National Chief RoseAnne Archibald gives keynote address at Elders Gathering

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

National Chief RoseAnne Archibald spoke about truth coming to light during her keynote address at Trent University's The Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies 46th Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering, held virtually from Feb. 11-13.

"I do understand the theme of this year's gathering is Reconciliation Through Restor(y)ing Our Truth, so to me that's restoring truth but also restorying," Archibald says. "You might have heard me talk about this as well as we continue to go through s very difficult time across Turtle Island the truth and story of Canada is coming to light, the myths of Canada as a friendly, just and fair society has been exposed as false, and to echo what (Peterborough) Mayor Diane Therrien said (during her opening comments at the gathering), there must be truth before reconciliation. In fact there can only be reconciliation if there is truth, and without it, it can't exist."

Archibald says this has been a challenging year for many with the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, record heatwaves and grief over the Indigenous children who did not make it home from residential schools.

"I don't call them residential schools, I don't call them schools because I attended many schools in municipalities and not one of them had unmarked graves with children's bodies, not one of them," Archibald says.
"So through this collective grief and our collective hardship, there's also an opportunity for hope, and this opportunity for change that I mentioned earlier, and this is what we're calling in my office the Healing Path Forward."

Archibald says the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) released a Healing Path Forward First Nation priorities document during the 2021 federal election.

"Those priorities offer a strategic direction towards positive and evolutionary change for First Nations and all Canadians," Archibald says. "That document contained five key areas, and during the first part of my term as national chief we have focused on Truth and Reconciliation and healing for First Nations and all Canadians. Every time we have a recovery of our children, I'm promoting the ideas of truth, reconciliation and especially healing, and I've called on this government for a national healing process."

Archibald says the AFN has also focused on promoting peace by

respecting First Nations jurisdiction. "First Nations have rights and

authorities, and I've seen in my whole career how that has not always been respected," Archibald says. "We've also been working on rebuilding and strengthening First Nations, so one of the things I've been promoting diligently is post-pandemic recovery planning for First Nations. We're going to come out of this pandemic eventually and we need to make sure First Nations have that strength to move forward and that they do have their economies rebuilt and the systems in place to do

Archibald also highlighted the importance of Elders and women in leadership during her keynote address.

"I wanted to talk about how Elders are vital to our culture and our communities," Archibald says. "Elders and knowledge keepers carry those teachings, the songs, the ceremonies, the sacred items to ensure the continuation of us as people, and they do this with great love and healing energy which contributes to the positive change and evolution in our communities. Elders and knowledge keepers through their example have been a model for me as I advocate on behalf of our people with a heart centred approach."

Archibald says she also continues to promote women in leadership as a way



National Chief RoseAnne Archibald delivered the Keynote Address at Trent University's The Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies 46th Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering on Feb. 11.

to balance the political system.

"I heard somebody talk about colonization earlier, and colonization has kept women out of leadership positions for far too long," Archibald says. "It's gatherings like your's that give us

an opportunity to reflect on picking up healthy and helpful cultural traditions of our people which includes the important role women play in the wellbeing of our nations, lifting up our matriarchs.'

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Politics

NAN links health issues to poor housing conditions

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) is calling for the federal government to take action after a study linking health issues to poor housing conditions in First Nations communities was released. The Vulnerable Populations: Housing conditions and respiratory morbidity in Indigenous children in remote communities in Northwestern Ontario, Canada study was published by the Canadian Medical Association Journal with 12 co-authors, including Dr. Tom Kovesi, pediatric respirologist and research investigator at the CHEO Research Institute, and Michael McKay, director of infrastructure and housing at NAN.

This study confirms what our leaders have been saying for years - that deplorable housing is directly linked to the poor health of so many of our people," says Grand Chief Derek Fox. "We have known for years that the quality of health and housing are linked, and we now have solid data to support this. We have been advocating for years for substantial improvements to housing, but the government keeps asking for proof that the moldy, drafty houses many of our citizens are forced to live in are connected to their poor health. This dedicated team has confirmed this link, and we thank everyone who has contributed to this important study. We now look to our federal Treaty partner to work with us on these recommendations."

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa adds that the provincial government should have acted years ago to fix the housing conditions in First Nations communities outlined in the study that shows poor housing conditions are hurting the health of First Nations children.

"Since being elected MPP, I have been telling Doug Ford and this government to take action on fixing the housing crisis in First Nations commu-

nities," says Mamakwa, provincial NDP critic for Indigenous and Treaty Relations. "Jurisdictional ping-pong should never be an excuse for inaction when it comes to protecting the health of First Nations children affected by poor housing."

Mamakwa says the governments must take the study, which is posted online at www. cmaj.ca/content/194/3/E80, as an alarm bell.

"And finally take action to prevent our children from getting sick and being hospitalized and our Elders from dying," Mamakwa says. "While Doug Ford and the Conservatives refused to take action to help First Nation children, an NDP government will prioritize community-led housing solutions in First Nations."

The study, which documented indoor air quality and housing characteristics in Lac Seul, Kasabonika Lake, Sandy Lake and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, found that 25 per cent of the children in the study were medically evacuated for respiratory illness; 21 per cent of the children in the study were admitted to hospital during the first two years of life; and 85 per cent of the houses in the study lacked controlled ventilation, with 51 per cent having damaged windows, 44 per cent showing water penetration in exterior walls and six per cent having immediate safety issues.

"We performed a crosssectional evaluation of 98 First Nation children (81 with complete data) aged three years or younger, living in four First Nation communities in the Sioux Lookout region of northern Ontario," states the authors in the study. "We performed medical chart reviews and administered questionnaires. We performed a housing inspection, including quantifying the interior surface area of mould (SAM). We monitored air quality for five days in each home and quantified the contaminant loading of settled floor dust, including endo-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Grand Chief Derek Fox, pictured at a pre-COVID-19 event, called for the federal government to take action after a study linking health issues to poor housing conditions in First Nations communities was released.

toxin. We analyzed associations between IEQ (indoor environmental quality) variables and respiratory conditions using univariable and multivariable analyses."

The conclusion of the report states that many houses in the four communities had substantial IEQ problems.

"Presence of endotoxin was

associated with wheezing with colds and tended to be associated with LRTI (lower respiratory tract infection) in young children," states the authors in the conclusion of the report. "Surface area of visible mould tended to be associated with URTI (upper respiratory tract infection) visits. Urgent collective action is needed to

respond to historically damaging impacts of colonization, including systemic indifference. Increased housing stock appropriate for local geographic, climatic and cultural needs should be matched to solutions that are First Nation led and governed. Economic opportunity, elimination of food insecurity and provision of

potable water will allow communities and residents to apply more resources to the upkeep of existing houses. Such measures will improve the overall health of First Nation peoples, particularly vulnerable family members, such as children and

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













Politics

Sol Mamakwa calls for more fire services and resources

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa is calling on the provincial government to support communities that urgently need fire resources to prevent more tragic fire deaths after the deaths of three children on Jan. 13 in Sandy Lake. Grant Meekis, nine-years-old, Remi Meekis, six-years-old and Wilfred Fiddler, four-years-old, lost their lives in the fire.

"The deaths of three young children in a fire in Sandy Lake has devastated the community and has broken the hearts of people across the province and the country," says Mamakwa, provincial NDP critic for Indigenous and Treaty Relations. "We cannot allow this to happen again. There can be no more jurisdictional games played with the lives of First Nations children."

Mamakwa says he listened to Sandy Lake's leadership on the evening of Jan. 14 over the community's local radio station via the Internet.

"Certainly it was very sad, very traumatic — you could hear a lot of hurt, a lot of sorrow in their voices," Mamakwa says. "They described what they saw, they described some of what they couldn't do, some of the equipment they didn't have at that time. It was really sad to listen and I think it is important that we acknowledge the community for what they are going through during this time. It keeps on happening in the north, it keeps on happening in our communities — we should be doing something."

Mamakwa says the Ontario Chief Coroner's Table on understanding fire deaths in First Nations, posted online at www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-chief-coroners-table-understanding-fire-deaths-first-nations, states that First Nations children aged zero to nine-years-old have a fire-related mortality rate 86 times greater than non-First Nations children in Ontario, making them the group with the highest death rate.

"I remember back in 2019 we lost five people in KI (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug)," Mamakwa says. "On March 30, 2016 it was Pikangikum, nine people; 2014 was in Mishkeegogamang, a mother and two young daughters and a nephew; 2013 it was in Wunnumin Lake, two children and a 22-vear-old aunt: 2011 was Nibinamik, two boys. So I think that the government cannot continue to use jurisdiction as an excuse not to do anything. As an (MPP), that's why I called out the provincial government to be able to be part of the solu-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa, pictured at a pre-COVID-19 event, called on the provincial government to support communities that urgently need fire resources to prevent more tragic fire deaths after the deaths of three children on Jan. 13 in Sandy Lake.

Mamakwa says the people of Ontario and Canada want to help with the need for fire fighting resources in First Nation communities.

"It is time for the Ford government to listen and provide the fire fighting resources needed in First Nations communities now," Mamakwa says. "First Nations are asking for the same level of fire protection afforded to all Ontarians. Right now, too many communities are relying on volunteers and insufficient equipment to fight fires because they do not have the funds and resources for paid firefighters and fire prevention services."

Mamakwa adds that the provincial government must help protect families with fire safety action plans and ensure that all homes and infrastructure are safe.

"If the government doesn't act now, more tragedies will happen," Mamakwa says. "How many children will we lose to preventable fires before this government takes action to save lives."

Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Executive Council offered their condolences to the family and community as funeral services were held for the three children on Feb. 5 in Sandy Lake.

"Pandemic protocols have prevented us from travelling to support the community, but we will do everything we can to comfort them as our people have always done in times of need and sorrow," Achneepineskum says in a press release. 'We thank everyone for the tremendous outpouring of sympathy, and I ask that people please join us in prayer for strength and healing over difficult weeks ahead. Far too many of our families and communities have lost their loved ones like this, and we will renew our efforts to prevent similar tragedies from happening in the future. We will stand with them to advocate for the improvements to fire prevention and fire safety that they have asked for and so desperately need. Nothing can ease the pain we feel over the loss of Grant, Remi, and Wilfred, but we can honour them by working together to prevent similar tragedies."





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Serving the First Nations in Northern Ontario since 1974. Wawatay News is a politically independent monthly newspaper published by Wawatay Communications Society.

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Commentary

Good News Hunting



s an Indigenous person, world news has always been very confusing and overwhelming for me. The world has always been troubled and now everything is getting more confusing for all of us. It is difficult to figure out what is true or false in the news every day. The way we use social media on the internet has complicated reality even more.

Right now there is news about a possible war between Russia and Ukraine that would be support-ed by its western allies including Canada. In our current age of misinformation, its difficult to tell where truth ends and falsehoods begin. All we can understand is that all of the sabre rattling is adding to the possibility of war. The worry is in wondering what a war would look like for the world with major nucle-ar powers involved.

In other parts of the world, it has become a normal part of the news cycle that the Middle East is forever lost in war and conflict. We have become numb to the sad and tragic headlines of African nations. We ignore the inequalities taking place in Southeast Asia. No one bothers to listen to the political and economic troubles taking place in Central and South America.

Much of these conflicts, wars and tragedies stem from our human greed for natural resources, economic resources and human resources in the form of cheap labour and exploitation of developing nations. What is wrong with us as human beings? Wouldn't vou think at this point in our global civilization we would be at a more sane and secure world

On top of all of this we are dealing with the historical global COVID19 pandemic. Millions of people have died as a result of this virus, millions more have been hospitalized and injured and our lives have been restricted and turned upside down. Most people realize it is a good idea to trust in the world's scientists, epidemiologists and virologists who are promoting the use of vaccines to keep us from getting very sick or dying of COVID19. However, there are groups that are hesitant, spreading false information and conspiracies about this pandemic and vaccines and restrictions. Although these groups are small they are very vocal. The recent demonstrations at the parliament buildings in Ottawa provide us with examples of how groups can come together and be orga-

nized in a fashion that could be dangerous for our elected officials and our democracy.

How do we figure out for ourselves what is real and what is contrived and untrue?

We have to turn to trusted and established media for our information. National television news services like the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), CTV News and Global News are run by trained journalists and media professionals that are required by law to follow strict standards in reporting and journalism. They verify their sources and do their best to report the news in a fair and impartial man-ner. These networks do have content on social media so it is important to know for sure that any news you see actually comes from them directly.

It is dangerous to follow unknown and unnamed sources on any social media. Any unverified news story or headline you read on any social media feed that has unknown sources was likely assembled by an individual with little or no training in media or journalism at best and at worst by a malicious group that is actively spreading misinformation.

Internationally I trust my news consumption with other recognized public news services like Deutsche Welle (DW) English in Germany, France 24 English in France, the British Broad casting Corpo-ration (BBC) in the United Kingdom, Australia **Broadcasting Corporation** (ABC) in Australia and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in the United States, as well as well established international news agencies like Associated Press and Reuters.

For Indigenous news I watch Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN) and read Wawatay News, the Nation, Windspeaker and The First Nations Drum.

As a democratic nation, the news we are exposed to should be readily available and easy for us to find. We shouldn't have to work to search through truth, half trues, misinformation and lies. Governments must find a way to manage and regulate how news and information flows through the social media we all consume. Network television, cable networks, newspapers and news organizations are already heavily regulated to protect everyone from run away forms of misinformation. Why can't we do the same for the social media feeds we all read and watch every day?

We have to always be careful with the information we see and read because it is the basis of our democratic society. If we are mindful of the sources we read and watch, we can find our

way through the confusion. Good news hunting to every-

www.underthenorthernsky.com

Canadian Rangers doing a great job in Attawapiskat



Members of the local Canadian Ranger patrol in a Cree community on James Bay are doing "a great job" supporting their remote First Nation during a continuing COVID-19 crisis, according to the Canadian Army officer who commands the Rangers across the Far North of Ontario. Pictured: Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur discusses the pandemic situation in Attawapiskat with Chief David Nakogee.

Is Winter Weather Less Predictable?



e are about 75 percent through the present winter which suggests several things.

1. We are much of the way through heating costs for winter 2021-22. This is especially important for people and families that use firewood, on-site propane or fuel oil, but few are immune to the costs of energy for space heating in winter. Another piece of good news is that the Sun is so much higher in the sky compared to later December.

This "extra" solar energy in the afternoons reduces the need for space heating and every passing day brings more solar gain. Nevertheless, there are many remaining weeks that require heat energy - I am not going to estimate how many

2. It is a good time to check on the track record of winter weather predictions that were made in later 2021.

Long-range forecasts often have phrases that cover many possibilities such as a "come-

and-go winter", "see-saw", and so on. Sometimes careful wording can avoid gross errors in predictions. The cynic in me does not give much credence to statements about "periods of mild and/or cold weather" and "some periods of high impact winter weather".

Seasonal forecasts that are based on science are playing a probability game.

It helps to look at past averages and extremes and combine this with the most recent information. Measurements last fall confirmed that a large area of the tropical Pacific Ocean was slightly cooler than average.
This temperature difference

over 10 million square kilometres (the area of all of Canada) is termed La Niña and can result in shifts in centres of low and high air pressure. La Niña can impact the position of jet streams and weather patterns across Canada.

It is not a given but La Niña can result in colder-thannormal temperatures and more snow across much of Canada, including Northern Ontario. This was second year in a row and readers with great memories may recall predictions for both winters in this column.

I noted that the presence of La Niña was less reliable as a forecasting tool in the last couple of decades and would not necessarily result in exceptional cold or snow. In the 2020-21

winter there was a period of extreme cold for two weeks in February (2021). In spite of this cold, the winter was comfortably in the top 10 of warmest on record.

Regional snow amounts were below average. Whew, a reasonable prediction.

My wording was different but in November 2021 "I am doubtful that La Niña will result in a miserable winter in Northern Ontario.

Cold snaps and snowfall? Likely but I am not quite as confident this year". I wasn't quite as dismissive of the prevailing La Niña predictions.

The beginning of this winter in November and most of December 2021, featured warmer than average with more rainfall than usual. Then, the character of winter changed in the final days of December.

January weather summary

Northern Ontario, and the entire province, experienced well below normal temperatures. Temperatures were -3 to -5° C colder than long-term averages.

Most of Northern Ontario had its coldest January since 2004, although the cold was less extreme in the James Bay area. Environment Canada frequently issued extreme cold warnings during January.

A common weather feature in winter is called an "Alberta clipper". Low pressure systems form in the lee of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. Once they start to move from west to east they typically are fastmoving and bring a sequence of warmer conditions, some snow and/or rain followed by a return to below normal temperatures.

A number of Alberta clippers passed over the region from west to east in January. Little or no rain occurred and snow amounts were slightly more than average in the Northwest and slightly less than average in Northeast and the far North.

Weather outlook or February and March

Alberta clippers continued to be a regular event in early February. As in January, precipitation was mainly snow. Colder than seasonal temperatures are predicted to prevail most of February.

A flip to much warmer conditions is forecast near the end of the month and then prevail into March. Of course, longerrange forecast models do not guarantee on how we will transition from winter to spring this year. Keep an eye out for "Fool's Spring."

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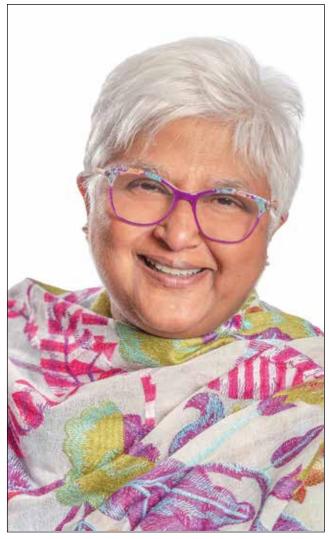
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submitted photo
Dr. Sarita Verma, dean, president and CEO at Northern Ontario School
of Medicine, says the \$1 million donation by The Slaight Family Foundation announced on Feb. 8 will have an immediate impact on future

NOSM receives \$1-million donation

Rick Garrick

The Northern

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is looking forward to providing \$25,000 entrance scholarships for 40 BIPOC women medical students through a \$1 million donation from The Slaight Family Foundation.

"Lam dooply greatful to The

doctors in Northern Ontario.

"I am deeply grateful to The Slaight Family Foundation for this gift to NOSM," says Dr. Sarita Verma, dean, president and CEO at NOSM. "This donation is groundbreaking. Every marginalized woman in northern Ontario who dreams of becoming a doctor should feel inspired to apply to NOSM knowing there is financial support available."

The scholarships will be provided to 10 BIPOC women medical students, including including transgender and non-binary people, who are entering NOSM's MD program each year for four years.

"They will be for Black, Indigenous, person of colour, transgender, non-binary students," Verma says. "It's going to help because they are the most likely to have difficulty affording to come to medical school, and we want to reduce the barriers, we want people who are eligible to come to medical school and not to have money to be a factor, and if in first year we can pay their tuition, that's fantastic."

NOSM was the first medical school in Canada developed with an explicit social accountability mandate, and with the 40 new BIPOC women students over the next four years, NOSM's number of self-identified BIPOC alumnae will double.

"Many of our students have to work during their medical school training to earn extra money, and that puts a lot of stress on them," Verma says. "From our perspective it's just the beginning of the kind of work we want to do to make NOSM and NOSM University essentially we hope over time tuition free. That's my goal — I'd love to raise a couple of hundred million dollars so that all our students can be tuition free."

"I'd love to raise a couple of hundred million dollars so that all our students can be tuition free..."

– Dr. Sarita Verma

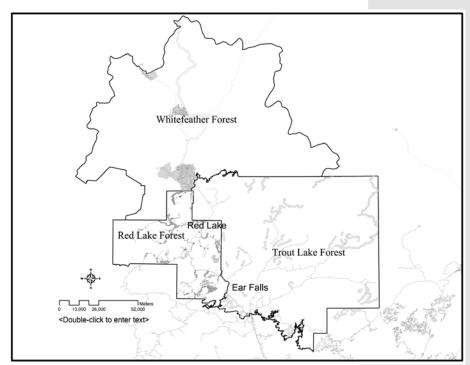
Verma says the \$1 million donation will have an immediate impact on future doctors in northern Ontario.

"It comes at a critical time," Verma says. "Currently there is a shortage of over 300 doctors in northern Ontario, as well as impending retirements, increasingly complex patients and entire communities without access to a family doctor."

Verma says the enthusiasm about The Slaight Family Foundation's gift has been huge from across northern Ontario and the country.

see DONATION page 6

ΥΛάλ>α Φρ·Δα Ραρίδα (AWS) ΓΙσοισου σρρίν 1, 2022 Ισάο Γρινόριν 31, 2023 ΔΔΕ Γισοδοσό, απογιδα δα το πλεδισό το πλεδισό



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https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management

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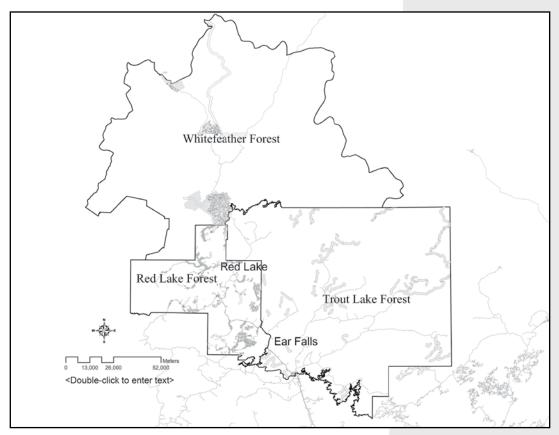
Planning Forester Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority 138 Howey Street



INSPECTION

Inspection of 2022 – 2023 Annual Work Schedule: Red Lake Forest, Trout Lake Forest and Whitefeather Forest

The April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023 Annual Work Schedules(AWS) for the Red Lake, Trout Lake and Whitefeather Forests are available electronically for public viewing by contacting the Red Lake Forest Management Company (RLFMC), Domtar Inc., or the Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority (WFCRMA), respectively, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning March 15, 2022 and for the one-year duration of the AWS.



Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

The forest company is responsible for tree planting on the respective forest. Please contact the applicable Forest Company listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the locations and licence requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact the NDMNRF contact listed below. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the applicable Forest Company listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a remote meeting with NDMNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact:

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Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management

Renseignements en français : Michele Kan, F.P.I. au courriel : michele.kan@ontario.ca ou tél: 807 728-2278.

Ontario 😚

Education



NOSM campus in Thunder Bay, ON.

Donation will provide scholarships to students

from page 5

"The Slaight family are so generous, so thoughtful," Verma says. "It's not often that they actually give a donation to a medical school, let alone a northern medical school, so we're just very humbled and grateful."

The \$1 million donation was one of a total of \$15 million worth of donations made by The Slaight Family Foundation to 12 organizations, including NOSM, that support women and girls.

"The pandemic has added to the many challenges faced by women and girls across Canada," says Gary Slaight, president and CEO at The Slaight Family Foundation. "This initiative is about helping women overcome barriers and gain more equitable access to higher education and opportunities."

Terry Smith, program director at The Slaight Family Foundation, says the \$1 million donation was made to help BIPOC women in northern Ontario who may not have the financial capacity to attend medical school.

"It will give them a real opportunity to have some higher education and hopefully be doctors in northern Ontario and fulfill some of the needs for doctors," Smith says. "So we're hoping these doctors



Northern Ontario School of Medicine

will remain in the north and be models for other girls to follow in their footsteps. If young girls see their counterparts a few years ahead of them in medical school and becoming doctors, they may very well say: 'Hey, I can do that too.' Even if it inspires one other girl, it makes a difference."

The Slaight Family Foundation, which was established in 2008 by John Allan Slaight, is providing the other \$14 million in donations for supporting grants for programs working to end gender-based vio-lence, including for Indigenous women; helping women facing homelessness and other socioeconomic barriers to success; career mentorship and leadership skills development; health programs tailored specifically to racialized women, new immigrants and refugees; and the expansion of the national eating disorder emergency chat







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Global Indigenous Speaker Series featured Inuk youth Ashley Cummings

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Lakehead University's Global Indigenous Speaker Series featured a virtual presentation on Indigenous Resiliency and Strength by Inuk youth and Yukon University Indigenous Governance student Ashley Cummings.

"The north is my home and there is absolutely nowhere like the north," says Cummings, who currently lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. "I feel it has been very integral in how it has shaped me, especially growing up around Elders a lot. (My great grandmother) always was very intentional about what stories she told me and she always shared a lot of stories with me in the afternoons I spent after school with her or when I was just hanging around her home."

Cummings says it is also important to recognize the auntie love that exists in Indigenous communities.

"Being a very proud (auntie) myself I feel like it is my auntie duty to make good bannock for my niece," Cummings says. "There's a way of finding hope across traditional territories and sharing that auntie love is so important to me even if non-Inuk kids end up finding me a little bit much."

Cummings says she journeyed up to Eagle Plains this past summer with her sister and niece to visit the Arctic Circle so "we could see a taste of our

"We got to have the beautiful .. crow berries that grow, the low bush cranberries, heather, all these beautiful things we love so deeply while we were in our traditional territory," Cummings says.

Cummings says that she continues to find home wherever she goes, noting she hiked the Chilkoot Trail between Bennett, B.C. and Dyea, Alaska a couple of years ago.

"It felt so incredible starting in a rainforest environment with humidity that my Inuk heart could barely stand and going further and further into the mountains and finding those pieces of tundra and finding plants that I grew up picking alongside the rivers in my hometown and being able to connect with the land in that integral way," Cummings says.

Cummings adds that she also found home at an old fish processing community in Greenland while she was working on cruise ships.

"I found home there too, which is such an important part of Indigenous resiliency as we find different ways to experi-



Ashley Cummings spoke about learning stories from her great grandmother.

ence our homes," Cummings says. "And food is a big part of what is considered home for me I feel that is a big part of how my family connects as many families do."

Cummings says an important way to support Indigenous and other people in the north with food security issues would be the subsidization of hunter's rights such as fuel and ammunition to encourage them to harvest traditional food, noting that Inuit diets are traditionally made up of high protein, high fat foods with very little fibre.

"This is a beautiful piece of narwhale that my good friend ... brought for me when I finally was able to make it back home to Nunavut a couple of years ago," Cummings says about a slide in her presentation. "So we had a really lovely feast of this delicious food."

Cummings says cruise ships are travelling through the region more frequently as climate change has impacted the Northwest Passage by making it "really smoothly passable" dur-



Inuk youth and Yukon University Indigenous Governance student Ashley Cummings spoke about visiting her traditional territory during her Feb. 2 Lakehead University Global Indigenous Speaker Series presentation on Indigenous Resiliency and Strength.

ing the summer.

"I've been fortunate enough to go through the Northwest Passage in its entirety as well as through partially and ice hasn't been a huge issue," Cummings says. "One thing I do feel thankful for because it does bring revenue to the north is that the cruise ships are becoming increasingly energy sustainable, such as the MS Roald Amund-

sen and the MS (Fridtjof) Nansen, part of Hurtigruten's fleet. They are hybrid, they work off electricity so we can sail through the Northwest Passage completely in silence, which is absolutely stunning, and I hope more and more ships go down this route."

Cummings' presentation is posted online at: www.youtube. com/watch?v=LrbciRdN34A.

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Chef Charles Catchpole gives presentation on food sovereignty

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Couchiching chef Charles Catchpole spoke about food sovereignty from a chef's point of view and bringing back some of the traditional ways of Indigenous peoples during the Food Sovereignty virtual presentation.

"A lot of the foods that people associate with some European countries were actually Indigenous to begin with, for example tomatoes," says Catchpole, owner of Charger Foods. "Everyone thinks of Italian tomatoes and tomato sauce and things like that, but that's from the South America region."

Catchpole adds that the potato was domesticated in the Peru region of South America. Canadian Food Focus states that the potato is the fourth most important food crop on the planet, following rice, wheat and corn, and now accounts for about 36 percent of all fresh and processed vegetables consumed in Canada.

"Chocolate was originally made in Mexico," Catchpole

Catchpole says there are two topics, food justice and food sovereignty, that kind of go hand-in-hand.

"Food (justice) would mean that people everywhere have access to nutritious non-processed foods," Catchpole says, noting that many cities in the United States and some in Canada do not have grocery stores in lower income neighbourhoods. "If you're a single mom and you have two little kids, you have to take two little kids to the grocery store on city transit and then cart home groceries in bags on the city bus. You're not getting much at a time and it's at least half a day outing to go and do that, as opposed to being able to in my neighbourhood walk to the grocery store in three minutes."

Catchpole says food sovereignty is the ability and knowledge to know how to sustain yourself without having to rely on the regular chains available through grocery stores and convenience stores for food.

"(So) knowing some of our traditional practices such as hunting, such as fishing, being able to grow some of your own produce or farming," Catchpole says. "And of course knowing how to walk through the woods ... and identify some edible plants and medicines that are growing, so foraging. There's four aspects to it that I speak on, and then how those are affected by the systems and the places people live — in the city you don't necessarily have land to grow on."

Catchpole says people can grow a few plants in their home such as fresh herbs or a cherry tomato plant.

"I don't have access to land at my house at all but I do have a big balcony and I grow plants in Rubbermaid containers," Catchpole says. "I've grown potatoes, I've grown the three sisters (corn, beans and squash) in a pot. My corn was five feet



submitted photo Couchiching chef Charles Catchpole, who grew the three sisters, corn, beans and squash.

tall on my balcony. Knowing how to do that and being able to access something and having that knowledge to me brings back food sovereignty."

Catchpole says hunting and fishing regulations and seasons are based on Indigenous knowledge about protecting the species so they would continue to be available for harvesting for millennia.

"There's a reason why we hunt big game in the fall," Catchpole says. "There's a reason for fishing seasons in the spring and that we hunt migratory birds in the fall. People don't realize those seasons come from our historical ways of hunting — if you hunted geese and ducks in the spring right after the eggs have been hatched, you were abandoning those newborns and they would



photo from Charles Catchpole's Facebook page

Couchiching chef Charles Catchpole cooked up some of the corn, purple potatoes and carrots he grew in his 2,400 square-foot micro farm this past summer to serve with walleye from Treaty #3 territory.

Catchpole says his mother and her siblings used to tend to the family's garden before and after school.

"I remember my grandparents house—it was a pretty big garden for a household," Catchpole says. "They grew all their own stuff, they had to."

Catchpole says much of the knowledge Indigenous people had about food was not passed down as readily as before when they were living on the reserves.

"As a chef ... I get this question often: 'What did Native people eat before (the newcomers) came along," Catchpole says. "It's now trendy to eat local, it's now trendy to go to your local farmers' market and you pick up the fresh produce that's grown right there. I love farmers' markets and I

love going and seeing all the fresh produce all the time, but that's an Indigenous diet — you ate what was around you. You knew how to forage, you knew how to hunt, you knew how to fish and you grew things that grew in your area, and you knew how to preserve those things. You dried your corn, you dried your beans, you knew how to dry your meats and (store) some of your vegetables to sustain yourself over the winter months."

Catchpole says he plans to plant some of the Gete-okosomin, which means cool old squash in Anishinabemowin, squash seeds that Winona LaDuke, an Indigenous activist, economist and writer from the United States, has been encouraging people to plant in their communities this upcoming

summer. The Gete-okosomin squash was brought back to life when archeologists unearthed an 850-year-old clay ball full of seeds in Wisconsin in 2008.

"It's an ugly looking squash but it's ancient," Catchpole says. "I have actually been gifted some of those seeds and I will be planting them in my farm this year."

Catchpole says he started up his 2,400 square-foot micro farm this past summer at an urban farm project in Toronto.

"I get to choose and grow my own crops," Catchpole says. "My application was as an Indigenous person — I wanted to grow Indigenous crops so I am growing some heirloom potatoes, I have the three sisters vegetables, corn, beans and squash, I'm growing in the traditional mounds method."

Although Catchpole was hesitant at first to get into the farming project, he says it was "an amazing and incredible journey."

"That's really cool as a chef to be able to say I also grew this food when you're doing catering or you've been cooking here at home," Catchpole says. "It's food I've grown from seed and watched those plants grow and harvested. It's very rewarding, so I've got that knowledge and I want to pass that on to everyone, to Indigenous people and educate them on the plants that I'm growing."

Information about his business is posted online at: mnop-gwad.com.



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Marten Falls declares state of emergency over lack of school

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Marten Falls has been approved for new teacherages after declaring a state of emergency due to students not being able to attend school for over 100 days. The community of about 300 on-reserve citizens did not have enough housing for teachers after some of the apartments in the Seniors Complex that teachers had been using were required by citizens due to long standing overcrowding issues and housing needs.

ing needs.

"We got a submission for minor capital approved for teacherages — four unit building and three temporary modular units," says Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum in a Feb. 11 email. "(Our) housing issues and lack of a plan on longer term growth including a subdivision is not on the table even though soon we will have no lots available to build and the housing shortage remains which is a large part of the problem."

Achneepineskum says the community had teacherages in the 1990s but they fell into disrepair and were later condemned.

"Since that time there has been no movement ... to implement new housing for teachers," Achneepineskum says in a Jan. 25 phone interview. "We are a growing community, we need our senior's building back—it was designed basically to house our seniors."

Achneepineskum says the community currently has one language teacher and one JK-SK teacher but need about four other teachers and a specialized teacher for the school.

"We did get some (teacher) applications but we don't know where to put them," Achneepineskum says. "We just don't have any (housing) units."

Timmins-James Bay MP Charlie Angus raised the issue in the House of Commons on Feb. 1

"The community marks the 111 day that the children of Marten Falls have been unable to go to school because of the chronic underfunding, because of the poverty and the overcrowding in Marten Falls," Angus says. "This is the issue we should be debating, that we have a society in Canada where Indigenous people are expected to live in such degrading circumstances."

Angus says Marten Falls and Neskantaga, which has gone without clean drinking water for 27 years, are located in a place that many Canadians have heard of, the Ring of Fire mineral exploration area.

"You hear about the great riches of the Ring of Fire — (Ontario Premier) Doug Ford said he was going to drive a bulldozer to the Ring of Fire," Angus says. "The nation of Canada's focus has always been on let's get the resources out of the ground, and yet we have children that can't go to school because of the chronic underfunding."

Angus says it was "very moving" to hear parents talk about the mental health of their children in cities, suburbs and small towns throughout January, with the slowdown and Omicron crisis, and how they had to be there for their children.

"We never heard any national conversation about the mental health of the children in a community like Marten Falls who are denied what is a universal human right, the right to quality education, and they are being denied that," Angus says.

Achneepineskum says education is critical for the children and youth at any time but particularly now when the Ring of Fire, which is situated in the community's traditional territory, offers opportunity and prosperity.

"We have to be ready for the opportunities that await us," Achneepineskum says in the Jan. 26 state of emergency press release. "Education and training are key to our success as a community. A solid education system and good teachers lay the groundwork to this success. Our children deserve this. We want to ensure they get it, but, at this juncture, there are no plans by the government to address our education needs."

An Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) official states in a Feb. 11 email response that ISC spoke with Achneepineskum and Marten Falls leaders on Jan. 28 and Feb. 2 to listen to their concerns, assess community needs and to identify actions that could be taken immediately.

"In the Jan. 28 meeting, ISC confirmed support for a project that will provide adequate and much needed accommodation for teachers coming to the community," the ISC states. "The community has identified the need for five teachers and



submitted photo

Students at the Henry Coaster Memorial School in Marten Falls have been without most of their teachers for 111 days as of Feb. 1.

the department will work with the community to expedite the project so that supplies can be delivered on the winter road."

The ISC also states that they are working with the community's tribal council, Matawa First Nations Management, to accelerate work on repairing the water line to the school fire sup-

pression system and addressing the heating system issues to ensure the heating system and fire safety systems at the Henry Coaster Memorial School are repaired and functioning.

"In the meantime, Marten Falls First Nation is assessing solutions to retain teachers to assist with remote learning opportunities until accommodations can be made available in the community," the ISC states. "The chief and council, in consultation with their education leads and teachers will put forward a plan to identify/develop Individual Student Education Plans for student success, and establish assignments

and activities that could involve the support of education assistants drawn from the community working in the classroom.

Funding has been set aside by ISC should the First Nations decide to hire education assistants to assist students with their school work."

INSPECTION

NDMNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan Inspection Whitefeather Forest 2022 - 2032 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF), Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority (WFCRMA) and the Red Lake District Resource Management Advisory Committee (LCC) would like to advise you that the 2022 – 2032 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Whitefeather Forest has been approved by the NDMNRF Regional Director and is available for inspection.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public and First Nation and Métis community involvement are provided. The fourth opportunity (Stage Four) for this FMP occurred between July 23, 2021 and September 21, 2021, when the public was invited to review and comment on the draft FMP.

This 'Stage Five' notice is to advise you that the NDMNRF-approved FMP, including the supplementary documentation, and FMP summary are available electronically for inspection for the 10-year duration of the FMP through the office of the sustainable forest licensee and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with NDMNRF staff with the Red Lake NDMNRF District or Area Office to discuss the approved FMP.

For further information, please contact:

Mark Zhang, R.P.F. Management Forester Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry Red Lake District Office 227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003 Red Lake, ON POV 2M0 tel: 807-727-2575

e-mail: mark.zhang@ontario.ca

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Resource Management Authority
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Red Lake, ON PoV 2M0
tel: 705-498-4165
e-mail: sarah.bros@merinforest.com

Sarah J. Bros, R.P.F.

Forest Management Unit
Road

First Nation

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McDowell
Lake
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Whitefeather

Forest

Red Lake
Forest

Red Lake
Forest

Laurent Tetreault LCC Representative c/o: NDMNRF Red Lake District Office 227 Howey Street P.O. Box 5003

Red Lake, ON PoV 2Mo

The approved FMP will be available for the 10-year period of the FMP at the same locations listed above. **STAY INVOLVED**

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between NDMNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the NDMNRF 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 Jennifer Smikalow, Resource Management Supervisor, at 807-728-0901 or jennifer.smikalow@ontario.ca.

Renseignements en français : Michele Kan au 807 728-2281 ou Michele.Kan@ontario.ca.



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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Borealis Dog Sled Adventures owner Burton Penner was recently invited to provide dogsled rides for students at Algonquin Avenue Public School in Thunder Bay.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of Algonquin Avenue Public School students check out some of the puppies during the dogsled rides event.

Algonquin students enjoy dogsled ride

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Algonquin Avenue Public School students enjoyed the opportunity to take a dogsled ride in their schoolyard with Borealis Dog Sled Adventures owner Burton Penner in Thunder Bay.

"It was fun and fast," says Keenan Flett, a Grade 7 Algonquin Avenue Public School student from Sandy Lake. "The dogs were all fast."

Keegan Morgan, a Grade 7 Algonquin Avenue Public School student, says the dogsled ride was good.

"They were really fast, scary at first but then as you keep going it gets calmer," Morgan says. "It's really cool, they all work as a team, all synchronized and the way they move I think is super fascinating."

The dogsled event was held to teach the historical and cultural significance of dogsledding in northwestern Ontario, link Family Literacy Day studies to the experience and enhance student engagement. Students prepared for the event by reading about dogsledding, speaking with local dog mushers and learning about the dogsledding equipment.

"We thought we would have a little fun, get some students engaged and weave it into our literacy program this week," says Darren Lentz, principal at Algonquin Avenue Public School. "It's been awesome — we're on our second last class. The Grade 7s have come out and they're excited. All the

other kids have had a great time. We love to give the students a hands-on experiential opportunity like this and it's great to have Borealis Dog Sled Adventures from Vermilion Bay to come out and help us with this experience and get (the students) to learn the history and the exhilaration and some of the sport of dogsledding but also weave it back into their curriculum and into their literacy program."

Lentz notes that dogsledding was handed down by the Indigenous people on Turtle Island.

"They used it for travel, they used it for hunting, they used it for all sorts of things," Lentz says. "And of course they shared that knowledge with Europeans when they came, and that's part of the history students get to learn."

Lentz says he previously had a dog team for about 15 years but he had to let it go after moving to Thunder Bay. "It's a lot of work, that's for

"It's a lot of work, that's for sure, and you've got to exercise the dogs, you've got to run the dogs, you've got to have fun with them, you've got to have purpose for them," Lentz says. "It's tough for them here to run around in circles but the kids get to experience that short little dogsled ride, that exhilaration that exists with dogsledding and they get to learn the history of dogsledding in this area and so much more."

Lentz says dogsled teams are usually made up of about eight dogs for dogsled rides.

"As dogs get tired they will switch them over and put in new dogs," Lentz says.

Sarah Smith, a guide at Borealis Dog Sled Adventures, says the dogs are amazing.

"They're always so enthusiastic to go no matter the weather or how they're feeling," Smith says. "They're always just so excited to go — the enthusiasm is just contagious."

Smith says they feed the dogs beef fat mixed with dog kibble and hot water.

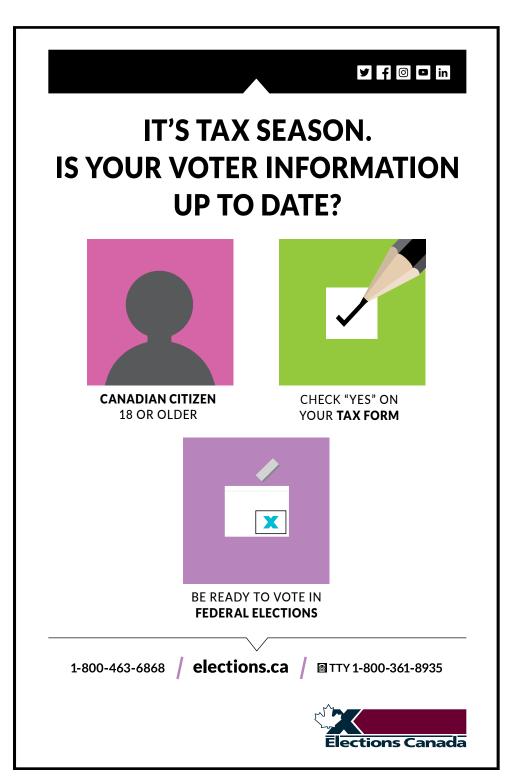
"It makes kind of a stew and it's hot, and they like that in the winter of course," Smith says. "All summer you have to water them. We'll give them a few months off in the summer but we'll pick up again in September-October. In the summer it's too hot for them, the cooler temperatures are definitely what they prefer."

Smith says they can sometimes sense early on which dogs will make a good lead for the team.

"A dog has to have the desire to lead," Smith says. "So you look for that, even when they're pups. They can be the first dog out of the house or it can be the most outgoing. It doesn't always happen that way but you can look for clues early on, and if they have that desire and that drive to lead, then they're easy to train because that's what they want."

Smith says it was great to see the students enjoying themselves on the dogsled rides.

"It's good to see so many kids out and they seem to be really enjoying it," Smith says.



Gene Nowegejick shares photos as part of Anishinaabe Concepts presentation

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek Elder Gene Nowegejick shared old photos from his community during his Anishinaabe Concepts - Understanding Indigenous Ways virtual presentation on Feb. 10 through the Lakehead University Indigenous Student Services Centre.

"The whole concept of being Anishinabe in today's world is a lot different than the way it was," Nowegejick says. "My concept is always what it was like, what happened, and what is it like today. It's been a journey, a history, lots of ups and downs in our nations, broken agreements dealing with policy and learning some of the more in-depth (history) of what happened to the Anishinabe people. We hear stories that we were 50 million strong at one time and now we're down to less than 10 million on Turtle Island, so I think we have to look at the concepts of today who we are and what we want our future to look like.'

Nowegejick says he believes that the Anishinabe are still a sovereign people.

"Our challenge is how do we get back on track," Nowegejick says. "I'm Anishinabe, I live my way of life to make a living. I strongly believe I could go back

on the land and live off the land and be free.'

Nowegejick first showed photos some of people from his community doing activities Elder Gene on the land, including a



Nawegejick

photo of a man ice fishing. He gathered the photos in the presentation from archives as well

as from his family. "He's doing ice fishing on the lakes, 40 below zero weather and he's still out there sustaining his life," Nowegejick says. "Look how happy and content he looks.'

Nowegejick says the ice fishermen used to have a fire on the shoreline to make their lunch and to warm up.

"Those lakes are about five-10 miles away away from the community," Nowegejick says. "They walk over there and they make a fire place where they gather and have their lunch and go back and forth to their fishing holes."

Nowegejick also showed photos of a fisherman from his community heading out in a canoe to harvest fish from Lake Nipigon and two people inside a partially built wooden boat.

"People in (Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek) used to make their own fishing boats," Nowegejick says. "Here is part of the structure. They didn't rely on Beaver Lumber to bring their (supplies)."

Nowegejick also showed a photo of a boat in a bay, noting that people in his community used to live on Lake Nipigon during the summer.

"They make their boats, they go out, catch fish, go from bay to bay all summer like that," Nowegejick says. "They didn't necessarily commercial fish back then, (they're) just enjoy-

Nowegejick also showed a couple of photos of people in birchbark canoes with heavy loads.

"They made their own canoes," Nowegejick says. "They've got three people in that canoe and a whole bunch of luggage. See how much space on that canoe is still (available), you could put a lot more on there. These canoes were really well made, canoes of today I think would sink in no time if they had that much cargo on it."

Nowegejick also showed some hunting and trapping photos and some dogsled team photos taken on Lake Nipigon.

"Dog teams were very important on the lake," Nowegejick says. "That's how people travelled back and forth.'





FIRST NATION PEOPLE USE TO MAKE THEIR OWN FISHING BOALS. AS YOU CAN SEE HERE THEY DID NOT HAVE TO PURCHASE MATERIALS. THEY MADE THEIR OWN BOARDS WITH JUST A FEW HAND TOOLS THEY HAD.

Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek Elder Gene Nowegejick shared a photo of when he won a court case at the Supreme Court of Canada over taxation exemption and photo of a partially built boat during his Feb. 10 Anishinaabe Concepts - Understanding Indigenous Ways virtual presentation through the Lakehead University Indigenous Student Services Centre.

Nowegejick also showed some photos of people from his community with the horses they used for logging before log skidder machines were devel-

"These guys used to cut wood by hand by bucksaw, no power saw, all bucksaw," Nowege-jick says. "And they used work horses to drag their wood out. They used to hand balm all that wood into the lake and they'd ship it across Lake Nipigon to

Grand Bay where they cut it up into lumber. It was hard work but these guys were fit to do that.'

Nowegejick also showed a photo of a war chief with an eagle staff and headdress with each eagle feather representing the support of a family.

"The chiefs around here were only called upon as needed to protect their territory," Nowegejick says. "Chiefs from here went to the 1812 war. The

chiefs around there were asking them to come over there and help the government fight the boundary. We were allies, we were not subjects. We were allies to the Queen."

Nowegejick also showed photos of himself in a tikinagan and when he won a court case at the Supreme Court of Canada over being taxed for income earned outside his reserve while working for a company controlled by his First Nation.



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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.

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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

Mail your resume and cover letter to:

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

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.

Arts and Entertainment

Stolen Norval Morrisseau paintings returned to Confederation College

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

College Confederation recently recovered two Norval Morrisseau paintings that were stolen about 40 years ago from the Shuniah Building after they were identified by an art curator in Toronto.

"This is a fantastic resolution to a long-standing mystery," says Kathleen Lynch, president at Confederation College. "I couldn't be more thrilled to see these culturally and historically important paintings returned to the college so they can be viewed and enjoyed by visitors to and citizens of northwestern

The two paintings, Demi-God Figure 1 and Demi-God Figure 2, which each measure about 150 by 100 centimetres, were stolen from the Shuniah Building's main entryway in 1981.

'It's an amazing story — in 2018 I was contacted by an art curator out of Toronto who advised me that she thinks these two paintings that were offered for sale to her by another art dealer out of Montreal could be the paintings that were stolen from Confederation College in 1981," says Mike Rozic, director of public safety at Confederation College. "We were able to locate pictures of these paintings on our walls in the 1970s (and) we were also able to locate some original media articles about the theft of the paintings from here — obviously there weren't too many staff members still around from 1981 that could verify this had

taken place."

Rozic says the thieves entered the Shuniah Building dressed as contractors.

"(They) basically walked in and took the paintings off the wall and walked out," Rozic says. "Now it would be a little different, there's obviously cameras and things like that that we wouldn't have had in 1981.'

Rozic says the two paintings were purchased by an art collector in Quebec about five to six months after they were sto-

"The art collector had purchased them not knowing that they were stolen paintings and had had them since 1981 basically in his possession," Rozic says.

Rozic says they worked with the Thunder Bay Police Service and the Sûreté du Québec to get the paintings returned.

"We're going to be doing a planned reveal of the paintings," Rozic says. "It's going to be a positive reception for these, especially for the community of Thunder Bay."

Sharon Godwin, director at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, says the two paintings were donated by Confederation College to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's collection, which now includes about 119 Norval Morrisseau paintings and drawings.

"We're really honoured to be able to take them into the collection and preserve them and exhibit them periodically," Godwin says. "They're actually in beautiful shape. We were quite happy about that."

Godwin says Morrisseau's body of work is "extraordinarily





Confederation College plans to unveil two Norval Morrisseau paintings, Demi-God Figure 1 and Demi-God Figure 2, that were recently recovered after being stolen about 40 years ago once they can host in-person events.

meaningful within the history of art in this country and is particularly special" to the people of northwestern Ontario.

'The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is honoured to accept and provide a home for these two works, which are fascinating on their own, but made even more so by the story of their past," Godwin says.

Godwin says the Thunder Bay Art Gallery board members were "really excited" to learn about the return of the two paintings.

"That's how I think people will be feeling," Godwin says.

"I want to commend the college for really working hard to get these paintings back. It's really important that they took this on and did it. And of course we want to thank them for giving them to the gallery for everyone

to enjoy." Confederation College states in a press release that they plan to unveil the two paintings once they can host in-person events.

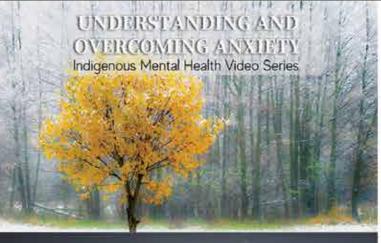
"And then we are planning to put them in a recent acquisition show," Godwin says. "So they will be available for the broader community to see them, which would be nice.'

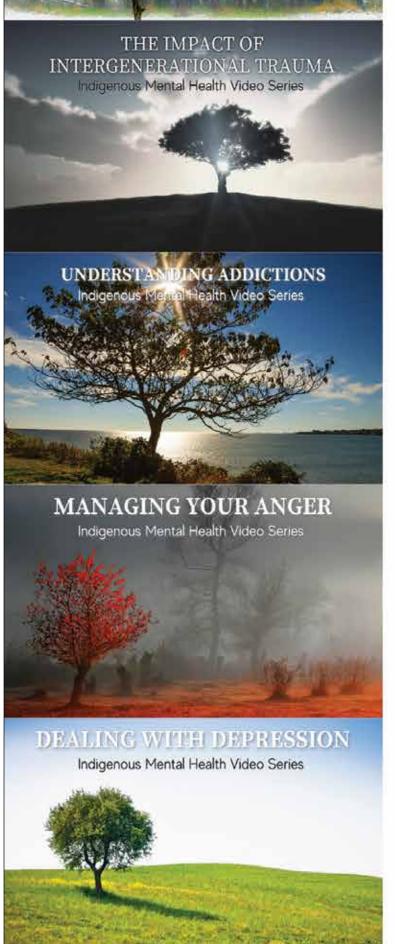


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Indigenous Mental Health Video Series

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: SULLIVAN + ASSOCIATES

About the Series

presented by Jasmine Peterson

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

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

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





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Winter roads ready for delivery trucks

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Councillor Richard Anderson says his community is eagerly awaiting the first load of fuel after the winter road was finished and ready for half loads on Feb. 8.

"I'm looking forward and waiting for our first semi to get up here," Anderson says. "We don't have gas and we don't have fuel and to fly it in is really expensive. We're hoping we get a few loads tomorrow."

Anderson says people had already been using their light trucks on the winter road.

"We're waiting for fuel, gas and a lot of supplies for big projects this summer," Anderson says. "We have a booster station for the water line and we have the substation with Valard — they're going to be bringing their stuff up north on the winter road."

Anderson says supplies for completion of the community's new school are also expected to be brought up on the winter road.

"Modulars will be shipped on the winter road too," Anderson says.

Anderson says the winter road is good this year due to the cold weather conditions.

"They've been flooding one of the major crossings, Asheweig River near Kingfisher," Anderson says. "They've probably reached over 36 inches of ice already — it could be more now."

Anderson says the winter road will be very busy with all of the transport trucks bringing in supplies so he is cautioning people to drive safely.

"There are a lot of areas along the road that have sharp turns," Anderson says. "It's best to travel at night. You can see better at nighttime. In the day-time it's pretty dangerous when you come into a sharp turn without knowing there is a semi up ahead of you."

Anderson says they have COVID-19 protocols in place for winter road travellers and transport truck drivers.

"No contact with the drivers, sign in, sign out when they bring in their stuff," Anderson says. "Eventually people will be going out after for personal travel because a lot of them need their vehicles serviced. It's been a long two, three years almost with COVID-19 and I'm hearing a lot of the shops are going to be very busy."

Anderson says winter road travellers will have to be tested at Pickle Lake when they are travelling back to the community.

nity.
"And they have to isolate seven days," Anderson says.

The Matawa - 808 Winter Road Network Feb. 9 update states that the winter roads to Neskantaga and Nibinamik were open for commercial loads only, with full loads.

The update also states that



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of walkers walk on a winter road near Webequie.

a checkpoint was set up at the Matawa 808 Winter Road entrance north of Pickle Lake as of Jan. 22.

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Winter Road Update states that 10 communities were open for full loads as of Feb. 4, including Pikangikum, North Spirit Lake, Sandy Lake, North Caribou Lake, Muskrat

Dam, Bearskin Lake, Moose Cree, Fort Albany, Kashechewan and Attawapiskat.

The NAN Winter Road Update states that two additional communities were open for partial loads as of Feb. 4: Northwest Angle #33 and Animakee Wa Zhing #37.

The NAN Winter Road Update states that four commu-

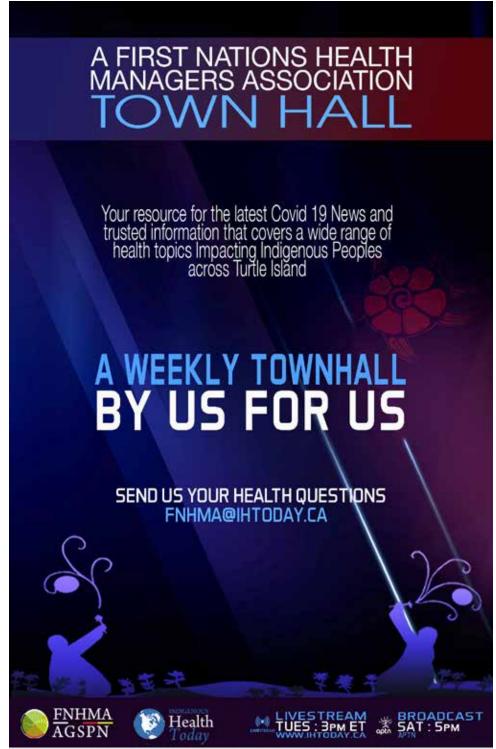
nities were open for light traffic as of Feb. 4, including Deer Lake, Poplar Hill, Cat Lake and Temagami.

The NAN Winter Road Update states that the winter roads to 10 additional communities were under construction as of Feb. 4, including Sachigo Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Wunnumin Lake,

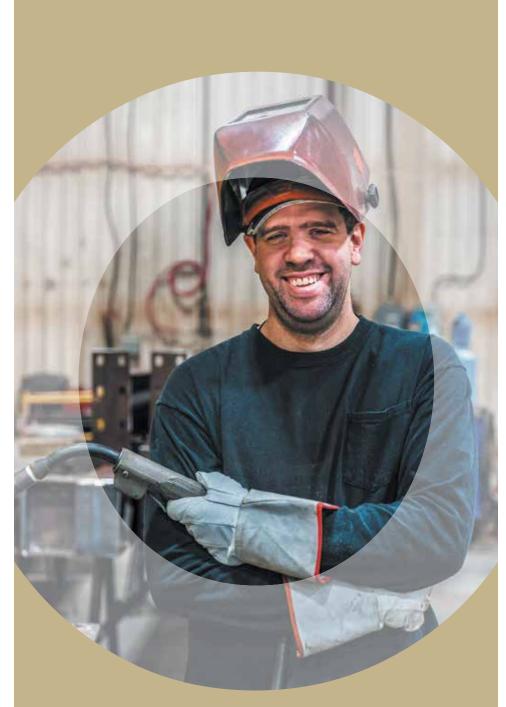
Wapekeka, Wawakapewin, Eabametoong, Marten Falls, Webequie and Fort Severn.

The NAN Winter Road Update also states that the winter road to Weenusk was not started as of Feb. 4.

Information is posted at: www.nan.ca/news-events/winter-road-updates-2/.







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Community

NAN planning to host more language sessions in the Spring

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation plans to hold more Anishinabemowin (Ojibway), Anishininiimowin (Oji-Cree) and Mushkego-mowin (Cree) Language Sessions in April and May after holding them in January and February and this past fall.

"These Language Sessions are free and accessible they're available for anyone who wants to learn their language," says Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse during a Feb. 4 phone interview. "Lessons are provided in one-and-ahalf hour increments over a sixweek session. Participants can choose from the three different Language Sessions."

Narcisse says participation levels in the current Anishinabemowin, Anishininiimowin and Mushkegomowin Language Sessions, which are being held over the Zoom virtual platform from Jan. 16-Feb. 23, were increased to about 100 participants in the Anishininiimowin and Mushkegomowin Language Sessions and about 180 in the Anishinabemowin Language Sessions after the fall Anishinabemowin, Anishininiimowin and Mushkegomowin Language Sessions held this past October and November had a cap of 25 participants each.

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Positive response and interest shown for language sessions

from page 16

"All (the fall) sessions were provided at the introductory level but due to the high interest and response from NAN (citizens) our 2022 Pipoon Language Sessions were created for anyone wishing to join the sessions," Narcisse says. "We have participants at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. There is still a high demand for all Language Sessions, and NAN is currently planning on hosting Pipoon Spring (Language) Sessions in April and May for six weeks."

Narcisse says NAN received direction from a working group comprised of Elders, education and youth to hold the Anishinabemowin, Anishininiimowin and Mushkegomowin Language Sessions.

"It's part of NAN's language strategy," Narcisse says. "It's evolved as a fundamental piece to support the development, delivery, implementation of language and cultural initiatives in our NAN territory. As anything we do at NAN, it's through resolutions supported through the direction of our Chief's Committee on Education."

Narcisse says the NAN communities, which are located in two treaty areas covering about two thirds of Ontario, are "pretty distinct" with different dialects and interpretations of

"We hope the strategy will create a space where all languages are well supported and maintained through active demonstration, leadership and promotion," Narcisse says. "The best way to learn language is to really immerse yourself in it — we need to ensure our languages are protected and that they will go on."

Narcisse, who is from Aroland and speaks Anishinabemowin, says the Elders always say it is important to keep the language.

"The best way to learn language is to really immerse yourself in it — we need to ensure our languages are protected and that they will go on..."

- Deputy Grand Chief Bobby

"Even through Wawatay, that's a really good area to focus on too," Narcisse says. "A lot of (the Wawatay Radio Network's) broadcasts are in the language, depending which area, so that's very good."

Narcisse says everybody around NAN has seen the importance of having the Wawatay Radio Network's broadcasts in the language across the north.

"When you go up north, that's all you hear," Narcisse says. "Which is great, it's a very

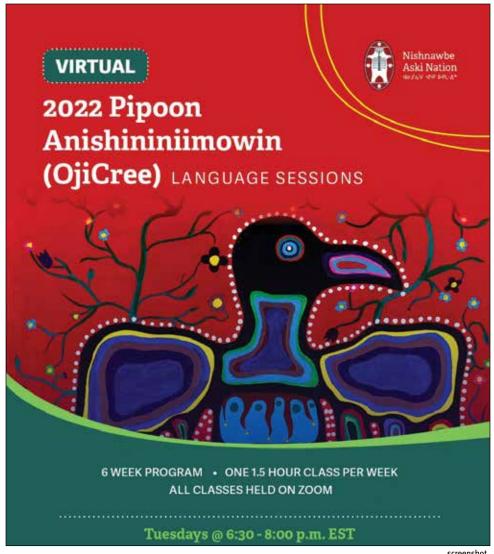
important and needed information tool. It's one of those mechanisms that needs to be protected to ensure it would go on, especially in the time of COVID-19 now, everybody is still at home. We still need to protect our communities and sometimes our link to outside is the radio, especially for the benefit of our Elders as well at the community level — that's how they get their information."

Narcisse says the NAN leadership has been told by the Elders that they need to retain the language.

"Our meetings even have to be within the language," Narcisse says, adding that for his education portfolio it's important to ensure the curriculum being created focuses around the language. "Our children need to hear the language so it's protected and there's ideas where our Elders and our language keepers as well have to do some sort of recordings to preserve that language piece."

Narcisse says it is also important to celebrate the successes of the NAN citizens who are still retaining and doing work to preserve their language.

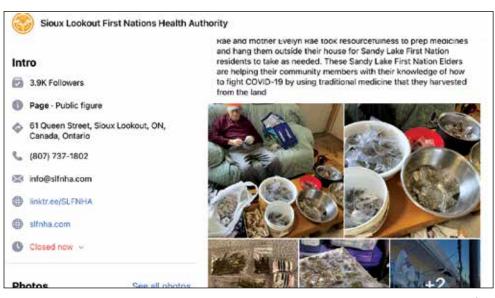
"In many of our communi-ties English is the second language, which is good," Narcisse says. "The fact that we need to preserve those initiatives at the community level to ensure the preservation of language is very paramount in protecting our communities' identities.



Nishnawbe Aski Nation plans to hold more Anishinabemowin (Ojibway), Anishininiimowin (Oji-Cree) and Mushkegomowin (Cree) Language Sessions after holding them in January and February and this past fall through the virtual Zoom platform.



Sandy Lake Elders share traditional medicines collected from the land



screenshot

Sandy Lake Elders Percy and Evelyn Rae and daughter Ellen Rae had a good response from others in the community after sharing bags of traditional medicines that they had harvested from the land.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Sandy Lake Elders Percy and Evelyn Rae and daughter Ellen Rae recently shared some of the traditional medicines they collected off the land near their camp with people in the com-

"Before Christmas I was going to give (the medicines) away for Christmas ... and then the COVID-19 lockdown happened and we couldn't even go anywhere," says Ellen, who translated her parents' comments during a Jan. 25 phone interview. "So we decided when the lockdown lifted ... to just hang the bags outside."

Ellen says her father wanted to share the traditional medicines to help others in the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"He just wanted to help people and that's the only way he knew how," Ellen says.

Ellen says there has been a good response from the community about the seven traditional medicines, including wike, tamarack root, cedar and Labrador tea, that they shared. She notes that cedar does not grow in their area so they usually order it from someone who has cedar in their area

"They've been asking for more but we just don't have any," Ellen says about the traditional medicines they shared. "We made about 40 or 50 bags."

Ellen says her parents taught her and her siblings how to harvest the traditional medicines, but her parents cannot go out on the land any longer to har-

"They can't really walk around anymore in the bush," Ellen says, noting that her father is 91-years-old. "We took them to my dad's camp in September (for two weeks) — that's when we picked up all of the medicines. Most of the medicines we can't pick during the winter, so we harvest them in September and October whenever we go to the Rae camp."

Ellen says they harvest some of the traditional medicines from an area about a 10 or 15-minute hike from the camp, which was built about 30 years ago near her father's trapline.

"But sometimes somebody drops us off just around the bend with a boat or a canoe," Ellen says. "My brother took us to a few bends down from our Rae camp — it's about a three-hour boat ride to go to my dad's camp from Sandy Lake."

Ellen says her siblings and her aunt collect the traditional medicines with her and her parents.

"I do that every year," Ellen says. "At my dad's camp there's only about five little buildings there."

Ellen says her father has always picked traditional medicines

"He said his grandmother, his dad, his mother-in-law, his father-in-law all did the traditional medicines," Ellen says. "They didn't eat store-bought stuff either, not even the tea."

Ellen says her father has been passing on his knowledge of the traditional medicines to her for most of her life.

"He's been telling me where to go, what to do and stuff for the past 10 years, well, mostly all my life but I moved away for about 10 years," Ellen says.

Ellen says she is starting to teach the upcoming generation about how to harvest the traditional medicines while they are at the camp.

"With my dad, he always said he always felt really good just picking up (the traditional medicines)," Ellen says. "It's just within the last time we went to the camp that he hasn't really went anywhere. It's just us siblings that get it for him now, and then he prepares it too but we help him to prepare it."

Ellen says her father also used to grow and store many of his own vegetables in the community.

"That's how we had our potatoes, that's how we ate in the wintertime," Ellen says.



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GENERATIONPGM News Brief Public Hearing Procedure

Generation PGM Inc. (Gen PGM) would like to remind everyone that the virtual public hearing procedure will begin on March 14, 2022. The hearings will be led by the appointed Joint Review Panel (JRP) in order to gather information that will complete the environmental assessment of the Marathon Palladium Copper Project.

Deadlines for registration to participate in the public hearings are fast approaching. In order to participate in the public hearings please register before February 12, 2022 by contacting the Panel Secretariat at:

marathonminereview-examenmine marathon@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

The JRP has recently posted the tentative schedule for the public hearings. The procedure will progress through General Sessions, Topic Specific Sessions, and Community Sessions. The hearings will take place from Monday to Friday with Saturday as a flex day if extra time is needed. Closing remarks are set to take place April 13, 2022.

For more information please visit:

https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/54755

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Matawa working to build tiny homes in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management is working with Lakehead Social Planning Council and other organizations in Thunder Bay to look at the development of tiny homes for individuals.

"Housing is a real problem in our communities as well as in urban centres," says Paul Capon, political advisor at Matawa First Nations Management. "This has been a real need for quite a while, and we've heard some talk about tiny homes and recently Matawa chiefs have called for a homelessness strategy, and part of that strategy is to look at alternatives for housing for individuals and one option was the tiny homes."

Capon says Matawa was seen as a good fit to help with the initiative because of its experience with not-for-profit housing through the Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation, which has been providing housing to eligible families with low or modest incomes since 1996.

"We worked with a number of community groups (to) start looking at how could we initiate a tiny homes project for Thunder Bay, and we were very fortunate — we had an architect

and we had a representative from the Tiny Town Association as well as Smart Modular Canada," Capon says, noting that Smart Modular Canada has a factory in Thunder Bay where they build modular homes, isolation units for First Nation communities and tiny homes. "We really want to encourage keeping it local, encourage local jobs and supplies being used in our community. We are also going to be working with the (Thunder Bay Indigenous) Friendship Centre — they want to do a pilot project teaching young people about building and using a tiny home as an example through the K-Z (Kendomang Zhagodenamnon) Lodge at Hammarskjold High

Capon says the group is looking to develop a model business plan to feasibly and economically build homes that could be used in Thunder Bay and elsewhere to promote independent living for people that need a place to stay.

"So this is one option we would like to promote for people who might want independence and have some support but also just want to be on their own," Capon says. "Mostly it's for individuals that are single because they are quite small. The ones we're interested in

have a kitchenette, a bathroom, bedroom and a sitting/living area. We've looked at ones that are about 300 square feet, not very big but enough for someone to call their own and have a place with some security and stability in their life."

Capon says they are looking at a location for the tiny homes near the Matawa building on Algoma St. N. that was bought in 2020 to house Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services, Matawa Health Co-operative and Awashishishewiigiihiwaywin.

"Those supports will be available for individuals should they wish to take those supports," Capon says. "Plus this property is close to the Salvation Army and their Journey to Life program and some of the programs at the Friendship Centre, which is just around the corner as well."

Bonnie Krysowaty, researcher and program director at Lakehead Social Planning Council, says they have been working on the tiny homes initiative for about five years through the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

"Tiny homes was a recommendation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and it became a recommendation of the Housing and Home-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management is looking at the development of tiny homes near the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre on Algoma St. N. in Thunder Bay.

lessness Coalition Advisory Board," Krysowaty says. "And now we're working the Lakehead Public Schools board and Hammarskjold High School in conjunction with the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, (who) runs the K-Z Lodge program for Indigenous youth, and we're working with them to hopefully secure some funding so that the students in that pro-

gram would be able to build a tiny home as well. They would learn some trades, they would get some experience and maybe even get some apprenticeship so that is another way we are reaching out."

Marie Klassen, executive director at Lakehead Social Planning Council, says a person who lives in a tiny home outside of Thunder Bay was on the panel when they first started discussing the possibility of building tiny homes in Thunder

"She lived in her tiny home with her son and she was perfectly happy with the space she had," Klassen says. "I remember her saying she wouldn't have it any other way."

Women's Shelters Canada launches awareness campaign

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Women's Shelters Canada is emphasizing that violence against women (VAW) shelters and transition houses are more than just shelter in a recently launched national awareness campaign.

"This national awareness campaign is so important, especially as we continue to weather the COVID-19 pandemic and are seeing increasing rates of gender-based violence," says Lise Martin, executive director at Women's Shelters Canada. "Many people don't realize that you don't have to move into a shelter or transition house in order to receive services. You can call one for advice, safety planning and counselling even if you're not sure if you're in an abusive relationship. Friends and family can call if they think someone they know needs help. There are countless outreach programs for those who aren't living within the shelter."

The campaign details how VAW shelters and transition houses offer services beyond an essential safe bed to sleep in, such as counselling, safety plan-

ning and children's programming. Information is posted online at: sheltersafe.ca.

"There are still a ton of services offered even if you are not in a shelter," says Kaitlin Geiger-Bardswich, communications and development manager at Women's Shelters Canada. "Even if you do move into a shelter, there's a bunch of different services that a lot of people don't realize that are offered, both in-person in the shelter as well as outreach services. Some shelters will help women get back into school or back into employment, others will accompany women to court, there's different children's services, some Indigenous shelters will have services around the whole family itself or services specifically for men."

Geiger-Bardswich says the individual shelters and the provincial women's shelter associations will be able to customize some of the campaign assets for their own marketing and awareness-raising needs in the coming months.

"They can use the different ads and customize them with their own 1-800 crisis number or their own informa-

tion and then use that on their own social media sites to raise awareness about their own services," Geiger-Bardswich says. "So that's where we're hoping we'll be able to bring shelters into the campaign when we are able to do this customizable feature."

Geiger-Bardswich says violence against women has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that 12 women were killed across the country during the first three weeks of 2022.

"Those are numbers we've never really seen before, so we know the pandemic has made things more serious for women experiencing violence," Geiger-Bardswich says. "Our own research has shown that women have experienced more severe forms of domestic violence, and of course with lockdowns et cetera women weren't sure if they could leave to get to a shelter so there was a lot of work we did around getting that awareness out that shelters are open, they're operating. You can phone a shelter to get help and support even if you don't want to move in."

Debbie Zweep, execu-



screenshot

Women's Shelters Canada recently launched a national campaign, including a video on domestic violence, to emphasize that violence against women shelters and transition houses provide services beyond an essential safe bed to sleep in, such as counselling, safety planning and children's programming.

tive director at Faye Peterson House, says they have a "really extensive" outreach program for survivors and children that have experienced intimate partner abuse, including court support around custody access, help with employment, access to Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program, helping women to access housing and getting them set up in their homes and ongoing support to keep them safe.

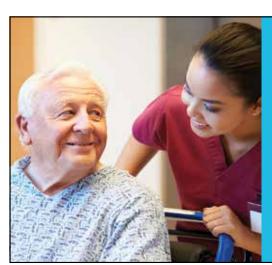
"We also do programs for

fathers, fathers that either have been abusive or are at risk of being abusive in their fathering, so we have a 16-week group where we work in a group setting but also one-on-one with fathers that have been identified as at risk," Zweep says. "We do supportive mothering, for moms that are maybe not with their children right now and working with them to reunite them with their children and working with child protection agencies to do that as well."

Zweep says they also provide food hampers for people accessing their services that are experiencing a shortage of food.

"We have meals prepared here and then our advocate would bring them to the women," Zweep says. "We see food as a big issue."

Faye Peterson House, available online at fayepeterson.org, has a counsellor available 24/7 by phone at 807-345-0450 or 1-800-465-6971 or by text at 807-700-5011.



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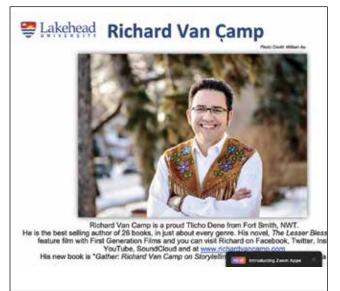




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Tlicho Dene author-storyteller Richard Van Camp delivered a Winter Storytelling virtual presentation on Feb. 8 through the Lakehead University Indigenous Student Services Centre.

Richard Van Camp on storytelling and importance of gathering people's stories

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Tlicho Dene author-storyteller Richard Van Camp emphasized the importance of gathering people's stories during his Feb. 8 virtual presentation on Winter Storytelling through the Lakehead University Indigenous Student Services Centre.

"One of the smartest things I ever did when I was the handibus driver in Fort Smith was I started to record my Elders," says Van Camp, a best selling author of 26 books from Fort Smith, NWT. "I realized when I was the handi-bus driver that nobody was taking the time to record, transcribe word for word, make copies, go back, visit with the Elders, show them what they had said in words and give them the opportunity to either add to their story or take away."

Van Camp, who is best known for his 1996 novel The Lesser Blessed, which was adapted into a film by director Anita Doron in 2012, says he thinks the reason why people were not recording the Elders is they didn't want the Elders to leave.

"We never want our culture keepers, our knowledge keepers, our royalty to leave us," Van Camp says. "And to start recording them in my mind or maybe in our town's mind was to admit that we're only gifted to each other for so long."

Van Camp says he first recorded the Elders in his community and then when he went off to study at college and university and started touring he began recording other knowledge keepers and Elders.

"It all started with a Chipewyan Elder named Maria Brown," Van Camp says, noting that she used to share her knowledge about the traditional medicines and what it means to be a good human being while he was driving her around the community in the handi-bus. "That was my PhD right there, that was my welcome into what it means to be a good human being, is to help and to serve

and to honour."

Van Camp says he was going to send 24 miracle stories of Elders that he has interviewed, transcribed, paid and honoured to each of the Winter Storytell-ing participants after he delivered his presentation.

"I want you to have that and I'm going to double (Tlicho) dare each of you to go out and start recording your Elders, your family and your knowledge keepers — don't wait," Van Camp says. "After we're done you can go on Richard Van Camp Soundcloud. I've used the (COVID-19) pandemic to digitize these little tiny microcassettes from that, best \$21 I ever spent, little Radio Shack tape recorder, so you can actually hear Maria Brown sharing her same story the next day in her home, that's from 1991."

Van Camp says he is encouraging people to record the stories of people in their families and communities because of a recent experience he had when he shared an audio recording of the stories of an Elder who passed about 12 years ago with the Elder's family and they then played them during a family gathering.

"They locked the door, they unplugged the landline, they turned down the lights and they lit a candle," Van Camp says. "The whole family was there and (a family member) hit play on her phone ... and for the first time in 12 years (the Elder's son) heard his mother's voice and he wept. If the toughest man I know can weep at the beauty of hearing his mother's voice for the first time in 12 years, that's why archivists do what we do, and it's to bring that medicine forward and to really honour and celebrate. So I'm just going to double (Tlicho) dare all of you to not wait and use this pandemic to gather the medicines that you need for yourself, your family, your community and for future genera-

Van Camp's latest book, Gather: Richard Van Camp on Storytelling, was published by University of Regina Press in



Upper Beaver Gold Project - Public Comments Invited

What is happening?

January 31, 2022 — The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is conducting an impact assessment for the proposed Upper Beaver Gold Project, located 20 kilometres northeast of Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

As part of the planning phase in the impact assessment process, the Agency invites the public and Indigenous groups to review and provide feedback on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (draft Guidelines) and the draft Public Participation Plan (draft Plan).

The draft Guidelines outline the specific factors to be considered in the assessment of the project and provide direction to the proponent, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, on the information and studies required in its Impact Statement. The draft Plan explains how the public will be engaged throughout the review process and provides details on how and when public participation opportunities will take place for each phase of the impact assessment.

How can I participate?

Comments can be submitted online by visiting the project home page on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number 82960). Participants who wish to provide their input in a different format, or schedule an online meeting, can contact the Agency by writing to UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Written comments in either official language will be accepted **until March 12, 2022**. All comments received will be published online as part of the project file.

Virtual Information Sessions

The Agency invites the public and Indigenous groups to attend one of the virtual information sessions on the project. These sessions will provide additional information on the project and the impact assessment process, and help participants learn how to effectively review and formulate comments on the draft documents. Interested participants can select and join one of the following sessions:

English Sessions

- February 8, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST
 February 17, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EST
 March 3, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST

French Session

February 24, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST

We invite you to register on SimpleSurvey at least 24 hours prior to the session you want to attend. More information on how to attend the virtual information s contacting the Agency at UpperBeaver@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or 416-952-1576.

Will there be more opportunities to participate?

This is the second federal comment period for the project. There will be other opportunities for the public and Indigenous groups to participate throughout the impact assessment

Follow us on Twitter: @IAAC_AEIC #UpperBeaver

What is the proposed project?

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground and open-pit gold and copper mine located 20 kilometres northeast of Kirkland Lake, in Ontario. As proposed, the Upper Beaver Gold Project includes an on-site metal mill and structures for diverting water. The maximum ore production capacity of the mine is 15,000 tonnes per day, and the maximum ore input capacity of the processing plant is approximately 10,000 tonnes per day, with a mine life of about 16 years. The project would require the diversion of over 90 million cubic metres of water per year from Beaverhouse Lake downstream to the Misema River.

For more information on the Agency's privacy policies, consult the Privacy Notice on its website at canada.ca/iaac.

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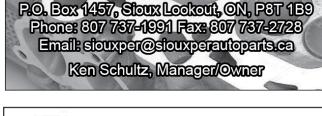
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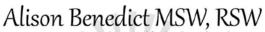
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Canadian Rangers busy assisting First Nations across Northern Ontario

Peter Moon

Special to Wawatay News

The Canadian Rangers of Northern Ontario are busy, according to the Canadian Army officer who commands them.

"We've been continuously busy for almost two years now. said Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur. "We've been on the go continuously, supporting First Nations in COVID-19 crises, and assisting in vaccination roll-outs for first, second, and booster shots for adults, and we are supporting regional health authorities in getting five-to 11-year olds vaccinated.

'On top of that we provide a range of other emergency supports, such as search and rescue, and we run, when we can because of the pandemic, the Junior Canadian Rangers, a culturally appropriate program for boys and girls aged 12 to 18."

Lt.-Col. McArthur is the commanding officer of 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, which has 700 Rangers, who are part-time army reservists, in 29 First Nations across the Far North of Ontario. 3CRPG's headquarters is at Canadian Forces Base Borden, near Bar-

About 70 Rangers are currently on active duty providing support for seven First Nations in Attawapiskat, Eabametoong, Kashechewan, Lac Seul, Mishkeegogamang, Peawanuck, and Pikangikum. The communities are currently dealing with about 355 cases related to

The Rangers liaise with their local chiefs and councils. They deliver food and water to quarantined households, cut and deliver firewood, and conduct wellness checks and supports for the sick and elderly.

"I'm always proud of my Rangers," Lt.-Col. McArthur said. "They are doing a great job under difficult circumstances. They are helping their communities while living in those same difficult circumstances themselves. That is not a minor feat. I give accolades to all of them.

"I am also proud of my headquarters staff. Although we are undermanned and many of them are doing the jobs of two people they continue to provide crucial support and co-ordination for the Rangers and their First Nation communities. The headquarters staff are doing a great job in very difficult circumstances.'

He said the Rangers have received important support for their work from Grand Chief Derek Fox of Nishnawbi Aski Nation and the chiefs and councils of all the First Nations where Rangers have gone onto active service. "Their help, support, and positive co-operation has been all important," he said.
"On top of all this we are get-

ting ready for the spring floods and the forest fire season," he said. "It's only a month and a half away but that is coming soon. We have to be ready for all of the existing challenges that we have now as well as the potential future challenges that come every year.

"We're doing a great job in very difficult circumstances and I'm proud of all the Rangers and the staff at the headquarters."

(Sergeant Peter Moon is a Ranger with 3CRPG at CFB Borden.)



Master Corporal Leo Oskineegish from Nibinamik, left, and Ranger Kyle Linklater of Moose Factory organize emergency food supplies for Mishkeegogamang First Nation. Both Rangers are members of a mobile Ranger team that flew to the community to help it in its COVID crisis.

Inspection

Inspection of 2022 – 2023 Annual Work Schedule Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests

The April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests are available electronically for public viewing by contacting the Milsun Integrated Resource Management Company, on behalf of Miitigoog LP, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning March 16, 2022 and for the one-year duration of the AWS.

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company is responsible for tree planting on the Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests. Please contact the Forest Company listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the locations and licence requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact the NDMNRF Kenora District Office at 807-468-2501. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a remote meeting with NDMNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the NDMNRF contact below:

For Whiskey Jack Forest

Charlotte Caron, Management Forester

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry Kenora District Office, 808 Robertson Street, Kenora, ON PgN 1X9 tel: 807-456-1659, e-mail: charlotte.caron@ontario.ca

For Kenora Forest

Kyle Myschowoda, Management Forester Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry Kenora District Office 808 Robertson Street Kenora, ON P9N 1X9 tel: 807-456-2697 e-mail: kyle.myschowoda@ontario.ca

Miisun Integrated Resource

Kurt Pochailo. Management Forester

Management Company 510 Ninth Street North Kenora, ON P9N 2S8 tel: 807-467-3351 ext. 2 e-mail: kurt.pochailo@miisun.ca

Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-getinvolved-forest-management

Obituary



Forrest Rain Shapwaykeesic

October 20th, 1982 -January 26th, 2022

It is with immense sadness we announce the sudden passing of Forrest Rain Shapwaykeesic on January 26th, 2022 at the age of 39 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Born October 20th, 1982 in Thunder Bay, a member of Eabametoong FN. Forrest attended many schools growing up including St. Peters, St. Jude, St. Elizabeth, Sacred Heart, Fort William Collegiate Institute and Cook County Highschool in Grand Marais, MN. He returned to his studies and graduated from LAEP with his OSSD in 2009. He was awarded the Personal Achievement Award by the AYARA Committee in 2010 for his accomplishment. His journey to get his diploma was published in SEVEN Youth Magazine and in the national textbook; "Strength and struggle: perspectives from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada", in 2011. In 2019 he attended the PSW program at Oshki-Wenjack, a field of work suited to his kind and generous spirit.

He worked at the Petro-Canada

Forrest often worked on the postproduction side of the Wawatay News newspaper for many years. Forrest enjoyed listening to music, singing Karaoke, playing games, cards and dice, fixing electronics and photoshop'ing digital graphics. He was always helping

others with cleaning, organizing, and

cooking. He had many friends and

could talk to anybody. Forrest had a

great sense of humour and a quick

station in Dryden, Grand Portage

and Fond-Du-Luth Casino's in Min-

nesota, and Safeway and Safeguard

Business Systems in Thunder Bay.

infectious laugh. Forrest will be greatly missed by his mother Maryann Lago, sisters Roxann and Esther (Ben), his aunties Agnes, Joanne, Juliet, uncles Webb, Morris and Ronnie, cousins Alvin, Eric, Joshua, Destiny, Dalton, his nieces Shayna and Sable, and nephews Cory-Tyler and Levi, friend Herman Hanschke, Camille Moore and family, and many friends he

made over the years. Forrest was predeceased by his daughter Sophia Diamond Keetsoo Shapwaykeesic, former partner Geri Fox, big sister Olivia Shapwaykeesic, as well as his grandparents and great grandparents.

Funeral services, presided by Father Joseph of St. Peters Church were held at Blake Funeral Chapel Tuesday February 8th, 2022.

Interment has taken place at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Forrest was buried together with a cremation urn of his sister Olivia.

Special thanks to Morris Shapwaykeesic, the Rubenick family, Father Joseph, funeral director Greg Sargent, the staff at Sunset Memorial Gardens, KKETS, Wawatay News, and all the support and love from all who knew him.

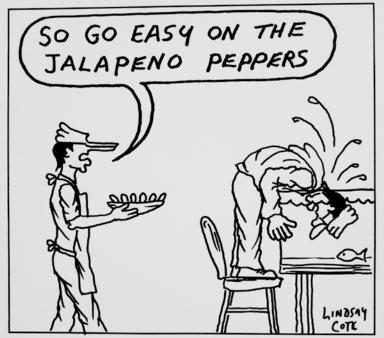


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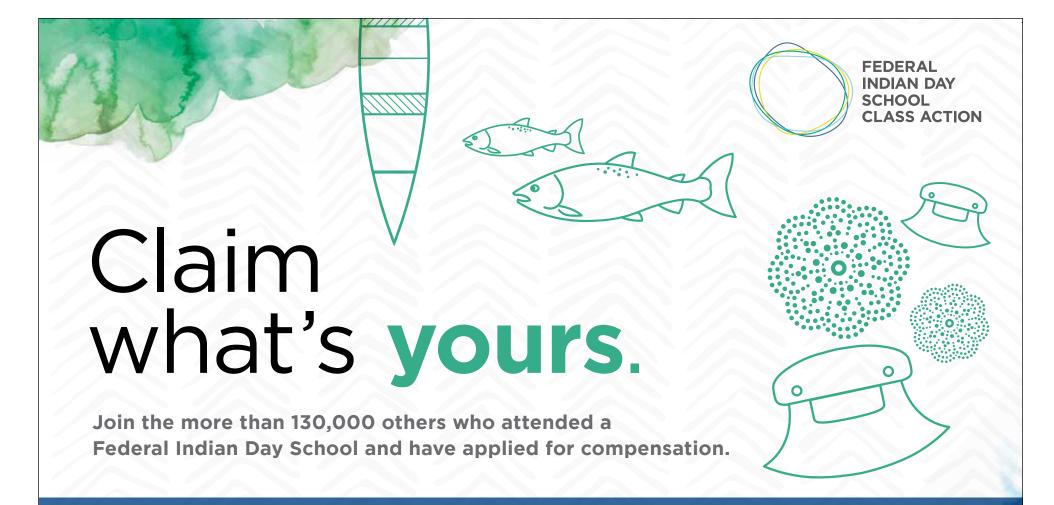
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