

Politics



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler leads in the chiefs and proxies with the community flags to begin the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs Fall Assembly, held at the DaVinci Centre in Thunder Bay.



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler met with former national chiefs Matthew Coon Come and Ovide Mercredi and Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs Fall Assembly, held at the DaVinci Centre in Thunder Bay.

NAN Chiefs fall assembly addresses cannabis

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Cannabis use was one of the issues up for discussion at the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs Fall Assembly, held at the DaVinci Centre in Thunder Bay.

“It is interesting because with the area that NAN covers and which we represent, the issues and the concerns surrounding cannabis are so diverse,” says Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy. “We have some communities that are for it and we have some communities that are against it. And what we are finding is a lot of communities want education and awareness, as to, say if they are for it, they want to look at economic development opportunities to become involved. For the ones that are against it, they want to know how it is going to be enforced, like if they pass a BCR to say: ‘No, we are not allowing cannabis to be allowed in our community.’ So it is really interesting right now.”

The federal government passed the Cannabis Act, Bill C-45, in June. The legislation came into force on Oct. 17, making it legal for adults 18 years of age or older depending on provincial or territorial restrictions to: possess in public and share with other adults up to 30

grams of legal cannabis; purchase dried or fresh cannabis and cannabis oil from a provincially-licensed retailer; grow up to four cannabis plants from licensed seed or seedlings per residence for personal use; and make cannabis products, such as food and drinks, at home as long as organic solvents are not used to create concentrated products.

"I am proud of the work accomplished by our government, parliamentarians, and all Canadians who contributed to this important shift in our country's approach to cannabis," says Justice Minister and Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould. "Our goals are to protect our youth from the health and safety risks of using cannabis and keep criminals and organized crime from profiting from its production, distribution and sale."

Smallboy notes that Attawapiskat Chief Ignace Gull stressed his community's opposition to the use of cannabis during the Assembly.

"So we are going to be going up there to provide some information and try to help out the community in any way we can," Smallboy says. "We're trying to get as much information as we can out to the communities at every level, because we have

chiefs and councils coming to us that want to know what this means, say from an employers standpoint and also what it means for the membership."

Smallboy says there have been concerns expressed about children being exposed to the use of cannabis.

"They want to make sure that everything is in place so that the drugs are out of the kids' hands," Smallboy says.

The development of a hospital located to the north of Sioux Lookout was also raised during the Health Transformation presentation by Ovide Mercredi, Health Transformation lead and negotiator for NAN, on the second day of the Assembly.

"To me that is a long-term vision and I am hoping the chiefs will agree with me on that," Mercredi says. "It is better for our people to have access to a hospital near to their communities, something familiar in terms of their land and their jurisdiction. I think they would feel a little more confident going to a hospital run by their governments rather than going to say Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout or Winnipeg."

Mercredi says some patients would have to be sent for treatment to a hospital that specializes in certain areas, such as heart problems, but most health

needs could be addressed in the hospital north of Sioux Lookout.

"There's one in the Mushkegowuk territory, so it is possible," Mercredi says. "It is not out of the question."

Mercredi adds that an Elder spoke about the need for a return to the land and the need for a spiritual foundation during the Assembly.

"Each young person needs to grow up that way to have a sense of identity and a sense of purpose and the strength to achieve their goals," Mercredi says. "If you feel confident about who you are and you have a strong sense of belonging, you can deal with crisis and problems along your path."

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox says child welfare and education funding were also major issues during a press conference at the beginning of the Assembly.

"Currently in Fort Albany and Kashechewan, we are without Grade 7 and 8 teachers — we just can't compete with providing resources to those teachers, and they end up coming to our communities and leaving," Fox says. "And the whole child welfare issue, that's been going on for a long time. Our children being apprehended, it's an issue that Deputy Grand Chief Wal-



Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy.

ter Neveau will speak to, but what is the solution, what is the answer, that's going to take a collaborative effort by the chiefs, our executive, our leadership, our women, our parents (and) any people who are in the audience here."

A special ceremony was also held to recognize Oshkaatisak (All Young People's) Council member Clyde Moonias for his efforts.

“For the past three-and-a-half years I’ve met many great young leaders, First Nations and non-First Nations, throughout Ontario,” Moonias says. “And some of the highlights were just making those connec-

tions and making friends along the way and obviously being one of the leaders with the NAN youth gathering we have annually."

Moonias plans to work for his community, but also to do the last two credits he needs to finish his Bachelor of Arts degree at Lakehead University.

"Future goals are to eventually go back to school and work on a masters, but I think at this time in my life I'm more focused on working and getting some experience," Moonias says.

The Assembly also included an update on the development of the NAN Housing Strategy.

Thank You, Airlines!

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



Editorial

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

A treatise on addiction

John Gagnon

Writers are required to research and educate themselves on whatever topic they may be delving into. Many great writers have stated, "you can't write about it if you haven't lived it." This may be true in many genres of writing, but not so much for academic and scientific. Academia and science use what is known as qualitative and quantitative research; qualitative research being interpretive and quantitative data ranked in units of measurements- dry and devoid of humanness, and the outcome is writing about other people and their issues. There are countless neurological studies on addictions, but few look into intergenerational abusive traumas or spiritual healing.

In my humble search for truth, academic writing-a sour acquired taste-grew on me over the years since University. It expanded my knowledge and fed my need to learn, but really, it was a rabbit hole. The more I read it seemed the more I had to read. For example, when I began writing this treatise, I was reading up on genetic memory and equating it to "blood memory" of which I learned from an Elder from Batchewana. My original question was, "is addiction a genetically inherited trait?" And the following rudimentary argument was formed.

Steven E. Hyman, M.D. classifies addiction as learning disorders and defines addiction as compulsive drug use despite negative consequences. Hyman states that people take drugs solely for the euphoria and pleasure, and "the ability of drugs to produce positive affective; and because their peers are doing it, and for many other complicated psychosocial reasons."

This got me thinking, that with Hyman's logic, compulsive drug use without negative consequences cannot be considered addiction. More so, I was inspired to explore the "many other complicated psychosocial reasons," which seems illusive in academic papers on addiction. It seems to be all numbers and thinking with no heart or spirit.

The medical establishment rarely takes into account the other complicated psychosocial reasons for addictions. These are the literal trauma's the patient is trying to escape with the addiction.

Human consciousness is made up of a variety of knowledge bases that work with our intelligence quotient IQ, emotional quotient EQ capacity. And, most importantly, what some of us in our circles call spiritual quotient.

Spiritual quotient (SQ) can be better understood as spiritual intelligence: a feeling in our hearts that

cannot be given to us, it is something we must find on our own. This feeling is so powerful you cannot go a minute without giving thanks or feeling grateful for each breath, and its awesome power will drop any human to their knees.

It is more than faith; it is a secure and sacred knowledge of a greater source. So, the body-our physical lives are a working combination of spiritual quotient-from a greater source, and also the physical elements of our emotional and intellectual capacity.

In saying this, and if we think of ourselves as similar to a computer, we're made up of software and hardware. The software being the spirit with its own SQ and the body is the hardware with its IQ/EQ. The two work together in its own defined harmony that breaths life into us every moment.

"Essentially we are all just computing life and trying to live in the here and now..."

Essentially we are all just computing life and trying to live in the here and now, and obviously the here and now is the addict's greatest self-manipulation.

The difference between addicts and non-addicts is this: addicts are devoid of IQ/EQ and SQ, and when in deep torment of their trauma, an addict does not care whom they hurt to get that ill medicine. This is all they know that will take away the awful memories.

In my opinion, neurological and psychological studies trying to figure out addictions will never find a cure on their own without the exploration of IQ/EQ and SQ. Most importantly, it must be remembered that addiction is not the deepest level, and is merely a coping mechanism for traumas much deeper affecting the person at their core. Suicide is the final door the person will walk through in this kind of life.

It is abnormal to be happy every single waking minute. We all deal with the ups and downs of life and roll with the punches, so to speak. Work, family, the absorption of daily social media programming, school dynamics as well as many other situations has their positive or negative effects on us, which we take to heart. So, this is the normal ebb and flow of all people, families and communities and how we deal with them is what we perceive as normal. As Rocky Balboa says, "it's not all rainbows and butterflies."

Now compound this with the negative aspects of the IRS legacy and their traumas that have affected many of our families, which vastly altered our communities.

These traumas infect our spirit and emotional well-being, which in their darkest moments the only answer seems to be suicide.

This is the core, and addiction is merely the last vestige before suicide, which in itself is a slower coping means of suicide, as death by drugs should be viewed as suicide.

Suicide, the final end that murders love and loyalty, that robs families and communities of joy, is what the person lost and went through silently while alive.

And, many of us turned our backs. Some even were specifically mean to the person and abused them even more. These are the dark images we are trying to escape: the abuse, the memories, the shame, and the self-worthlessness that presides in our DNA, our family and community.

Unless you have ever been alone and haunted by re-appearing images of your traumas, or been in position for someone to abuse you in the vilest ways, you should hold your comments and opinions on addiction and those with addictions at bay. Drugs and booze help in forgetting these traumas. Some people even become productive functioning addicts when not hindered by their memories. More so, they can be saving someone long enough to get serious help and learn a new way to take back power from the traumas; learn to live without addiction and learn to love themselves.

The darkness is what we fight daily, and no one will ever fully be without the traumatic memories, although the times between slowly dissipate. When in that darkness, you must reach out to other people who have walked this path through the dark and find illumination. Be honest, and listen to the wisdom and apply it to your life.

If your loved one refuses to begin their healing stages and are abusive themselves in the family home, then the only choice is tough love. They must be shunned away until they want to re-join the family in a healthy manner.

It is a detrimental impairment for the youth to observe these behaviours and is an abusive burden on the joy all families should enjoy. Remember it cannot be solely spirit or emotion to rid people of this virus.

When we pray we must do the footwork, which is why creation provided us with arms, legs, hearts and a brain.

Always remember that the healthiest computer is one with the least operational viruses, and we're all part of the same network.

Welcome home Hunter



**Xavier
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE
NORTHERN SKY

Recently I have been dealing with sickness and the passing of family members and that certainly is a sad situation and does take its toll. However I am so happy to be able to welcome Hunter James John Francois Chum, a brand new baby boy into this world. Hunter was born on November 1 with the healthy weight of nine pounds. It is good to know that with the passing of loved ones hope springs eternal.

"It is good to know that with the passing of loved ones hope springs eternal..."

I am so happy for my niece Marissa, her husband Tony and their two daughters Toni and Kailyn as they are joined by little Hunter.

This little boy will be loved and spoiled by his grand parents Janie and Brian Wesley and Karen Chum and Francois Mongrain as well as Erik Gunner. He deserves to be loved so much and of course spoiled as he will be walking the life trail of some very strong, traditional ancestors.

His names comes from the fact that his dad recently came back from a moose hunting trip with a successful harvest.

On his return when the baby was born Tony and Marissa decided his name would be Hunter.

Hunter will also have the opportunity to grow up with all of his traditions and language if he chooses to, as his mom and dad and grandparents know so much about our Native culture, history and language. He is one lucky boy. Right now Hunter and the family are sharing a home in Moose Factory with great grandfather Peter Chum who is happily showering this new baby with love and affection.

That connection to the Elders is so important for our children. Tony and Marissa decided to live with their grandfather as Peter's wife Leona had passed on several years before.

Marissa has always been a very creative and industrious person and her husband Tony has a similar personality and that makes them great parents. Hunter will learn to hunt, fish, live on the land and gather with

an extended family of relatives and children. Those will be huge and fun gatherings.

My sister Janie, who is the grandmother to little Hunter will be able to show him how to do all sorts of traditional crafts and art. As well she will keep him stuffed with traditional foods like goose, moose, caribou and fish as she is an excellent cook. Mom, Marissa is also an excellent chef who has studied food preparation and worked in that industry. Grandfather Brian will make sure Hunter has all the good introductions to technology and perhaps his interest in aviation. Tony's family also has a strong connection to traditional activities and living on the land and I am sure they will show Hunter these skills as he grows up.

The world is totally open to little Hunter and his path is full of good news with all the best options for a good life. His choices will take him on his way and he will have many family members to help him pick the good trail and stay on it.

Saying goodbye to family and friends as they pass is such a difficult thing for everyone but thanks to the way life works we get to move on with new life and wonderful fresh family friends like Hunter. Many thanks to all who supported Marissa and Tony on their journey with this new life and we know we can all count on family and friends to be there as time clicks on.

My mom Susan and dad Marius would have been so proud and happy to be able to welcome Hunter into the living world. In a way there will be a little bit of them in our new little Hunter to carry on their traditions and teachings. Hunter will be joined by so many wonderful little cousins who have been born in the past few years and I am sure they will be playing together and developing great friendships for the years to come.

A few days ago I was spreading a friends ashes on the ground in a family ceremony near a huge maple tree and on a wonderful forest path in Oshweken.

Today I am sprinkling words of welcome, joy and hope on a page devoted to new beginnings. Life is good and there is a balance and a yin and yang to it that we can all find hope in. We all have a great future if we take care of those new babies and help them grow into strong, wise, sensitive, open and courageous leaders and moms and dads.

Welcome home Hunter.

Kee-sah-kee-eh-tee-nan
Noo-see-sim ... We love you grandchild.

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Community

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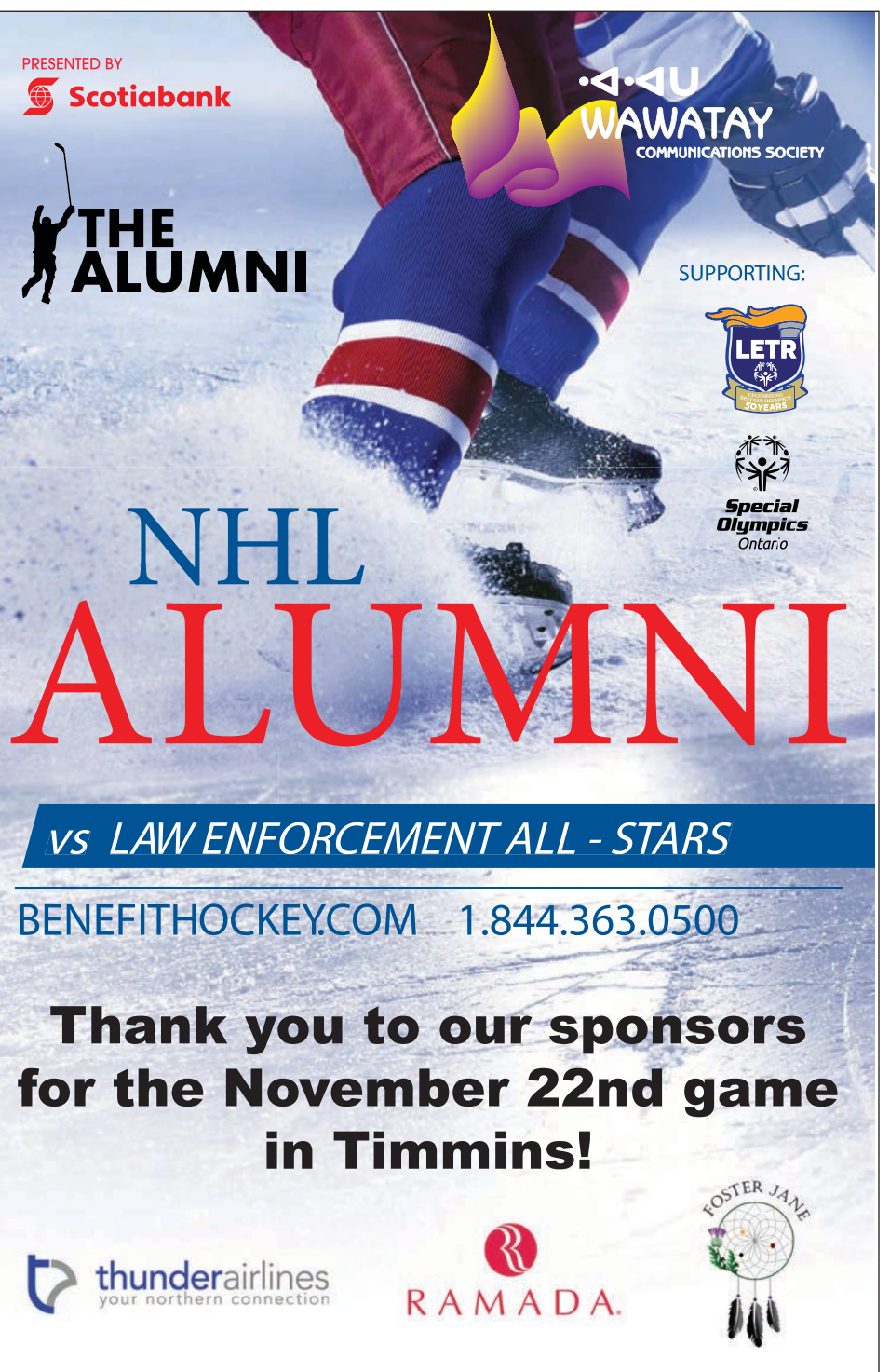
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Shelter House Thunder Bay SleepOUT participants slept in a large tent during the night of Nov. 30 and were served a complimentary breakfast the next morning at 6 a.m.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The six Matawa First Nations Management employees who participated in the Shelter House Thunder Bay SleepOUT enjoyed a complimentary breakfast prepared by volunteers after sleeping out in sub-zero temperatures on the grounds of Shelter House Thunder Bay.

Matawa SleepOUT fundraises for Shelter House

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

A group of six Matawa First Nations Management employees slept out in the cold on the night of Nov. 30 to raise about \$1,400 in donations for the Shelter House Thunder Bay SleepOUT campaign. A total of about \$7,800 was raised by the 21 SleepOUT participants.

"It was cool, obviously, but it gave us an appreciation of what people go through," says Paul Capon, a Matawa employee. "And for myself, I learned to appreciate my pillow and comfortable mattress. It sounds very selfish, but when you think of people who don't have those luxuries, you are more grateful and also more conscious of people who don't have the privilege that I have."

Beedahbin Desmoulin, another Matawa employee, says the temperature started out "fairly warm" but turned cold in the middle of the night. Environment Canada recorded the temperature at -2 Celsius at 10 p.m. and -9 Celsius at 5 a.m.

"By 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the morning, it was waking up to freezing — it was cold and we were chilled," Desmoulin says. "But overall it was a really good experience, a really big eyeopener. And I hope next year we get some more participants to be able to spread the word. We are definitely going to spread the word and hopefully create some more awareness on the challenges behind funding and programming for the Shelter House."

The SleepOUT began at 10 p.m. on Nov. 30 and ended

at 7 a.m. on Dec. 1. The participants received a Nighttime Survival Kit, which included sandwiches, water and pastries, and a complimentary breakfast was served by volunteers at 6 a.m. The participants were also encouraged to bring a sleeping bag, flashlight, warm clothing and two items of their own choosing for the SleepOUT.

"I appreciated the comments, especially what Molly (Boyce) had given (about) her experiences on the street," says Ginny Michano, a SleepOUT participant. "It just made me reflect on how lucky I am. I think of my father who is in Sault Ste. Marie and a lot of times he sleeps at their homeless shelters. Growing up, we used the food banks, we used the system. Even when I come here to help, I come across people that I know, people

I grew up with. I still think even though I am lucky right now, I still have a connection to the people that are here and use the services, and I always remember that."

Boyce, a former client and currently a support worker at Shelter House Thunder Bay, says the SleepOUT initiative was "good."

"But like I said, they are cheating," Boyce says, noting that she did not have a comfortable sleeping bag when she was sleeping on the streets. "There were some nights where we (street people) didn't sleep — there was always one person up. Because we were aware of the dangers out there."

Thunder Bay Police Service Chief Sylvie Hauth, a SleepOUT participant, says it was an "interesting experience."

"It was cold, it was very

uncomfortable and we still had some comforts," Hauth says. "So I can't imagine spending the night with a lot less than what we had. Everybody had very good sleeping bags and a few little mattresses and we actually had a bit of a tent over our heads, so although it was cold you were still outside of the major elements for wind and everything else. So I can appreciate that people who do sleep outside day in and day out, that it is quite uncomfortable and very cold. And it is a very good eyeopener in terms of taking for granted what we have every time we go to sleep at night in our beds."

Julie Harmer, a SleepOUT participant, raised the highest amount of donations for the SleepOUT campaign, with \$1,136.

"I set out to raise a \$1,000

and I pushed it on Facebook," Harmer says. "My friends came through and they were so happy to contribute to it — they were super generous."

Thunder Bay Councillor Rebecca Johnson enjoyed helping out with the SleepOUT by preparing breakfast with a group of volunteers.

"I was up at 4 o'clock this morning," Johnson says. "To me, it's giving back to the community. You actually feel what is going on when you are here. It's important to find out what is going on and the education and in joining everyone who is here this morning to create a better environment for our community."

Michelle Jordan, executive director with Shelter House Thunder Bay, says SleepOUT will be held again next year.



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Couchiching's Mary McPherson creates image for Canadian coin

McPherson was recognized with seven awards on March 9 at the Lakehead University Annual Student Juried Exhibition at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Lakehead University visual arts student Mary McPherson was honoured to create an image of Shawnee war leader Tecumseh for a recently released Royal Canadian Mint coin.

Community



Aarianna Roberts, a 16-year-old St. Patrick's High School student, was one of 10 children and youth who were recognized with 2018 Step Up Hero Awards by Dilco Anishinabek Family Care and the Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay.



Manitoba NDP leader Wab Kinew reads from his book Go Show the World during the 2018 Step Up Hero Awards ceremony at the Kinsmen Youth Centre in Thunder Bay.

Step Up Hero awards held in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Manitoba NDP leader Wab Kinew shared a reading from his book *Go Show the World*, which was published by Tundra Books in September, during the 2018 Step Up Hero Awards in Thunder Bay.

"This book is a highlight of different heroes that I have always looked up to over the years," says Kinew, an Ojibways of Onigaming citizen. "Some of them I've read about, like Jim Thorpe, who played pro football, pro baseball and won Olympic gold medals. Other people were people I had a chance to learn about from our oral traditions, meaning I heard about them from their great

great grandkids.”

Kinew noted the example of Te-Wau-Zee, an Indigenous woman from Oklahoma whose people were relocated hundreds of miles away from their home territory.

"They told her she could only bring the stuff she could carry on her back, so rather than bringing belongings or furniture or even supplies, she brought the rocks for her sweat lodge," Kinew says. "And today I am very proud to tell you that her great great grandkids still practice the sweat lodge ceremony because of the sacrifices she made."

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and the Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay held the awards to rec-

ognize 10 children and youth who stepped up in their communities and schools in a positive way.

"Children and youth inspire us every day," says Darcia Borg, Dilico's executive director. "It was truly amazing to see all of the nominations come in to the Step Up Hero Awards and we appreciate all of the talented and special children and youth that are out in our very own communities stepping up and making a difference every single day. Dilico is very proud to work with the Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay to raise awareness about Child Abuse Prevention Month. We are honoured to be able to acknowledge all of the children and youth in atten-

dance with us today and all of the nominees. You are so awesome."

Brad Bain, executive director of the Children's Aid Society, says the award recipients are role models to their peers and will inspire others in the community.

"Dedicated, successful, humble and driven — these are just a few words to describe our 10 award recipients today," Bain says. "The Children's Aid Society is proud to celebrate local children and youth. The Step Up Hero campaign also reminds the community that together we are all responsible for protecting children. By stepping up, we collectively recognize the importance of each child having a healthy and happy

childhood. While celebrating our community's children and youth, the Step Up Hero campaign also empowers youth to believe in themselves."

The Step Up Hero Award recipients were Caroline Di Felice, Benjamin Fedoruk, Justin Idman, Paityn Meredith, Neveah Morriseau-Charlie, Daanis Pelletier, Jake Perreault, Aarianna Roberts, Shannon Scott and Garrick Waswa.

The Step Up Hero Awards were held at the Kinsmen Youth Centre in Thunder Bay.

"It was pretty neat," says Waswa, a 16-year-old Hammarkijold High School from Eabametoong. "It was pretty exciting."

Waswa credits his participation in activities and leadership

at school for being honoured
with the award.

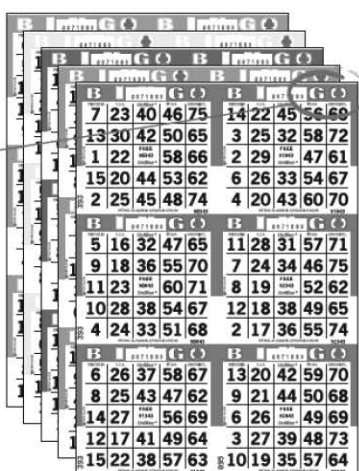
"I'm on the Fire Council," Waswa says.

Beverly Idman, Justin's mother and a Shoal Lake #39 citizen, says her son, an eight-year-old Sherbrooke School student, was excited about the award and meeting Kinew.

"I'm really impressed that he got nominated and selected for (the award)," Beverly says. "He does really well with others and just being nominated is a big thing."

The Step Up Hero Awards were supported by ORIGIN, Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, Lowery's and Bearskin Airlines.

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Dan Peever

A black and white photograph of a busy shopping mall. The image shows a wide, brightly lit corridor with people walking in the background. The floor is highly reflective, creating a mirror-like effect. Large, bold, white text with a black outline is superimposed over the image, reading "GET YOUR MONEY NOW!!!". The text is positioned in the upper half of the frame, with "GET YOUR" on the top line and "MONEY NOW!!!" on the bottom line. The overall atmosphere is one of urgency and consumerism.

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Arts and Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Brianna Fiddler had a variety of her digital art pieces for sale during the Artisans Northwest 43rd Annual Art and Fine Craft Show at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Cree Stevens had a range of birch bark-inspired art and jewellery for sale.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Jayan Arseneau-Daviau had a range of acrylic on canvas paintings based on mothers and family for sale.

43rd Christmas arts show features Indigenous artists

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The artworks of three Indigenous artists were among those featured at the Artisans Northwest 43rd Annual Art and Fine Craft Show at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

"I do abstract digital art — it's very nature inspired," says Brianna Fiddler, an artist from Saskatchewan who is currently studying at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. "I take pictures with my camera and I just like to experiment with the photos. I like to take certain elements of the photo and

then just play around with it on Photoshop. I do a lot of layering processes.”

Fiddler first began doing her digital art while studying at a university in upstate New York.

"I did a photography course in my environmental studies program," Fiddler says. "We went on weekly field trips to the Adirondack Mountains, so it was the perfect scenery for my style of art."

Fiddler says she began selling her digital art this past August and had a busy day on the first day at the Artisans Northwest show at the Valhalla. She had a variety of items for sale, includ-

ing t-shirts, stickers, pinback buttons, canvas prints and tote bags.

"Yesterday was really busy," Fiddler says. "Today is a little bit slower, but my t-shirts that I sell are selling pretty good."

Cree Stevens, an artist from Thunder Bay, had a range of birch bark-inspired art and jewelry for sale.

"I recreated the look of birch bark and the texture of birch bark," Stevens says. "I use acrylic paints and pastes and sometimes beads and paper to recreate the texture and look of birch bark, birch bark being very important in this region

and for Indigenous people. And for the jewelry, I pair it often with copper for the same reason. I just wanted to revive it because there doesn't seem to be much copper out there."

Stevens says many people think the birch bark pieces are made from real birch bark.

"So they look really close or look at the materials I use," Stevens says. "And that tickles me—I like it."

Stevens says she has developed different styles of her birch bark-inspired art over the years.

“I think that because birch bark is so important in this

region, that people are really thrilled to see it used in a different way and in a contemporary art way," Stevens says. "It's used for so many reasons and ways and I feel like this is my way of honouring it."

Jayan Arseneau-Daviau, an artist from Thunder Bay, had a variety of acrylic on canvas paintings based on mothers and family for sale.

"My art is an expression of self, like lots of art," Arseneau-Daviau says. "My background is Metis, so I started about five years ago diving into my Indigenous background and looking into the Woodlands

art and studying it a bit on my own. I kind of went from there and mixed it with Impressionist style art because I figure my background is a mixture of cultures and I wanted my art to reflect that."

Daviau says there has been a "very positive" response to her art.

"The art community in Thunder Bay is pretty tight-knit," Daviau says. "We seem to really support each other and I've got a lot of support from them as well as just Thunder Bay in general. I'm finding lots of people seem to like the mix of the two cultures coming together in art."

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Arts and Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The workshop participants displayed some of the small beaded pins they made on the first day of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Beading and Applique with Jean Marshall workshop.

Beading with Jean Marshall

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

A group of 10 participants recently enjoyed learning some beading, applique and edge beading techniques at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Beading and Applique with Jean Marshall workshop.

"It's been great — it's a really great group," says Marshall, a Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug citizen who was taught

beading by her mother and has since been beading for about 15 years. "Some of them have previous embroidery, quilting and sewing experience, so we made something really small. And it's been fun."

Marshall says the workshop was held in conjunction with the Uprising: The Power of Mother Earth exhibition featuring Christi Belcourt and Isaac Murdoch's artwork that ran from June 22-Nov. 25 at the

Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

"We're doing edging, which is a really nice technique used for finishing things," Marshall says. "We talked a lot about the Cristi Belcourt show and what is happening in there and how as beaders our work is always about the land as well, so lots of flowers and things that reflect nature."

see **WORKSHOP** on page 14





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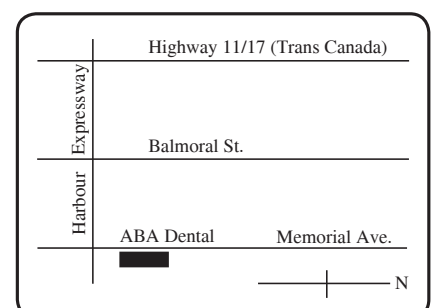
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Arts and Entertainment

ONWA hosts poetry night to honour women

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Treaty #3 poets Jana-Rae Yerxa and Al Hunter enjoyed sharing their poetry along with other poets at the third annual Ontario Native Women's Association Poetry Night gathering.

"I did a few pieces around the theme of violence towards Indigenous women and also some pieces about Indigenous empowerment and liberation," says Yerxa, a Couchiching citizen. "I'm just really grateful that ONWA provides this space every year in regards to poetry in recognition of the Elimination of Violence Against Women. As Indigenous people, we have always been storytellers, we've always been creative and this is an outlet for us to do that."

Hunter, a Rainy River citizen, shared poetry about loss and healing from that loss at the gathering, which was held at the ONWA building in Thunder Bay.

"We're all hurting in some way — we all need to sup-

port each other," Hunter says. "Poetry is the language of the masses, so that is how you reach people — through your voice, through your words."

Hunter enjoyed the opportunity to hear other poets expressing themselves through their poetry.

"When people express themselves, either through words or any other way, we're healing ourselves," Hunter says. "And someone else or maybe more than one person will also receive healing from those words."

ONWA held the Poetry Night gathering to raise awareness of violence against women in support of the United Nations International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women and to give voice to women, girls, survivors of violence and allies.

"It went very well — this is the third time ONWA has hosted Poetry Night," says Karen Marconi, marketing manager for ONWA. "It was very successful. There was a pretty good turnout tonight. We had a



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Couchiching poet Jana-Rae Yerxa reads one of her poems during the third annual Ontario Native Women's Association Poetry Night gathering in Thunder Bay.

number of poets, some of them maybe first-time poets, some of them musicians turned poets and some of them actually published authors."

ONWA staff members Audrey Deroy and Michele Solomon also read some of the poems that were submitted by poets who could not attend the Poetry Night.

"Meegwetch to everybody who attended Poetry Night

and of course to all of the writers who so generously shared beautiful, honest words with us about this issue," Marconi says. "Their words continue to raise awareness about violence against women and give hope to so many."

ONWA also handed out copies of Strong Hands Stop Violence Poetry Book Volume II during the gathering. The book features a compilation of



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Ontario Native Women's Association staff member Audrey Deroy delivers a teaching during the ONWA Poetry Night gathering in Thunder Bay.

poems from last year's gathering, images from last year's collective art project and photographs of some of the participants. Poets featured in the book include Audra Santa, Rachel Seguin, Nichole Barkman-Lands, Timothy J. Boulanger, Brenda Kejick, Yerxa, Kyla Kokokopence, Dan Ducker, Donna Simon, Verlin Lloyd James and Sheila Santa. The Strong Hands Stop Violence

Poetry Book 2016 is available online at: <http://mmiwontario.ca/index.php/blog/poetry-night>.

This year's Poetry Night gathering featured music by Robin Ranger, Glenn Jennings and Mark Soderlind, a collective art project and a range of appetizers and refreshments for the participants.

Munsee Neekan's unique skateboard paintings at Christmas craft show

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Mishkeegogamang's Munzeroy Neekan promoted his skateboard paintings at the A Step Into Christmas Craft and Vendor Market at the Italian Cultural Centre in Thunder Bay.

"I normally like to paint whatever I can find," Neekan says. "Skateboards are one of those common things I find during the summer. I usually run into them every time I go to the skateboard park and every time I am going home."

Neekan says he also buys broken skateboards from skateboarders.

"The one with the tree on it, he actually broke it in front of me," Neekan says. "When he tried slamming the brake, it snapped. I gave him \$15 and I got myself a broken board."

Neekan says some of his cousins use the skateboard park but he usually just passes by when he is walking.

"I like painting them more than riding them," Neekan says.

Neekan says people are "mostly surprised" when they

see his skateboard paintings.

"I've seen a few around, mostly in Toronto," Neekan says. "It's not common in the Thunder Bay area."

Neekan develops the ideas for his skateboard paintings by doodling.

"I got the idea for (this) skateboard from one of my sketches," Neekan says. "I don't know how my artwork came to be — it just came to be."

Neekan says he has been creating art for most of his life.

"In public school I started getting into artwork," Neekan says. "I got it from my dad — Perry Perrault."

Neekan says he sold one of his skateboard paintings this past summer.

"I'm trying to get my name out there," Neekan says. "This is my first craft show that I actually came to. People just look at the skateboards, smile, give me a compliment and bought a print."

Neekan had prints of his photography for sale at the craft show. Wawatay News previously printed a photo of Neekan capturing a photo of

former Algonquin Avenue Public School vice-principal Darren Lentz during the Ecole Gron Morgan powwow when he was an Ecole Gron Morgan student in 2011.

"I like doing photogra-

phy," Neekan says, noting that he uses a Fujifilm camera. "I mostly like to take photos of animals. This is more of a hobby — it gives me something to do."

Neekan says he enjoyed his time at the craft show, which

featured a wide range of crafters and vendors including Bonnie's Crafts, Lighten Up Candles Inc., Wooden Roses Thunder Bay, Larry's Woodworking and Jewelry Design by Diane.

"I love the atmosphere,"

Neekan says.

Neekan plans to participate in another A Step Into Christmas Craft and Vendor Market on Dec. 16 at the Italian Cultural Centre.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Munzeroy Neekan displayed his skateboard paintings and photography prints for sale during the A Step Into Christmas Craft and Vendor Market at the Italian Cultural Centre in Thunder Bay.

INSPECTION

Inspection of the Approved Long-Term 2 Year Forest Management Plan Extension for the Trout Lake Forest 2019-2021 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Domtar Inc.** and the **Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** would like to advise you that the long-term Forest Management Plan (FMP) extension of the approved 2009 – 2019 FMP for the **Trout Lake Forest** has been approved by the Regional Director and is available for Inspection.

The long-term FMP extension extends the period of the current FMP to April 1, 2019.

The long-term FMP extension includes a description and a map of the planned operations that will be carried forward in the plan extension.

How to Access the Approved Long-Term FMP Extension

The long-term FMP extension is available for Inspection at the following locations:

- Domtar Inc. office, 1 Duke Street, Janet Lane, R.P.F. at 807-223-9156
- on the Ontario government website (www.ontario.ca/forestplans)

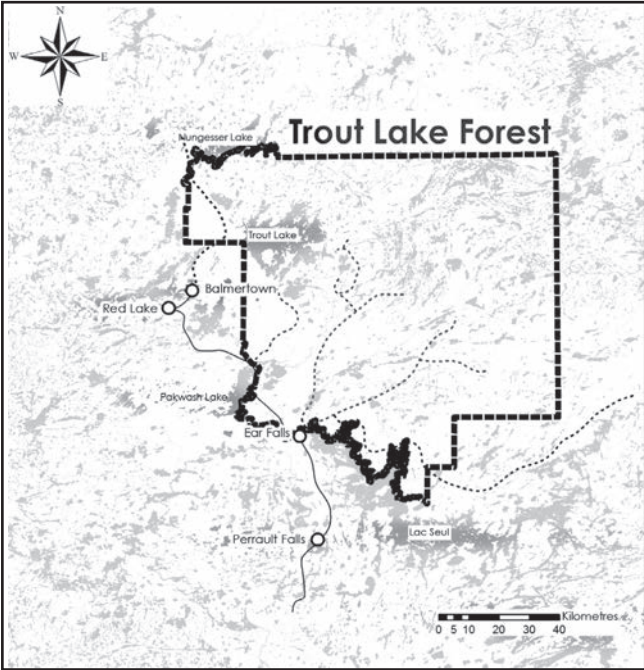
Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff at the MNRF Red Lake District Office to discuss the long-term FMP extension.

For further information, contact:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.
Management Forester
MNRF Red Lake District Office
227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-727-1337
e-mail: Corinne.Arthur@ontario.ca

Janet Lane, R.P.F.
Domtar Inc.
1 Duke Street
Dryden, ON P8N 3J7
tel: 807-223-9156
fax: 807-223-9401

Lori Lamond
Local Citizens' Committee Rep.
P.O. Box 864
Ear Falls, ON P0V 1T0
tel: 807-222-1116



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Kathy Crampton, MNRF Red Lake District Office, at 807-727-1332.

Education



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

TOP LEFT: A group of Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute and Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service staff and board members and Oshki Police Foundations students gathered at the Oshki campus after NAPS announced the students will have the opportunity to sign on with them after graduating in December 2019.

TOP RIGHT: Fabian Batise, vice-chair of the Oshki-Wenjack governance board and board liaison for NAPS, speaks with the students.



NAPS visits Oshki police foundations students

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute's Police Foundations students are looking forward to the opportunity to sign on with the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service after completing their studies in December 2019.

"It's real exciting," says Joseph Meeseetawageesic, a Police Foundations student from Eabametoong. "The week before they did mention that they were looking to hire on some students from Oshki. We could look forward to being employed by them just by finishing this program."

Natalie Kamenawatamin, a Police Foundations student from Bearskin Lake, also appreciates the opportunity to sign on with NAPS after graduation.

"I'd like to see other options just to see what else we can get into," Kamenawatamin says. "But yes, what they're offering is pretty good."

Fabian Batise, vice-chair of the Oshki-Wenjack governance board and board liaison for NAPS, says the NAPS offer for the Police Foundations students to sign on with them is a "great opportunity."

"We've had some good luck here because we have a NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) organization and another NAN organization, with both being envisioned by the chiefs, coming together to provide services that are required in order to get our people through their education cycle and into the employment world," Batise says. "Right now our provincial government is going in that direction — they want to see results and this is a results-oriented course. I think it is going to be a great opportunity."

Sean Mulligan, Police Foundations coordinator with Oshki, says Oshki is "excited" about the opportunity for the Police Foundations graduates to sign on with NAPS.

"It provides a lot of incentives for the students to complete the course and provides them with opportunities afterwards,"

Mulligan says, noting that 11 students are currently enrolled in the program. "This is their first semester. If they successfully complete the course, they will be prepared to move into the next level, which will be to be hired on by NAPS and then moving on to the Ontario Police College for further education."

NAPS Acting Chief Roland Morrison says it was important to establish a partnership with Oshki because NAPS and Oshki both serve communities across NAN territory.

"In the last semester (of the Police Foundations program), we are going to work directly with their students and have them fill out their applications to apply to NAPS," Morrison says. "Once all of them pass this policing program and their application is with us, we (will) look at hiring them on once they have successfully completed the Police Foundations program here. They will be required to go to the Ontario Police College after they are done this program, as with any Police Foundations program."

Morrison says all police officers have to go to the Ontario Police College in Aylmer in southern Ontario to complete the 13-week Basic Constable Training program.

"It's in southern Ontario, so there is a bit of an adjustment period for some of our people that come in from the north," Morrison says. "The program they have here (at Oshki) is in conjunction with Canadore College, so it is an accredited program."

Eileen Koostachin, a Police Foundations student from Deer Lake, has been enjoying the program since it started in September. The program runs from September 2018-December 2019.

"I've always been interested in becoming a police officer," Koostachin says. "The opportunity came up and I grabbed ahold of it. I like the environment — we get to socialize with each other in the classroom and help each other out where we are struggling."

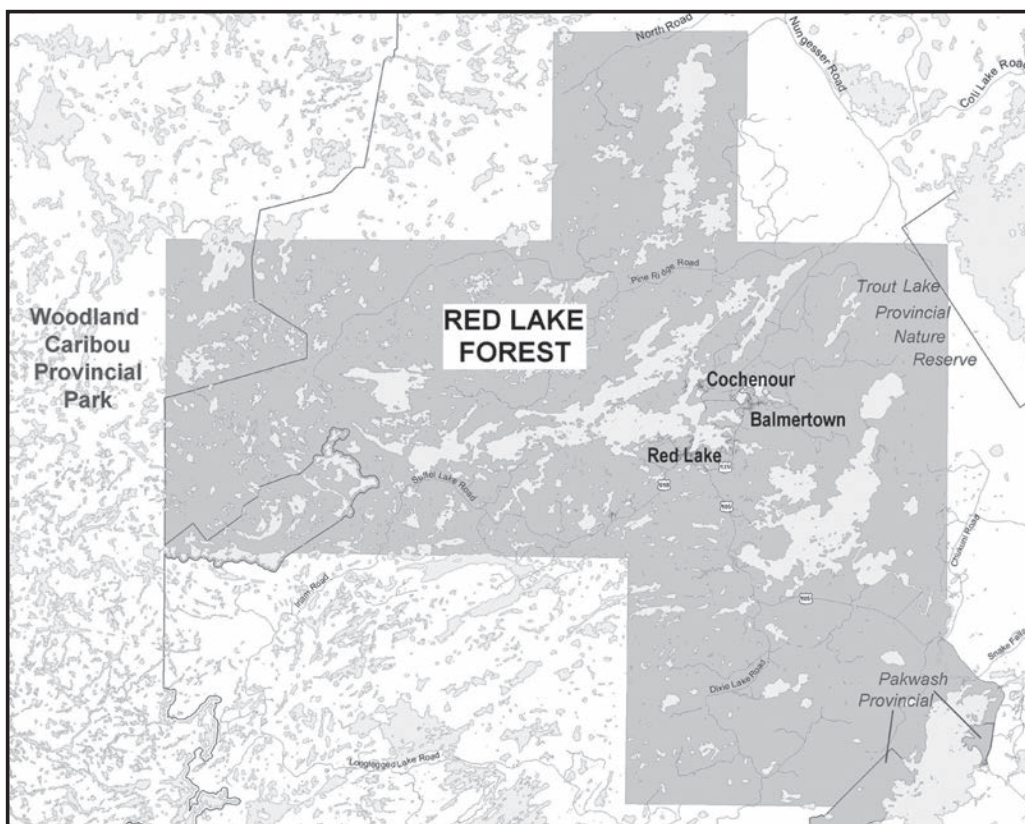
REVIEW

Minor Amendment Review

Red Lake Forest 2008-2018 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Red Lake Forest Management Company Ltd.** and the **Red Lake Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to review the MNRF-accepted minor amendment to the 2008-2018 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the **Red Lake Forest** and to provide comments.

This amendment provides for the exchange of harvest areas within the FMP in association with the 2018 Insect Pest Management Plan. This will provide Red Lake Forest Management Company Ltd. with the opportunity to harvest stands that are associated with the ongoing Jack Pine Budworm outbreak within the district. If this area is not harvested during these planned upcoming operations, then it is likely that Jack Pine and overall stand volume decline will have negative impacts on future economic viability of harvest interventions.



How to Get Involved

Minor amendment 12 will be available for review, by appointment during normal business hours, for a 15-day period from **December 15, 2018 – December 30, 2018** at the offices of Red Lake Forest Management Company Ltd. and the MNRF Red Lake District Office.

The information will also be available on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans

James Hallworth

Assistant Management Forester
Red Lake District Office
227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-727-2575
e-mail: james.hallworth@ontario.ca

Robert Partridge, R.P.F.

Red Lake Forest Management Co. Ltd.
138 Howey Street, P.O. Box 1338
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-727-3320
fax: 807-727-1142

Comments and/or concerns with respect to this minor amendment must be received within the 15-day review period and no later than **December 30, 2018** by James Hallworth, Assistant Management Forester, of the MNRF Red Lake District Office. Further public consultation may be required if significant changes are required as a result of comments, otherwise, following the 15-day review period, the minor amendment will be approved on **January 3, 2019**. After approval, the amendment will remain on the Ontario government website for the duration of the FMP.

During the 15-day review period, there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the *Forest Management Planning Manual* (2017) (Part C, Section 7.1.5).

The MNRF is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Kathy Crampton, District Business Coordinator, at 807-727-1332.

Sports



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A skater attempts to make a move on the goalie during the male tryout at the Indigenous Sport and Wellness Ontario 2019 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships Tryouts at Fort William First Nation Arena.

National Aboriginal Hockey tryouts visit FWFN

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Kasabonika Lake's Bradley Anderson enjoyed participating in the Indigenous Sport and Wellness Ontario (ISWO) 2019 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships Tryouts at Fort William First Nation Arena.

"It went well — I think I did pretty well out there," says Anderson, a Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School student. "This is my second time doing this. It's my last year too in Midget. I went last year but I had a broken collarbone at the time, (so) I couldn't play."

Anderson says the ISWO, formerly the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario, officials told him he needed to work on his speed.

"I hear like there's great opportunities to make it somewhere great, like a really good Junior team," Anderson says. "Or even a AAA team if you are still a Midget or even a Bantam. It's a great opportunity."

Cami Carpenter, a Beaver Brae Secondary School student from Kenora, also tried out and made the team last year.

"But I didn't get to play because I broke my wrist," Carpenter says. "I just played (at this tryout) like I usually do and hopefully it all works out."

Darren Mamakwa, a DFC stu-

dent from Deer Lake, enjoyed the tryout.

"It was good, but tiring," Mamakwa says.

About 25 male and 20 female hockey players participated in the tryout sessions for the male and female Ontario teams, which included a variety of drills and a game to conclude each tryout.

"It went awesome — there were a lot of boys out," says Keir Johnston, high performance and games manager with ISWO. "The tournament this year is up in the Yukon at Whitehorse, so I think it is going to be an exciting trip and a big opportunity for a lot of kids to come out and travel up there and play some good hockey."

Johnston says the female players looked "really good" during their tryout session.

"I was really impressed with six-to-seven girls," Johnston says. "I'm really happy with the tryout — it was awesome."

Johnston says they are looking for players with speed and mobility.

"The game has really gone into a speed game, so we are looking for a lot of speed, mobility, edge work, agility and obviously just a little bit of size and toughness and compete," Johnston says. "You're always looking for those kids who can compete and have a lot of heart and really want it. It's a tryout,

so it's good to see (players) coming out and knowing it's a tryout and really going all for it."

Johnston says about four male hockey players travelled from Sandy Lake for the tryouts.

"They took a flight (to) Sioux Lookout and then drove here," Johnston says. "It is a big commitment and it's really good to see."

Jamie Rae, a member of Sandy Lake's Choose Life program, says the players barely made it out of Sandy Lake due to the weather.

"We had a number of kids (interested), but we could only take four," Rae says. "They're a bit rusty because they weren't training over the summer. They were pretty eager and they were pretty excited and ready to play, but they didn't really get enough sleep last night because we got in late."

Wyatt Crowe, one of the Sandy Lake players, enjoyed the skating at the tryout.

"It was fun and alright playing with different players," Crowe says.

The 2019 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships are scheduled for May 6-9 in Whitehorse with more than 600 Aboriginal athletes aged 15-18 expected to compete on 20 male and female teams from across Canada.



Michael Ferland: journey to the NHL is an inspiration of believing in yourself

Allan Beaver
Special to Wawatay News

The journey to the NHL was not paved in Gold. It was a jour-

ney of taking a good honest inventory of making changes in life and putting in the hard work and perseverance to achieve a childhood dream

of someday playing in the National Hockey League.

see IMPROVING page 20

CONSTITUENCY ASSISTANT OUTREACH/CASEWORK - SIOUX LOOKOUT Sol Mamakwa – Kiiwetinoong

Responsible to Member for:

- Staffing Sioux Lookout Office.
- Dealing with enquiries and solving problems and advocating for constituents (case work). Contacting and responding to constituents by telephone, writing, and in person. Contacting senior government personnel, officials from outside organizations, and local government on behalf of constituents.
- Assist with outreach and community events.
- Keeping informed and liaising with community groups within Sioux Lookout and surrounding communities and ensuring MPP is advised of key local concerns.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of Northern issues is essential.
- Excellent writing skills. Good computer and office organization skills.
- Ability to understand and prepare cases and to advocate effectively on behalf of the MPP's constituents.
- Ability to travel as needed throughout the constituency.
- Familiarity with Kiiwetinoong, including key stakeholder groups in the region, is essential.
- Experience in NDP organizations and Ontario Government an asset.

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Indigenous Women are particularly encouraged to apply.



For the full job description please visit:
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Improving life before career part of hockey success



Ferland went on to be invited

Being raised by a single mother who made a lot of sacrifices in order to allow her



from hockey entirely as he had become unhappy during the turmoil that had been his season so far. He was promptly traded to the Saskatoon Blades as a playoff rental after playing only four games in Brandon that season. Michael would then go on to persevere and find it within himself to work to turn the Blades' season around, helping the team to reel off 18 consecutive wins on their way to hosting the 2013 Memorial Cup.

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Health

SLFNHA conference focused on harm reduction

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority Stronger Together: Sharing Wise Practices in Harm Reduction conference featured five presentations by experts from across the province and country. The conference was at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay.

The opening keynote presentation, Harm Reduction is Love, was delivered by T. Sharp Dopler, an educator and community worker from Ottawa.

"It's coming from the perspective that harm reduction is more than just about substance use or tobacco use or any of those things that cause chaos in people's lives," Dopler says. "It's about loving people, and I base it on those seven sacred teachings. But love is the core of all of those things, so we need to create spaces where we can understand that people are making the choices they are making because of the pain they are carrying."

The second keynote presentation, Walking to Wellness, was delivered by Ron Kanutski, a mental health and addictions counsellor from the Red Rock Indian Band.

"I'm a firm believer that healing comes from movement and ceremony, when we dance," Kanutski says, noting that both traditional and Christian people participate in dancing. "Everybody jumps up out of their seat and they're moving — that's how you heal. So I changed the way I work with people. I don't

sit in the office. I take them out and let's go feel something, let's feel some cold, let's go feel some heat, let's go for a boat ride, let's go and do something. Let's go somewhere. So the big part for me for healing is movement."

The third keynote presentation, Sharing my Journey as an HIV Positive Indigenous Male, was delivered by Rene Boucher, a member of the Chiefs of Ontario Health Coordination Unit from Lac Seul.

"One of the takeaways I want people to take away from this presentation is recognizing that it is important that we do prevention and awareness around HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections," Boucher says. "But we also need to recognize that we have to support those people that are already living with or impacted by (these diseases) so they have their voices heard, because they are the ones that have the expertise to be able to share, not only how they were at risk for whatever that might be, in this case HIV, but also to provide prevention and steps they can take to help keep themselves safe."

The fourth keynote presentation, Creating Safer Places for Youth, was delivered by Mae Katt, a health administrator and educator from Temagami.

"The most important point is there are a number of people in this room who are working really hard to protect the families and the communities from any harm," Katt says. "This is all about harm reduction, and



when you look at the tools they have I think they are going to be doing a great job."

Katt adds that a new program called the Safe Sober Place has been developed for youth in Thunder Bay.

"If they're intoxicated, they can safely come and sober up without any judgement," Katt says. "And that is reassuring to parents, for sure, and reassuring for everybody who works at the school and works with young people."

A fifth keynote presentation, Indigenous Culture as an Intervention in Healing from Addictions, was delivered by Christopher Mushquash, a clinical psychologist and Canada Research Chair from Pays Plat.

The conference also featured eight workshops, including Why Community Readiness? What is it? by Geri Bailey, a retired nurse who worked in First Nation communities for more than 30 years; Using Culture as a Harm Reduction Strategy by Levi Sofea, a community well-being coordinator from Webequie; Decolonizing Health Care on Reserve by Mike Kirlaw, a physician from Sioux Lookout; Crystal Meth and Drug Trends - Navigating the System by Jim Cullen, a registered social worker from Toronto; and Using Traditional Medicines for Self-Care and Healing by Kelly Jeffords, a counsellor and speaker from Serpent River.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

TOP: Rene Boucher, centre left in vest, delivered a keynote presentation on Sharing my Journey as an HIV Positive Indigenous Male at the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority Stronger Together: Sharing Wise Practices in Harm Reduction conference in Thunder Bay.

ABOVE: Mae Katt delivered a keynote presentation on Creating Safer Places for Youth.

Ryan McMahon speaks at CMHC healthy communities summit

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The CMHC Indigenous Youth Summit on Housing kicked off with a presentation by keynote speaker Ryan McMahon at the Fort William First Nation Community Centre.

"The initiative is about trying to get youth input on healthy communities, and I just tried to share some perspectives and ideas on what I think healthy communities need and what I think at our best our own lives and point of view and world view and cultural teachings already offer in that way," says McMahon, an Indigenous motivational speaker/comedian from Couchiching. "So (I was) just kind of highlighting some of the key concepts of love and of community and why it is important that we have youth perspectives in that regard."

The summit also featured a panel discussion by experts in housing, including Frank Horn, specialist, First Nations housing with CMHC; Roxanne Harper, partner in Turtle Island Associates Inc. and emcee for the summit; Courtney Buckshot, housing coordinator with Couchiching; Anne Headrick, housing manager with Garden River; and Greg Solomon, construction maintenance coordinator with Garden River.

"The idea of it was for us to share our experience in housing, how we got into our role and just to share stories and to inspire the youth in the room to maybe consider housing as a career option for themselves," Horn says, noting that one student asked a question about what person in their life inspires them to work in housing. "I



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Couchiching's Ryan McMahon shared some ideas and perspectives on what healthy communities need during his keynote presentation at the CMHC Indigenous Youth Summit on Housing, held in Fort William.

thought it was a really good question — it kind of makes it personal. I have a young daughter at home and I know just by casual conversations at home, the house is very important. She loves where we live."

David Muriella, specialist, First Nations housing with CMHC, says the summit included youth from about 25 different First Nations across northern Ontario, ranging in age from 16 to 25-years-old.

"They (were from) St. Patrick's (High School), St. Ignatius (High School), Matawa (Learning Centre), Dennis Franklin Cromarty (First

Nations High School)," Muriella says. "And we had a few students here from Lakehead (University) and a few that came in from their own First Nations in vehicles that wanted to attend."

Carson Baxter, a Matawa Learning Centre student from Marten Falls, enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the activities at the summit.

"I learned how to fill in the air cracks (around doors and windows)," Baxter says about the renovation challenge held on the first afternoon of the summit. "It worked out pretty good. It was fun. I want to make a career as well in construction



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of experts in housing shared their experiences and how they got into their roles during a panel discussion

work. (I picked up) a few tips, a few ideas."

The summit also included a full day with Ryerson University's Together Design Lab, where the youth learned about improving housing in their communities.

"We've worked with Indigenous communities in the remote areas of northern Ontario for the last five years, so we were talking about some of the lessons around housing and thinking about long-term planning and governance structures around those," says Shelagh McCartney, a professor at Ryerson University. "A

lot of time youth are not asked about how they would like to redesign homes, and they have a lot to give to that discussion. So we specialize in creating an engaged discussion with different games and activities to allow the students to share their priorities."

The lab included an activity where the youth worked on creating an air barrier around a model of a house.

"It allowed them to see how difficult it is to actually make a house really airtight, how much time it takes — you have to have the right conditions to do it," McCartney says. "But also

what happens when you put a single hole into it and the damage that can do to a house long-term."

McCartney says the youth were also shown how different materials react to being in water.

"I think that was quite impactful for the students to see what happens when these materials are in water," McCartney says. "It sort of explained the benefits of using rock wool, the fact that when it gets wet it doesn't get mouldy. And it begins to be a fire barrier as well."

Feature



photo submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers
Warrant Officer Chris Thomson, an army instructor, trains Canadian Rangers in Constance Lake in the use of the new Ranger rifle.

Canadian Rangers receive first of the new C-19 Ranger rifles

Peter Moon
Special to Wawatay News

The first of the new Canadian Ranger C-19 rifles have started to be distributed in Northern Ontario.

The first two deliveries were made to Ranger patrols in Constance Lake, near Hearst, and Peawanuck, near the Hudson Bay coast. The C-19 is a specially designed .308 calibre, bolt action rifle, that is replacing the venerable .303 Lee-Enfield Mark 4, which has been in service with the Rangers since 1947.

"We've been looking forward to getting the new rifle for a long time," said Sergeant Neil Neegan in Constance Lake. "We are glad to be getting them."

The C-19 is designed to meet the specific needs of the Rangers, who are part-time army

reservists in the North. It has several specially designed features, such as a bigger bolt handle and trigger guard to allow the Rangers to fire it more easily with gloved hands in cold temperatures. It is shorter, lighter, and more accurate than the Lee-Enfield.

"It's a beautiful rifle," said Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Richardson, commanding officer of the 3rd Canadian Ranger patrol Group, which commands the 570 Rangers in 25 First Nations across the Far North of Ontario. "I've not heard anyone say a bad word about it. I'm certain the Rangers are going to feel the same way about it."

"They will use it for defensive purposes only, to protect themselves from predators. In the areas where our Rangers work there are dangerous animals, such as black bears, polar bears,

wolves, and on occasion they will have to put them down if they can't scare them off with warning shots."

The old Lee-Enfields issued to the Ranger patrols in Northern Ontario are being reconditioned by the Canadian Army and given as gifts to selected serving Rangers who meet the requirements of the federal Firearms Act. Sergeant Neegan said he was pleasantly surprised to be given one of them.

"It is a good rifle for hunting moose," he said. "It has a nice weight and open sights for the hunting I do. I've shot a moose with a .303 on patrol for food. I've also slept with one next to me when I was scared a bear might come into my tent."

"So I'm happy to get one of the old .303s for myself but the new rifle is going to be great for us as Rangers."

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Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year from the students and staff at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School



SIoux LOOKOUT

Hub of the North