





# Politics



The 150th anniversary celebration of the signing of Treaty #3 include four community events featuring a community copy of Treaty #3 that originated with one of the signatories of Treaty #3, hereditary Chief Paabamasagaa of Naotkamegwanning, and all three adhesions to Treaty #3.

# Treaty #3 celebrates 150th anniversary

**Rick Garrick**  
Wawatay News

Grand Council Treaty #3 youth Kieran Davis and Winter Dawn Lipscombe recently highlighted the 150th anniversary of Treaty #3 during their When the Frogs Sleep podcast at: [whenthefrogssleep.buzzsprout.com](http://whenthefrogssleep.buzzsprout.com).

“This year marks the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 3, which was actually signed Oct. 3, 1873,” Lipscombe says during their We are Treaty People: Fives Bucks and Double Sacred episode. “Dryden 150 marks the beginning of four community events that will be taking place across Treaty 3 where Treaty 3 will be hosting different teachings about the treaty, speakers as well as giving the opportunity to citizens of Treaty 3 to be able to go and view it.”

Lipscombe says she attended the first of the four community events in Dryden, where she viewed the Treaty #3 documents, which include a community copy of the treaty and all three adhesions to the treaty.

"I was actually able to be at Dryden 150 and go visit the treaty for the first time in per-

son, which was pretty incredible because thinking about the fact that our ancestors signed that document and they were part of the negotiations that made that happen is pretty special," Lipscombe says.

Davis says they plan to visit the Treaty #3 documents during their *We are Treaty People: Fives Bucks and Double Sacred* episode.

"I'd really like to see the document that was signed by our ancestors," Davis says. "It's pretty exciting to actually have it in territory. I know it was a long process to actually bring it back to us and to view it."

The Dryden Museum hosted the first viewing of the Treaty #3 documents in the east on June 20 and Seven Generations Educational Institute hosted the Treaty #3 documents in the south on July 20. Sagkeeng is scheduled to host the Treaty #3 documents in the west on Aug. 23 and Seven Generations Education Institute is scheduled to host an event in the north on Sept. 6.

"To have the treaty document and the adhesions in the territory is incredibly important to understanding who we are as Anishinabe on this 150th anni-



Grand Council Treaty #3 youth Kieran Davis and Winter Dawn Lipscombe recently spoke about the 150th anniversary of Treaty #3 during their When the Frogs Sleep podcast.



submitted photos

versary of the treaty signing,” says Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh. “The treaty is sacred to us, as it was sanctioned in ceremony by Creator and the spirits. It is my hope that a more permanent home for these documents can be found in the Treaty #3 territory so that we may be able to educate our treaty partners about this sacred relationship for years to come.”

The community copy originated with one of the signa-

tories of Treaty #3, hereditary Chief Paabamasagaa of Naotkamewanning. His family cared for the Treaty #3 document until 1977 when it was placed with Library and Archives Canada for safekeeping. The treaty was placed on long-term loan at the Lake of the Woods Museum in 1978 and in 2017 it was returned to Library and Archives Canada for a conservation assessment. The three adhesions are the Sheban-

dowan Adhesion, the Lac Seul Adhesion and the Adhesion by Halfbreeds of Rainy River and Lake. This is the first time that the Treaty #3 document and all three adhesions are being displayed together in Treaty #3 territory.

"It has been an honour and a pleasure to work with the staff of Grand Council Treaty #3 in the development of the exhibit that will accompany the treaty documents as they

travel throughout the territory," says Lori Nelson, director of The Muse. "Credit goes to the members of The Muse Indigenous Advisory Committee, whose excitement about and commitment to this project has been unparalleled. What an privilege it is to, once again, host the treaty documents at the Lake of the Woods Museum."

# Thank You, Airlines!

**Your fast, courteous delivery of Wawatay News to our northern communities is appreciated.**





# Community

## Grassy Narrows suicide study shows connection between mercury exposure and emotions

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Grassy Narrows Chief Rudy Turtle is calling for more help for the youth after a recently released research study suggested an intergenerational impact of mercury exposure on the emotions, behaviour and attempted suicides by children and youth.

“It’s been hard on (the families), very hard on them,” Turtle says. “That’s why I’m saying we need help with mental health workers, we need counsellors to help our young people, we need guidance too for our young people, I think we need more teachings and stuff like that.”

The study, The Contribution across Three Generations of Mercury Exposure to Attempted Suicide among Children and Youth in Grassy Narrows First Nation, Canada: An Intergenerational Analysis by

Donna Mergler, Aline Philibert, Myriam Fillion and Judy Da Silva, examined the possible contribution of Hg (mercury) exposure across three generations on attempted suicides among today’s children, five to 11-years-old, and youth, 12 to 17-years-old, using a matrilineal intergenerational paradigm.

“I believe what the outcome of the study is — they did proper research,” Turtle says, noting that the study highlighted how the fathers were fishing and bringing fish home for the family to eat. “Of course the daughters ate the fish too so when the daughters had children they passed it on to their kids, so it does go from generation to generation. Prior to 1970, there was never any occurrences of suicide in Grassy

Narrows until after mercury (exposure) was discovered, and this (suicides) started increasing.”

Posted online at: [ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP11301](https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP11301), the study used structural equation modelling (SEM) to examine significant links from grandparents to mothers’ exposure and mental health and children/youth risk for attempted suicide. The SEM suggested two pathways that significantly linked grandparents to children’s attempted suicides, through mothers’ prenatal and childhood mercury exposure and psychological distress, and through maternal fish consumption during pregnancy, which is an important contributor to children’s emotional state and behaviour.

“Despite minimal individual information on the (grandmothers and mothers’) past life experiences, the findings support the hypothesis that Hg (mercury) exposure over three generations contributes to the mental health of today’s children and youth,” the study states. “The prevalence of Grassy Narrows youth ever having attempted suicide is three times that of other First Nations in Canada.”

Turtle says they are looking for every person affected by mercury in Grassy Narrows to be compensated.

“We’ve been after both levels of government and we’ve been making our message clear that we would like to see all the people of Grassy Narrows who are affected by mercury be compensated,” Turtle says.

Turtle says he has been doing interviews with different media over the past couple of weeks.



NDP Deputy Leader Sol Mamakwa, pictured with federal NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh at National Indigenous Peoples Day on Anemki Wajiw, stressed how Grassy Narrows is demanding fair compensation for all their citizens who were impacted by the lasting damage of the mercury poison after a research study was released on July 19.

“But it needs to be said,” Turtle says. “The message needs to get out there.”

NDP Deputy Leader and Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa says it is difficult to put into words the devastation that the mercury exposure has caused for generations of people in Grassy Narrows.

“Today’s youth never had a chance to avoid this,” Mamakwa says. “The mercury in their bloodstream has been passed along from generation to generation, like so many colonial injustices. In the face of this injustice, the youth of Grassy Narrows have persevered and excelled. As songwriters, playwrights, artists, nurses, teachers and as land defenders, they have walked a path of resilience and strength. We can support them,

so they don’t have to walk this path alone.”

Mamakwa adds that Grassy Narrows is demanding fair compensation for all community members impacted by the lasting damage of the mercury poison.

“They are also demanding respect for Grassy Narrows’ Indigenous Protected Area — a place where healing can be ongoing,” Mamakwa says. “I

wholeheartedly echo these calls.

The people of Grassy Narrows deserve respect and meaningful support. They deserve access to mental and physical health care. They are owed that by the federal and provincial governments who have failed them time and time again. I call on these governments to respond to these findings with specific actions and resources that have been called for by the community for

years.”

The study notes that very high mercury levels were reported in fish in the English-Wabigoon River system in 1970; inorganic Hg released by the chloralkali plant in Dryden, upriver from Grassy Narrows, was being converted into methylmercury (MeHg), a highly toxic compound that bioaccumulates and biomagnifies in the aquatic food chain.


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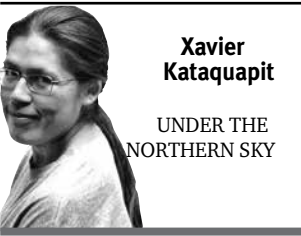
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# Commentary

## Time Is The Great Healer



Xavier  
Kataquapit

UNDER THE  
NORTHERN SKY

Tragedy seems to be a normal part of life for my people. I've known so many sad stories during my life time that with every passing event, I feel numb to the pain that a normal person should realize. It doesn't mean I am immune to the pain. Instead, I feel a deep sense of sadness when I experience the passing of loved ones in my life as it reminds me of so many others that have gone before.

This past month when most of us should be enjoying summer joy several people passed on unexpectedly.

My cousin Jeff Kataquapit passed on recently at the age of 57. He had suffered from a chronic pulmonary disease for some time and we had all worried about risks to his health during the Covid19 pandemic. This past month he contracted an infection that worsened his condition and he succumbed to the complications that occurred.

It was a terrible reminder to everyone in my family of the dangers of Covid, viruses and infections that are still very threatening to the weak and vulnerable. My partner Mike was also a good long time friend to Jeff and they had talked about these concerns as they shared a similar health problem affecting their lungs. It was a great shock for us to hear the news of Jeff's passing as we had all done our best to protect against chance infections, flus, colds and the possibility of Covid.

Jeff fluently spoke the Cree language which he preferred to use over English. He was one of my older cousins who held that special position of having been born early enough to know many prominent Elders, our grandparents and so many of the wise people in our community.

I always admired his grasp of our traditional language and he often shared many old stories, legends and historical facts that our Elders had passed on to him.

I recall Jeff as someone we younger cousins looked up to as he seemed to have a handle of the new culture of heavy metal music and all the leather, colours, spiked hair and jeans that the music came with. It was always a thrill for young Kataquapit cousins like myself to visit Jeff and his family of active and adventurous boys. My aunt Theresa and uncle Gabriel always welcomed every-

one to their home to share a meal and or simply take time to socialize. I was closest to his younger brother Lindy, who is my best friend, as we are the same age. There was always a good laugh and lots of fun whenever we ventured close to their home with the rest of their brothers Norman, Eric, Ron, Steve, Brian and Robert. I can recall summer afternoons tossing a basketball in a backyard court made of sawdust and packed mud while uncle Gabriel played his old time fiddle at one end of the house and Iron Maiden blared from a ghetto blaster near by. My memories of Jeff surround the Cree language, traditions and culture in the life we enjoyed together in the neighbourhood close to uncle Gabriel's home.

My cousin Jeff's passing happened also at the same time as his nephew Josh Wesley suddenly and tragically lost his partner Kimberly Shisheesh and their new born baby Frances. I felt a deep sadness of this news as Josh was also part of those memories of being with the Kataquapit boys when I was growing up.

There are so many connections to both Josh and Kimberly in my home community of Attawapiskat and the shock wave of sadness travelled through First Nations throughout Northern Ontario. Too many of our young people are passing away and leaving us all to mourn and grieve.

Also in the midst of all of this sad news Attawapiskat also lost Davis Koostachin at the age of 39. He was the son of David Okimaw and Christine Koostachin. Davis was younger than me and I saw him often through another set of cousins on my mom's side of the Paulmartin family.

The loss of all these people in the same time frame came as a great sadness for me. Although I have drifted away from my home community, I still feel connected through countless memories of good and hard times. In the true spirit of who we are as Cree and our need to heal and go forward, my brother Joe and a group of volunteers is featuring the Kat-tawapiskak Keekhehwin Gathering this August.

Out of the sadness we have just experienced, our families and friends will share in tradition, culture and music as a way to heal and move forward. We are survivors and we will continue to pull each other up from deep wells of sadness to the bright sunny rays of hope. We understand that time is the great healer and this is our 'Ininew Peematisiwin' (Cree way of life).

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## Teach for Canada completes 2023 training program



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Teach for Canada-Gakinaamaage recently completed another Summer Enrichment Program for teachers who will be teaching in First Nation communities across northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan at Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus. Asiniskaw Ithiniwak (Rocky Cree) speaker William Thomas from northern Manitoba delivers a Language Lessons session during the program.

## A Smoky Summer Continues



Graham  
Saunders

WEATHER

### What is going on this year?!

The wildfire season got an early start this year, especially in Alberta and British Columbia. In late spring and early summer records were set for number of fire starts, total area burned and of people evacuated.

Canada exceeded the yearly fire season average for land area burned on June 3. Then on June 27, surpassed the area burned in one fire season set in 1989. On that day, wildfires were burning in nine provinces and three territories across the country; area burned totalled 76,000 square kilometres. It is not easy to visualize such a number. Some media offered comparisons such as the combined area of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Some (including me) found it easier to compare to the Great Lakes. The combined area of Lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario is 127,000 sq.km. The forest area burnt by wildfires exceeded this amount on July 31.

### Regional weather summary for July

July was the third consecutive month in Northern Ontario with significantly below normal precipitation for most areas. Kenora received 60% of its aver-

age July rainfall, Thunder Bay 37%, Kapuskasing 51%. Timmins received only 31% of its average monthly rainfall which fell entirely in the first days of July and was followed by 21 days without even a trace of rain.

Readers in Sudbury and on Manitoulin Island might disagree about this "dry" summary. Sudbury's rain total was 146% compared to average (four days with 10 to 30 mm of rainfall).

During the first week of July, most of the region was warmer than average, especially in the Northeast and near the Quebec border northward to James Bay.

The second and third weeks in July were cooler than average. This was especially the case in the Northwest where, unlike previous months, temperatures were cooler than average. It is not quite this simple, but these cooler conditions are part of the reason that fire danger declined from high to moderate.

The final days of July featured a mix of conditions, substantial rainfall in some areas, and warmer than average temperature in most areas.

### August

Most areas in Northern Ontario had little rain during the first week of August and an average of 10 new wildfires per day were reported. This alarming pace slowed in the second week, in part because of some substantial rains and cooler temperatures.

On August 12, 2023, fire hazard risk across the region is rated as moderate to high.

### What has made this wildfire season so severe?

The 2023 wildfire season has already been Canada's most severe on record. This wildfire season has resulted in nearly 140,000 square kilometres of land burnt so far. The combined areas of Lakes Superior and Huron, the two largest Great Lakes, is 141,691 sq. km. Almost certainly, by the time you read this, a larger area will have been consumed by fire. Fires continue to burn across the entire country.

The area burned has surpassed previous records set in 1989 (76,000 sq. km). Another big year was 1995 (74,000 sq. km). I hesitate to say this: At this rate and with current projections, an area the size of all the Great Lakes could be burned in Canada by the end of this fire season.

There have been fatalities. Four fire fighters have died so far. Personal losses, evacuation orders, poor air quality, evacuation alerts - Canadians right across the country have felt the impacts of this challenging wildfire season.

There are many factors that influence the areas and amount of fire activity in Canada every year. These include the following:

### Climate change or global heating

Warming temperatures at the global and regional scales have been accompanied by other trends. These include lower afternoon humidity, more lightning, more dry days (defined as days with less than 2 mm of rainfall) and longer wildfire

seasons. The average area burnt in Canada doubled from the later 1950s to the early 1990s. Another doubling is in process.

These effects are being occurring around the world. Extreme fire behavior is currently being experienced in all the countries of southern Europe, Siberia and most recently, Hawaii.

### Ongoing drought or seasonal moisture deficiencies

This year, extreme fire activity has taken place in British Columbia, the Yukon, Alberta, Quebec and Nova Scotia. All of these areas had persistent drought conditions from at least one year prior. A few fires in Quebec from 2022 burned underground through the winter and flared up this year. Such so-called "zombie" fires are becoming more common in the sub-arctic.

### El Niño

It is remarkable that relatively small changes in water temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean can influence weather and seasonal conditions around the world or in this case, in Canada 10,000 kilometres away. It is not a perfect relationship but warmer water temperatures associated with El Niño in the Pacific Ocean often result in warmer temperatures and drier conditions. El Niño processes have been associated with some of the more severe historic fire seasons in Canada.

We will still be talking about this fire season next month.

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Community

Sixteenth annual Wabun Youth Gathering celebrates culture and traditions

Xavier Kataquapit  
Special to Wawatay News

The 16th Annual Wabun Youth Gathering was held in Elk Lake, Ontario in a week long event from July 17 to 21 for over 60 First Nation youth at the Elk Lake Ecolodge. The event was organized by the Wabun Tribal Council Health Department with the support of the tribal council's member First Nations. This is the first half of a two part gathering featuring junior participants from age 8 to 13. An event for senior youth will be held in August.

"It's important to have this annual event for our young people. This annual gathering keeps them all connected in a time and place where they can have some fun while also learning healthy teachings and learn from each other. It also gives them structure and a sense of caring knowing that we are here to look after them and look out for them. We also want them to understand that there are people around them in their home communities that care about them and want the best for them," explained Josee Forget, Wabun Regional Crisis Coordinator and event organizer.

Organizers wanted to give youth participants plenty of exposure and awareness of cultural teachings and traditional activities.

"We did lots and I got to meet new people and it all made me feel good. It's important to be here because you get to learn about your past and your ancestors. I want to thank my family for bringing me here and for all the people that have helped me," said 13 year old Sheldon Saunders of Brunswick House FN.

Traditional games including several unique cultural games, spear throwing and archery was taught by Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, of Sweetgrass FN, Saskatchewan. Oksasikewiyin is a cultural teacher who has done these programs for 16 years and brings a wealth of traditional and cultural knowledge to young people. Activities and lessons that focused on health, well being, traditional teachings and cultural awareness were also led by Wabun Health staff including Debbie Proulx-Buffalo, Tony Miller, Faye Naveau and Catherine Vinkle-Brunet, as well as community teachers and leaders including Holly Woodhouse and Troy Woodhouse both of Flying Post FN.

Traditional spiritual and ceremonial events were led by Elder Vina Landy-Hendrix of Matachewan FN. Elder Landy-Hendrix has the special distinction of having attended all 16 Wabun Youth Gathering events and young people from all the communities have grown accustomed to seeing her every year.

"This is an important event for me to see every year. It gives us a chance to show our young people our culture and history and to allow them to hear our language, the language of their ancestors. They already see so much of modern culture which is why it makes it even more important to have these events where we can show and teach them about their past, their heritage and where their families came from," commented Elder Landry-Hendrix.

The week long event also included a presentation on literature, art and illustration with published author Nancy Cooper of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation. She gave a reading from one of her books 'Biindigen! Amik Says Welcome' and led a group discussion with the participants.

Wabun Health Director was on hand to experience the gathering and noted her children have and still are benefiting from the annual event. Her daughter Katie attended this year.

"It's important to have this annual event for our children and bring them closer to our Elders and traditional teachers to share their cultural knowledge," said Collins.

Thirteen year old Katie Collins explained, "We learned about culture and I got to learn about traditional games. My favourite activity



photo provided by Wabun Health Services  
Wabun Youth Gathering has been providing traditional and cultural teachings to young people for 16 years now. Here we see this year's group gathered on the land at Elk Lake Ecolodge during this year's event which was held from July 17 to 21.

was swimming. I'm happy to be here as I get to learn about where I come from and our history."

Youth had plenty of other activities to keep them busy during the week including ball games, slime making, soap stone carving, sharing circles, bubble soccer, a foam party and daily gathering at the water front for swimming.

Chief Chad Boissoneau of Mattagami FN attended the event to meet with Wabun Youth and show his support for the annual event.

"Our young people

look forward to this annual event. My son Brent attended many years and went through the junior group when he was young, then the senior group and later attended as a chaperone. Now I'm seeing my grandchildren attending and it is really special to see this small event 16 years ago grow to become such an important annual gathering," said Chief Boissoneau.

The Wabun Youth Gathering originated through the vision and dream of Wabun Elder Thomas Saunders of Brunswick House FN who

lobbied for a youth gathering. The first gathering was held in Mattagami FN in 2007 through the leadership of past Health Director Jean Lemieux of Matachewan FN. Sadly, Elder Saunders passed on before his dream came to be.

Wabun Tribal Council is a regional territorial organization which represents the six First Nation communities of Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan and Mattagami in Northeastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

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# Community

## Roots urban farm teaching high schoolers hands-on gardening skills

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Moose tortillas were on the menu at the Roots Community Food Centre and Lakehead Public Schools' Focus on Youth program on July 24 at the Volunteer Pool Urban Garden in Thunder Bay. The program provides Grade 11 and 12 students with hands-on gardening, food preparation and animal care experience.

"We're here preparing moose tortillas with ingredients that were harvested from the gardens," says Tanya Moses, First Nations Métis Inuit partnerships coordinator at Lakehead District School Board. "It's just to kind of change it up a bit and have them experience what moose tastes like if they haven't tasted it before. This is moose that has been donated to the Roots Community Food Centre."

Moses says one of the students, Brendan Beardy, was a student at Hammarckjold High School's KZ Lodge when she was working at Hammarckjold.

"So it's cool to be able to share this summer experience with him and I'm proud to see how far he has come," Moses says. "He's here working on some credits and he's going to graduate after this summer."

Jane Lower, superintendent of education at Lakehead District School Board, says the Focus on Youth program is one of her favourite programs at Lakehead Public Schools.

"It's a partnership with the Ministry of Education and



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of Roots Community Food Centre and Lakehead Public Schools' Focus on Youth program students were treated to a meal of moose tortillas.

Lakehead Public Schools and Roots (Community Food Centre)," Lower says. "This is year six and it's a life changer for so many of our students. The skills that they develop over this eight-week program, it's a paid co-op so they're pulling in a summer salary as well as a couple of credits that they need."

Lower says some of the students need the credits to graduate while others need the credits to catch up with their cohort at school.

"When they go back to school they are confident and they've had a great summer and they have a savings account and they've got some financial literacy," Lower says. "Of course they've learned how to plant a garden, harvest a garden, but

we think the most important learning is the skills, they've learned how to work as a team, they take responsibility, they know if they don't show up on time they're letting down their team."

Angelina Ouellette, a Grade 12 Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute student, says the Focus on Youth program was "really nice."

"I like learning about the plants and the fact that it's all local," Ouellette says. "It's just feels a little nicer knowing that if you eat something, knowing that it's from home or knowing that hey, I made this. Also we know exactly what's in it, like no pesticides or anything like that."

Marcus Stevens, a Grade 12

Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute student, says the Focus on Youth program was "a lot of fun."

"Every week for four days it doesn't even feel like work," Stevens says, noting that he has been learning about the different plants and how they are planted and harvested. "We do a lot of weeding but also everybody here is like friends and it's so much fun."

Mohammad Aldaghr, a Grade 12 Hammarckjold High School student, says the Focus on Youth program is a "pretty nice experience."

"It's really nice taking care of plants and growing food," Aldaghr says, noting that he is learning how to maintain the health of the plants. "We go



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Tanya Moses and Brendan Beardy prepare moose tortillas.

on field trips every Tuesday, it's pretty fun, we work on other fields and other gardens. We're all friends here, we all work together."

Airin Stephens, program director at Roots Community Food Centre, says the Focus on Youth program is an eight-week summer employment program that includes employment skills and life skills programming.

"We have 12 youth from the three Lakehead District School Board high schools and we also get students who come from the alternative program Connections," Stephens says, noting that the students apply for the program and are selected by their Indigenous graduation coaches and guidance counselors as students who are ready

for employment. "They want some sort of employment but they want also a supportive work environment. We're not growing farmers here, it's fun for them to get out and to see plants grow from seed to harvest. I think they get a lot of meaning from that, but it's really about building relationships with each other, feeling good in their body because it's physical work but also participating in different workshops."

Stephens says the students do workshops on financial literacy, resume and skill building, getting ready to go back to school, dealing with folks who are in conflict and opening their first bank account.



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# Cutlure

## Mini Powwow a hit with the community's evacuees

from page 7

“I know you’re away from home right now but it’s good just to gather and have some fun here. Our respect to the drummers and all the dancers that are here and our Elders here as well, it’s a beautiful night and it’s beautiful to see everybody and to dance with you.”

Steve Achneepineskum, head male dancer at the powwow and Marten Falls citizen, says it was important to lift the spirits of the evacuees.

“My late father came from this community, so me being here supporting them in this gathering is very important to me,” Achneepineskum says. “It’s my way of giving back to the people that have given me so much in my journey.”

Desirae Paypompee, head female dancer and Whitefish Bay citizen, says the powwow was an opportunity to dance and meet the evacuees.

“It was pretty busy here,” Paypompee says. “I love watching the jingle dress dancers and there’s a lot more younger girls here who look to be five to eight years of age dancing and the way we used to start off running around the circle around the drums and songs. It’s bringing me back to when I was just a little girl, they’re enjoying themselves and they’re very polite and they’re saying hi to me and asking me where I’m from.”

Josias Fiddler, a dancer and Sandy Lake citizen, says he brought his two sons to dance at the powwow.

“We dance for the people

and just want to show them the good life and hopefully inspire others,” Fiddler says. “It’s always good to share.”

Dave Simard, arena director at the powwow and Lac Seul citizen, says they had a lot of community support to support the evacuees at the powwow.

“We had (Hajdu and Miller) here tonight, we had them speak,” Simard says. “We’ve had a number of people dropping in to say hello and a lot of other community members come by to support the people from Eabametoong. We have four drums and we have pretty much every style of dance that there is out there today.”

Simard says they also celebrated a birthday for a youth who had turned 15 by doing a round dance.

“(The powwow) was a really

good opportunity to share our music, our culture and songs and dances with Eabametoong,” Simard says. “They’re here during a difficult time and we just wanted to show our support and love for them.”

Todd Genno, emcee at the powwow and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg citizen, says it was very important to support the evacuees because they were forced to be away from their home.

“Your home is your safety and comfort place, so it’s best that we do a giving of our kindness and our heart to bring these to the people of Fort Hope because they are a long way from home,” Genno says. “The powwow went really good, there was such a great turnout. It just goes to show how much Thunder Bay cares about our fellow Anishinabe.”



Head female dancer Desirae Paypompee dances her style. Rick Garrick/Wawatay News



Grass dancers Josias Fiddler and his sons dance their style. Rick Garrick/Wawatay News



Grass dancer Josiah Fiddler dances his style. Rick Garrick/Wawatay News



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# Arts and Entertainment



submitted photo

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell presented the 2020, 2021 and 2022 James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Awards to a group of the 12 recipients on July 15 at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay.

## James Bartleman youth award presented to 12 recipients

**Rick Garrick**  
Wawatay News

The James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Awards were presented to 12 recipients for 2020, 2021 and 2022 on July 15 by Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay. The recipients received a cita-

tion and a one-time award of \$2,500.

Evie Gideon, an Ottawa citizen whose family is from Misanabie Cree, was recognized with the 2022 Senior Off-Reserve award for her story *The Long Way Home*.

"It was a short story about a small 13-year-old boy who went to residential school, a little bit about his experience there and

then about his journey home," Gideon says. "He escapes the school and has a long journey to get back home."

Gideon's father, Ryan Gideon, says it was wonderful to see his daughter being recognized with the James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award, noting that his grandfather was sent to the St. John's Indian residential school

in Chapleau.

"It was nice to see her take an interest in the culture and the history," Ryan says. "It's something that's been a part of our identity and my family history, so it's really nice to see her take an interest in that."

**see AWARD** page 10



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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IN CLASS ACTION

**To all individuals who were sexually abused by  
Ralph Rowe in the geographic boundaries of the  
Anglican Diocese of Keewatin between 1975 and 1987  
and have not previously settled or otherwise released  
claims against the Synod of the Diocese of Keewatin  
and Scouts Canada**

**A proposed settlement has been reached between the parties. If approved, it will make compensation available to individuals who were sexually abused by Ralph Rowe.**

If you opted out of the class action, the settlement will not impact you.

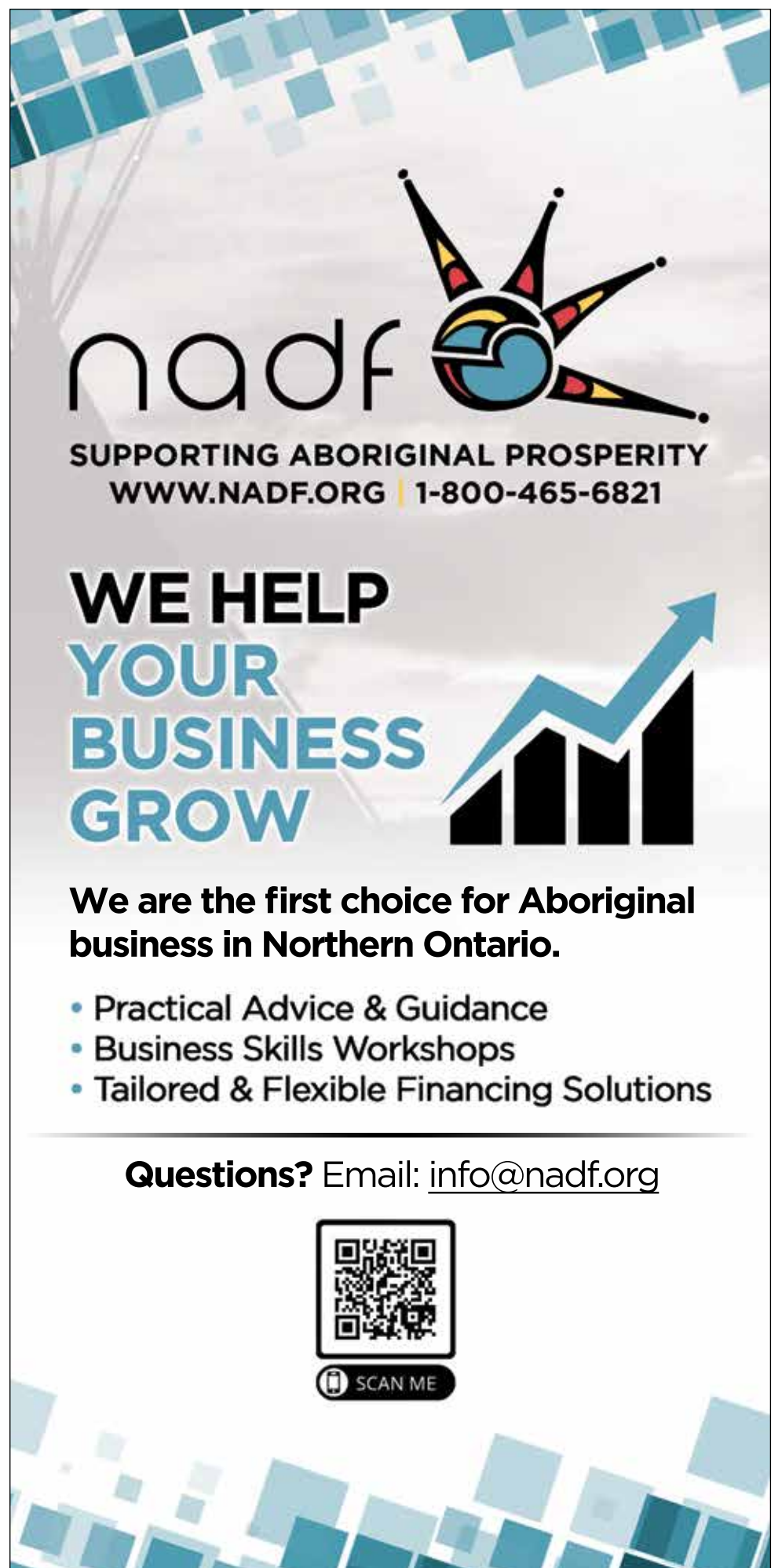
There will be a court hearing on October 27, 2023 to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement and counsel fees.

Compensation to Class Members is not yet available. If the Court approves the settlement and you are part of the lawsuit as a Class Member, you can then make a claim for compensation.

For further information, visit [www.ralphroweclasseaction.ca](http://www.ralphroweclasseaction.ca) or call 1-866-563-1127, or email [info@ralphroweclasseaction.ca](mailto:info@ralphroweclasseaction.ca).

The lawyers acting for the class are Koskie Minsky LLP. You may contact the lawyers with any questions or concerns you have about this proposed settlement. You can contact the lawyers by phone (1-888-353-6661), email ([ralphroweaclassaction@kmlaw.ca](mailto:ralphroweaclassaction@kmlaw.ca)), or postal mail (900-20 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 3R3).

If you support the settlement and want it to proceed so you can claim money, you do not need to take any steps. If you want to object to the settlement for any reason, you must send an objection to RCQ Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 3355, London, ON N6A 4K3 by September 29, 2023.





Arts and Entertainment

Winners receive a citation and a one-time \$2,500 award



submitted photo  
Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

from page 9

The three other 2022 James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award recipients were Jaymes Simon, from Sheguiandah, with the Senior On-Reserve James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award for I See a Boy story; Rowyn Kasunich, from M'Chigceng, with the Junior On-Reserve award for The Chandelier story; and Avery Stewart, from Kanata, with the Junior Off-Reserve award for Our Culture poem.

Kentley Gardner, a Thunder Bay citizen whose family is from Eagle Lake and who was recognized with the 2021 Junior

Off-Reserve award for her poem Take Me Home, says being recognized with the award was really exciting.

"I wrote a poem about my reserve personally, and it was about going home because now I live here in Thunder Bay," Gardner says. "When I go home I really cherish my time, so I decided to write a poem about what it's like being there and the experience."

The five other 2021 James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award recipients were Keilyn Linklater, from Attawapiskat, with the Junior Fly-In award for Spring 2021 poem; Tish Tookate, from Attawapiskat with the Senior

Fly-In award for untitled poem; Emily Peltier, from London, with the Senior Off-Reserve award for untitled story; Farah Garlow, from Ohsweken, with the Junior On-Reserve award for My Strong Family story; and Asia Nahdee-Wagner, from Walpole Island, with the Senior On-Reserve award for Self Love: Kindness Through the Eyes of an Anishinaabekwe poem.

The two 2020 James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award recipients were Kaidyn Bailey, from Utterson, with the Junior Off-Reserve award for When the Winter Comes story and Sophie Langlois, from London, with the Senior Off-Reserve award for

Kindred Spirits poem.

The award was established in 2008 to honour the legacy of James Bartleman, the province's 27th Lieutenant Governor and the first Indigenous person appointed to the role in Ontario, and to celebrate the creative talents of Indigenous youth and encourage them to share their perspectives and experiences through storytelling.

"It's my privilege to recognize these talented young Indigenous writers and amplify their powerful voices," Bartleman says. "Their creative submissions not only exemplify their courage, strength and unique perspectives, they help to celebrate Indigenous communities in Ontario."

The James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award recipients were chosen by an independent selection committee of citizens from Indigenous communities.

"This award recognizes the efforts of James Bartleman in promoting literacy among Indigenous youth and celebrates brave and inspiring voices," Dowdeswell says. "This work deepens the province's collective understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures, and ongoing relationships with Indigenous leaders and communities."

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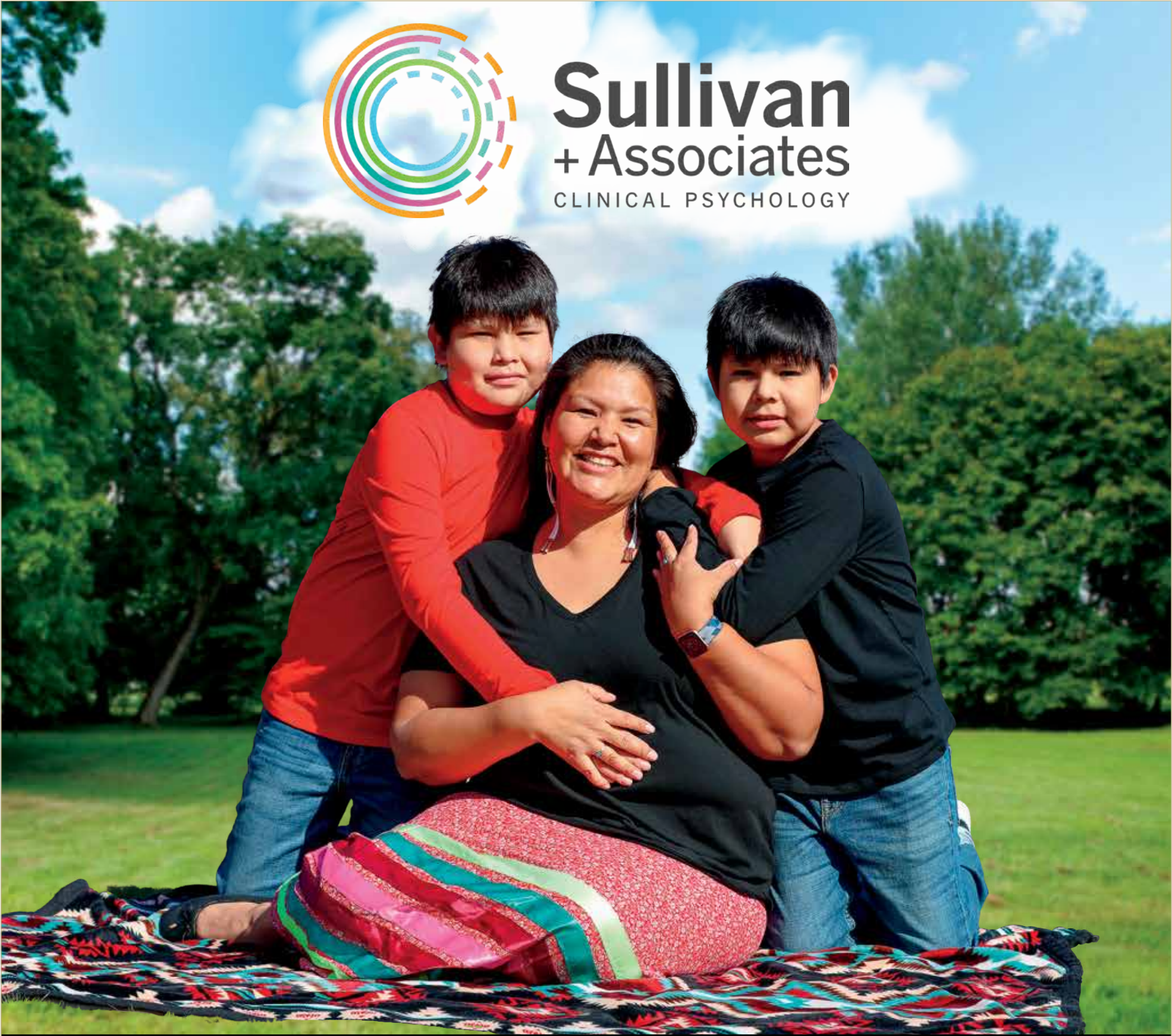
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