### Thunder Bay Police Services Board releases apology

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

A wide range of responses were expressed after Thunder Bay Police Service Board (TBPSB) administrator Tom Lockwood delivered an apology for systemic racism within the TBPSB and the Thunder Bay Police Service.

"It is a good start to acknowledge conflict," says Erin Bottle, a Mishkeegogamang citizen who lives in Thunder Bay. "It takes courage for people to come together. And this striking-the-flint dialogue is going to need every spirit fire there is, every gift that we've got to lift us off the ground col-

Sharon Johnson, a Seine River citizen who lives in Thunder Bay and organizer of the Full Moon Memory Walk, hopes the apology is "not just talk again."

"I'm really hoping, deep down inside, hoping and praying that things will get better in our relationship with the Thunder Bay Police and the people of Thunder Bay, with the non-Indigenous community," Johnson says. "Personally, having experienced racial slurs and just bad treatment in the community here over the years, I don't know if it is a good thing that I learned to just kind of not walk away from it but to confront the people that have done these things to me. And I've had to be reminded by people to just do it and to not just walk away from it."

John Hodson, a Six Nations citizen who lives in Thunder Bay, also hopes the apology will be meaningful.

"It is hard at my age, after hearing so many apologies and seeing so little done afterwards, to remain hopeful," Hodson says. "But I struggle to remain hopeful. What else can we do."

Sandi Boucher, a Seine River citizen who lives in Thunder Bay, says the apology was an "amazing opportunity."



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Thunder Bay Police Service Board (TBPSB) administrator Tom Lockwood delivers an apology for systemic racism within the TBPSB and the Thunder Bay Police Service during a community circle at the Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre in Thunder Bay.

"Thunder Bay could really step up and take this on and look at new and amazing and innovative ways and actually be an example to other communities," Boucher says. "Or they could totally drop the ball. So I'm hoping and praying and putting my effort behind making a difference. Look to the Indigenous community for the answers. This is not about looking outside, this is about actually listening to the people and hearing what they need. Amazing recommendations came out of this event - we need to follow them."

Bob Baxter, a retired Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service officer, says the apology is a first step.

"It's good for the (TBPSB) to have this session to hear these people and from there take their direction to see how they are going to operate," Baxter says. "I was with the police service for about 34 years, so I kind of know both sides of it. But there is a lot of room for improvement in any police service. Even from the public, they've got to be part of the solution too — like giving voice like they did today. It was great."

Lockwood, who was appointed as administrator of the TBPSB by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC), savs he was part of Senator Murray Sinclair's investigation team at the OCPC. He delivered the apology during a community circle at the Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre in Thunder Bay.

"He (Sinclair) found, unequivocally, that there was systemic racism in both the (Thunder Bay) Police Service and (Thunder Bay) Police Services Board," Lockwood says. "I am here today on behalf of the board to state to each and every one of you that we accept that finding. As hard as it is to say, we have to acknowledge that there is systemic racism in the board and in the police service. Having said that, on behalf of the board, I wish to apologize to each and every citizen of the Indigenous community of Thunder Bay for the existence of systemic racism. This community has suffered a lot over the years because of racism, and for that I apolo-

### Edmund Metatawabin appointed to the Order of Canada

#### **Wawatay News**

Fort Albany's Edmund Metatawabin was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada on February 12.

"The writings of author, speaker and teacher Edmund Metatawabin are a testament to the healing power of words. His 2014 memoir, Up Ghost River: A Chief's Journey through the Turbulent Waters of Native History, chronicled his story of residential school abuse and his journey to recovery. His words have manifested into advocacy for fellow survivors, notably through the St. Anne's Residential School Survivors' Association. A former chief, he is a revered traditional knowledge keeper and mentor of the Fort Albany First Nation."

A survivor of St. Anne's residential school, he was recognized for his advocacy work on behalf of residential school survivors and for his courage in sharing his own journey of survival as an author, speaker and teacher. Some of the abuses reported at St. Anne's residential school include students being shocked in a homemade electric chair and students being forced to eat their own vomit.

"We have a survivors group called Peetabeck Keway Keykaywin," Metatawabin says, noting that means Peetabeck Back to Healing. "We formed that group in 1992 to talk about residential school, not so much compensation that was never discussed among our discussions. It was more a recovery, a reclamation of things lost, because we were looking at our children and grandchildren being uninformed about the simple rules of behaviour."

Metatawabin says the residential school process resulted in children who were "terrified" with no knowledge of



their background, minimal use of their language and no ceremonial activity.

"Everything is stripped away, so all you have is an empty individual," Metatawabin says. "And tragically, you saw (them) downtown or wherever staggering down the road. That was the empty individual."

Metatawabin says it will likely take about 100 years for First Nations people to recover from the abuses and loss of language, culture and identity they suffered through during the 100-plus years that residential schools were operated across the country.

"It's going to be 100 years trying to recover from this effect because it was so ingrained in our grandfathers, our own fathers and us ourselves." Metatawabin says. "Even the ones who were too old to go into residential school in the 1800s were being forced to obey certain rules of behaviour, not to do their ceremonies and to hide their pipes and to hide their bundles."

Metatawabin says people have been congratulating him about his appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada since it was announced in June.

The Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation and is one of Canada's highest civilian honours. About 7,000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order of Canada since it was created in 1967.

(with files from Rick Garrick)

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### **Politics**

# NADF and Oshki present at federal budget consultation meetings

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

NADF and Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute delivered presentations to local MPs Patty Hajdu and Don Rusnak during their pre-budget consultation session in Thunder Bay.

"It was a good opportunity to lay out some of the needs that we have, particularly as it relates to the work we do at NADF," says Brian Davey, executive director of NADF. "What I asked the minister was to consider new capitalization for our AFI because we're getting capped out as to the amount of money we have left to give out loans. We did great last year and we're doing better again, so we need that support."

Davey says NADF's clients are returning to access larger loans to scale up their businesses.

"We're getting a lot of businesses that have started out at very small levels of loans," Davey says. "Now they're starting to scale, so they're looking for larger loans and they're coming to us for that capital

and we don't have it. They prefer to come to us opposed to other financial institutions simply because we have a history with them. They know who we are and we know who they are."

Davey says some of their clients want to take advantage of transmission line projects or potential road development or mining.

"And we just can't respond," Davey says. "So that is one of the areas we are looking for support from the federal government."

Davey also raised the idea of creating a federal business development bank for Indigenous businesses.

"As you know, when we create wealth it is good for all of northwestern Ontario, it's not just the Indigenous community," Davey says.

Rosie Mosquito, executive director of Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute, brought up the need for funding for a mental health education program.

"Our vision with our Mino-Bimaadiziwin mental health education program is to create our own professionals from our communities that can provide mental health training," Mosquito says.

Rusnak notes that Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute has a track record of success.

"I know Rosie is a strong advocate for First Nation communities and First Nation youth across the region," Rusnak says. "I look forward to looking at their submission and advocating for what they are asking for in Ottawa. Oshki is a very dynamic institution that knows their students and the clientele they are working with and their success is evident in the great way they work with the communities throughout the region and the successful students and graduates they have."

Hajdu says her ministry, the Ministry of Employment, has funded many of the programs that Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute has offered.

"(The Indigenous Skills Education Training Fund) has been in existence since 1999, and last year I was able to secure a

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

MPs Patty Hajdu and Don Rusnak held a pre-budget consultation session for the community at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition Cardinal Room in Thunder Bay.

57 per cent increase overall for that program, which meant that training that was happening in First Nations by First Nations trainers, they have more money (and) more capacity to train people in their own home communities," Hajdu says. "It is really important that people can get training in their own regions and their own communities."

In relation to Davey's presentation, Rusnak spoke about

First Nation companies that are working on the New Gold project

"Of course they needed capital to start up — traditionally they go to the banks and sometimes people can't go to the banks and NADF and the other regional development agencies provide loans to these companies, and not only loans but the mentorship and the advice on certain aspects of business and getting and keeping their busi-

ness and growing their business," Rusnak says. "So the regional development agencies are incredibly important and I look forward to looking at NADF's proposal and advocating for that with the minister of finance."

The pre-budget consultation was held at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition Cardinal Room in Thunder Bay.

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# Commentary

### Baby it's cold outside



cannot recall many winters as cold as this one. This winter started with a lot of snowstorms in December of 2018 and then in January we got more snow and the temperatures here in Northern Ontario dropped to more than 30 below zero and more like minus 40 taking wind chill into account. Many Elders I know tell me that they do not remember this kind of extreme cold for many consecutive days and such huge snowfalls since the 1960s and

As someone who was born and raised in the very far north of Attawapiskat on James Bay I am familiar with cold winters but this one tops them all as far as I am concerned. I notice the extreme cold when I venture outside to start up my truck. The only reason my vehicle starts is because I have the engine block heater and battery warmer plugged in to electricity. Otherwise there is a good chance at minus 30 degrees the engine would not fire up. I notice that it is also more difficult to start up my snowblower and we have been getting so much snow this season that I even though I am dressed in very warm clothing and in layers I am still very cold after a short time outside.

As cold as it is I have had some fun with these extreme temperatures by boiling water in a kettle pouring it into a cup and then hurrying outside to throw this hot liquid into the air. The results are amazing to photograph or video as the water turns immediately while air born into snow. Many people are demonstrating this phenomenon on Youtube.

With this extreme weather comes many risks and people should realize they have to take care when venturing out into minus 30 weather. Extreme cold can affect your immune system as the freezing temperatures results in less blood going to the bodies extremities so that heat can be preserved at the core and the brain. The very cold weather also affects our lungs. Freezing weather can result in a heart attack and this is more so for older people or those with heart problems. The risk becomes greater for older people who are working out in the cold clearing snow. This is because your heart has to work harder to keep you warm and that raises your heart rate and blood pressure.

You can get frostbite when out in weather that is minus 30 and 40 and in particular if there is a wind. Your toes, fingers,

ears and nose do not have any muscles to produce heat and because the natural response for a body is to preserve heat by cutting back blood flowing to your extremities you can easily get frostbite. Hypothermia can occur when you are exposed to very cold temperatures for a long period of time and that can kill you. Even your eyes can be affected when out in the freezing temperatures and experts advise wearing goggles or some protection if you are doing outdoor sport such as skiing or snowmobiling. Freezing your eyes can result in frozen corneas and that can damage your eyes. It is also not a good idea to be out exercising, running or exerting yourself in freezing weather as very cold minus 30 and 40 degrees can damage your lungs. It is best to wear a scarf and breath through your nose when out in this weather and to refrain from high exer-

You might hear a lot of people reacting to this extreme cold weather by remarking that global warming must be a myth because the weather is so cold. The opposite is true in that global warming is very real and responsible for this very cold weather in northern Canada, mid-Canada and the northern United States this year. It is all due to a record-breaking cold wave that comes from a split polar vortex that is pushing freezing Arctic air into lower parts of the continent. Climate change deniers come out of the woodwork to try to question global warming by pointing to colder weather this winter in a world where scientist are warning us about the planet heating As scientists point out warm

temperatures in the Arctic, as a result of global warming and climate change, is causing the jet stream to push further south and this is bringing extreme cold to southern areas that don't usually experience it. This cold weather is also staying in place longer because of the shift of the jet stream. Are things going to get better? It does not look like it as some scientists are forecasting a 50 percent increase in more severe weather in the form of winter freezing temperatures, summer droughts and violent storms. The only things that can possibly help us as we move forward in time is for all countries of the world to unite in a meaningful way to lower the production of green house gases in the atmosphere. However because of lobbying by the oil and other industries that cause a lot of these green house gases, world governments might not find the will and strength to do the right thing. That might just mean the extinction of the human race and just who on earth would profit from that?

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### OPP Award Recognizes Value Of Canadian Rangers



photo submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers

Master Corporal Shaun Kakegamic of Muskrat Dam takes notes as OPP training officers give directions during a search and rescue

# Keeping track of the seasons



**¬**or Environment Canada, → meteorologists and climatologists the winter season consists of December, December and February, the three coldest months. The season totals 90 days, slightly shorter than the three other seasons and perhaps, given the shift to bitter temperatures in later January, fewer winter days might be appreciated this year. The first half of winter was much warmer than average. The winter was on track to be one of the warmest on record. Blame or credit El Niño, the warming of distant tropical waters in the Pacific Ocean.

El Niño events change the position of ridges of high pressure and jet streams. The Polar jet stream remains north and is part of a barrier that reduces intrusions of Arctic air. Temperatures from December 1 to mid-January were warmer than average in the diagram above from British Columbia, across

the Prairies and to the Ontario/ Ouebec border, Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay were about 6° C above warmer than seasonal and areas such as Timmins in northeast Ontario were about 6° C above

I wrote last month in "Weather" that I thought the warming influences of El Niño would persist into February but our outside thermometers suggested something else. Immediately after mid-January the day-to-day temperatures declined dramatically. The plummet of temperatures first began in Timmins and Ottawa near to Quebec. A few days later Thunder Bay and west into the Prairies were experiencing frigid conditions and about one week ago the cold shift had reached the West coast.

Northern Ontario changed from daytime melting temperatures occasionally to runs of overnight temperatures below -30° C in Thunder Bay and -40° C in northern communities. Geraldton, for example, experienced -47.7° C in late January and lows of -45° C from Big Trout Lake (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation) to James Bay were common. Such a change from mild to frigid conditions invites the question what happened to El Niño?

It is questionable to assign

Geraldton, for example, experienced -47.7° C in late January and lows of -45° C from Big Trout Lake to James Bay were common...

human-like features to a weather event ten thousand kilometres distant in the tropical Pacific but weak, moderate and strong are used to classify El Niños. Strength depends on the amount of change in water temperature, not muscle mass. Additional heat energy changes features such as trade winds, cloudiness and pressure patterns in Canada and literally around the world. Last year's El Niño was defined as "weak" (several million kilometres of tropical ocean 0.5 to 1.0° C warmer than normal) which seemed enough to influence weather in Canada for six

Some media and weather forecasting agencies have attributed the recent cold weather to the "Arctic Vortex". ronment Canada and several agencies have revised forecasts for February and now suggest an extended period of cold and potentially stormy weather.

### The arrival of Spring

One of the predictors of the arrival of spring is of course furry rodents that various media report on. Groundhog Day two weeks ago suggested that winter was over because it was cloudy, hence no shadow. Don't turn off your furnace for this, Environment Canada on March 1 or for the date on most calendars. The beginning of spring is March 20 this year. Perhaps this date could work for coastal locations in British Columbia but any date in March always conflicts with the weather of Northern Ontario.

No matter how one defines the beginning of the Spring season, visible signs like ice-out or buds on native shrubs, it is not happening until April at the

Could El Niño make a come back? The short answer is probably because warming of the tropical Pacific is still taking place. However, this is not likely enough to affect late winter and early spring in Ontario. El Niño can affect winter weather as happened early this winter but judging from past records seems to have little influence in

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Guest editorials, columnists and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of Wawatay News.

Disclaimer: All submissions to the Managing Editor must be in a Microsoft Word document, double spaced, and must adhere to Canadian Press style. Wawatay reserves the right to refuse to publish any unsolicited submis-

# Commentary

### Publisher's Note

# The Disinformation of Ignorant Media

John Gagnon

■he Oxford dictionary lists disinformation as "false information, which is intended to mislead, especially propaganda issued by a government organization to a rival power or the media.' And, disinformation is continually used in the five estates within our society: The First Estate is the Clergy; The Second Estate is the Monarchy; The Third Estate are the Bourgeoisie or Upper Class; the Fourth Estate are the Commoners and The Fifth Estate the Media. The responsibility of media and journalism is to keep citizens informed of local, regional, and national/ international news. Meanwhile, keeping all the previously mentioned estates along with ensuring politicians and community leaders are held accountable.

Ethical journalist must gather factual information, conduct interviews with witnesses or law enforcement, search public records, and ask difficult questions. Most importantly, they must follow and understand the laws regarding libel and invasion of privacy. A good journalist strives to present an accurate, well-balanced unbiased story that presents all sides of an issue.

This is where media and journalism failed the people last month when we saw Nathan Phillips drumming in the face of the young man wearing a Make America Great Again, or MAGA for short, hat. Personally the video mortified me. First as human being, second as an involuntary mixed blood person, and third as someone who gratefully works in media. During that weekend of upheaval, located on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial steps, we saw the initial video circulating on the Facebook and Twitter spheres. We witnessed people going berserk and death threats made against the MAGA wearing hat youth.

All the while, not one reputable media outfit picked up the story before social media got the online populace all worked up, and misinformed. No sooner then the death threats were spewed against the youth, more videos surfaced, and this brought the hammer down on Nathan Phillips. The youth was made out to be a young fool, but Nathan Phillips' life was put under the media microscope.

Where the partisan left-influenced people wanted the youth's head on a stake, the partisan right-influenced people began looking into the past of Nathan Phillips. He was ridiculed and called a liar for saying that he served in Vietnam, although Mr. Phillips actually said he served in the army during Vietnam wartime. His Eldership was put into question due to a driving under the influence conviction that caused an accident when he was in his 20's.

It made me think about what an Elder is in today's society. What an Elder once taught me is that not all Elders are old and not all old people are Elders. It is rare, but some people are born with an old soul, born and brought to this plane as an Elder. I worked for a university sometime ago and I was intrigued to find they had created a pamphlet defining an Elder and the basics were that Elders are old and have grandchildren. In my opinion an Elder is chosen, respected and adorned with that label by their community. They are experienced, and their experience is gained by making mistakes and rectifying those mistakes throughout their life. An Elder will make wise decisions based on deliberation, reasonable and logical thought not biased by the outcome of decision. We should aspire to be Elder's in training, making sure we learn from mistakes and gaining as much knowledge and wisdom

Due to a mistake, which no one is immune from, the partisan right wanted to strip Nathan Phillips of his Elder's title. They wanted him to be little, small and dismiss him as a failure all the while ignoring that the youths in that video were being outright disrespectful. The media could not tell us what a true Elder is in the sense of Indigenous culture, because they did not interview any Indigenous people or conduct any ethical research on the subject. The people from Nathan Phillips' community have proven their respect for their Elder by telling media about the good he has done, his activism for the community and his pure guidance of the people devoid of his own gains.

The truth is, after watching all the videos; Nathan Phillips had put himself in harms way of youth, which another video clearly shows the young students making hand gestures similar to the Tomahawk chop, meanwhile arguing with Hebrew Israelite hecklers. Nathan Phillips was trying to keep the peace by interjecting himself the middle of the hecklers and the youth.

One of the last videos that surfaced showed the Hebrew Israelites insulting the youth as well as calling the Native Americans with Nathan Phillips savages. So in the end, we witnessed a sad portrayal of miscommunication, we saw the dirty side of social media and two people skewered by the court of public opinion. The young boy had to defend his right in life and an Elder portrayed in a dark light for wanting to separate the young students from the hatefully misguided Hebrew Israelites.

We see this daily here within our own communities: miscommunication, disinformation and people being hateful for no other reason than the lack of information and knowledge. We no longer need this behaviour in our lives; no one needs to be treated in such a fashion. It is quite evident municipalities and Nishnawbe communities need a dialogue that expands the limits of today's society. A dialogue must be organized and the main topic must be decorum and increased level of benevolent behaviour for whatever progress dictates.

This dialogue must take place amongst citizens and not just political and religious leadership; grassroots people from both communities can share in inclusive community events and religious/traditional ceremonies. First Nation communities that share borders with municipalities would be a good start. These events can express the truth to mainstream society of the savagery endured, and that better treatment of the owners and original People of this land would increase the value of all government and church apologies.

The networks at political, community, religious and subsequently denominational churches and their retreats are an opportunity to begin the dialogue. An opportunity for the leaders to speak to their supporters/congregation about behaviour and treatment and create events where both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can share time... perhaps even be so civilized as to getting together and breaking bread and not each others spirits.

# Anishinabekwe Magic: an Op-Ed on Racism

Jenny Adams

I too had a dream.

"I awoke suddenly, having a clear crisp memory of my dream, it had a certain realism, almost like I'd lived it before. Sometimes I can let go and fall back asleep but not this time. There was a message, one that I seemingly remember all too vividly.

My duty became to bring it to life. The photo. Subject: Stomping out racism, one family at a time.

They say when you own it, it can no longer hinder you."

We all have thoughts, here are mine. We begin at home as the matriarchs in our families and communities. Were teaching our kids to always to face situations by remaining calm to improve our understanding of others and their actions. We can arm ourselves with the knowledge to accept those judgements without holding the hurt and trauma of the past.

A friend asked what I thought Indigenous women were doing about racism, grassroots.

My answer; Indigenous women are doing what we can to determine a brighter future for the coming generation. That's what strength looks like.

We're out here planting seeds of hopium in the minds of our young people early in life so they can process and regurgitate the negativity when racism rears its ugly head. We know people are going to have racial views. It's how we process that information that will determine our individual happiness. We're instilling skills to remain calm and have the ability to let it go and close it down. Oh how I wish that would become the new normal, by not giving anymore energy to the emotion. Racism is an emotional commitment to ignorance – we are not that.

We were beautifully created. These are members of my family. We are the Adams family cue music of Eagle Lake. We are a strong resilient bi-racial family who have both lineages of native and non native blood stock. Our ancestors were warriors as were yours. As their descendants we carry their strength within our veins. We are proud.

When you can begin seeing a person's action as a mirror image of their own feelings and thoughts, amazing things can happen. We make our world from our individual perspectives. Home life can dramatically change that perception.

Having those discussions and hearing that dialogue is what we need across this nation.

We live in one of the greatest culturally rich countries in the world. Let's make cultural awareness the new Aubergine.

We are Indigenous.

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### Canadä

## Arts and Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School's Ira Johnson unveiled the mural painting he created to depict the DFC students' journey from home to graduation during a special ceremony.

# DFC unveils new mural by Ira Johnson

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School unveiled a mural painting depicting the students' path from leaving home to graduation by Ira Johnson.

"It took a lot of discussion between Ira and myself on what we thought the mural should represent," says DFC principal Sharon Angeconeb. "Ira himself came up with the idea that he wanted to do something that would honour the students' journey to pursue their education. He recognizes that their schooling is a lot more challenging than it is for other people who live in the city and their school might just be a bus ride away."

Angeconeb says the students' successes are also included in

he mural

"It's leaving the land too, it's leaving family, it's leaving grandparents," Angeconeb says. "And one of the (images) near the bottom is the achievement of the graduation diploma. The students are in their gowns and their hats. There are a lot of things in the mural that represent the losses and also the successes — they gain their strength from different areas, from families, through faith. There is a picture of a bible with a cross on it in one corner. And there is another corner where there is a smudge bowl."

Angeconeb says the people who viewed the mural have found different points of interest that "really touched them."

"I had someone tell me what really struck them was the scene of the grandparents waving goodbye," Angeconeb says. "That really struck me too, that's something that I really carried with me is when my grandmother used to pray with us right before we had to leave for high school. We would go visit her and she would pray for us to have a safe journey out and a safe return to the community."

Angeconeb says Norma Kejick, executive director of Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, was struck by an image of a boy looking out of the plane window as he was leaving to attend school.

"That's the scene that really struck her," Angeconeb says. "There's so many pieces in the mural that people have connected to — it's really good."

Johnson, who works in the DFC Elders program, says the mural is about the journey of the DFC students and what it's like to leave home.

"They're boarding a plane and ... their families and Elders are watching them leave," Johnson says. "When they get here they see the Sleeping Giant and there's a transition into a new world almost."

Johnson says it took about a year to complete the mural in the basement of his home.

"I had to saw the frame in half and fold it," Johnson says.
"I put it together down there and did the same thing bringing it back (to DFC). But once we got here, the shop teacher Scott made a solid frame for it, so it is pretty solid."

Johnson says he was looking forward to the unveiling of the mural, which is located in the hallway on the north side of the main gymnasium.

"A lot of people have been asking about it," Johnson says.
"It's been up there for a long time veiled up like that."

Johnson told the people who attended the mural unveiling that it has a brush stroke the resembles an image of a black bear.

"It's a very tiny piece," Johnson says. "I didn't draw it, it happened in a brush stroke."

Johnson encouraged the viewers to interpret the mural for themselves.

"It's not so much for me to interpret it," Johnson says. "You take what you find in there and that's what I've always tried to do through my painting."

### **REVIEW**

### Review of the Long-Term Management Direction Gordon Cosens Forest 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Rayonier Advanced Materials Inc. and the Kapuskasing Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the proposed long-term management direction for the 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Gordon Cosens Forest.

#### The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The first opportunity (Stage One) for this FMP occurred on October 10, 2017 when the public was invited to "Participate" in the development of the plan. This **'Stage Two'** notice is:

- To invite you to review and comment on:
- the proposed long-term management direction for the forest;
- the areas which could reasonably be harvested, and the preferred areas for harvest operations, during the 10-year period of the plan;
- the analysis of alternative one kilometre wide corridors for each new primary road which is required for the next 20 years.
- To request your contribution to background information to be used in planning.

### How to Get Involved

To facilitate your review, a summary of the proposed long-term management direction for the forest can be obtained on the Ontario government website (www.ontario.ca/forestplans). A summary map(s) of the preferred and optional harvest areas for the 10-year period of the plan and alternative corridors for each new primary road which are required for the next 20 years, will also be available.

In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were available at Stage One of public consultation, the following information and maps will be available:

- Summary of public comments and submissions received to date and any responses to those comments and submissions;
- A summary report of the results of the desired forest and benefits meeting;
   Environmental analysis including use management strategies of the
- Environmental analysis, including use management strategies of the alternative corridors for each new primary road;
- Maps that portray past and approved areas of harvest operations for the current forest management plan and the previous 10 years:
- current forest management plan and the previous 10 years;

  Criteria used for the identification of areas that could reasonably be harvested during the 10-year period of the plan;
- Criteria used for the identification of areas that of
   The rationale for the preferred areas for harvest;
- Summary report of the activities of the local citizens' committee to date.

The above information is available at the Company and MNRF office identified below by appointment during normal office hours for a period of 30 days, **February 13, 2019 to March 15, 2019.** 

Comments on the proposed long-term management direction for the Gordon Cosens Forest must be received by Joshua Breau of the planning team at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Hearst District Office and MNRF Kapuskasing Field Office by **March 15, 2019**.

Meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests and concerns with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

### Joshua Breau, R.P.F.

Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Kapuskasing Field Office
R.R. #2, 122 Government Road West
Kapuskasing, ON P5N 2X8
tel: 705-337-9314
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### Kevin Delguidice, R.P.F.

Planning Superintendent RYAM Forest Management 1 Government Road, P.O. Box 150 Kapuskasing, ON P5N 2Y2 tel: 705-337-9773

tel: /05-33/-9//3 e-mail: kevin.delguidice@rayonieram.com

### Gilbert Peters

**Gordon Cosens Forest** 

Kapuskasing Local Citizens' Committee Representative 32 McPherson Avenue Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1T9 tel: 705-367-2114 e-mail: gilbertpeters237@gmail.com

November 2019

Anytime during the planning process you may make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the plan author, the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual (Part C, Section 6.1.4).

### Stay Involved

There will be three more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

Stage 3 -Information Centre: Review of Proposed OperationsStage 4 -Information Centre: Review of Draft Forest Management PlanStage 5 -Inspection of MNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan

**Stage 5 -** Inspection of MNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan **February 2020**If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Joshua Breau at 705-337-9314.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Josee Tourville, District Business Coordinator, at the MNRF Hearst District Office at 705-372-2227.

Renseignements en français : Joshua Breau au 705 337-9314.



## **Arts and Entertainment**

# Thunder Bay Art Gallery to open waterfront building

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Construction of the new Thunder Bay Art Gallery building on the waterfront is a go after \$3.5 million in FedNor funding was announced by local MPs Patty Hajdu and Don Rusnak.

"I'm proud to say that today's announcement will help us further unleash our social and economic potential while moving our economy forward," says Rusnak, Thunder Bay-Rainy River MP. "I was having a discussion with family and friends about how important art is in our life and here in the community, and what some people don't realize is that places like this and what this expansion is going to do for northwestern Ontario helps in building our social fabric here in northwestern Ontario and helps with reconciliation."

Funding for the \$33 million, 37,000-square-foot building

was supported by all three levels of government, with about \$27.5 million committed so far for the project. The art gallery also has a fundraising campaign underway.

time," Hajdu says. "And they also not just show established Indigenous artists, but bring new Indigenous artists into the space. The art gallery also partners with many Indigenous

"There is a lot of Indigenous art in the collection of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery," Rusnak says. "Bringing some of it out of storage and allowing the people of Thunder Bay and northwestern Ontario, indeed all of the world, to experience that art helps in reconciliation and helps in understanding of First Nations culture in this area. We have a lot of talented artists, and a lot of our culture and our stories are told by art."

Hajdu, minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour and Thunder Bay–Superior North MP, says the new art gallery will be important for Indigenous artists in the region.

"This art gallery has been committed to showing Indigenous artists for a very long time," Hajdu says. "And they also not just show established Indigenous artists, but bring new Indigenous artists into the space. The art gallery also partners with many Indigenous organizations so that young people have the opportunity to come and try their hand at arts and express themselves through the arts. So I think it is going to be an opportunity for them to grow those kinds of relationships."

Sharon Godwin, director of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, says the gallery's collection of art, which includes Indigenous artists such as Norval Morrisseau, Roy Thomas, Carl Beam and Daphne Odjig, and its work with contemporary Indigenous artists are an important part of its mandate.

"We have lots of programming related to Indigenous art and related to Indigenous issues, Walking With Our Sisters and those sorts of projects," Godwin says. "So we will continue, and in fact, be able to enhance some of the things we do. Our collection is both regional but also Indigenous artists, and we've totally outgrown our (storage) space and we have many more pieces we would like to purchase and that have been offered as donations. So we will continue to build our collection of art by Indigenous artists by buying work from them and by accepting donations, but we need the room."

The new art gallery will be fully accessible and have the flexibility to offer up to six separate exhibition spaces. It will also include 3,500 square feet of environmentally controlled storage space, which will allow the organization to expand its permanent art collection.

"One of the things that is an attraction when you go to Toronto or you go to Vancouver or you go to Montreal is visiting art galleries, is visiting cultural spaces, and for us to have that is critically important," Hajdu

Fed Nor Your parties on North Delays on North

Rick Garrick/Wawatay New

Thunder Bay—Rainy River MP Don Rusnak and Thunder Bay—Superior North MP Patty Hajdu announced \$3.5 million in FedNor funding for the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's \$33 million new building project on the waterfront.

says. "There has to be things to do and a place where you see yourself, and for the community to come together. And the art gallery is a really important part of that."

The new art gallery building will also feature an expanded

gift shop, a café with outdoor terrace and a second-floor event hall overlooking the Sleeping Giant, which together will help support the long-term success and financial sustainability of the facility.

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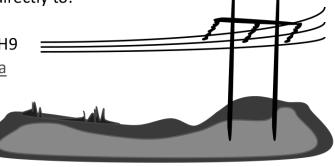
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# rts and Entertainment



Shy-Anne Hovorka performs a song during the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra's Noon-Daago-Toon pering to pass on on reconciliation formance at the DaVinci Centre in Thunder Bay.

# Hovorka and Sherman join the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra for special performances

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Indigenous performers Shy-Anne Hovorka and Nick Sherman were featured along with the George O'Neill Public School Choir and Dave Simard during the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra's Noon-Daago-Toon performances.

"It went excellent — it was even better received than last year," Hovorka says. "And I Rick Garrick/Wawatay News think the message we are tryand building cultural connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities is being understood through the show, so that is a fantastic move on the TBSO's part and on our part as Indigenous peoples."

The Noon-Daago-Toon performances were held at the Italian Cultural Centre and at the DaVinci Centre in Thunder Bay.

"I'm very thankful for the TBSO approaching us on this," Hovorka says. "It was their idea a couple of years ago, and it wasn't just about the music for

them. It was about the reconciliation and community building and I couldn't be happier. I'm thankful for all the people that

Chloe Belisle, one of the soloists with the George O'Neill Public School Choir, says the performances were "awesome." The choir performed on some of the songs with Hovorka and Sherman.

"The event was amazing — I was overwhelmed to see that both nights were really well attended," Sherman says. "It was a really diverse crowd and I was really happy with everyone's messages and performances. It was special to share the stories with everybody and have everybody sit and listen and have the opportunity to share the night of music and stories together."

Sherman shared some stories about when he was growing up on the land back home on North Caribou Lake during the show.

"I think it is important to talk about growing up on the land if you've had an opportunity to do it," Sherman says. "I've lived in urban centres, but I've had the opportunity to live up north when I was young and it's important to talk about that because living up north isn't this dark desolate situation, there is vibrancy, there is beauty, there is amazing experiences. It is hard, the isolation, but there is life and there are amazing opportunities and experiences you can have and I think it is important to bring that stuff up because I think a lot of people don't know what it is like to live up north."

Dave Simard says there was a "great reaction" to the presentation he delivered on reconciliation, cultures, First Nations history and music.

We were overwhelmed with the amount of people that came out," Simard says. "It was a first time for a lot of us to do this and there was a lot of learning as we are doing this for everybody involved. There was a lot of clashing of cultures and it was also very powerful to put all of that together."

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler enjoyed the performance.

"It's pretty amazing how everything just came together, the youth choir, the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, Shy-Anne and Nick, the drum and all of the other instruments used in this concert," Fiddler says. "It was pretty amazing how it all came together."

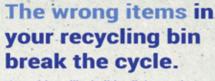
Lydia Sherman, Nick's mother, says the performance was moving.

"It captured the message of reconciliation, that we still need a lot of work," Lydia says. "(Nick) started loving music as a young boy and you have to teach a child when they are young to have inspiration in their life "

Lydia says Nick was about 10 or 11 when he spent two or three winters on the trapline with his grandfather.

"His grandpa taught him to live off the land and see his culture where his grandpa lived all of his life as a trapper," Lydia says. "I also lived on the trapline as a young girl, so I was glad that he was able to be part

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### Arts and Entertainment



Neskantaga artist Joseph Sagaj and Matawa Education and Care Centre art teacher Jessica Buzanko work with student Serena Ashpanaquestcum on the Matawa Education and Care Centre's Ontario Arts Councilfunded mural project.

# MECC students release art mural project

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

A group of Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) students recently enjoyed learning more about art from Neskantaga artist Joseph Sagaj during an Ontario Arts Councilfunded mural project.

"It's been great - they come in and out of here (because) they have other classes," says Sagaj, who lives in Toronto and whose art centres around cultural understanding and identity as an Indigenous person. "So during the time they want to come over they are welcome to dab a little colour here and there or do their thing. Or if they have any ideas, they are welcome to (bring) their ideas and like I said we kind of do it on the fly. So stories evolve, stories change. Someone might say I don't see a loon clan, so we put a loon clan in there. The significance of the loon clan is part of the system of governance.

Sagaj worked with the students on the mural project. He notes that he had a difficult time with accessing art supplies when he was growing up in Neskantaga.

"But I remember this judge who used to buy my art and encouraged me and sometimes would bring art supplies,'

Sagaj says. "So that is how I got started and got connected with my art. Art is very liberating, I think, and at least for me I can speak for myself by saying that art has kind of liberated my lifestyle in the way I live and the way I think."

Sagaj says he is not a conventional artist.

"I'm more like a free-thinking type of artist, so when I came here that is how I introduced myself to the students because I think we are cut from the same cloth so to speak," Sagaj says. "The way I talk with them is kind of like the same language because we both have that same goal and the same background."

The mural project was funded though the Ontario Arts Council's Indigenous Artist in Communities and Schools

"The basis of the mural started off as a conversation piece," Sagaj says. "Most of students who came to speak were talking about the Sleeping Giant, were talking about the clans, were talking about our story, our narrative. So that kind of inspired me to think that the Sleeping Giant is always kind of packaged in a tourist form. So I said we are going to abandon that thinking and we are going to claim our

story, our history and how we relate to it."

Sagaj says the mural is not a compositional piece with a diagram to follow.

"We had our own blueprint in our heads," Sagaj says. "So that is how we've been doing it the last couple of days, which is really exciting to do.'

Jessica Buzanko, art teacher with MECC, says the theme of the mural project is storytelling.

"So everything that is going on the mural right now tells a story," Buzanko says. "So when people come up to it they might get all of the stories, they might get some of them, and it's just whatever speaks to you and what lessons you need that

Buzanko says about 25 students from different grades and communities participated in the mural project.

'We had some students here at about 9:30-10 a.m. and they worked for a couple of hours and then they went to go work on math or science," Buzanko savs. "They've been coming in and out of here all week and we've been doing designs. We're doing prep work and painting and they're kind of getting to see the whole artistic process that goes behind creating a large piece."

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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Dan Cutfeet, a physician from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug who practices medicine in B.C., spoke about health services available in Alert



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# NAN Health Summit shares information on B.C. health care

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug's Dan Cutfeet shared some information about health care in B.C. during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Health Summit, held in Thunder Bay.

"I did my family residency in Victoria, B.C. and I am currently living and working in Alert Bay, B.C.," Cutfeet says, noting that Alert Bay is located along with Namgis First Nation on Cormorant Island, which is about a 40-minute ferry ride from Port McNeill on Vancouver Island. 'The Cormorant Island Health Centre is a four-bed hospital. We have a 10-bed long-term care, so a senior's home, the

three other beds." Cutfeet says the Emergency Department is open 24 hours a day with a physician on call.

emerge has one trauma bay and

'There's three physicians on the island, so Alert Bay is well served by physicians, where the rest of Canada is scrambling along to keep looking for doctors," Cutfeet says. "And we need that for the call. During the shift there is one RN on and one LPN available. We have X-Ray and lab services from 9:30 to 2:30 Monday to Friday."

Cutfeet says he is currently trying to get X-Ray training for himself and the other physicians in Alert Bay so they can do X-Rays after regular hours.

"We recently just got an ultrasound, which was purchased by our Ladies Auxiliary," Cutfeet says.

Cutfeet says the Namgis Health Centre has a family clinic with two physicians and a public health nurse, a diabetic nurse educator and a community health nurse.

These two physicians and these three nurses are paid for by the Namgis community,' Cutfeet says. "This is something they've gone out and they've done for themselves. They get some money for the nurses, about 40 hours split between the three nurses, but really it comes out of the Namgis budget."

Cutfeet says the clinic also has a dental health office, addictions counsellors and mental health counsellors, all paid for by the Namgis people.

"This is something that they've decided they want for their community," Cutfeet says.

Cutfeet notes that one of the findings of an inquest into the death of an 11-year-old First Nation girl from appendicitis in the Alert Bay hospital in 1979 was that Native people should begin taking over the delivery of social services, education and health care in their own communities.

"So this inquiry was the building blocks," Cutfeet says. "It really spurned on the community and they went on to really do some pretty incredible things that I'm lucky as a physician to be working with and be working on today.'

The Health Summit, held

at the Best Western Plus Nor-Wester Hotel and Conference Centre, also featured keynote presentations by award-winning Indigenous journalist Tanya Talaga and other speak-

"There is an opportunity for us to create something that is uniquely ours..."

- NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

ers from across the country.

"One of the things we wanted to do was just to give the participants, the leadership here, the front-line workers, a sense of what is being done in other regions," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "We also heard from a delegation from Alaska as well in terms of what they are doing over there to create their own health care system. So it's just to convey that message to them that we don't have to stick with what we have. There is an opportunity for us to create something that is uniquely ours, and it doesn't have to be modelled exactly as what B.C. is doing or what the Quebec Crees are doing. We can use some of those tools in creating our own system for Nishnawbe Aski Nation."

Talaga spoke about the common health issues affecting Indigenous people around the world during her keynote presentation.

"Unfortunately, it is not a surprising fact that all of these countries, no matter where they are in the world, whether it's in Australia or South America or in our case up here in Canada, the issues are the same," Fiddler says. "That's because the colonizer acts the same way everywhere. They try to destroy the culture, they try to destroy the language and they do this by removing children from their families and their communities.'

Fiddler says he witnessed some residential schools in Australia during a trip this past

"Even though we may not have these systems anymore, the impacts are still very much there," Fiddler says. "It was a painful reminder for me to read an article a few days ago of a number of young girls who have taken their lives in Australia in the last couple of weeks, some of them as young as 10, 11 and 12. That is a reality for Indigenous peoples around the world, and I think that is why it is so important that we reach out to our brothers and sisters, whether they are in Australia."

Fiddler says it was important to send a NAN youth delegation to Australia this past fall.

"I hope that we can receive a youth delegation from Australia later on this year to learn from each other and support each other," Fiddler says.

### Health



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation health transformation lead and negotiator Ovide Mercredi delivers his keynote presentation about the importance of the Level Indigenous Youth Outreach Program during its launch at Kingsway Park Public School in Thunder Bay.

# Level Indigenous Youth Outreach Program launches in Thunder Bay

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

The launch of the Level Indigenous Youth Outreach Program (IYOP) in Thunder Bay featured a keynote by former national chief Ovide Mercredi, a panel discussion and a large contingent of Bora Laskin Faculty of Law students.

"I am very happy to see you here because the initiative that's being presented to you by Level will be an important one for the city," says Mercredi, health transformation lead and negotiator with Nishnawbe Aski Nation. "As you know, we have to build relationships and those relationships have to be established by trust and goodwill, but also in being good neigh-

Mercredi says many Indigenous youth from across the north have travelled to Thunder Bay to pursue their education goals.

"To many people in Thunder Bay, they are strangers," Mercredi says. "But they don't have to remain strangers because friendships can be established. My own view about building relationships is that we need to lift each other up as opposed to the opposite, which is putting each other down."

Mercredi says the IYOP program, which is about changing lives through law, is "quite unique."

"What it intends to do is connect young people with each other, but also through mentoring with adults or professional people in law," Mercredi says. "It expands their knowledge about the world itself and it makes them aware of their potential for themselves in terms of future careers. But also this idea of law is important, because with the absence of law there is no order."

Mercredi says he does respect just law, but he has no tolerance for unjust law.

'So my views about the rule of law is that in this country, Canada, the rule of law includes the treaty and Aboriginal rights of Indigenous people," Mercredi says. "It includes their inherent right to govern themselves and it includes a protection for their languages, the survival of their societies and opportunities for their own people and their own citizens. That's what is great about this country, is that that law is enshrined in the constitution of our country. But

we need to apply it, we need to implement it because what's been missing in the relationship, particularly in relation to law, is that historically the law meant trouble for us. The law meant oppression to our people and that should change now. It doesn't have to remain that

way."
The IYOP launch was held at
Kingsway Park Public School, where the program will be delivered beginning in February. Many of the law students in attendance plan to volunteer with the IYOP program.

"Level's mission is to level barriers to justice by disrupting prejudice, building empathy and advancing human rights, says Lisa Del Col, director of programs with Level. "We pursue our mission through public outreach initiatives, including IYOP, our human rights research and advocacy program, which includes research and events that are facilitated in part by Level student chapters at eight law schools across

Del Col says IYOP began as a small pilot in Toronto in 2012, and it now serves more than 300 Indigenous youth annually from urban and on-reserve communities in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

program brings together legal professionals and Indigenous youth to learn from each other and build relationships," Del Col says. "In each program delivery, typically over the course of about three months, the students participate in experiential learning opportunities, like mock trials, sentencing circles and field trips, that expose them to the justice system in a positive and empowering way. While the focus of the program is on empowering youth participants by building their knowledge about the law, their leadership capacity and other skills. Level also learned early on that there is a significant benefit and learning opportunity for our non-Indigenous volunteer lawyers and law students."

The panel discussion featured Denise Baxter, vice provost Aboriginal Initiatives at Lakehead University; Darren Lentz, principal of Kingsway Park Public School; and Celina Reitberger, chair of the Thunder Bay Police Service Board.



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### Education



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

Wauzhushk Onigum's Brianna Skead shared what she learned about the contrasts between the Indigenous community in Mexico and Canada during a week-long Lakehead University trip to Mexico this past fall at a university event.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News Couchiching's Sarah Wright spoke about being treated with kindness



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Couchiching's Shai Loyie shared what she learned about the resilience of the Indigenous people in Mexico.

# Lakehead students visit Mexico

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

A group of five Lakehead University students recently shared their experiences on a week-long trip to Mexico this past fall at the Thunder Bay campus.

"It was very educational — I was able to make contrasts between Indigenous communities in Canada and the Indigenous communities in Mexico." says Brianna Skead, a student from Wauzhushk Onigum, a Treaty #3 community near Kenora. "That comparison was really important and significant for me going down there. I feel like their sense of community was similar to ours, so just the

connectedness between one another. When you're in a First Nation in Canada you can kind of feel the warmth when you are in the community, whether it's through food, language, traditional practices. So it was like similar circumstances in Mexico where food and culture and language seem to really connect the communities."

Skead and the other students shared a variety of photos from their trip, including photos of the Indigenous people performing traditional dances. The trip was funded by the Mexican government for Indigenous scholars to participate in a community development project.

'The dancing ... wasn't the

exact same to the Indigenous dances in Canada, but it kind of held similar meanings where there was recognition of the land and recognition of men and women and children in the dances," Skead says. "There were natural elements, whether it be highlighting animals or food or water in the dances. The natural elements of the traditional dancing in Mexico was similar to the traditional dancing in Canada."

by the Indigenous community.

Sarah Wright, a student from Couchiching, a Treaty #3 community near Fort Frances, says the trip was "amazing."

'We were welcomed and we were treated with kindness and there was a lot of cultural sharing that went on, not only from them sharing with us but us being able to share with them." Wright says. "A lot of times in our education we don't look outside Canada or the U.S., so this definitely expands outside of Canada. We learned that ... even though we are far apart in distance, there's a lot of similarities between our cultures. So I think taking that into consideration will help me look outside of just even our own people moving forward."

Wright says they had a police escort for about two hours during the trip.

"In a sense it makes you feel kind of safe, but at the same time it is kind of troubling,"

Shai Loyie, another student from Couchiching, says the trip was a personal journey for her.

"I learned a lot about myself and the resilience and resistance and resurgence that the Indigenous people of Mexico hold," Loyie says. "And it was really inspiring to see the hope, that sense of hope that we too here in Canada can achieve that as well."

Loyie says the experience will change how she works with youth as a child and youth worker.

"I'm constantly trying to instil that inspiration and that resurgence and resilience within them," Lovie says. "And inspiring them to go out and learn the language and to establish

their identity and to really just find who they are as Indigenous people of Canada."

Denise Baxter, vice provost Aboriginal Initiatives with Lakehead University, says the students did not visit the usual tourist locations in Mexico.

"They were in the remote communities in the central part in the mountains," Baxter says. "As we saw tonight in some of the presentations and the pictures they showed us, they were really in very caring but very small communities where there was the whole very traditional way of living. And I think you don't see that here as much in Canada as you would have seen it maybe 200 years ago.'

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# Education

# Lakehead receives Indigenous Research Capacity grant

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

A Lakehead University video research project involving youth from Lac Seul is among three projects that recently received about \$144,601 in SSHRC Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation -Connection Grants.

"Our project is about working with youth in Lac Seul First Nation on digital storytelling projects," says Lana Ray, assistant professor in Indigenous Learning at Lakehead University and Red Rock Indian Band citizen. "It's a chance for them to control and tell stories about their own community and the history of their community."

Martha Dowsley, associate professor in Geography and the Environment as well as Anthropology at Lakehead University, is the lead researcher on the project, which includes coapplicants Ray and Frederica Oliveira, associate professor in Anthropology at Lakehead University, and collaborator Scott Hamilton, professor in Anthropology at Lakehead University. Dowsley received \$50,000 for the video research project.

The activities were mainly guided from youth, for them to build their own film projects based on previous research we had conducted with Lac Seul, especially about land use and occupation of the land that involves a number of different stories," Oliveira says. "We presented to them some of the results we got from this previous experience and we let them choose which way they wanted

to go or what areas they would like to explore, mainly working with Elders or previous history of Lac Seul."

The research data included interviews in English and Anishinabemowin, family and archival photos and archaeological maps, artifacts and drone photogrammetry related to community history and the annual flooding of Lac Seul's traditional territory that began in 1929 when Ontario Hydro created a hydro-electric reservoir at Ear Falls.

"We have some funding allocated for youth who made videos to be able to go show their videos at different film festivals or other venues," Ray says. "And there is also funding put aside for the community to continue to make a video or several videos in relation to their history or whatever they see fit."

Rhonda Koster, director of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism at Lakehead University, received \$49,935 to gather stakeholders, including government associations and both Indigenous and settler businesses, associated with the hunting and fishing sector to create a consultative research process based on common Indigenous cultural concepts.

"My team is comprised of people from Indigenous Tourism Ontario, representatives from Destination Northern Ontario, the Northern Ontario Tourism Outfitters and a couple of people from M'Chigeeng, Sheshegwaning and Lac Seul First Nations," Koster says. "We were bringing people together to talk about a better way or a

culturally appropriate way to do duty to consult around the resource-based tourism industry and by extension then, what does that look from an academic perspective doing research with Indigenous communities in a good way."

Koster says the two-day gathering was held in M'Chigeeng in mid-January.

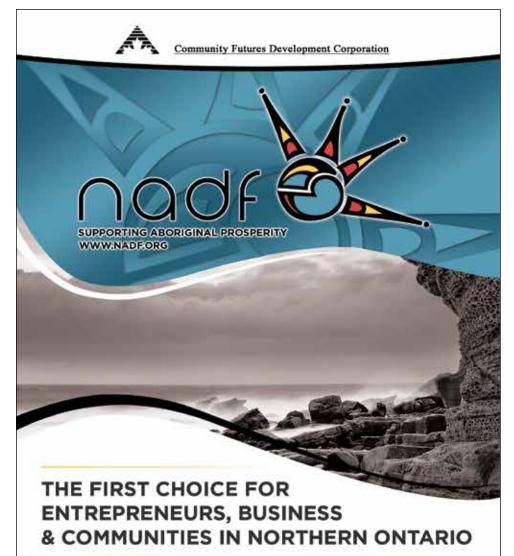
"We had various kinds of cultural teachings and then a whole host of conversations around what we know about one another and what we don't know about one another and how that is an important step in starting to develop a relationship, whether it's around duty to consult or in our context of research project," Koster says. "We structured what we feel is an appropriate engagement process in order to have good outcomes and build relationships towards having reconciliation between settler and Indigenous people in Canada.'

Ruth Beatty, Faculty of Education, also received \$44,666 in funding to organize an Indigenous Mathematics Conference at the Lakehead University Orillia campus from May 3-5.

"The SSHRC Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation - Connections Grants are an important part of implementing the Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Report," says Andrew P. Dean, vice-president, Research and Innovation at Lakehead University. "We are proud and pleased to have our researchers participate with Indigenous communities in this program."



Researchers Lana Ray, left, Frederica Oliveira and Rhonda Koster were among a group of Lakehead University researchers who recently received about \$144,601 in SSHRC Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation - Connection Grants for three projects or gatherings located across northern Ontario.



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# Education



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler speaks about the Secret Path Curriculum Resource that was launched on Jan. 19 during Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Best Practices in First Nations Education Forum, held at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay.

# Gord Downie-Chanie Wenjack Secret Path Curriculum highlighted by NAN

Rick Garrick

Wawatay News

The Gord Downie-Chanie Wenjack Secret Path Curriculum Resource was highlighted during Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Best Practices in First Nations Education Forum, in Thunder

"Pearl (Achneepineskum, Chanie's sister,) talks about this all the time whenever she is in front of an audience, that it was her dream all this time that Chanie's story be told widely..."

Con't on next page



## Education



Daisy Munroe, Chanie Wenjack's sister, speaks about the importance of education during Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Best Practices in First Nations Education Forum, held at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay.

#### from page 14

...that his story be shared not just with Indigenous children or not just in the NAN territory but right across the country," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler on the first day of the forum at the Victoria Inn. "What this project has allowed is it's given us that opportunity to learn more about what happened with Chanie, but more importantly for us to learn lessons from that tragic experience. So that is what we envisioned when we launched this project about a year and two months ago.'

The Secret Path Curriculum Resource was launched on Jan. 19 during a ceremony with the Wenjack and Downie families at Trent University in Peterbor-

"We put together a team led by Nishnawbe Aski Nation with members of the Ministry of Education and others that wanted to be a part of this very important work," Fiddler says. "I told the team at that time that I wanted this to be an awesome project. We need to be able to lift this up to the whole country and I want them to not only accept it, but I want them to more importantly use it in their schools, to share that with their students in the classrooms.'

Daisy Munroe, the oldest of Chanie's surviving sisters, says school was important to her

"It's not going to be the same anymore,' he said, 'you're going to have to learn, how to work and the jobs you are going to have." Munroe says. "So on behalf of my father and in his memory, I keep that in my mind. I kept that in my mind when I had to let my children go to high school. I actually moved in to Thunder Bay so

my three children would finish their Grade 11 and 12."

Munroe says her three children are now an electrician, a teacher and a truck driver and she herself has worked as a school counsellor since 1983 in Mishkeegogamang.

"Learn all you can but never forget who you are," Munroe says about the advice she shares with her students. "I'm very fluent in my language, and I'm also a hunter, trapper and fisher. Those are the things I learned when I was with my

Munroe says the Secret Path Curriculum is about what children had to endure in residential school.

"From the time you went in to the time you came out, everything was timed," Munroe says. "And I still live that way. It's hard to kick off. And I raised my children in a residential school home — that's what

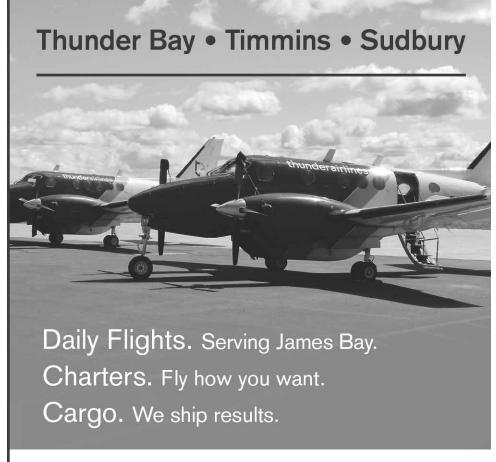
Munroe says it is important for children to learn their own language.

Their own language is who they are," Munroe says. "They have to learn that you are who you are when you speak the language.

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox kicked off the forum by thanking the educators for their work during his opening com-

"As you know, many of our young people, they struggle, this generation of young people that we encourage to strive and prosper," Fox says. "We encourage them to learn their language, we encourage them to get an education, we encourage them to be great hunters and fishermen, we encourage them to be lawyers and doctors. There is a lot of pressure that we put on our children, like my sons. I want them to speak their language, I want them to dance powwow, I want them to hunt, I want them to fish, I want them to get good grades.'

The forum featured a variety of scheduled presentations, including Kendogmang Zhagodenamonon Lodge/ Cultural Academy; Utilizing a Principal Coach/Mentor Model to support School Improve-ment; First Nations Languages; Connecting and Engaging Students to Empowerment; A Few Moments on Mental Health: Strategies and Resources; and Urban Living: Resource Kit and Student Transition Workbook.





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### REVIEW

### Minor Amendment Review Lac Seul 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Obishikokaang Resources Corporation and the Sioux Lookout Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review the MNRF-accepted minor amendment to the 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Lac Seul Forest and to provide comments.

This amendment provides for exchanging contingency harvest areas for regular harvest areas.

The 4327 hectares contingency harvest would be recategorized as a regular harvest in the Lindsay Operating Unit (accessible off of Lindsay and Slate Falls Road). To offset that, 5379 hectares of regular harvest would be recategorized as contingency from the Lindsay Operating Unit (South of Trout River), Harrison Operating Unit, Slate Falls Operating Unit, and Wapesi Operating Unit (accessed through the Belan Road branch corridor, located East of Linden Road).

### How to Get Involved

Minor amendment #18 will be available for review for a 15-day period **February 13, 2019 – February 28, 2019** at the following locations:

- The Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans
- The MNRF Sioux Lookout District Office at 49 Prince Street, Sioux Lookout, ON, contact Kevin Pruys, R.P.F. at 807-737-5053
- Obishikokaang Resource Corp. office at 33 3rd St., Hudson, ON, contact Steve Yeung, R.P.F. at 807-629-8545

Legend Slate Falls ☆ Regular Harvest area to Contingency Harvest area ★ Contingency Vermillion River Road Harvest area to Regular Harvest Lac Seul First Nation

Comments and/or concerns with respect to this minor amendment must be received within the 15-day review period and no later than February 28, 2019 by Kevin Pruys, Management Forester of the MNRF Sioux Lookout District Office. Further public consultation may be required if significant changes are required as a result of comments, otherwise, following the 15-day review period, the minor amendment will be approved. After approval, the amendment will remain on the Ontario government website for the duration of the FMP.

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

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Julie Berard at 807-737-5027.





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### Environment

# Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario holds 24th annual conference

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO) held the water taste challenge again at the 24th Annual General Meeting, Training and Tradeshow Conference in Thunder Bay.

"The operators bring in the water from their First Nation communities and we have a panel of judges and they do a water taste criteria," says Sara Campbell, coordinator of AWWAO. "They pick the water that tastes the best. We just want to make sure that everybody in ... Ontario has safe drinking water. So it's just a fun thing to do and see which community has the best tasting

The water is judged on taste, colour, odor and overall refreshing quality. The winners of the water taste challenge have their name and community or organization engraved on the water taste challenge trophy.

"And then later we deliver one personally, a smaller one to that community," Campbell says. "It's very nice for them to have, to be recognized."

This year's water taste challenge winners were Michael Gillis from Constance Lake for the northern Ontario award and Andrew Recollet from Whitefish River for the southern Ontario award.

A presentation was also made about the Gary Oja Award for Instructor of the Year, which will be awarded beginning next year in honour of Oja, who passed away in 2018. Oja was described as being a trainer who was particularly keen on training First Nation individuals across Ontario. He worked out of Dryden in the Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence.

Campbell says the conference, which was held at the Valhalla Inn, also featured the operator of the year award for the north and south regions. Charles Friday from Seine River won the northern Ontario award and Aaron Beaucage from Nipissing won the southern Ontario award.

"It was a really good turnout," Campbell says. "We had about 70 operators in attendance."

The training portion of the conference featured a variety of workshops, including Safe Drinking Water Operator Essentials, Maintenancefest and UV and Ozone Disinfection on the first and second days. The third day featured Operator Responsibilities for Certification/Introduction to Source Water Protection, Water Leak Detection,



ern Ontario award at the 24th Annual General Meeting, Training and

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News Whitefish River's Andrew Recollet won the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario's water taste challenge south-

Tradeshow Conference in Thunder Bay. Operational Imperatives and

Microbiology of Wastewater. "The Walkerton Clean Water Centre is putting on the Maintenancefest and my module that I am teaching is calibrating and maintaining common lab and online equipment," says Laura Zettler, drinking water resource coordinator with the Walkerton Clean Water Centre. "Our training module is all handson and we are working with a variety of different lab units and online analysers. We are going through how to calibrate

them so that they are reading accurately. We are also going through checks to make sure we can go back and double check that all of our readings are coming out right and we are going through troubleshooting so if anything doesn't work, what you would do to try to fix that."

Zettler says the participants appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the equipment she was showing them during the module.

"Some of them have the equipment that we've been

Whitefish River's Andrew Recollet, Nipissing's Aaron Beaucage, Seine River's Charles Friday and Constance Lake's Michael Gillis won the water taste challenge and operator of the year awards.

using and they've learned new things about it," Zettler says. "And other people don't have the equipment that I've been showing them, but they're going to get it in the future so they thought it was really great to get some hands-on experience on it before it actually arrives at their plant."

Tony Santos, an instructor with the Walkerton Clean Water Centre and manager of compliance and quality control with the City of Thunder Bay, delivered the Safe Drinking Water Operator Essentials workshop.

"It's to provide operators with an understanding of things that are changing within the regulations of the province of Ontario as well as sampling techniques, techniques for water main repairs and distribution of water mains," Santos says. "I'm talking about climate change and just making sure operators have a basic understanding of what is coming up in the future for them.'



### NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

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

### **Human Resource Manager**

The Human Resource Manager will be responsible for managing/coordinating an effective human resource management system and its activities, including but not limited to: employee contract development, human resource policy revision and implementation, labour relations and practices, health benefit programs, training and all other personnel services.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

\*A bachelor's degree in business administration such as human resource management. industrial relations or commerce, with 2 years proven work experience OR

A 3 year college diploma in human resource and business administration, with 5 years proven work experience

- \*Extensive knowledge of office management, personnel practices and administrative support processes
- \*Proven experience in policy development and planning
- \*Proven skills in problem solving and decision making an asset
- \*Completion of a professional development program on personnel administration eg. HRPAO, PMCP, would be an asset
- \*Must be willing and able to travel
- \*A sensitivity to and understanding of First Nations culture and traditions

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

Applications must be received by 4:30 pm, Friday, February 22, 2019. Fax your resume with written permission for NNEC to contact two employment references and a brief cover letter to Human Resources at NNEC Head Office in Frenchmans Head (807) 582-3865; mail to Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B9; or email humanresources@nnec.on.ca.



# Culture

# Students get video tour of Canadian Canoe Museum

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Three classes of Kingsway Park Public School students who are building birch bark canoes at school recently took a video tour of the Canadian Canoe Museum via Skype.

"It was a great opportunity to connect with the museum and add to the project of reconciliation — the canoes we are doing," says Kingsway Park Public School principal Darren Lentz, who has shared his knowledge of building birch bark canoes with many people over the years. "And bring some of that knowledge of the Canadian Canoe Museum and other vessels that they have knowledge on and some of that technology to us here (because) we can't travel down to the museum."

The Canadian Canoe Museum was founded in Peterborough in 1997 with the collection of the late founder Kirk Wipper, and it now holds more than 600 canoes, kayaks and paddled watercraft from across the country.

"They don't have the opportunity to travel to those places, so we now have the technology and we use it in education to reach out to places that do have some of that knowledge," Lentz says. "They're getting a little bit more knowledge about the cultural significance of these vessels and other vessels that are around our country, like kay-

aks and umiaks and things like that that the kids might not get exposed to. So that just adds to their whole journey of reconciliation of understanding through canoe building of some of the teachings of our First Nations people."

Lentz says each of the three intermediate classes have been working on their own canoe over the school year. The canoes are scheduled to be completed by the end of the school year.

"They are going to reciprocate their building and their knowledge and everything else that they've learned," Lentz says. "The classes are going to reciprocate that and give them back to three different places. One is going to stay here at Kingsway, one of the canoes is going to Fort William Historical Park for educational purposes around the city, and the third is going to the Canadian Canoe Museum for educational purposes."

The Canadian Canoe Museum staff took the students on a tour of a wide variety of different canoes on Feb. 7 using a mobile Skype computerwebcam unit that they moved around the museum to give the students an up close view of different canoes and other watercraft, including a large oceangoing canoe with sails that was used for hunting killer whales.

"That's the unique thing, that the kids get a chance to see that technology and learn that his-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Kingsway Park Public School principal Darren Lentz speaks with one of the classes that participated in a Skype tour of the Canadian Canoe Museum on Feb. 7.

tory that is so rich in our Canadian culture," Lentz says. "And it's really exciting to see them learn it through the use of technology. It's kind of ironic that we are learning that traditional technology through Skype, that modern communications technology, in a way that is engaging for the students."

Lentz says the school has a partnership with Fort William Historical Park and the Canadian Canoe Museum for the canoe building project.

"This is one of the pieces that the Canadian Canoe Museum was able to bring to us," Lentz says. "And the other partnership was we went out onto Fort territory with a community citizen and a cultural knowledge keeper and we were able to harvest spruce roots out in Fort William First Nation. So it's a unique partnership that brings together numerous people."

William First Nation traditional

Lentz says the Grade 7 class also took a tour of Fort William

Historical Park and went for a paddle in the big canoes.

"So we talked about the impact that the big north canoes and the Montreal canoes had on Canada's history," Lentz says, "and understanding that Indigenous connection to the land and to that technology."



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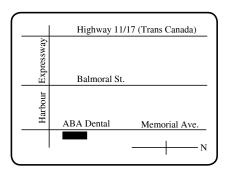
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# Matawa hosts fundraiser to fight human trafficking



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Matawa First Nations Management Bridging the Gap to Freedom Human Trafficking Awareness fundraising workshop featured a variety of presenters, including Melissa Stone and Carrie Blaydon, women in the centre, from the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in Winnipeg.

### **INSPECTION**

### Approved Forest Management Plan Hearst Forest 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Hearst Forest Management Inc. and the Hearst Local Citizens' Committees (LCC) would like to advise you that the 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Hearst Forest has been approved by the MNRF 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 consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The fourth opportunity (Stage Four) for this FMP occurred on August 30, 2018 when the public was invited to review and comment on the draft FMP. This **'Stage Five'** notice is to advise you that the MNRF-approved FMP will be available for inspection for 30 days.

### FMP Inspection - Final Opportunity

During the 30-day inspection period, you may make a written request to the Director, Environmental Assessment and Permissions, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, 1st Floor, 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, ON M4V 1P5, for an individual environmental assessment of specific planned operations in the FMP.

The MNRF-approved FMP and FMP summary are available for inspection during normal office hours by appointment for 30-days **January 30, 2019 to February 28, 2019** at the following locations:

- Heart Forest Management Inc. office, Hearst, Ontario, Brad Ekstrom, R.P.F., 705-362-4464, ext. 3
- Ontario government website at

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff at the MNRF Office to discuss the FMP.

For further information, please contact:

### Pat Burrough, R.P.F.

District Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry MNRF Hearst District Office 613 Front Street, P.O. Box 670 Hearst, ON POL 1N0 tel: 705-372-2201 e-mail: pat.burrough@ontario.ca

### Brad Ekstrom, R.P.F.

Plan Author Hearst Forest Management Inc. 1589 Hwy. 11 West P.O. Box 746 Hearst, ON POL 1N0 tel: 705-362-4464, ext. 3 e-mail: b\_ekstrom@hearstforest.com

WhiteRiver

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### Leo Komulainen

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Hearst Local Citizens' Committee c/o MNRF Hearst District Office 613 Front Street P.O. Box 670 Hearst, ON POL 1N0

The approved FMP will be available for the 10-year period of the FMP at the office of the Sustainable Forest Licensee (SFL) and on the Ontario government website.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Josee Tourville at 705-372-2227.

Renseignements en français : Pat Burrough au 705 372-2201.



Rick Garrick Wawatay News

A presentation by two staff from the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in Winnipeg was featured at Matawa First Nations Management's Bridging the Gap to Freedom Human Trafficking Awareness fundraising workshop in Thunder Bay. The fundraiser was held by the Matawa First Nations Management Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin Department and Matawa Health Co-operative for Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services from Feb. 5-7 at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay.

"Our presentation was on the realities of exploitation and human trafficking," says Carrie Blaydon, intensive case manager with the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre. "So it touches points on perpetrators and the luring and grooming process of exploiters and also about human trafficking. We touched points on Canada's legislation. (The workshop participants were) very engaged with a lot of questions."

This past October, the RCMP's Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police and a total of 62 agencies from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island conducted Operation Northern Spotlight.

The police interviewed 351 people and removed 10 people, including two under the age of 18, from exploitive and dangerous situations. A total of 52 charges were laid against 22 individuals, including Trafficking in Persons.

Melissa Stone, coordinator with the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, says some of the workshop participants were surprised to learn about the information they shared on exploitation and human trafficking.

"They didn't know, and now have a better understanding of sexual exploitation and human trafficking of youth and women and men and transgendered," Stone says. "Human trafficking is when a person is moved, it could be as simple as from one street to the other or across town, and are sold for sexual purposes."

Stone says Winnipeg has 24-hour outreach support for people who are being trafficked.

"That is when we see most of (the) girls and folks being exploited on the streets," Stone says.

The workshop also included presentations by Jacquie Lindor and Timea E. Nagy and a Kairos Blanket Exercise facilitated by Anna Chief and Jerri-Lynn Orr.

"We talked about trauma and addiction and how it plays in with human trafficking..."

- Tricia Atlookan

"We talked about trauma and addiction and how it plays in with human trafficking," says Tricia Atlookan, approaches to community wellbeing facilitator with Matawa First Nations and one of the workshop organizers. "Our speakers today spoke about their agency and the services they support. Yesterday we had Timea Nagy talk about working with victims and how to support them."

Atlookan says knowledge is key to minimizing the risk of the younger generation being exploited or human trafficked and helping those who already are involved.

"It's heavy, but people are really thankful for the information that is being provided," Atlookan says. "There was a lot of good feedback. They really welcomed the presenters that were here and were very attentive."

Nicole Stewart, anti-violence human trafficking worker with Matawa First Nations and Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services, says the workshop was important for providing awareness about exploitation and human trafficking to the community.

"And for all of us to come together and help victims who are entrenched in human trafficking," Stewart says. "I think the more education and more awareness people have, the better."

More than 75 participants attended the workshop from child welfare and social service agencies in Thunder Bay and across the region and health and social staff from the Matawa communities and other First Nations.



# Soldiers' cries for help all part of the learning process

Peter Moon

Special to Wawatay News

The soldiers floating in the broken ice of Parry Sound's harbour were calling for help.

bour were calling for help.
"Help me, I'm freezing," shouted one. "I can't feel my hands. I've been here for ever. I won't last much longer. Please, get me out of here. Hurry."

The response from Steve Ruskay, an ice rescue expert with Raven Rescue, was calm. "Keep it down, guys. I don't want people getting alarmed and calling the police."

The soldiers' shouts for help were all part of a series of realistic ice rescue scenarios that saw them learning how to rescue themselves and others who had fallen through ice into frigid waters.

The 10 soldiers were from the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (3 CRPG) at Canadian Forces Base Borden. Most were instructors who travel regularly to the Far North of Ontario to train Canadian Rangers, who are part-time army reservists. in the vast area's remote and isolated First Nations. There are 570 Rangers in 25 First Nations in Northern Ontario. The area has the highest number of Indigenous drowning deaths in Canada with many related to falling through ice.

The training in Parry Sound consisted of three days of concentrated instruction in both a classroom setting and engaging in practical rescue scenarios. The "victims" were soldiers who took turns in being rescued and being the rescuers. They wore immersion suits to protect them from the cold.

"We do it so that we will have in-depth knowledge of the skills required, so that we can pass it on to the Rangers in the North," said Major Douglas Ferguson, 3 CRPG's deputy commanding officer. "In turn, the Rangers pass it on to others in their communities."

The training was the first of its kind for Sergeant Eric Scott, a new 3 CRPG instructor. "The training is unique in that not a lot of either regular force or reserve members of the army ever get an opportunity to do it," he said. "The training is eye opening. I'm definitely better prepared now for an ice rescue emergency when I go North."

Mr. Ruskay provides various forms of rescue training to a variety of students in Canada. But the way the soldiers approached the demanding training impressed him.

"They are different," he said. "They can manage themselves in cold or inclement weather. They have a really unique sense of team work and camaraderie. They follow instructions and they work extremely well together. They have leadership qualities and they are highly skilled at what they do.

"We know through anecdotal evidence that the rates of ice incidents are much higher in the North where these soldiers go. Indigenous peoples are the ones hunting and trapping on those frozen waterways up there that are critical to their livelihoods. They go through the ice.

"They do not have access to this kind of training, which the Ranger instructors take with them and teach up North. So I think the Ranger program is having a huge impact right across the North."

In 2011 an instructor from 3 CRPG who had taken ice res-

cue training saved the life of a distraught woman in Sandy Lake First Nation in Northern Ontario. He was in the remote community when the woman, determined to end her life, approached an area of the river where fast moving currents made the ice extremely unstable. The local police lacked ice rescue training and asked the local Rangers for help. The instructor, wearing a safety line, was able to tackle the woman in the water and the police and Rangers pulled them to safety.

In 2015 a civilian volunteer went with a Ranger search party to help an elderly resident of Eabametoong First Nation who was stranded in a whiteout blizzard. The volunteer got separated from the Rangers on the return trip to the community and drowned when his snowmobile went through the ice on a creek.

(Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group.)



photo submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers

A rescuer, left, reaches a soldier "victim."

### **REVIEW**

### Review of Long-Term Management Direction Spanish Forest 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), EACOM Timber Corporation and the Spanish Forest Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the proposed long-term management direction for the 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Spanish Forest.

#### The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The first opportunity (Stage One) for this FMP occurred on September 26, 2017 when the public was invited to "Participate" in the development of the plan. This **'Stage Two'** notice is:

- To invite you to review and comment on:
- the proposed long-term management direction for the forest;
- the areas which could reasonably be harvested, and the preferred areas for harvest operations, during the 10-year period of the plan;
- the analysis of alternative one kilometre wide corridors for each new primary road which is required for the next 20 years.
- To request your contribution to background information to be used in planning.

### How to Get Involved

To facilitate your review, a summary of the proposed long-term management direction for the forest can be obtained on the Ontario government website (www.ontario.ca/forestplans). A summary map(s) of the preferred and optional harvest areas for the 10-year period of the plan and alternative corridors for each new primary road which is required for the next 20 years will also be available.

In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were available at Stage One of public consultation, the following information and maps will be available:

- Spanish Forest

  O 10 20 30 40

  Kilomotors

  Strikes
- Summary of public comments and submissions received to date and any responses to those comments and submissions;
- A summary report of the results of the desired forest and benefits meeting;
- Environmental analysis, including use management strategies of the alternative corridors for each new primary road;
- Maps that portray past and approved areas of harvest operations for the current forest management plan and the previous 10 years;
- Criteria used for the identification of areas that could reasonably be harvested during the 10-year period of the plan;
- The rationale for the preferred areas for harvest;
- Summary report of the activities of the local citizens' committee to date.

The above information is available at the Company and MNRF office identified below by appointment during normal office hours for a period of 30 days: **January 30, 2019 to February 28, 2019.** 

Comments on the proposed long-term management direction for the Spanish Forest must be received by Bob Robinson of the planning team at the MNRF Sudbury District Office by **February 28, 2019**.

Meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests and concerns with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Bob Robinson, R.P.F.

MNRF Sudbury District Office 3767 Hwy. 69 South, Suite 5 Sudbury, ON P3E 4N1 tel: 705-564-7868 e-mail: bob.l.robinson@ontario.ca Ryan Milne, R.P.F.

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**Bob Cecchetto** 

August 2019

December 2019

Local Citizens' Committee Rep. 73 Indian Road Sudbury, ON P3E 2M8 tel: 705-662-1157 e-mail: bcecchetto@tribury.com

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1).

### Stay Involved

There will be three more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

Stage Three -Information Centre: Review of Proposed OperationsStage Four -Information Centre: Review of Draft Forest Management PlanStage Five -Inspection of MNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Bob Robinson at 705-564-7868.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability* Act. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Trisha Pearson at 705-564-7838.

Renseignements en français : André Vincent au 705 564-7865.





photos submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers Four Canadian Rangers who passed on survival kills were, kneeling from left, Ranger Richard Yellowhead, Master Corporals Yvonne Sutherland and Joe Lazarus, and, standing, Master Corporal Bradley Anderson



Sharing a laugh in an emergency shelter are, from left, Master Corporal Yvonne Sutherland, Sergeant Chris Brad, and Sapper Clayton Miller



Master Corporals Yvonne Sutherland and Joe Lazarus discuss winter survival skills with two combat engineers.

# Hibernating black bear a highlight of Canadian Rangers winter survival training

Peter Moon Special to Wawatay News

Learning survival skills from four Canadian Rangers from the Far North of Ontario was an outstanding success for a group of soldiers learning how to survive in frigid winter temperatures.

"The Rangers are the experts, so it's been fantastic to have them with us," said Sergeant Chris Bard. "It's been a tremendous learning experience

"We've kind of got away from basic survival skills in the military. So it's nice to put the rifle down and work on basic winter skills, how to light a fire, how to build an emergency shelter and survive the night in it. The experience has been outstanding."

The five days of training for the soldiers from 2 Combat Engineer Regiment at Garrison Petawawa took place in Killarney Provincial Park, south of Sudbury. In addition to building emergency shelters the soldiers learned how to ice fish, snare small game, cook in the cold, and how to cope with challenging temperatures. They trained in wind chills that often dropped to as low as -40C.

But a highlight for some soldiers was to find they were

skills, how to light a fire, how to build an emergency shelter and build an emergency shelter and bibernating black bear.

"The Rangers are amazing," Sergeant Bard said. "They look at the woods differently from us. They see things we don't. They see potentials for emergency shelters, firewood, animals. They saw what looked like condensed breath coming from behind a tree. None of us saw it. They went over to check it out and found it was coming from a hole above a bear den with a sleeping bear inside it. They covered it over and kept us away so as not to disturb the bear"

The survival training pro-

vided by the Rangers was their contribution to a winter warfare exercise for the troops.

ing around when it's cold. You can't sit in one place. The most important thing is to care for while others come out here and live while others come out here and

"There was an incredibly positive reaction to the Rangers," said Major Matt Hoard. "They bring so much to the table. Five days was not long enough for all they had to offer. They are really remarkable in what they know and pass on."

Master Corporal Joe Lazarus was one of the Rangers. He is an experienced hunter from the Cree community of Kashechewan. "Many of the soldiers had to be told how to handle the cold," he said. "They didn't know you have to keep mov-

ing around when it's cold. You can't sit in one place. The most important thing is to care for your feet. Keep moving them. I was surprised so many of the soldiers didn't know a thing like that. But they learned."

The Rangers brought goose and moose meat to the exercise to give the troops a chance to eat wild food. "They came to our tents in the evenings and they ate it all," Master Corporal Lazarus said. "All we have left are (army) rations."

"The soldiers were impressed by the fact that the Rangers are totally at home on the land," said Warrant Officer Ron Wen, a Ranger instructor. "The Rangers come out here and live while others come out here and survive. The Rangers passed on some of their knowledge of how to do that to the soldiers."

The other three Rangers were Master Corporals Bradley Anderson from Kasabonika and Yvonne Sutherland from Kashechewan, and Ranger Richard Yellowhead from Nibinamik.

(Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)

# Resources available at the OJIBWAY AND CREE CULTURAL CENTRE



For more information, please contact

Debra Hookimaw at 705-267-7911 or dhookimaw@occc.ca



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# Indigenous Foods in the City workshop held in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

An Indigenous Foods in the City: Community Dialogue and Action Plan Development workshop was held at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre featuring a film, a play and a discussion on traditional foods.

"It's looking at improving traditional food access in urban centres," says Glenda Abbott, lead coordinator of the Indigenous Foods in the City project, noting that workshops were previously held in Montreal, Winnipeg and Saskatoon. "We have one more community in Regina. At every location there has been a different conversation. Montreal was much different than Winnipeg and Thunder Bay, so the response has been great and the feedback has been very rich and diverse."

Abbott says the participants at the workshops ranged from people working in organizations in urban centres to people from provincial or federal governments.

"So the perspectives that have been brought to each of the centres has been the most positive part about this experience," Abbott says.

Abbott says the Thunder Bay workshop was held after the Thunder Bay District Health Unit's Understanding Our Food Systems gathering, which was held at the Regional Food Distribution Agency.

"This has been amazing — we are just coming off of a week of a traditional foods gathering, and we delivered this workshop as part of that gathering," Abbott says. "Because there is a lot of work that is happening with the Indigenous food circle, there is already this group or collaborative of researchers and community people and First Nations coming together to begin this work, it has elevated or added to conversations that were already taking place."

The film, Pathways: Feeding Each Other, was produced by Rachel Engler-Stringer, professor of community health and epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. Directed by Tasha Hubbard and Lise-Kossick-Kouri, the film is available on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LMBK2EYT-A&feature=youtu.be.

"I work in primarily community-based health research, so in many of the conversations I've been in in much of the com-

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
The Indigenous Foods in the
City: Community Dialogue and
Action Plan Development workshop was held at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship
Centre with presenters Glenda
Abbott and Rachel EnglerStringer and play director Mark
Dieter.

munity work and research work I've been engaged in there are lots of conversations happening over a long period of time, at least in my presence, around the importance of traditional food access for urban Indigenous people," Engler-Stringer says. "So because I have this special privileged place of being a university professor who does funded research, I was able to apply for funds to try to move this conversation forward."

Engler-Stringer says the responses from workshop participants across the country have been "absolutely phenomenal."

"It's been different every place we've gone," Engler-Stringer says. "There have been different ideas put forward, there have been common themes. The common theme has been the need for urban Indigenous space. It's been expressed in slightly different ways in each context, but has been said every single time that there is a lack of recognition that urban land is Indigenous land. And it's critical to take urban space as Indigenous space."

Engler-Stringer says the need for an Indigenous space was also expressed during the Thunder Bay workshop.

"It's been expressed here as creating a place where people can go to engage in cultural practices," Engler-Stringer says. "So a place where you would have the facilities for butchering and sharing an animal or preparing gathered foods for distribution and all of the ceremonial and other practices that go along with that."

The play, written by Curtis Peeteetuce on land, food and language, was delivered by four local actors during the workshop. The discussion on traditional foods was held after the film screening and play performance.





### NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

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

1.0 Indigenous Language Lead for Pelican Falls First Nations High School, Sioux Lookout, ON1.0 Indigenous Language Lead for Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, Thunder Bay, ON

### **GENERAL**

The Indigenous Language Lead contributes to the revitalization of Indigenous language(s) and addresses the need to support students from 24-First Nations communities that are required to attend Pelican Falls First Nations High School in Sioux Lookout, or Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay to complete their secondary school education.

The Indigenous Language Lead must be a self-motivated individual with excellent interpersonal and communications skills; The Indigenous Language Lead will;

- Translate documents containing valuable information about school programming and services, student behavior and well-being, academic successes and challenges, etc. for students, parents and community members;
- Help to translate during trips to remote Northern communities to foster greater communication between NNEC staff and community members, particularly Elders;
- Will act as a Teacher's Assistant during Indigenous language classes;
- Develop new tools, techniques, and resources to support language revitalization throughout NNEC programming;
- Develop or deliver teacher-training programs and identify professional development opportunities for NNEC staff;
- Collect/analyze data identifying the strengths and challenges facing the program

This position is under the general direction of the NNEC Management

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Native Language Instructors Program Diploma
- Experience teaching First Nation students an asset
- Possess excellent writing skills in Syllabics
- Possess a thorough understanding of Indigenous history and culture
- Computer literacy
- Ability to speak a District First Nations language
- Must be willing to travel and work flexible hours

**LOCATION:** 1.0 Sioux Lookout Ontario 1.0 Thunder Bay Ontario

**CLOSING:** OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted

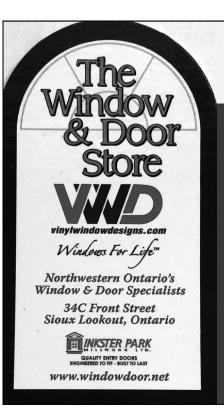
NNEC requires Criminal Background and Vulnerable Person Check from those offered positions

**Submit** your resume, covering letter and written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references to

Personnel Officer at NNEC by fax: (807) 582-3865;

**Via mail:** Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario, P8T 1B9 or email humanresources@nnec.on.ca

**For more information** please contact; A.J. Haapa (Special Projects Coordinator) at 807-623-8914 Ext 3071 or by email ahaapa@nnec.on.ca



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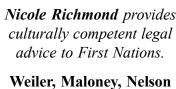
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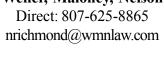


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Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Ann Magiskan, Aboriginal liaison with the City of Thunder Bay, delivers her Abuse of Older Adults: An Indigenous Perspective presentation.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Western University's Margaret MacPherson delivers her Trauma and Violence Informed Approaches presentation at the Elder Abuse Ontario Stop Abuse Restore Respect conference at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

# Elder abuse conference teaches using a trauma informed approach

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

An Elder Abuse Ontario Stop Abuse Restore Respect conference using a trauma and violence informed approach was held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

"We're talking about Elder abuse in the context of a health equity approach, so how do we address the issue of abuse against older adults in the best possible way," says Margaret MacPherson, research associate with the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children at Western University. "How do we engage everybody in doing that, so I'm talking to people as professionals and as members of the community, because we are always both. There are places in which each of us can make a difference, so we are talking about ways that people can interrupt sort of bureaucratic systems with real-life kinds of very practical applications of skills and knowledge."

MacPherson says her presentation also included information on warning signs and risk factors.

"We are teaching all citizens to be able to recognize warning signs and risk factors of abuse, to respond supportively in a way that is safe and effective and to refer to other services and supports in the community," MacPherson says. "We are also, though, trying to spark these community dialogues so that the people who are doing the work are also supporting each other, because it is very difficult. But we have to do it in a way that honours people's lives and where they are and respects the journeys that people are on."

MacPherson says people in mainstream society do not value older adults.

"We like to think we do, but the evidence is clear that we are a very ageist society," MacPherson says. "And that once you move past sort of your working life, especially the paid working life, you are in a community that doesn't really see you or value your contributions in a way that is meaningful in too many cases."

Ann Magiskan, a Lac Seul citizen and Aboriginal liaison with the City of Thunder Bay, also delivered a presentation on Abuse of Older Adults: An Indigenous Perspective during the conference.

"I was trying to help broaden the understanding of the abuse that is witnessed or seen in older adults from an Indigenous perspective and how it all connects to the history of Canada's First Peoples," Magiskan says. "It was well received — it broadens people's understanding as to why people don't report anything that involves different types of abuse, whether it be amongst older adults or whether it be even amongst the younger generation."

Magiskan noted the significance of the city's Walk-A-Mile Film Project series during her presentation.

"It takes people for a walk through history, right from point of contact right through to what we see today," Magiskan says.

Magiskan says the population of the Americas plummeted from about 90 million at contact to a few million, according to ethnoscientists.

"For us to understand what we see around us today, we need to understand the history that happened," Magiskan says. "And it was colonization, it was colonization, assimilation and persecution of the entire population here on the American continent. Several studies have been done that highlight the traumas experienced by first contact and the ensuing events that followed, which have detrimental effects on Canada's Indigenous population. This is a factor that continues to contribute to present day disparities in wellbeing."

Magiskan says it will take seven generations of healing to move forward.

"It's not going to be overnight," Magiskan says.



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### News



# Thunder Bay Police currently investigating video showing youth being assaulted at Shoppers Drug Mart

**Wawatay News** 

A video showing an Indigenous youth being assaulted by a security guard went viral on Facebook, Sunday February 3.

The video, filmed by a customer, at the McIntyre Shoppers Drug Mart location in Thunder Bay has since been taken down because the youth is a minor.

In the video a security guard is attempting to use hand-cuffs to restrain the youth's arms behind his back. At this point both parties are lying on the ground. Then the security guard picks the youth up to his feet after failing to secure the cuffs on him. After they are both standing up the guard picks him up in the air and slams him hard back onto the ground.

"Shoppers Drug Mart has a no-touch policy, which means pharmacy owners, their store employees and their security partners are not allowed to physically engage with anyone in our stores. This use of force and handcuffs is a clear violation of that policy. Working with our pharmacy owner we have been in contact with the third-party security provider and have recommended disciplinary action – including restricting the security guard from working at any of our stores," Catherine Thomas, Senior Director, External Communication, Loblaw Companies Limited said.

Loblaw Companies Limited is the parent company of Shoppers Drug Mart.

Thunder Bay Police Service has confirmed that officers were dispatched to the Shoppers Drug Mart at 1186 Memorial Avenue at 6:28 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 3 for a report of a theft.

"Investigators are aware of a video circulating social media believed to be connected with

this call and are investigating the entirety of the incident. The investigation continues today with multiple witness interviews," Scott Paradis of the TBPS said.

Thunder Bay Police (TBPS) said the matter is currently under investigation, and are unable to give further details because the case is currently open. "We hope to have more information available as the investigation progresses," Paradis added.

"This is an absolutely unacceptable incident and we are deeply concerned by what happened. We take the safety of our customers, our pharmacy owners and their employees seriously. Each of our stores work directly with third-party security companies to support those efforts. We sincerely apologize to the family for what happened. It does not reflect our company's values or customers expectations," Thomas added.



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