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## A large group of approximately 30 people, mostly of Indigenous descent, are posed for a group photograph in a snowy, open area. Many individuals are wearing winter coats, hats, and face masks. In the center of the group, a white banner is held, featuring a logo of a fish and a person, with the text "Kingsolver Lake First Nation" below it. The background shows a flat, snow-covered landscape with some distant structures and utility poles under a cloudy sky.

submitted photos

**Passenger** **Charter** **Cargo**



On behalf of Wawatay’s Board of Directors and entire staff we wish everyone a safe holiday season. We also humbly thank all who have supported us during our historic past, and are grateful for the continued support into the next generation.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



# Politics

## NAN hosts 2022 Housing Summit

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Grand Chief Derek Fox highlighted a young girl’s message about housing needs during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Housing Summit, held at the Best Western Nor’Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

“There was a young girl from Fort Albany about five or six years ago (who said) to me: ‘Deputy, what do you do in the morning when you wake up,’” Fox says. “I said I wake up and get ready, play my music, look in the mirror, try to look good, and she starts laughing. She says: ‘You know what, I don’t have that. I don’t even have a mirror in my washroom and I’m waiting with seven or eight people just to get into the bathroom, we don’t have running water.’”

Fox says the young girl told him to improve the housing in the communities.

“If you’re a leader for us, please improve the housing, talk to my chief, talk to our council, talk to our Elders, talk to our parents and so on,” and that was her message to me,” Fox says. “It dawned on me that housing, our homes is where your day starts, and it is absolutely crucial that we improve the living conditions of our people, for all of our people, for that young person I shared that message about.”

Fox says there is currently a backlog of 7,500 homes needed across NAN territory.

“We’ve talked to the ministers, we’ve talked to Patty (Hajdu, minister of Indigenous Services Canada) and Marc Miller (minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations) to stress the importance of this,” Fox says. “We’ve talked to our Elders, we’ve talked to our leaders, we’ve talked to our people, and there’s many great ideas out there. Some have said let’s take the initiative and start building our own homes, let’s take control of our land even. There’s boundaries, let’s go out-

side the boundaries and we’ll start building our own traplines and our own homes, let’s do it the way we used to do it. That’s an idea that I’ve heard — they need support, they need financial support, they need all kinds of support to do that.”

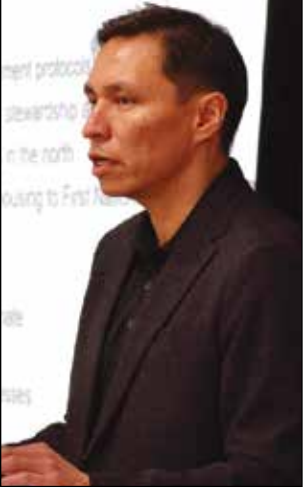
Fox says the young people have hope and a lot of bright ideas on housing across NAN territory.

“(There’s) a lot of bright educated people up there who have the solutions,” Fox says. “They may not be here today but they do have the solutions, they just need someone to listen to them, they need someone to implement those ideas, they need someone to voice those ideas and advocate for those ideas, which is why we’re here.”

Michael McKay, director of housing and infrastructure at NAN, stressed the importance of addressing the housing emergency across NAN territory during the Launch of the NAN Housing Strategy presentation on the first day of the summit.

“We have listened to the stories and voices of NAN (citizens) and their experiences in housing and have developed a strategy based on their input and feedback,” McKay says. “After four years of engagement and review we are moving forward towards implementing a vision created by NAN (citizens) for NAN communities and for the future of housing. This vision is reflected in the development of the NAN Housing Strategy, which will fulfil the human right of access to adequate housing and end the collective housing emergency in the NAN territory. We must move beyond government’s vision of housing and make the changes that NAN (citizens) want to see in their housing systems, including ways that support health and wellness in our communities.”

McKay says the NAN Housing Strategy provides a high level overview of action needed, and is meant to guide NAN’s work in how they can support First Nations right to self determina-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
Michael McKay, director of housing and infrastructure at Nishnawbe Aski Nation, speaks during the Launch of the NAN Housing Strategy presentation at the NAN Housing Summit, held at the Best Western Nor’Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

tion.

“Communities are not required to participate or adopt any parts of the strategy,” McKay says. “The strategy also currently only focuses on on-reserve housing, however NAN will continue to collaborate and support the work being done for off-reserve (citizens) and (citizens) experiencing homelessness. And importantly the NAN Housing Strategy will continue to develop to meet its objectives through new projects that respond to needs identified through community engagement.”

The Housing Summit also featured a Panel on Rapid Housing Initiative - Successes and Challenges; Workshop 1: Tendering, Procurement and Project Management; a Panel on Current and Future Housing Trends in NAN First Nations; Workshop 2: Integrated Approaches to Governance and Community Planning; and Developing Community-led Designs for Housing.

# Thank You, Airlines!

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















Politics



Indigenous author/speaker Sandi Boucher spoke about how Indigenous women’s voices were silenced during her presentation at Nishnawbe Aski Nation’s International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women awareness social at the NAN office in Thunder Bay.

NAN holds elimination of violence against women social

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum raised the history of violence that First Nations women have faced at Nishnawbe Aski Nation’s International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women awareness social. The event was held at the Nishnawbe Aski Nation office in Thunder Bay with a livestream available via Youtube.

“We have faced a history of violence and injustice in many

various ways, everything from our rights being taken away from us, our role as matriarchs have been taken away,” Achneepineskum says. “We face the highest rates of violence and homicides in this country, and so do our Indigenous sisters to the south of us. We really need to be part of commemorating these days and participating by planning events and participating in events, not only on this day but there are other events that we can also participate in, whether it’s MMIWG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous

Women and Girls) walks or gatherings, we need to do that. But we must also remember to honour and celebrate our women for the great accomplishments and contributions that they make.”

Sandi Boucher, an Indigenous author/speaker and Seine River citizen, stressed that there is nothing wrong with Indigenous women during her presentation at the event.

see BOUCHER page 5

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From everyone at Nishnawbe- Aski Legal Services Corporation

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# Commentary

## We Are Not The Wild West



**Xavier  
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE  
NORTHERN SKY

There is a lot of discussion about gun control these days. As an Indigenous person who was born and raised on the lands of the great James Bay, I know very well the role that hunting rifles and shotguns play in harvesting animals. One of the first things I learned as a young boy was how to fire a gun as part of my education in learning the culture and traditions of my people in terms of harvesting moose, caribou, geese, ducks and other wild life.

Since the dawn of time my ancestors have been surviving on the land as hunter gatherers and to a degree many indigenous people still live this way of life. We have been hunting with firearms for less than a hundred years now and it has helped us in making it easier to harvest food to sustain our families. However, in modern times we don't have the same need to harvest in the way we did in the past. We have easier access to food and we don't have to spend a lot of time hunting and gathering.

Many of us still like to follow our traditional and cultural ways and hunting and gathering plays a big role in these pursuits. Indigenous and non-Indigenous hunters have for many years been harvesting more than we need and that has decimated numbers of animals and birds on our lands. We have government agencies charged with trying to ensure that we are careful, respectful and considerate with our harvesting practices. There are laws that try to control the number of animals and birds we can harvest and that is a good thing. As humans we have a long history of abusing our harvesting and that is simply part of human nature, greed and being unaware that if we don't respect the wildlife around us and take as much of it as possible there will be no traditional harvesting for our future generations.

Guns are a big part of the hunt with my Indigenous family and friends. Guns are part of our culture at this point but only when it comes to harvesting on the land and for the most part we are respectful and careful on the hunt.

There is currently a lot of confusion on many people's part in dealing with the government of Canada's desire to put in place a more restrictive gun control. If you really understand what that means you

will realize that is not a terrible thing to do. There are many law abiding and responsible gun owners who belong to gun clubs and visit target ranges but they have to pass testing and need to be licensed in this country.

As Canadians one of the biggest things that separates us from our American neighbours to the south of us is the fact that we do not allow the sale of all kinds of firearms without much restriction as to who can purchase a gun.

The United States has a very different culture when it comes to guns in society. There are so many guns in the United States and that has led to a very violent society in which many thousands of people are killed with guns every year. Just about anyone can purchase a military style assault weapon in the United States and I think most of us realize that does not make good sense. It is estimated that the US has one gun or more for every citizen in the country. Or more simply put, there are more guns than people in the United States. No other nation in the world has that many guns. It's estimated that more than 50 people every day are killed by a firearm in the US.

The new gun control restrictions in Canada don't really penalize hunters or farmers who use fire-arms designed for harvesting.

These new restrictions are designed to deal mainly with military style assault rifles and guns that are more than what is needed to harvest an animal or bird on the land.

I don't understand why any hunter would need a gun or assault rifle with multiple rounds to hunt. If a hunter needs an assault type multiple round gun to hunt then I think that is overkill and even dangerous.

I am all for keeping our rights as hunters and gatherers to own decent guns that will do the job but the right wing interests in this country and in the US is lobbied to a great degree by the gun and armament companies to defeat any idea of controlling dangerous military style assault guns. They do this mostly because of the vast amount of money this industry represents but also as a means to sneak in a drive to have right wing, more fascist prone governments in place.

Many of us are being sucked in by this issue and we should be aware that if we jump on that right wing anti gun control wagon it could take us to a dangerous place.

As Canadians we are more reasonable, aware and respectful of the role guns should play in our society. We are not the wild west ... we are Canadians.

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## Nadya Kwandibens exhibition opens at Thunder Bay Art Gallery



Indigenous artist Nadya Kwandibens speaks about why she captured images of people on red chairs during an artist talk for the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Nadya Kwandibens: The Red Chair Sessions exhibition, which runs until Dec. 31.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

## Seasonal Thresholds in Weather



**Graham  
Saunders**

WEATHER

The month of November, the final month of the fall season, always features a transition between fall and winter weather. Snow is possible throughout the month, but the odds of snow rather than rain increase as the month progresses. On average, afternoon temperatures decline about 10 degrees Celsius as the month proceeds.

The first days of November featured a progression of summer-like temperatures across Northern Ontario. What qualifies as a summer temperature? I think 20° C and above qualifies.

Afternoon temperatures of 20° C and higher were recorded on November 2 in a large triangle from Fort Frances to Atikokan to Sioux Lookout. For Sioux Lookout, 20.9° C was both a record for the day and for the month of November. The maximum temperature on Nov. 3 was 21.7° C in Upsala, qualifying it as the warmest community in November across northern Ontario.

The warm air continued to drift to the east. Wawa, Geraldton, and Moosonee were warmer than 19° C. Another oddity of this summer-like anomaly is how warm the overnight temperatures were.

How many people in Thunder Bay were up and about after midnight in early November?

If you were you likely noted the balmy temperatures of 15° to 17° C that persisted overnight. Thunder Bay, then Geraldton and then Moosonee took turns for extended times on the Environment Canada website as the "Warmest place in Canada" (then Ontario) in the early morning hours on Nov. 3 and 4.

Colder than normal temperatures followed until the final week of November, which featured a return to above average temperatures. The entire month was 1° to 2° C warmer than average across the region.

Precipitation was less than normal over most of Northwestern Ontario in spite of two storms. A Colorado low on November 10 and 11 resulted in 10 to 20 cm of snow in the Thunder Bay area. Record rain amounts, then freezing rain and snow took place from east of Lake Superior to around Kapuskasing.

Another Colorado low at the end of November (29, 30) brought similar amounts of snow to the Thunder Bay area. Freezing rain, snow and very strong winds contributed to delays and some road closures on Highways 17 and 11 as the storm moved to the east.

### 0° C

The most important temperature threshold in our part of the world is the freezing/melting point of water.

Colorado lows can present a

range of problems for Northern Ontario. They deliver tropical moist air which then mixes with cold air at the mid-latitudes. Typically, they feature periods of rain in the early stages because the temperature is above 0° C.

In the winter season this type of storm usually has air warmer than 0° C aloft. At this stage, liquid rain or drizzle falls through air colder than 0° C near the ground and freezes on impact at ground level or on windshields. These conditions alone likely supply concerns but snow adds more complications especially for driving. This can present reduced visibility and slippery road surfaces.

Many highways in northern Ontario have steep hills with quick changes in elevation. Usually, temperatures decline with increased elevation by about 1° C every 100 metres. In hilly terrain such as on Hwy 17 north of Lake Superior this can mean driving through rain in valleys and wet snow on hills.

### December with an outlook for the final days of 2022

In mid-December a potent winter storm with origins over the Pacific Ocean tracked across the northern United States. This large low pressure system resulted in some blizzard conditions across the United States and high snow amounts in Saskatchewan and Manitoba as it tracked east.

At almost the same time a

second plume of moisture, associated with the third Colorado low of the season, approached the Lake Superior area from the south.

Blizzard conditions took place in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Environment Canada forecast snowfall amounts of 20 to 40 cm for south of Thunder Bay and 10 to 20 cm of snowfall for Thunder Bay and areas north to the north.

Much of the time the air temperature was close to 0° C. Rainfall was frequent near Lake Superior and wet snow common inland. This combination of Pacific and Gulf moisture and the low pressure systems then moved east.

The complicated system resulted in major snow amounts in southern Ontario and reached beyond Montreal. By the end of this combination of storms there was approximately 32 cm of new snow south of Thunder Bay and as much as 39 cm in the Montreal area.

Most of the first three weeks of December featured warmer than seasonal temperatures across Northern Ontario.

Then an Arctic vortex centred over northern Saskatchewan with overnight temperatures minus 40 and colder began to nudge eastward. Environment Canada predicts colder than normal conditions for the Northwest but no record cold temperatures likely. In the Northeast, temperatures are predicted to be near normal.

To all readers: Best wishes for the rest of 2022 and then through 2023.

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# Commentary

## Jingle All The Way



**Xavier  
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE  
NORTHERN SKY

It is hard to believe that Christmas 2022 and the holiday season is right around the corner. There are Christmas parades happening in most cities and towns right across the country. For many this is the first time since 2019 before the wretched Covid-19 Pandemic hit the world and stopped us all in our tracks. It is good to see Santa back on his sleigh running around the streets and greeting all the kids. We all need that idea of the goodness of Christmas and Santa this year.

We have dealt with being sick with Covid-19, lock downs, wearing masks, getting vaccines and more or less having our lives turned upside down with all kinds of restrictions. Many businesses have gone bust and in particular those in the retail, tourism, entertainment and restaurant sectors of the economy. We have lost many loved ones to this pandemic and we continue to lose people as Covid-19 keeps coming back in new variants. We know so many people who have been sick, hospitalized and are dealing with long Covid and trying to get their lives back to normal.

Christmas and the holiday season is certainly welcomed by all of us. This is that nostalgic return to some kind of joy and magic. It is also of course the time to spend, spend and spend to make sure we shower our young ones and those we love with all kinds of wonderful gifts.

It is also the time of gatherings to celebrate the season and a little later to welcome in 2023. People will be travelling from remote First Nations to cities and towns all over the country to purchase gifts and to enjoy the holiday season break.

This Christmas and holiday season should come with a warning. While we are running around and spending a lot of time indoors without masks we will certainly be catching Covid-19, flus, colds and other infectious diseases.

We have to keep in mind that we are in the middle of a severe sick season again this year and although we want to believe things are back to normal all the experts tell us that is not the

case. So, if you want to protect your Elders and the very young from severe sickness, get the flu shot and for goodness sake wear masks when you are heading anywhere indoors. This is not the time to be caught off guard during the circulation of so much sickness.

Also, you might want to consider the warnings from all of the financial experts that we are entering into a time of severe recession and possibly depression. That means if you are like most Canadians and living from paycheque to paycheque and maxing out your credit cards, you just might be in for a big surprise if the economy fails to the point where you end up jobless and way over your head in debt.

So, while you are spending your way to happiness this Christmas perhaps you might want to remember to try to put a little cash aside for the possible rainy days that are forecast for the next year or two.

As we head into Christmas and the holiday season with 2023 on the horizon we also have to be aware that the world's superpowers are madly sabre rattling with each other and for the first time since the Cuban Missile Crisis there is talk of nuclear war.

This seems to be very unreal and all of the above considered feels like we are watching a very bad movie. Still, we are human. We are hopeful and we trust that most of the world leaders are somewhat sane and working towards a better life for all of us. Still that is a bit of a gamble.

One thing for sure as an Indigenous person I can tell you that my people have already suffered from poverty, starvation, racism and the tragic violence of colonization.

This life experience has prepared us for what ever is coming that might not be all about pretty gifts under the tree and Christmas cake. We are survivors and we can cope with just about anything. However, global nuclear war is something none of us can deal with.

Hopefully the upcoming year 2023 will bring more sense to our world leaders and those few filthy rich billionaires, the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic and a goose in every pot for us all. The alternatives are dire.

[www.underthenorthernsky.com](http://www.underthenorthernsky.com)

## Sandi Boucher gives uplifting speech

from page 3

"There is nothing wrong with you, you are exactly the way you're supposed to be," Boucher says. "And if you don't fit somewhere, it's the somewhere that's the problem, not you. You deserve safe spaces, we are not the enemy. Unfortunately, that's not what so many people were taught."

Boucher asked participants to imagine when the explorers first arrived on Turtle Island, noting that they came from a society "where women wore fancy dresses and were in the other room with no voice at all."

"Imagine them meeting us — we're not quiet, we're not shy, and back before they got here so many of our societies were matriarchal, we were the leadership, and if not we were standing side-by-side with our

men," Boucher says. "I picture that often and I often think of the settler thinking my wife must never meet these women. Unfortunately that was when the decision was made that our voices had to be silenced, that we could not be the leadership, we had to be removed from those roles. They began refusing to talk to the women and only negotiating with the men — land treaty agreements, the signatories (were) only the men. Strong Anishinabekwe were seen as the enemy and to so many our voices are still seen that way."

Boucher says Indigenous women grew up constantly thinking they had to prove their value, that they had to show their teachers they were smart.

"Here's the quote you need to remember the next time you run into someone who doesn't

see your value — their vision problem is not your value problem," Boucher says. "The fact that they have to go to the eye doctor is not your issue, your value is still there. So the next time you need someone to tell you you have value, say it, the next time you need someone to tell you just how worthy you are, say it because your spirit's been waiting to hear it from you."

Emma Morrison, a Chapleau Cree citizen who was recently crowned as Miss World Canada, says she began reconnecting to her culture after the discovery of 215 potential burial sites at a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C. in 2021 and has since developed an initiative called Reconnecting through Ribbon Skirts during her presentation at the event.

"Ribbon skirts are a tradi-

tional piece of clothing worn by Indigenous women and are considered an expression of history, resilience, celebration and connection," Morrison says. "I began sewing these ribbon skirts because it was important for me to feel connected to my culture. As Indigenous women here in Canada we do face so much violence in this country still, we are 12 times higher than the national average to become a victim of homicide, so it was important for me to take my emotions and form it into tangible ways of action. So I started creating ribbon skirts for Indigenous women to wear so they'll have something to wear to decolonize their wardrobe and to stand strong as Indigenous women and reclaim their strength while wearing a traditional piece of clothing."

**Wishing you and your family  
peace and joy throughout the  
holidays, and into the new year.**

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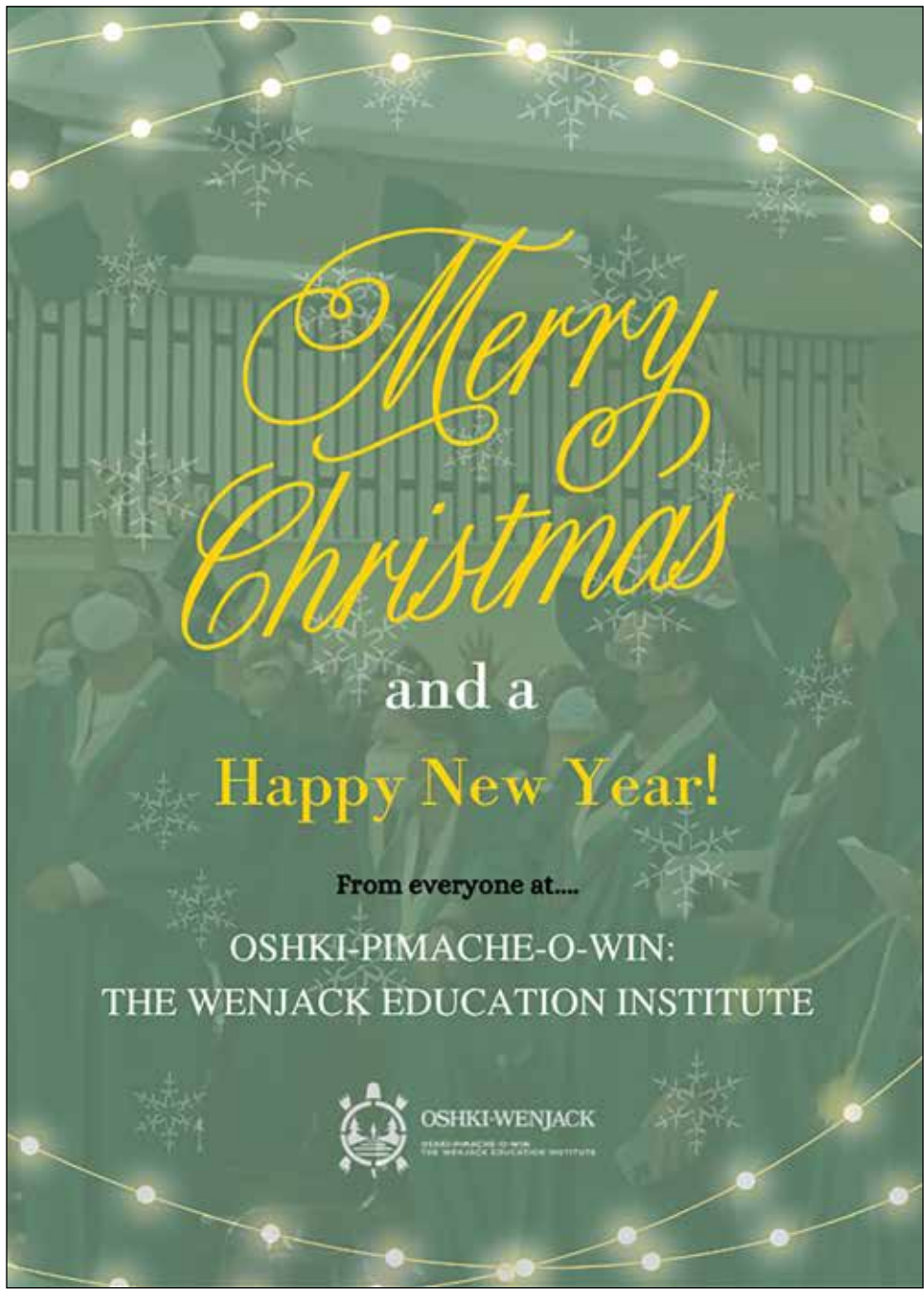
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# Education

# Seven Generations waking up the Ojibwe language

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Seven Generations Education Institute is having success with revitalizing Anishinabemowin through its Waking Up Ojibwe – Anishinaabemodaa initiative. Anishinaabemodaa was initially established in 2017 as the Language Strategy through a seven-year agreement with the Rainy River District School Board and SayITFirst and support from 10 local First Nations.

"A lot of community engagement and involvement went into building the strategy — it's five components all working together for the same goal and that's bringing Anishinabemowin back into the homes," says Shannon King, Gaa-niigaanishkang Anishinaabemodaa Anokiiwin at Seven Generations Education Institute. "Our focus on Early Years has developed over the last five years, but really it was about getting Anishinabemowin into Early Years programs through connecting our partner centres to the speakers, through education and development of the educators' language skills, connecting them to language to help facilitate that relationship between that educator and the language so they would want to bring it into their classroom."

King says Anishinaabemodaa also includes family pro-

gramming in communities to provide opportunities for families to play and learn Anishnabemowin together.

“When I first started this role I went out and I had meetings with Elders in communities, leadership, parents and educators,” King says. “One of the questions I had asked was what are your barriers to learning language — a lot of parents said (there was) no child care to attend language tables, and throughout the 10 (First Nations) I visited, that was a pretty common theme.”

King says they have developed a family program delivered in Anishinabemowin that paired with a fluent speaker from the community that the program was being held in.

"So we partner with a local speaker and we facilitate different activities for learning language," King says.

King says they have also developed an Adult Anishnabemowin Revitalization Program for adults over the age of 18 to learn Anishnabemowin from a second language learner.

"We've had one cohort already complete and since then Anishinaabemodaa has hired six of the graduates, four of which are still working within the team throughout various programs," King says. "It's a really great program to create those speakers

and connect individuals later in life to language. I think the small training wage that they do receive helps people to pay their bills so they can take this journey of learning language six hours a day, five days a week for three years. It's based on the school year so they do take summers off."

King says they also have a Mentor Learner Program for high school students, which includes a training wage for the students to attend.

“Originally the Mentor Learner Program was going to pair students to fluent speakers but COVID-19 happened and we couldn’t do that safely,” King says. “Our speakers are mostly Elders and we didn’t want to put them at risk, so we adjusted and we took some of those language learners and paired them with a small group of the high school students ... and they started learning basic Anishinabemowin and they started building their foundation of language.”

King says the students have been using an online Anishinabemowin learning tool that Anishinaabemodaa has created through the Cultural Foundry.

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# JOIN OUR TEAM!





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## Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

### CAREERS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

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We value our employees' education, skills and most importantly their cultural awareness and respect for our service model, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin. Employment opportunities at Tikinagan are vast. There are opportunities to work directly with children and families, in what we call frontline work, or to work "behind the scenes" in areas such as management, administrative support, information technology, data entry, finance or human resources. Our opportunities are full-time or casual and often are great stepping stones to a very fulfilling career.

### THE COMMUNITIES We SERVE

We have more than 30 offices throughout our region. While we have many opportunities in city/town based locations, we also have many community-based positions in the First Nation communities. Our formal head office is located in Sandy Lake First Nation. The administrative office is based in Sioux Lookout, because it is a major transportation centre for the Tikinagan communities. The agency continues to increase the numbers of community-based staff in order to provide more responsive services at the local level.

### HOW TO APPLY

We ensure that our hiring process is accessible as possible. As a result, there are a few ways to apply for a job at Tikinagan:

**Email**  
Emailing your resume and cover letter to [hr@tikinagan.org](mailto:hr@tikinagan.org)

**Mail**  
Mail your resume and cover letter to:

Tikinagan Child & Family Services Hiring Committee  
PO Box 627  
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1B1

**Fax**  
Faxing your resume and cover letter to (807) 737-4550.

**In Person**  
You can drop by any Tikinagan community office/unit and bring your resume/cover letter to the receptionist. Let them know you are applying for a job and ask them to fax it to Human Resources.





TIKINAGAN.ORG



# Arts and Entertainment

from page 6

"It's kind of like a game where you progress in stages going through modules," King says. "You can't get from one module to the next without a certain amount of knowledge — you have to test fairly high. It's a tool used to teach language, so they bring them through that and now we're in the stages where we're going to pair those students who went through all the modules with fluent speakers. I think this is a good adjustment because now we've given these students a foundation of language instead of just throwing them into a fluent speaker's environment without some knowledge to communicate."

King says the Mastercard Foundation funded the Anishinabemowin Facilitator Program, which was developed from an idea by fluent speakers, last year.

"It's about gathering fluent speakers who have expressed they have little to no experience teaching language but have a desire to pass their language on," King says. "For six months we gathered online for 20 hours a week, and I paired them with other fluent speakers who have experience teaching language so that they could share their methods, tips and resources for teaching language and also just talk about their journey in becoming a language teacher."

King says 18 fluent speakers completed the program, and two have since been hired by Anishinaabemodaa for their summer program.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
John Etherington had a variety of  
tamarack geese for sale.



Grand Chief Derek Fox and former regional chief Charles Fox enjoyed shopping at the craft sale Dec. 3-4 at the CLE Heritage Building in Thunder Bay.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
Tehya Quachegan, a member of Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Oshkaatisak Council, bought a pair of canvas boots at the Northern Ontario's 20th Annual Christmas Indigenous Fine Arts and Crafts Show and Sale

# Aboriginal Artworks Group 2022 Christmas crafts sale

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Grand Chief Derek Fox highlighted the beauty of Indigenous arts and crafts on the first day of the Aboriginal Artworks Group of Northern Ontario's 20th Annual Christmas Indigenous Fine Arts and Crafts Show and Sale. The annual Christmas arts and crafts sale was held at the CLE Heritage Building in Thunder Bay.

"This beautiful artwork, it's awesome, it's mitts, it's toques, it's beaver hats, it's moccasins, mukluks, you name it," Fox says. "Anything and everything that you need to find is here, beaded designs, lots of floral work."

Fox says the arts and crafts sale also provides an opportunity for the artisans to show off their art, talent and skills.

“They really get a chance to show off their skills and show off the things they’ve been

taught from their loved ones that may not be here with us here today,” Fox says. “There’s a lot of Elders, as you can see they’re even working at it as you walk by, they’re just constantly (working on) their moccasins and sewing and beading. It’s amazing to see, and I think the biggest thing about this is just the sense of community — it’s good to see our people gathered here, given what we’ve just gone through with two years of COVID-19. We haven’t had the opportunity to visit with one another so I think it’s extremely important that we get that chance to see one another and visit and laugh and share stories and see what’s been going on with one another.”

Webequie Chief Cornelius Wabasse says the arts and crafts sale encourages the artisans to continue doing the traditional arts and crafts.

"I'm here to support the First Nations craftspeople and

also other people that are here too promoting their work," Wabasse says. "It's a really good show and I think it's a good thing that we continue to support that and do these craft shows every year. I'm also glad that each of our First Nation communities are involved — there is a cost involved in doing the show and I encourage all our (citizens) and Aboriginal people to continue to support these craft shows."

Ashley Bach, co-chair of Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Oshkaatisak (All Young People's) Council, says she loves spending her money on Christmas presents and buying from Indigenous artisans.

"It's a really great way to make sure money goes back into community and supports people and the artists directly," Bach says. "This is an awesome market, there's a ton of vendors selling a whole range of items. It's not even 1 p.m. yet and some

tables have already sold out, which is really great to see."

Tehya Quachegan, a member of the Oshkaatisak Council, says she loves the arts and crafts sale, noting that she went every year while growing up in Thunder Bay.

"There's a lot of old-school crafts, it's like a treasure," says, "It reminds me of being a kid and going to the halls in my community and seeing all the kokums with all their crafts. I bought some old-school canvas boots. It's just nice seeing all the Elders faces but also the contemporary art, it shows the evolution of Native craft all in one space."

John Etherington, from Kapuskasing, says he and his wife have been making tamarack geese for about 45 years, noting that they begin by collecting tamarack twigs from on the land and then separating the twigs into different lengths.

use that as the body inside the bird,” Etherington says. “Then you use the branches that you can make the heads out of. It takes a lot of work, a lot of people I do a workshop with, they didn’t realize how much work goes into each bird that we do until they get a hands-on experience with them. I do turtles now too, and I also add some tamarack on driftwood, I sold all those ones now.”

John Ferris, founder and coordinator at the Aboriginal Artworks Group of Northern Ontario, says this year's arts and crafts sale was amazing.

"Last year we had the COVID-19 protocols going on still and this year it's just opened up the doors for everyone, so there's a lot more traffic in this place," Ferris says. "We had 70 tables at the beginning, but I requested 20 more. The tables are absolutely filled right up and there's more artisans that want to come in."



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# Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

Every Christmas season, our First Nations are bustling with a festive spirit of togetherness. This community tradition, whether in the North or our urban communities, kicks off at Christmas and lasts into the New Year. It includes events centering around feasting and square dancing, piling up gifts at the community hall where everyone gathers to exchange gifts, and some of the most creative radio games you'll ever hear about (picture a Santa Claus Hunt, where the man in red is trying to get away from a pack of skidoos!). These gatherings become a time for everyone to fellowship, celebrate, and share a few good laughs.

Many of our children wait in anticipation and excitement as the holidays approach. It is very important to make sure that all children, especially those in our care, are connected to their families, communities, and traditions – in whatever way possible.

This is why Christmastime reminds us of the importance of intangible gifts that we can't buy for our children: an encouraging word, quality time together, and a loving hug. The season also celebrates the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Both offer love, hope, and joy during the holiday. I hope your holiday season can be a time to enjoy family, extended family, and friends.

On behalf of our Elders, Board, and staff, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and yours.

**Thelma Morris**  
Executive Director, Tikinagan Child & Family Services

TIKINAGAN.ORG



From December 23rd to 27th and December 30th to January 2nd our offices are closed but we are still here to support our families 24/7.

Reach us at 1-800-465-3624.





# Seasons Greetings

from Mayor, Councillors and  
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Sioux Lookout, and best  
wishes for 2023!



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# Season's Greetings



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Holiday Season and a New Year  
filled with Peace and Happiness.  
Happy Holidays!



**www.wawataynews.ca**

## Arts and Entertainment

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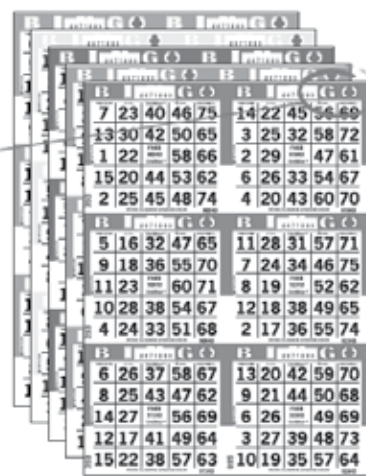
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καὶ ἡ Γῆα ὅλη ἐστὶν ὁμοειδής,” Ἀρχ.  
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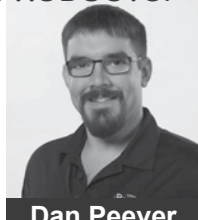
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# Arts and Entertainment

## Nick Sherman performs with the Thunder Bay Symphony

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

North Caribou Lake's Nick Sherman recently enjoyed performing with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra (TBSO) during the Nick Sherman:Boreal Forest Blues concerts at the Da Vinci Centre in Thunder Bay. Sherman previously performed with the TBSO in 2019 as a guest along with Shy-Anne Hovorka, the George O'Neill Public School Choir and Dave Simard.

"Everything went really well — we were all very excited to finally pick up the show after having it delayed for a year," Sherman says. "It was nice to have a full evening of sharing music and getting to do the whole evening with my own songs plus some songs from the orchestra."

Sherman says the songs he performed were mainly from his Made Of album that was released before the COVID-19 pandemic, but others were from his Knives and Wildrice album.

"Typically I play by myself so it was very different to have so many people doing all of the amazing orchestration and music," Sherman says. "A lot of the people were really excited about how the blending of the songs with the orchestra worked and they were happy with the stories, a lot of people really enjoyed the stories."

Sherman says he was excited to see his mother, Lydia Sherman, at the concert.

"I think she really enjoyed hearing the stories and enjoyed the music," Sherman says. "My



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Indigenous musician Nick Sherman performed his music during the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra's Nick Sherman: Boreal Forest Blues concerts at the Da Vinci Centre in Thunder Bay.

mom likes to still get out and have a good night."

Lydia says it was awesome to see his performance, noting that he loved music when he was young and began playing the guitar when he was about 10 to 11-years-old.

"It's amazing to have the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra at the back for his music," Lydia says. "It's always been a great feeling for him to sing with the orchestra, the music is just resounding when you listen to it."

Lydia says Sherman's perfor-

mance with the TBSO reminds her of when he used to go out on the trapline with his grandfather when he was young.

"When you hear that orchestra music and his music, it just reminds me of the quietness of the wilderness," Lydia says. "I'm grateful that he's kept on going with his music. It's been challenging with the COVID-19, it put his music on hold for a while. I think he might have learned from his grandpa, his grandpa always said: 'Keep on moving, don't give up.' And I think that's where he's journey-

ing, he's keeping on with his music in a positive note."

Laura Calmwind says it was great to see Sherman's performance with the TBSO.

"He's got a beautiful singing voice and it's a beautiful evening to sit and listen to him singing with the Thunder Bay Symphony," Calmwind says. "I really enjoyed it, it was very relaxing, I love his storytelling that goes with his music."

Ryleigh Dupuis, executive director and general manager at the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, says the concerts

were part of the TBSO's Northern Lights series that includes Rise with Sara Kae on Jan. 20 and 21 and Northern Jazz with Robin Ranger on Feb. 17 and 18, both scheduled at the Italian Cultural Centre in Thunder Bay.

"It was an absolutely wonderful concert — we've been trying to do this concert for a year-and-a-half now," Dupuis says. "It was cancelled last year so we're just really grateful and happy that we (did) it here tonight. We had a really great mix of people here tonight, we

had our traditional symphony goers who come to all of our shows. We also had local people who we might not necessarily see and we had a lot of Nick's supporters turn out as well, so we were really happy with the crowd here tonight."

Dupuis says the TBSO also has a free Noondaagotoon! concert scheduled on May 5 at Fort William Historical Park.

Information about the concerts is posted on the TBSO website at: [tbsoc.ca/events/](https://tbsoc.ca/events/).

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# 5 Tips

## FOR GOOD MENTAL HEALTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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- ✓ 2. Don't take on too much
- ✓ 3. Everything in moderation
- ✓ 4. Stay connected with loved ones
- ✓ 5. Perform an act of kindness

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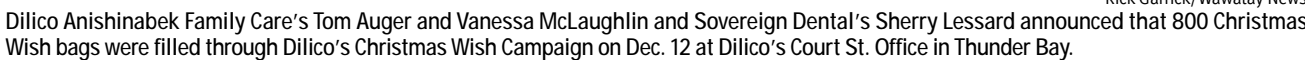
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# Dilico Christmas wish campaign a success



"With our office being a pediatric specialty office also, we are seeing a lot of these children coming into our office,"

The Christmas Wish Campaign was launched on Nov. 17 at Creekside Nursery and Garden Centre's Christmas Market in Thunder Bay with an option for participants to add a copy of Dilico's new book, *How I Found My Voice*, which is about a young Indigenous person searching for the courage to speak up, to a Christmas Wish bag.

"It's All in The Name"

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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
Chapleau Cree's Emma Morrison, who was crowned as Miss World Canada, speaks at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women awareness social at the NAN office in Thunder Bay.

Miss world Canada speaks at NAN conference

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Miss World Canada Emma Morrison, a Chapleau Cree citizen who was crowned, previously represented Canada at the Miss Teenager Universe pageant in Mexico City after being crowned Miss Teenage Canada in 2017.

"I began pageantry because I was living in a small town and I was just hunting and fishing and playing sports, doing all the regular small town things, and then I got a message on Facebook asking me if I would be interested in competing in a local community pageant," Morrison says. "I figured it would be a great opportunity for me to step outside my comfort zone and use this platform to be a voice of advocacy, and that's where I began and it opened doors for me today and that's why I was able to compete at Miss World Canada."

Morrison says there are a lot of sub-categories that the delegates competed in, such as Beauty With A Purpose, which she won.

"That's when I began my initiative, Reconnecting through Ribbon Skirts," Morrison says. "This is a project that I've been really passionate about within the past year, and I was able to bring this to the national stage and now the international stage."

Morrison says she taught herself how to sew ribbon skirts from step-by-step tutorials and resources on Tiktok and YouTube.

"And I actually use my Tiktok platform to teach others how to make their own ribbon skirts at home," Morrison says. "So I was able to give back in that way by utilizing social media platforms. I do attend various powwows around Ontario and Quebec by dancing or attending just to celebrate what it means to be Indigenous."

Morrison says she also participated in other sub-categories such as raising funds for Make a Wish Canada where she was able to fundraise \$5,000, a fitness category, fun fashion and preliminaries and three rounds of interviews.

"It is quite the extensive week but I had the most fun," Morrison says. "It was absolutely fantastic meeting all the women from across Canada, there's 49 delegates of all different backgrounds there so it was fantastic. There was one other Indigenous woman from Alberta along with myself, so it's important to have that representation within these platforms."

Morrison says she plans to continue to develop her Reconnecting through Ribbon Skirts initiative to present it to the best of her abilities at the 72nd Miss World pageant.

"And I hope to continue to dig deep in my communities and be that voice of outreach for our Indigenous youth and all Canadians to show them that I too am coming from a small town but through passion and drive there really is no limit to what you can achieve," Morrison says. "It doesn't matter (about) your limitations or surroundings, if you have a dream and you work for it you can do it."

Morrison says she had "so much anxiety" when she was first introduced to pageantry when she was 16-years-old.

"I was able to overcome that by being more brave than being anxious," Morrison says. "I overcame my anxious thoughts and I had a supportive background and supportive group of people that was able to be there for me for every step of the way. It's important to reach outside your comfort zone so you can expand that for yourself."

Morrison also spoke at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women awareness social at the NAN office in Thunder Bay, where she stressed that violence against women is not just a women's issue.

"This affects us all, so it's important for us to raise our voices and be that louder voice of advocacy for our women," Morrison says. "So both men and women, boys and girls need to stand together and have this time to reflect so we can end the violence against women."

“It’s All in The Name”

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# Community

# Thunder Bay homelessness study results

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

A recently released study found that social factors, service factors and economic migration were the main reasons why a high proportion of people experiencing homelessness in Thunder Bay had migrated to the city. The study, which was released by Lakehead University and District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) researchers in the Faculty Lounge at Lakehead University, found that 29.6 per cent of the 98 study participants indicated they had left their home community due to family/friends, 16.3 per cent due to a move to a bigger city, 10.2 per cent due to education, 9.2 per cent due to employment, 9.2 per cent due to lack of housing, 6.1 per cent due to abuse and 4.1 per cent due to involvement in the criminal justice system.

"So when looking to leave their home community, wherever that might have been, the majority of individuals identified they were coming here because they had a contact," says Ken Ranta, director of Integrated Social Services at TBDSSAB. "That's important to us because once we understand one of the key reasons why individuals would come to an area, particularly in our area, it will help us to define how we may be able to support individuals, what type of contacts, where we can actually have outreach that might address their needs based on rational reasoning for

them coming to the community.”

Ranta says the study also looked at why people experiencing homelessness in Thunder Bay chose to come to the city.

"Again, not surprisingly, friends and family were the number one reason they chose to come here," Ranta says. "They were leaving their home community because they wanted to reconnect or reunify with friends and family."

The study also looked at why people experiencing homelessness in Thunder Bay chose to remain in the city, with 72.4 per cent of the study participants indicating that Thunder Bay was their community of choice. The study found that 22.5 per cent of the participants indicated family/friends, 9.9 per cent employment or school, 8.5 per cent sense of home, 5.6 per cent mental health or cultural supports and 5.6 per cent housing as their reasons why the city was their community of choice.

"The top reason here is family or friends followed by employment or school and then sense of home — we heard this in the interviews quite a bit, so again keeping with the same theme we have kind of a social factor or social migration here, a sense of home, family or friends," says Ravi Gokani, assistant professor Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences at Lakehead University. "If you look at the fourth one, mental health or cultural supports, as well as employment along with housing, we have service reasons or services fac-

tors as well."

The study found that 39 of the study participants had migrated from the Kenora district, 21 from the Thunder Bay district, 11 from provinces west of Ontario, 10 from the Rainy River district, four from the Cochrane District, three from the Algoma district, two from the Sudbury district, one each from the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts and zero from provinces east of Ontario.

“We had 98 people migrating from 63 communities, so there’s not too many locations where there are a high number of people migrating from that particular community,” Gokani says. “(There were) 11 people out of province, so this a bit surprising for us because the 2018 PiT (Point-in-Time) count found there were 20 per cent of people from out of province. We anticipate this may be a function of the (COVID-19) pandemic or some other reason.”

Gokani says 81 of the study participants migrated from northern Ontario, including 56 from First Nation communities. Seven of the study participants migrated from Eabametoong, seven from Mishkeegogamang/Pickle Lake, five from Fort Frances, three from Kiashe Zaaging Anishinaabek, three from North Caribou Lake, three from Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek and two each from Constance Lake, Calgary, Couchiching, Deer Lake, Lac Seul, Nipigon, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Sioux Lookout, Slate Falls, Sudbury, Webeque, Whitefish Bay and Winnipeg.

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Community

NAN holds Healing Path gathering for survivors

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation recently held the Finding Your Path for Healing gathering for survivors of residential school institutions at the Delta Hotels Thunder Bay.

“It’s very important that we promote healing processes,” says Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum. “It’s also very important that (survivors) come together and support each other, not only to share their hardships but also their coping skills and their successes. Healing is a lifetime process, it doesn’t have a timeline and it’s different for everyone. When people have this opportunity to come together and share and then they learn from each other, they encourage each other, they support each other.”

Achneepineskum says NAN plans to hold the gathering every year, noting that people attended from across NAN territory.

“It’s really important that we support them to get together,” Achneepineskum says. “There were different exercises, different ceremonies that were done. Yesterday (Dec. 7) they had a full moon ceremony and they had a sharing circle.”

Bearskin Lake Elder Genevieve Kamenawatamin, a residential school survivor who started her healing journey 30 years ago, appreciated the opportunity to hear the survivors’ stories at the gathering.

“I’ve been telling my story

again and again since the past 30 years,” Kamenawatamin says, noting that she previously worked at the Muskrat Dam Reverend Tommy Beardy Memorial Wee Che He Wayo-Gamik Family Treatment Centre. “That really helped me, and I’m still helping people. I really enjoy hearing other people’s stories, it really helps me. I’m hoping that the people in the communities up north will reflect on their own trauma in life, especially as children, because you can live in freedom when you do that.”

Six Nations Grandmother Renee Thomas-Hill, who delivered presentations on Starting the Journey and Creating a Memory of Your Healing Journey during the gathering, says First Nations people used to gather and come together and share in the past.

“When there was a need for help, we came, when there were ceremonies, we came,” Thomas-Hill says. “Powwow is one of the ways that had opened many doors for our people to visit one another — it was a form of healing, so we come together for the healing of the spirit.”

Thomas-Hill also stressed the importance of music as a group of musicians performed on the last day of the gathering.

“Music has always been our way of healing,” Thomas-Hill says. “It’s movement, moving that trauma from our bodies, that’s why our people were great dancers.”

Jody Harbour, director of



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation’s Finding Your Path for Healing gathering featured an opportunity to get up and dance to the music of a group of musicians on the last day of the Dec. 6-8 gathering for survivors of residential school institutions at the Delta Hotels Thunder Bay.

Grandmother’s Voice, says one of the activities they did during the gathering was a rope exercise that connected the participants together.

“And then we had to work our way apart of it, and that was in representation of the trauma that is attached to you,” Harbour says. “So how do we

detach ourselves from the trauma and live in the present time today. The whole week was about experiential learning and just bringing that presence to right now in your body and in your time and understanding the past was the past, but being able to acknowledge that for your own healing.”

Harbour says their purpose was to bring healing into the communities.

“We say waking up the spirit,” Harbour says. “It’s beautiful the Sleeping Giant was right here because we used that metaphor that our people are waking up to the healing and understanding that we don’t

have to be attached to the past, but it’s time for us to take control of our own healing.”

The gathering also included presentations by Dennis Windigo on Find Your Healing Path and Land-Based Approach to Healing Complex Trauma.



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# Business



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
Rosalind Lockyer, founder and CEO at PARO, and Jenn Harper, founder and CEO at Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics, spoke at PARO's THRIVE; Prospering PARO Women gathering, held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

## Jenn Harper speaks at PARO's Thrive event

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics founder and CEO Jenn Harper recently highlighted some of her business successes at PARO's THRIVE; Prospering PARO Women gathering at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay. "We're actually now available in Sephora Canada and you can find us at the Sephora right here in Thunder Bay," says

Harper, a Northwest Angle #33 citizen who was born in Thunder Bay. "That was a huge monumental feat in the brand, and in the next couple of months we'll be available in 600 JCPenney stores in the United States, getting the largest PO our company has ever seen, in seven figures, it blows my mind." Harper says Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics is the first Indigenous beauty brand that Sephora has partnered with.

"So I feel really proud to have achieved that," Harper says. Harper says Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics recently completed about a year-and-a-half process, which included the vetting of their entire supply chain, to become a Certified B Corporation.

see THRIVE page 18

### NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



NNEC is non-profit educational organization. Under the direction of the Sioux Lookout District Chiefs, NNEC delivers secondary and post secondary education programs and services for First Nations people. NNEC operates Pelican Falls First Nations High School and Centre, Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, Wahsa Distance Education Centre and has offices in Lac Seul (head office), Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. NNEC welcome applications for the following position:

#### STUDENT MULTI-PURPOSE WORKER Pelican Falls Wellness Centre

##### GENERAL

Pelican Falls Wellness Centre (PFWC) and Pelican Falls First Nations High School (PFFNHS) in Sioux Lookout require three (3) full-time Student Multi-Purpose Workers to support students attending PFFNHS. The Student Multi-Purpose Workers will work closely with the Student Well-Being Workers and Secondary Student Support Program staff to ensure all student needs are being met.

This position is under the general direction of the Manager of Wellbeing, Pelican Falls Wellness Centre.

##### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Background in Student Support/Mental Health Support an asset
2. Thorough knowledge and understanding of First Nations culture and values
3. Excellent leadership, motivation, and problem-solving skills
4. Fluency in Oji-Cree, Cree or Ojibway is an asset
5. Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work independently
6. Able to work effectively and collaboratively with others
7. Strong communication skills
8. Valid Class "G" Driver's License

**LOCATION:** Pelican Falls Centre, Sioux Lookout Ontario  
**CLOSING:** OPEN UNTIL FILLED

*Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.  
NNEC requires Criminal Background and Vulnerable Person Check  
from those offered positions.*

Submit your resume, covering letter and written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references to Personnel Officer at NNEC by fax: (807) 582-3865; via mail: Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario, P8T 1B9 or email [humanresources@nnec.on.ca](mailto:humanresources@nnec.on.ca)

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#### ON-CALL WORKER Pelican Falls Wellness Centre Pelican Falls First Nations High School

##### GENERAL

Under the direction of the Manager of Well-Being or designate, the On-Call Worker will provide evening and weekend crisis response services to the students and staff on site at Pelican Falls First Nations High School. The On-Call Worker will offer an efficient and helpful service to students, staff and external organizations requesting information or advice and to be proactive in processing these enquiries through to resolution where practicable. The On-call Worker will have an understanding and sensitivity to First Nations culture and traditions.

##### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Diploma in Social Work, Social Service Worker or related field an asset
2. Minimum of 2 years experience working in a related field or with First Nation youth preferred
3. Must have a Class "G" drivers license
4. Must have First Aid with C.P.R. or willing to obtain
5. Fluency in one of the Sioux Lookout area dialects an asset but not essential
6. Knowledge of urban environment of Sioux Lookout
7. Vulnerable Persons Check mandatory

**LOCATION:** Pelican Falls Centre, Sioux Lookout Ontario  
**CLOSING:** OPEN UNTIL FILLED

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#### Booking & Referral Clerk Pelican Falls Wellness Centre – Pelican Falls First Nations High School Sioux Lookout, ON

##### GENERAL

Pelican Falls Wellness Centre (PFWC) in Sioux Lookout requires one full-time Booking & Referral Clerk to support the Wellness team. The Booking & Referral Clerk will be responsible for answering phones, processing referrals and scheduling and coordinating appointments with internal and external service providers while maintaining a high level of confidentiality.

##### PURPOSE

Pelican Falls Wellness Centre is committed to providing high quality student-centered care by providing a respectful and inclusive safe home-like environment that reflects the student diversity it serves.

##### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- \* Experience with EMR programs an asset
- \* Experience in mental health, and/or youth engagement is an asset
- \* First Aid training, Mental Health First Aid and Naloxone training is an asset
- \* College diploma in any discipline or equivalent work experience
- \* Knowledge of Indigenous culture, language and customs an asset
- \* Strong interpersonal skills
- \* Valid Class G Driver's License
- \* Vulnerable Persons Criminal Background Check

**LOCATION:** Pelican Falls Centre, Sioux Lookout Ontario  
**CLOSING:** OPEN UNTIL FILLED

*Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.  
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# Business

# PARO's Thrive event seeks to empower entrepreneurs

**con't from page 17**

"It means we have a legal obligation, yes our lawyers and their lawyers are involved, to people and the planet," Harper says.

“Our mission at Cheekbone Beauty involves doing everything we can to not negatively impact the human race and do everything we can to leave the least impact on this gorgeous gift of this beautiful Earth, and we don’t focus on profits, we focus on people and planet before profits. So we proudly

became a B Corp certified company.”

Harper says Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics has been working with the Sid Lee creative agency that created the We The North campaign for the Toronto Raptors. “We chose the Right The Story campaign and it just ended up being such a beautiful campaign with a beautiful commercial that was created in the Yukon,” Harper says, noting that Sid Lee did most of the campaign pro bono and Sephora provided them with \$150,000 for the remain-

ing cost of the campaign. “So born was the Right The Story campaign across the country on billboards in every major city, the TV commercial, the ads on the bus stops, it was everywhere, it was amazing.”

Harper adds that Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics was named this past January as number four on the New Innovators List's Top 10 Best and Brightest of Canadian companies.

“Shopify was number one and we’re number four on the list because of all these innovation projects we’re work-

ing on," Harper says. "One of these exciting innovation projects ... is we're actually taking waste from the grape industry right now and we're extracting actives that will possibly go ... into future products."

Harper created Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics in 2016 after having a life-changing dream about Indigenous girls covered in lip gloss in 2015.

"I truly remember their joy and laughter," Harper says. "I started writing on my laptop the foundation of what our brand is to this day, so I wanted

to create a product, and at the time it was just lip gloss, and use a portion of profits to support my community in some shape or form."

The THRIVE; Prospering PARO Women gathering also featured a PARO Showcase, a variety of workshops and another keynote by comic, storyteller and mentor Deborah Kimmett.

"We thought it was time to let people know that women in business survived the (COVID-19) pandemic and many of them not only survived but did really well and thrived," says

Rosalind Lockyer, founder and CEO at PARO. “We thought we’d put the good face out and Jenn Harper from Cheekbone Beauty Cosmetics was a really good example of that, of how crisis can actually bring you success if you look for the opportunities that are contained within that and being optimistic and knowing who you are and what you want to do. So knowing for example that you want to change the world in a sustainable way can provide you opportunities if you know that is your goal.”

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