





# Politics

## National Chief Archibald speaks at NAN's Spring Assembly

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

National Chief RoseAnne Archibald and Regional Chief Glen Hare spoke about the healing path forward, sharing wealth and education during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs Spring Assembly on May 10.

“When I talk about this healing path forward, it actually comes out of a document that we created at the AFN (Assembly of First Nations) that was used to influence and shift the work of our federal partners,” Archibald says. “This healing path forward is really about building a better future for everyone across Turtle Island, one that actually creates greater equity and equality for First Nations so that we can have the same things that every municipality has, clean drinking water, adequate housing, proper services. When we talk about equality and equity, that’s what I’m talking about.”

Archibald says she has been working with the regional chiefs and federal partners to ensure that First Nations priorities are top of mind and that commitments made are followed through since she was elected 10 months ago.

“A good example of this is the latest federal budget — AFN did a pre-budget submission that included a request for investments of (about) \$104 billion,” Archibald says. “Further, we did an analysis on the impacts of this budget announcement on First Nations across Canada. The bottom line though is that the federal government continues to purposefully underfund First Nations and restrict our communities from accessing our true wealth from our lands and resources, and I spoke about that during this recent



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

National Chief RoseAnne Archibald and Regional Chief Glen Hare met with Grand Chief Derek Fox and Deputy Grand Chiefs Bobby Narcisse, Anna Betty Achneepineskum and Victor Linklater during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs Spring Assembly on May 10.

budget cycle.”

Archibald says First Nations need a new economic deal that allows First Nations the autonomy, self government, self sufficiency and self determination that is guaranteed under the Constitution.

“Those financial arrangements have to do with sharing the wealth of this country,” Archibald says. “All of the wealth in Canada is built upon First Nations lands, whether those lands are treaty lands or unceded lands. A prime example of this kind of development is the development of the Ring of Fire, First Nations have to move beyond just minimal impact benefit agreements and promises of jobs. We have to move to being owners of those developments, to have a piece of the wealth.”

Archibald says they are currently working on a national prosperity table similar to the

one started in Ontario when she was the regional chief but with a focus on a new economic deal and increasing the amount of economic development funding to First Nations.

Hare adds that companies around the world have “deep pockets.”

“They need to give back,” Hare says. “There’s elections right now in Ontario, Ring of Fire’s been underlined, partnership has been underlined, let’s vote. When they come to us let’s raise water, let’s raise share the wealth so that our kids can go to school clean and that we can eat.”

Hare encourages companies to hire First Nations people, noting that there is a high population of First Nations people and he was given many chances to work when he was young.

“So hire our people,” Hare says. “Even though we may falter the first week or the first

month or whatever, pick us up again. We can do it, I’ve done it. Let’s give that chance to our people.”

Hare says providing education in Indigenous languages for First Nations children in the education system is another big issue.

“I’m proud to still have my Anishinabemowin voice,” Hare says. “All our children can have our voice. Give us that ... in our education system that we have Anishinabemowin as (part of the) curriculum. Our Anishinabemowin means I don’t have to repeat myself, but in the (English) language I’ve got to say it three or four times to be understood.”

Archibald and Hare delivered their presentations on the first day of the May 10-12 NAN Chiefs Spring Assembly, which was held at the Delta Hotel in Thunder Bay.

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# Politics

## National Chief calls on UN to investigate residential schools

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

National Chief RoseAnne Archibald called for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to investigate residential schools at the 21st Session of the United Nations (UN) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

"I'm calling on the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples along with other special rapporteurs to conduct full-fledged investigations of the circumstances and responsibilities surrounding these institutions, including full redress, criminal prosecutions and sanctions and other remedies for human rights violations including genocide," Archibald says during a press conference at the UN. "Canada must not be allowed to investigate itself. Please help us ensure that something like this never happens again, not just to us but to anyone."

Archibald says the intergenerational trauma from the residential school system is evident in today's children and adults who don't speak their language fluently.

"Our language is vital because it connects us to everything, our families, our communities, our land, our nationhood," Archibald says. "During this International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), let's rebuild our languages and cultures, which will contribute to vibrant communi-



submitted photo  
National Chief RoseAnne Archibald met with Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, during her trip to speak at the 1st Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

ties where our children can sing and talk in the language of our ancestors."

Archibald says that she calls the residential schools, which were established by the federal government, institutions of assimilation and genocide.

"These institutions were designed to kill the Indian in the child by forbidding them to speak their language, which disconnected them from their families and communities," Archibald says. "Some people refer to these institutions as residential schools — I don't call them schools anymore because no school I ever attended had children buried in unmarked graves. Thousands and thousands of our children died in these institutions."

Archibald says it was important to go to the UN to make the call for the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to be formally invited to Canada to do the study on the unmarked graves at former residential schools and to seek remedies for human rights violations.

"When you bury a child without ceremony, without a grave and you just dig a hole for them and you place them beside the school, which I don't call them schools anymore, when you place them on the grounds of these institutions, that to me is a real human rights violation," Archibald says. "It's a violation against that child, it's a human rights violation."

Archibald says they met with

the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, who said he needs an invitation preferably from the Prime Minister to come to Canada to look at the issue and study it.

"I saw in the media that there is this open invitation (for the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) but in reality we need the formal invitation to the rapporteur so he can do the formal work that needs to be done on this issue," Archibald says.

Archibald also delivered a presentation on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and met with other Indigenous people from around the world, particularly from North America about mutual goals and things they could



submitted photo  
National Chief RoseAnne Archibald met with National Congress of American Indians President Fawn Sharp during her trip to speak at the 1st Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

work on together internationally, at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

"It was great to meet with Ecuador as well as the Mexico Indigenous representatives," Archibald says. "We took some time to talk about the similar things we were facing in our countries such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent. We also had an opportunity to meet with President Fawn Sharp of the National Congress of American Indians to discuss together what we could do together across this invisible line that cuts across Turtle Island."

Archibald says they often met with other representatives at the Vienna Cafe at the UN.

"We met the ambassador for Bolivia for example just in

passing," Archibald says. "One of the meetings that I had was with the Women's International Forum — it was Indigenous women from around the world who I had an opportunity to talk about some of the issues they were facing in their countries. It's really busy, fast paced. You start with breakfast or early mornings and you are sometimes doing events right into the evening. It's really a whirlwind kind of event and more so this time because not many people stayed for the full period. A lot of the stuff was online so people were really wanting to get together and meet while we were there in New York."

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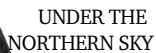
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# In The Footsteps Of Our Ancestors



**I**wake up in the morning now to the sound of Niska, the Cree word for a Canada Goose. They fly over my house and I know for sure that spring is certainly on its way.

However, when I look outside my win-dow I see snowbanks and personally I think the cold nasty weather is hanging on a little too long.

Every-body I talk to feels that this winter was difficult, long, way too snowy and very cold for long stretches up here in northern Ontario.

The thing is I know for sure I can always count on the coming of warmer weather once I hear Niska overhead flying further north to Weenaybek, the Cree word for the great James Bay. Many of my family members and friends along the coast have been on the land now for some time harvesting Niska. They do so with a lot of modern technology and even with the aid of helicopters to fly them into their re-mote traditional hunting grounds. Some things about the hunt though will never change.

My family mostly hunts and gathers on our traditional lands of the Lakitusaki (Lake River) region, the Attawapiskat River delta and on Akamiski Island. My ancestors have been doing this for as long as my people the Cree of James Bay have been documenting time.

Our traditional lands are known to us at a young age. When I was a young boy it was a normal part of life to head out onto our traditional lands to hunt and gather.

We Cree are lucky to have had an upbringing in which our age old ways were passed down from our ancestors in regards to hunting and fishing.

We are the proof that the passing on of these skills was important simply because of the fact we are still here and flourishing despite the arrival of the Europeans and the colonization efforts we had to endure for hundreds of years.

No matter what happened to our world, my people have never stopped following their way of life in heading back out on to traditional lands and utilizing ancient skills that have

had to do with our survival in all kinds of challenges over thou-sands of years.

Although we have dealt with all of the terrors of colonization including religion, forced assimilation, the residential school attempt at genocide and the destruction of family units, there was always the return to our traditional lands to hunt and gather.

When on the land we lived as our ancestors had for thousands of years except maybe for the odd cup of tea or coffee and of course the easy to carry and pre-pare cans of spam, klick, corned beef hash, meatballs in gravy and Irish stew.

On the land we always have the opportunity to harvest as many birds and animals as we want but we are also respectful and thankful for the food we get that has kept us alive for generations...

Much of the time we ate what we harvested in Niska or Way-way, the snow goose or 'wavy'. On the land we always have the opportunity to harvest as many birds and animals as we want but we are also respectful and thankful for the food we get that has kept us alive for generations. Our Elders teach us at an early age to harvest only what we need and that we can transport and preserve.

Most carry on with the spring and fall hunts in respectful and grateful teachings in our traditional lands where we connect in the footsteps of our ancestors and we find peace and we are rejuvenated in a world that has been familiar to us for time immemorial.

In the times we are witnessing right now I believe my people of the Great James Bay have the ability and capacity to survive and that is good to know considering the world wide pandemic we are being challenged with and the efforts of world leaders in taking us down a trail to nuclear war. We are the lucky ones.

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## submitted photo

The Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) is pleased to announce the success of the pilot program Miinikaanan Badakidoon. The program was launched in December, 2021 as a new Indigenous funding stream of the Starter Company Plus program. The pilot program successfully saw six entrepreneurs complete the program, each obtaining \$5,000 in funding. The Miinikaanan Badakidoon funding will support Indigenous lead businesses and entrepreneurs across the Northwest region.

## WEATHER

“April is cruelest month”, the poem by T.S.Elliot, is not about weather conditions in Northern Ontario. However, April 2022 is a contender. Yes, it featured a couple of false springs, days with sunshine and above seasonal temperatures. Suggestions of spring conditions are typical in April but were especially brief this year.

The Northwest, for the fourth month in a row, experienced below seasonal temperatures. They were as much as 5 degrees Celsius below normal in an area from Fort Frances to Red Lake to Sioux Lookout. Record low temperatures were set in this area in mid-April and again on April 25. In the Northeast and the far North, temperatures for the month were near or slightly below normal.

The Northwest, also for the fourth month in a row, received more precipitation than normal. Winter-like storms associated with Alberta Clippers delivered combinations of snow and rain and added considerable moisture to the existing snow on the ground. A Colorado Low storm system,

from April 22 to 24, resulted in persistent thunderstorms and record rainfalls from Fort Frances to the Thunder Bay area. The Thunder Bay Airport reported 69 mm of rain in just 12 hours. Other areas received 30 to 80 mm in a 24-hour period. The rainfall, combined with saturated ground conditions and frozen culverts, resulted in washed out roads and local flooding. States of emergency because of flooding, road closures and wastewater infrastructure failures were declared in Fort Frances, Emo and several townships west and north of Thunder Bay.

The storm then tracked northward with significant amounts of rain and then snow from Geraldton to Hudson Bay. In the final tally for April, western and northern areas of the region generally received three times more precipitation than average. In the Northeast precipitation amounts were closer to normal.

Many areas across the Northwest and the far North had a significant amount of snow on the ground at the end of April. Record amounts of moisture in the snowpack were measured in many locations. Rainfall in the first half of May contributed to unusually high water levels, river flows and flooding of low-lying areas.

Most rivers have crested in the Northwest but additional rainfall could cause more problems. Areas of concern are

the major rivers that flow into James Bay and Hudson Bay. The winter was colder than normal and river ice was thicker than usual. The potential of ice jams resulted in the evacuation of some communities.

I have been musing about spring for a few months now. “A persistent winter” was the title in March and “This Spring season arrives in several ways” last month. Sometimes reporting about the weather can overlap with complaining about the weather. Well, expecting spring in March in Northern Ontario is probably naïve but I do want to report that this late winter and spring qualifies as very unusual:

1. The number of winter and spring storms in the form of Alberta Clippers and Colorado Lows which passed through the region was unusually high,
2. The first four months of 2022 were the coldest since 2014,
3. The first four months of 2022 had the most precipitation since 1996.

One way to define the beginning of spring in Northern Ontario and most of Canada is when native vegetation buds out. Pussy willows, poplar blooms and some grasses and weeds appear according to air temperature, a “5 and 5” process. Various shrubs swell and then burst with remarkable expansion and unfolding when the average daily temperature

is 5° C for five days in a row. Of course, a couple of very warm days or cold nights will mess a bit with this simple formula.

Using this 5 and 5 process, this spring was about four weeks behind what happened last spring. I sometimes smile to how quickly we adjust to “good weather” (and I include myself in the “we”). Last spring’s start was three weeks earlier than average. It is easy to accept this as a new normal but in 2022 the snow shovel was only exchanged for the garden shovel in May.

## Outlook for the rest of May and June

When I write this part of this column I assess various weather predictions for three to five weeks into the future. I select and combine but there is a gap between writing and when you read it. One thing is certain, spring is established across the region.

The temperature pattern has radically changed, and most forecasting agencies are predicting mainly summer-like temperatures in the next weeks and the likelihood of a warmer than average summer. With more uncertainty, most of the region is predicted to shift from recent rainfall warnings to drier conditions.

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## Invitation to Participate

# Lac Seul 2024 - 2034 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR)**, **Ondaadiziwin Forest Management Inc. (OFMI)** and the **Sioux Lookout Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to participate in the development of the 2024 – 2034 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the **Lac Seul Forest**.

## The Planning Process

The FMP will take approximately two years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. This first stage (**Stage 1**) notice is to advise you that preparation of the plan has started and to request:

- Your involvement as early as possible in the planning process;
- Your contribution to background information, particularly information relating to values and important ecological features that could be affected by forest management activities, and
- Your view of the desired forest condition and desired benefits which can be obtained from the forest.

## How to Get Involved

Please provide any comments or information to the NDMNRF Office contact listed below or if you wish to remotely meet and discuss your interests and concerns with the planning team, plan author and/or the LCC, please contact the individuals identified below.

Background information and sources of direction that are available for you to view are described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual* FMPM (Part A, Section 2.3.3.1) <https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-forest-management-planning-manual-en-2020-07-08.pdf>

Background information and further information about the forest management planning process will be available for the duration of plan preparation.

The general information regarding the FMP process as well as the information described in this notice, can be made available electronically by contacting OFMI and at the NDMNRF Sioux Lookout District Office listed below, during normal office hours. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be 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 and concerns with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

**Kevin Pruys, R.P.F.**  
 Management Forester  
 Ministry of Northern Development, Mines,  
 Natural Resources and Forestry  
 Sioux Lookout District Office  
 P.O. Box 309, Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A6  
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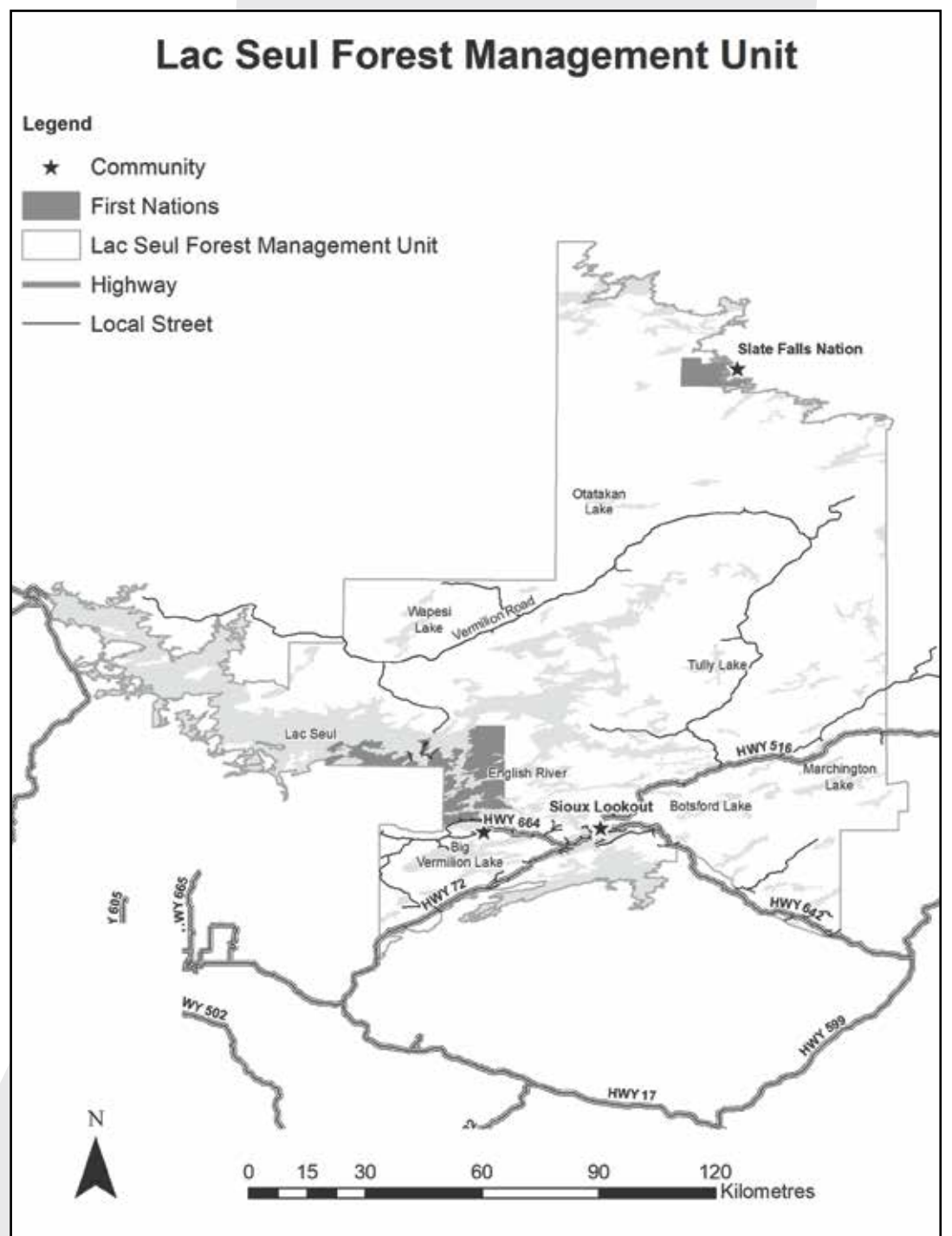
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Sioux Lookout Local Citizen's Committee  
c/o NDMNRF  
Sioux Lookout District Office  
P.O. Box 309, Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A6  
tel: 807-737-2904

Anytime during the planning process, you may make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the NDMNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the *2020 Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1)*.

## Stay Involved

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

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



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

## Stage Two: Review of the Proposed Long-Term Management Direction **October 2022**

### Stage Three: Review of Proposed Operations February 2023

#### Stage Four: Review of Draft Forest Management Plan July 2023

**Stage Five:** Inspection of NDMNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan **November 2023**

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

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

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# Community

## Red Dress Day honoured in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

A Red Dress Day memorial walk to Boulevard Lake and a Red Dress Day candlelight vigil at City Hall were among the events held in Thunder Bay on May 5.

"I prayed about the women we lost, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls," says Constance Lake Elder Florrie Sutherland, who participated in the memorial walk from the Matawa First Nations building on Algoma St. to Boulevard Lake. "I prayed about that going there and back because I know a lot of our family members and people that (were) lost and never came home."

Sutherland says it was important to recognize the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) issue because it was not acknowledged for "way too long." The Assembly of First Nations states that 16 per cent of all female homicide victims and 11 per cent of missing women in Canada are Indigenous women even though the Indigenous population of the country is 4.3 per cent of the total population.

"It wasn't out in public, no awareness about it," Sutherland says. "So now it's coming out — it's very important that we acknowledge that."

Aroland Elder John Gagnon says he provided some encouraging words for the people who lost loved ones during the opening ceremony for the memorial walk.

"You always give them those words, uplifting kind of words," Gagnon says. "It's good to mingle with the people, especially on a day like this, it's very sacred. I mentioned one of my friends that lost a sister."

Gagnon says Red Dress Day is difficult for people who have lost loved ones. Red Dress Day has been held since Indigenous artist Jamie Black created her REDress project in 2010 that focused on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada and the United States.

"It's hard for them, especially today because it's a national day to remember," Gagnon says. "When we're all together, it makes us stronger, then we can cope with it a little bit better. When you're by yourself, it's kind of hard to cope with that loss."

Carly Ducharme, director of mental health at the Matawa Health Co-operative, says there was an excellent turnout for the memorial walk.

"I was happy to see a lot of our (citizens) and a lot of people from the (Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services) education centre kind of join together to do (the walk)," Ducharme says. "We didn't want to go too far because we had some Elders here today."

Ducharme says it was important to hold the memorial walk because MMIWG continues to be a standing issue.

"It is important to draw awareness to this issue because there needs to be systemic changes," Ducharme says. "By bringing awareness to this, hopefully it can motivate change to take place. It is important to come together to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and to hold them in our hearts and to hold them in our

thoughts and (to) recognize that day."

The candlelight vigil, which featured about 19 hand drummers, was held at 9:15 p.m. at City Hall by the Animikii Wiikwedong-Deweigan drum group.

"There was a very good turnout, a very good display of support from various community (citizens)," says Sharlene Bourdeau, member of the Animikii

Wiikwedong-Deweigan drum group. "I felt it was needed to bring awareness to the fact that there's so many Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in this country and there's still thousands that have gone unsolved."

Bourdeau says she also requested that the lights at the Boulevard Lake Dam be changed to red on May 5 to

increase awareness of Red Dress Day.

"From a far distance it actually looked like Anishinabe women in red dresses because of the way the water was falling — it looked absolutely stunning," Bourdeau says.

Celina Reitberger, member of the Animikii Wiikwedong-Deweigan drum group, says the drum group previously handed

out Red Dress Day pins at the Intercity Shopping Centre on April 30 and arranged for a local restaurant, Lot 88, to hand out Red Dress Day cookies to customers to raise awareness of the MMIWG issue.

"(The Lot 88 owner) agreed that anyone who showed up dressed in red on (May 5) for dinner would receive 10 per cent off their food bill," Reit-

berger says. "So we all went there and took advantage of that."

Reitberger says Red Dress Day should be a national holiday because of the ongoing fact of MMIWG.

"Cases are not being solved, it's still happening and we need to make the general public aware of this," Reitberger says.

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***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:**

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

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](mailto:idscommunitysupport@argylepr.com)  
<https://indiandayschools.com/en/support/community-support-program/>

Services in Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Cree, English, French  
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Indigenous women.  
Toll Free: 1-855-554-4325  
[www.talk4healing.com](http://www.talk4healing.com)

24/7 Services in English, Cree, Ojibway, Inuktitut, French  
Toll Free 1-855-242-3310  
[www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca) with Chat Feature

Toll Free 1-844-626-4673  
Text: 1-844-626-4673  
www.nanhope.ca with Chat Feature

**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/>**

For immediate emotional assistance  
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Toll Free: 1-888-301-6426  
[www.healthcanada.gc.ca/irs](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/irs)

Toll Free: 1-800-721-0066  
www.irsss.ca

In-house elders offering support, Monday to Friday 9-11am and 1-3 p.m. Eastern Time  
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[www.nwac.ca](http://www.nwac.ca)

24/7 support to family, friends and community citizens impacted  
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Two-spirit person  
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# Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service Chief of Police Roland Morrison announced NAPS' new funding agreement on the first day of the May 10-12 NAN Chiefs Spring Assembly.

# NAPS planning to add 18 new officers

**Rick Garrick**  
Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) announced plans to add 18 new Regional Drug Investigative team detectives and staff under their funding agreement for 2022-2025 during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Chiefs Spring Assembly. NAPS Chief of Police Roland Morrison announced the new funding agreement on the first day of the May 10-12 NAN Chiefs Spring Assembly.

"We're going to have two detective staff sergeants, one will oversee our existing crime units which are situated in Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay and Cochrane," Morrison says. "The other detective staff sergeant position will go to overseeing our specialty officers, which consists of our drug units, our guns and gang officer, our criminal intelligence officer, our analyst. When you look at direct supervision on these regional drug enforcement teams, we have a detective sergeant here already who oversees the officers that are working out of Thunder Bay, but we'll have a detective sergeant overseeing the regional drug enforcement team in Sioux Lookout, we'll have a detective sergeant that's going to oversee the team out of Cochrane."

Morrison says each region will have four detective constables and a detective sergeant strictly focusing on drug enforcement.

"And to ensure that our officers are getting properly trained, it was important for us to increase our training unit, so we did get two additional positions for our training unit," Morrison says.

Morrison says the new regional drug enforcement positions will help deter people from going to the NAPS communities to sell drugs.

"This was something that we needed desperately because many of our communities are suffering, many of our people are suffering," Morrison says. "So to get 18 positions for specialized investigations, that sends a real message to say that the governments have heard us and they made a commitment to NAPS to help us, help

your communities, to help our citizens to make sure that we can deter people from coming to our communities and selling drugs.”

Morrison says they also added two K-9 positions, with one to be based in Thunder Bay and one in Cochrane.

"They serve a multitude of capacities within our service," Morrison says. "They can be available for search and rescue, they can be available for executing drug warrants, they're there as a deterrent but they're also there to be that ice breaker sometimes. Having a dog in the room is really a conversation starter, but it's also again a good way to do community service."

Morrison says they are also receiving funding for five new detachment buildings, with construction to begin on the new detachments in Marten Falls and Neskantaga in 2022/2023 and in Attawapiskat, Mishkeegogamang and Chapleau in 2023/2024.

"We've never received funding for five new detachments in one negotiation sitting," Morrison says. "So for the funders to commit this to Nishnawbe Aski Police is really a huge step for them because the need is there to replace our infrastruc-

ture. Our newest infrastructure will be stick builds and it will allow Nishnawbe Aski Police to have the equipment to service the communities, it will allow our officers to have appropriate spaces to conduct their work, not only to interview people who were victims, we'll have a safe space for them within our detachments."

Morrison says the funding agreement also includes new funding for two information technology technicians, one additional finance position, one human resources assistant, three regional e-intake coordinators, one court assistant, one CPIC position and one prisoner transport position.

Mike Metatawabin, NAPS board chair, thanked the leadership from NAN for their ongoing support and resolutions over the years during his comments about the new NAPS funding agreement.

"It made a big difference," Metatawabin says. "I also want to include our legal counsel who were involved, they played a pivotal role as well."

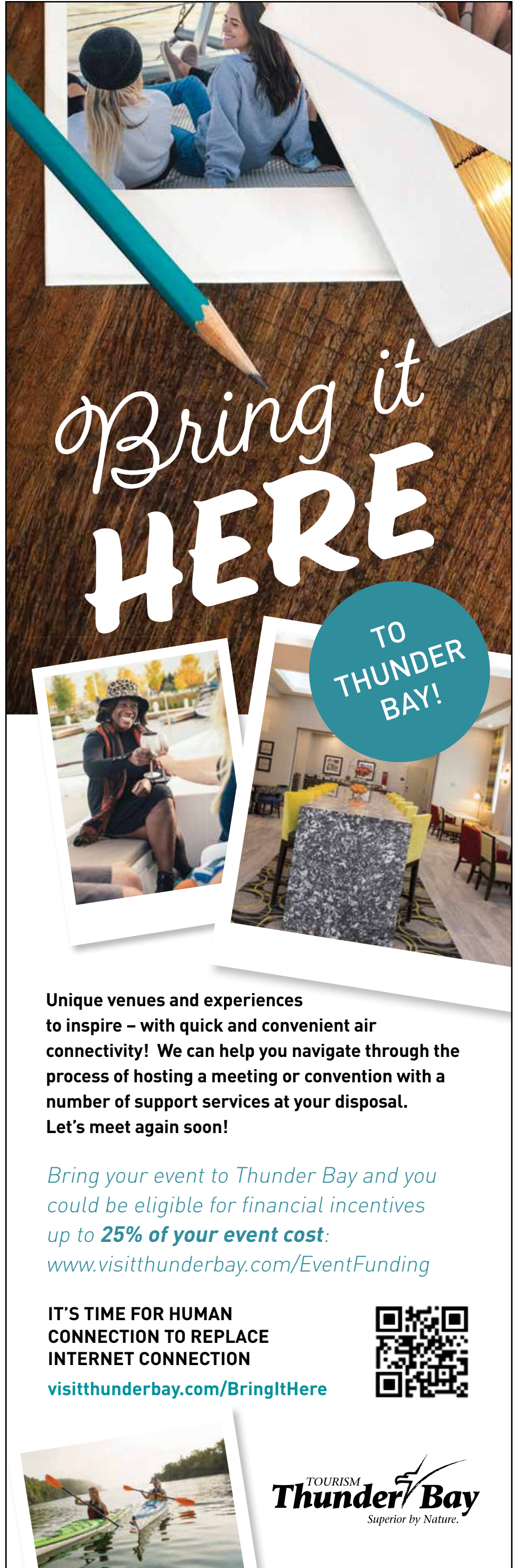
Metatawabin says NAPS is the second largest Indigenous police force in North America, after the Navajo Police Department.



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***Boozhoo, Aaniin, Wacheya,***

I would like to start by acknowledging and commending the Family Well-Being Program (FWBp) Community Coordinators for their dedication, passion, endless hours of ongoing support and resources they provide to families. Having to be extremely creative thinking of ways how to support families across Turtle Island during the pandemic. Coordinators have played a vital role providing essential COVID-19 resources, delivering food and supporting the wellbeing of all our relations.

Moving into another year of the pandemic has reduced our ability to gather in person that has been overwhelming and extremely challenging. Communities have shown their resilience by thinking of new ways of offering activities and programs such as radio shows, virtual events and, online activities. This shows the commitment and willingness to overcome these difficult times we are facing. Please contact your local Family Well-Being Program Coordinator to inquire about programs and activities during Family Well-Being Week.

**Here are some activities the FWBp Community Coordinators have done to host Family Well-Being Week:**

- Fishing Derby
- Baseball Tournament
- Volleyball Tournament
- Land-Based Camping for Families and Youth
- Picking & Harvesting Medicines
- Community Cookout
- Preparing & Cooking Traditional Food
- Gospel Jamboree
- Karaoke Contest
- Family Scavenger Hunt
- Social Media Games and Contests
- Family Radio Show
- Family Photo Contest
- Beach Day

As we move forward and continue to find new ways of supporting each other and start gathering again that we be mindful for the safety of ourselves and families. Continue to follow COVID-19 safety measures, community protocols and follow the direction of our leaders. The more we empower and encourage one another the more we become united and stronger together. We hope to be able to travel soon across Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory and see each other in person. May the Creator continue to watch over our families and communities.

Miigwech & God Bless!

*Sheila Marcinyshyn*  
Family Well-Being Program Manager

For more information please contact:  
Sheila Marcinyshyn, [smarcinyshyn@nan.ca](mailto:smarcinyshyn@nan.ca)  
Direct Line: **807-625-4694** or 807-707-1840



# Family Well-Being Week

**July 3-9, 2022**



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Thunder Bay, ON  
P7E 1C9

**Eastern Office**  
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***Wachay from the Social Services Department,***

The changing of the seasons helps to remind us that even in times of tremendous hardships and endings, there is growth, warmth and light. For over two years, we have all been challenged by the pandemic and each and every one of us has been impacted emotionally and physically. We are coming through this time forever changed in some manner. But we are coming through.

Our Department continues to support and advocate for our NAN communities and our dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure needs can be met and voices are being heard. We are grateful not only for this, but for all of you, as you are our motivation and the driving force behind all of the work that we do.

In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found Canada guilty of racially discriminating against First Nations children by insufficiently funding child and family services located on reserve. Through intervenor status, NAN was instrumental in the negotiation and signing of the Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) on December 31, 2021. NAN is now involved in the current task of negotiating a Final Settlement Agreement, and this is to ensure the unique needs of our remote communities are addressed. This is expected to be concluded by November 20, 2022, and will be a binding agreement.

While negotiations continue, provisions of the AIP are being implemented: Capital Funding Process, First Nations Representative Service (formerly Band Representative Services), Post-Majority Care Services, Prevention Funding Allocation. As well, Choose Life funding will continue with a commitment to a “back to basics approach” and training/education at the government level.

Another new development coming out of AIP negotiations is the remoteness challenges that are shared across Canada. This has resulted in the establishment of the National Assembly of Remote Communities (NARC). NARC will allow for a unified voice at the national level and will represent an advocacy voice across all sectors.

Taking into account the dynamics of the work involved, we are excited that our Department is growing!

If there is anything I can assist with, or if you have any questions, please reach out to me at [rquachegan@nan.ca](mailto:rquachegan@nan.ca) or to Aurora Smith, Social Services Policy Analyst at [asmith@nan.ca](mailto:asmith@nan.ca).

Stay safe and be well.

*Robin Quachegan*

Director of Social Services



# JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

*Jordan River Anderson was a citizen of Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba and was born with complex medical needs.*

*Jordan was able to leave the hospital when he was 2. However, the federal and provincial governments could not agree on who should pay for his home-based care.*

*Jordan stayed in the hospital until he passed at the age of 5.*

The House of Commons passed Jordan's Principle in his memory and it is now a legal obligation so First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them. Funding can help with a wide range of health, social and educational needs, including the unique needs that First Nations children and youth have.

*Eligibility is under 18 years of age and one of the following;*

- 1 The child is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act, as amended from time to time;
- 2 The child has one parent/guardian who is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act;
- 3 The child is recognized by their Nation for the purposes of Jordan's Principle; or
- 4 The child is ordinarily a resident on reserve.

## How to Apply

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**CALL** 1-855-JP-CHILD (1-855-572-4453), open 24hrs a day,  
7 days a week.

| **VISIT** [canada.ca/jordans-principle](http://canada.ca/jordans-principle).

**NEED HELP?** Contact your Community Worker or Tribal Council Coordinator for assistance or call the number above.



NAN has a contact list and can assist communities and Tribal Councils to apply for their own workers. Email [jordansprinciple@nan.ca](mailto:jordansprinciple@nan.ca)



## Mission

Our Family-Being program strengthens and empowers families and individuals to build quality of life, including life-skills, within our communities, individuals, and families.

Our program does this by supporting land-based healing activities, sharing knowledge and connecting with well-being approaches.

These are grounded in cultural renewal, diverse spirituality, and an understanding of our history and identity.

**We promote  
resilience in our  
families and look  
to our Elders for  
guidance.**



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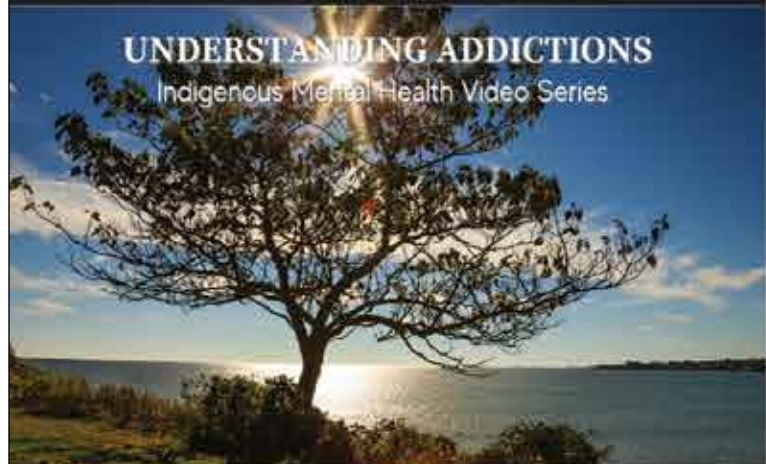
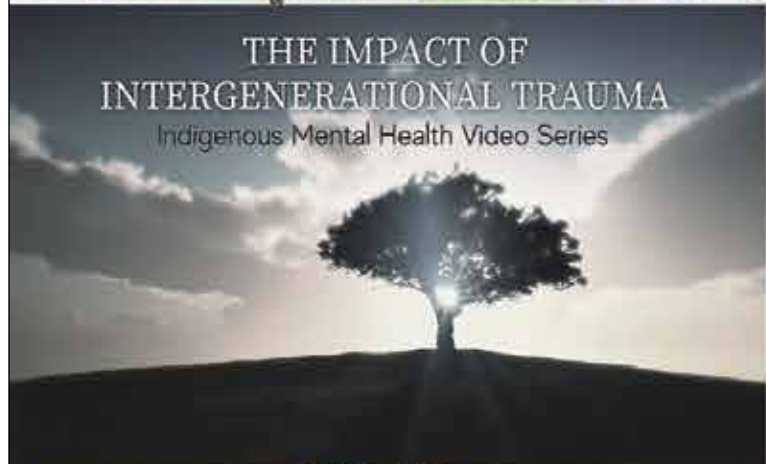
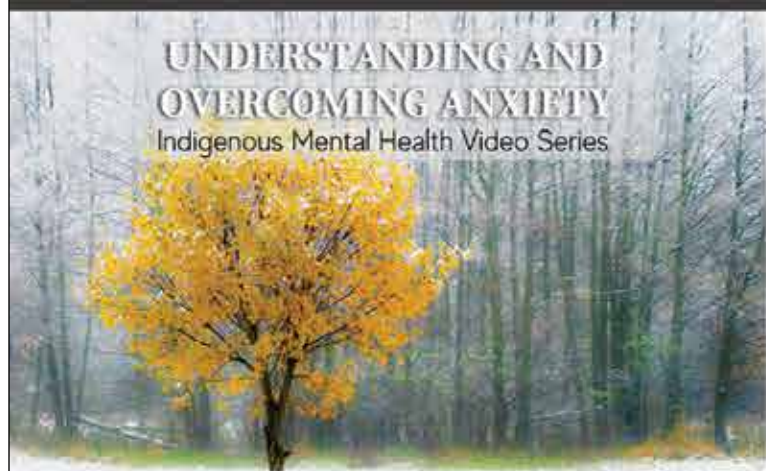
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# Indigenous Mental Health Video Series

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## 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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# Community

## Class action over birth alerts filed in court

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Waddell Phillips Professional Corporation filed a statement of claim for a proposed class action over birth alerts issued by Ontario's legislatively mandated children's aid societies on May 10 at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

Waddell Phillips Professional Corporation represents two plaintiffs, Katherine Gandy and Emily Walker, who claim on their own behalf and on behalf of the proposed class members declarations including that the defendant children's aid societies intentionally or recklessly, and without lawful justification, intruded

upon the seclusion of the birth parent class members; and the defendant children's aid societies breached the confidence of the birth parent class members by misusing their confidential personal information to the detriment of the birth parent class members.

"We will be suing the children's aid societies of Ontario as well as the ministry which is responsible for child welfare," says Tina Yang, a lawyer with Waddell Phillips Professional Corporation, during a phone interview before the proposed class action was filed. "The core of the claim is the birth alerts system. The core of it is when the child protection authority sends a notice to local hospitals

essentially saying this person who is pregnant may come to your hospital or clinic for care and when they do you should tell us, you should alert us."

Yang says the authority of a child protection authority is focused on the interests of a child.

"There is no authority to take these intrusive steps with parents before there is a child, which is what happened with the birth alerts system," Yang says. "We don't know for sure how many birth alerts were issued in Ontario over the years or even when the system began but we do know the use was widespread. We've heard from many women and many families that have been affected by

birth alerts throughout Ontario and in 2020 the ministry issued a guideline stating that the practice of birth alerts had to stop, so that was the official end of birth alerts in Ontario."

Yang says Waddell Phillips Professional Corporation is spearheading the proposed class action in Ontario and similar actions have been or will be brought across the country.

"It's a proposed class action when it's filed," Yang says. "We have to go to court and ask the court to certify the case as a class action. If and when certification is granted a notice will go out to all people who are potentially affected. At this point people don't have to take any steps — they're welcome

to contact us for information if they want to know more about the class action, but there's nothing they need to do at this point."

The plaintiffs also claim in the proposed class action declarations that the defendant children's aid societies breached the confidence of the birth parent class members by misusing their confidential personal information to the detriment of the birth parent class members; the defendant children's aid societies breached the s. 15 Charter rights of the subclass members and that the infringements are not saved by s. 1 of the Charter; the defendant children's aid societies acted without lawful author-

ity and committed the tort of misfeasance in public office; the defendant Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario owed a duty of care to the class members and breached that duty; and the defendants are liable to the class members for the damages caused by their breaches of common law and statutory duties.

Information about the class action is posted online at: [waddellphillips.ca/class-actions/birth-alerts-class-action/](http://waddellphillips.ca/class-actions/birth-alerts-class-action/), and the proposed class action is posted at: [waddellphillips.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/22.05.10-Issued-Statement-of-Claim-FINAL.pdf](http://waddellphillips.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/22.05.10-Issued-Statement-of-Claim-FINAL.pdf).

## Canadian Rangers providing emergency help with James Bay evacuations

Peter Moon  
Special to Wawatay News

Canadian Rangers are providing emergency assistance to three remote First Nations on James Bay as spring ice break-ups threaten to flood the communities.

"It's a good example of Canadian Rangers being able to assist their communities when required," said Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur, the Canadian Army officer who commands the 700 Rangers in 29 First Nations across the Far North of Ontario. Rangers are part-time army reservists.

A mobile support team, known as a Ranger Go Team, flew into Kachechewan on Sunday to assist local Rangers in the ongoing evacuation of the

Cree community. The Go Team, composed of Rangers from Bearskin Lake, Moose Factory, Sandy Lake, and Pikangikum, all volunteered for the mission. The Albany River frequently forces the community to evacuate when the river floods during the annual ice break-ups.

Rangers are assisting in the evacuation of Fort Albany which is on the south shore of the Albany River and also subject to frequent spring flooding.

In Attawapiskat local Rangers have been placed on active duty to monitor water levels on the Attawapiskat River and be prepared to help evacuees if a major evacuation takes place.

"The Go Team was formed for Kachechewan," Lt.-Col. McArthur said, "so we can sup-

port the local Rangers by bringing in additional forces when local Rangers are not sufficient to meet our tasks in an emergency in the community. Some local Rangers have been forced to leave the community because their family members have been flown out and they want to remain together."

"I'm always appreciative of being able whenever we can to provide help," he said. "When a request for assistance comes in we are always ready to do whatever is approved to support our communities as we are mandated to do."

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



photo submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers  
Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur commands the Canadian Rangers of Northern Ontario.

## Spring Specials coming soon!

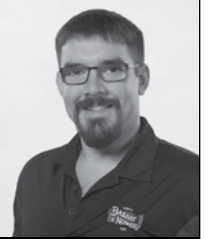


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**Red Lake Campus:** Email: [redlakecampus@confederationcollege.ca](mailto:redlakecampus@confederationcollege.ca)



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Deadline to apply: Monday, July 25, 2022











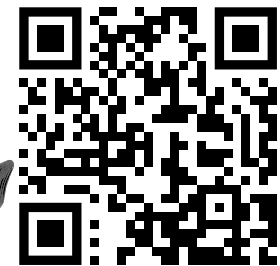
# Nature Conservancy of Canada launches project to protect the land near Constance Lake

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## Tikinagan

Child & Family Services




# Arts & Entertainment



# Wake the Giant Festival set for September

**Rick Garrick**  
Wawatay News

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School student and pianist Malachi Beardy will be featured just before the final act at this year's Wake the Giant Music Festival on Sept. 17.

"We've watched him grow as a musician," says Greg Chomut, an organizer of the Wake the Giant Music Festival. "At our Christmas party just this past year he played a song on the piano that he composed himself, a Malachi Beardy original, and it blew the roof off of the gym. It was a no brainer to ask him to be part of Wake the Giant — he is composing a fresh new track and will be taking the stage at Wake the Giant 2022."

The Wake the Giant Music Festival will also feature Our Lady Peace, DJ Steve Aoki, Aqua, Digging Roots, Neon Dreams, Crown Lands, Aysanabee and Grammy-nominated drum group Young Spirit Singers performing on stage at the Thunder Bay Waterfront.

"This will be a day to remember," says Sean Spenrath, another organizer of the Wake the Giant Music Festival. "This year festival goers can expect acts from a diverse list of genres that will have them screaming lyrics to some of their favourite throwback tunes, a ton of Canadian content and emerging Indigenous artists that are sure to be crowd pleasers. We are stoked."

Chomut says Aysanabee, a Sandy Lake citizen who was raised in the Thunder Bay area, is an up and coming artist in the Canadian music scene.

"I think we'll be seeing a lot from him," Chomut says. "His music is very appealing to everybody from all walks of life. People are really going to enjoy seeing him and we'll be watching his career grow in the future, I'm sure."

Chomut says the Young Spirit Singers are from northern Alberta, noting that they aim to bring in a drum group or artist every year that resonates with the northern communities.

“We always have students, jingle dress dancers, and they get to go up on stage with the drum group and do their jingle dress dancing,” Chomut says. “And if they’re excited about meeting and performing with a drum group that they know, it just feels good to see that excitement.”

Chomut says the students are also excited about seeing DJ Steve Aoki live at the Wake the Giant Music Festival.

"There was a lot of excitement around DJ Steve Aoki within the student body," Chomut says.

Chomut says the last performance by Our Lady Peace in Thunder Bay was a big event for the city.

"Everybody seemed to be talking about it so hopefully they draw the same excitement this time around," Chomut says.

The Wake the Giant Festival was created in 2019 as part of the Wake the Giant initiative that includes the Wake the Giant decal program for businesses and organizations to



submitted photo

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School students and Wake the Giant Music Festival organizers recently painted a poster for this year's upcoming Wake the Giant Music Festival, scheduled for Sept. 17.

post Wake the Giant decals on their doors and windows to indicate a safe space for Indigenous youth.

"Wake the Giant continues to help make our students and their communities feel more welcome and more connected to the City of Thunder Bay through the movement and more specifically, through this incredible event," says AJ Happa, another organizer of the

Wake the Giant Music Festival. "Each year, the Wake the Giant Music Festival creates an atmosphere that helps build stronger bonds in our community by providing an opportunity to get to know each other a little better."

The Wake the Giant Music Festival will also include an Indigenous Craft Market, celebrity appearances, a live art installation and local foods.

"We also have our wellness

tent at the back that has Elders and counsellors and traditional medicines and just a quiet place," Chomut says. "It's a new trend at music festivals for people to escape the hustle and bustle of the festival."

Tickets are now available for sale at: [wakethegiant.ca](http://wakethegiant.ca). Tier 1 tickets are \$120 and limited VIP tickets are \$150. Children 11-years-old and under are free but need a ticket to attend.



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Otsistohkwi:yo performed the traditional Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address to open the 2022 Toronto International Storytelling Festival on May 6.



Alderville Chief Dave Mowat performed blues music with Clayton Yates and Terry Wilkins.



screenshot

Serpent River storyteller Isaac Murdoch shared some of his stories during three sessions on May 12, 13 and 14 at the 2022 Toronto International Storytelling Festival.

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The 2022 Toronto International Storytelling Festival included Indigenous storytellers from across the country, beginning with a Thanksgiving Address by Otsistohkwi:yo and blues music by Alderville Chief Dave Mowat on opening night. The annual festival, held May 6-15, also featured presentations by Isaac Murdoch, Richard Van Camp and Albert Dumont as well as an Indigenous Storytellers Super-Group presentation hosted by Janet Marie Rogers with Murdoch, Jenny Blackbird and Tehakanere Henhawk. "I've been gifted the task of opening this storytelling festival in the traditional way we do it, my people," says

Otsistohkwí:yo, a teacher from Six Nations who performed the traditional Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address on May 6. “Our people came together a long time ago, they were different nations and they formed this confederacy under the banner of the Great Law of Peace, of putting away our weapons and coming together to support each other with a good mind and peace at the centre of it. This (Thanksgiving Address) is our first ceremony that we were ever given.”

Mowat, who performed with Clayton Yates and Terry Wilkins during the Story and Song with Dave Mowat and Clayton Yates session on May 6, says Otsistohkwí:yo did an “amazing” performance.

“I’m from Alderville First

Nation and there's a number of young people in their 30s that have taken hold of (Anishinabemowin) and done very well in acquiring the fluency Mowat says. "Everybody should once in their life learn and understand what the Indian Act is and what it did and what it attempted to do in Canada to Indigenous peoples. That's my reality, is working within the confines of that colonial construct called the Indian Act. It was a racist piece of legislation that sought to undermine the self-governing principles in our First Nations and in our Indigenous communities across Canada."

Murdoch, a storyteller from Serpent River, says it is always wonderful to tell a story during his Bomgiizhik, Indigenous Sto-

rytelling presentation on May 12.

"My name is The Man Who Paints the Rocks and I come from the place where the serpents are painted on the rocks," Murdoch says. "Stories in my language, the kind we are telling tonight, are called Aadizookaan — it really means you are telling about spirit.

"Many years ago my grandfather sat me down by a fire and he says: 'You know, when we came here to this Earth we go through four sacred powers. We go through the power of fire and water and earth and wind, and when we get here on Earth we are educated.' He said we already know lots because we just came from the spirit world, that's why babies are so curious, they already know

lots. That's why they're trying to show us sticks and stones and leafs and bugs and everything else because they are trying to show us how beautiful the world is."

Van Camp, a storyteller from Fort Smith, NWT, shared a story about how he became a storyteller when a cinnamon bear kept wandering into his community during his Talk: Richard Van Camp, the Basics of Indigenous Storytelling presentation on May 14.

"A cinnamon bear is a cousin of the brown bear, it's a little bit smaller, they're very rare, and it would keep wandering into our community and I would hop on my BMX bike and I would race out to the Caribou Trailer Court because I wanted to see (it)," Van Camp says. "I never got to

see it, it would always take off.” Van Camp says his uncle warned him to be careful around bears when he told him about how he was trying to see the cinnamon bear.

“I said: ‘Why,’ and he said: ‘A bear always knows what you’re thinking,’” Van Camp says. “It was the way he said it that gave me my wings as a listener — if you want to be a better storyteller, you have to become a better listener. You have to learn how to listen with your blood, with your spirit.”

Information about the Toronto International Storytelling Festival is posted online at: [storytellingtoronto.org](http://storytellingtoronto.org).

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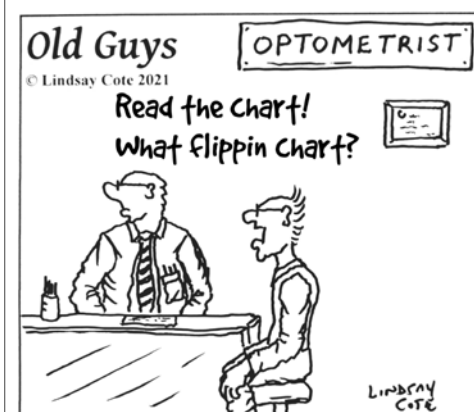
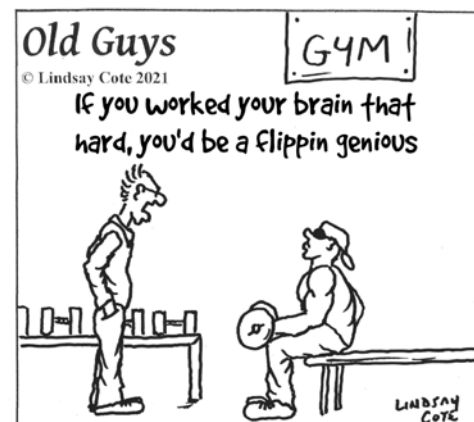






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