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Arts & Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery held a Four Horses + THIS, &, CASSANDRA contemporary dance performance on May 29 at Confederation College's Dibaajimogamig Lecture Theatre.

Four Horses dance performance held at Thunder Bay Art Gallery

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery held a Four Horses + THIS, & CASSANDRA contemporary dance performance on May 29 at Confederation College's Dibaajimogamig Lecture Theatre as part of its Edward Poitras: Big Iron Sky exhibition.

“This is an exciting event — this is something bold and ambitious for the gallery, working with acclaimed artist Edward Poitras and acclaimed dance artist Robin Poitras and two national dance companies, New Dance Horizons in Regina and The School of Contemporary Dancers in Winnipeg,” says Penelope Smart, curator at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

“We worked with these artists and organizations to bring this event, and especially the dancers, including professional dancer Krista Solheim and nine student dancers, to Thunder Bay.”

Smart says Edward created the Big Iron Sky installation in 1983. Part of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's permanent collection, it calls into consciousness the arrival of horses on the prairies and Plains Cree legends foretelling forces of change.

"This work, and you'll see images of it tonight, comprises four ornamented horse skulls levitating on wooden beams," Smart says. "A fascinating (aspect) about this huge art installation by Edward Poitras that's up in the gallery right

now is that it originated alongside or accompanied by a dance work, known as the Horse Dance. When we were talking to Edward about this (exhibition), we got really excited about the idea of bringing dance back together with Big Iron Sky and we are so honoured and excited to have incorporated some of the original choreography in the gallery space with this work. Tonight, this is the first time that the Big Iron Sky (installation) and the Horse Dance ... have been reunited in time and space in more than 40 years and this is a really beautiful thing for us all to witness along with Edward Poitras and Robin Poitras here with us tonight."

Edward, from George Gordon

First Nation in Saskatchewan,
says the Four Horses + THIS,
&, CASSANDRA contemporary
dance performance was very
abstract.

"The newer works are very abstract," Edward says. "In the initial pieces, horse dances that we did, it was more ritualistic with an intention. The intention here is more visual entertainment than anything."

Robin says the Four Horses + THIS, &, CASSANDRA contemporary dance performance was an extraordinary occasion.

"We've been working together for over 40 years and our collaboration started with Big Iron Sky in a studio that we shared and we've been developing this work with many different dancers over the last

40 years,” Robin says. “And to be able to bring the work that stimulated the (Horse Dance), that inspired it from the beginning to be part of this moment was really special.”

Edward says his family was involved with horses, noting that his grandfather was a cowboy and his father was very interested in horses.

"Because of my family, I was interested in horses but at the same time I was interested in living in the city," Edward says. "I was trying to maintain that connection to horses, but I was also interested in these horse visions, Black Elk's vision and also other visionary works and even Revelations. I saw a similarity with the four horses in Black Elk's vision and the four horses in (the Book of)

Revelation and I was curious about that, what the links were.”

Edward says he travelled across the country with the Big Iron Sky installation in the 1980s.

"I had these horse skulls that I had found on the reserve and I started working with them and the idea of creating this piece, which looks like an airship, like a jet, with these horses on it," Edward says. "The piece itself became a vehicle, it took me across the country to different venues and exhibitions and then finally brought me here and will probably take me to a few more places in the next few years."

The Edward Poitras: Big Iron Sky exhibition was scheduled from April 19-June 15 at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

Thank You, Airlines!

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



Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre's Annual Two-Spirit Pride Powwow



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Walking Bear drum group performed at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre's Annual Two-Spirit Pride Powwow on June 7 in Thunder Bay. Hoop dancers, women and men traditional dancers, jingle dress dancers and fancy shawl dancers all danced their styles. A candy dance was also held for the young participants.

Sports

Underground Gym's Keenan Flett boxes in Quebec tournament

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The Underground Gym's Keenan Flett, a boxer from Sandy Lake, enjoyed participating in the Quebec Open boxing tournament in Quebec City where he picked up a silver medal.

"The second match I got a fight and I got silver," Flett says. "I got the third round stoppage but in the finals I lost, so that's when I got silver. It felt amazing, it was my first boxing tournament."

Flett says one of his friends recommended him to join the Underground Gym.

"I didn't really like it at first but then when the years went by I came back and I started to love it a lot," Flett says. "It helps me become stronger, it builds self-esteem and I just like being with people."

Flett says the boxing tournament was an opportunity to show his work and dedication in the ring.

"I just went in the ring and I just boxed," Flett says about the boxing match he won. "I just gave it everything I got, and I did that and I made the guy stumble. I got standing eight counts and I felt so amazing in the ring."

Flett says he works out at the Underground Gym on every day he can.

"If there's an opportunity to hang out with Peter (Panetta), I would always take it," Flett says. "Always respect your opponents, training partners and

your coach."

Brooklyn Fox, a boxer from Mishkeegogamang who coached Flett at the boxing tournament, says it was a cool experience.

"It makes me want to go to the next Quebec Open next year," Fox says, noting that she gave Flett advice on what to do during his matches at the tournament. "I was reading the other boxer and gathering what I could to tell him what to do. It was a cool experience, I was happy for him, I was proud that he won that match, especially the third round stoppage."

Fox says she travelled with the Underground Gym on their trip to Mishkeegogamang.

"I've coached there twice," Fox says. "It's nice coaching my relatives, getting to know them."

Fox says she encouraged them to just try out boxing and if they liked it to keep on doing it.

"Your confidence will grow over time and your self-esteem," Fox says.

Fox says she got involved with the Underground Gym after her mother showed her a video of one of her friends doing pad work.

"That really encouraged me to try it out and ever since I've really liked it," Fox says. "I've been doing boxing on and off for about two or three years."

Peter Panetta, who runs the Underground Gym, says the Quebec Open boxing tournament turned out exceptionally well.



Sandy Lake's Keenan Flett, pictured at the Underground Gym in Thunder Bay, recently won a silver medal at the Quebec Open boxing tournament in Quebec City.

"Keenan managed to get a silver medal, which was quite an accomplishment because it's international, this tournament," Panetta says. "There's fighters from everywhere, all over Canada, the United States. To compete at that level, for a beginner, is quite impressive."

Panetta says they have been invited to Aroland at the end of June to introduce them to boxing.

"And with Aroland and some of the others like Ogoki (Marten Falls) and Mishkeegogamang, there's the prospect of setting up something permanent," Panetta says.

Panetta says there is a discipline that is involved with boxing.

"It builds up confidence and self-esteem," Panetta says. "And then they have opportunities to compete against someone and they get to travel. We just came from Quebec, they've gone to the States, they've gone to Toronto, they've gone to Winnipeg."

Panetta says there is also a lot of technique involved in boxing.

"Like these subtle little moves so that you don't get hit and waiting for them to come in for counterpunches," Panetta says. "It's very technical, boxing."



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New Beginnings



Education

Oshki holds 2025 graduation ceremony



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg's Chalyne Courchene was recognized with one of two Goyce Kakegamik Bursary awards.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute celebrated the graduation of 113 graduates on June 13 at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

"This was our largest graduation ever, we came to a new venue and it was so spectacular and so many people came," says Lorrie Deschamps, president at Oshki-Wenjack. "We are so proud of our students and I hope we just

keep growing for each grad for each year. It was nice seeing all the families enjoying themselves — it was all about our grads today.”

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg's Chalyne Courchene was recognized with one of two Goyce Kakegamic Bursary awards during the graduation ceremony.

“(Goyce) was a Keewaywin band member and he was an educator, an artist, a teacher and a politician and a leader in forwarding education initiatives in the NAN (Nishnawbe Aski

Nation) territory,” says Anna Fern Kakegamic, Goyce’s daughter. “Once my dad had an idea in his head, he never let it go, he wanted to see it to fruition for his people. When we grew up in (our) home, education wasn’t an option, it was what we were going to do.”

Anna Fern says Goyce was impacted by a quote that he saw written on the wall in Wapekeka.

“He said, ‘Without education is like a bird with no wings,’” Anna Fern says. “Today, the reality for the Oshki graduates is



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa delivers his keynote address during Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute's graduation ceremony.

they have earned a set of wings, and I just want to acknowledge their accomplishments, their hard work.”

Courchene, a Business program graduate, says it felt unreal and shocking to be recognized with one of the two Goyce Kakegamic bursary awards.

"It feels so good that my hard work was recognized because I worked very hard," Courchene says. "Oshki did an amazing job of accommodating me because I myself have struggles learning, just in general, but Oshki went out of their way to make sure I was successful."

Courchene says the majority of her studies were done online.

“So I was able to match up my son’s schooling with my schooling and then just living

life together," Courchene says.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig's Melissa Morris, a Basic Radiological Technician (BRT) program graduate, says the graduation ceremony was fun.

"There was a lot of people and it was so crowded," Morris says. "Our program was done in four phases, and Phase 4 was when we had to come out for two weeks. It was fun meeting the other BRTs here that are in the program from other communities."

Morris looks forward to doing more X-rays back home now that she has graduated.

"I like helping people get their proper diagnoses," Morris says.

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler says he was extremely proud of all the Oshki-Wenjack

graduates.

"I know they worked so hard to finish their programs and I'm sure they had some rough moments and some difficult days but they persevered and it was so great to see them get their (graduation) papers today," Fiddler says. "It was pretty moving to see the Kakegamic family honour their dad's legacy by creating these (Goyce Kakegamic) Bursaries and giving them to students that I am sure are so well appreciated."

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa says it was amazing to see the graduates from across NAN territory as well as other communities.

“Oshki-Wenjack has become very multicultural — it’s all people from different backgrounds,” Mamakwa says. “It just shows who we are and where we come from, that we are very accepting. It’s important that we begin to see our people graduating with different diplomas, and I acknowledge the people that support the people in education.”

Mamakwa says he spoke to the students about not forgetting who they are and where they come from during his keynote address at the graduation ceremony.

"And I spoke about the language, the identity, that is also important and that's all part of the education that we need to do," Mamakwa says.

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Family Well-Being Week
July 7 - 11, 2025

We proclaim July 7-11, 2025 Family Well-Being Week to honour families, celebrate all people and creation. Celebrating family is one way we can come together to strengthen family bonds and build healthy relationships creating harmony and healing to build a better future.

A Message From Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse

I am honoured and proud to recognize Family Well-Being Week and to celebrate the strength, resilience, and spirit of the families across Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

The Family Well-Being Program is grounded in our commitment to creating safe, healthy, and supported families in every NAN community. This program provides culturally based supports that promote healing, prevent violence, and strengthen family and community connections.

Our Family Well-Being workers are on the front lines every day, walking with families through times of crisis, helping to restore balance, and building programs that reflect the values, traditions, and strengths of our Nations.

During this important week, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the dedicated staff and community partners who lead this work with compassion and determination. Your efforts are making a difference in the lives of our children, families, and future generations.

Please know that we see you, we stand with you, and we remain committed to ensuring that every family in NAN has access to the supports they need to thrive.

In unity and strength,
Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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Honouring Family Well-Being Week

The Social Services Department honours Family Well-Being Week as a time to reflect, reconnect, and recognize the healing power of family.

In our families, through laughter, story, and care, we find strength and belonging. We honour not only those we are born to, but also those who walk with us through love, grief, growth, and healing.

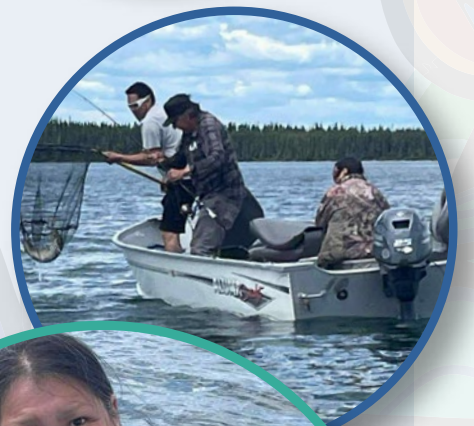
This week reminds us that wellness begins in relationships, with ourselves, with each other, and with the land. We lift up the caregivers, knowledge keepers, and children who guide our journey forward.

May this be a time of gentle reflection, where we remember the importance of family in all its forms and the sacred responsibility we carry to care for one another.

With gratitude,

Robin Quachegan

RQUACHEGAN
Director of Social Services Support and Implementation
RQUACHEGAN@NAN.CA



Boozhoo, Aaniin, Wacheya,

Summertime brings another year celebrating Family Well-Being Week to honour families, all people and creation across NAN territory. When we gather, we connect with one another, share stories, strengthen family bonds, build friendships, good fellowship, visit with family and friends and create new memories.

We proclaim July 7-11th, 2025 Family Well-Being Week honouring families, communities and creation. Celebrating family is one way we can come together to pass on our traditions from our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, build healthy relationships, connect with the land and our ancestors, create a sense of belonging, harmony and show compassion towards others on their healing journey creating safe and healthy communities.

NAN acknowledges and commends the FWB Community Coordinators for their dedication, passion, endless hours of ongoing support and resources they provide to families. Coordinator's play a vital role in supporting wellbeing approaches, bringing people together and working towards healthy communities.

Contact your local Family Well-Being Program Coordinator to find out about programs and activities during Family Well-Being Week.

May the Creator and God continue to watch over
our families and communities.

Miigwech & God Bless

Sheila Marcinyshyn

Shana Marchynslyn
Family Well-Being Program Manager



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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For more information please contact Sheila Marcinyshyn
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Direct Line: 807-625-4694 or 807-707-1840

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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Sandi Boucher speaks during her presentation on counteracting oppression and internalized oppression at the Indigenous Service Providers Gathering.



The Indigenous Service Providers Gathering, held June 4 at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay.

Indigenous Service Providers gathering counteracting oppression

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Seine River's Sandi Boucher highlighted the importance of counteracting oppression and internalized oppression during her presentation at the Indigenous Service Providers Gathering on June 4 at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay.

"For example, I caught myself recently — I'm carrying dishes into the kitchen and I accidentally dropped one and my automatic response in my head was, 'Of course I dropped one,'" says Boucher, emcee at the gathering and an Indigenous engagement speaker. "And it was like, no, don't say that because that implies I always do

this. This was just an accident, that's not the message we want to have. So it's unpacking that kind of stuff, why did I say that, why did I think that, why do I use that phrase, where did that phrase come from. Am I creating good soil or am I creating a situation that is unhealthy for me to grow in."

Boucher says oppression and internalized oppression are like invisible forces acting against a person.

“Whether it’s the actions and words of other people or it’s the actions and words he hears in his head or in his own community, these are preying against him and if you don’t do something to counteract it, you don’t have the conversations, you don’t have the education,

over time this person starts to feel incredibly small,” Boucher says. “So they don’t have their voice, they don’t speak up for themselves anymore — this is where the advocates and the activists really step in and try to help bring this person back, as our Elders say, ‘Loving them back to health,’ that is how we do things.”

Matagami Elder Gerry Martin stressed the importance of continuing on with the Indigenous Service Providers Gatherings.

"This is the fourth (gathering) and we still need these kind of events to bring people together to network and to share ideas," Martin says. "It's a good thing."

The gathering was held to

provide participants with an opportunity to build connections and to discover more about the Indigenous health and social services in Thunder Bay and area.

“Being able to host a space like this really allows for (Indigenous leaders) to come to a place where they don’t have to explain the type of works they do, they don’t have to explain the pressures that they’re under,” says Shelly Livingston, manager of health at Netmizaagmagig Nishnaabeg and Indigenous co-chair for the Noojmawing Sookatagaing Ontario Health Team. “The content of the event is geared towards people in their positions and to help fill their medicine cups and give them tools

and just to help them do what they do in a good way.”

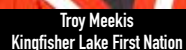
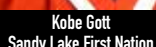
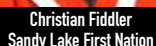
Brittany Stinson-McGee, Indigenous partnership development lead for the Noojmawing Sookatagaing Ontario Health Team, says the gathering has grown over the past few years into a larger scale exhibit of Indigenous service providers from both the health and social service fields.

"It's pretty incredible to see all these wonderful services come together, share (and) seeing them establish connections within themselves but also being able to get those services out to the greater community, who is going to be accessing them," Stinson-McGee says. "The first event ... had roughly around 300 people

from the public attend the exhibit whereas last year we had about 1,200. We're anticipating we're going to grow past that point this year, so it's had some extreme growth."

The Noojmawing Sookatagaing Ontario Health Team was officially announced in 2022 as part of the fourth cohort of the Ontario Health Teams. It brings together partners to create equitable, connected, wholistic community-centred care across the District and City of Thunder Bay. Information about the Noojmawing Sookatagaing Ontario Health Team is posted at: www.noojmawingsookatagaing.ca/.

A vibrant orange poster for National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025. The background features faint, stylized white line art of Indigenous motifs, including a moose, a bear, a fish, and various plants. In the top left corner is the Nishnawbe Aski Nation logo, a circular emblem with a stylized figure. To its right, the text 'Nishnawbe Aski Nation' and 'ᑎᓱᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᐱᓱᓂᓐ' is displayed. The main title 'National Indigenous Peoples Day' is written in large, bold, white sans-serif font, with 'June 21, 2025' in a smaller, bold, dark blue font below it. On the right side, there are four circular inset images: an aerial view of a residential area, a person in traditional Indigenous regalia with a feathered headdress, an elderly Indigenous woman smiling and wearing a green beaded necklace, and a traditional Indigenous teepee.



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Kill Bill 5 protests held in Thunder Bay

“In my riding of Kiiwetinoong I have 12 long-term boil water advisories and we do not have high schools in most of the communities and we do not have hospitals in some of the bigger First Nations and we still have gravel runways,” Mamakwa says the day after the rally. “And then, never mind the housing, never mind the health-care services, those are some of the things we struggle with and it’s important that we need to focus on those first before trying to get us to be part of the economy.”



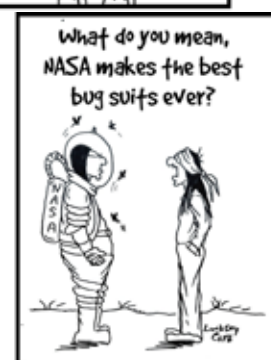
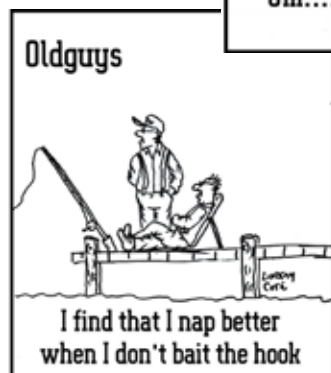
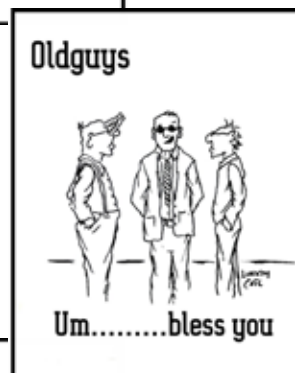
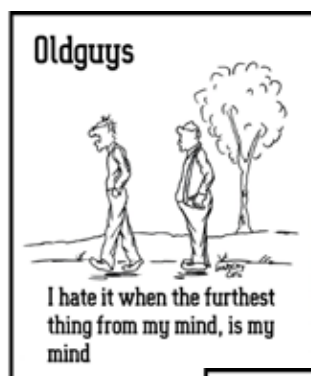
Outcast

WHAT YOU TWO DOING BACK IN MY COURT ROOM?

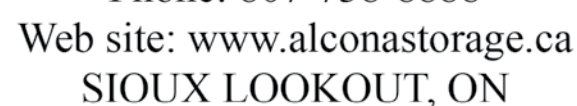
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Job Posting



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

Wawatay Communications Society is currently looking for a dynamic and results-driven Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who brings management expertise and embodies the mandate and mission in service of Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities.

Wawatay Communications Society serves the communication needs of First Nations people and the communities of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. It does this through the distribution of a monthly newspaper, daily radio programming, other communication services and a multimedia website that seeks to preserve and enhance indigenous languages and cultures of Indigenous people in northern Ontario.

Mandate

“Wawatay Communications Society is a self-governing, independent community-driven entrepreneurial Indigenous organization dedicated to using appropriate technologies to meet the communication needs of people of Indigenous ancestry in Northern Ontario, wherever they live. In doing so, its founders intended that Wawatay would serve their communities by preserving, maintaining and enhancing Indigenous languages and culture.”

Mission

“To provide media capabilities and content that address the unique needs of the Nishnawbe people.”

The membership of the Society – 49 First Nation communities within the territory of Nishnawbe Aski Nation– formally adopted the above mandate and mission statement at an Annual General Membership Meeting on May 5-6, 2004.

Location: Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins

Position Summary:

The CEO serves as the chief executive of Wawatay Communications Society and in partnership with the Board, is responsible for the success of the Wawatay Communications Society. Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, the CEO is responsible for creating and implementing a clear sense of direction for the Wawatay Communications Society and its related businesses by defining, communicating, and overseeing the Corporation’s mission, goals, operating principles, and strategic actions.

This position is the senior management position in Wawatay Communications Society, with responsibility for:

- The overall management of the business including its overall strategic direction, preparation of agendas and background information for Board meeting and Executive Committee meetings.
- Keeps the Board fully informed of the conditions of Wawatay Communications Society and on all important factors influencing it.
- The development of annual works plans and related capital and operating budgets.
- Development of operational policies and procedures.
- The day-to-day operations management, human resources recruitment and management and budget and financial oversight and monitoring.
- Overall planning, design and implementation of projects and programs within the mandate; and
- Communications and marketing for the purpose of business development

Governance, Strategy Development, Planning and Reporting

- Formulates and updates annual business plan and strategies, policies and procedures for Wawatay Communications Society and brings these to the Board for input, and decision as to ratification.
- Ensures strong strategic and annual planning processes and procedures are undertaken and effective budget and plans are prepared for Board approval.
- Seeks out and develops business opportunities and presents such opportunities to the Board for consideration and decision.
- Oversees fiscal activities, ensuring that all financial and non-financial reporting requirements are met on a timely and accurate basis, and
- Ensures that reports to the Board are always transparent and timely basis.

Community and Relationship Management

- Initiates, develops, and maintains effective strategic relationships and networks with key stakeholders including the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, government agencies, business owners, contractors, customers, potential customers, partners, suppliers, residents, and the business community in relation to their interests in the Corporation.
- Examines and recommends partnerships with private and public entities in support of projects that will assist the Corporation in fulfilling its mission and objectives; and
- Promotes and advocates the profile of the Wawatay Communications Society.

Operational Management

- Schedules Board meetings, prepares agendas, information and reports for consideration and decision by the Board, and ensures

the completion of minutes of all Board meetings.

- Ensures the operation of Wawatay Communications Society follows all appropriate legal, regulatory and internal policies as approved by the Board, and are not contrary to policies, bylaws, and relevant government legislation and regulation.
- Prepares an annual performance management plan for approval by the Board.
- Analyzes, prepares reports, presents information and recommendations, and ensures timely completion of all activities.
- Implements the decisions of the Board in an efficient and effective manner,
- Ensures the day-to-day operations of Wawatay Communications Society are effectively and efficiently coordinated, implemented, and conducted within the policy and procedure framework approved by the Board.
- Implements stringent project management processes to ensure the timely, cost effective and profitable development and completion of projects.
- Determines limitations of authority for employees of Wawatay Communications Society covering expenditures, contracts personnel actions, etc.; and
- Establishes policies and procedures for Board approval in relation to consultants and contractors being retained by Wawatay Communications Society and exercises appropriate controls to ensure their use is managed cost effectively.

Staff and Contractor Management and Leadership

- Builds and maintains a high-performance culture through effective performance management, communication and coaching of staff,
- Recruits appropriately skilled staff to all positions and establish appropriate remuneration levels and performance-based conditions for each employee.
- Establishes performance management plans with employee and undertakes performance reviews, recommends salary and benefit changes, promotions and dismissals as appropriate within the authority of the position; and
- Recruits and appoints with the approval of the Board, where necessary.

Financial Management

- Prepares and presents an annual budget to the Board for approval complete with all supporting background information and

documentation; and

- Establishes financial controls in relation to undertaking and monitoring the activities of Wawatay Communications Society against the approved budget and provides monthly (or more frequently, as necessary) reports to the Board on the performance of Wawatay Communications Society against the approved budget.

Job Knowledge:

The work requires the following knowledge, skill and/or abilities:

- Significant and proven leadership skills developed through at least five (5) years in a senior management role and experience related to media, communications and business.
- Substantial knowledge of business operations, asset management, marketing, finance, and business processes related to economic and business development activities.
- Proven ability to build effective relationships with external stakeholders and collaboration, inspire and motivate high performance and effectively resolve conflict.
- Knowledge and experience with the First Nations of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory.
- Ability to speak and understand one of the languages of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities;
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Post Secondary MBA in Business Management, Commerce or Finance.
- 5 – 10 years of experience in Business Development and Senior Management.
- The ability to communicate in English and Ojibway, Cree or Oji-Cree is an asset.
- Ability to work with both Macintosh and Windows computer platforms.
- A valid Ontario driver’s license and cell phone.
- A combination of education and/or experience will be considered.

The Position will be Posted until Filled Start Date: ASAP

Applicants can send their resume, cover letter and contact information for references (in confidence) to:

Board Chair Nick Day nickday@sandylakefn.com

Board Vice Chair Vivian Waswa vivianw@wunnumin.ca

Note: Only applicants considered for an Interview will be contacted.



National Indigenous Peoples Day

Today June 21, we join in celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. It is a day for all of us to reflect and honour the Indigenous people who inhabit their traditional lands since time immemorial.

Today, and every day, all of us at First Mining Gold acknowledge the beauty of the Cultures, the strength in the teachings, and the resilience of past, present and future generations.

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Counselling provides an opportunity to tell your story. We feel there are many important aspects to a helpful counselling session. It is important that our counsellors:

- Help clients to feel comfortable
- Be non-judgemental
- Be culturally sensitive
- Allow the client to decide what issues to talk about
- Teach coping skills for mental health
- Be a good clinical match for our clients

At Sullivan + Associates Clinical Psychology, we have 40 Master's and Doctoral-level Counsellors who provide service for children, adolescents, adults, couples and families.

We provide counselling services in-person, online and by telephone for all mental health issues with the most common issues being:

- Trauma
- Grief and Loss
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Anger
- Addictions

For counselling services, we are happy to help clients access funding through Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (*FNIHB*) and Indian Residential School (*IRS*) programs.



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