Patricia Ningewance appointed to the Order of Canada

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Lac Seul's Patricia Ningewance was recently appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for her contributions to the vitality of Indigenous languages as an Anishinabemowin teacher, author and publisher. Ningewance's appointment was one of 99 new appointments to the Order of Canada, including two Companions, 32 Officers and 65 Members, announced by Governor General Mary Simon.

"What a beautiful way to end the year, honouring Order of Canada appointees and learning about the depth and range of their accomplishments," Simon says. "Celebrated trailblazers in their respective fields, they are inspiring, educating and mentoring future generations, creating a foundation of excellence in our country that is respected throughout the world. Their commitment to the betterment of Canada fills me with pride and hope for the future. Alianaigusuqatigiivassi. Congratulations."

Ningewance, who has published 14 Indigenous language books, began her career as the first editor of the Wawatay

"I got it not because I'm a journalist but because I could read and write syllabics," Ningewance says. "Native language was pretty big at that time, everything was being done in the languages, and because I could write

syllabics, that's how I got the job. Every issue was translated into Anishinabemowin syllabics."

Ningewance says it was "very exciting" to be working with Wawatay Native Communications Society at that

"Wawatay was established just so it could protect the languages in the area," Ningewance says. "When they opened the radio stations, that was the focus, to broadcast in the Native languages."

Ningewance says her first book was Survival Ojibwe, which she later expanded for her second book, Talking Gookum's Language.

"Lac Seul gave me a loan to start up the business and since then the business has grown to 14 books, all sorts of language books," Ningewance says. "I wrote Pocket Ojibwe, which is a phrase book but it's also a book that contains a lot of terminology that's useful for legal workers and medical workers, all sorts of technical terminology. That has been translated into Inuktitut, Oji-Cree, Cree and Dene, and it continues to be translated into more Native languages."

Ningewance says she is "very proud" of the book she wrote about four years ago, Reclaiming Our Territory, Word by Word.

"It's a book about grassroots language teaching," Ningewance says. It's written for ordinary people that speak the language to teach their relatives and friends. They don't need to learn how to spell the language, they don't need to know the grammar, it's a book of lessons that they could use."

Ningewance says Reclaiming Our Territory, Word by Word includes lessons on phrases such as where are you

"They'll teach that phrase to their students and then they'll teach the answers to all those questions," Ningewance says. "So they teach their family these phrases until the family knows how to say that. I'm hoping that can be used (for) any language because it's all in English, so a person that speaks Cree or Mohawk or Dakota could use that book."

Ningewance says there has been a "very good" response to her books over the years.

"They love them, it's grown into a nice business," Ningewance says. "Publishing is very expensive, it costs me \$20,000 to \$30,000 to do one book, so I put a lot of money into the business to keep it active. I want my books to look beautiful — they have to compete against other books on the shelves of bookstores"

Ningewance says her latest book is the Ojibwe Thesaurus.

"It's all the words that we use, and then the variations of that word," Ningewance says.

Ningewance says she is currently working on a 50-year plan for Anishinabemowin to keep the language alive



submitted photo.

Anishinabemowin teacher, author and publisher and Lac Seul citizen Patricia Ningewance.

for the next 50 years.

"I just started in mid-December and I'm very excited about it," Ningewance says.

Ningewance is also planning to hold a conference in November on the block that prevents Indigenous people from passing on their language to their families and friends and prevents students from pronouncing words and learning the vocabulary.

"It's a psychological emotional block that's been put there by the historical trauma that we've experienced as a people that began when kids were punished at residential school and then the negative perception we've developed for our language afterwards," Ningewance says.

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Politics

A presentation from the Ontario Policing Legislation opened the 2023 Winter Chiefs meetings

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

An Ontario Policing Legislation presentation kicked off Nishnawbe Aski Nation's 2023 Winter Chiefs Assembly, held Jan. 17-19 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, after an in-camera session on the first morning. The Ontario Policing Legislation presentation was delivered by Solicitor General Michael Kerzner following comments by Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum and Mike Metatawabin, board chair at Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS).

"Chiefs, I recognize that there are many issues regarding policing, but please understand when we are able to opt in, and this is something again that we have been working on for the last five years, to the new policing legislation many of these issues that we are dealing with in our community when it comes to safety, that we will be able to address those once we obtain that place of being a legislated police force," Achneepineskum says. "The program model under the First Nation Policing Program leaves our communities grossly underfunded and shortchanged on safety. Of course this is not how the rest of the non-Indigenous community (in) Canada police themselves, the rest of Canada enjoys legislated standards for policing. For the rest of Canada, policing is an essential service."

"The terms of reference was signed back in 2015 to begin this partnership working towards having NAPS legislated," Metatawabin says. "We've had 17 resolutions passed thus far by this assembly in providing that mandate, in providing that support to carry on the work. Recently we have been made aware too that there's still some time that we need acknowledge and wait before this proclamation is made and this is the reason



screenshot

Solicitor General Michael Kerzner delivered a presentation on Ontario Policing Legislation on the first morning of Nishnawbe Aski Nation's 2023 Winter Chiefs Assembly, held Jan. 17-19 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

why we extended the invitation to the minister. As you can see they have graciously accepted the invitation and they've also brought a delegation with them, and this for us is a good indicator that things will continue to move forward."

Kerzner says First Nations police services such as NAPS are critical service providers to ensure communities are safe.

"And I recognize that it is essential for First Nations police services to be adequately and equitably funded to achieve the common goals that we share," Kerzner says. "And that's why I'm excited by the new legislative framework for First Nations policing that will be available under the CSPA (Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019).

As many of you know, my ministry has worked very closely with NAPS and other services over the last several years to develop and undertake a process that constitutes First Nations police service boards under the CSPA, a process we otherwise call Opt In."

Kerzner says he wants to acknowledge that the CSPA is complex.

"But I am absolutely committed together with Premier (Doug) Ford to seeing the transition take place and an enactment date set as soon as can be done," Kerzner says. "And realistically, I think we can do that within a one-year framework or less. I take my role seriously and we will work together on appropriate implementation because

we believe everyone has a right to feel safe in their own homes and communities."

After Kerzner's presentation, questions were addressed to him by some of the chiefs about the one-year framework to implement the CPSA.

"The answer is we still have to engage in discussions to fine-tune things, the (COVID-19) pandemic slowed things down," Kerzner says. "The first thing I did, chief, is I asked what is the shortest timeline, tell me the shortest timeline, tell we can complete the task, and I believe that the ministry will be able to get the job done within a year, thereabouts, and this is what we are aiming for."

Thank You, Airlines!

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













Politics

NAN 2023 Winter Chiefs meeting raised concerns over Bill C-21

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Concerns over Bill C-21 related to firearms were raised on the second day of Nishnawbe Aski Nation's 2023 Winter Chiefs Assembly, held Jan. 17-19 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

"The executive thought it was very important that we put this particular item on the agenda," says Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum. "It will impact many of us."

Kate Gunn, lawyer and partner at First People's Law in Vancouver, says Bill C-21 is part of the federal government's strategy to reduce gun violence in the country during her virtual presentation.

"It was first introduced in the House of Commons in 2022," Gunn says. "It's passed first and second reading in Parliament and right now it's before the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security. My understanding is there is no defined timeline but that the committee will be producing a report and then it goes back to the House of Commons for a further reading after that."

Gunn says the original version of Bill C-21 was targeted primarily at the possession of handguns, but after second reading the federal government introduced further amendments.

"Concerns have been raised because those amendments expand the bill quite a bit and it looks like it would expand and



include prohibitions on guns including rifles and long guns that are often used by hunters," Gunn says. "The bill as drafted doesn't include any exemptions for Indigenous peoples exercising treaty rights to hunt or anything specific around protecting treaty rights or around protecting sustenance hunting."

Gunn says a number of groups have raised concerns over the past couple of months that Bill C-21 will affect Indigenous peoples' treaty rights to hunt because it goes further than the original prohibitions to include guns that are used for hunting.

"Secondly that it would disproportionately affect people in remote communities who rely on hunting for sustenance," Gunn says. "And third the concern (that it) will contribute to existing discriminatory policing practices and negative interactions with law enforcement."

Gunn says Bill C-21 still has to pass third reading in the House of Commons and then go through first, second and third reading in the Senate.

"I think it is in a bit of a grey area right now because in response to the criticisms over the recent amendments, Canada has committed to undertaking a further review to ensure that it doesn't target the use of firearms for hunting," Gunn says. "I think in light of the criticism, there is a strong possibility that we can expect further revisions potentially walking back some of those expansions or at least clarifying them."

Cat Lake Chief Russell Wesley says he has concerns about how Bill C-21 will impact the treaty right to hunt and provide food for families.

"This Bill C-21 attacks my basic right to survive," Wesley says. "If I can't feed my family, what else am I going to do. Along with all the other treaty right infringements that we've dealt with over the past 30 years, what else are we going to do. This Bill C-21 really drives the nail into me, and to me it's the final straw because this is something that actually attacks a basic fundamental right that I have is the ability to feed my family, and we have somebody over there on Parliament Hill taking that away because they can't control violence on the

Gunn says the bill cannot be challenged until it becomes law, noting that their main recommendation is for Nishnawbe Aski Nation to contact the federal government to set out their concerns and to go on record

Indigenous groups have raised concerns that Bill C-21 will

- affect Indigenous peoples' treaty right to hunt
- disproportionately affect individuals in remote communities who rely on hunting for sustenance
- contribute to existing discriminatory policing practices and negative interactions with law enforcement

Screenshots

LEFT: Cat Lake Chief Russell Wesley raised concerns about Bill C-21 attacking his basic right hunt to feed his family.

ABOVE: First People's Law lawyer and partner Kate Gunn delivered a presentation on Bill C-21.

with the expectation that the duty to consult needs to be met.

"Because if it is not and the bill gets passed into law in its current form, then you might have grounds to challenge it at that point," Gunn says.

The federal government has since withdrawn amendments that would have targeted hunters and farmers.

"This is an emotional issue, and Canadians are counting on us to get it right," says Marco Mendicino, minister of Public Safety, in a statement. "More discussions, including with Indigenous communities, are crucial. That's why we continue to take the time to engage with people from all walks of life victims and survivors, First Nations, Métis and Inuit, hunters, rural folks and more. I'm grateful to the many individuals who have taken the time to share their stories and perspectives with me."

Mendicino says the government's intent is to focus on AR-15s and other assault-style weapons, not guns commonly used for hunting.

"Hunting isn't just a proud Canadian tradition, it's a way of life for communities across this country," Mendicino says. "Bill C-21 isn't about targeting hunters, it's about certain guns that are too dangerous in other contexts. My colleague Taleeb Noormohamed, with the support of the government, has withdrawn amendments G-4 and G-46. We are now getting to work with our parliamentary colleagues to craft a clear solution that will keep assault-style weapons off our streets. Canadians expect their leaders to work together to address gun violence, and we will collaborate with the other parties to get the balance right and complete this



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WAWATAY NEWS

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Commentary

Welcome To The Brave New World



hat is the first thing you look at in the morning? What is the last thing you see before you go to sleep at night? Many of us would would hesitate in answering and probably not want to admit that the answer is the smartphone. We use it constantly to scroll through our favourite social media feed to look at memes, funny videos about cats, news stories, fake stories, true stories, questionable stories, gaming videos, movie clips or a quick five second video by some stranger we've never seen before and will never see again.

The internet has changed a lot since we first started using it. At the start, we enjoyed our abil-ity to access whatever we wanted and there was a sense of freedom so it felt like the wild west internet. We had to make more of an effort to find what we were interested in as things were not well organized and content was not easy to navigate.

The internet we now use is mostly curated and fed to us in ever more controlled streams of information that are specifically designed to keep us engaged and addicted. The majority of most of the content is now in the hands of a small group of powerful social media corporations that carefully control what we see. They control and monitor just about every aspect of everything we desire to click and see or read. In other words they develop a profile of us. Studies have shown that much of the way these social media systems work is by making people feel anger, rage, fear and anxiety. The more negative people feel, the more likely they will engage with others and cause interaction and traffic. This translates into ad-vertising revenue and big money.

All content on the internet these days are short snippits of information. Twenty years ago, it was blogs and written content that people shared with one another. Now the content has been sized down to shorter posts and even into image captioned memes. Services like Twitter started regulating the size of posts down to just a mere 140 characters so people could read something quickly and respond instantly.

In the beginning it was not so easy to share videos on the internet however these days anyone can instantly share a video on the various social

media apps. It has gotten to the point now where many people think they are the star of their own television show and they constantly post their every move and thought. People do this on the more popular Facebook, Youtube, WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat. These are only apps that are popular in North America while there many more in other coun-tries. People do not need to have many skills in using these apps to put themselves out in front of what they perceive as their world. These posts and videos are getting smaller and shorter to satisfy our dimin-ishing attention span.

There are now numerous studies that connect these short instantly gratifying messages and videos as feeding and affecting parts of our brain that is making us all addicted to social media. Every little fun video snippet we see sends a tiny positive feeling to a part of our brain. It lasts just for a quick moment but it is enough to momentarily make us feel good like a drug would. Now with a simple phone device in our hand, we can reward ourselves with that good feeling again and again. We end up endlessly scrolling through our feeds constantly. This is not doing good things for our brains and it keeps us from creative thought and actual productive exercise.

I grew up in the 80s without internet in my small remote isolated home of Attawapiskat First Nation on the James Bay coast. Myself and my siblings and friends did not have much exposure to the outside world with the latest trends, music, fashion, movies or television shows. We were usually years and sometimes decades behind the the rest of North America. The corporate world, governments and ad-vertisers did not really get to us. We sper most of our time outside doing things, playing, working and on the land harvesting food.

These days we are no longer isolated, remote and free of the reach of governments, corporations and social media. We are constantly in touch with each other and the greater world in strange reali-ties where we bear our souls and mindlessly chatter so that there is no longer any privacy. People are tell-ing the world what they had for breakfast, what they did last night, who they are fighting with, who they hate, who they love and how hurt they are. However, not much of that is really important to most people as it is all about social media controllers making money on every thought and action you post online. Welcome to the Brave New World.

www.underthenorthernsky.com

Tikinagan hosts Niigaanshkaawin Breaking Trail Forum



Rick Garrick/Wawatay Ne

Tikinagan Child and Family Services executive director Thelma Morris and Elder Helen Cromarty participated on the first day of Tikinagan's 2023 Niigaanshkaawin Breaking Trail Forum, held Feb. 14-16 at the Delta Hotels Thunder Bay.

An Exceptional Winter Continues



Tanuary featured well above normal temperatures across Northern Ontario and was in the warmest top five on record. The most pronounced warming took place in the Northwest where some areas had average temperatures were 5°C above normal. A run of days in mid-January had daily temperatures 12 to 17°C above normal. Moosonee on January 16 had temperatures a remarkable 21.3°C above normal.

Also remarkable was the duration of above-normal temperatures. The entire region, from mid-December to late Ianuary had only occasional days with colder-than-normal temperatures. On average, the second half of January are the coldest of the year. Many locations had at least a token "January thaw" in the middle of the month. Thunder Bay for example, had five days with melting temperatures in mid January. Then the last week of January featured seasonal temperatures and since that is, on average, the coldest time of year, seasonal does equal quite chilly. Then there was a shift to temperatures 10 to 12°C below normal which extended into February.

The Northwest had below normal amounts of precipitation. Snow was generally less than 50% of the normal. Rainfall, in the form of freezing rain, was very uncommon.

It was a quiet month in terms of snow storms for the north. There was one event of note - on January 4 and 5 the remnants of a Colorado low delivered a mix of snow, ice pellets and freezing rain from Sudbury to North Bay. Areas to the north received about 15 cm of snowfall.

The first week of February, combined with the final days of January, included the most extended cold snap of the winter so far. The second week featured an abrupt change back to warmer temperatures. Many daily records were established in the Northwest and a few in the Northeast.

Will this winter's weather patterns persist?

It is sunny and the outside temperatures are in record territory as I complete writing this column. It is easy to think that winter is over but we are only in February, and typically March will display some wintry weather in northern Ontario.

Both December and January were considerably warmer than average. There have been cold outbreaks scattered throughout these two months, but they have been of relatively short duration. Meteorological winter begins on December 1 and ends on February 28. This winter is on track to be in the top 7th on record for the region (I have added in some cooler temperatures that are forecasted for late February).

One of the confirmations that the winter has been milder than normal Is the current ice conditions. Ice on in land lakes and rivers is thinner than typical for this time of year. Warmer temperatures and some snowfalls have compounded some problems with winter road construction and use. Many ice roads were not suitable for use by large commercial vehicles in late January.

Lakes Superior and Huron are mainly ice free. At this time both these Great Lakes are about 5% ice covered and this ice is confined to bays and shorelines. Typically, the ice coverage on these lakes begins to decrease in mid or later February. Yes, there are exceptional years like last year when ice coverage increased well into March but this is very unlikely this year.

Some readers may recall a winter prediction in this column made last September – that it would be about average. I noted that at the time many were on the La Niña bandwagon for the winter 2022-23 and were predicting a cold winter. It is true that the El Niño/La Niña cycle

in the tropical Pacific Ocean can make a major contribution to weather around the world and winter conditions in Canada. It is not this simple but slightly cooler water temperatures in the Pacific, the La Niña phase, can result in cooler temperatures and more snow in winter. Last year was unusual because it was the start of the third La Niña winter in a row. This rarely happens. In the past 100 years there were four occasions with three consecutive La Niña winters. I assessed the winters in Ontario for year three. It was a mixed result and near average temperatures for 2022-23 seemed a likely outcome. Thus far it is turning out not colder but warmer than average.

Outlook for late February and March

The week to week seesaw of temperatures is likely to persist through February. The latest forecasts by Environment Canada suggest seasonal temperatures in the south and colder than normal in the far North.

Just for fun, here is a really long-range forecast. The El Niño phase (see above), in my opinion, has a much better track record of predicting winter conditions compared to La Niña. Here is a prediction for next winter – milder and less snow than average.

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Arts and Entertainment



submitted photo

A group of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School students enjoyed participating in the opening of the Aanti eshayek? Where are you going? exhibition on Feb. 2 at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

DFC students curate exhibition from art gallery's permanent collection

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

A group of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School students recently helped curate the Aanti eshayek? Where are you going? exhibition on display at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery until March 19. The exhibition includes artwork selected by the DFC students from the gallery's permanent collection, which includes more than 1,600 pieces of artwork by artists such as Norval Morrisseau, Benjamin Chee Chee, Daphne Odjig, Christi Belcourt, Roy Thomas, Ruth Tye McKenzie and Susan Ross, as well as artwork created

by the students.
"It was really amazing to see (the permanent collection), and one of my pieces got featured in the exhibition too," says Ekota Quill, a Grade 12 DFC student from Sachigo Lake. "It was a tikinagan I put together and painted on. I was at a NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) workshop and there were six other people there making their own tikinagan. It was really awesome to make one because it tells a story and it will last for generations.

Quill says it was an awesome experience to be involved in the curation of the Aanti eshayek? Where are you going? exhibi-

"There was a lot of collaboration," Quill says.

Tessa Harper, a Grade 11

DFC student from Sandy Lake, says it was a great experience to be involved with the exhibition.

"We got to go back in the collection and choose a piece of artwork that we liked to hang up," Harper says. "And I also had a piece that was featured in the art show. It was a painting, kind of a sidewalk view. It's like raining, there's lights, it's nighttime, there's no people in it. It's not even located in Canada, it's a picture that my friend sent to me that I wanted to paint. I liked the picture he took and he asked me to bring it to life."

Harper and Quill also enjoyed the exhibition opening on the evening of Feb. 2.

"I had the chance to speak in front of the people and I thanked everyone for being there and the staff for being able to give us this opportunity," Quill says. "It was an overall nice feeling, I had a bunch of mixed emotions especially after speaking in front of all those people."

Meaghan Eley, registrar and curatorial assistant at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, says the exhibition opening went really well with a good crowd in attendance.

"There was music, we had a piano player playing some jazz, there was some nibbles and coffee and tea and some sweet bannock, it was delicious," Elev says, noting that Penelope Smart, curator at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, and Greg



Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School Greg Chomut and students Tessa Harper and Ekota Quill

submitted photo

Chomut, a teacher at DFC, also delivered speeches during the opening. "We just had a nice time for family and friends and visitors to just sort of mingle and chat.'

Eley says the exhibition was a "really exciting project" for the staff at the Thunder Bay Art

Gallery.

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"After each visit into the collection, we all commented about how it was inspiring to get to see other people experiencing the art for the first time," Elev says. "We love it obviously, but it's always just so wonderful to see other people also appreciating and loving the artwork just as much and finding news things that inspire. We do hope we will get to do this project again in the future."

Eley says the students also helped to install the artwork into the Community Room space for the exhibition during

"We got the hammers and nails out and everybody got to put up the piece that they selected," Eley says. "The really wonderful part of the show is that a number of the students also have their own paintings or artwork (in the exhibition).

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Arts and Entertainment

New Thunder Bay Art Gallery exhibition curated by Caitlyn Bird

Wawatay News

The Thunder Bay Art Gallerv's Waabigwanii-we-Aadizookewinan: Legends of the Flowers exhibition was curated by Caitlyn Bird after she first discovered an image of the beaded breechcloth on a tote bag. The exhibition of the single piece of beaded breechcloth, which was created by master bead artist Ogimaabinasiik, Bella Roy, and worn by Naotkamegwanning hereditary chief Paabamasagaa, Bob Roy, is on display from Jan. 13-March 19.

"A couple of years ago I was in Kenora and I had seen this girl walking around with a printed tote bag with that beadwork on it," says Bird, curatorial intern at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery and Naotkamegwanning citizen. "And I was so curious, it was so beautiful and fascinating, that I wanted to know where it came from."

Bird says the printed tote bags, which featured a photo of the beadwork, were being sold in the Lake of the Woods Museum gift shop in Kenora.

"So I was curious to know who made the beadwork, where did it come from, if there was any information we could get and at the time there wasn't because they didn't have the artist's (name) in the collection there," Bird says, noting that she learned who the artist was when she met Elder Mary Lorraine Mandamin in her community a couple of years later. "She had invited us to her house where I saw a portrait of



ABOVE: A single piece of beaded breechcloth, which was created by master bead artist Ogimaabinasiik, Bella Roy, and worn by Naotkamegwanning hereditary chief Paabamasagaa, Bob Roy.

RIGHT: Naotkamegwanning's Mary Lorraine Mandamin and family attended the opening ceremony for the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Waabigwanii-we-Aadizookewinan: Legends of the Flowers exhibition, which runs from Jan. 13-March 19.

her grandfather Paabamasagaa, Bob Roy, wearing that beadwork, and she went into story mode and shared how my great grandfather Moses Bird and her grandfather Bob Roy, the man wearing the beadwork, were friends and that my grandfather used to be her grandfather's ... ceremony helper."

Bird says she then realized the beadwork she had seen previously on the tote bag was created by Paabamasagaa's partner, Bella Roy, for him.

"It was really special and meaningful right away once I learned that information," Bird says. "A couple of years had passed and I was like, it would be nice to go into the history of this beadwork to celebrate the artist Bella Roy because she was an amazing artist, she was a master bead artist, and speak on those connections and those family connections, community connections."

Bird savs the beadwork is estimated to be more than 80-years-old.

"His grandson Moses Mandamin ... also recalls his grandmother saying he would wear it for special occasions like powwows and ceremonies," Bird

Bird says the family of Bella



in her community are proud to see their family and community being represented in the exhibi-

"A lot of community (citizens) are new to the idea of exhibitions and art openings," Bird says. "It was kind of a unique connection that was made to bring community into these spaces where we celebrate their family history, where we celebrate their families who were amazing artists. A lot of people are really proud to see the community is being repre-

stressed that there certain meanings attributed to certain floral designs in his grandmother Bella Roy's beadwork.

"For instance there was a flower that made to specifically represent Paabamasagaa," Bird says. "And there were certain colours that were used to represent Mother Earth, water and the white lines which are the lines that connect all the floral and all the elements were to represent the connectedness of water and earth, which is really cool because there was so much story into the beadwork."

when she was 16-years-old.

"It was really beadwork that guided me in the sense of where do I see myself in 10 or so years, and it was working with art, working with the community and bringing art to the community," Bird says. "You can say beadwork laid the foundation and guided me to where I am now. After I graduated high school I just kept going with my education and one of the things was working with the collections, working with these old pieces and what that can



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Education

Oshki holds pinning ceremony for nursing grads

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute held a pining ceremony for the 2022 Practical Nursing graduates on Jan. 26 at the Best Western Plus Nor'Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay. The 20 graduates also recited the Nightingale Pledge and were presented with their nursing pins by representatives from Oshki-Wenjack and its partner for the Practical Nursing program, Confederation College.

"It's exciting, it's been a long hard journey," says Donna Belesky, a practical nursing graduate and valedictorian from Marten Falls who has been hired at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. "It feels good, I worked really hard to get here so it's exciting. I'm proud of all my classmates and I'm glad with the way the program was run. It was a good fit for my family because I am a mother of five. I just had a baby, she just turned 10 months."

Alexandra Ionescu, a practical nursing graduate and valedictorian from Toronto, says the graduation ceremony was amazing and a great experience.

'Oshki-Wenjack is an incredible (institution) and I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to complete my education through them," Ionescu says. "I found out about this program through the Ontario College application process. It popped up and I thought distance education, that sounds awesome because I'm so far away and I was also working at the time, so it worked out really well for me.'



Elder Helen Cromarty delivers her address at the Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Wenjack Education Institute Practical Nursing graduation on Jan. 26 at the Best Western Plus Nor'Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

Ionescu plans to apply at the Guelph General Hospital where she did a preceptorship on the stroke unit.

Lorrie Deschamps, president at Oshki-Wenjack, says Oshki-Wenjack's blended delivery model requires students to do two weeks of classes on campus and four weeks of classes in their home community twice per semester

"They are able to keep their day jobs because when they're home in their community, they come online in the evening, Deschamps says. "So it really works for them because they can stay at home with their families, do their jobs and have all that support they need to be successful."

Deschamps says all of the graduates except for two have already found employment.

"We're very happy, this is a very demanding profession and we wish we could get them all through faster but they're all guaranteed jobs when they're done," Deschamps says. "I'm very happy with our pinning ceremony — this is a really high need profession so it is very

nice to honour them through a pinning and a graduation cer-

Deschamps says they already have another intake of Practical Nursing students who are studying with Oshki-Wenjack.

"This graduating class benefitted from our new nursing lab with state-of-the-art equipment and they are certainly prepared and eager to begin their careers in health care," says Susan Sinclair, academic director at Oshki-Wenjack. "We are excited to welcome new students to our health programs to fulfil that

great need for qualified health care workers in the north with a grant from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities that covers tuition costs for several of the programs we offer."

Tania Pynn, associate dean for the School of Health, Negahneewin and Community Services at Confederation College, says the practical nursing graduates have learned and grown so much during their academic journey, not only as a student but also as an individ-

"You have used the knowl-

edge from your anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, human development, nursing and professionalism classes to care for clients with various conditions during your time as student nurses, but being a nurse is so much more than you can ever learn in school," Pynn says. "Being a nurse is not just about the pills, the IVs and charting, it's about being able to care for people when they are at their worst moments and making a difference in their lives."





A group of 15 students from Treaty #3 are receiving instruction in five office administration courses through a Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong and Confederation College partnership until the end of May.

Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong partners with Confederation College

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong and Confederation College recently partnered to provide free inperson Office Administration training to 15 students from Treaty #3 beginning on Jan. 23 in Fort Frances. The students are receiving instruction in five office administration courses, which include comprehensive training in office procedures and Microsoft Office Suite software, at Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong's office and Confederation College's Rainy River District Campus until the end of Mav.

"We saw a need for individuals that are either new to the workforce or they're changing directions in their career and

they just didn't have any computer knowledge or experience," says Marie Seymour, executive director at Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong. "What we're finding is there's quite a few individuals that have decided to change directions and try something different. We contacted Confederation College back in 2019 to try to get something going that would meet the needs of those particular clients that have worked in an office setting, can do the general office duties but they're struggling with their computer usage because everything seems to be going technical and virtual, so we thought we would try to create something that was specific to that type of training."

Seymour says they initially

planned to start the training in 2020, but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit they decided to pause the training until it was possible to do in-class sessions.

"We planned to launch the training in 2020, but then the pandemic hit, and as we move forward, we have found the need for trained Indigenous office administrators is even greater," Seymour says. "Positions have become available as people evaluate their careers. are promoted or move to other positions. The timing of this course is perfect to assist our local employers and to meet the needs of our clients."

The students were also provided with laptop computers to help them to complete their assignments through a lending program from Contact North.

They're taking classes on campus as well as at the Shoonivaa (Wa-Biitong) offices," says Sandra Turner, director of the Rainy River District and Lake of the Woods Campuses at Confederation College. "They have their own laptops to do their homework that they can take home and bring back for classes, they've got their textbooks, they've got a live teacher in front of them."

Turner says they have received "really good feedback" from the students about their training.

"So that's really nice for us to hear that the students are enjoying the learning experience and getting the most out of it," Turner says.

Turner says the credits from the five office administration courses will count towards Confederation College's The Office Administration - General pro-

"Once they're completed these courses, they have the opportunity to potentially come back and complete the program," Turner says. "Not everybody's going to go forward into postsecondary to complete their program, but these (students) are also going to just walk away with really excellent skills, they're going to be much better positioned to be successful in their careers."

Seymour adds that they plan to hold another session of the Office Administration training for students in the Kenora area.

"This training partnership is coming at a time when the business sector in northwestern Ontario is facing staffing shortages," says Kathleen Lynch, president at Confederation College. "We are excited to continue to work with Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong to help new professionals enter the workforce."

Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong, which has offices in Kenora and Fort Frances, provides a range of services aimed at assisting individual clients to explore careers and make informed decisions on careers, training, educational paths and employment readiness. Information about Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong is posted online at: www.shooniyaa.org/.

NAN Supports Mushkegowuk Leaders Shut Out of Federal/Provincial Meeting on Health Funding

Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Derek Fox expressed support for Grand Chief Alison Linklater and the Mushkegowuk Council of Chiefs rallying in Ottawa to defend their Treaty right to equitable health-care.

"Our leaders are extremely disappointed that they have

been shut out of discussions between federal and provincial leaders. I fully support the position of Grand Chief Linklater and the Mushkegowuk Chiefs. Meaningful progress to address the inequities in health-care for our people cannot be made without true collaboration at federal level meetings," said Grand Chief Derek Fox during a press conference in Thun-

der Bay. "Decisions about our communities cannot be made behind closed doors. The best way forward is for our leaders to be engaged as partners to make decisions over who delivers health-care services, and how health-care services are delivered in their communities."

REVIEW

Review of Proposed Operations for Lac Seul Forest 2024 -2034 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ondaadiziwin Forest Management Inc. and the Sioux Lookout Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to participate in the review of proposed operations. This review is being held as part of the detailed planning of operations for the ten-year period of the 2024 – 2034 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Lac Seul 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 second opportunity (Stage Two) for this FMP occurred on **November 23**, **2022** when the public was invited to review and comment on the proposed Long-Term Management Direction (LTMD). This 'Stage Three' notice is:

- · To invite you to review and comment on
 - the planned areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 10-year period of the plan;
 - the proposed corridors for new primary and branch roads for the 10-year period of the plan;
- the proposed operational road boundaries for the 10-year period of the plan; and
- To request contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

How to Get Involved

To facilitate your review, the following information can be obtained electronically on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online:

- · a summary of the MNRF regional director preliminary endorsed LTMD; and
- · a portrayal of:
 - the planned areas for harvest, renewal and tending operations for the 10-year period of the plan; and
 - the proposed corridors for new primary and branch roads which are required for the 10-year period of the plan;

In addition to the most current version of the information which was available at Stage Two of public consultation, the Information available as described in the 2020 Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) (Part A, Section 2.3.3.3) will be available electronically on the Ontario government website: https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-forest-management-planning-manual-en-2021-04-09.pdf.

The detailed proposed operations can be made available electronically for review and comment by contacting the Obishikokaang Resources Corporation office and/or MNRF Sioux Lookout Work Centre contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 30 days (March 6, 2023 to April 6, 2023). Comments on the proposed operations for the Lac Seul Forest must be received by Kevin Pruys of the planning team at the MNRF Sioux Lookout Work Centre Office, by April 6, 2023.

The information forum related to the review of proposed operations will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Kevin Pruys, R.P.F.

Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Red Lake-Sioux Lookout District
Sioux Lookout Work Centre,
P.O. Box 309
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A6
tel: 807-738-4937

Bruce Van Horne

Sioux Lookout Local Citizens' Committee c/o MNRF Sioux Lookout Work Centre P.O. Box 309 Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 16A tel: 807-737-2904

Two in-person information forums will be held at:

Date: March 6, 2023 Lac Seul Events Centre (Moose Room) Frenchmen's Head Community Lac Seul First Nation Time: 3pm to 7pm

e-mail: kevin.pruys@ontario.ca

Date: March 7, 2023 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 78 (Upper Floor) 86 Front Street Sioux Lookout, ON Time: 3pm to 7pm

Genevieve Hennessey, R.P.F.

Obishikokaang Resources Corporation

Plan Author

P.O. Box 38

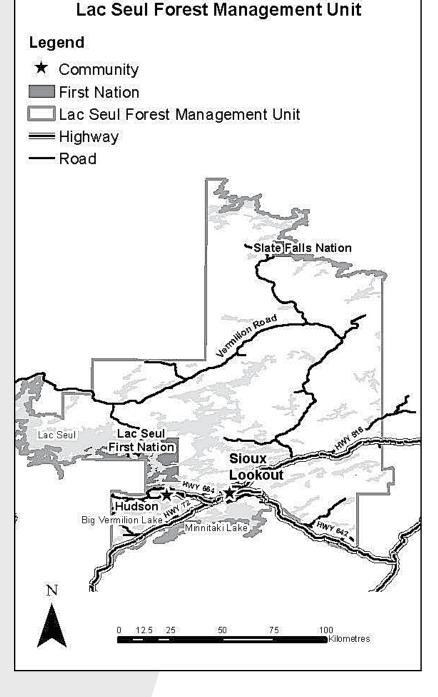
33 3rd Avenue

Hudson, ON PoV 1X0

e-mail: info@obishcorp.ca

tel: 807-285-3496

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 2020 FMPM (Part A, Section 2.4.1).



Stay Involved

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

ontario.ca/forestmanagement

The tentative scheduled date for submission of the draft FMP is July 2023. There will be two more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

Stage Four - Review of Draft FMP
Stage Five - Inspection of the MNRF-Approved FMP
July 2023
November 202

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Kevin Pruys at 807-738-4937 or kevin.pruys@ontario.ca.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Seanna Landry, District Business Co-ordinator, MNRF, at 807-738-5461 or seanna.landry@ontario.ca.

Renseignements en français : Sébastien Niemi, Stagiaire en Foresterie au 807 728-2278; sebastien.niemi@ontario.ca.



Education

Lakehead's Bora Laskin unveils new logo and name

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law unveiled the new Anishinabemowin name, Mino-Waabandan Inaakonigewinan, and logo for its Indigenous Law and Justice Institute on Jan. 26. The new logo, which represents power, protection and strength, was created by Fort William artist Ryan Pooman and the new name, which means seeing the law in a good way, was bestowed by Couchiching Elder Ron Linklater during a naming ceremony last August at Bora Laskin's inaugural summer land-based learning camp at the Quetico Centre.

"It's a beautiful name that came through ceremony," Linklater says. "Eventually what came to me when we talked about naming that we were asked to do, the words that were presented to me from our language is this idea of looking for laws in a good way."

Pooman says the Thunderbird design was selected for the logo after discussions about a few ideas.

"My goal for the logo was to show strength and wisdom in Indigenous peoples — I think the Thunderbird is a great way to portray that," Pooman says. "The Thunderbird represents power and strength and protection, which is very fitting for everything that's going on here" Mino-waabandan Inaakonigewinan Indigenous Law and Justice Institute co-directors Robin Sutherland, director of Indigenous Relations at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and Fort Albany citizen, and Larissa Speak, assistant professor at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and Fort William citizen, both highlighted the importance of the new name and logo during the unveiling ceremony in the John N. Paterson Auditorium.

"Mino-waabandan Inaakonigewinan, or seeing the law in a good way, is something we strive for daily through our law program and the Institute's activities," Sutherland says. "The Thunderbird image also relates to seeing law in a good way and reflects our location in Thunder Bay, especially with Fort William First Nation being our closest neighbour and home to Anemki Wajiw, or Thunder Mountain."

"Looking ahead to the future, we are excited to continue working to fulfill community needs in terms of law revitalization, hosting our biennial Indigenous Law Conference, expanding our land-based learning camp, building our resource library and supporting student and faculty research," Speak says. "We are sincerely grateful to the Department of Justice and the Law Foundation of Ontario for their ongoing support."

Fort William Elder Celina Reitberger, a retired lawyer and



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Lakehead University Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's Mino-Waabandan Inaakonigewinan Indigenous Law and Justice Institute co-directors
Robin Sutherland and Larissa Speak, right, and land-based learning coordinator Anna Chief unveiled the Institute's new logo and Anishinabemowin name on Jan. 26.

former executive director at Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation, says the unveiling of the new name and logo embodies the fact that there has been a lot of progress in terms of the increasing Indigeneity of the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and assisting Indigenous students in succeeding.

"This is going to be a huge step forward I think in our efforts to have more Indigenous students register and come to Lakehead and to have an ability to share knowledge with the non-Indigenous students," Reitberger says. "(The logo) is very evocative and I think it's apt for the fact that we are in the Fort William First Nation traditional territory and the Thunderbird is sacred to us."

Francine McKenzie, a first-

year Bora Laskin law student and Muskrat Dam citizen, says the changing of the Institute's name to Mino-Waabandan Inaakonigewinan was fantastic.

"It's showing a lot of progress with Lakehead," McKenzie says. "It's a great opportunity for Indigenous law students to get involved in all the different areas it hopes to capture. It's just been a great support for us

as we've been going through our first year of law."

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law embraces three mandates in its curriculum: Aboriginal and Indigenous Law; Natural Resources and Environmental Law; and Sole/Small Town Practice with the Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC).



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Health

KKETS to receive funds through Nutrition North Canada

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) is looking forward to expanding the KKETS Harvesters Support Program in five remote First Nations in the Matawa region through \$4.5 million in Nutrition North Canada investments over the next 18 months.

"One of the biggest barriers to health for community (citizens) is food security," says Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias. "With the ever-increasing costs of bringing food into fly-in communities such as Neskantaga First Nation, we welcome new initiatives such as the Harvesters Support Program. We look forward to seeing new employment opportunities for skilled workers to help build food storage and harvesting facilities. Being more self-sustainable with harvesting, growing, preparing and storing our own food will alleviate the costs of inflation and cost of fuel when flying up groceries from the south.

Moonias says his community will benefit from knowledge sharing, community land-based programming, training and preservation of the traditional way of life that will improve the citizens' access to food security.

"There's so much things happening in our communities when it comes to the quality of life issues that we're dealing with, and often times the food security issue becomes one of those situations that we have to address in our communities," Moonias says, "We know what the cost of the daily goods are in our own communities. We know how much the flour costs in order to make bannock in our communities, its close to anywhere from \$40 to \$70 for a 10 kg flour, and that's the reality we're facing in our commu-

Moonias says the expansion of the KKETS Harvesters Support Program, which will enhance local community food systems, restore cultural traditions and increase access to traditional foods and knowledge, is a good start.

"We have to do more though, we have to ensure that this type of work that's geared to our communities and more importantly our people, it has to continue," Moonias says. "There has to be more work done on this to allow for us to be able to support our people back home as well as the opportunity to be able to go on their traditional homelands to practice their traditional way of life. We still do that in our community, our young people still go on the land, they harvest traditional food, they take medicines from the land, and that's very important?

David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO at Matawa First Nations Management, says his family had all the traditional foods. such as moose, fish, beaver and plants, and medicines that they could get from the land when he was growing up.



Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias speaks about the importance of Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services' Harvesters Support Program during the announcement of Nutrition North Canada's investments of \$4.5 million for the program on Feb. 9 in Thun-

"When we talk about nutritional foods, that's what we need to think about," Achneepineskum says. "When I went to the residential school I was about eight-years-old — after a few months I really missed (the) natural foods, the beaver, the moose and the plants, the berries. But I especially missed eating the fish guts, the beaver feet and the beaver tail — they were very nutritious."

Achneepineskum says he believes that they have come to a circle and are becoming aware that the foods they bought from the stores bothered their bodies because it wasn't their natural

"We have high cases of diabetes, a lot of our people die from it, we have high cases of heart disease and we have other illnesses," Achneepineskum says. "So we need to go back to our natural foods, and part of that is what we're doing here today."

Dan Vandal, minister of Northern Affairs, PrairiesCan and CanNor, says the \$4.5 million investment is an important step in strengthening food sovereignty in the north and Arctic.

"Our government knows that every community has unique harvesting needs and priorities," Vandal says. "That is why working with northern and Indigenous partners is essential to supporting food security priorities in the north and Arctic. This investment for Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services will support residents in the five communities in the Matawa region to help bolster local food systems, restore traditional hunting and harvesting and support local food production."

Monte McNaughton, minister of labour, immigration, training and Skills Development, says the provincial government is proud to support KKETS in training workers for better jobs and bigger pay-

cheques close to home.
"We commend Nutrition North Canada on their investment in KKETS' Harvester Program," McNaughton says. "We will continue working with and making investments in organizations like KKETS to ensure people can gain the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow."



Health

Neskantaga to bring in consulting firm after 28 years of water advisories

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Neskantaga is bringing in a consulting firm from southern Ontario to investigate the water issues in the community after marking 28 years under a boil water advisory on Feb. 1.

"It seems like our water crisis is a continued state of something that just keeps going and going," says Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias. "And certainly our people, it's taking a toll on them in terms of some of the mental health, the health and safety issues that they continue to face within the last 28-plus years now. We are bringing in a firm, (S. Burnett and Associates Limited) — they're actually in the community right now doing the investigations, interviewing the for example past water treatment plant operators, community (citizens) as well as looking at the overall system to see what they will find?

Moonias says the community has long stated that their water system is not reliable, noting that some citizens are experiencing vomiting after they shower, headaches, rashes and scars and children have to be bandaged up due to exposure to the water.

"So when the minister says the water is good at the water treatment plant, it's producing clean water, that may be true but when it actually gets to the homes of our people it's not the same," Moonias says. "Yes the water may be good at the water plant, but when it goes through the system and actually into the household of our people it is still an issue."

Moonias says the community met with Indigenous Services Canada Minister Patty Hajdu on Feb. 1 to discuss a number of issues, including the ongoing boil water advisory.

boil water advisory.

"This is not a celebratory day for our community — the suffering continues, the skin conditions, scars and mental health toll persists," Moonias says.

"This milestone is a reminder that we are still in crisis. It is shameful and unacceptable that our community has not been able to have clean, safe, reliable drinking water for the past 28 years."

Neskantaga has been working with the federal government over the past four years to address the root causes of the boil water advisory, the longest in Canada, by embarking on a number of projects, including the commissioning of an independent report on the design suitability of the upgraded water treatment plant, distribution and wastewater system and the best options for a new water treatment plant and system and the commissioning of a study to assess Neskantaga's current water systems and identify options for new systems that are suitable for a 20-Year Community Growth Plan.

"Although some progress has been made on four years of work to date, it has not enabled a citizen of our community yet to be able to turn on the tap to receive clean, safe drinking water," Moonias says. "It is cer-

tainly not the experience of any town or municipality in Canada — it is absolutely unfair for our people to be treated this way."

Hajdu says she has made a commitment to meet with Neskantaga on a monthly basis, and has been following through with monthly meetings.

"It's been really helpful for me as the minister to understand how I can best advocate for the community and how I can best support the chief as he works to have the confidence to lift the boil water advisory," Hajdu says. "There are a few outstanding pieces that the community wants to feel certain that the water is indeed safe to drink, one of them is around flow tests for the water plant. What a flow test does is determine whether or not that plant will be able to continue delivering clean water at the volume that it will be needed in two decades, so that test is scheduled to happen this week (Feb. 6-10) and I'm looking forward to hearing the results of the

Hajdu says another issue is about the quality of water flowing out of the taps in the homes

"Despite the fact that water is being distributed from the plant is clean at the source of the plant, it has been tested multiple times, some households still feel that the water is unsafe," Hajdu says. "People have reported having rashes or various different kinds of symptoms that they think are associated with the water, and it's fair to



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias, pictured at a Matawa event, recently spoke about bringing in a consulting firm to investigate water issues in the community after marking 28 years under a boil water advisory on Feb. 1.

say that people don't trust the water. Some people have been without fresh water since the day they were born. We have committed to the chief that when he is ready, Indigenous Services Canada will ensure that water is tested at every household that is concerned about the quality of the water coming

out of their taps."

Hajdu says Indigenous Services Canada will also ensure they continue to support the delivery of the Trust the Taps program.

"What a lot of Canadians who don't live in those circumstances don't understand is it's not as easy as just turning on

the tap and having confidence that water is clean if you've never experienced that in your lifetime," Hajdu says. "So there is a lot of work going on with Neskantaga — having the independent expert will help to identify where we need to do more together."

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Sports

'Lil Bands 2023 tournament featured teams from Ontario and Manitoba



submitted photo by Lil' Bands Native Youth Hockey Tournament

Rick Garrick

Wawatay News

The 2023 Lil' Bands Native

Youth Hockey Tournament

featured 38 teams from across

northern Ontario and Mani-

toba, including the Round

Lake Midgets who won the

A-side championship over Mish-

good, the kids had fun," says

Stephen Fiddler, founder, orga-

nizer and coordinator at the Lil'

Bands Native Youth Hockey

Tournament. "We usually have

it in Dryden because it's a little

bigger, more hotels and we

used two rinks at the Dryden

(Memorial) Arena. Sioux Look-

out was getting a little too small

for the Lil' Bands Hockey Tour-

nament and there's limited hotel

the fourth time that Garden

Hill from Manitoba participated

"There were some surprises, some teams did very good

in this tournament," Fiddler

says. "I was impressed with the

Round Lake team, they went

to several championship games,

and also I was impressed with

the Mishkeegogamang team,

Fiddler says some of the com-

munities bring their players out

for the Novice and Atom divi-

they were good this year.

sions to the tournament.

in the tournament.

Fiddler says this was about

rooms.'

'The tournament went pretty

keegogamamg 4-3.

The Round Lake Midgets who won the A-side championship over Mishkeegogamamg 4-3 at the 2023 Lil' Bands Native Youth Hockey Tournament, held Jan. 31-Feb. 5 in Dryden.

INSPECTION

Inspection of 2023 - 2024 Annual Work Schedule for Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests

The April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests are available electronically for public viewing by contacting the Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company, on behalf of Miitigoog LP, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning March 16, 2023 and for the one-year duration of the AWS.

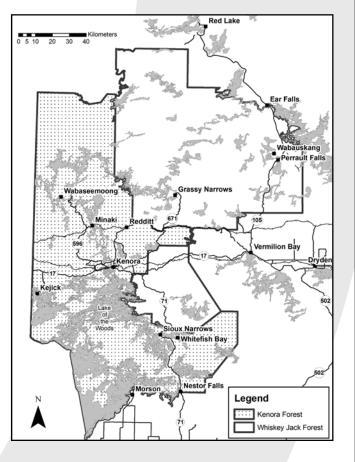
Scheduled Forest Management Operations

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

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

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

For information on the rules for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please see the Ministry's webpage: https://www.ontario.ca/ page/using-wood-crown-land-personal-use. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company listed below



More Information

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

For Whiskey Jack and Kenora Forests

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Stay Involved

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

ontario.ca/forestmanagement

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"And they turn (out to be) pretty good hockey players when they get a little older, Peewee and Bantam ages," Fiddler

"There's 444 rooms in the City of Dryden, and all the rooms were booked all through the week..."

- Stephen Fiddler

Fiddler says he didn't plan for the tournament as usual because they didn't know if it would go ahead due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns.

"We usually have a seven-day tournament, before we used to start from Sunday to Sunday," Fiddler says. "We started on Tuesday at noon and we finished up on Sunday night. We had a good turnout — there's lots of people that came to watch the games. I want to thank the communities that brought their kids to come and play hockey."

Fiddler says it is very expensive for the teams to participate, noting the cost for travel, hotel rooms and food.

"There's 444 rooms in the City of Dryden, and all the rooms were booked all through the week," Fiddler says.

Fiddler says CBC Radio, CBC TV and TBT News also covered the tournament this

"CBC Radio came to do a show there on Friday morning and also they were there I think Wednesday and Thursday interviewing people," Fiddler says. "Also there was a CBC TV. It was good for us to get the exposure. TBT News was there on Sunday."

Fiddler says they hope to have a seven-day tournament again next year, noting that they had four teams when they started the tournament in Sioux Lookout in about 2001.

"We usually make a poster and post it on our Lil' Bands Hockey website," Fiddler says, noting the website is located www.facebook.com/Lilbandshockey/. "We usually go on the Wawatay Radio too to announce it."

Fiddler says the Wawatay Radio Network broadcasted the games this year.

"We're exploring if we can show some games on Youtube next year," Fiddler says.



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Lac Seul to receive FedNor funding to revitalize tourism

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Lac Seul looks forward to completing a Tourism Asset Development Plan and revitalizing tourism infrastructure through \$600,000 in nonrepayable investments from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor). The investments were part of \$4,571,644 in new FedNor investments, which are being provided through the Tourism Relief Fund, the Northern Ontario Development Program and the Economic Development Initiative, that were announced by Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu, minister responsible for FedNor, for 27 tourism projects across northern Ontario on Jan.

"We welcome this funding to revitalize and enhance tourism opportunities in the community," says Lac Seul Chief Clifford Bull. "We are proud of the community-owned infrastructure and businesses that bring tourism to our area, and we thank our funders for supporting Lac Seul First Nation."

Lac Seul is receiving \$500,000 through Tourism Relief Funding initiatives supported by FedNor to support the creation of the Tourism Asset Development Plan and modernization of four tourism infrastructure sites, and the Lac Seul Resort, a community-owned business, is receiving \$100,000 through Tourism Relief Funding initiatives sup-

ported by FedNor to winterize four cabins and upgrade docking systems.

"Northern Ontario provides so many incredible sights and experiences for every season of the year," Hajdu says. "Today's investments of over \$4.5 million in FedNor funding will help support 27 tourism-related projects across our region, helping to create and maintain over 140 jobs. Supporting tourism means not only helping to show the world all of the wonders in and around our communities, but also sustaining businesses and jobs, and building the diversity of our economy."

The Kenora Chiefs Advisory is also receiving a non-repayable investment of \$317,889 through Tourism Relief Funding initiatives supported by Fed-Nor to upgrade and enhance an existing building at its Tourism Cultural and Recreational Centre.

Wahgoshig is receiving a non-repayable investment of \$344,700 through Northern Ontario Development Program initiatives supported by FedNor to purchase equipment and create a tourism hub, including an outdoor trail network, a gazebo, two teepees and a Shaputuan (longhouse), as well as to complete a Tourism Opportunity Analysis and Assessment Study.

"As we move past the acute phase of the pandemic, Canada's tourism sector is showing strong signs of growth," says Randy Boissonnault, minister of Tourism and associate minister of Finance. "The Government of



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Lac Seul Chief Clifford Bull, pictured at a signing ceremony, welcomed \$600,000 in tourism funding from FedNor for the community to complete a Tourism Asset Development Plan and revitalize tourism infrastructure.

Canada's investments in tourism over the last two years focused on the survival of our visitor economy. As we move to revival and the growth of the sector, we continue to provide targeted support to tourism businesses so they can keep delivering unforgettable experiences. A fully recovered and robust tourism sector is key to our government's ongoing work in building an economy that works for all Canadians."

The Tourism Relief Fund was created to help organizations and businesses in the tourism sector to adapt their operations to meet public health requirements, offer innovative products

and services to visitors and prepare to welcome back travellers. Through the Northern Ontario Development Program, Fed-Nor invests in projects led by municipalities, First Nations and other organizations and institutions that support community economic development, diversification, job creation and self-

reliant communities in northern Ontario.

Canada's tourism sector generated more than \$104 billion in revenue and directly employed 692,000 people in 2019, including under-represented groups such as women, students, racialized peoples and Indigenous populations.





Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum, pictured on Orange Shirt Day, called for fire fighting equipment and better homes after a 10-year-old girl died in a house fire in Weenusk on Jan. 28.



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Tragic house fire in Peawanuck a call for better services

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum is calling for fire fighting equipment and better homes after attending the funeral for a 10-year-old girl who died in a house fire in Weenusk (Peawanuck) on Jan. 28.

"It's always very sad and tragic when we attend a service, especially for a child, when in our minds we feel that it could have been prevented," Achneepineskum says. "And because our community had other tragic fires in the past that also claimed the lives of children, it just all continues to re-traumatize and bring those memories back and that is a very hard grief to process."

A total of 10 children and seven adults have lost their lives in house fires in Pikangikum in 2016, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug in 2019 and Sandy Lake in 2022.

"It's very unfortunate that within the NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) communities when we have these house fires, it's children that we're losing," Achneepineskum says. "If we had the services and the resources where we were able to fight house fires and if our homes were made of certain standards of building materials, perhaps we wouldn't be losing our children. The main issue right now is we do not have fire fighting equipment and resources in our community and we also lack a capacity to be able to fight the fires, and when I talk about capacity I'm talking about water supply and those kind of issues with infrastructure."

Achneepineskum says certain communities that were provided with a fire truck were not provided with ongoing maintenance and operations.

"Unless you have those investments of resources and maintenance, then really that fire truck is not of any use," Achneepineskum says, adding that fire fighters were not able to use fire hydrants during the house fire in Sandy Lake. "So all those factors need to be considered."

NAN stressed in a press release that First Nation children under 10-years-old have a fire-related mortality rate that is 86 times greater than non-First Nation children, according to a report by the Ontario Chief Coroner in 2021, and First Nation people living on-reserve are five times more likely to die in a fire, according to a report by the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council.

"Over the years, our communities have lost far too many people to house fires and other emergencies," Achneepineskum says. "It is unacceptable that the lives of this young girl and her family were placed at such risk because of the lack of basic firefighting equipment, fire prevention and emergency services in their community. Our leaders are extremely frustrated that these tragedies continue to happen despite all our best efforts to secure the resources they so desperately need."

Indigenous Services Canada Minister Patty Hajdu says she spoke with Weenusk Chief Abraham Hunter the morning after the fire, noting that he expressed his frustration about the delay in delivery of a fire truck that had been approved about a year ago.

'We were waiting for the ice roads to firm up to transport this custom built fire truck because of course it is difficult if not almost impossible to get equipment of this size up to communities that are remote without the use of those ice roads, so we are anticipating within a week or two that we'll be able to see the transportation of that fire truck," Hajdu says. "Weenusk had applied for a fire hall in November, so I committed to him that we would be able to support the funding to develop and to build that fire hall so there would be a place to store the truck and for a place for the community to operate out of as they try to strengthen their ability to respond to house

Hajdu says the federal government has a goal to close the socioeconomic and infrastructure gaps by 2030.

"It's a very ambitious goal, it's going to require everybody working together because it's not just obviously an injection of money," Hajdu says. "There's a significant amount of infrastructure that's lacking in First Nations, including housing but some of these other critical infrastructure needs like fire halls, but it's also the timing of it. Things have to be staged in a way that allows for workers and for materials to get into communities in a timely way and for those projects to be sequenced so they can all be working together in servicing the community. Each First Nation community has put together an infrastructure plan and assessment of the gap as well as started to think through how they are going to stage this work, and Indigenous Services Canada is going to work with communities on those plans."

Potential graves found near Kenora

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Kaatagoging Survivors Group of the St. Mary's residential school Survivor Project announced preliminary findings of 171 anomalies (plausible burials) within cemetery grounds associated with the former St. Mary's Indian residential school on Jan. 17. Wauzhush Onigum Nation also met with federal government ministers Marc Miller and Patty Hajdu, provincial minister Greg Rickford and Special Interlocuter Kim Murray on Jan. 17 to discuss the nation's necessary path forward, including resources to continue the required investigations.

Both Canada and Ontario have continued to express their commitment to reconciliation, to the truth and to healing of our communities," says Wauzhush Onigum Chief Chris Skead. "Since 215, we have had to exercise additional caution on all projects in the community that require any physical disturbance to the land in fear of disturbing the children. Finding the truth and exercising caution on everything touched by this genocidal legacy comes at a price and it's a price our treaty partners need to be prepared to pay. That is true reconciliation."

"Finding the truth and exercising caution on everything touched by this genocidal legacy comes at a price..."

Wauzhush Onigum Chief Chris
 Skead

Wauzhush Onigum's next steps are to gain greater certainty on the number of plausible graves in the cemetery grounds using additional technologies and to conduct additional investigations at several additional sites not covered during the initial investigations in the vicinity of the former residential school that have been identified through survivor testimony, archeological assessment and archival investigations.

"I am absolutely heartbroken at the announcement of 171 potential grave sites at St. Mary's Indian residential school," says Grand Council Treaty #3 Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh. "Today, the entirety of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 mourns with Wauzhushk Onigum, the survivors and intergenerational survivors of St. Mary's Indian residential school."

A Treaty #3 press release states that the Treaty #3 leadership and staff consider this to be some of the most difficult work they have undertaken and will continue stand alongside Wauzhushk Onigum on the path to truth and healing. The residential school operated from 1897-1972, one of five that operated on Treaty #3 territory.

"With this announcement today, the first of its kind in Treaty #3, I ask that we all take a moment to reach out and connect with each other so that none of us are alone when hearing this devastating news," Kavanaugh says.

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Regional Chief Glen Hare says the preliminary findings of 171 plausible burials are a stark reminder of the dark history of



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Regional Chief Glen Hare, pictured at a Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs Assembly, stressed that the preliminary findings of 171 plausible burials at the former St. Mary's Indian residential school are a stark reminder of the dark history of residential schools.

"On behalf of the Chiefs in Ontario, our hearts are with the community of Wauzhushk Onigum Nation following their announcement of preliminary findings of 'plausible burials' detected in the search for unmarked graves at former St. Mary's Indian residential school in Kenora," Hare says. "We mourn alongside Wauzhushk Onigum Nation and Survivors and families of those that attended St. Mary's Indian resi-

residential schools.

dential school."

Hare says he encourages everyone to keep the survivors, families and community of Wauzhushk Onigum in their thoughts as they continue their investigation to uncover the truth on the grounds of St. Mary's Indian residential school.

"I acknowledge the courage and strength of survivors for sharing their stories and testimonies throughout the investigation and the work and dedication of the Kaatagoging Survivors Group of the St. Mary's residential school Survivor Project in their search for healing and justice for survivors and all the children taken from their families and communities," Hare says.

Governor General Mary Simon says the announcement of the preliminary findings of 171 plausible burials was the second time in a week that Canadians were faced with the atrocities committed at residential schools.

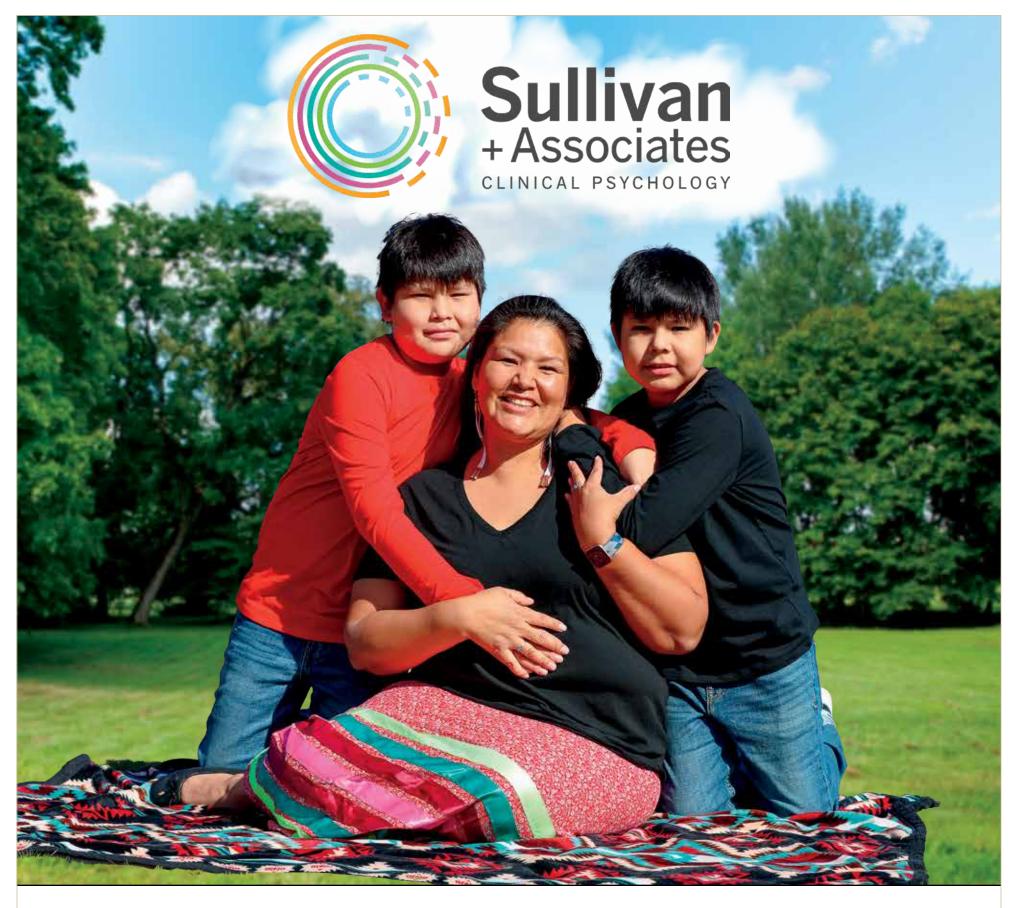
"Our thoughts are with the Wauzhushk Önigum Nation, who today announced that ground-penetrating radar has detected more than 170 anomalies at the site of a former residential school in Kenora, Ontario — plausible sites of buried children, whose stories were cut short because of cruelty and neglect," Simon says in a message. "These findings are not new. Across our country, Canadians have learned time and again about these unmarked graves. It is always heartbreaking to hear about. But we cannot turn away. Nor can we become desensitized to the pain it causes to Indigenous peoples, to those who relive the pain in their hearts every day.

"We need to feel that outrage, that shock, that hurt. And we need to continue working together, not only to find every child who never made it home, but also to help in healing. That is reconciliation in action."



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Moosonee to receive additional winter road funding



submitted photo

The provincial government announced a total of \$8 million in investments for the winter roads network for the 2022/23 season on Feb. 9.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The provincial government announced an investment of \$6 million to help 32 remote First Nation communities and the Town of Moosonee to build and operate 3,200 kilometres of winter roads for the 2022-23 season on Feb. 9. The funding enables the delivery of essential goods and services, provides support for special projects, including bridge improvements, maintenance of crossings and

other repairs, and allows for inter-community participation in cultural events.

"The winter road network is part of our government's vision to ensure prosperity, accessibility and connectivity is possible in every region," says Greg Rickford, minister of Northern Development and minister of Indigenous Affairs. "With this investment, we are helping Far North communities achieve their full economic potential and improve quality of life for northerners."

The provincial government is also providing \$2 million to Windigo First Nations Council to replace ice bridges with preengineered portable bridges and culverts, which will create opportunities for social and economic prosperity in these communities by improving the reliability, safety and environmental impact of the winter roads network

"Improving winter roads is one of more than 60 actions outlined in our government's Northern Ontario Transportation Plan to help provide more safe and reliable travel options for remote and First Nation communities," says Caroline Mulroney, minister of Transportation. "This investment will help ensure northern communities have access to the supplies and essential services they need when they need them, including fuel, food and basic amenities."

The winter roads network serves more than 24,000 Ontarians by providing seasonal connections to all-season roads and making it easier for remote communities to bring in essential goods and services, such as food, medical and construction supplies. Citizens from the remote communities also use the winter roads network to access cultural and sporting events, visit friends and family and travel to health care and other appointments.

The provincial investment includes \$589,443 for Kimess-kanamenow LP for the winter road from Moosonee to Attawapiskat via Fort Albany and Kashechewan; \$571,321 for Kitchenuhmaykoosib

Inninuwug for the winter road from the community to Kingfisher Lake, and bridge repairs; \$381,457 for Moose Cree for the winter road connecting Moose Cree to Otter Rapids; \$368,919 for Fort Severn for the winter road from the community to the Ontario border near Shamattawa, Manitoba; \$353,598 for Neskantaga for the winter road from Pickle Lake North Road to Neskantaga; \$320,721 for Marten Falls for the winter road from the community to Nakina; and \$315,316 for Weenusk for the winter road from the community to Fort Severn.

The provincial investment also includes \$291,035 for Kingfisher Lake for the winter road from Kingfisher Lake to North Road Junction (Hwy 599); \$277,478 for Cat Lake for the winter road running from Pickle Lake to the community; \$246,447 for North

Spirit Lake for the winter road from the community to the all-season Nungessor Road; \$195,534 for Wawakapewin for the winter road from the community to Highway 599; \$173,423 for Eabametoong for the winter road from the community to Kabina Staging Grounds; \$173,423 for Sandy Lake for the winter road connecting with the Deer Lake Winter Road System and connecting to Keewaywin Road; \$173,423 for Webequie for the winter road from the community to the Nibinamik-Webequie junction; \$167,117 for Bearskin Lake for the winter road running northeast from Muskrat Dam to the community; \$167,155 for Muskrat Dam for the winter road from the community to Weagamow Lake; and \$162,387 for Nibinamik for the winter road from the community to Common Road.





Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

James Morris Announces Retirement From Health Authority

CEO and President has championed First Nations' health for over 30 years.

Howard Meshake, Chair of the Board of Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) announced today that James Morris, the long-serving CEO and President will retire in the summer of 2023.

After more than twenty years in the service of First Nations' health care in Northern Ontario, James Morris has decided to retire from his role as CEO and President for Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority in June 2023. This notice period will ensure time for a thorough search for his successor and continuity with staff, stakeholders, the communities and government funders.

Mr. Morris has been at the head of the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority for more than twenty years and has played a central role in the growth of SLFNHA, which serves over 40,000 people in 33 First Nations communities and those living off reserve.

Under Morris' leadership, SLFNHA has expanded its responsibilities and influence to include mental health care, primary care, physician services, public health, specialist services, oral health, and optometry. SLFNHA also operates two hostels in Sioux Lookout, which combined can accommodate up to 400 patients travelling from the North for medical appointments.

Since SLFNHA's inception in 1990 as a response to a hunger strike in Sioux Lookout against health care inequity, the organization has grown from humble beginnings to be one of the largest employers in Sioux Lookout.

"I would like to thank James for his decades of service and dedication to health care in the North. He has a good heart and cares so much about the health of his fellow Anishinabe. He's been a motivated leader, and a champion of health transformation since before it was on the public agenda. He helped to get it on the agenda. He's a strong believer in First Nations people running their own health care system, and First Nations' health across Kiiwetinoong is better off for the work and vision of James Morris."

"We as a Board are also very happy that James will remain with us until the Board has selected the next President and CEO so that we have a smooth transition to a new leader – a passing of the torch which will allow us to continue to address the needs of the communities we serve."

- Howard Meshake, SLFNHA Board Chair

SLFNHA's Board of Directors has engaged with Barbara Lockhart of SmartHire Human Capital Solutions to carry out the executive search for his replacement.

For more information email: barbara@smarthire.solutions

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territory of Lac Seul First Nation, signatory to Treaty 3, and Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850.



Matawa makes donation to Underground Gym and Youth Centre



David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO at Matawa First Nations Management and a group of Matawa staff participated in the presentation of a \$20,000 investment to Peter Panetta, founder at the Underground Gym and Youth Centre, on Feb. 14 at the Matawa First Nations Management office in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management announced a \$20,000 investment for the Underground Gym and Youth Centre for ongoing youth programming and upcoming projects, including renovations and youth skill development, on Feb. 14.

"In the past we have supported our social organizations here in the city, more recently we supported Thunder Bay Shelter House to purchase their SOS (Street Outreach Service) van," says David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO at Matawa First Nations Management. "But now we wanted to diversify and support organizations — we've known about Underground Gvm and Youth Centre for quite some time and we know a lot of our youth and a lot of their parents were a part of that

organization. We appreciate that the youth go there and participate in meaningful activities."

Achneepineskum says the Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors had a lot of positive remarks about the Underground Gym and Youth Centre and were very happy to support it.

"On behalf of the Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors, we are very pleased to make this \$20,000 investment towards programming at the Underground Gym and Youth Centre in Thunder Bay," Achneepineskum says. "They have invested in citizens of our communities, who live in Thunder Bay for different reasons, for over 20 years. Our youth and children continue to choose them to spend their time with because they feel welcomed, supported and accommodated there."

Achneepinskum says they also encourage other organizations and friends to make similar donations to the Underground Gym and Youth Centre.

"It's a worthwhile cause," Achneepineskum says.

Peter Panetta, who founded the Underground Gym and Youth Centre 24 years ago, says the \$20,000 donation will go a long way towards continuing their programming.

"On behalf of the children and youth we serve — many of whom are from the First Nations in Matawa — we sincerely appreciate this donation so graciously given by the Matawa First Nation Management Board of Directors,"

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Mark Zhang, R.P.F.

Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Red Lake Work Centre 227 Howey Street, Floor 2 P.O. Box 5003 Red Lake, ON PoV 2Mo

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Mark Zhang, R.P.F.

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Red Lake, ON PoV 2Mo

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General Manager,

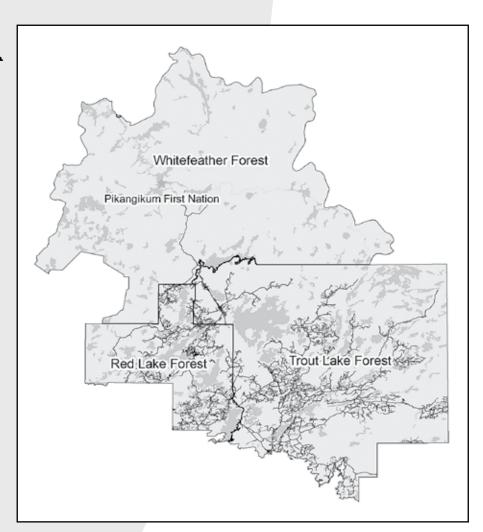
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Red Lake Forest Management Company

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Mark Zhang, R.P.F. Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Red Lake Work Centre

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

Sarah Bros, R.P.F.

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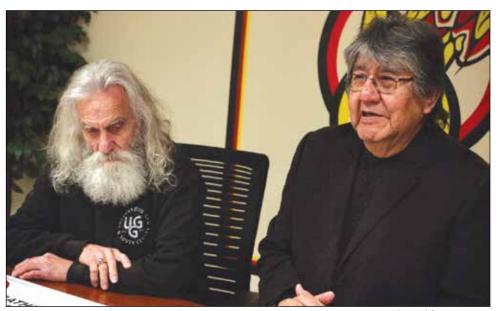
P.O. Box 422

Whitefeather Forest Community

Resource Management Authority

Renseignements en français: Sébastien Niemi, Stagiaire en Foresterie au 807 728-2278.

Matawa's investment will support youth development and upcoming projects



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO at Matawa First Nations Management and Peter Panetta, founder at the Underground Gym and Youth Centre.

...from previous page

"It is not everyday that we get this kind of substantial amount and with not having core funding, this investment will be put towards our programming and future aspirations"

The Underground Gym and Youth Centre provides free access to a variety of activities as well as meals for youth in need, and is dedicated to promoting and teaching fitness, healthy lifestyles, self-confidence and self-respect.

"We do plan on expanding more programs, we have 5,000 square feet of empty space right now," Panetta says. "I've talked to some trade unions and they are interested in collaborating, they have the jobs and we have the kids, the two of us together will be able to make something happen."

Laureen Kahgee, parent of three children who previously attended the Underground Gym and Youth Centre, says her children were interested in the Underground Gym and Youth Centre before they moved to Thunder Bay.

"They always talked about this guy that trained boxers and took in any kids," Kahgee says.

"Both of my sons were a part of the Underground Gym as well as my daughter, (who) used to go in and volunteer and teach the kids cooking classes and do arts and crafts with them."

Kahgee says her son Harlan Jr., who passed away in 2020, enjoyed learning about boxing at the Underground Gym and Youth Centre.

"He was as everyone said, a natural," Kahgee says. "His first boxing tournament he was put up against a Silver Gloves champion of Ontario who had boxed since he was a little boy, and Harlan went toe-to-toe with him every round and lost on a technicality."

Kahgee says both of her sons trained with Panetta every day when they were going to the Underground Gym and Youth Centre.

"It's so important to me to keep that gym going," Kahgee says. "It gives them incentive, they want to stay in school, they want to do better, they see the opportunities, Peter's telling them all the time (that) there's all these opportunities out

INSPECTION

Inspection of 2023-2024 Annual Work Schedules for Red Lake, Trout Lake, and Whitefeather Forests

The April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 Annual Work Schedules (AWS) for the Red Lake, Trout Lake, and Whitefeather Forests are available electronically for public viewing by contacting the Red Lake Forest Management Company (RLFMC), Domtar Inc., or the Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority (WFCRMA), respectively, during normal business hours. They are also available on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning March 15, 2023 and for the one-year duration of the AWS as written above.

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

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

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

RLFMC, Domtar Inc., and WFCRMA are responsible for tree planting on the Red Lake Forest, Trout Lake Forest, and Whitefeather Forest, respectively. Please contact the appropriate Forest Company listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the locations and license requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact the appropriate MNRF staff listed below. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the appropriate Forest Company listed below.

More Information

For more information on each AWS, to arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss an AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the appropriate MNRF staff listed below:

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Ministry of Natural Resources
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Red Lake Work Centre
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P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON PoV 2M0
tel: 807-727-2575
e-mail: Mark.Zhang@ontario.ca

Trout Lake Forest

Mark Zhang, R.P.F.

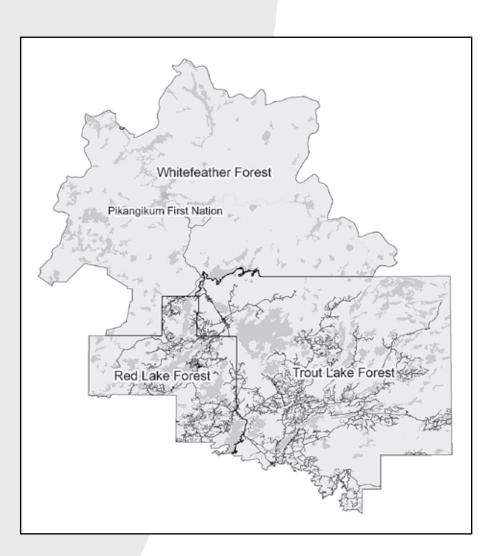
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Forest Management Superintendent Domtar Inc. Postal Bag 4004 1 Duke Street Dryden, ON P8N 3J7 tel: 807-223-9038 e-mail: cole.wear@domtar.ca



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Stay Involved

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

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

Sarah Bros, R.P.F.

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Renseignements en français: Sébastien Niemi, Stagiaire en Foresterie au 807 728-2278.

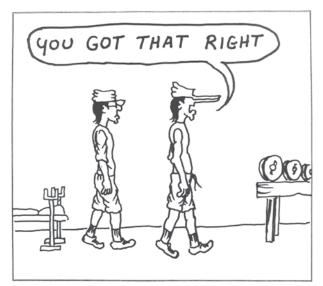








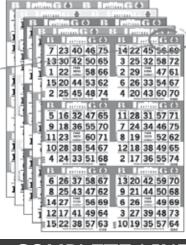














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GROWTH IS IN OUR CULTURE

WE ARE HIRING!

The Ontario Native Women's Association is growing and continually expanding services to Kenner and Sieux Luckout community members.

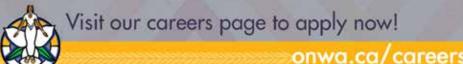
We are looking for leaders of Indigenous ancestry that have post-secondary education in social work or Indigenous studies to join our team:

Kenora

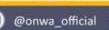
- Crisis Response Worker FT
- Indigenous Family Victim Liaison FT
- Community Wellness Worker FT
- Housing First Coordinator Nihdawin FT
- Housing Worker Nihdawin 2 FT vacancies

Sioux Lookout

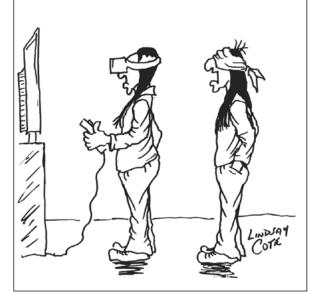
Mental Health Worker – FT

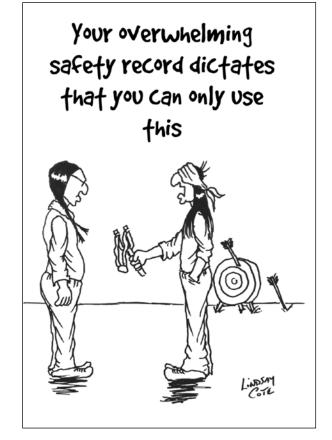


@ONWA7 📝 @_ONWA_ 🞯 @



No! If doesn't have a virtual savagely brutal Rez guy mode







Chief Executive Officer / President



POSITION SUMMARY

The CEO/President of the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) is a visionary leader who is a highly skilled and experienced executive responsible for leading the organization in its mission to improve the health and well-being of First Nations people in our communities.

This individual will have a deep understanding of the unique cultural and political context of First Nation communities and will be dedicated to working closely with the communities to ensure that their health needs are being met.

Additionally:

Responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with the Chiefs and First Nation communities, Tribal Councils, and key stakeholders;

Oversee the development and implementation of programs and services that support the health and well-being of First Nations people in the community;

Maintains an organized system of management that ensure smooth function of health system operations, the timely accomplishment of goals, and physical, financial and human resource viability and success;

Manages the functions of the health system in accordance with the direction set by the board of directors.

SLFNHA offers a highly competitive executive compensation package that includes:

- * Defined Contribution Pension Plan
- * Employer Paid Health Insurance
- * Annual Fitness Reimbursement
- * Paid Cultural and Wellness Days
- * Paid Vacation

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

A bachelor's or master's degree in business, health, or qualification and experience acceptable to the SLFNHA Board of Directors;

Extensive experience in a leadership role within First Nation health care;

Demonstrated ability to develop strategic plans;

Knowledge of health care funding, budgeting and financial management;

Proven experience and ability to manage complex human resources environments.

See full job description at:

https://www.slfnha.com/job/chief-executive-officer-president-ref-2023-005/ To apply or for more information, please contact:

Barbara Lockhart, SmartHire Human Capital Solutions, barbara@smarthire.solutions 416-258-5557

If applying by email, please indicate reference number (2023-005) in the subject line. The successful applicant will be required to submit a suitable criminal records check.

Persons of First Nations ancestry will be given preference

(OHRC, Part II, Special Employment).

*

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada

Crawford Nickel Project Public Comments Invited

What is happening?

February 6, 2023 — Canada Nickel Company is proposing the Crawford Nickel Project, a nickel-cobalt mine and on-site metal mill located 43 kilometres north of Timmins, Ontario.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada invites the public and Indigenous groups to review and provide feedback on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Public Participation Plan.

Visit the project home page on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number 83857) to:

- Learn more about the project.
- Submit your comments online by 11:59 p.m. on March 8, 2023. All comments will be published to the Registry.
- Attend an information session about the project and assessment.

Scan the QR-Code for more information about the project, the process, and the info sessions or visit the project Registry page.

Have a question?

Write to us at Crawford@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or visit the Agency's website at canada.ca/iaac.

For media inquiries: media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or 343-549-3870.



Literally woke up on the wrong side of the bed. It took me ten minutes to unhitch myself from under it and crawl back out



You wanted to see my medical record. Here you go, knock yourself out



What do you mean...if I was half the man I was. I am half the man I was



At my age, naps while doing sit ups are manditory

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Commentary

Meegwetch To Our Wonderful Elders



hese past few months have been hard on my friends and family as we have lost several prominent El-ders in our lives. My family was sad to see the passing of my aunt Josephine Koostachin of Fort Severn this past November. She was my mom's younger sister and their original family had all been born and raised on the Nawashi River north of the Attawapiskat River on the James Bay coast. They grew up in a traditional lifestyle on the land led by their parents Xavier and Louise Paulmartin and their extended fami-ly of aunts,

uncles and grandparents.

I recall one spring goose

hunt in the early 1990s when we took our Kookoom (grand-mother) Louise Paulmartin to Nawashi to see her old homeland. We camped near the mouth of the river and we took her on a tour where she pointed out where all her children were born. She explained that all her chil-dren came into the world with the help of grandmothers and family members who were highly capable and knowledgeable midwives.

Josephine was one of the younger sisters in her family and early on she met her husband Leeroy Koostachin and they started and raised their family in Fort Severn on the Hudson Bay coast. We all knew Fort Severn by its Cree name as 'Washaho'. Travelling was not easy back then but Josephine and Leeroy came to visit us at least once a year in the summers. This was a wonderful gift for my mom Susan to get a visit from her sister as it was difficult to travel back then. It took a great effort. became an important Elder in her community and she was involved in many programs and projects with Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) to support culture, traditions and language. One of my favourite memories of aunt Josephine's visits was when she cooked up her rec-ipe for making caribou meat-pie. I'm not sure if mom ever had the chance of discovering that recipe be-cause the only time we seemed to eat this delicious meal was when Josephine and Leeroy were in town. Sadly, Leeroy Koostachin passed on in 2012 however Josephine carried on to guide her family and community.

Another sudden loss my community felt was with the passing of past Attawapiskat Chief Mike Carpenter. Mike was a very prominent leader in our community and he held a special place for many different generations of people. He was a unique individual who held a

strong connection to our Elders and ancestral past while also having an understanding of how to navigate the complex world of politics and business.

of politics and business.

He was close to our Kataquapit family as he was married to my cousin Lucy Carpenter and my family and I grew up in connecting to all their children. When I was young I was in awe of Mike for his ability to fluently communicate and speak with our Elders in our Cree language while at the same time representing our people in the English speaking world outside our community. He was also involved in leadership positions with Mushkegowuk Council.

There seems to be so much sickness around these days and so many Elders are being struck. I was sad to hear recent news from Mattagami First Nation. Past Chief Walter Naveau lost his partner Cathy Naveau recently and this was a sudden event that shocked and saddened so many people in the

community and right across the country. I grew to know Walter and Cathy over two decades in my visits to Mattagami First Nation. As traditional people, the couple was instrumental in helping build their com-munity and contributed to much healing for so many. Their focus was always based on helping others and giving back to their community. I admired their dedication to support programs and projects dealing with addictions and recovery and in helping those that felt lost by reconnecting them to their traditional and cultural past. Cathy was involved in education programs for many years and she fought for programs and services that benefited young people. Walter was involved early on in helping those with addictions, then he became a councillor in the First Nation, then the Chief and went on to become a Deputy Grand Chief of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN). It was wonderful to see their story unfold.

As a friend, Cathy and Walter welcomed myself and my partner Mike into their circle and it was always with an openness, kindness and laughter and fun with every visit. It was awesome to see the love and care these two gave to their families and to young people.

and to young people. Strong Elders like Jose phine, Mike and Cathy made a great impression on my life by show-ing me that real strength and success is driven by care, wisdom, acceptance, love and kindness. I know that they all leave behind a great legacy of knowledge, wisdom and caring in Washaho (Fort Severn), Attawapiskat and Mattagami First Nations and that will be carried forward by their children, grandchildren and all those they connected with and helped along their journey. Kitchi-Meegwetch (thanks so much) to Josephine, Mike and Cathy for making our world a better place.

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