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Obituary

Award winning journalist Jody Porter passes



The late Jody Porter, a former Wawatay News editor and CBC Thunder Bay senior reporter, was recognized with the Anishinabek Nation's Debwewin Citation in 2013.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Former Wawatay News editor and CBC Thunder Bay senior reporter Jody Porter was remembered for her award-winning journalism on Indigenous and social justice issues after she passed on July 19. Porter's awards included the Radio Television Digital News Association's 2011 Adrienne Clarkson Award for diversity and the Anishinabek Nation's 2013 Debweewin Citation, which was

launched in 2002 to honour excellence in storytelling about Indigenous issues.

"When we started the Debwewin Citations just about 20 years ago now, it was exactly with people in mind like Jody Porter, people who whether they were Indigenous or not had dedicated their important writing work or journalism or storytelling about Indigenous peoples and issues," says Maurice Switzer, former communications director at Anishinabek Nation and Mississaugas of

Alderville citizen. “Jody certainly was an ally of Indigenous people — she cared very deeply about the Indigenous people she met.”

Switzer says Porter was "way ahead of her time" in the reporting she did on Indigenous issues such as the Seven Youth Inquest, which looked into the deaths of seven Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) high school students who died while pursuing their secondary school education goals in Thunder Bay.

"We're going to miss her,

she's a real role model for people to follow," Switzer says. "And she was a community leader in every sense of the word. Our main thoughts right now are with her family — we know they are going to miss her but they can be really proud of the contributions she made in her relatively few years on this planet."

Grand Chief Derek Fox, on behalf of the NAN Executive Council, says Porter was "relentless in her pursuit of truth and accountability."

"She produced award-winning journalism that revealed injustices faced by First Nations and gave a voice to people who did not have one," Fox says. "Her exemplary reporting was highlighted during the 2015 inquest into the death of seven NAN youth, which was followed Canada-wide. She presented complex and painful issues with truth, accuracy and compassion."

Fox says Porter's "unflinching work" presented the tragic circumstances around the

deaths of the seven NAN youth, Jethro Anderson in 2000, Curran Strang in 2005, Paul Panacheese in 2006, Robyn Harper in 2007, Reggie Bushie in 2007, Kyle Morrisseau in 2009 and Jordan Wabasse in 2011, and illuminated the challenges faced by First Nations youth while pursuing their education.

“During the Seven Youth Inquest her reporting reframed the issues, highlighting deficiencies in police investigations, the resistance of the coroner’s office to investigate and the broader issue of racism in Thunder Bay,” Fox says. “This was not always popular, but Jody had the courage to question the roles and responsibilities of the institutions that played critical roles in the lives of these young people.”

Porter was also recognized with Massey College's Clarkson Laureateship in Public Service in 2015 for her work in connecting Indigenous and northern communities through her reporting, including the radio/social media project Common Ground Café.

"Jody's integrity and professionalism were matched only by her caring and compassion," Fox says. "We give thanks for her life, and our prayers are with her family, friends and colleagues."

Porter was also the only person to be recognized with both the Anishinabek Nation's honourable Debwewin Citation mention, which she received in 2005, and the Debwewin Citation.

A Centennial College journalism graduate, Porter first worked as a journalist in the Northwest Territories before moving to Sioux Lookout in 1998 to continue her journalism career with Wawatay News. She later moved to Thunder Bay in 2000 to work with CBC Thunder Bay.

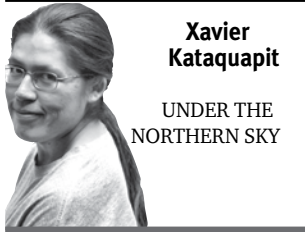
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Commentary

Making A Difference For Our Youth



Xavier
Kataquapit

UNDER THE
NORTHERN SKY

After dealing with the Covid19 pandemic for a few years now, the worry of world war on my mind and obvious dangers now threatening due to climate change, I still have hope that things will work out in the long run. I am feeling like that this week because I had the privilege to connect with a group of happy, curious and wonderful young people during the Wabun Youth Gathering in Mattagami First Nation. I was welcomed to the 15th annual gathering by Indigenous youth, leaders, Elders and

chaperones who made me feel like part of a huge family. The weather was mostly sunny and warm and there was a positive feeling as I met with everyone. It was good to see these young people learning their traditional and cultural teachings. It was also great to see them in a beautiful space on the land and the sand shore of Lake Mattagami. The youth had the chance to swim, play games, canoe and learn about the plants and creatures on the land. I have been attending this gathering for many years and I have to come to know a lot of people and also witnessed hundreds of young people grow up over time. Wabun Tribal Council was one of the very first organizations to recognize a need to create a youth gathering so many years ago. As always good things happen when someone steps up to

make them a reality. In this case we must be grateful to Jean Lemieux, Health Director for Wabun for the past couple of decades as she is the one who led the de-velopment of this gathering from the very start. She was inspired to develop this event from the wisdom and encouragement of the late Elder Thomas Saunders of Bruns- wick House First Nation. Elder Saunders wanted to see these gatherings take place to connect youth, adults and Elders together to keep the Wabun communities strong and close to their culture and shared history. I was fortunate to see Jean at this year's event and we all learned that she was retiring after having been with the tribal council for 31 years. We all owe so much thanks to Jean for dedicating so much of her life to provide services

and care to the people of the Wabun Tribal Council. Jean was always ready to push the limits to create much needed services and programming dedicated to educating, healing and lifting up our people. I thank her husband Jack and their family for allowing all of us the opportunity to work with Jean. She and the Wabun health care staff have made life better for Wabun citizens and other Indigenous people right across the country. Jean comes from a family of people who work on many levels to make life better for everyone. She has had the good fortune of being mentored over the years by her mother Elder Vina Hendrix who is one of the best loved and well known Elders in the north. It is a great advantage in life to have someone like Vina as a mother and teacher and I know she has always been proud of the great

accomplishments Jean has made to Indigenous people's lives over the years. I am happy to know that our Elders are always present at any events, gatherings or meetings we take part in. The fact that our Elders are always with us shows that we value their life experience, knowledge and wisdom. It is in particular evident when there are youth gatherings and meetings where I am always amazed at the connection the youth feel with our Elders. Vina has always had a very kind and open way to welcome youth to her side and in conversation. She makes a point to pass on positive and encouraging words and sentiment and that makes a huge impact on our youth just starting off in life and dealing with so many challenges and so much stress and confusion. Vina, Jean, all the leaders,

Elders, organizers and supporters of the Wabun Youth Gathering need to be thanked for their work devoted to spreading the spirit of hope to so many young Indigenous people. The new coordinator of this year's event Josee Forget, Wabun Regional Crisis Coordinator did a great job in keeping the gathering alive. Thanks also to Faye Naveau for being there for everyone for so many years. Of course most of all, we should be grateful to the Wabun youth who come to this event every year to learn about their Indigenous culture and traditions. Chi-Meegwetch to all of you and we are all looking forward to next year's Wabun Youth Gathering. In the midst of world wide threats and confusion we will meet to teach, learn and care for each other. www.underthenorthernsky.com

The NWMO publishes Reconciliation Report

Wawatay News

Through continued learning about the importance of Reconciliation and meaningful dialogue with Indigenous peoples, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has reached an important milestone in our ongoing Reconciliation journey. They have just published their first Reconciliation Report (2021), which provides an evaluation of the NWMO's Reconciliation Policy's impacts since its formalization in 2019.

Activities tracked have included mandatory staff Reconciliation training or continuous learning opportunities, informal training opportunities, staff support systems, and community-driven work plans. Publishing this report fulfils the NWMO's commitment to establish a Reconciliation implementation strategy that is measured annually and reported publicly to contribute to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) calls to action. The Reconciliation Report is an important development in

the NWMO's Reconciliation journey that began in 2018, building upon a strong foundation of meaningful dialogue with Indigenous peoples since their inception in 2002. It also provides a resource for other Canadian companies to consider how they will publicly set out to contribute to Reconciliation in their work. "Status quo hasn't served Indigenous peoples and won't serve them well in the future. If we're acting in a manner that is consistent with the status quo, we will not be successful as an

organization. That's our challenge, to change the way we're doing business to ensure we are reflecting our commitment to Reconciliation," said Bob Watts, Vice-President of Indigenous Relations and Strategic Programs at the NWMO. **The NWMO's Reconciliation Report highlights:** Overall, the report found the NWMO's Reconciliation Policy prompted employees to seek ways to integrate Indigenous perspectives and learnings into their work. Employees particu-

larly expressed an appreciation for the organization's continuous Reconciliation learning stream. To date, over 80 per cent of NWMO staff have completed the first two Reconciliation training modules, which include space for learning circles and Indigenous-led dialogue. Additional highlights from the Annual Reconciliation Report for 2021 include: • 13 assessments of NWMO governing documents to ensure Indigenous voice and world-view are reflected; • Four projects related to Rec-

onciliation and relationship building completed by First Nation and Métis communities in the siting region, in partnership with local municipal communities; • 10 per cent of NWMO staff identified as Indigenous; • 11 per cent of new hires identified as Indigenous; and • \$5.2 million in Indigenous community-guided investments (\$15.9 million to date).

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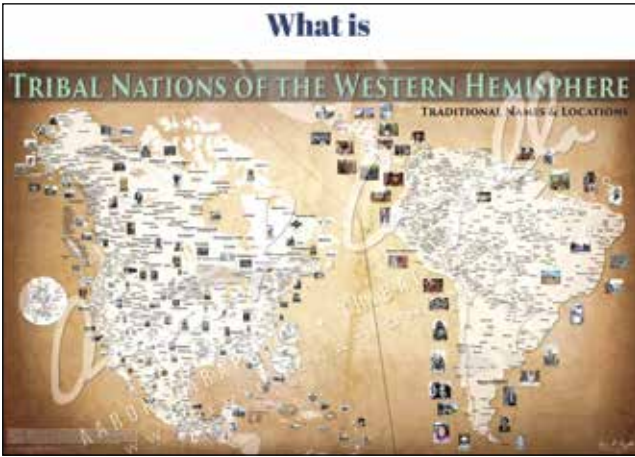
Education

Teach for Canada's Summer Enrichment Program a success

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Teach for Canada wrapped up its 2022 Summer Enrichment Program with a presentation on How Indigenous Education Will Save the World by Niigaan Sinclair, associate professor at the University of Manitoba. Teach for Canada held the program from July 11-22 through a virtual format to prepare certified teachers for upcoming teaching positions in First Nations across northern Ontario and Manitoba.

"To be an Indigenous professional today, you aren't just a person doing a job, but you have to be a person that can be competent on world issues, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and you have to be competent on grassroots issues like poverty, child welfare, over incarceration of young people," Sinclair says. "We need to prepare Indigenous people just like my graduating class to be more than just employees. If we are only preparing Indigenous young people to be a carpenter we are not doing our job. We have to prepare Indigenous young people for the reality that they will face off against hundreds of different things in their own jobs in this society."



University of Manitoba associate professor Niigaan Sinclair delivered a presentation on How Indigenous Education Will Save the World on the final day of Teach for Canada's 2022 Summer Enrichment Program.

Sinclair says Indigenous graduates have to know how to navigate a workplace in order to be successful in their chosen career.

"You have to know how to navigate relationships, you have to know how to be resilient," Sinclair says. "You have to be in a situation in which you are a better Indigenous person or a stronger Indigenous person coming out of educational institutions."

Sinclair says Indigenous education is not something that starts at 9 a.m. and finishes at 3:30 p.m., it is an all encompassing journey.

"And probably the most important thing of all is that it's not just about children, it's about everyone learning, it's about adults, young adults, Elders, everybody teaching, everybody learning, everybody taking their turn to be one of those roles," Sinclair says. "When you enter into communities, when you enter into these spaces, it is not just your job to tell young people information, it's also your job to tell them that they matter. And then most importantly is to live, to work, to be in that community means that you are a 24-hours educator, you are



screenshots

absolutely and fully encapsulated into part of that community."

Peter Costa, a Teach for Canada teacher from Toronto who will be teaching in Marten Falls, says the Summer Enrichment Program "definitely succeeded" in his search for knowledge about Indigenous communities.

"It was definitely what I was looking for and the people coming up to present were definitely professionals," Costa says. "I enjoyed every part of it, whether it was learning the language and learning something about the communities. I can't wait to get started."

Costa says he is excited about his upcoming teaching position in Marten Falls, noting that Roger Fobister, education director at Marten Falls, was one of the language teachers during the Summer Enrichment Program.

"Of course this is a big step, a gigantic step to be moving up north, so they've tried their best to be clear and offer support when they needed to do," Costa says.

Ruth Hamilton, a Teach for Canada teacher from Windsor who will be teaching in God's Lake Narrows in Manitoba, says the Trauma Informed Class-

rooms presentation by Emily Blackmoon and the Land Based Learning presentation by Jeordi Pierre were very informative.

"I'm very grateful I attended this training — it gives me a lot of knowledge and wisdom," Hamilton says. "The Summer Enrichment Program gave me a glimpse of the life and the way of teaching and how to live in the community. It's a full packed program that equipped me in going to the north, specifically in God's Lake Narrows and I'm very happy."

Removal of Indigenous knowledge in new curriculum raises concern

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse highlighted the provincial government's plans to not include Indigenous knowledge within the elementary school science curriculum on the third day of the Keewaywin Conference.

"We are giving them notice as well that we are designing our own education system with the help of your education partners and your directors and of course by your leadership as well," Narcisse says. "As you've said before, enough is enough. We need to design and create a system that is more conducive and reflective of the needs of our students in moving ahead."

The Matawa Chiefs Council had previously called upon the Ontario Ministry of Education to stop the planned implementation of the new Ontario elementary science curriculum for the 2022-2023 school year that removes Indigenous content.

"Attempting to minimize or erase Indigenous knowledge to Ontario's curriculum further divides and perpetuates the roots of systemic racism at the elementary school level," says David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO at Matawa First Nations Management. "The education system should be building bridges and understanding between all cultures."

The Matawa Chiefs Council is concerned that without Indigenous science content in the elementary curriculum, gaps in learning will be created for students who move between First Nation and provincial schools; that the provincial decision on the curriculum demonstrates a lack of commitment to increasing awareness of Indigenous histories and culture and closing

the achievement gap experienced by Indigenous students; and that with an expectation that provincial elementary students are required to learn about emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and coding, First Nation elementary schools, should they wish to follow the curriculum, are already disadvantaged due to the lack of connectivity in remote communities.

The Matawa Chiefs Council is also concerned that Indigenous students may become disengaged from their learning if they lack personally relevant content in their school's curriculum; there will be a lack of connection to students' environment, their communities and the land; students will not be exposed to many ongoing contributions of Indigenous people involved in the science community and the impact that Indigenous scientific knowledge and ways of knowing can have in the future; and elementary students of all backgrounds may not be exposed to Indigenous ways of learning and understanding scientific principles, purposely ignoring recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"The removal of the overarching theme that teaches students the connections between Indigenous and Western science in Ontario's science and technology curriculum against the wishes of Indigenous nations and educational bodies in Ontario, is unacceptable," says Neskantaga First Nation Chief Wayne Moonias, the Matawa Chiefs' spokesperson for education. "The government of Ontario needs to stop regressing in their relationship with



screenshot

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse recently spoke about the provincial government's plans to not include Indigenous knowledge within the elementary school science curriculum at the Keewaywin Conference in Timmins.

First Nations in Ontario. They need to acknowledge that Indigenous science, within the education system, is just as much a contribution to Ontario students and the general public, as Western science is."

The Anishinabek Nation and the Kinooaadziwin Education Body also expressed their disappointment with the Ministry of Education's decision to remove the Indigenous Science Framework from the Ontario curriculum.

"Connection with the land is central to Anishinabek knowledge systems," says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe. "Our ancestors are the original engineers of this place. Long before Canada flattened lands for railways and roadways, the Anishinabek travelled vast distances

using the original highways of this land - waterways. They did so using an environmentally-friendly method of transportation through coexistence in the ecosystem."

Matawa says they are willing to meet with the Ministry of Education and other First Nation education organizations to develop a framework that will ensure the ongoing incorporation of Indigenous content and ways of learning in all areas of the Ontario elementary and secondary curricula.

The Anishinabek Nation, together with Anishinabek educators, is also willing to host a meeting with the Ministry of Education to advocate for the inclusion of the Indigenous Science Framework for all students in Ontario.

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Politics

Timmins appoints Kristin Murray as mayor

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Timmins Mayor Kristin Murray is excited about her new role after being appointed as mayor on Aug. 9 due to former mayor George Pirie being elected as Timmins MPP. Murray, a Chapleau Cree citizen who is a descendant of a Treaty #9 signatory, Henry Saylor (Sailor, signed in Cree syllabic), had been the deputy mayor since June 1 after being elected as a Timmins Ward 5 councillor in the 2018 Timmins municipal election.

"In the moment I was just really elated," Murray says. "But it really didn't hit me until the next day, and it was very fitting that I was attending part of the NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation Keewaywin Conference) because just being around so many leaders and embracing my culture and that strength was just so powerful. So it was a great way to start my time as mayor."

Murray, who is a mother of two children, was appointed as mayor until the next Timmins municipal election, which takes place on Oct. 24.

"I definitely want to carry out some of the good work that's already being done," Murray says. "I think forming some strength and partnerships where ones didn't exist is crucial at this time, and looking at some creative ways to address some of the issues we're having in our community."

Murray says some of the

main issues affecting Timmins are housing, homelessness and addictions.

"It's very cyclical, we want to grow our community but housing is needed in order to attract people to our community," Murray says.

Murray says Timmins has also been having some successes.

"There's lots of projects and developments underway," Murray says. "So supporting all areas of what's happening in the city is so important."

Murray says her first term as a councillor has been a great experience, noting that she has always been connected to community.

"Having worked grassroots level of non-profits has really contributed to just bringing that voice to the table," Murray says. "I've been able to meet some very innovative thinkers, which I do appreciate, and learn about other industries that I wasn't necessarily aware of."

Murray was employed as the equity, diversity and inclusion lead at North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services when she was appointed as mayor.

"Which is important work because if we look at the history of the child welfare system as it relates to certain communities, there was a history of inequity," Murray says. "So it's really important work and I do appreciate it."

Murray says one of the highlights during her term as councillor was the work of the city's



Timmins Mayor Kristin Murray, a Chapleau Cree citizen, met with Nishnawbe Aski Nation leaders and chiefs on the second day of the Keewatin Conference, held Aug. 9-11 in Timmins.

environmental services team.

"We have a really small environmental services team and I'm so proud of them," Murray says. "They have managed to divert quite a bit of waste from our landfill."

Murray says another highlight was a partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in a leadership program for environmental and climate change.

“And just some of the connections that I’ve made with other councillors and mayors across the province and what are their

innovative approaches, because we're all sort of doing the same work, so how do we support each other in what we're doing," Murray says.

Murray says she left Chap-leau when she was 17 to study a Social Service Worker and Drug and Alcohol Counsellor dual diploma program at Northern College.

“Just knowing the impact of substances and some of the issues that happen in communities, I wanted to leave my community and save the world,” Murray says. “I started working

at Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services when I was 19 right out of college — they hired me from being a placement student.”

Murray also graduated on May 31 with a degree in Equity, Diversity and Human Rights from Laurentian University.

"My passion is really helping community and people," Murray says.

Murray says she worked full-time, did her city councillor role and looked after her two children while she was studying online at Laurentian University.

"So I'm able to manage a lot," Murray says. "It just speaks to the fact that I like to get things done."

Murray says it is important to keep learning.

"The more we learn, the more we grow," Murray says. "Where I go from here in terms of learning, it could be formal education, it could be learning more about the mining sector, it could be learning more from community. It's just to continue learning, and putting that into practice in terms of bettering the community."

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Politics

Leaders want financial investment after the Pope's visit

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Grand Chief Derek Fox stressed how First Nation leaders are calling for a financial investment after Pope Francis made his residential school apology during his six-day "penitential pilgrimage" to Canada.

"One of the things that was said to me was there should be a financial investment behind that apology, for example language," Fox says on the first day of the Keewaywin Conference, held Aug. 9-11 in Timmins. "They helped take the language from us, why don't they invest in the language, why don't they throw a couple of million (dollars) at NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) to help us with the language strategy, why don't they invest in our school boards, put it into the curriculum to ensure that those things are not lost."

Pope Francis spoke about asking for forgiveness in the name of the church during his July 24-29 "penitential pilgrimage" at an Aug. 3 General Audience at the Vatican.

"It was unlike other journeys, in fact the main motivation was to meet the Indigenous peoples to express to them my closeness and my sorrow, closeness of the church and my sorrow and to ask forgiveness for the harm done to them by those Christians, including many Catholics, who in the past collaborated in the forced assimilation and enfranchisement policies of the governments of the time," the Pope says, as translated into English during the General Audience. "An in-depth study shows that on the one hand some men and women of the church were among the most decisive and courageous supporters of the dignity of the Indigenous peoples, coming to their defence and contributing to raising awareness of their languages, but on the other hand there was unfortunately no shortage of those who participated in programs that today we understand is unacceptable and contrary to the gospel, and for this I went to ask for forgiveness in the name of the church."

The Pope had expressed his indignation and shame about the evil perpetrated in Catholic Church residential schools on the final day of his "penitential pilgrimage" to listen to, dialogue with and apologize to Indigenous people across the



country.

"A short while ago I listened to several of you who were students of residential schools — I thank you for having had the courage to tell your stories and to share your great suffering that I could not imagine," the Pope says, as translated into English during his July 29 visit to Iqaluit, Nunavut. "This only renewed in me the indignation and shame I have felt for months. Today too, in this place, I want to tell you how very sorry I am and to ask for forgiveness for the evil perpetrated by not a few Catholics who in these schools contributed to the policies of cultural assimilation and enfranchisement."

The Pope stressed the testimony of an Elder who spoke about the beautiful spirit that reigned in Indigenous families before the advent of the residential school system.

"He compared those days when grandparents, parents and children were harmoniously together to springtime, when young birds chirp happily around their mother," the Pope says. "But suddenly, he said, the singing stopped, families were broken up and the little ones were taken far away from home. Winter fell over everything."

The Pope says stories such as the one shared by the Elder not only cause pain, they also create scandal.

"All the more so if we compare them with the word of God and its commandment,



honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the lord your God gives you," the Pope says. "That possibility did not exist for many of your families, it vanished when children were separated from their parents and their own nation was perceived as dangerous and foreign."

The Pope says those forced assimilations evoke a biblical story about the just man Naboth, who refused to give the vineyard he inherited from his ancestors to those in power, who were willing to use every means to snatch it from him.

"And we think too of the forceful words of Jesus about those who scandalize or despise even one of the little ones," the Pope says. "How evil it is to break the bonds uniting parents and children, to damage our closest relationships, to harm and scandalize the little ones."

The Pope encouraged the Inuit youth to continue listening to the Elders and to embrace their past in order to write new pages of history, and offered them three pieces of advice as an Elder brother.

"The first piece of advice is keep walking upwards — you live in these vast regions of the north, may they remind you of your vocation to strive ever higher without letting yourself get dragged down by those who would have you believe that it is better to think only of yourself and to use your time solely for your leisure and your interests," the Pope says. "Don't



photos submitted by George Nakogee

Pope Francis spoke about asking for forgiveness in the name of the church during his six-day "penitential pilgrimage" to Canada. He also expressed his indignation and shame about the evil perpetrated in Catholic Church residential schools.

think that life's great dreams are as unattainable as the sky above. No, you were made to fly, to embrace the courage of truth and the beauty of justice, to elevate your moral temper, to be compassionate, to serve others and to build relationships, to sow seeds of peace and loving care wherever you are, to ignite the enthusiasm of those all around you, to keep pressing forward and to not flatten everything out."

The Pope's second piece of advice was to come to the light.

"The third piece of advice, be part of a team," the Pope says.

The Pope's visit included a meeting with Indigenous people at the former Ermineskin residential school, in Maskwacis, Alberta and a meeting with Indigenous people and the parish community at the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, in Edmonton on July 25; a Holy Mass at Commonwealth Stadium, in Edmonton and a Pilgrimage to the site of Lac Ste. Anne and Liturgy of the Word at Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta on

July 26; a visit with state officials and public address at the Citadelle de Québec/Plains of Abraham, Quebec on July 27; and a Holy Mass at the National Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupré at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec and a Vespers with bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated persons, seminarians and pastoral workers at the

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Politics



screenshot
Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa recently stressed the importance of protecting the land on a Facebook video.

Protecting the land highlighted at Matawa AGM

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management recently highlighted a video featuring Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa’s comments on the importance of protecting the land after the Matawa Chiefs Council called for a First Nation-driven mining approach.

“Our land is rich in resources and gifts,” Mamakwa says in the Honouring Our Ways of Life video, which is posted at: www.facebook.com/solmamakwa/videos/798213184827470/. “Some people see the land as something that can be bought and sold, others know its true worth.”

Mamakwa says people in communities such as Neskantaga are living their lives with the rhythm of the seasons, and are surrounded by everything they need to sustain themselves on Earth, water and air.

“Money only goes so far,” Mamakwa says. “What is the price we are willing to pay to lose our ways of life.”

The video highlighted a fishing trip on the Attawapiskat River where Mamakwa and Chris Moonias, former chief of Neskantaga, caught walleye and sturgeon.

“Sturgeon, right here on the Attawapiskat River, that’s what we’re here for,” Mamakwa says. “When the rivers no longer run with sturgeon and the life of the land and water is at risk, no amount of money will bring that back.”

Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias also says in the video that it is important to carry on the traditions and cultural ties they have with their traditional homelands.

“It’s important to ensure our young people have those opportunities to go on the land to practice their traditional way of life and also to do those things in a way that is respectful,” Chief Moonias says.

“Oftentimes when you’re dealing with the government or industry, they take and take. We’ve been taught as Anishinabe people to honour and respect the teachings that have been passed on from generation



screenshot
Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias recently stressed the importance of carrying on the traditions and cultural ties with the traditional homelands on a Facebook video.

to generation.”

Neskantaga passed the 10,000 day mark without clean drinking water on June 19. The community has not had clean drinking water since 1995, the longest running boil water advisory in Canada.

The Matawa chiefs and community delegations adopted resolutions at the Matawa Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in late July in Webequie to advance the process of developing a First Nations driven political process on mining in Ontario and reject Nishnawbe Aski Nation-Chiefs of Ontario-Assembly of First Nations (NAN-COO-AFN) processes moving forward without the consent of Indigenous rights holders. The AGM’s directions included the rejection of the NAN proposed Treaty Relationship discussions with Canada, the COO and AFN proposed First Nations Economic Growth and Prosperity Tables and the government of Canada’s (Natural Resources Canada) National Benefit-Sharing Framework process.

“Mining is an important and complicated issue challenging First Nations across Ontario land subject both to treaty and unceded lands,” says Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum. “The Matawa Chiefs Council recognize the efforts of

Eabametoong First Nation with the Landore decision. It is our intention to assist and support a First Nation-driven mining approach for the consideration of the chiefs of Nishnawbe Aski Nation and the Chiefs of Ontario assembly going forward. First Nations north and south of the undertaking must work together in order to deliver the maximum rights recognition and economic benefits that are required for our communities to be self-determining, and secure our own prosperity and future.”

Chief Moonias says the Matawa Chiefs Council, as treaty rights holders, are alarmed and will not stand by to watch the potential encroachment on the Matawa homelands and traditional territories.

“These parties and organizations must respect proper protocols and the autonomy of our communities who are the vested Indigenous rights holders,” Moonias says. “Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations are not proxies or the granters of consent on any issue that impacts the Matawa First Nations. Our jurisdiction and title lies within our communities and our people.”

Politics



screenshot

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa recently stressed the importance of protecting the land on a Facebook video.

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Indigenous Mental Health Video Series

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: SULLIVAN + ASSOCIATES

About the Series

presented by Jasmine Peterson

The Indigenous Mental Health Video Series was designed to provide additional support for Indigenous people who have difficulty accessing mental health services due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, infrastructure limitations (i.e., poor telephone/internet connections), etc.

This video series discusses the impact of intergenerational trauma on Indigenous people and communities and how this has contributed to mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, addictions, and anger. This series provides important education and practical coping strategies, presented in a friendly, conversational manner by Jasmine Peterson.

Jasmine Peterson is a mental health professional of Indigenous descent. She has worked extensively with Indigenous clients over the past seven years at our clinic and in remote Indigenous communities. Jasmine works with children, teens, and adults, providing psychological assessments and counselling/psychotherapy.



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MP Hajdu visits Neskantaga, Yukon

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu recently announced \$6.6 million in funding for teacherages in Neskantaga and \$525,000 in funding for menstrual products in the Yukon in late July. Hajdu attended Neskantaga's annual powwow and toured its new water infrastructure and old community site on July 23 and attended the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people's Moosehide Gathering, held July 28-31, near Dawson City during her trip to the Yukon.

“Neskantaga First Nation appreciates the opportunity that (Indigenous Services Canada) Minister Patty Hajdu took to speak directly with (citizens) of our nation, who endure not only many states of emergency but a continuing water crisis affecting their human rights,” says Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias. “We are certain that her visit on Saturday will deeply inform the choices Canada makes regarding our community as we move forward together on a path towards healing and wellness after the traumas brought on to us by 10,000 days and counting of living without clean, safe drinking water.”

Hajdu announced the \$6.6 million in funding to support an eight-unit housing complex for teachers and visiting professionals, which will free up six

housing units in the community for citizens to use during her visit to Neskantaga. The federal government will also be supporting Neskantaga to fund two navigator positions to help citizens address trauma caused by the long-term water crisis.

“Neskantaga First Nation has experienced many generations of trauma,” Hajdu says. “On top of the relocations of the community, and assaults on their self determination, most community (citizens) have never lived with access to clean drinking water. The new water treatment plant is in place, but there is still more work to do to ensure the residents of Neskantaga have a consistent and trustworthy supply of clean water. Training water operators, testing the plant and improving water supply are all important to help people trust the water coming from the taps. I look forward to working with Chief Moonias to support Neskantaga (citizens) build a stronger and healthier future.”

Hajdu announced the \$525,000 in 2022–23 funding for the Council of Yukon First Nations to ensure menstrual equity for all Yukon First Nations women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples. The funding is part of \$2.5 million committed to increase access to menstrual products for First Nations and Inuit students across the territories and in Inuit Nunangat.

"Too many people can't

attend school because they don't have access to menstrual products — but we can change that to make sure everyone has a fair chance to succeed,” Hajdu says. “With \$500,000 from Indigenous Services Canada, we can help Indigenous girls, women and LGBTQ2SIAA+ people access menstrual products when they need them. Thank you to the Council of Yukon First Nations for their leadership, and the Yukon

government for their support. I know our work together will restore dignity and choice to so many."

Hajdu says she had never travelled to the Yukon before, noting the forests and access to natural resources reminded her of northern Ontario.

"It was really important for me to see the territory, to visit with the Council of Yukon Indigenous People and to meet with some of the Indig-

enous rural communities to get a sense of what their priorities are and what kind of things they are working on," Hajdu says. "Just like northern Ontario, many of the people I met with talked about the impact of climate change on some of their traditional and longstanding practices, including access to natural foods."

Hajdu says she visited the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people's Moosehide Gathering, held July

28-31, near Dawson City during
her trip to the Yukon.

"I was told by the chief that this was the very first time that a formal meeting between the government of Canada and the Hwëch'in people had been held at the Moosehide location," Hajdu says. "So it was a real honour for me to be there to meet with this community and to talk about their priorities, but in an location that held such significance to them."



screenshots from MP Patty Hajdu's Facebook page

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu met with Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias during her July 23 trip to Neskantaga.



screenshots from MP Patty Hajdu's Facebook page

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu toured some of Nes-
kantaga's new water infrastructure during her July 23 trip to Matawa
community.



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Health

Addressing social
and health issues

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Addictions and other social and health issues affecting Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) were highlighted on the third day of the Keewaywin Conference, held Aug. 9-11 in Timmins.

“Not everything is political, we need practical solutions for some of the matters that are before us,” says NAN Elder Barney Batise. “There’s a saying that no one wins alone, there needs to be togetherness in terms of some of the issues that surround us.”

Batise says he attended an Assembly of First Nations executive council meeting on Aug. 10, where one of the issues that was raised was the mental health and wellness of police officers. Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) Chief of Police Roland Morrison had earlier stated at the Keewaywin Conference that more than 20 NAPS officers were currently off work due to injuries, including mental health injuries.

“So one of the issues then that we need to face is how are we going to support our Nishnawbe Aski Police in terms of their work,” Batise says. “We talked a lot about social issues that continue to plague all the nations across the country. When you listen to the national council and you listen to this council and you listen to the council at the Chiefs of Ontario, they seem to ring the same bell pretty much, social issues that plague our people at the local end, drugs, alcohol and those other issues that surround us, and continuing suicides.”

The chiefs and proxies also discussed and passed Resolution 22-12, Support for the NAPS Border Control (NBC) Strategy, which was moved by Cat Lake Chief Russell Wesley and seconded by Bearskin Lake Chief Lefty Kamenawatamin with an Abstention by Muskrat Dam proxy Doug Beardy.

“We have to do something — right now as we stand there’s airplanes coming in, there’s drugs coming into my community,” Wesley says during a discussion on the usage of the word border. “My peacekeepers are interrupting these drugs at the point-of-entry. This was not about jurisdiction or borders, it was the interception of drugs

that are hurting our people, our children, our Elders. That’s the whole purpose of this, and to establish processes with our police officers on those barriers that prevent us from stopping drugs.”

Wesley says the resolution is about “stopping drugs that are killing my people.”

“A young lady died (at) 3:30 this morning,” Wesley says. “This is about drugs.”

Kamenawatamin says the airport for his community is located off the reserve, so during the winter the community’s check point security works off reserve.

“I don’t want to get caught up with words either,” Kamenawatamin says. “This is so urgent, lives being lost due to drugs, alcohol and other things.”

Former grand chief Alvin Fiddler, health transformation lead negotiator at NAN, also delivered a presentation on Health Transformation.

“Phase one started in 2017 — the first phase consisted of building partnerships, community visits and from there priorities were identified based on visits with the leadership and hearing from community (citizens) directly,” Fiddler says. “Then the (COVID-19) pandemic happened and the incredible work that all of us did together, lessons learned from that pandemic, those are the things that we are going to be taking with us as we move into phase two, lessons learned from the last two years but also what we heard from those initial visits led by (former health transformation lead negotiator and current health transformation special advisor) Ovide (Mercredi) and his team.”

Fiddler says as the health transformation team gears up for phase two they need to re-engage the leadership and communities in some ways and be more strategic in terms of how they engage with them.

“As mentioned by Deputy Grand Chief (Victor) Linklater, part of phase two also includes systems design, including governance,” Fiddler says. “It is important that we begin to outline what that will look like. Part of our work is to engage some expertise to help us design those systems, but also to improve on our communications.”



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Community

NAN presents Housing Strategy Implementation at Keewaywin Conference

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The importance of housing was highlighted during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Housing Strategy Implementation presentation on the first day of the Keewaywin Conference, held Aug. 9-11 in Timmins.

“As we all know, having adequate housing also impacts our physical and mental well-being,” says Grand Chief Derek Fox. “For decades we’ve known that NAN communities have lagged behind provincial and national averages for housing and infrastructure needs. We also know that the true cost of building a home in the north is not captured by current funding mechanisms. We need a funding model that accounts for increasing shipping costs, material needs and the full life-cycle costs of homes in our communities.”

Fox says the Housing Strat-

egy proposes meaningful change to approach housing issues in NAN communities and budget commitments from governments.

“So the time for making the Housing Strategy a reality is now,” Fox says. “I cannot understate the importance of this work and how it would affect thousands of lives in our communities. Housing is the foundation of a family, it is the foundation of growth and health in our communities. Everything starts with that healthy home, having a house to call your own — our families deserve that, our people deserve that and we take that very seriously.”

NAN plans to seek support from the federal and provincial governments for the new First Nation-designed Housing Strategy endorsed by Chiefs-in-Assembly to address the housing crisis in NAN First Nations and improve the health of com-

munity citizens.

“The NAN Housing Strategy was developed by our (citizens) as a solution to the needs of their communities, and our leaders have endorsed it as the path forward,” Fox says. “The prime minister has committed to take action on homelessness and provide support for affordable housing. The premier has made housing a priority and has promised to deliver an aggressive plan by working with the federal government and other partners. We are ready to start immediately and will look for firm commitments from our federal and provincial treaty partners to prioritize this strategy and put this plan into action.”

Mike McKay, infrastructure and housing director at NAN, says the Housing Strategy was developed based on the input and feedback of NAN citizens after listening to their experi-

ences. Some of the key messages heard were that an estimated 7,588 housing units are needed, the housing emergency will double by 2030 and there are no lots to build new houses on.

“For the past couple of years, even through the (COVID-19) pandemic, the team developed the NAN Housing Strategy having engaged First Nation leadership and community citizens to understand the lived experiences of youth, children, adults both young and older with housing on reserve,” McKay says. “The process officially began in 2018 with resolution 18-18 passed by NAN Chiefs in Assembly, which called for a modern housing strategy that focused on community-based understandings of housing need and was rooted in local solutions developed by community (citizens).”

McKay says they partnered in

2018 with Together Design Lab from Toronto Metropolitan University, which has experience in developing strategies and supporting First Nations in designing housing solutions across the country.

“From 2019 to 2020 we began to listen and learn from NAN (citizens) through various community engagements,” McKay says. “During each community visit, we sat down with leadership, housing managers, Elders, education directors, health directors, youth councils and any community (citizens) that wanted to have their voices heard.”

McKay says updates on all of their engagements are posted on the NAN website.

“In 2021 we started drafting the NAN Housing Strategy Roadmap and initially had five themes, but through further review and discussions the Roadmap was expanded to seven themes,” McKay says.

“We presented the draft Roadmap with seven themes at the May Chiefs Assembly earlier this year for your review and feedback. We received many comments of note that are reflected in the themes and goals of the strategy, keeping in mind there’s no one-size-fits-all solution but there are pathways for making specific changes to creating more inclusive housing, integrated infrastructure with housing and long-term planning and ensure the health outcomes of the housing we build and live in are positive.”

The Roadmap’s seven themes of action are: advocating for inclusive housing systems; addressing health impacts of housing; appropriate and sustainable design and materials; integrated infrastructure planning; alternative funding structures; governance and policy reform; and capacity development and training.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Webequie Supply Road Project

Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment

Webequie First Nation (WFN) is undertaking a provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) and federal Impact Assessment (EA/IA) for the Webequie Supply Road Project (“the Project”).

The proposed Webequie Supply Road will be an all-season road corridor approximately 107 km in length from Webequie First Nation to the mineral deposit area near McFaulds Lake. The preliminary corridor for the road consists of a northwest-southeast segment running 51 km from Webequie First Nation to a 56 km segment running east, before terminating near McFaulds Lake. A total of 17 km of the corridor is located within Webequie First Nation Reserve lands. The preliminary supply road route alternatives that are to be examined and evaluated in the EA/IA are shown in the accompanying Key Plan.

PROJECT PURPOSE

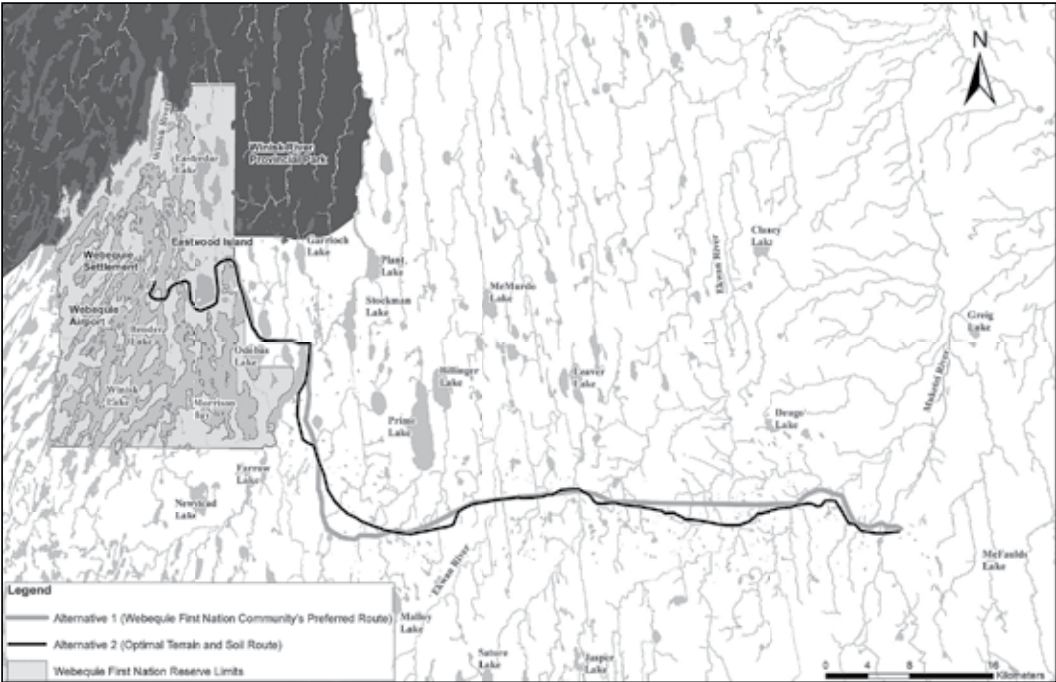
The purpose of the Project is to create an all-season corridor that will facilitate the movement of materials, supplies and people from the Webequie Airport to the proposed mine development and mineral exploration activities in the McFaulds Lake area of northwestern Ontario. The Project is intended to provide WFN with a means to better service their community and be a contributor to the local economy by providing employment and economic development opportunities.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

On October 8, 2021, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) with amendments for the Webequie Supply Road EA Study. The Webequie Supply Road EA Study is being carried out according to the approved ToR and the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. In addition, on February 24, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada published a Notice of Commencement of the Impact Assessment (IA) and provided WFN with Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for meeting the requirements under federal *Impact Assessment Act*. The Project is now in the Impact Statement (IS) phase. For the Project, the two levels of government have indicated a willingness to follow a coordinated assessment process, and for the proponent to produce one body of documentation with the results of the study in an Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement (EAR/IS). A draft EA/IS will be made available for review and comment, and at that time, the public, Indigenous communities and other interested persons will be informed when and where the EAR/IS can be reviewed.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 is being held to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing EA/IA study for the Project and provide feedback. The PIC will consist of a presentation at 2:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. followed by an informal drop-in centre with display information about the Project. Project Team representatives will share information on the EA/IA process, studies being conducted, approach for evaluation of alternatives, Indigenous Knowledge program, feedback we have heard to-date, and future consultation and engagement opportunities. You are invited to attend the PIC, which has been scheduled as follows:



Thursday August 25, 2022
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre
Viking Room
1 Valhalla Inn Rd, Thunder Bay

The Public Information Centre (PIC) venue is wheelchair accessible. The PIC livestream will be available on the project website: www.supplyroad.ca. You can also find information on the study progress and updates on the website.

CONTACT

If you are unable to attend the PIC, or have any comments or questions regarding the study, you are welcome to contact the following:

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This notice was first published August 17, 2022.

Community

New Buffy Sainte-Marie podcast available

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

CBC is launched a new Buffy podcast about the life and legacy of Buffy Sainte-Marie, one of the most prolific singer-songwriters of the past century. The Buffy podcast features Six Nations writer Falen Johnson's exploration of how Sainte-Marie's life and legacy are essential to understanding Indigenous resistance.

"It's a five-episode podcast looking at her life, her music and her influence," says Johnson, host, producer and writer for the Buffy podcast. "For the podcast I got to sit down and chat with her in that really nice small COVID-19 window we had right before Omicron hit, I got to actually sit with her in person, which was great, and actually get to chat with her in person, and then we had to do everything else over Zoom."

Johnson says she also spoke with one of Sainte-Marie's childhood friends, her first boyfriend, people she played music with and Indigenous musicians and artists such as Alanis Obomsawin, Jesse Wente and Jeremy Dutcher.

"I talked to Blair Stonechild who did her biography and Andrea Warner who did a biography on her," Johnson says. "We really wanted to make something that was about her and about her life but also about her influence. You would be hard pressed to meet an Indigenous person in this country who hasn't been touched by

her in some way."

Johnson says non-Indigenous people might know who Sainte-Marie is and her music, but they might not know how important she is to Indigenous people in terms of holding space throughout her career from the 1960s to now.

"It's hard to comprehend all of the space she held for us so other people could walk through that door," Johnson says. "She really held the door open for so many of us in so many ways."

Johnson says Sainte-Marie helped Joni Mitchell to get her start by shopping around her tapes and covering her songs.

"She supported not just Indigenous women and Indigenous people but women in general," Johnson says. "She helped people make their careers, artists like Donovan who covered Universal Soldier. She's been covered by everyone from Elvis to Barbara Streisand to Bette Davis to the Monkees. Her music has helped make other people's careers too, so just in that way her influence was so massive."

Johnson says Sainte-Marie utilized technology that hadn't been used before for her Coincidence and Likely Stories album that was released in 1992.

"She was based in Hawaii and she didn't want to travel to her record label's recording studio in London," Johnson says. "So she made an album over the Internet. She had her home studio set up and she would play the songs and then she would



submitted photos

CBC launched a new Buffy podcast about the life and legacy of Buffy Sainte-Marie.

send them over a modem in the early 1990s."

Johnson says the release of the Buffy podcast feels like a celebration to her.

"It's a celebration of achievement, it's a celebration of our history, it's a celebration of an icon," Johnson says. "I saw her play at Massey Hall in November and she's not lost a step. She's not slowing down and I

can't wait to see what she does next."

Johnson says the Buffy podcast is not just about her being an Indigenous person who deserves respect, it's about her being an artist who deserves respect and recognition.

"If you don't know who she is, we want you to know who she is," Johnson says.



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Community

Junior Canadian Rangers from Ontario impress at national leadership event

Peter Moon
Special to Wawatay News

The hunting and outdoor survival skills of five Junior Canadian Rangers from Northern Ontario made an impression on Junior Rangers from across Canada at a national leadership training event in Quebec.

“Their outdoor skills impressed,” said Sergeant Steven Botelho, a Junior Ranger instructor who accompanied the five to the event. “They passed their skills along and it was nice to see them doing it.”

The five representing Ontario at the event were among 36 top Junior Rangers who completed an eight-day annual leadership course, called the National Leadership Enhanced Training Session, at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, just north of Quebec City. The Junior Rangers is a Canadian Army program for youth aged 12 to 18 living in remote and isolated communities across the Canadian North.

The five were McCartney Beardy of North Caribou Lake, Ryan Kakekaspan of Fort Severn, Thunder O’Keese of Kasabonika Lake, Summer Southwind of Lac Seul, and Madden Taylor of Constance Lake

“They all enjoyed their time and they all learned something new about leadership skills that they can take back to their communities.” Sergeant Botelho said. “They had a good time and they learned a lot.”

The training included instruction in classrooms and in the outdoors. They were kept



photo submitted by Sergeant Steven Botelho, Canadian Rangers
The five Junior Canadian Rangers from Northern Ontario who attended the national leadership course in Quebec were, from left, Madden Taylor of Constance Lake, Thunder O’Keese of Kasabonika Lake, Ryan Kakekaspan of Fort Severn, Summer Southwind of Lac Seul, and McCartney Beardy of North Caribou Lake.

busy for eight days.

Outdoor events included a challenging but fun zip line, shooting, canoeing, a visit to a bowling alley, a shopping mall, and one to the cultural centre at the Huron Wendat First Nation.

A highlight of the training was a two-day canoe trip on the spectacular Jacques-Cartier River in Jacques-Cartier National Park, 50 kilometers north of Quebec City. It included challenging portages, negotiating white water rapids, and working together.

“It was the best thing we did,” said McCartney Beardy, whose canoe partner was a Junior Ranger from Nunavut. “Connecting with her was great. We talked about our different backgrounds, how we hunted, and how we lived differently. We learned from each other.”

The Junior Rangers from Ontario and those from elsewhere in Canada encountered, some for the first time, living with the French language. “Yes, I wasn’t used to it,” McCartney

said. “I found it fascinating to find out how different some lives were to mine.”

“The kids helped each other in communicating with Junior Rangers who either could not speak English well or spoke no English,” Sergeant Botelho said. “It was nice to see. It was all part of their learning process.”

(Sergeant Peter Moon is a Canadian Ranger with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)



photo submitted by Sergeant Steven Botelho, Canadian Rangers
Junior Ranger McCartney Beardy takes aim with an air rifle during a national leadership training course.



CHARLIE
A TIKINAGAN 2SLGBTQ+ STORY

For some Indigenous youth who identify on the 2SLGBTQ+ spectrum, finding themselves can be a scary, isolating experience.

It wasn’t until Charlie, a two-spirited person from Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope), started to grow out his hair that he began to embrace his identity.

One of the biggest allies for Charlie was his foster parent.

Watch and read the full story at Tikinagan.org.



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Tikinagan
Child & Family Services

“My Foster Parent was always supportive of my choices and decisions, even if she didn’t like them sometimes, but she was always so encouraging of self-expression and being myself, which has helped shape me to this day.”

Community

Canadian Rangers rescue father and son after boat engine fails

Peter Moon
Special to Wawatay News

Canadian Rangers in a remote Northern Ontario First Nation quickly organized a successful search and rescue mission after a boat engine broke down and left two hunters stranded in the wilderness.

The hunters were a 51-year old father and his 22-year-old son. The father requires daily medicine for a medical condition and he did not have it with him.

The two men are both from Bearskin Lake First Nation, a small and remote Oji-Cree community 625 kilometers north of Thunder Bay.

The men left Bearskin Lake on Wednesday in a boat that was known to have occasional engine troubles to a place on the Severn River known as Tommy's Cabin to hunt for moose. The cabin is about 26 kilometers northeast of Bearskin Lake.

When the men failed to return to the community as expected family and friends alerted the Bearskin Lake Canadian Ranger patrol. The Canadian Army authorized the Rangers, who are part-time army reservists, to go the rescue of the two men.

Master Corporal Randy Fiddler, accompanied by Archie

McKay, a civilian volunteer, left Bearskin Lake by boat and arrived at the cabin site in less than two hours. "The engine on their boat had broken down and they could not fix it," he said. "The father was all right without his medicine. They were happy to see us. They were expecting the Rangers would come looking for them when they were overdue."

"Yes, it makes you feel good when you can help people like this. I've been a Ranger for about 15 years and I've lost count of the rescues I've done."

He said Archie McKay, the civilian volunteer who went on the rescue with him is a former Ranger as is the rescued father. "I think his son was a Junior Canadian Ranger when he was younger as well," Master Corporal Fiddler said.

Sergeant Linda Kamenawatamin, the Ranger patrol commander in Bearskin Lake, manned the temporary command post established in the community for the rescue. "The rescue shows how useful the Rangers can be to a community," She said. "It all worked out well."

(Sergeant Peter Moon is a Ranger with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)



Sergeant Linda Kamenawatamin commands the Canadian Ranger patrol in Bearskin Lake.

photo submitted by Major Charles Ohlke, Canadian Army

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- Crisis Response Worker
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Sioux Lookout:

- Mental Health Worker


Greenstone:

- Mental Health Worker





Thunder Bay:

- Community Engagement Coordinator
- Breaking Free From Family Violence Training Coordinator - *Contract til March 31 2023*
- Registered Nurse
- Finance Clerk
- Mental Health Worker - *Vaccine Clinic Contract til March 31, 2023*
- Systems Administrator

If you have a passion for advocating and supporting Indigenous Women and their families, please visit our website for more detailed information, and apply in confidence through the link provided.



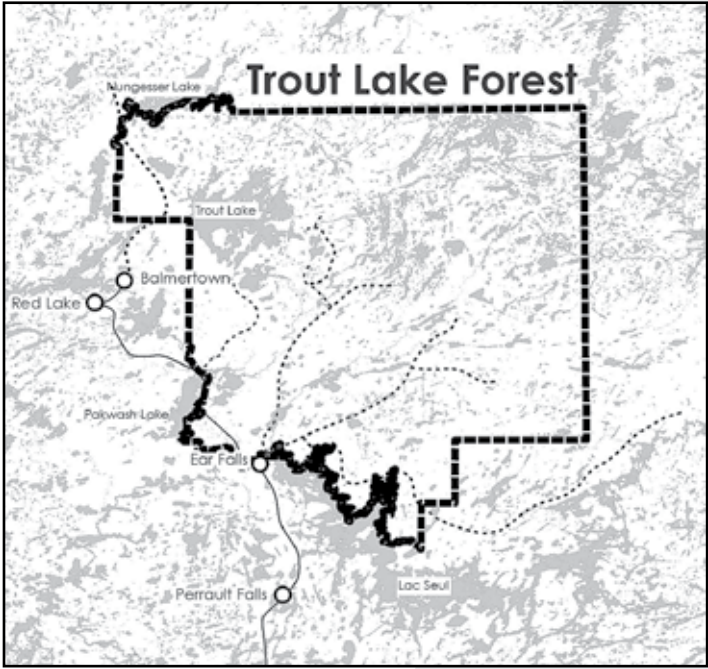
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INSPECTION

Inspection of MNRF-Approved Prescribed Burn Plan for Slash Pile Burning - Trout Lake Forest

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning that will be carried out in the **Trout Lake Forest** (see map).



As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the guidelines of the MNRF's *Prescribed Burn Manual*. The prescribed burn will reduce the area covered in slash piles while increasing the area available for regeneration and reducing the fire hazard. The burn is scheduled for ignition between **October 15, 2022** and **March 15, 2023**.

The approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning, including specific locations and maps, is available electronically for public inspection by contacting Domtar Inc. and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> until **March 31, 2023**, when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the prescribed burn plan. For more information, please contact:

Jordan Swayze
Assistant Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Red Lake District Office
227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-728-0982
e-mail: Jordan.Swayze@ontario.ca

Amy Doudiet, R.P.F.
Silviculture Forester
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1 Duke Street
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tel: 807-223-9162
e-mail: Amy.Doudiet@domtar.com

Renseignements en français: Jordan Swayze, Assistant Management Forester, MRNF 807 728-0982 ou Jordan.Swayze@ontario.ca

Cartoons

Outcast

MAN WAS MADE TO BE KING OF HIS DOMAIN

I LIKE THAT CONCEPT

EXCEPT FOR YOU. YOU CAN OCCUPY THAT TINY SPACE WAY OVER THERE

Old Guys
© Lindsay Cote 2021

HISTORIC MUSEUM

Think I saw your old shoes in there

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YOURS, I THINK COMES FROM A WEAK LINE OF ORANGUTANS

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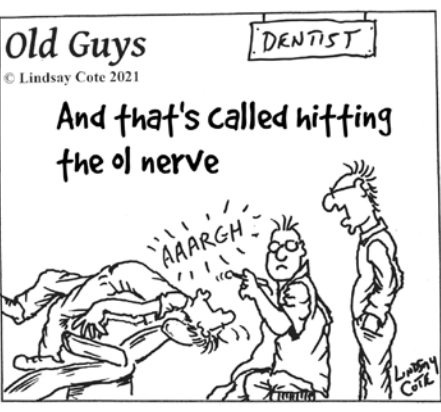
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Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Crawford Nickel Project Participant Funding Available

August 10, 2022 — Funding provided by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is now available to help the public and Indigenous groups participate in the impact assessment process for the proposed Crawford Nickel Project, located in Ontario.

Funding is available for eligible individuals and groups to assist their participation during the impact assessment's planning phase. During the current comment period, which ends September 7, 2022, the public and Indigenous groups are invited to review the summary of the Initial Project Description and provide comments. The Agency will retroactively reimburse eligible participants for their participation in this first comment period.

Applications received by **September 9, 2022**, will be considered.

To apply for funding, complete the Application Form for the Planning Phase available on the Agency's website (canada.ca/iaac) under Funding Programs. For more information, contact the Participant Funding Program by writing to fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or by calling 1-866-582-1884.

As a next step, the Agency will determine whether a federal impact assessment is required for the project. If one is required, eligible applicants will receive additional funding to participate in a second comment period to provide feedback on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Public Participation Plan.


For media inquiries, contact the Agency's media relations team by writing to media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or calling 343-549-3870.

Follow us on Twitter: [#IAAC_AEIC](https://twitter.com/IAAC_AEIC) [#CrawfordNickel](https://twitter.com/CrawfordNickel)

The proposed project
Canada Nickel Company is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an open-pit nickel-cobalt mine and on-site metal mill, located 43 kilometres north of Timmins, Ontario. As proposed, the Crawford Nickel Project would have a mine ore production capacity of 290,000 tonnes per day and a mill ore input capacity of 120,000 tonnes per day. The project would operate for about 41 years.

More information on this project is available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website, Registry reference number 83857.





Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Crawford Nickel Project Public Comments Invited

What is happening?
August 8, 2022 — Canada Nickel Company is proposing the Crawford Nickel Project, a nickel-cobalt mine and on-site metal mill located 43 kilometres north of Timmins, Ontario.


The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) invites the public and Indigenous groups to review the summary of the Initial Project Description and provide comments on the proposed project. To do so, visit the project home page on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number 83857). This feedback will help the Agency prepare the Summary of Issues and inform its decision as to whether this project requires an impact assessment.

How can I participate?


- Submit your comments online by midnight EDT on **September 7, 2022**. All comments will be published online.
- Participant funding will be available to eligible participants during this comment period and details will be announced shortly on the Registry. The Agency will retroactively reimburse eligible participants for their participation in this first comment period.
- Join a virtual information session on August 18 or August 23 to learn more about the project and how to submit comments. A session in French will take place on August 25.

Have a question?
Write to us at Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or visit the Agency's website at canada.ca/iaac.

For media inquiries: media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or 343-549-3870.



Scan the QR-Code for more information about the project, the process, and the virtual sessions or visit the project Registry page.



Commentary

You Are What You Eat



Xavier
Kataquapit

UNDER THE
NORTHERN SKY

How important is it to have a healthy diet? Well, most recent research tells us that if we have a healthy diet then we have a better chance of living a long life with fewer health problems. However, what does it mean to have a healthy diet. We understand through a lot of research over the past couple of decades that sugar, fatty foods, processed foods and a lot of meat can impact our health over time in many ways. Too many of us are overweight, have bad hearts, stomach

issues, cancers and other critical issues because of our terrible diets. That old saying, ‘you are what you eat’, very much tells the story. Sugar intake is insanely high and in fact it is well known that this substance is very addictive. We start consuming sugar at a very young age in soda drinks, treats, pastries, candies and ice cream to name a few. The food industry pushes processed foods high in fat, sugars and salt to all of us when we are young. Fast food restaurants promote most of their foods to the very young and families. Burgers, fries, sugar drinks and sweet desserts are around us all the time when we are growing up. It becomes normal at one point to eat mostly fatty, processed foods high in sugar and fat rather than anything healthy to eat. We believe that it is cheaper and faster to pick up fast foods or visit the local chain restaurant. The problems occur in five, 10 and 20 years when there are health consequences for falling for all of these bad foods pushed on us. Most people these days that have unhealthy diets for many years are overweight, have diabetes, suffer from heart and kidney problems and some even end up with all types of cancers. For my people the Cree of the James Bay coast obesity, diabetes and all kinds of health issues are directly related to poor diet. Many people I know consider vegetables as “rabbit food”, which is sad. We need a huge intake of vegetables to be healthy and to keep health issues away. Certainly, when it comes to natural foods we Cree have had meat as the big part of our diets in the Canada goose, caribou,

moose and fish. With the coming of colonization and the Europeans our diets changed and our hunting and gathering ways were more restricted. We turned to canned foods, processed foods, and foods laden with sugars and fats. The result has been horrific. In many cases people still don’t want vegetables as part of their diet. The biggest obstacle that most people in the north have with eating more vegetables is the access to affordable healthy foods. It can be expensive but in the long run, the money one saves by eating cheap food today is lost when they have to pay for expensive medical treatment later in life. Governments at all levels have a role to play as northern communities should receive more support to access healthier food choices at a better price. The public costs will be paid either now in food subsidies or later by paying for the public health services that an individual will need to treat chronic problems caused by eating unhealthy foods over a lifetime. Why not invest in keeping people healthy now rather than leave them with no choice but unhealthy options? Just because we have been sucked into having poor diets for years does not mean we can not learn about healthy ways to live.


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Anishinabek Nation responds to the 2022 Throne Speech


Wawatay News

The Ontario Parliament resumed with The Honourable Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell delivering the Throne Speech on August 8. The Speech outlined focused priorities in resource development, construction, public transit, and healthcare. While the Anishinabek Nation shares some of these mutual priorities, it is not evident how the Ontario Government will support First Nations in their critical projects that are in alignment. Ontario has specific duties to uphold the Honour of the Crown on behalf of Canada in regards to its Treaty obligations. The healthcare system in Ontario is on the brink of collapse and a serious threat exists with the privatization of services that could result in severe consequences for Anishinabek citizens. First Nations peoples already struggle to access and receive adequate care and historically, have had to fight for equitable access to existing underfunded public healthcare services. Privatization would further exacerbate this impaired system. The focus should be on strengthening the current system that is desperately trying to recuperate within the ongoing

ing pandemic. This proposed approach ignores the need for real health transformation and disregards the sacrifices of healthcare providers. “We agree that the rate of rising inflation needs to be addressed, as it has greatly impacted Anishinabek Nation communities. Proposed efforts and measures, however, may not assist Anishinabek community citizens given that rates of fuel, goods, and supplies are already inflated. Rather than worry about vacations or restaurant meals, our people worry about paying for housing and buying groceries,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe. “While this is promising for the future of housing developers and potential homeowners, how will this benefit First Nations? There is not any indication that First Nations will benefit from this housing commitment, which is a highly concerning factor given that there has been an ongoing housing crisis in communities and existing strategies that require immediate resources,” states Grand Council Chief Niganobe.



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Attention: Hiring Committee, Aroland First Nation, P.O. Box 10, Aroland, ON, P0T 1B0

Any questions pertaining to the above position can be e-mailed to the above address.