Elders speak at Matawa's mental health self care workshops

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Matawa Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin's Mental Wellness and Self-Care Workshop included presentations by Marten Falls Elder Sam Achneepineskum, Fort William Elder Rita Fenton and Nishnawbe Aski Nation staff on May 6-8 at Delta Hotels Thun-

Achneepineskum spoke about how he has worked with residential school survivors, people on the street and at jails and a treatment centre during his presentation.

"Over the 30 years that I worked I always had to find ways to take care of myself," Achneepineskum says. "I had to do things to make sure I was healthy, in the mind and spirit and emotionally and physically. You have to have that balance in your life in order to be able to do what you need to do

Achneepineskum says many people encounter a lot of crises in their life, such as through addictions to their children or grandchildren or other people they know.

"So it takes a toll on your body, it takes a toll on your spirit, it takes a toll on your mind, and you have to find ways to deal with that," Achneepines-

Achneepineskum says he grew up in the bush as a young boy with his mother and father, noting that they used to hunt and trap and were on the land all of the time.

"We lived out there, we lived in a tent, we travelled the rivers in the summers and in the wintertime we walked. we had no (snow machines) back then," Achneepineskum says. "We just walked, everything we owned we put

on a sleigh and moved from place to place trapping. It was a hard life but it was very good, a very simple life, as long as you did what you needed to do it was a very good life."

Achneepineskum says he is thankful for the opportunity to live that lifestyle on the land.

"It made me who I am, it made me strong, it made me understand things, it connected me to everything that was around me," Achneepineskum says. "When we walk out on the land, we feel connected to the trees, to the water, the animals, everything around

Achneepineskum says whenever he feels distressed or sad, he goes out onto

"I go sit out by the water or go sit out in the bush," Achneepineskum says. "I just sit there, I feel the nature around me and after a while it kind of iust takes away everything — you feel good after."

Achneepineskum says he also does some traditional ceremonies for people.

"I found that it's really helpful but it's not for everybody," Achneepines-

Achneepineskum explained how he felt when he first went for a sweat lodge ceremony.

When I went inside there I felt really good, I sat there and I felt comfortable, I felt at home and I wanted to learn a little bit more about those things that our fathers and grandfathers did," Achneepineskum says.

Fenton spoke about her lived experiences, how she did not have an identity when she was growing up and some of the teachings she grew up with during her presentation.

"Î also shared about my self care the workshop here is on self care and how we need to take care of ourselves



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Marten Falls Elder Sam Achneepineskum speaks about self care strategies during Matawa Health and Social Meno Biimadeswin's Mental Wellness and Self-Care Workshop, held May 6-8 at Delta Hotels Thunder Bay.

holistically, mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually," Fenton says. "Overall the whole conference was ... about how it is important to take care of ourselves when we're in the helping profession, whatever role we're doing."

Rauslyn Laviolette, community wellness coordinator at NAN, says the

NAN staff talked about the science of self care, compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma burnout and how to recognize that during their presentation.

"We talked a lot about self care strategies, moving through those, the importance of peer connection, the importance of self care, the importance of just looking out for each other as front-line workers," Laviolette says. "Matawa put on this gathering for their front-line workers, so we were just here to kind of give them tools and different ways to support each other and reminders that it's important and why it's important in a field like this."

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Politics

NAN hosts community engagement session on Indigenous Led CARE

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation held a Community Engagement on an Indigenous Led CARE (Children at Risk of Exploitation) Unit on April 17 at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay.

"What we're trying to do here is get direct feedback from community members in today's case we're engaging with off-reserve NAN community members who reside in Thunder Bay to see what their thoughts are on the need for establishing a CARE Unit, which is a Children at Risk of Exploitation Unit, in the province," says Loretta Sheshequin, director of women's initiatives at NAN. "This one would be specifically Indigenous-led and possibly NAN specific. There are three existing CARE Units in the province, and we're just ... investigating to see if the need is there specific to our NAN (citizens) and communities."

Sheshequin says another reason for the community engage-

ment sessions is to gather data on human trafficking.

"We keep hearing human trafficking is an issue, it is happening, but we don't have the hard data to support that," Sheshequin says. "I know in my own work that I've been doing through NAN, we've been hearing more of those stories where people are having to go and search for their children by themselves. One of the important reasons for doing this series of engagements that we intend to do is to gather those statistics and those stories so that we can say, yes, this is important and there needs to be more resources, whether it's human or programming, available to families who are struggling to get their loved ones out of the hands of human traffickers."

Sheshequin says they had community engagement sessions scheduled for early May in Timmins and Matagami First Nation, and they will also be doing more sessions up until the end of September but still have to finalize and select the

communities and dates.

"Beyond that we are targeting some of our remote communities, probably in the end four to six of our remote communities," Sheshequin says. "We're going to try and do as much as we can, a broad cross section, road access, west, east, central parts of NAN as well as bringing together some of our service agencies like NAPS (Nishnawbe Aski Police Service) and the city police, Tikinagan (Child and Family Services), even Dilico (Anishinabek Family Care), just depending on where we're looking at."

Former grand chief Harvey Yesno, who participated in the community engagement session on April 17, says the communities need to get involved with the human trafficking issue.

"The communities need to get involved in that because their people are getting into that situation both in the community and more so in the urban centres," Yesno says. "I think this is a good thing to bring it up and start dealing

with it. Just like anything else, we need to become more aware of the issue because we're not absent from those things that happen in urban centres. So it's good that we're talking about it"

Linda Sakchekapo, a North Caribou Lake citizen who participated in the community engagement session on April 17, says it is important to establish awareness of the human trafficking issue at the First Nation level.

"There's a lot of traffic that happens between the First Nation and urban centres and sometimes inadvertently youth go missing, and we also have a very high population from North Caribou Lake in Thunder Bay," Sakchekapo says. "I'm here to learn because I'm working for my First Nation in their law development — we work for our community as they're developing their child and family law."

Harriet Visitor, a Sachigo citizen who participated in the community engagement session

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ck Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of Nishnawbe Aski Nation citizens participated in NAN's Community Engagement on an Indigenous Led CARE (Children at Risk of Exploitation) Unit, held April 17 at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay

on April 17, says she attended as the parent of a daughter who is in Grade 10.

"I wanted to be informed as to what's happening in the city," Visitor says. "What I heard is it's going to take a community, it's going to take people that work and advocate for our people, but also it's going to take everyday people, community members, parents to be very informed as well and be part of what's happening within our communities, whether it's community or urban."

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Politics

Sol Mamakwa stresses rights of Indigenous Peoples's at NOMA conference

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa stressed that the country's economic situation cannot be used to trample on the rights of people in the north during the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's (NOMA) Conference and AGM. Held April 23-25 at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay, the gathering also featured speeches by Ontario NDP leader Marit Stiles, Ontario Liberal Party leader Bonnie Crombie and Green Party of Ontario leader Mike Schreiner on April

"It's just a reminder, and I reminded them as well that we can work together," Mamakwa says during his speech on April 24. "I reminded them as well (about) some of the things that First Nations continue to live with, you know when we talk about youth suicide and the drug issue, the drugs that are coming into the communities and also the addictions. It's very clear that we need to come together in the north to address these issues."

Mamakwa says he also acknowledged that many First Nations in northern Ontario still do not have high schools and many are on boil water advisories.

"We still see things happening and I think jobs are a given when we talk about development, but how do we continue to work together," Mamakwa says. "My message was basically



that we need to work together as northerners because no matter if it's housing, no matter if it's infrastructure, health care, these are the issues that we see together."

Mamakwa says he also spoke about how First Nations in the north depend on the land.

"Land is where we get the language, land is where we get our ways of life, it's the identity," Mamakwa says. "And I think erosion of these lands will have an impact on who we are as a people. We've been caretakers of these lands since time immemorial and we continue to live that way."

Mamakwa says the free prior

informed consent principle, which is found throughout the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, needs to be followed.

"Free means First Nations shouldn't have to pay anything when there's engagement happening; prior, before any drill goes into the ground we have to be able to understand that; informed is when we say they have to understand it in their language in layman's terms, make sure that people understand; and consent, First Nations rights holders have the right to say yes or no to development — that's what free prior informed consent is," Mamakwa

Mamakwa says he thanks Shuniah Mayor Wendy Landry, a Red Rock Indian Band citizen who stepped down as NOMA's president on April 23 after serving for eight years, for the work she has done as NOMA's presi-

"You don't see a lot of First Nations people in these places so I thank her for her work and bringing some of the First Nation issues ... to the forefront, but also how we can become better in working with First Nations as municipalities, especially in the north," Mamakwa says. "There's so much more work to be done,



Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa speaks during the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's Conference and AGM, held April 23-25 at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay.

but I thank her very much again served as the mayor of Sioux for doing the work she did, and Lookout and Cochrane. I'm sure she will be continuing "It's important that as First

to be involved in the municipalities that are in the north." Mamakwa says it is time for First Nations people to be more involved in municipal governments, whether it is as a coun-

Nations we begin to be involved in these processes, just to have a voice because we matter too," Mamakwa says. "A lot of our people are living in these municipalities and it's just an cillor or a mayor. Moose Cree's opportunity to be able to be a Lawrence Martin previously



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WAWATAY NEWS

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Commentary Mother Earth On Our Side



n a world that is so upside down these days we really need to count on our leadership and Elders to stand up for us, for mother earth and to make sure that there is a world in place for future generations. When I first started out writing and faced with interviewing government representatives like Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, local, regional, provincial and national Chiefs, council members, Mayors, bureaucrats and business corporate executives I was intimidated. I recall my partner and mentor Mike an experienced journalist enlightening me that all these people were just ordinary folk like everyone else. As he commented "they all go to the toilet just like every human being". I thought this was so funny but also it really did remind me that I had no reason to feel intimidated by anyone just because they held a position in government or had some form of power. That little trick gave me confidence.

Over the past three decades I have interviewed and become acquainted with many people in leadership. We tend to forget that all these people deal with the same challenges we all have to meet. Some endured difficult experiences growing up, some have had relationship problems, some have struggled with addictions and some have had to deal with illness. For the most part, my interactions with all of these leaders and professionals has been beneficial and enjoyable and I have learned much from their feedback and stories.

These days we see some very disturbing trends all over the world, in the United States and right here in Canada with far right movements winning power or threatening to take power. Some of the leaders involved resemble the fascists of the period during the Second World War. More than ever we have to make sure we are electing and putting in power leaders at every level that believe in democracy and a just and fair form of government. It is up to us to support our leaders to make sure that good decisions are made in pushing back on war, doing what we need to do to fight climate change, provide health care and social service care for people and in particular our Elders and children.

Make no mistake about it our leaders are constantly under fire through lobbying from wealthy corporate interests and those who are more interested in making money rather than protecting Mother Earth and the people and creatures who live on our planet. We all need to make money, we deserve the right to make a good living to care for ourselves and families but we have to balance that with making sure that at the end of the day we will have a future with fresh air, clean water to drink, enough good food to eat and a planet that is peaceful and enriching.

Too often we are ready to criticize our First Nation Chiefs and leadership when we should be supporting them and reminding them what we need to make the world a better place. I grew up in a time when resource developers were not interested in working with First Nations. Governments were more concerned in colonizing us and terrorizing our people through residential schools and all kinds of limitations. Our lives as nomadic hunters and gatherers changed abruptly when we were forced to live in restrictive reserve locations and made to feel less than human as compared to our colonizers. Today there have been many changes and by law resource developers and governments have to deal with First Nations in consultation and making agreements that provide benefits to Indigenous people with all kinds of development. These are better times and many of my people have enjoyed training and employment opportunities that have improved our lives. However at the same time we see powerful interests moving ahead with policies of divide and conquer with First Nations to reap the benefits of developments geared to making a lot of money but with little concern for Mother Earth, First Nation lands and our traditions and culture. It is up to our First Nation leaders to stand strong and stay together to make sure we have the strength and integrity to make sure good decisions are Too often these days we see

First Nations being influenced by government and resource developers with all types of pressure. In some cases they infiltrate tribal councils, organizations and First Nation leadership to get their way. In times of immense lobbying we need to make sure our First Nations Chiefs and leadership are not intimidated or pressured into making decisions that are not in our best interest. We are an enormous force to be reckoned with and that is proven simply by the fact that we have survived all of the most terrible forces of colonization. No need to feel intimidated. Money can't buy us. We have Mother Earth on our side.

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Fort William FN's Sixth Annual Hide Tanning Camp



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug's Charlotte Marten led a bingo session in Anishinabemowin at the 6th Annual FWFN Hide Tanning Camp, held May 7-11 on the shores of Lake Superior at Thunder Bay's Chippewa Park.

Evacuations For Flood And Wildfire



orthern Ontario was generally cooler than normal in April. Precipitation totals, however, varied significantly across the region. The Northwest and the Far North were drier than normal, and in contrast the Northeast and north of Superior were much wetter than average. An area from Geraldton to Chapleau and Hearst received about double the average normal April total. This distribution of precipitation in April had follow up consequences in May.

Kashechewan First Nation and neighbouring Fort Albany First Nation, located at the mouth of the Albany river on James Bay both communities had to be evacuated early in May because of extreme flooding. However, the evacuation was complicated in Kashechewan because the road to the airport was under water. Helicopters and small boats were used to move residents, especially families with children to the airport in Fort Albany.

Most people in Kashechewan and Fort Albany were able to return to their homes in the

middle of May.

The month of May often brings a variety of weather to the region. A heat wave in mid-May brought some record temperatures to northwestern Ontario.

May 11 temperatures rose to 34.1°C in Fort Frances and 31.9°C in Atikokan. The seasonally warm temperatures were accompanied with very low relative humidity and with moderate winds in many locations in the Northwest. For people who monitor and manage wildfires, there is a "rule", the 30-30-30 Crossover Rule which describes weather conditions that have the potential to result in extreme fire behaviour. If the temperature is 30°C or above, the relative humidity is 30% or less and the wind speed is 30km/h the "crossover" has been reached and there is a possibility of extreme fire behaviour which could also be difficult to control.

Wildfires forced more than 800 residents to evacuate from Wabaseemoong First Nation (100 kilometres northwest of Kenora near the Manitoba border). Rain and cooler temperatures have limited growth of several fires at near the community. but Kenora 20, which is 27,647 hectares in size, still pose a major threat. Sprinklers are set up for most of the buildings in his community.

Weather "Luck"

Weather forecasters usually consider numerous factors when predicting rain, the likelihood of sunshine, thunderstorms and other elements of weather. Successful predictions require science but still depends on chance. For many years I was on call during the wildfire season to predict fire behavior at large "project fires". Typically, these were large fires that had the potential to destroy property and other values. Often, this entailed forecasting wind strength and direction which would result in fire spread and the intensity of smoke down

Occasionally, I would be asked to a sense the feasibility of doing a prescribed burn, to remove a green forested area, from the path of the large forest fire approaching a community.

Such attempts to "fight fire with fire" are risky can go badly wrong, say if the wind direction changes in the during process. I felt lucky after the fact, one does not want to be responsible for "losing a fire".

The evacuations mentioned above had all sorts of risk associated with them. Floodwaters over an airport runway, mix take-off and landing of aircraft impractical. Wildfire smoke can reduce visibility.

A few communities in north ern Ontario, Examples include Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Armstrong, depend on a single highway if an emergency requires the evacuation of the towns. One of the most frightening emergencies in recent times was Fort McMurray in 2016. More than 80,000 people Drove on one highway out of the city has a forest fire engulfed the community.

I think we've been very lucky so far in these situations in northern Ontario and Canada.

Global Temperatures

April 2025 was the secondwarmest April ever recorded, just behind April 2024, according to data from both the European Union Copernicus Climate Change Service and the US-based Berkeley Earth climate agency.

Copernicus reported an average global temperature of 1.51C above pre-industrial levels, marking the 21st month out of 22 to exceed the 1.5°C threshold. The 1.5-degree Celsius threshold is critical for avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. This record heat for almost two years means it "means more frequent "hot, wet and dry extremes of weather".

Global temperatures in May 2024 are almost identical to last year. May is likely to be another month at least 1.5°C above preindustrial temperatures.

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News

Neskantaga evacuates nursing station

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Neskantaga has boarded up the community's nursing station after fuel was discovered in the ground in the area of the building. Neskantaga had called for an immediate emergency response on April 20 after the nursing station was closed down due to severe flooding and toxic fuel fumes.

"Fuel was found, a very large number," says Neskantaga Chief Gary Quisess on May 17, noting that the fuel was found about eight to nine feet below the surface. "The final report will be next week. Yesterday I arrived in the community—our nursing station, we closed it, we boarded it up. We're going by the ISC (Indigenous Service Canada) report, they're saying the temporary clinic is operational."

Quisess says they boarded up the nursing station for safety reasons.

"We don't know what kind of fuel or how much fuel is under that building or underground," Quisess says.

"Last week they did soil testing on the area to try to find out where the fuel came from, and the ground testers gave us a report that they found some fuel underground, contaminants. This is very puzzling for the engineers, where did the fuel come from, so they are going to do more testing, they're going to do more work on the nursing station."

Quisess says it was a very

emotional situation for the community when they boarded up the nursing station.

"Our people were seeing their clinic being boarded up with a lot of memories," Quisess says. "I had to explain why we're closing it yesterday and people understand now why we're doing this."

Quisess says they have set up a temporary clinic in a duplex building, noting that it is smaller in size than the nursing station.

"That's where the nurses are going to be working," Quisess says. "It's smaller — we'll find out when the people come back if they are going to get comfortable with it."

Quisess says the duplex building was just finished this year, and was originally intended to house two families.

"The way it looks now, it looks like they're running two temporary clinics," Quisess says. "They have to go from A to B to get supplies, that's how it's set up."

Quisess says the first load of evacuated community members was scheduled to return home on May 18 — about 181 people were evacuated to Thunder Bay due to the closed nursing station.

"(We evacuated) the most vulnerable that need care, the Elders, the infants and the children," Quisess says.

Quisess says the evacuated community members were frustrated about being away from their community, during a May 14 interview.



photo from Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Facebook page

Neskantaga Chief Gary Quisess and Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler check out Neskantaga's temporary clinic after the nursing station was closed due to severe flooding and toxic fuel fumes.

"The people in Thunder Bay want to go home," Quisess says on May 14. "It's very hard for big families to stay in a crowded room. The kids and their parents don't have that privacy, it's really impacting our lives."

Quisess says the children who were evacuated feel displaced as

well regarding their education.

"It doesn't feel (like) school to them when they have a classroom in the hotel," Quisess says. Quisess says they also missed

the spring hunting season.
"We go hunting all the time, or harvesting, and that didn't happen this spring," Quisess

savs.

Neskantaga has been under a boil water advisory for more than 11,000 days, the longest in Canadian history, and the community has faced multiple evacuations.

"Reconciliation is not just a word," Quisess says in an April 20 press release. "It's a commitment. And that commitment must come with action. If this crisis were happening in any other community, the response would have been immediate. Our people deserve the same urgency and the same dignity."

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Sports



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
The Constance Lake Hawks won the junior division at the 2nd Annual Matawa Education and Care Cen-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay New

The Notorious D.I.G. won the senior division at the 2nd Annual Matawa Education and Care Centre Co-Ed

New teams, players had fun at Matawa's co-ed volleyball tournament

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Notorious D.I.G. won the senior division and the Constance Lake Hawks won the junior division at the 2nd Annual Matawa Education and Care Centre Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament, held April 18-20 in Thunder Bay. The Muskrat Dam team finished second in the senior division and the Sandy Lake Wolverines finished second in the junior division.

"It was pretty fun getting to meet all these new players and teams and being able to play with my friends as well and watching the junior players play as well," says Jayda Jeremiah, a member of the Notorious D.I.G. "I started playing (volleyball) when I was in middle school and I started playing in high school when I came to DFC (Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School). What keeps me going is playing with my friends and laughing with them on the team, even if I win or lose I'm still having fun playing volleyball."

Kylan Whitehead, a member of the Notorious D.I.G., says it was a very good experience to participate in the tournament.

"We're a very good team and I expected them to play at their best and they did," Whitehead says. "I can't wait for next year's tournament because they keep improving every year, every year it gets better and better and more challenge. I was in Grade

8 when I started playing (volleyball) — it's eight years already."

Whitehead says he and one of his teammates played for Team Ontario two years ago at the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax.

"And we've been playing since," Whitehead says. "Last summer we went to an All Nations (Volleyball Showcase) tournament."

Tiniah Bluff-Wabano, a member of the Constance Lake Hawks, says it felt amazing to win the junior division.

"I was just shocked, I didn't know how to react when we won," Bluff-Wabano says, noting that she got involved with volleyball when their coachmanager started up the team. "We started asking people who wanted to join so we could have something different in the rez going on."

Akira Wesley, a member of the Constance Lake Hawks, also enjoyed winning the junior division.

"This was our first time winning, even a rally," Wesley says, noting that her friends told her about playing with the volleyball team. "(There's) lots of socializing, I like it but it's kind of scary at the same time."

Liam Nakogee, coach of the Constance Lake Hawks, says he started coaching the team this past October.

"They definitely improved a lot over the past couple of months I've been coaching them, and I think what really helped us a lot was our serves," Nakogee says. "They limited their service errors and getting the ball over is really important."

Nakogee says he started playing volleyball in Grade 11.

"I kind of picked it up from there and stayed consistent with the sport," Nakogee says. "I'm from Constance Lake, there's no volleyball clubs around so it was really hard to pick up the sport but I approached some other guys and we just picked it up just like that, we just kept playing and practicing and being consistent, participating in the volleyball tournaments and I guess that's where we picked our skill up from."

Constance Lake Councillor Ricky Sutherland says he was proud of the Constance

Lake Hawks as they came from behind to win the junior divi-

"It was a nice tournament this weekend," Sutherland says. "Volleyball just came back about a year ago — we've got the volleyball going and we've got the new arena going up there for hockey, so I think it's going to be good for the kids. I'm just happy I came out to support the tournament."

Kylie Baxter, part of the organizing committee for the tournament, says the tournament was competitive and fun.

"Everyone was really welcoming, I saw a lot of friendships being made and respect was a big one," Baxter says. "Everyone had a good time."



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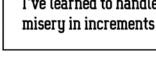
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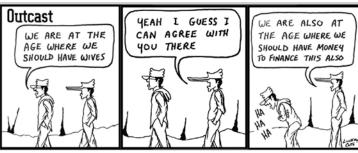
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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT / IMPACT STATEMENT

MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD PROJECT

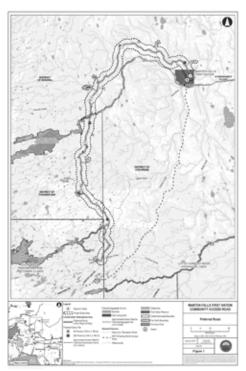
THE STUDY

The proposed Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) Community Access Road would be a new all-season road approximately 190 km in length that would connect the remote northern community of Marten Falls First Nation to the Ontario provincial highway network. The Community Access Road would be located 430 km northeast of Thunder Bay, Ontario, in Ontario's far north, within the traditional territory of Marten Falls First Nation, and within the Ministry of Natural Resources District of Thunder Bay and the Far North District.

The included key map shows the Project Study Area, with the proposed Preferred Route.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT / IMPACT STATEMENT (EA / IS)

Marten Falls First Nation has retained AECOM Canada ULC. to undertake a combined Ontario Comprehensive Environmental Assessment (formerly known as an Individual Environmental Assessment) and Federal Impact Assessment for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the Canadian Impact Assessment Act. An evaluation and consultation process is also being carried out according to the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects, as well as in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.



This Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement report has been completed in accordance with the Terms of Reference approved by Ontario's Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in October 2021. Additionally, this Draft report has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines provided by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on February 24, 2020.

The Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement documents the evaluation of alternative route alignments considered for the Community Access Road and presents the proposed Preferred Route. It also documents the environmental impacts, including potential cumulative effects, proposed mitigation measures, and commitments made by the proponent. Additionally, it documents engagement and consultation undertaken thus far as part of the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment process

CONSULTATION PERIOD AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement will be available for review beginning **April 22, 2025 for a period of 60 days (i.e., June 23, 2025)**. Supporting documents can be accessed digitally on the Project Website at https://eais.martenfallsaccessroad.ca. The in-person viewing locations are as follows:

- Greenstone Public Library (Geraldton Branch): 405 2nd St. W., Geraldton, Ontario
- Greenstone Public Library (Longlac Branch): 110 Kenogami Drive, Longlac, Ontario
- Sioux Lookout Public Library: 21 Fifth Avenue, Sioux Lookout, Ontario
- Matawa First Nations Management: 233 S. Court Street, 2nd Floor, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Thunder Bay Public Library: Waverley Resource Library, 285 Red River Rd, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Timmins Public Library: 320 2nd Avenue, Timmins, Ontario

Public Information Centre #6 will be held in Thunder Bay and Geraldton, Ontario as follows:

Thunder Bay Session - Monday, May 26, 2025
 Superior Inn, 555 Arthur St W; 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.*

Geraldton Session - Thursday, May 29, 2025
 Recreation Centre, 200 Wardrone Ave: 4 p. m. to 7 p.

*The first hour is dedicated to Indigenous Community members only.

Members of Indigenous communities, interested persons, agencies and other stakeholders are encouraged to actively participate in the review of the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement. Comments and feedback can be provided via the Project Website, email or by letter mail until June 23, 2025 at the contact information provided below.

Project Website: www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca
Project Team Email: eaisinput@martenfallsaccessroad.ca
Mailing Address:

AECOM Canada Ltd.

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Lawrence Baxter
Senior Community Member Advisor
MFFN Community Access Road Project Team

James McCutchon
Project Manager, AECOM
MFFN Community Access Road Project Team

Any concerns raised during the review period will be documented in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement Report.

Si vous souhaitez une copie de cette notification en français, veuillez visiter le site Internet du projet ou envoyer un email au projet pour en demander une copie.

Comments are being collected to assist Marten Falls First Nation and AECOM in meeting the requirements under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the Canadian Impact Assessment Act. This material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in project documentation. All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Project Officer or the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Park's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-314-4075.

Date Published: April 22, 2025

rts & Entertainment



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Jessica Mamakeesick, owner of Mamakeesick Roots, shows the artwork she created.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Peter and Candace Wesley show some of the new prints and apparel with Peter's artwork that they had

Mothers day craft sale features Indigenous artists

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Mamakeesick Roots owner Jessica Mamakeesick highlighted the artwork she created on sports shoes during the Mother's Day Indigenous Fine Arts and Crafts Gift Show and

May 3 in Thunder Bay.

"It was a special order from the Ontario University Athletics (OAU)," Mamakeesick says. "I'm going to their end-of-year banquet, so these shoes are going to be trophies for the athletes of the year."

Mamakeesick says she painted the artwork with acrylic paint on the sports shoes, which were sent to her by OAU.

"I just stare at the shoe for a while and whatever comes to me comes to me," Mamakeesick says. "I'm just always coming out with new products, trying to keep up with the times and feel out what people are into these days."

Candace Wesley, partner with her husband at Peter Wesley Desiigns and sales and marketing at Wolf Tracks in Thunder Bay, says they featured many of Peter's new designs at the Mother's Day show and sale.

"We have some new designs in, we have some Woodland florals wearable artwork," Candace says. "We put them on apparel, sweaters, t-shirts, zip ups and new hats. We got into some hats with Peter's artwork

Candace says they also had prints and blank cards with Peter's artwork.

"This summer we are planning to have a huge art exhibition (with) the whole family, we're all artists," Candace says, noting it will be held at the Wolf Tracks store. "We're all going to be showcasing our art-

John Ferris, founding member of the Aboriginal Artworks Group of Northern Ontario, says the Mother's Day show and sale, held at the CLE Heritage Building in Thunder Bay, was successful.

"(It) was really successful again this year as well as our Christmas show last December,"

Ferris says. "We're getting more and more different people and you can see the younger people coming in as well too and kind of continuing on the traditional cultural artworks they they create and develop."

Ferris says he plans to hold an additional Christmas crafts show in North Bay or Sudbury this upcoming October or November for people in that area.

"I'm trying to capture that artistic group of that area," Ferris says. "So we'll have that show first down in the south and then (our regular Christmas show) up here in the north afterwards."

This past year's Indigenous Christmas Market featured more than 250 artisans at the CLE Coliseum building in Thunder Bay, including Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek's Diane Davis Nawagesic and Constance Lake's Patrick Cheechoo.

Nawagesic says she has been attending arts and crafts events for about 40 years.

"We're getting more and more artists every year and more of the younger people are learning the culture," Nawagesic says this past December. "I didn't start until I was probably about 30-years-old. I love it, I won't stop. I just retired from social work for 25 years and this was my hobby through all of the years - I love doing it and I'm so proud of our heritage and selling our own gifts, providing moccasins, servicing people and regalia for dancers. My son is involved now, he's been making moccasins for 25 years and I'm very proud of him.

Cheechoo says there was a lot of beautiful work at the Indigenous Christmas Market.

"I've been painting since I was 17, but I've been an artist all my life, even my Grade 1, Grade 2 books all had drawings on them so I've been drawing all my life," Cheechoo says this past December. "I always loved the art of Carl Ray, I saw the art from Clemence Wescoupe when I was young and I loved their style of art."

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Community

KKETS announces \$392,000 in new funding

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) announced the launch of its Mino-Ayaawin Maamawi (Leading in Health and Wellness Together) project on May 14 in Thunder Bay. The two-year initiative, which is being supported by the TD Ready Commitment through \$392,800 in funding, aims to develop and implement a culturally grounded, community-led wellness model that addresses urgent mental health, trauma and addiction-related needs in the nine Matawa communities.

"When we talk about creating a healthy workforce, what we're trying to deal with are very complex traumas and a range of health issues that plague Indigenous people, and we know they stem from settler colonization, settler colonialism and in particular intergenerational historical traumas that

hinder and manifest in different ways such as disease," says Anita Vaillancourt, an assistant professor at Lakehead University who is leading research on the program along with Lana Ray, an associate professor at Athabasca University. "So we see a disproportionately higher risk of developing health issues among Indigenous populations and persistently poor outcomes in terms of academic completion, obtaining employment, and this is also due to racism in the job market but also health of the workforce."

Vaillancourt says their focus is on recognizing the detrimental effects of stress and trauma and how those manifest and impact people's ability to function in a variety of different settings.

"We understand that there is a direct link between the trauma that Indigenous people experience historically through colonization and on an ongoing basis because of the persistent racism that Indigenous people experience in Western society and how this negatively impacts health," Vaillancourt says. "You can see there that there is quite a bit of research that supports these findings, this is not new knowledge to us, so our work around this mindfulness project is very much evidence based."

Vaillancourt says their data on participant observed changes due to mindfulness engaged practices around employment shows that 72 per cent said the mindfulness training increased their motivation to apply for

"So we're getting people motivated to take action to make change in their personal lives — this is so powerful," Vaillancourt says. "The next category here is the confidence to actually apply for jobs, 70 per cent; confidence that you will succeed, 65 per cent. When we look at barriers to why people aren't engaging in proactive behaviours, (it) is a lack of confidence, feeling that one won't succeed, so we can see here that these markers have increased as

a result of mindfulness."

The TD Ready Commitment funding will support the delivery of workshops, one-on-one support services, communitybased research and culturally appropriate healing activities that respond to the unique needs of Indigenous individuals living in northwestern Ontario.

'On behalf of TD, I just want to say that we recognize as an organization that there is more work to be done on our community initiatives, specifically towards truth and reconciliation," says Allison Nunes, a district vice-president at TD. "So that's why we're supporting community initiatives that promote a connection to the land, enhance financial literacy and foster a sense of belonging. We are super thrilled to present a cheque today for \$392,800 to KKETS. Through the TD Ready Commitment corporate sponsorships, TD supports initiatives across Canada that are led by and for Indigenous communities. Through the TD



A group of TD and Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS) staff participated in the announcement of \$392,800 in TD Ready Commitment funding.

Ready Commitment, we support programs that promote financial education, increased opportunities for youth, steward the environment and help to preserve and celebrate Indigenous peoples, arts and culture."

The Mino-Avaawin Maamawi project seeks to strengthen the emotional, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals while also enhancing their capacity to succeed in education, employment and community life by creating a holistic system of care

that embraces both traditional and contemporary approaches.

"This funding from TD is more than just financial support — it is a partnership in our vision to build strong, healthy and resilient Indigenous communities," says David Neegan, executive director at KKETS. "Through this project, we will empower our members to reconnect with culture, rebuild from trauma and move forward with strength and dignity."

Confederation hosts APIWIN drum social



A group of drummers recently participated in Confederation College's APIWIN Drum Social.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Confederation College held an APIWIN Drum Social featuring instructor Emery Wesley, from the Walking Bear drum group, on May 12 at the API-WIN Room on the Thunder Bay campus

"It's important to pass on the culture — that's what I keep in mind every day when I sing," says Wesley, a Ginoogaming citizen. "It's because I want to pass it on to younger ones, it's super important. The more I've gotten into culture, the more I've realized that it's beautiful."

Wesley says there were a lot of young people around the drum, including some who were born into the drumming lifestyle.

"Ťhey're going to be amazing teachers, amazing singers," Wesley says. "I've been singing for a few years now and it's changed my life for the better. It's left an impact in my community, it's left an impact in other schools that I've visited and it's a huge part of my life."

Wesley says he started singing with the Walking Bear drum group about four years ago.

"In 2021 we started taking it more serious and we fell right in love with it, we'd sing every single day for about two months straight," Wesley says. "Slowly through time we got recognition from other communities and the City of Thunder Bay. A lot of organizations here like Nishnawbe Aski Nation helped give us a lot of recognition, they invited us to conferences."

Ieff Neekan, a Mishkeegogamang citizen, says his threeyear-old son grew up around

the drum. "Ever since he's been in his mom's womb, I've been singing to him, drumming with him, talking the language with

him," Neekan says. "Ever since he's been able to walk, he's been around the drum, singing and dancing. Now that he's three, that's why he's so comfortable in the circle. That's what he wants to do, and I support that because I've been singing since

Justin O'Keese, an Eabametoong citizen and a member of the Young Thunder drum group, says they started up the drum group last year.

"But we've all been singing together since we were in Grade 6, and now we're all in Grade 9 now," O'Keese says, noting that he started drumming when one of his friends asked him to drum with him at their school, Algonquin Avenue Public School in Thunder Bay. "I never used to drum before until that day, and then after that day I was just hooked to it."

O'Keese says he enjoys participating in drum socials.

"It's a good learning experience, you meet new people, you learn along the way, you hear new teachings too," O'Keese says. "We went to a few powwows since our group started, but before our group also we've been to powwows with the drum at Algonquin. We're hosting three more powwows this month, Hammarskjold powwow, Superior powwow and Westgate powwow, those are all at the end of the month, and we also got invited to be a cohost in Vancouver, Squamish (Nation), B.C."

Hunter Derosier-Krieger, an Eagle Lake citizen and a member of the Young Thunder drum group, says he got involved with drumming when

he was about seven-years-old.

"My step mom took me to a drum social just like this at a school, and that was it," Derosier-Krieger says. "It's pretty fun, we go to lots of different places, we'll probably be travelling a lot this summer."

Derosier-Krieger says the

drum socials are a good time with good people.

"It's some good practice too for all the powwows we'll be going to," Derosier-Krieger says. "We've learned lots of new songs the past couple of months."

James Henderson, Indig-

enous student advisor at Confederation College, says they usually have one or two drum socials per month but haven't had one for a while.

"It's just important to teach people more about their culture and to have pride in who we are," Henderson says. "So having the drum teachings is always really good for our young people, and that's who we have mostly. We have a lot of first-time drummers coming here so it's perfect, and I always encourage people if they haven't drummed to come and sit down at the drum."

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Education

Lakehead Laskin graduate delivers first valedictorian speech in Anishinabemowin

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Lakehead University Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's graduation ceremony featured its first valedictorian address in Anishinabemowin by Mishkeegogamang's Cassandra Spade on May 16 in Thunder Bay

"Noongom gaa-giizhigak ninga-anishinaabem omaa gaa-inwewetooyaan," Spade says in her valedictorian address. "Mii maawiin igo nitam gaa-gii-akoogimaakandeg Canada ezhiwebak noongom, owe sa dinookaan inwewetoowin. Nashke dash gaawiin niin owe izhiwebasinoon. Mii gosha ingiwenag gaa-wiiji'iwaad ge niin ji-nitaa-anishinaabemoyaan."

Spade translated her comments into English for the Wawatay News, as follows.

"Today, I am giving this speech in the Anishinaabe language. It is perhaps the first time in the history of Canada that this has happened. However, I did not make this moment happen by myself. It is happening because of all of the people that have helped me to learn the Anishinaabe language."

Spade also highlighted the importance of Anishinabemowin in her address, as follows along with her English translation

"Aazha ginwenzh giganawenimigomin owe gidin-wewininaan. Mii-go booch ji-ganawendamang Miziwekamiggiinawind. daa-anishinaabemonaaniwan. Mii sa zhigwa ji-inaakonigeyang ji-ganawenjigaadeg anishinaabemowin miinawaa gidaa-maajiishkaatoomin anishinaabewigikinoo'amaadiiwigamigoon ge-onji-nanda-gikenjiged gaaanishinaabewid.'

"Our language has been taking care of us for a long time and for it to continue doing so we must take care of it too. Our language should be spoken everywhere. Not just today. It is time for us to make laws that protect our languages, to make Anishinaabe law schools, and to do everything we can to protect our language."

Spade says the opportunity to deliver her valedictorian address in Anishinabemowin was really powerful

"For the north, it's a mark of how far we've come and how far we have to go, and I feel really proud of the community that raised me and I hope as a graduating class we're trying to do things differently here at Bora Laskin," Spade says. "We're trying to build lawyers that are more reflective of our communities, that are serving our



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Mishkeegogamang's Cassandra Spade delivers her valedictorian address at the Lakehead University Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's graduation ceremony on May 16 in Thunder Bay.

communities better and that means also speaking Indigenous languages here and learning about Indigenous law. I used to teach (Anishinabemowin) classes here at the school so many of my colleagues who are graduating today know how to introduce themselves in (Anishinabemowin), and that's really beautiful."

Spade says she wanted to be a lawyer since she was nine-years-old.

"I've always wanted to kind

of support and bring justice to our communities," Spade says. "For such a long time Indigenous people could not go to law school so this is really a big dream of my family and mine."

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse says Spade's valedictorian address in Anishinabemowin was very historic.

"It really paves the way for our people to also follow her lead in terms of, if you can dream it, you can do it," Narcisse says. "If you want to pursue a career in law or health or further your education, these are very historic milestones that we're witnessing, that many of our Indigenous students are there at the forefront, paving the way for the next generation to really be present and look at ways to achieving and furthering their education."

Jennifer Chapman, a Bora Laskin Faculty of Law graduate and Sachigo Lake citizen, says it feels amazing to graduate from the law school.

"Education is so important, we need to empower our communities, our membership and that's just the way we need to go," Chapman says. "I'm planning to write the bar (exam) next, study hard for a little bit and write the bar. After that I want to work for our northern communities in environmental law or Aboriginal law."

Chapman says she started dreaming about being a lawyer when she was 11-years-old.

"We would play court in the basement and I was a lawyer then," Chapman says. "And it kind of just started from there, and then I'm finally here."

Francine McKenzie, a Bora Laskin Faculty of Law graduate and Muskrat Dam citizen, says her education at law school was a really powerful journey.

"I can't say enough of the importance of having a legal education and the times we are going into with our communities in the north and everything that is a threat to our way of life," McKenzie says. "So I think having the knowledge and being able to be there to assist our communities as they really deal with all of these things that are going to impact that is really important, and that's why I went. It wasn't just for myself, I felt like we needed our own people in these positions to help our communities."

McKenzie says she began thinking about law school during the time when Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug was dealing with the Platinex mine issue.

Listening to our chiefs and Elders and youth talk during that time, it really opened my eyes and really put a passion on my heart about the land is everything to us, the land is our way of life, it's how we identify ourselves as Indigenous people, so I think that put me into, well, I want to go to political science," McKenzie says. "And then when I got to the political science program, they didn't have the answers to the questions I had so then they said if you want those answers, you have to go to law school. After a while those issues still remained in our communities, so I decided I may as well go and find the answers.'

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Community

Oshki honours missing persons with Red Dress walk





Rick Garrick/Wawatay News TOP: Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute co-op student Trisha Meekis holds up her No More Stolen Sisters sign. ABOVE: A group of participants walked past the Thunder Bay Courthouse

EAGLEYE

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Community

Moose Hide Community Walk hopes to end violence

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

A Moose Hide Campaign Community Walk to end violence against women and children was held on May 15 from the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) office to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

"I just really wanted to first acknowledge all of the men here today," says Cora McGuire-Cyrette, CEO at ONWA. "I wanted to acknowledge each and every one of you for taking up your responsibilities, for giving your role, for organizing this walk, for walking with us, beside us on this journey because it will take each and every one of us to continue to do this work."

McGuire-Cyrette thanked their allies, the City of Thunder Bay and the youth who participated in the Moose Hide Campaign Community

"Sometimes we're wondering if we're making change, and I look at my friend here (Thunder Bay Police) Chief Fleury and this guy is making change,"

McGuire-Cyrette says. "I've seen it, and I've been working alongside him with the Thunder Bay Police for the past few years, every step forward is the right step forward. Do we have a lot more to do, yes we do, but what we're doing is we're trailblazing a path for those who are going to come after us. All of the work we are doing here today is going to impact the youth that are sitting here, it's going to impact our daughters, our granddaughters, those who are yet to be born, our future Elders, our future knowledge holders."

Fleury says the Moose Hide Campaign Community Walk is a very significant and important

"It's something that I've participated in across the country in different places I've been in my career, and I always take away the importance of having community come together to take on some of the challenges that we have with family violence, the violence we see in our communities," Fleury says. "When I arrived here two years ago ... as the chief of police here, some of the stats that I had was we had about 3,200 calls for domestic violence and family violence the first year, and I think it was 3,400 last year. That's unfortunate numbers that we have in our community, so this is an area we really have to focus on, not just as police services and enforce-

Fleury says the community has to work together, to work as a team and show leadership in the community.

"We're all part of the community, we all agree in certain ways in our community, we've only got to be part of what has to go forward to make it better for everybody," Fleury says.

Aroland Elder Aaron Therriault says First Nations people have been in the Great Lakes region for about 9,800 years.

"My Elders always say this is how they listen to you, this is how Creator listens to you because your culture and your people are very sacred and good, they did not destroy this land, they did not destroy this country, they did not destroy other countries or other governments or peoples," Fisher says. "They kept their emotions



The Moose Hide Campaign Community Walk participants walk through the grounds of Lakehead University to complete their walk from the Ontario Native Women's Association office on May 15 in Thunder

and attitudes in check, always aligned with ancestors and the Creator. That's the strength of our culture, through that language and ceremony, as long as we keep that strong and keep our families strong and our children healthy, we'll get through this crisis together as Anishinabe

Therriault says that is one of the messages he recently gave to people on the other side of the U.S.-Canada border at a powwow he had attended.

"It's worth that fight to fight the good fight of life for your children and your women and

Safeguard

your Elders," Therriault says. "And that message is still here today with us, and that's what our Elders keep talking about, always bring those people together no matter who they

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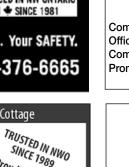
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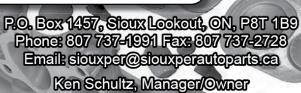
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Job Posting



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.

"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

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
- 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 ratifica-
- · 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 nonfinancial 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
- 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-
- Ability to work with both Macintosh and Windows computer plat-
- · 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

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Board Vice Chair Vivian Waswa vivianw@wunnumin.ca

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