NAN hosts mental health summit to address addictions crisis

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) focused on the mental health and addictions crisis across NAN territory during its Mental Health Summit on July 12-14. The summit was held virtually and in-person at the Best Western Plus Norwester Hotel and Conference Centre near Thunder Bay.

"As this summit came about from the direction of our chiefs-in-assembly earlier this year to address the mental health and addictions crisis throughout NAN, we will continue to work to make considerations for mental health to be a part of all departments within NAN," says Grand Chief Derek Fox on the opening day of the summit. "To move this work along, we wanted to provide an opportunity for you to meet with us to share your knowledge and experiences and of course to set priorities for our executive.'

Fox says the summit also provided an opportunity to learn about and strengthen grassroots initiatives or ideas that are working in the commu-

"Your ideas, direction and input are wanted and much needed," Fox says. "From your discussions over the next three days, our team will take what you shared and create a strategic plan with clear goals and objectives to make changes in policies and services that are driven by community-led solutions. A report on the summit will be made available in time for the upcoming Keewaywin chiefs assembly in Timmins this August 9-11."

Cat Lake Chief Russell Wesley highlighted the importance of mental health awareness during his comments on the opening of the summit.

"Mental health awareness is essential in understanding the symptoms of distinct mental health illnesses many people face in our communities," Wesley says, noting he brought some of his band staff with him to the summit. "All of those staff have seen firsthand the effects of mental health illnesses secondary to addiction or other means of hardship in the lives of our (citizens) living in community or urban areas."

Wesley also stressed the realities in the lives of citizens, including family breakdowns, violence, separation and the grief, stress and anxiety on everyone including children who have been displaced because of the loss of parents and caregivers to incarceration or loss of life due to drug and alcohol abuse.

"During the (COVID-19) pandemic we were isolated," Wesley says. "You had to be there to see what the isolation did to our people and our mental well-being. During that time, drug and alcohol (abuse) rose exponentially with our isolation. We had at least five drug-related deaths from overdoses and on a personal level I lost two sonin-laws.

Wesley says meth, a highly addictive stimulant, is used by about 40 per cent of the people in Cat Lake.

"Many of the addicts have nowhere to reach out to because the resources just aren't there," Wesley says. "We don't have the capability or the resources in the community to support the help that they need. We would like to see more behavioural health resources, behavioural health programs, 12-step programs, medical detox from drugs and alcohol and inpatient mental health treatment."

Deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News Grand Chief Derek Fox speaks about the importance of addressing the mental

health and addictions crisis at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Mental Health Summit, held July 12-14 at the Best Western Plus Norwester Hotel and Conference Centre near Thunder Bay.

stressed how addictions affect everyone in the community during his comments on the opening of the summit.

"Addictions touches us all, it affects family, children," Linklater says. "Many grandparents, uncles, aunts have stepped up to watch children because their parents are so deep into it that they become almost a fragment of who they are."

Linklater says a documentary from the Blood tribe in the United States emphasized that the people suffering from addictions are still citizens of the communities.

"You still have to remember that those are our people regardless of how much hurt they have caused the

family and their parents and grandparents and what they have done to themselves," Linklater says. "They are still someone's mother, still someone's daughter, son. They still belong to us, they're our community (citizens)."

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa says it is unacceptable how the trauma and crises in the communities have become a way of life during his comments on the opening of the summit.

"It is not acceptable when we just normalize the suicides, the needless deaths, the unnecessary suffering that happens in our communities,' Mamakwa says, noting that he saw how rich First Nations people are in their land and waters and their iden-



Deputy Grand Chief Victor Linklater speaks about how addictions affect everyone in the community.

tity, languages and ways of life during the recent provincial election. "Ways of life meaning the trapping, the fishing, the things we do on the land, that's who we are. We always talk about this, that's where the healing is."

Mamakwa says he also sees the federal and provincial governments looking to access the lands in the north to help with economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Who are we 20, 50, 70 years down the road when we don't have access to these lands," Mamakwa says. "I think it is important that we need to be able to go back."

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Politics

Sol Mamakwa appointed deputy leader of the provincial NDP

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa looks forward to his new role as one of two deputy leaders of the provincial NDP after being appointed by interim NDP leader Peter Tabuns on July 13. Scarborough Southwest MPP Doly Begum was also appointed as a deputy leader.

"After being there for four years and being from far northern Ontario and also being Anishinabe, it's truly an honour to be able to represent as part of the leadership team for the Ontario NDP," says Mamakwa, who was re-elected to his second term as MPP during the provincial election on June 2. "It's something I will work my best to be able to provide a voice for the north and the direction where we want to go as a party but also most importantly in Ontario."

Mamakwa says he will be emphasizing some of the issues that people face in northern Ontario, such as the cost of living, limited access to health care, the housing issue and the price of fuel.

"But it's also a good opportunity to bring the municipalities and the First Nations together just because we have the same issues," Mamakwa says. "Over the last four years I've been on the finance committee and the issues we heard from northern Ontario were pretty much the same in line."

Mamakwa says the possible closure of hospital emergency departments due to a shortage of staff, such as the projected 12-hour closure of the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital Emergency Department on July 7-8 that was narrowly averted when a locum physician stepped in to provide coverage, affect all of the citizens served by the hospitals in the communities and neighbouring First Nations.

"That affects everyone because it has an impact on the health and the lives of people that live in Kiiweti-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa, pictured at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Mental Health Summit, was named as one of two deputy leaders of the provincial NDP by interim NDP leader Peter Tabuns on July 13.

noong, whether it's Sioux Lookout, whether it's Red Lake,' Mamakwa says, noting that emergency department closures in Sioux Lookout and Red Lake would result in people from northern communities being medevaced out to larger centres such as Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. "It's almost becoming that Sioux Lookout, Red Lake or the smaller municipalities are becoming like the fly-in First Nations where they do not have access to emergency department services. That's the work that we need to be able to do, try to improve the health care access and the emergency

department access as well."

Mamakwa and Tabuns had earlier called on the provincial government to act immediately to stop the further closures of emergency rooms in northwestern Ontario and across the province.

"We have reached a tipping point — ERs are being forced to turn off the lights because of low staffing levels," Tabuns says in a July 9 press release, which noted projected emergency room closures in five southern Ontario communities. "On behalf of the NDP, I am imploring the (provincial) government to recognize that we are

in a crisis, and take action to protect people's lives. We need to recruit new health care staff, attract those who have left the profession, get qualified internationally trained workers into hospitals, and stop the exodus of doctors and nurses that is still happening right now, as we speak."

Mamakwa had also sent a letter to provincial Health Minister Sylvia Jones on July 6 about the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital Emergency Department's projected closure on July 7-8.

"This is the second time in four months that the hospital's

Emergency Department is being forced to close because of physician shortages — as a result, emergent patients must travel 2.5 hours to Dryden to receive care," Mamakwa states in the letter. "When the Emergency Department closed in March, the chiefs of staff of hospitals in northwestern Ontario warned the government that more closures are imminent. I also alerted the government to this, explaining that such closures could happen in other northern hubs like Sioux Lookout. It is unacceptable that in a province like Ontario, thousands of northerners are being left

without life-saving care. This is made worse by the fact that this closure is not a surprise – we anticipated it. Therefore, we should have been prepared for it."

Mamakwa says his new role as a deputy leader would include stepping in to speak on the issues when the interim leader is absent.

"It will give me an opportunity to bring the issues that are northern focused (and a) northern voice to the leadership team but also to the government that is doing things legislatively," Mamakwa says.

Thank You, Airlines!

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Politics

FNMPC receives\$13.5 million in funding for natural resource projects

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) recently received \$13.5 million in federal funding to provide opportunities for Indigenous communities to benefit from natural resource projects and contribute to advancing Canada's net-zero by 2050 targets. The \$13.5 million in funding is part of the federal government's Budget 2022 commitment of \$100 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to expand the Indigenous Partnership Office and the Indigenous Natural Resource Partnerships program to all regions in Canada.

"This long-term investment (of \$13.5 million) by Natural Resources Canada in our services will ensure that our national First Nations communities will continue to have access to the business capacity supports, free of charge, that are required to make informed business decisions about their participation in major projects," savs Fort Nelson Chief Sharleen Gale, chair of the board of directors at FNMPC. "This investment also comes at a time when our people are advancing their participation in projects that will contribute to the energy transition, including critical minerals and electrification, furthering our vision of First Nations playing a lead role in the co-development and ownership of major natural resource and infrastructure projects going forward."

The funding supports FNMPC to empower First Nations with the tools, capacity and advice to make informed business decisions concerning natural resource and infrastructure projects proposed in their territories.

"We're not there to replace the community's capacity, I think we're there to enhance it and act as an advisor," says Niilo Edwards, CEO at FNMPC. "Ultimately the community makes the decision as to where they want to go, but we do have value to add and we've been successful in helping members in other parts of Ontario as well as other parts of Canada bring projects across the line. So



A group of First Nations Major Projects Coalition and federal government officials look forward to Indigenous communities benefiting from natural resource projects and contributing to Canada's net-zero by 2050 targets through \$13.5 million in funding from Natural Resources Canada.

we're able to share those experiences with other First Nations and help as best as we can."

The funding also supports the implementation of FNMPC's five-year strategic plan, which aims to increase Indigenous participation in the natural resource economy and increase awareness of the benefits of incorporating First Nations knowledge and environmental stewardship priorities in major projects.

"With this funding announcement, this will enable FNMPC to expand our reach to be able to take on more members and more projects and really contribute to the economic self determination of our members," Edwards says. "We offer a pretty good value proposition in terms of being able to bring together our national membership for knowledge sharing and best practices. We also focus on capacity building and knowledge transfer so we are able to assist our members in building the capacity they need at the community level for their administration and leadership to be able to take on project development themselves and to have the experience and the resources on the ground to

Jason Rasevych, president of the board of directors for the Anishnawbe Business Professional Association (ABPA), says the ABPA congratulates FNMPC on securing funding to support First Nations that are looking to explore major infrastructure

development and ownership as well as equity in major projects within their traditional terri-

"This will help position First Nations to become major players in advancing economic reconciliation through enhanced involvement in projects through ownership, equity and decision making authority related to specific initiatives like transmission line development, energy generation development to provide power to supply their own communities as well as industry and other regional and provincial power grids as well as ownership of transportation corridors and other opportunities in the mining, forestry and oil and gas sectors," Rasevych says, noting that the ABPA has a key role to play in northern Ontario to advance economic development within Treaty #3, Treaty #5, Treaty #9, Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850 and Robinson-Huron Treaty 1850. "The Anishnawbe Business Professional Association also supports its member nations in northern Ontario to advance major projects and other community-focused initiatives around economic development. The Anishnawbe Business Professional Association is also looking to provide guidance to industry and other third parties and other proponents that are looking to do business within the traditional territories of those First Nation communi-

Jonathan Wilkinson, minis-

ter of Natural Resources, says it is critically important that, moving forward, major natural resource projects engage and involve Indigenous peoples in meaningful ways.

"Ensuring Indigenous engagement and participation in resource projects going forward is a priority for this federal government — and it is critically important to economic reconciliation," Wilkinson says. "This announcement is another step forward in ensuring that Indigenous communities will have the tools and capacity to engage and to benefit in meaningful, long term ways.'



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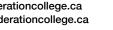
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Commentary

Knowledge Is Power



■ raduations symbolize an achievement a student Thas completed in gaining a new level of education. To my people, seeing the youth move up in their education is celebrated in a major ceremony as it symbolizes so much for us. My parents Marius and Susan Kataquapit always looked forward to celebrating these accomplishments. I can remember seeing all our Elders from my parents generation being so happy to witness the graduation of their youth every year.

Celebrating a graduation for youth was so important to our Elders because a proper education was something they had hoped for themselves but were denied. They had survived through the horrors of the residential school system as children and to them, receiving an education from non-Native instructors meant pain, abuse and even death. In my parents time when they attended residential school in the 40s and 50s, education for Indigenous children was more about an indoctrination into a foreign culture. It is a documented fact that the Canadian government wanted these residential schools run in such a way as to 'civilize' the Indigenous children by forcibly removing them from their families and their homes. It was all about assimilation no matter the cost.

Education became better later on but it was always lacking in so many ways in Indigenous communities. Personally, I consider myself fortunate in that I experienced several skilful and caring teachers in elementary school in my home community of Attawapiskat. However, there were several in-structors in the 70s and 80s who still saw Indigenous children and Indigenous families as people to dominate, be abusive towards and provide a less than perfect education.

The greatest tragedy we faced as children at the JR Nakogee Elementary School in my home community was the fact that it had been disastrously designed from the start in the 1970s with the installa-tion of fuel storage tanks underneath the school. The lines feeding and emptying these tanks broke in the extreme cold winters and over many years leaked thousands of gallons of fuel into the ground. Little did we know as children that several generations of students spent their entire elementary school education over top a toxic fuel dump.

I can remember the smell of the school as a child. It reeked of some chemical and we all just assumed that it was the smell of institutions like hospitals or a grocery store where they used strong in-dustrial cleaning products. We just thought it was normal and that is what a school smelled like. In fact we were breathing in toxic fuel every day in class.

Education has always been a struggle for my people on the James Bay coast and across Can-ada. Even now, our educators and advocates have to keep fighting to push for resources and adequate funding for their schools, the teachers and the students. Thankfully we have more Indigenous educators these days working hard to make sure our students are getting culturally appropriate instruction. My home community has also built the new Kattawapiskak Elementary School which now provides a healthier environment for its students.

I've always believed that education for Indigenous children should be a top priority for government. It doesn't just make sense from a historical perspective after the terrible history we have en-dured, it just makes good economic strategy in the long term. If we encourage generation after generation of well trained, well educated and highly motivated Indigenous youth, they will go on to lead our com-munities and find solutions to so many of the problems and challenges we face. The alternative is far worse because if Indigenous education is neglected or cut back it will leave young people with no hope and no opportunity. This will keep my people stuck in a colonial mindset and that takes us to a dark and sad future.

My parents encouraged us to focus on learning in school, to keep up our grades and to arm ourselves with knowledge. They always taught us that gaining as much education as possible would give us the opportunities we would need to survive in the new world. They saw in every annual gradua-tion a new generation gaining more and more knowledge, confidence and ability.

This time of the year we celebrate all of our graduates Indigenous and non Indigenous as we realize the future is in the hands of these young people. Our Elders have always understood that many of these young students will go on to become better, stronger people who will in turn inspire and encourage new generations of Indigenous children. These new generations will move our people ahead while maintaining a balance with one foot in our cultural and traditional ways and the other foot in the non Indigenous world.

Congratulations to all students and in particular for those Indigenous young people who are proudly carrying our traditions and cultures as they move further in education, employment and leadership. Education is knowledge and knowledge is power.

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Canadian Rangers guard the National War Memorial in Ottawa

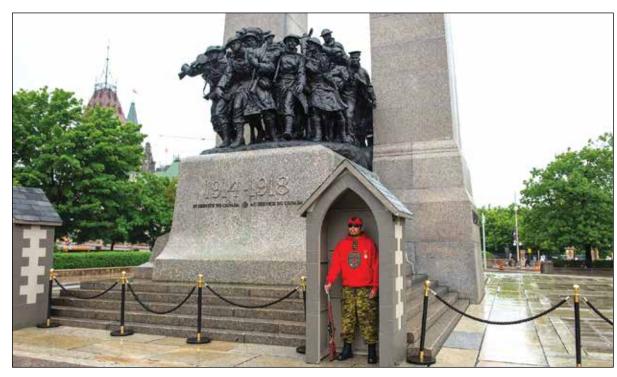


photo submitted by Captain Camilo Olea-Ortega

Four Canadian Rangers from remote First Nations in the Far North of Northern Ontario are currently acting as ceremonial sentries at the National War Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa. Ranger Howard Jacob of Webequie First Nation guards the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

From Flood To Some Fire Concerns



■he month of June provided some welcome breaks in weather patterns that had persisted through the spring season. Most areas of Northern Ontario had issues with spring flooding. A deeper snowpack then usual was common across the region and often compounded problems with high water levels. Issues with ice dams on rivers ranged from nuisance flooding on the Goulais River near Sioux Ste. Marie to major evacuations of people from communities next to the Albany and other major rivers in the far north.

Record amounts of precipitation during April and May in many areas in Northwestern Ontario set up high water levels from Kenora to the outskirts of Thunder Bay. Problems with flooding in Thunder Bay were minimal because the Neebing River Floodway was used to divert water flow away from vulnerable areas for about one week. The city was fortunate because no major storm events took place when rivers were cresting.

High water levels, flooding and weather conditions were more complex in areas further west. Flood warnings were issued at the end of April for Fort Frances, Kenora and most

communities In the Rainy River, Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul areas. Flood warnings were in effect for many locations within this large drainage basin until first week of July.

(I was surprised to learn the area of the Lake of the Woods and Winnipeg River watershed. At 136,840 square kilometres, it is larger than Canada's Maritime provinces and also larger than half of the countries in the world.)

The height of rivers and lakes in this watershed reached high levels because of a considerable snowpack and then record precipitation totals in April. Exceptional precipitation in May, combined with melting snow, resulted in high stream flow conditions and set new records by a large margin. Many areas experienced nearly "bankfull" situations during most of June. It was a time of vulnerability because a local thunderstorm or changes in upstream conditions could result in water spilling over river banks and/or lakes expanding inland.

Water levels declined during June in response to monthly precipitation being at or below average. Some local flooding took place in some areas because of isolated heavy rain events throughout the region. For example, on June 14 the area around Savant Lake, in the Lac Seul drainage basin received 50 mm of rain within one hour.

A number of communities in the region became eligible for disaster assistance following the floods. Northwestern Ontario was only one many areas in Canada that dealt with significant flooding this spring.

Climate warnings

These warnings come in many ways. Climate scientists in the later 20th century predicted increases in heavy rain events and subsequent flooding. Other researchers projected a steep increase in forest fire activity. Almost like clockwork, we have witnessed a transition of "100 year flood events" to situations that happen every 5 to 8 years. The area burned in Canada has doubled since the 1970s and is predicted to double again before 2050.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) reports that "Catastrophic losses due to natural disasters [almost always extreme weather events] have increased dramatically over the last decade". The IBC numbers, from 1983 to 2021, indicate a 15 to 20 times increase in insured losses over these four decades in Canada.

The compounding of weather-related disasters in British Columbia last year needs to be noted by all of Canada, including Northern Ontario. The so-called "heat dome" resulted in more than 619 heat-related deaths (Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia: June 7, 2022). The extremes in heat were followed by extreme fire behaviour across many areas of BC. After a pause of a couple of months some of the same and adjacent areas were dealing with persistent flooding. Blocked or persistent weather systems in middle-latitudes are becoming more frequent. They can stay in place for days or several weeks as has happened over western North America last year. Blocking events can cause extreme heat combined with drought but also prolonged or repetitious precipitation events.

The trends to more severe weather events have prompted some changes in policy. In recent years many cities, First Nations and some countries, including Canada, have declared "Climate Emergencies".

Outlook for July and August

Forest fire activity has picked up dramatically in recent weeks in parts of Western Canada, especially the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. There has been minimal wildfire activity across northern Ontario so far this year. This is in sharp contrast to last summer's very active fire situation which set records for area burned and also for evacuations of communities. The evacuations were due to smoke and, occasionally, close proximity of fires. Much of last year's wildfire activity was in northwestern Ontario.

The fire hazard is typically lower in Northern Ontario in July. Higher humidity in the atmosphere and relatively frequent afternoon rain showers typically reduce fire spread and intensity in mid and later summer.

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Commentary

Whispers In The Wind



Tational Indigenous
Peoples Day which takes
place on June 21 and the
wider National Indigenous History Month in June is a significant time for Indigenous people
in Canada.

This special day was established in 1996 by the Canadian government as a symbolic national holiday to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. In 2009, the House of Commons also passed a motion to designate June as National Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Before this special holiday and month were recognized, Indigenous people were more or less seen as insignificant communities that occupied the fringes of society and did not require any special status or recognition. It was far worse in my parents and grandparents time when they were basically looked upon as a forgotten people and savages that did not really exist in any meaningful way.

There is a great amount of Indigenous history in this country that has to be acknowledged. If it weren't for Indigenous leaders fighting to protect their homelands, so much of the northern wilderness would have been changed and destroyed by mining, forestry and hydro developments without any regard for the protection of the environment, ecology or even the people that lived on these lands. If First Nation leaders had not spoken up, the terrible history that my parents and others had to live through would all have been forgotten. There would have been no sense of justice or acknowledgement for the suffering my people had to endure for the simple fact that we happened to be a different culture than the one that colonized this country.

This year's events are saddened for myself personally and the people of my home community of Attawapiskat. In rapid succession within a month, we lost three prominent Elders including my aunt Martha Paulmartin and Elders Anna and Dominic Nakogee. These are individuals that grew up in a very traditional lifestyle on the land and who were raised by parents and Elders who only knew an old and ancient way of life on the James Bay coast. These Elders fluently spoke the James Bay Cree dialect and they knew so much of the history, traditions and customs of our people. I am comforted and reassured in the fact that they all raised a prominent group of sons and daughters that all carry their language and the histories of their families.

The great legacy that these

"Gourmet Popcorn" made locally.

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Elders leave behind is in their humble nature and their never ending sense of kindness, warmth and strength. Even after having endured periods in their youth of difficulty, discrimination and poverty, they still shared a sense of joy and happiness with others. Their passing reminds me how we should all remember the example of love and inclusion in the face of adversity. Even as the world changed in so many ways, Elders Martha, Anna and Dominic were always there to remind those around them to stay close to the land, to remember one another and to live life as harmoniously as possible. Their example remind me to always remember my past, to remember where I come from but also to stay strong and resilient to fight for future gen-

erations. We all share the historic benefits and burdens of this country and the recognition of Indigenous peoples history is just a step in the right direction of that shared past. I feel that this national holiday is a way for us to move out of the darkness of the past and walk together into a brighter future. We all rely on one another to build this country while hearing the voices of our ancestors whispering in the wind to protect the land, the water and the very air we breathe.

That spirit of cooperation and the memory of my Elders is what this holiday and this history means to me.

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Education

Lakehead graduates 198 Indigenous students

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Award-winning Mi'kmaw public speaker and actor Nadia George stressed the importance of using one's gifts during Lakehead University's Indigenous Student Graduation Celebration for 198 graduates on June

"Today you start a new chapter of life and there's something really amazing about that, says George, recipient of the 2021 Premier's Award in the Creative Arts and Design category. "Every other chapter has brought you to this beautiful blank page where you can write in any font, in any colour and in any form. I was once told that when you're born, Creator gives us many gifts and while we are here on Earth we are meant to question our purpose, making us more aware of these gifts. And as we move forward taking various paths we find ways to use them on our journey. What I love about that saying is how it embraces the cycle of life, that nothing is linear."

George says one of the main lessons she has learned is to not limit yourself.

"I have worked in everything from retail to therapy to acting and I've gained so much knowledge from each of those roles," George says. "If someone had told me when I was 18 what my journey was going to entail, I would have laughed. I was a young mom who didn't graduate high school, I had no idea of my own worth and like some of you who are here today, I was the first to attend post-secondary school in my family."

George says the graduates all have worth and took the time to invest in themselves.

"I want to remind each and every one of you the power you have to not only take up space but to create space for future generations," George says. "This is your time to challenge narratives, policies and change the outcomes for all of those who follow behind you. You've all spent two or more years sitting down and listening, learning what you can, now it's time for you to stand up and speak

your truth, taking all you know and using it to further opportunities for yourself and others."

George says she has learned over the years that part of her role in her life is to use her "privilege and platform to bring education and awareness, waking up sleeping minds and unlocking doors so others can have brighter futures."

Denise Baxter, vice-provost Indigenous Initiatives at Lakehead University, says the Indigenous graduates will receive yellow honour cords when they attend the in-person graduation ceremony or through mail if they cannot attend in person.

"The yellow honour cord recognizes and acknowledges the achievements of Indigenous students," Baxter says. "The honour cord has long been used to symbolize that the wearer has obtained a specific honour or distinction, academic or otherwise. Lakehead University has proudly added the tradition of an honour cord to recognize the achievements of Indigenous graduates and to celebrate and honour the richness and knowl-

edge they bring to our university community."

Moira McPherson, president and vice-chancellor at Lakehead University, says she is proud of how the graduates adapted to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrated their resilience and spirit in so many ways.

"Congratulations on your graduation — you should be proud and happy of the hard work, the hard thinking and commitment that has brought you to this day," McPherson says. "You have accomplished so much here at Lakehead and we are hopeful your efforts going forward will help make our world a better place."

McPherson also acknowledged the families and friends who supported and encouraged the graduates during their personal triumphs and tribulations.

"To the class of 2022, keep us in your hearts and in your minds," McPherson says. "We cannot wait to learn about your many future accomplishments."



screensho

Award-winning Mi'kmaw public speaker and actor Nadia George encouraged graduates to use their gifts during her keynote presentation at Lakehead University's Indigenous Student Graduation Celebration on June 15.

REVIEW

Review of Draft Forest Management Plan Wabadowgang Noopming Forest 2023 -2033 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), NorthWinds Environmental Services and the Armstrong Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the 2023 – 2033 Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Wabadowgang Noopming 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 third opportunity (Stage Three) for this FMP occurred on January 12, 2022 to February 11, 2022 when the public was invited to review and comment on proposed operations for the ten-year period of the FMP. This 'Stage Four' notice is to invite you to:

- review and comment on the draft FMP; and
- contribute to the background information

Comments from the public will be considered in revisions to the draft FMP.

How to Get Involved

The Draft FMP, including supplementary documentation, the Draft FMP summary and the current versions of the information and maps which were previously accessible will be available electronically on the Natural Resources Information Portal at www.nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online and can be made available by contacting the NorthWinds Environmental Services, contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 60 days July 11, 2022 to September 9, 2022. Comments on the draft FMP for the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest must be received by Robin Kuzyk of the planning team, by September 9, 2022.

The Information Forum related to the review of Draft Forest Management Plan 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:

Robin Kuzyk, R.P.F.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South, Suite Boo1, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-709-1959 e-mail: robin.kuzyk@ontario.ca

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Bruce Hyer

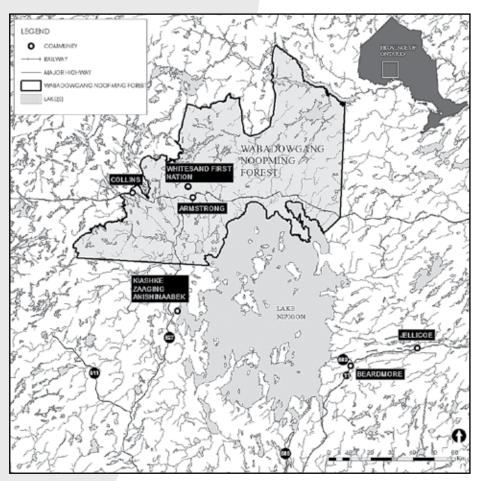
Armstrong Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) c/o Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South, Suite B001 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7

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 Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1).

The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is ${\bf September\ 24,\ 2022}.$

Stay Involved

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



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

Stage Five - Inspection of the MNRF-approved FMP. The MNRF-approved FMP and the FMP summary will be available for inspection for the 10-year duration of the FMP.

The approval date of the FMP is tentatively scheduled for December 13, 2022.

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 NorthWinds Environmental Services 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 Alison Dupuis, District Business Co-Ordinator, MNRF, at Alison. Dupuis@ontario.ca.

Renseignements en français : Robin Kuzyk, F.P.I., au courriel : robin.kuzyk@ontario.ca.



Education

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Oshki celebrates radiological technician graduates

PVV

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Weniack Education Institute celebrated six graduates from the Basic Radiological Technician Program during a graduation ceremony on June 28 at the Oshki-Wenjack campus in Thunder Bay.

"(It was) interesting, just learning how to do X-rays," says Ruth Anderson, a Basic Radiological Technician Program graduate from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. "I've just been training at home, the trainer comes to KI."

Herman Hall, a Basic Radiological Technician Program graduate from Jamaica who works in Attawapiskat, says the program was excellent, noting that he was asked by a clerk in Attawapiskat to do the program.

"It was excellent, you can't ask for more," Hall says. "I thank Oshki for everything they have done. I just want to say: 'I'll be back, I just got started."

Lorrie Deschamps, president at Oshki-Wenjack, says the Basic Radiological Technician Program has been provided

"We don't recruit for this proram, the communities appoint their staff from the nursing station to train to be (basic radiological technicians)," Deschamps says. "If COVID-19 taught us anything, it's that we need more people trained in the community to do services like this one."

Deschamps says training to do digital X-rays is also being set up at the nursing stations, noting that Janet Scherer, academic director of the Basic Radiological Technician Program at Oshki-Wenjack, and Greg Toffner, president and CEO at the Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Sciences, have been travelling to the communities to set up the training.

"I'm so happy that this program has been around for a long time and we still have community (citizens) interested," Deschamps says, noting that the program is funded by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. "It's a very successful program."

Scherer says the Basic Radio-

logical Technician Program graduates trained how to take basic X-rays with high-tech

equipment during the program. "This eliminates the need for patients to be flown out for routine X-rays, which is much less disrupting of their (patient's) family life and also less costly," Scherer says. "Most of the teaching is done in the community — they have basically three sessions in the community and then they take X-rays between our academic sessions and then they come here for a final consolidation where we do competency assessments and they graduate."

Scherer says a similar program has been developed in Nunavut based on Oshki-Wenjack's Basic Radiological Technician Program.

"It's a great program," Scherer says. "Standards are maintained and we have the cooperation of the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win (Health Centre) and the Weeneebayko (General) Hospital in Moose Factory, so we have that support which is essential."

Toffner says the Basic Radiological Technician Program is a critically important program.

"This program really pro-



Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute's Lorrie Deschamps and Janet Scherer and Ontario Association of Medical Radiation Sciences' Greg Toffner celebrated with four of the Basic Radiological Technician Program graduates during a June 28 graduation ceremony at Oshki-Wenjack's campus in Thunder Bay.

vides a sustainable resource in the communities to provide timely access to basic diagnostic X-ray services, so it's increased access to care and prevents people from being flown out of the community unnecessarily," Toffner says. "And it legitimizes

flying people out in a timely manner if they really need to be medevaced out of the com-

Toffner says the Basic Radiological Technician Program also empowers people from the communities to be involved in health care delivery services.

"Having First Nations people involved in their own care and providing services to the community in a sustainable manner is an excellent service." Toffner says. "The program is held to a very high standard and these

people are working very hard to get through the program."

Oshki-Wenjack also plans to hold a graduation ceremony on Aug. 26 for 2021 and 2022 graduates from 13 programs at the Da Vinci Centre in Thunder

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The Great Northern Ontario Roadshow is a production of Science North, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

Education



Matawa Education and Care Centre graduate Drew Waboose posed with Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum during the MECC graduation ceremony at the MECC in Thunder Bay.

Matawa Education and Care Centre celebrates new graduates

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Matawa Education and Care Centre (MECC) 2022 graduation ceremony featured a special class valedictorian video created by valedictorian Antoine Moonias at the MECC in Thunder Bay.

"(For) my video presentation, I just couldn't help but tear up every now and then when making it," says Moonias, an MECC graduate from Neskantaga who has about two years of experience in video editing and plans to pursue post-secondary studies in film production. "I actually spent the whole night working on it, probably from 6 o'clock yesterday in the evening to 6 in the morning."

Moonias encourages people to "just do" whatever goal they may be thinking about pursu-

ing.
"Don't think, but just do," Moonias says. "No matter what people think of you, just do what you want to do because if you don't do what you want to do, you'll just regret it."

Moonias says he loved pursuing his high school studies at MECC, noting that it was like one of his homes over the past three years.

"I really loved the environment because everybody is so nice and I'm glad I never changed schools," Moonias says. "This has probably been the best three years of my life, and I'm going to miss it defi-

Drew Waboose, an MECC graduate from Marten Falls who plans to take a semester off from school before pursuing post-secondary studies in the trades, says MECC was "awesome.

"Everyone here is really nice, the teachers are really helpful and the curricular activities were pretty fun as well," Waboose says. "They took us out fishing or hunting."
Waboose says Matawa's

plans to provide residential accommodations for students aged 13 to 17-years-old during the upcoming school year is a ʻgreat idea."

"When students come to the city to go to school, sometimes they don't feel comfortable with boarding homes," Waboose says. "So it's nice that they have dorms ready for students in the coming years."

Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum says "it's great" to see that the new residential accommodations will be ready for students this upcoming fall.

"It's going to be a whole new generation of educated young folks," Achneepineskum says. 'We need more of this in the future, support for our young students that come out and have to board in the cities and towns - they need that support.'

Achneepineskum says he did not have much support when he attended high school in Thun-

"A lot of time I didn't have any support systems," Achneepineskum says. "There were no counsellors at that time. It's a little bit of a culture shock from living in a small community and coming out to the big city, there's a lot of danger sometimes and you need the guidance and support system."

Sharon Nate, executive director at Matawa Education Authority, says the four MECC 2022 graduates, which includes Neskantaga's Adam Arcon and Tyrese Whitehead, were the first to graduate from the newly renovated building, which was formerly the Grandview Lodge that was transferred from the City of Thunder Bay to Matawa in 2017.

"We are very proud of you for working through these difficult years that you have faced," Nate says. "It's really been tough, especially the last couple of

Nate says the MECC's gymnasium is currently being constructed on the north side of the building.

"The renovations and everything in this building is all completely done, our final phase is the gymnasium, so this coming fall our Matawa students will be living here," Nate says. "It's a project that many people have been working on for so many years and to have this finally become a reality is such a tremendous feeling of accomplishment for all of us.

BOARDING HOME RECRUITMENT

NNEC is currently recruiting boarding homes for the upcoming school year.



A home away from home is what First Nations youth need when they leave their remote communities and come here to learn for a brighter future.

Students need people who understand and are open to learning more about their culture, to be a Boarding Home Provider and to welcome them to your safe and caring home for the upcoming school year, with support from the N. N. E. C. Secondary Student Services Program.

Host families are being recruited now.

Visit www.nnec.on.ca for more information.

Education

Mallory Solomon's research project wants to help children with disabilities

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Constance Lake's Mallory Solomon is working on a research project on the use of brain computer interfaces (BCIs) to help children with severe disabilities to interact with their environment and unlock new opportunities to connect with loved ones.

When you use brain computer interfaces you wear a head cap and then you are able to control the environment around you without moving a muscle," says Solomon, a Nishnawbe Aski Nation Oshkaatisak Council member who graduated with a psychology degree from Algoma University in 2022 and plans to pursue a masters in clinical psychology at Lakehead University this fall. "You're using your brain signals to control your environment, so it's kind of like if this person wasn't able to communicate, they would be able to think of a reply and then that reply would show up on a computer.'

Solomon says a child or youth wearing the head cap, which contains sensors that detect brain activity, could also turn on a light switch by actively thinking about turning

"The amazing thing about this kind of brain computer interfaces is some of it you are able to use at home," Solomon

Solomon is one of 20 undergraduate students from across the country who are participating in the Ward Family Summer Student Research Program, which provides opportunities for students to co-create novel research innovations in the PRISM Lab, one of 13 research labs at Holland Bloorview's Bloorview Research Institute in Toronto. The Ward Family Foundation is funding the entire program and CIBC is sponsoring the Indigenous stream and the Lived Experience stream.

"Right now I am working with Tom (Chau, director of the PRISM Lab and vice president of research at Holland Bloorview), to build an Indigenous framework and to hear an Indigenous perspective about communication,' says. "We've been trying to connect with Indigenous organizations but it's been a little bit hard lately because (of) our history with researchers.

Solomon says the BCIs enable children to interact with their peers and provide them with a chance to join into the

"They have so much to give and these technologies can help them to contribute, to be social with other children their age and just to join in the community circle again," Solomon says. "(I'm) just wanting to hear the stories from knowledge keepers and from other youth or families with lived experiences with disabilities."

Solomon says she has been working remotely on the research project from her home in Hearst.

"I've just been meeting with my supervisor every day," Solomon says. "Right now it's in the early stages so we're just writing proposals, submitting the REB (Review Ethics Board) application and I'm just doing some groundwork and reaching out to Indigenous organiza-

Solomon says she has been offered an opportunity to continue her research project after the Ward Family Summer Student Research Program ends on July 22.

"It's probably going to take a year or two to complete, trying to build trusting relationships with the communities," Solomon says. "So I'm just making sure the project is done right."

Solomon says her future goals are to do a PhD after completing her masters.

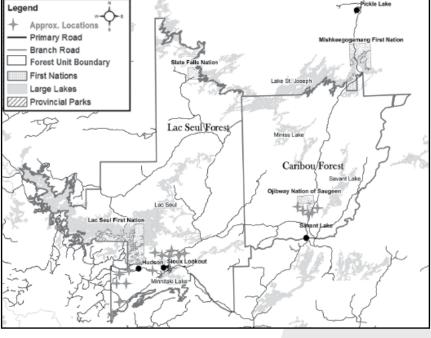
"I'm hoping to do more positive research with regards to Indigenous mental health and well-being, specifically to youth," Solomon says, adding that she wants to collaborate with other Indigenous people from different continents. "But I'm also hoping to ... open a private practice in northern Ontario in the Hearst area and provide psychotherapy to the youth within my area. One day I hope to open up a healing lodge that is for Indigenous youth as well as other youth."

Solomon was scheduled to present her research at the Ward Summer Research Day virtually on July 19 along with the other undergraduate stu-

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Projects for The Caribou and Lac Seul Forests

The Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) invites you to inspect these NDMNRF-approved aerial herbicide projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the Caribou and Lac Seul Forests (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: August 01, 2022.



The approved project descriptions and project plans for the aerial herbicide projects are available electronically for public inspection by contacting the office of Resolute Forest Products Canada Inc. (responsible for the Caribou Forest) or Obishikokaang Resources Corporation (responsible for the Lac Seul Forest) during normal business hours. They can also be found on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning July 01, 2022 until March 31, 2023 when the current Annual Work Schedules expire. The general locations of the aerial herbicide project blocks for both plans can be viewed on the map depicting both forest units above.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a meeting with NDMNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

Constance Lake's Mallory Solomon was one of 20 undergraduate students from across the country who participated in the Ward Family

Summer Student Research Program this summer.

First Nations Restoration Center

ANNUAL **GENERAL MEETING**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday August 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm (CST) CALL 737-2078 for Zoom link and/or Sioux Lookout meeting location.

www.firstnationsrc.org email: firstnationsrc@yahoo.ca

CARIBOU FOREST

NDMNRF Contact

Dean Rosen, R.P.F. in Training Assistant Management Forester Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry Sioux Lookout District Office 49 Prince Street, Box 309 Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A6

tel: (807) 738-4995 dean.rosen@ontario.ca

Resolute FP Canada Contact Matthew Hupf, R.P.F. Forestry Coordinator Resolute Forest Products Canada Inc. 2001 Neebing Avenue Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3 tel: (807) 475-2458 matthew.hupf@resolutefp.com

LAC SEUL FOREST **NDMNRF Contact**

Kevin Pruys, R.P.F. Management Forester Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry Sioux Lookout District Office 49 Prince Street, Box 309 Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A6 tel: (807) 738-4937 kevin.pruys@ontario.ca

Obishikokaang Resources Corp. Contact

Robert Auld, R.P.F. Silviculture Supervisor, Lac Seul Forest **Obishikokaang Resources Corporation** 33 3rd Avenue, Box 38 Hudson, ON PoV 1X0 tel: (807) 738-1073 rjauld@hmeenterprises.ca

Renseignements en français : Derek Johnson - (807) 220-4273





Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation

Federal Indian Day School Assistance

Are you from a NAN First Nations community?

Do you have questions about the Indian Day School Settlement form?

Do you need Legal Assistance in submitting your claim?

If you need legal assistance with your Federal Indian Day School Claims Form, contact Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation Staff:

Megan Wood Staff Lawyer

Thunder Bay Office Phone: 1-807-622-1413 Direct: 807-627-8083 Toll Free: 1-800-465-5582 Email: mwood@nanlegal.on.ca

Cheryl Suggashie

Public Legal Education & Communications Coordinator

Thunder Bay Office Cell: (807) 620-9253

Email: csuggashie@nanlegal.on.ca
*Who can assist in Direction and Resources

Adam Mack

Public Legal Education

Timmins Office Cell: (705) 262-3389

Email: amack@nanlegal.on.ca

*Who can assist in Direction and Resources

Mental Health Support and additional helpful resources

With the recent and on going discoveries of the unmarked graves across the country, and even when you are filling out your "Indian Day School" application form, please know that talking or thinking about painful past experiences can trigger intense thoughts, and or feelings. It really helps to talk to a trusted person, such as a friend, family member or an Elder. In some cases you may not be aware of your own Trauma, and it can resurface. Triggers can happen at anytime time. If your feeling overwhelmed, anxious and or upset, please reach out to someone immediately. Take time out, practice self care, especially through these trying times.

Please see below for free available Mental Health Resources:

Argyle Community Support Program (For Indian Day Schools only)

One-on-one support by a trauma informed Claims Assistant

for help completing the Claims Form

Phone: 1-877-515-7525

Monday through Friday 8am - 9pm Eastern (Interpretation services provided upon request) Email: idscommunitysupport@argylepr.com

https://indiandayschools.com/en/support/community-support-

program/

Talk 4 Healing: Talk, Text, Chat

Services in Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Cree, English, French 24/7 culturally sensitive counselling, advice, and support to Indigenous women.

Toll Free: 1-855-554-4325 www.talk4healing.com

Hope for Wellness Help Line

24/7 Services in English, Cree, Ojibway, Inuktitut, French Toll Free 1-855-242-3310

www.hopeforwellness.ca with Chat Feature

NAN Hope

Toll Free 1-844-626-4673 Text: 1-844-626-4673

www.nanhope.ca with Chat Feature

24-hour Residential School Crises Line

For immediate emotional assistance

Toll Free: 1-866-925-4419

Access Health Support Services & more information

Toll Free: 1-888-301-6426 www.healthcanada.ge.ca/irs

Indian Residential Schools Survivors and Family

Toll Free: 1-800-721-0066

www.irsss.ca

Native Women's Association of Canada

In-house elders offering support, Monday to Friday 9-11am and

1-3 p.m. Eastern Time Toll Free: 1-888-664-7808

www.nwac.ca

MMIW Crisis Line

24/7 support to family, friends and community citizens impacted by the loss of a missing or murdered Indigenous woman, girl, or

Two-spirit person Toll Free: 1-844-413-6649 https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/



Toll Free: 1-800-465-5581 Phone: (807) 622-1413 Fax: (807) 622-3024

Email: info@nanlegal.on.ca Website: www.nanlegal.on.ca

Please stay tuned for our future "Virtual Gathering" as we will be discussing; Indian Day Schools, mental health topics, and the discoveries of the unmarked graves.

More information to follow!

For more information and or assistance on "Indian Day School Settlement" claims form, with Nishnawbe Aski Legal Services Corporation, please visit our website:

https://nanlegal.on.ca/federal-indian-day-school-class-

action/

Education



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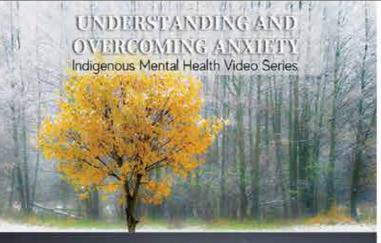


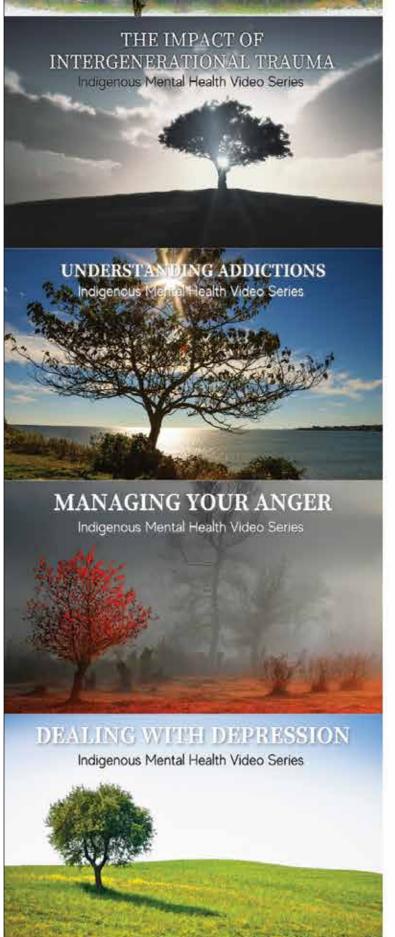




Helping you live the life you deserve







Indigenous Mental Health Video Series

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: SULLIVAN + ASSOCIATES

About the Series

presented by Jasmine Peterson

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

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

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





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Arts and Entertainment

Talking Treaties event held at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Anishinabek perspectives on the Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850 were shared by Fort William Councillor Michele Solomon, lawver Nicole Richmond and Elder Gene Nowegejick during the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Oshdeebeganwin gathering on July 14. A video of the gathering is posted online at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery Youtube page at: www.youtube. com/channel/UC3PQh8tymicg7AirHX3Yvew.

"Speaking for Fort William First Nation, the land that was agreed to in the treaty and the land that was actually identified in the treaty were wrong," Solomon says. "One of the misunderstandings was leagues versus miles — a league is three miles. When you start looking at the land that was provided for in the treaties for the amount of people in the community, it was not a realistic amount of land."

Solomon says the Fort William citizens were thriving and living off the land at the time of the signing of the treaty.

"People were making a living in traditional ways but also engaged in trade with the Hudson's Bay Company selling furs and other goods," Solomon says. "Many families made their living through commercial fishing, and this involved exporting barrels of salted fish to Detroit and other places. But significant to this is that they relied on the islands of Lake Superior to fish from and to do the exporting of the barrels of fish, and unfortunately when it came to the signing of the treaty and the expropriation of lands the islands were not included in the treaty."

a rise in provincial hunting laws

"At the end of the century Indigenous people started to be penalized," Solomon says.
"Hunters and trappers and treaty rights."

Richmond, a Biigtigong Nishnaabeg citizen, says the Anishinabek people have very different beliefs about what they are doing and what their responsibilities are on Earth.

cooperate it's more of a holistic system rather than capitalflow of resources," Richmond balance, this principle of minobimadziwin. We have a responthat is what we are doing here."

Richmond says the Anishinabek people also have a higher responsibility to take care of the

ships with spiritual beings that

Solomon says there was also after the signing of the treaty.

fishermen were actually being imprisoned for practicing their

"We believe we are all connected, we believe there is something for everybody, we don't believe in scarcity, we believe that if we share and we ism which is a hierarchy system where there's someone at the top that has to control the says. "We believe that the core thing we are doing is to live in sibility to live in a good way and

"We have relationships with animals, we have relation-



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

Fort William Councillor Michele Solomon, Elder Gene Nowegejick and lawyer Nicole Richmond spoke about the Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850 at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Oshdeebeganwin gathering on July 14.

are unseen, but our primary responsibility is to the Creator," Richmond says. "(The land) is not exclusively for our benefit, we are not put here to use land just because we are capitalists and we are using land and we are consuming land. We have a responsibility for the seven generations that are going to come after us to take care of this land and use it in a good way."

Nowegejick, a Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek citizen, says his great great grandmother had a direct line to the Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850.

"The person that signed the

treaty was Big Bear," Nowegejick says. "I speak Anishinabemowin fluently and I have proof — I have an original flag that was presented in 1850. And we have a treaty document, land survey document, 30 years after.'

Nowegejick says his grand-

father told him that there were 40,000 people around Lake

Nipigon back then. "There's gravesites all around that lake, big epidemics," Nowegejick says. "Pandemics are nothing new to us."



Arts and Entertainment

Thunder Bay Art Gallery and Matawa receive green infrastructure funding

Wawatay News

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery and Matawa First Nations Management are receiving more than \$33.4 million in federal government funding for green infrastructure projects in Thunder Bay. The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is receiving \$19,612,000 through Infrastructure Canada's Green and **Inclusive Community Buildings** (GICB) program for its planned net-zero facility on the Thunder Bay waterfront while Matawa is receiving \$13,844,168 through the GICB program for the rehabilitation of a former long-term care home into the Matawa

Training and Wellness Centre – Green Building Project.

'The Matawa Training and Wellness Centre – Green Building Project is pleased to be one of the recipients of Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Building program in the country and one of two green infrastructure projects in Thunder Bay," says Robinson Meshake, president of the Matawa First Nations Management Board of Directors. "We know there were a lot of other worthy projects that were proposed. Overall, this project will see a reduction of 420.8 tCO2 and an increased energy efficiency of 2,683,503 Kwh or 69.9 per cent. This investment of \$13,844,168 is a substantial contribution for which we are very grateful. It will help to continue to move this project forward towards completion in 2023.

Sharon Godwin, director at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, says the new facility will enable the gallery to exhibit more of the art in its permanent collection, which includes two paintings by Norval Morrisseau that were recently donated to the gallery by Confederation College after being stolen in 1981 and recovered this past Febru-

"The collection is so large and there are so many things that this gallery wants to do for the community, so we will have a space that's always dedicated to some work from the collection," Godwin says. "But of course we can never show it all, it's 1,600 pieces, but this will allow us to show a lot more and always have something on

"The gallery board and staff who have been working to realize the new waterfront art gallery for over a decade are extremely grateful to Infrastructure Canada for this groundbreaking funding which will ensure the construction of the new waterfront art gallery."

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu says the new art gallery will not only provide an opportunity for exhibitions of the art from the permanent collection, but also the art of young artists.

"It also allows young, new Indigenous artists a space to show their work, build up their repertoire and build up

Godwin says they are building the new facility, which she estimated would be open by 2025, to provide a space for the whole community to come in and be engaged with art.

"The gallery really is for everyone, people from all walks of life — you don't have to know about art, you come to learn about art," Godwin says.

> applauded by those in attendance at the art gallery. their own recognition across the province and the country," Hajdu says. Hajdu says the federal gov-

> > for about 10 times the amount of funding that was available through the GICB program. "Each application was evaluated on its feasibility, on its

commitment to net zero emissions as a building and on its fit for the actual fund criteria," Hajdu says.

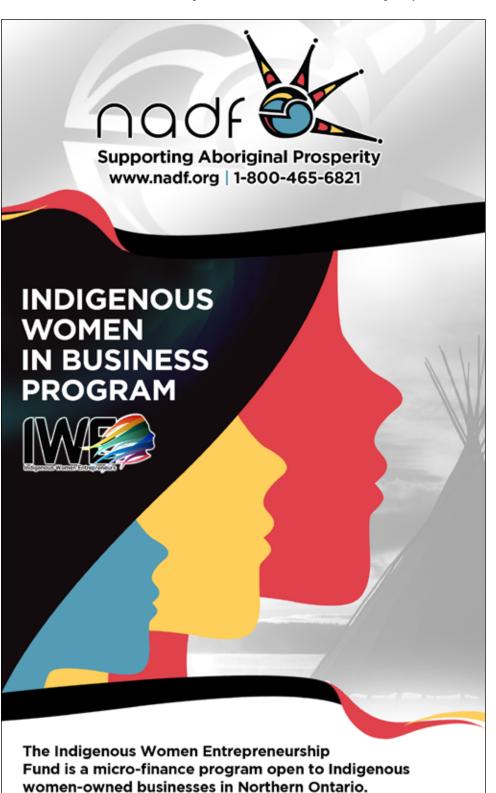
ernment received applications

"The funding announced today will go towards the creation of beautiful facilities where Thunder Bay residents will be able to access essential and culturally appropriate healthcare, social and cultural services. Our government will continue to build a greener and more inclusive tomorrow for future generations.'

The federal government is investing more than \$49.5 million towards the Thunder Bay Art Gallery and Matawa Training and Wellness Centre – Green Building projects.



Gallery's planned net-zero facility on the Thunder Bay waterfront was



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Arts and Entertainment

Sara Kae launches new single 'Rise'

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Red Rock Indian Band musician Sara Kae (Kanutski) recently celebrated the launch of her song Rise after initially holding a single release party.

"It was great to finally have that out," Kae says. "It was released in the evening of the 17th, so it was out that evening but I decided to just wait until the morning to give it the social media push. That morning, it was great, everyone was sharing it and it got added to a playlist on Spotify. It's still being brought up and people are still tagging me and I'm finding that I'm getting messages and follows from people on social media who have heard the song. It means a lot that it's travelling beyond immediate community.'

Kae wrote the song on National Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 with a focus on resilience and strength.

"It was just a stream of emotions from celebrating the day feeling as if we made so many accomplishments as Indigenous peoples but also feeling as if there's still a lot of work that needs to be done and a lot of education and programming and just movement to inform the general public of our situations," Kae says.

Kae says her interest in music was sparked by seeing her father Ron Kanutski playing music

"It just sparked curiosity, so

from there I was able to explore that because my dad was very encouraging," Kae says. "I got to go to concerts and see other people performing and after I saw people performing I was like: 'Yeah, that looks like a good time."

Kae says she believes her purpose in life is to help people by using her music...

Kae says she believes her purpose in life is to help people by using her music, from putting someone onto the idea of music and creating music to making someone feel wanted and whole and loved.

"So if there is any way I can use music to communicate and to heal, then that's kind of where I'm going to be headed because I know it was so important and integral to my growth as an individual," Kae says. "I would not have been here if it wasn't for the endless support from my community and the endless support from the youth in the community who believed in me in going for my dreams and really pursuing a career in music."

Kae says she enjoyed studying music at the Metalworks Institute in Mississauga, where she graduated from Music Performance and Technology in

"You get to learn all the elements on how to be an independent artist and how to get better as a performer and a songwriter," Kae says. "But then it's also teaching you the sides to the business that you might not have ever thought to explore as well as the history behind it, so how did we get to the space that we are in the industry now, the music that shaped it, the genres that took over different decades and then also how these people marketed it and how we're marketing it now.'

Kae also appreciated the opportunity to network and meet new people during her time in the Music Performance and Technology program.

"It was nice to get to a space where everyone kind of thought the same as me and had the same mentality and was just as passionate about music as I was," Kae says. "So to be in that space seeing all these talented people thriving, it definitely uplifted me and gave me the opportunity to be my best self."

Kae adds that she is currently enjoying her sales and marketing coordinator role at the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra.

"This position has led me to so many new opportunities," Kae says. "It's a good way to get my foot in the door in numerous ways and also just stay active and stay busy."



submitted pho

Red Rock Indian Band musician Sara Kae's song Rise was added to a playlist on Spotify after she launched it.



Sports

2022 Casey Tait Klik Cup held in Fort William First Nation

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The 2022 Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament was a success with competitive hockey and more than \$30,000 raised for dialysis care from July 1-3 at the Fort William First Nation Arena.

"It's a really good tournament to have, especially for fundraising efforts for people that are coming to Thunder Bay that need dialysis services," says Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa, noting that clean drinking water is required for dialysis units. "So it is important to be able to have the support for the people when they struggle with resources for services when they (need) dialysis."

Mamakwa says the tournament was "so fun" due to the draft selection process for the teams.

"I played hockey myself and it's really fun," Mamakwa says. "I watched some games here today (July 3) and there was some really good hockey. I really give kudos to the organizers — I think this tournament is just going to get bigger and bigger. The teams were really even and it was about having fun in midsummer. It's so awesome to get together, especially after two-and-a-half years of no playing hockey during the COVID-19 (pandemic)."

Larry Baxter, a Fort Hope Braves player, says it felt "pretty good" to win the tournament.

"All these guys are from dif-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Fort Hope Braves posed for photos after winning the 2022 Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament, held July 1-3 at the Fort William First Nation Arena.

ferent reserves and it was good to kind of gel throughout the tournament," Baxter says. "It was a fun tournament to get to meet friends, but pretty competitive hockey. It's fun to play with the young guys, it keeps me young." Lance Moskotaywenene says he enjoyed the tournament, noting that he played on an injured leg in the semifinals after getting hit with a puck on the ankle.

"This is probably one of the best tournaments I've played in

a long time," Moskotaywenene says.

con't on next page...



For some Indigenous youth who identify on the 2SLGBTQ+ spectrum, finding themselves can be a scary, isolating experience.

It wasn't until Charlie, a two-spirited person from Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope), started to grow out his hair that he began to embrace his identity.

One of the biggest allies for Charlie was his foster parent.

Watch and read the full story at Tikinagan.org.



66

My Foster Parent was always supportive of my choices and decisions, even if she didn't like them sometimes, but she was always so encouraging of self-expression and being myself, which has helped shape me to this day.



Sports



The Mishkeegagamang team goalie makes a save on a Fort Hope Braves player during the championship game of the 2022 Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament on July 3 at the Fort William First Nation Arena

from page 16

Titus Semple, president of the Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup tournament, says they had more than 200 players register for this year's tournament, noting that was an increase from about 85-90 players in the first two tournaments.

"All the games were fun but it was very competitive," Semple

says. "A lot of them got chippy, some rough games here and there, but that's hockey. Overall it was good, everyone had a great time."

Semple says there were 12 teams in the tournament, with the players selected for each team through a draft process.

"We don't accept individual teams to register, we do a draft," Semple says. "There's a special reason why we keep it as a draft tournament, and that's because we want the players participating in this tournament to come here as strangers and to leave as friends. Casey was somebody who befriended everyone and helped a lot of people in that way, so we're kind of keeping that legacy about him going.

Semple says the tournament



A Fort Hope Braves player dekes to score a goal against the Mishkeegagamang team goalie during the championship game of the 2022 Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup hockey tournament on July 3 at the Fort William First Nation Arena.

was originally called the Klik Cup but they changed the name in 2018 to honour Casey Tait, one of the founding organizers, after he passed away.

"Due to COVID-19 we weren't able to do a cup for the last couple of years," Semple says on the first day of the tournament. "The first two years we did this we raised about \$4,000 each time. This year we've already exceeded that amount and we're only at day one of the event. We have other events planned over the weekend, such as a social that will be taking place here in the city on Saturday."

Semple says they work with Wequedong Lodge in Thunder Bay to determine the number of long-term patients residing in their facility who had to relocate from the north to receive

"The reason we chose them was because Casey had kidney issues and he was receiving care at the hospital for dialysis, Semple says.

dialysis care.

HEY, YOUTH! WELLINGTONS HEY, YOUTH! KNO KNOW

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Marten Falls road update for 2022

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News Qasim Saddique, project director for the Marten Falls Community Access Road, and Lawrence Baxter, advisor for resource development at Marten Falls, shared information about the project during a Public Information Centre at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay. Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Public Information Centres (PICs) were held for the Marten Falls First Nation All-Season Community Access Road on in Thunder Bay and in Geraldton. The PICs provided an opportunity for people to share comments, ideas and values related to the proposed road. This was the third round of PICs held by Marten Falls about the proposed road, with the first held in Thunder Bay and Geraldton in April/May 2019 and the second in Thunder Bay and Longlac in December 2019.

"This road starts just north of the Aroland First Nation," says Lawrence Baxter, advisor for resource development at Marten Falls. "Right now we're at the environmental assessment stage and also we're doing several studies during that process, so it's ongoing. We've done two years of studies now."

Baxter says Marten Falls citizens who live in the community are looking forward to having an access road to the highway.

"It is very expensive to fly in and out," Baxter says. "I think this will alleviate a lot of the high cost of living, in terms of travel, in terms of bringing in food. The price of gasoline is very high up there right now."

Baxter says the community also runs out of fuel from time to time

"If the road is in, people can come and go whenever they want," Baxter says.

Qasim Saddique, project director for the Marten Falls Community Access Road, says they have received their approval with amendments on the terms of reference for the provincial process.

"This is an open house for the environmental assessment phase — we've moved on to the next stage of the process," Saddique says. "So that's the main update, that the assessment part of the assessment has now officially begun. What that means is that we're now starting conversations around the alternatives we have on the community access road, and we're starting to work with Mar-

ten Falls and with neighbouring communities to help decide which alternative becomes the preferred (route) and moving towards the final part of the process."

Saddique says the community is currently considering two main alternatives, noting that they could end up with different segments of the two alternatives.

"There's a number of possibilities that are on the table at this point, so it's not just either one route or the other, we could end up with a mix of the two as well," Saddique says. "The next step in the process would be to complete our baseline reports, to continue conversations with communities, work with Marten Falls and with all neighbouring Indigenous communities to see if they have an interest in sharing Indigenous knowledge on the project as we complete collecting baseline reports and putting that scientific baseline data as well as Indigenous knowledge together, and then consulting communities and other stakeholders on the different alternatives."

Saddique says they want to know everything they possibly can about the area from the perspective of the natural environment and from the people's perspective.

"And from their knowledge of the land itself, so that's the Indigenous knowledge component," Saddique says. "We want to know what their trapline situation is, we want to know if there's any sensitive environmental locations, spawning grounds. We want to know if there are any sensitive cultural sites as well, we need to and we want to avoid those areas. We want to minimize the impact of the project, and one way of doing that is collecting all of that data and then avoiding all of those areas as much as we can, and we think we can, so that's the work we've got to do in the next little while.'

Information about the Marten Falls First Nation All-Season Community Access Road is posted online at: www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca.

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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

Regional Education Agreement Coordinator

General

The Regional Education Agreement (REA) Coordinator, under the direction of the Director of Education, will primarily be responsible to undertake assigned activities in support of Northern Nishnawbe Education Council's REA project. Much of the work to be undertaken by this position includes the development of proposals, preparing reports, and written and financial report writing. Working with the Director of Education, the Regional Education Agreement Coordinator will assist in monitoring and implementing various initiatives related to the REA project.

Job Duties

The Regional Education Agreement Coordinator, reports to the Director of Education and is responsible for:

- Undertaking necessary preparatory activities with respect to negotiations of Regional Education Agreement between Northern Nishnawbe Education Council (NNEC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)
- Support negotiations with respect to Regional Education Agreement between Northern Nishnawbe Education Council and Indigenous Canada (ISC)
- Assist with input and keeping NNEC partners and their communities informed with respect to the REA
- Coordinate meetings including making travel arrangements, accommodations, meeting space, minutes, and meeting materials for meetings with, but not limited to, Chiefs of the Sioux Lookout District, NNEC Board of Directors, NNEC Partner Organizations
- Establishing a good working relationship with the NNEC Management team
- Development of proposals, preparing reports, and written and financial reports
- Plan, implement, and evaluate specific activities to ensure proposal based funds are on track as per program and funding approvals to support the Director of the Education with the implementation of the REA related resolutions as mandated by the Chiefs of the Sioux Lookout District and NNEC Board of Directors
- Prepare regular progress reports for NNEC Management and Board of Directors to provide support and advocacy for First Nations individuals, communities and families when requested
- Participate in and deliver presentations at meetings, conferences, workshops and symposia as requested or approved by the Director of Education or Executive Director
- To undertake research projects, as required and assist in developing communication and information materials
- To organize and facilitate meetings, travel, accommodations or workshops as requested
- Other Duties as requested

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree or 5+ years related education or student services work experience
- Knowledge of First Nation education issues, challenges and delivery models
- Knowledge of Provincial and First Nations education issues, challenges and delivery models
- Experience working with First Nations students in an educational setting
 Thorough knowledge of community resources available to First Nations youth
- Strength in developing strong connections at the community level
- Ability to work effectively with others
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to work both independently and in a team environment
- Strong communication skills with proficiency in developing written communications and the development and delivery of oral presentations
- Proven Project Management
- Willing to travel to First Nation communities, in small aircrafts
- Excellent communications skills, fluency in a local First Nations dialect is an asset
- Must possess strong facilitation skills
- Must be willing to travel and work flexible hours
- Ability to Read and Write a First Nations Language is an Asset

OPEN UNTIL FILLED: Fax your resume with written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references and a brief cover letter to Human Resources at NNEC Admin Office, mail to Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B9; Fax (807)582-3865 or email humanresources@nnec.on.ca.

For more information about the positions, please contact Betsy Ledger, Human Resources Manager, at (807) 251-2481.

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



Grand Council Treaty #3 to create Manito Aki Inakonigaawin documentary



submitted photo

Grand Council Treaty #3 is working in partnership with Niiwin Wendaanimok to create a Manito Aki Inakonigaawin documentary featuring interviews with Elders and knowledge keepers about the history of Manito Aki Inakonigaawin.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Grand Council Treaty #3 has partnered with Niiwin Wendaanimok to create a Manito Aki Inakonigaawin documentary featuring interviews with Elders and knowledge keepers about the history of Manito Aki Inakonigaawin. Treaty #3 aims to release the documentary, which also discusses how the sacred law has been applied to resource development projects in Treaty #3 territory, by early 2023.

"The reason why it's so important is because it helps document the Anishinabe laws in Treaty #3," says Hailey Krolyk, policy analyst, Territorial Planning Unit at Grand Council Treaty #3. "It's a process also for documenting everything, making sure it is written and recorded, and then also ensuring that the knowledge and information is stored and passed on throughout the generations."

Krolyk says the documentary project is mainly driven by the Elders and knowledge keepers with support from the Treaty #3 chiefs, noting that the Elders are seeing that their grandchildren do not have knowledge of Anishinabemowin.

"From there it's difficult to explain all the traditional laws, so that's another really important aspect to the documentary — it will help revitalize Anishinabemowin," Krolyk says. "What we've been taught too is that Anishinabemowin along with all of the other ceremonial processes like tobacco, the (eagle) feather and everything, is another traditional tool of governance."

Krolyk says the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin can only be translated to a certain extent into English.

"The English language just doesn't do the true meaning justice," Krolyk says. "That's why this documentary is going to be super important too for the Elders to pass that message on."

Krolyk says Treaty #3 is "so rich with traditional knowledge," and it is important to keep those teachings going for future generations.

"There's so many stories and teachings that the Elders and knowledge keepers have taught us," Krolyk says.

Krolyk says Treaty #3's goal with the documentary project is to promote awareness, respect and implementation of Anishinaabe law, noting that they will be able to create various educational materials, including short video clips for classrooms and curriculum development, with the information.

"It's so important to pass that down to the youth, especially in the world we live in now with climate change and all the proponents and all the resource development within the area," Krolyk says. "It's important to stick to those true ways of life, those true teachings that have been passed on through the Creator, it's so important for the next seven generations."

Krolyk says they have already done some interviews with Elders last year and plan to do more this summer and fall.

"Now that it's kind of nicer out we want to go out onto the land ... to do some interviews," Krolyk says. "We want to have everything wrapped up in late winter of next year, so taking the summer and the fall (to) be out on the land talking with Elders and knowledge keepers."

Krolyk says they plan to set up regional engagement sessions and visit communities for the interviewing process with the Elders and knowledge keepers.

"We'll probably go to some communities who are available to host us and maybe take us out to some sacred areas wherever they feel comfortable, wherever they want to talk about Manito Aki Inakonigaawin," Krolyk says. "Anybody who is interested, they are free to contact me at Grand Council Treaty #3 and we can

set up an interview as well. But I think for the most part we'd like to be out on the land, go to each different community and set up some mostly regional engagement sessions to make sure it is accessible for everybody in Treaty #3 to come and share their input with us."

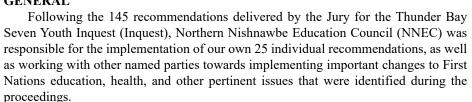
Krolyk says the project will be guided by four key principles outlined in Manito Aki Inakonigaawin: Weweni (Take our time), Bebekaa (Doing it right), Biiziindun (Listen) and Kegogtachken (Don't be afraid).

Krolyk can be reached at hailey.krolyk@treaty3.ca or 807-464-6572.

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Inquest Assistant





In order to ensure that NNEC independently and collectively was able to implement these recommendations, Inquest Coordinators were hired on behalf of each of the First Nations partners. While plenty of work has been undertaken to date, it has been determined that an Inquest Coordinator Assistant is also required by each of the organizations to help make this process more efficient. Under the general direction of the Executive Director, Inquest Coordinator Assistants will be expected to provide assistance and support to our NNEC Inquest Coordinator on a number of projects, groups, and initiatives. This position is well suited to a candidate who is familiar with the Seven Youth Inquest, is very self-motivated, and works well independently as well as in a team setting.

AROLAND FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Aroland First Nation, located 70 km North of Geraldton, ON is seeking a highly motivated and well-organized professional to fill the senior position of:

BAND ADMINISTRATOR

Reporting directly to Chief and Council of Aroland First Nation, the Band Administrator will be responsible for managing and overseeing the operations of the Band. The Band Administrator will have overall responsibility for the delivery of programs and services to the citizens of Aroland First Nation, as well as ensuring the policies and procedures are adhered to in the delivery of such programs and services.

Qualifications, Knowledge, and Skills

This is an exciting and challenging management position. The ideal candidate will possess the following education, work experience and personal characteristics:

- * Undergraduate university degree in business administration, commerce, public administration or related discipline and 3 years management experience, preferably at the First Nation level, OR
- * College Diploma in business administration, commerce public administration or related discipline and 5 years management experience, preferably at the First Nation level
- * Knowledge and experience administering and/or coordinating client-based programs and services.
- * Experience working in a First Nation Community.
- * Experience managing and directing staff.
- * Canadian Human Resources Professional designation is considered an asset.
- * Project management experience is considered an asset.
- * Knowledge of Ojibwe language, culture, and traditions is considered an asset.
- * Excellent computer, communication, and time management skills.
- * Knowledge of accounting and working knowledge of accounting software is
- * Valid Ontario "G" Driver's License with a clear drivers abstract.

A competitive salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Preference will be given to qualified candidates of Aboriginal descent.

Along with a resume, please submit proof of education, the names of three work related references with current contact information, and a cover letter demonstrating that you posses the qualifications and experience as per above. Job will remain open until filled. Applications can be e-mailed to arolandfirstnation@gmail.com, faxed to (807) 329-5750 or mailed to:

Attention: Hiring Committee, Aroland First Nation, P.O. Box 10, Aroland, ON, P0T 1B0

Any questions pertaining to the above position can be e-mailed to the above address.

DUTIES

- 1. Assist and support the implementation of the Inquest Recommendations
- 2. Assist in the coordination of meetings, proposals, reporting, training, and materials related to the Inquest
- 3. Assist with activities relating to Inquest families and communities
- 4. Attend meetings with named parties from the Inquest as well as other relevant stakeholders
- 5. Liaise and share information as required with First Nations, community organizations, government agencies, and other relevant parties
- 6. Provide assistance in tracking and recording the status of Inquest Recommendations and progress being made related to the recommendations
- 7. Provide support and assistance to the Inquest Coordinator to identify budget commitments from the Provincial and Federal Governments and opportunities to secure funding for implementation of the recommendations and related activities
- 8. Other duties and responsibilities as identified

ACCOUNTABILITY & EVALUATION

Employee will report to and be evaluated by the Executive Director

QUALIFICATIONS

- * 5+ years related education work experience
- * Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent Experience in a training or education-related position
- * Thorough knowledge of Indigenous history and culture
- * Knowledge of the Jury Recommendations on the Thunder Bay Seven Youth Inquest
- * Ability to work effectively with others
- * Strong interpersonal skills
- * Ability to work both independently and in a team environment
- * Strong communication skills with proficiency in developing written communications and the development and delivery of oral presentations
- * Willing to travel to First Nation communities in small aircrafts
- * The ability to speak Ojibwe, Oji-Cree or Cree is an asset

LOCATION: Thunder Bay

SALARY: Commensurate with education and experience.

OPEN UNTIL FILLED: Fax your resume with written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references and a brief cover letter to Human Resources at NNEC Admin Office, mail to Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B9; Fax (807)582-3865 or email humanresources@nnec.on.ca.

For more information about the positions, please contact Betsy Ledger, Human Resources Manager, at (807) 251-2481.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

NNEC requires a Criminal Background and Vulnerable Persons Check
from those offered positions.

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Vice Principal – Wahsa Distance Education Centre

Wahsa Distance Education Centre is operated by the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council under the direction of District Area Chiefs and First Nation communities. Wahsa provides secondary education services to northern communities across the Sioux Lookout District by SMARTBoard/Bridget software and Independent Learning courses. Wahsa develops, delivers, and co-ordinates courses, training and support services in consultation with participating First Nations. Students receive instruction, instructional packages, tutoring, and academic and personal counseling through local and central support systems. NNEC invites applications for the following position:

1.0 FTE Vice Principal, Wahsa Distant Education Centre, Sioux Lookout ON

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following competencies and capabilities:

- * Demonstrable working knowledge of the Ontario Education Program of Studies;
- * Passion for literacy and numeracy learning;
- * Ability to articulate a clear understanding of educational aims and objectives;
- * Strong track record of foster collaborative working relationship;
- * Demonstrable strength in communication skills;
- * Cultural sensitivity and understandings relevant to First Nation communities and education programs in Northwestern Ontario.

QUALIFICATIONS

- * Intermediate/Senior qualifications
- * Principal Qualifications Part 1 & 2. Those with a plan to obtain these qualifications are strongly encouraged to apply
- * Member of Ontario College of Teachers experience teaching First Nation students an asset
- * Computer literacy
- * The ability to speak a District First Nations language an asset
- * Willingness and ability to travel

OPEN UNTIL FILLED Fax, email or mail your Letter of Application with a current Curriculum Vitae and three employment references to Human Resources at NNEC Head Office in Frenchman's Head. Fax (807) 582-3865, email

humanresources@nnec.on.ca or mail to Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario, P8T 1B9.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

NNEC requires a Criminal Background and Vulnerable Persons Check
from those offered positions.

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



NNEC is a non-profit education organization that delivers secondary and post secondary education programs and services for First Nations people. NNEC operates Pelican Falls First Nations High School and Centre, Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School and Wahsa Distance Education Center. The organization maintains offices in Lac Seul (Head Office), Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. NNEC welcomes applications for the following position:

DAY DRIVER, Thunder Bay Unit

Under the direction of the Manager of Student Safety or designate, the Day Driver will provide transportation for our students during daytime, evening or weekend shifts. The Day Driver must be sensitive to First Nation culture and tradition. In addition they must also have excellent writing, interpersonal, communication and organizational skills and be able to multi task effectively.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- * must be willing to work shift work, weekends on an on-call basis
- * minimum grade 12 diploma
- * experience working with First Nation youth preferred
- * must have a Class "E" drivers license (or willing to obtain) and provide clean driver's abstract
- * must have First Aid with C.P.R. child and youth or willing to obtain
- * fluency in one of the Sioux Lookout area dialects an asset but not essential
- * knowledge of urban environment of Thunder Bay

LOCATION: Thunder Bay Ontario

REMUNERATION: hourly rate, to commensurate with education and experience.

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

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

For more information, please contact: Manager of Student Safety, Cherity Calder at (807) 623-8914. www.nnec.on.ca.

Community

Junior Canadian Ranger to have a great time at Camp Loon

Peter Moon Special to Wawatay News

After being cancelled for each of the last two summers because of the COVID-pandemic, Camp Loon, the popular Junior Canadian Ranger camp that provides a week of advanced leadership training, is back.

"The Junior Rangers are going to have a great time, a swell time," said Captain Aiden Solar, the Canadian Army officer who is the camp's acting commandant. "I think they are going to love it."

The tent camp is held in the bush on Springwater Lake, 50 kilometers north of Geraldton.

The Junior Rangers is a Canadian Army program for youth aged 12 to 18 in remote and isolated communities across the Canadian North. In Ontario there are more than 700 Junior Rangers in 29 First Nations.

Prior to COVID as many at 160 Junior Rangers attended the annual camp and benefited from its emphasis on safety on the land and water and in personal lifestyles.

"What we're seeing now, I think, with the more recent wave of COVID, is it is having an impact on the camp," Captain Solar said. "Some kids dropped out because of recent outbreaks in their communities."



photo submitted by Master Corporal Christopher Vernon Canadian Master Corporal Donald Sutherland of Constance Lake First

Nation performs a traditional dance at the opening ceremony for Camp Loon.

The camp has been hugely popular with First Nation chiefs techniques, mountain bike riding, traditional arts and crafts.

and councils. But some feared the Junior Rangers might bring COVID back their communities. The camp has its own military doctor and medical staff. This year there are about 60 Junior Rangers from 17 First Nations at Camp Loop, as well

Junior Rangers from 17 First Nations at Camp Loon, as well as 22 Canadian Rangers, who are part-time army reservists, and 45 other military personnel to run it.

The camp provides selected Junior Rangers with a range of activities that are not normally available to them in their small communities. "They're going to learn basic first aid," Captain Solar said. "As well as things such as archery, safe boating, canoeing with safe canoeing

techniques, mountain bike riding, traditional arts and crafts. They will shoot air rifles and do paintball, as well as field sports such as lacrosse and soccer."

The first Camp Loon was held in 2000 in Constance Lake First Nation and later at several other First Nations before being held for the last several years near Geraldton.

The ceremonial opening took place last Saturday and featured drumming and two traditional dancers, Master Corporal Donald Sutherland from Constance Lake and Ranger Redfern Wesley from Kashechewan.

(Sergeant Peter Moon is a Ranger with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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Prime Worker – Thunder Bay, Ontario

Under the direction of the Manager of Student Safety or designate, the Prime Worker will provide counselling and support services for our students attending Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay. The Prime Worker must be able to provide on-call relief and must be able to adapt to varying students situations and a wide range of responsibilities. The Prime Worker must be self motivated with excellent communication, interpersonal and organizational skills that can perform his or her duties proficiently and efficiently with minimal amount of supervision. The individual must be sensitive to First Nations culture and traditions.

Qualifications:

- * Diploma in social work, social service worker or related fields;
- * Minimum of two years experience working in a related field or with First Nations youth preferred;
- * Crisis Intervention Training an asset;
- * Must have Ontario Driver's License class "E" or willing to obtain;
- * Fluency in one of the Sioux Lookout District dialects an asset but not essential;
- * Must be committed to the advancement of First Nations people; and
- * Must be self motivated, organized and able to work as a team member and independently.

LOCATION: Thunder Bay

 $\textbf{REMUNERATION:} \ \ \text{hourly rate to commensurate with experience/education}$

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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

OPEN UNTIL FILLED: Fax your resume with written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references and a brief cover letter to Human Resources at NNEC Head Office in Frenchman's Head fax (807)582-3865; mail to Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B9; or email humanresources@nnec. on.ca. For more information about the positions please contact Cherity Calder, Manager of Student Safety at (807) 623-8914.

Canadian Rangers and OPP work together to rescue fisherman

Special to Wawatay News

Canadian Rangers in an isolated First Nation in Northern Ontario successfully joined forces with the Ontario Provincial Police to rescue a stranded fisherman after his boat engine broke down.

The fisherman, Jericho Beardy, 25, had gone by boat to his hunting camp, for a day's fishing but did not return as expected to his home in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, a remote Oji-Cree community about 580 kilometers north of Thunder Bay, that is often referred to as KI. His camp is about 20 kilometers west of KI.

The fisherman's family alerted the local Rangers, who are part-time army reservists with a patrol in KI, and the OPP detachment in the community. A helicopter leased by the OPP for emergencies was in KI and it flew to the hunting camp with Ranger Sergeant Spencer Anderson and OPP Constable Darryl Sainnawap, who is also a Ranger, on board.

'We got to the camp but we couldn't land because there was no area clear enough for us to get down," said Sergeant Anderson. "He waved to us and held up a fuel can. He might have been letting us know he

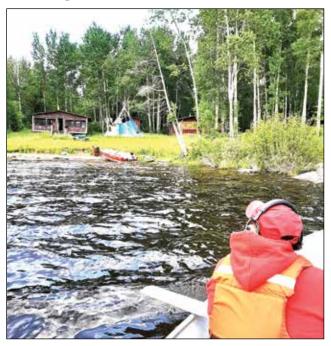


photo submitted by Sergeant Spencer Anderson, Canadian Rangers Canadian Rangers arrive at the missing fisherman's hunting camp by

was out of gas but we could also see the cover on his boat engine was raised, so maybe he had engine trouble. The important thing was he seemed to be all right physically."

Unable to land, the helicopter and its passengers flew back to KI. Sergeant Anderson and Ranger Corporal Craig Sainnawap left shortly afterwards to go to the hunting camp by boat, taking tools and extra fuel with

"He was very pleased to see us when we got to his camp," Sergeant Anderson said. "He had engine trouble, a mechani-



photo submitted by Sergeant Spencer Anderson, Canadian Rangers

Pilot Chad Paettin, left, flies an OPP rescue helicopter with passengers Constable Darryl Sainnawap, centre, and Ranger Sergeant Spencer Anderson, right, to missing fisherman's camp.

cal problem, and we could not fix it for him. So we brought him back to KI. I offered to take him back to his camp to get his boat when I was going fishing myself in a couple of days. That made him very happy. I also told him he should join the Rangers and I think he's maybe

going to do it.'

A joint command post was established for the rescue mission at the KI OPP detachment office, Corporal Harriet Cutfeet manned it for the Rangers.

"Everything worked out well," said Sergeant John Meaker, the OPP's provincial

search and rescue coordinator "The Rangers have excellent local knowledge of their areas.'

(Sergeant Peter Moon is a Ranger with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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Secondary Student Support Program CASUAL ON - CALL WORKERS (4) Thunder Bay

General

The On-Call Worker must carry the ON-Call telephone and answer calls to ensure the health and safety of NNEC secondary students during evenings and weekends in Thunder Bay; must be able to provide on-call relief and must be able to adapt to varying students situations and a wide range of responsibilities. The On-Call Workers will report directly to the Manager of Student Safety or designate. The ON-Call Worker must be self motivated with excellent communication, interpersonal and organizational skills that can perform his or her duties proficiently and efficiently with minimal amount of supervision. The individual must be sensitive to First Nations culture and traditions.

Qualifications

- * Diploma in social work, social service worker or related fields;
- Minimum of two years experience working in a related field or with First Nations
- * Crisis Intervention Training an asset;
- * Willing to obtain CPR and First Aid;
- * Must have Ontario Driver's class "F" or willing to obtain;
- * Must have a three year clean driver's abstract;
- * Fluency in one of the Sioux Lookout District dialects an asset but not essential;
- * Must be committed to the advancement of First Nations people; and
- * must be self motivated, organized and able to work as a team member and independently.

Hours: evenings and weekends

Remuneration: hourly rate to commensurate with experience/education.

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

OPEN UNTIL FILLED: Fax your resume with written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references and a brief cover letter to Human Resources at NNEC Head Office in Frenchman's Head (807)582-3865; mail to Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B9; or email humanresources@nnec. on.ca. For more information about the position, please contact Cherity Calder Manager of Student Safety, at (807) 623-8914.

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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Waakaahikan Safe Sober Site **CASUAL WAAKAAHIKAN WORKERS (4)**

Background

Seven Youth Inquest Recommendation #114 identifies a need for an alternative safe sobering site in the City of Thunder Bay that would provide the proper supports and supervision for any youth who may be intoxicated with substance misuse.

General

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School is committed to providing high quality student-centred care by providing a respectful and inclusive safe home-like environment that reflects the student diversity it serves. The Waakaahikan Safe Sober Site will be available 24/7 for our students, aged 13-22 years, who attend DFC High School. The Safe Home will be working under the direction of health care professionals and in cooperation and consultation with three (3) other sites with the common mandate: KO, Matawa and City of Thunder Bay. This position is under the general direction of the Site Coordinator, Safe Sober Site.

QUALIFICATIONS

- * Experience in mental health, and/or youth engagement is an asset
- * First Aid training, Mental Health First Aid and Naloxone training
- * Bachelor's degree or College diploma in any discipline, or equivalent work
- Knowledge of Indigenous culture, language and customs an asset
- * Strong interpersonal skills
- * Valid Class G Driver's License
- * Vulnerable Persons Criminal Background Check
- * Physical condition to pursue students on foot during flight from location

LOCATION: Thunder Bay

REMUNERATION: hourly rate to commensurate with experience/education.

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

OPEN UNTIL FILLED: Submit your resume, covering letter and written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references to Personnel Officer at NNEC by fax: (807) 582-3865; via mail: Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario, P8T 1B9 or email humanresources@nnec.on.ca. For more information, please contact: Cherity Calder, Manager of Student Safety at (807) 623-8914.

Canadian Rangers moving ahead after COVID-19 pandemic

Special to Wawatay News

The Canadian Rangers of the Far North of Ontario are getting back to their normal duties after completing their busiest period of activity since they began operations in Ontario in 1994, according to their commanding officer.

The Rangers, who are parttime army reservists, were on continuous active duty from March, 2020 until May of this year, providing a range of crucial supports for remote and isolated First Nations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the affected First Nations did not have the resources to deal

for assistance from the Rangers.

The Canadian Army has Rangers in 29 First Nations across the Far North of Ontario.

"We had more than 300 Rangers on full time duty at one time out of our total strength of 700," said Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur, "But we rose to the challenge and the Rangers and our headquarters staff here at (Canadian Forces Base) Borden did a great job.

"At one time we were the busiest small unit in the Canadian Army. What we accomplished with the size of our unit was outstanding and noteworthy. I am very proud of the Rangers and the headquarters

"The feedback I got from the chiefs and councils was that they were very grateful, very pleased with our help. We did the best we could with what we had and the accolades kept coming from the chiefs and councils.'

When the First Nations were hit by COVID members of their local Ranger patrol were placed on active duty to assist the band's hard pressed staff. They liaised with the chiefs Patrol members worked to help victims of COVID, assisted in quarantining them and their families, cut and distributed firewood, delivered food and water, and assisted with supplying other essential day to day

The Rangers used their military training to help organize the communities when members of regional health authorities visited them to provide vaccinations. The Rangers' language skills were often invaluable as was their cultural knowledge and knowledge of their communities.

"We were being asked to do more and more for longer and longer," said Lt.-Col. McArthur.

One solution was the creation of Ranger Go Teams, mobile teams made up of Rangers who flew into First Nations when the local Rangers needed additional Ranger help. They also flew into First Nations that did not have a Ranger patrol.

To add to the difficulties of providing their unique assistance, many Rangers and headquarters staff at Borden got COVID. They and their families had to quarantine. "That created challenges but

we learned to live with it," Lt.-Col. McArthur said. "We found the heavy work load and the problems COVID created in the communities led to many stresses and we had to develop mental health supports for those affected. We are working to add additional mental health supports. We had people who were more tired than they real-

suming massive amounts of their time the Rangers had to continue providing their normal emergency supports, such as searches for missing people. The Rangers do 50 to 60 searches a year. They provided help with forest fires that threatened communities and conducted patrols of major rivers that threatened to flood during break up and force evacuations of several First Nations.

The Rangers are now resuming their regular duties. They are busy recruiting and conducting training.

(Sergeant Peter Moon is a Ranger with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at CFB Borden.)

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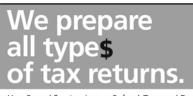
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National Indigenous Peoples Day 2022

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD) kicked off with a sunrise ceremony led by Aroland Elder John Gagnon on June 21 at Anemki Wajiw (Mt. McKay) in Fort William.

"We're rejoicing right now, we're having fun — the powwow is back and this is just a teaser," Gagnon says, noting he was asked to do the sunrise ceremony that morning. "And of course I can't say no. There's no such thing as saying I can't do it, especially when you follow the Creator's teachings. He trusts in you, he gives you the power to do it, and never be afraid to do it because he's always by your side."

Gagnon says the NIPD powwow is just a warmup for the Fort William Powwow on July

"This is just the warmup, getting all the rested bones going, especially mine," Gagnon says.

'We didn't have any powwows for over two years and everybody is anxious to come out and dance and sit around and eat all the traditional

Grand Chief Derek Fox and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Oshkaatisak Youth Council

member Janine Frogg also highlighted the importance of NIPD during the opening comments by dignitaries at the NIPD pow-

"I love to see the unity in the city of Thunder Bay, let's stay united for our people," Fox says, as posted on the NAN Facebook page. "We are here to reconcile, to remember all those that were lost. Let's remember and honour those people who have passed on, let's make a better city, a better country and a better nation."

"This day is important to not only honour, but celebrate our history and where we come from," Frogg says, as posted on the NAN Facebook page.

Gagnon says there was a "pretty good turnout" for the NIPD powwow, which featured the eight-time Grammy Awards nominated Black Lodge Singers, from White Swan, Wash., as the host drum and the English River Singers as the co-host

"We drove all night to get here yesterday," says Erwin Scabby Robe, singer with the Black Lodge Singers, noting that they were on their way back from a powwow in Obedjiwan, Quebec. "It's a nice place to have a powwow (on) the mountain here."

Scabby Robe says he and his brothers first started singing in 1981 after their father told them to either dance or sing while at the powwows.

"We're always happy to come and share music wherever we can go because as my dad says: 'God gave us a gift of music and it needs to be shared," Scabby Robe says. "I grew up on the road so I love travelling."

Scabby Robe says they have been busy travelling to powwows across Turtle Island this

"It feels back to normal, gatherings have been pretty good," Scabby Robe says. "Before here we had to go to Texas and to Minnesota, then Quebec, and we were in Louisiana a monthand-a-half ago."

Scabby Robe says they enjoy meeting all the people they see on the powwow trail.

"And in the new community in Quebec, we never knew there was so many people way out there," Scabby Robe says. "It was hard to communicate with some of them because they didn't speak English and it was French, but we managed."

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa also stressed the importance of NIPD in a June 21 press release, noting that Indigenous peoples have been



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News A men's traditional dancer shares his moves.

on Turtle Island since time immemorial.

"In the past, due to racist colonial laws such as the Indian Act and policies that banned our ceremonies, languages and ways of life, we were not allowed to be who we are," Mamakwa says. "But we never forgot. Our connection to the land and our ancestors runs deep. So on this day we will honour all our ways of life and



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

Nibinamik's Maggie Sofea uses her wheelchair to perform her style at the National Indigenous Peoples Day powwow at Anemki Wajiw in

our people's accomplishments in the face of genocide. We will ensure that future generations know who they are, and where they come from."

Mamakwa says Indigenous people invite all Canadians to celebrate with them, and to learn about the ways of life and practices that emerged from the land that they now share.

"The Ontario NDP encourages all people to take a moment and reflect on Canada's history, the trauma that continues throughout our families and communities — and the resiliency of our peoples," Mamakwa says. "More than that, we invite Ontarians to reflect on what is needed to ensure Indigenous traditions and practices are honoured, the land and Indigenous languages are protected and our shared well-being is ensured.'

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



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Student Well Being Worker

GENERAL

The Student Well Being worker will provide an array of support and counselling services to NNEC's secondary students, under the direction of the Manager of Student Safety or designate. This person must have proven expertise in social work and mental health issues. The Well Being Worker must be sensitive to First Nations culture and traditions and have excellent communication, interpersonal and organizational skills. This individual will be highly motivated and be available to work evening hours. The Well Being Worker will advance the mandate and mission of the Northern Nishnawbe Education Council.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1. Social Work Degree with a minimum of two (2) years direct service and counselling adolescents; or
- 2. Social Services Diploma and 5 years clinical experience
- 3. Member of an accredited professional organization (RSW)
- 4. Willingness to travel
- 5. Valid Ontario Driver's License and own vehicle with appropriate liability insurance
- 6. Computer literacy an asset
- 7. Must have a First Aid with C.P.R. or willing to obtain
- 8. Fluency in one of the Sioux Lookout area dialects an asset but not essential
- 9. Vulnerable Persons Check mandatory.

LOCATION: Thunder Bay

REMUNERATION: hourly rate, to commensurate with education and experience.

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

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

For more information, please contact: Cherity Calder, Manager of Student Safety at (807) 623-8914.

NORTHERN NISHNAWBE **EDUCATION COUNCIL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**



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Pelican Falls First Nations High School

7-10 Teachers

1 Student Success Lead

Pelican Falls Centre

13 House Counsellors (male and female)

WAHSA, Sioux Lookout

Principal Vice Principal

Secretary

English Teacher

Native Language Teacher

Secondary Student Services Program

Casual On-Call Workers (4)

Casual Waakiihikan Workers (4) Prime Worker (1)

Student Wellbeing Worker (1)

Day Driver (1)

Administration

Finance Controller

Operation and Maintenance

Security - 1 full time and one weekend casual (follows the school schedule) Maintenance - 2 full time

Post Secondary Program

Post-Secondary Counsellor in Sioux Lookout and Database Clerk in Thunder Bay

Technical Services

System Administrator (1)

Lead Technician (1)

OPEN UNTIL FILLED: Fax your resume with written permission for NNEC to contact three employment references and a brief cover letter to Human Resources at NNEC Admin Office, mail to Box 1419, Sioux Lookout, Ontario P8T 1B9; Fax (807)582-3865 or email humanresources@nnec.on.ca.

For more information about the positions, please contact Betsy Ledger, Human Resources Manager, at (807) 251-2481.

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

Cartoons







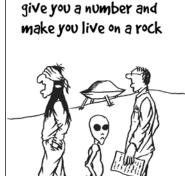












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