOD informed of the project as work progressed. Presentations and updates have ensured that there has been an increased awareness about the project among the Biosphere Board, partners and stakeholders.



Number of meetings attended

Theme 2:

Research (hydrological monitoring)

Results from Reid Dauphinee's MSc showed that the wetlands and the area surrounding the wells are of highest conservation priority for groundwater recharge and streamflow generation.

The groundwater flow model from Reid Dauphinee's thesis was completed and showed that streamflow infiltration contributes 60% of pumping well water, while the local recharge into the fractured rock around the wells accounted for the remaining 40%. The wetland model being developed by Julia Gillette includes snow depth projections and groundwater recharge but needs further calibration, with forest and well models still to be developed.

The team has submitted a paper for publication (Hydrological Processes) based off of Reid's work and is currently under external review.

EFWC land and fishery guardians, Species at Risk and IPCA staff participated in knowledge transfer and learning opportunities during field work excursions with traditional knowledge and western science working side by side.



Theme 3:

Documentation and prioritization



The Project Manager gathered information from First Nations organizations and other sources to better identify priority areas. Key indicators identified by First Nations include cultural significance, threats due to climate change, habitat degradation and invasive species.

Mi'kmaw youth have been involved in data collection and monitoring as well to ensure that a Two-eyed Seeing Approach is applied to the fieldwork for this project.



Virtual communications through social media and newsletters were used to communicate with a wide audience. The BLBRA partnered with ACAP-CB to highlight species within the Biosphere. Expanded use of teaching kits and continued organization of events like Bras d'Or Watch and Explore the Bras d'Or also helped to raise awareness about biodiversity within the Biosphere. A summer intern was able to gain knowledge about the Biosphere and Canada's efforts to conserve and protect biodiversity for years to come.

Theme 4: Knowledge Transfer

The theme of the CBRA National Gathering (September 16 – 19, 2024) was Biodiversity Blueprint: Achieving Biodiversity Targets through Biosphere Regions. The National Gathering took place in the Waterton Biosphere Region (Alberta) located in the territory of the Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy), including the Kainai and Piikani Nations, and within Treaty 7 Territory.



We learned about ecosystems and biodiversity in the region as well as learned about projects taking place in the area. Each biosphere was given a chance to provide an update along with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and CCUNESCO. Sessions on biodiversity, Indigenous engagement and Indigenous-led conservation also took place. BLBRA Board member, Stan Johnson, gave a talk about conservation and Indigenous Language. Stan has also recently agreed to be the CBRA Atlantic Region representative on the CBRA Board of Directors.