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Politics

Patty Hajdu meets with Chamber of Commerce about Indigenous employment

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Minister Patty Hajdu stressed the importance of getting more Indigenous people involved in the economy during a meeting with the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce.

"Today as I addressed the Chamber, I talked about the investments we are making in Indigenous skills training, whether it is directly through organizations like Oshki, but also through the Indigenous Skills (and Employment Training Program), which we managed to increase by 57 per cent in Budget 2018," says Hajdu, MP for Thunder Bay-Superior North. "It's really important to make sure we tap into every ounce of talent in this country. We are not going to see the kind of growth we have been seeing if we leave any talent behind, and Indigenous folks have for a long time struggled to ensure their kids have a fair chance for success. We need to be a partner in that as a federal government."

Rosie Mosquito, executive director of Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute, appreciated hearing Hajdu's comments, but she also raised a statistic she heard from Roberta Jamieson, president and CEO of Inspire, that shows the importance of eliminating the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the country.

"If we were able to eliminate that education gap, we as Indigenous peoples could contribute up to \$36 billion to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 2024," Mosquito says. "Indigenous peoples are a huge untapped human resource — we are the fastest growing demographic and it is a very young population (with) many young people. We could do so much."



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu, minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, speaks with the media after addressing the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce about the Budget Implementation Act 2018, No. 2, which was tabled in Parliament.

Hajdu met with the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Budget Implementation Act 2018, No. 2, which was tabled in Parliament on Oct. 29. Introduced to modernize federal labour standards, the legislation includes changes to improve employees' eligibility for entitlements such as general holiday pay, sick leave, maternity leave and parental leave; new breaks and leaves, including a new five-day personal leave and five days of paid leave for victims of family violence; proactive pay equity legislation and improvements to the Wage Earner Protection Program; and amendments to the First Nations Fiscal Management Act, First Nations Land Management Act and the Additions to Reserve/Reserve Creation process to support greater economic prosperity in First Nation communities.

"Indigenous people have a lot of offer and they want to be involved in the economy," Hajdu says. "Not only is it good for the general economy, it is good for local and regional economies too. If you look at Biigtigong (Nishnaabeg), they pretty much supply all of their own labour needs. Their nurses

are from the community, their teachers are from the community. This is a vision of prosperity that every Indigenous community deserves."

The federal government conducted consultations with Canadians, stakeholders and experts between May 2017 and March 2018, which confirmed the need to take action to ensure that federal labour standards reflect the realities of 21st century workplaces.

"Fairness and inclusion are the heart of Canada's future economic success," Hajdu says. "Our economy is stronger and more prosperous when everyone has a chance to step up to the plate. Employees who are treated fairly and who come to work feeling supported by their employers are able to do their best work and innovate, which can create a better working environment and lead to long-term gains for employers. It's a win-win for everyone."

The federal government plans to allocate up to \$50.7 million over five years starting in 2019-20 to support implementation and enforcement of the labour standards amendments.

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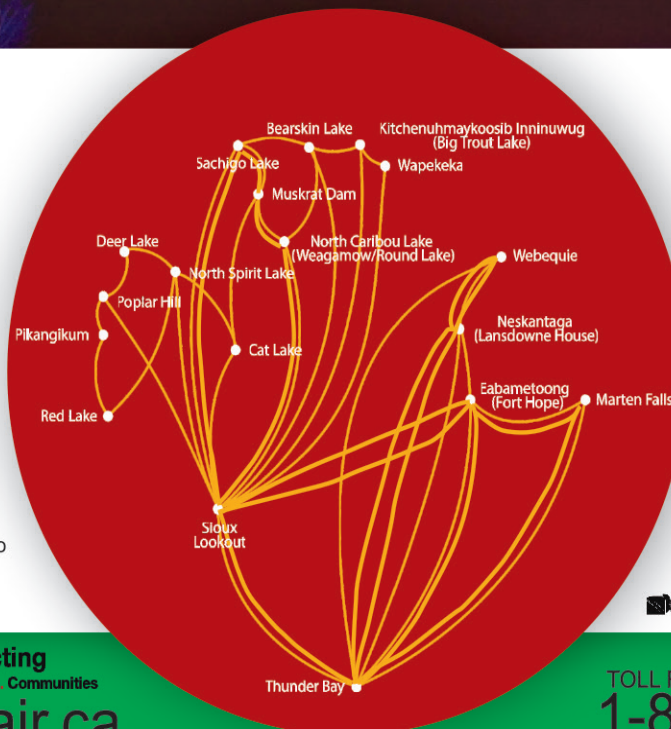
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Education



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Senator Murray Sinclair delivers his Knowing Right from Law: What You Need to Know about Law School presentation at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Gymnasium during Lakehead University's Treaties Recognition Week.

Murray Sinclair speaks to law students at Lakehead

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Senator Murray Sinclair stressed how he always keeps family on his mind during his Knowing Right from Law: What You Need to Know about Law School presentation during Lakehead University's Treaties Recognition Week.

"They've always been at the forefront of my mind in the work that I do," Sinclair says during his speech in the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Gymnasium. "I do not do a thing without thinking about them, I do not try to figure things out without figuring out how it's going to impact them. I wrote the reports on the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with them in mind because I want them to have a good future."

Sinclair says he wants Indigenous people to be living in a better place.

"I want them to be able to walk down the street and not be afraid and scared that they are going to be apprehended, kidnapped, placed in a car to never be seen again," Sinclair says. "I want them to live a life that will be healthy, that will be capable of meeting their expectations and that we will be ready for them, because they, every single one of them, are coming with guns blazing, ready to fix things."

Joyce Spence, from Moosonee, enjoyed Sinclair's presentation, including how he related the law to how Indigenous people lived long before contact.

"We as a group of people ran this country, and that needs to be said," Spence says. "Every time we have an opportunity as an Indigenous person, we need to speak up and tell them who we are, where we come from and where we are going. And I believe we are going to have young people that are going to be fitting that bill that he just said, and they want to know where do we come from and where can I go and we are going to direct them."

Spence was thrilled when Sinclair remembered her grandmother Marguerite (Gookum or Granny) Wabano as she asked him a question about the number of generations of First Nations children who were taken to residential school during his question and answer session.

"It really quickened my heart when he said: 'You mean Granny Wabano,'" Spence says. "I miss my granny so much and to have someone remember her from such a high position, it's an honour."

Wabano was one of the residential school survivors who was invited to the House of Commons for former prime minister Stephen Harper's formal residential school apology in 2008. She passed in 2015 at the age of 111.

"I remember a lot of survivors because it was important to them to be treated like a human being, so I made the effort," Sinclair says. "Granny Wabano of course was, in addition to that, probably one of the most famous of survivors because of her age but also because of her stories."

Rosie Mosquito, executive director of Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute, says the message that Sinclair delivered was a message that needs to be heard.

"Most of the first half (of his presentation) focused on how we as (Indigenous) peoples had structured governing systems, and he explained that from a family perspective and a kinship perspective," Mosquito says. "And then he closed off over the last (10) minutes with a heavy-hitting and heavy-duty experience of Indigenous peoples in Canada by saying how Canada set out to (destroy) us as a people."

Sinclair says the federal government deliberately set out on a course to take First Nations people away from their culture, communities and families by placing children in residential schools.

"The parents of those children who were taken away and placed in those schools, when they heard what was being done to their children, they tried to do something about it," Sinclair says. "They tried to go and take their children out of those schools and they tried to stop sending their children to those schools. But the government passed a law. They said if you do not send your children to these schools, then you will go to jail."

The Treaties Recognition Week also included a Treaty Panel Discussion with Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, Nancy Sandy, assistant professor at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, and Elder Gene Nowegejick.

NOMINATIONS WANTED!

Do you know someone between the ages of 6-17 who is making a difference within their community? Nominate them for an Ontario Junior Citizen Award today! The Ontario Community Newspapers Association, along with sponsor TD Bank Group, want to recognize youth for their outstanding achievements.

Nominees may:

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Sports

Willie Littlechild inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame

Allan Beaver
Special to Wawatay News

Not only has he inspired many people across the World to be the best that they can be, but Willie Littlechild has been a classic example, role model on how hard work and education pays off.

While he was playing numerous sports while attending the University of Alberta, he was inspired and coached by a living legend and an icon in the coaching world by the name of Clare Drake.

Littlechild, the Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations in 2016, was intro-

duced as a member of the Class of 2018 into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.

“It starts out in residential school and here it’s ended up in Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame,” said the emotional Littlechild of surviving the national disgrace that inflicted so much suffering on the many survivors across Canada.

A very humble man and now also ranks truly as a living legend, Willie Littlechild has accomplished and achieved many accolades through his hard work and the belief that he needs to pave the way for many youth that will follow in his footsteps.

Playing various sports and specifically hockey has turned Littlechilds’ life around of not being a quitter and striving to the next step. Hockey played that key role for him and he humbly speaks of his past and lessons learned.

“Hockey saved my life coming out of residential school. I was going down the wrong path in terms of alcohol and drinking. I could have ended up on skid row somewhere, beaten to death or drunk, but hockey was always there,” stated Littlechild.

As many of his First Nations people have not only gone through many challenges because of their experiences

and being scarred for life in the residential schools. Littlechild takes the experience to challenge himself to prove to others that he can turn a negative experience and make it into a positive difference to educate today’s society of those forgotten years.

“One time I remember I was going to quit school at the University of Alberta. I’d had it. Clare Drake phoned me. I was at home on the reservation. I said ‘I quit.’ He said ‘We have a practice at 5 p.m. and you better be on the ice.’ That was one of the biggest turns in my life. I was probably headed for places a lot of my friends and my peo-

ple ended up,” he said of Drake who was recently inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

“Hockey gave me all the breaks in my life including a broken leg. And that was what got me into law school.”

“Coach Drake had a rule that nobody could ski. My roommate was a downhill racer. After exams one year he said ‘Come on Chief, let’s go skiing.’ I said ‘No I can’t. Coach said no skiing.’ He said ‘Come on. Exams are done. It’s spring skiing.’ So I went. Sure enough, I broke my leg really badly.”

“I couldn’t skate for six years, actually. But I ended up coaching hockey and going to NHL Management School where everyone was a lawyer. So I figure ‘I have to be a lawyer to stay in hockey. So I became a lawyer.”

Littlechild is getting honoured into the Induction Class of 2018 with a group that includes two-time Edmonton Eskimos Grey Cup champion Damon Allen, Toronto Maple Leafs great Dave Keon, Olympians Alexandre Despatie and Chandra Crawford, Sandra Kirby and Jeff Adams and ‘League of Their Own’ women’s baseball star Mary Baker.

In honour of the many First Nations across Canada, Littlechild attended the Induction Ceremony wearing his Tribal headdress. What a proud moment it was not only for Willie Littlechild but for the many followers that he has represented throughout the years.

Littlechild was born on the Ermineskin Reserve at Maskwacis, just 45 minutes south of Edmonton, and was raised by his precious grandparents. Willie, as he is known to everyone that has come to meet him, took his grandfather’s guidance of traditional cultural knowledge from an early age and with his grandmother always encouraging Willie to appreciate the value of formal education.

As an all-round great athlete, Willie attended residential schools from 1951 to 1964 and played a wide variety of sports, including hockey, football, baseball and swimming. It was a perfect fit for finding a way out of the negative experience and driving that energy and resilience to endure an environment of institutional abuse and separation from his family. Littlechild is truly an inspiration and living proof that First Nations people have a lot to share to the Canadian society.

In everything that Willie Littlechild has accomplished, not

only did he have to work twice as hard as his colleagues but he did it with class and perseverance.

Athletic pursuits taught Willie that with hard work and dedication he could excel and fulfill his potential, even in difficult circumstances. These lessons also shaped Willie’s approach to higher education. A diligent student, he attended the University of Alberta and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Education in 1967, followed by a Master’s Degree in 1975.

In 1976, Willie achieved his Law Degree becoming the first Treaty First Nation person from Alberta to become a lawyer. He also became the first Treaty First Nation person to be elected a Member of Parliament in Canada, representing the riding of Wetaskiwin-Rimbey from 1988 to 1993.

For over four decades he has worked with the United Nations to advocate for Indigenous sport and the global Indigenous rights movement. He also served as a Commissioner for Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and was named Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations in 2016.

During his studies at the University of Alberta, Willie played for the Golden Bears hockey and swim teams and worked as student manager of the university’s football and basketball teams. Committed to empowering others through sport, he also founded and coached the first all-Indigenous junior hockey team in Alberta and organized referee and coaching clinics across the province. In 1967 and 1974, he received the Tom Longboat award, which recognizes the most outstanding Aboriginal athletes and their contributions to sport in Canada.

A pioneering role model, organizer and advocate for Indigenous sport in Canada, Willie Littlechild has worked tirelessly over five decades to create new opportunities for Indigenous athletes. Notable examples of the many events and organizations he has helped establish at every level of competition include the creation of the North American Indigenous Games in 1990 and the World Indigenous Nations Games in 2015. Willie continues to promote Indigenous sport as an important component of reconciliation, community building and as an enduring expression of cultural identity.

REVIEW

Review of Draft Contingency Plan: Whitefeather Forest 2019 – 2022 Contingency Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority (WFCRMA), and the Red Lake District Resource Management Advisory Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the 2019 – 2022 Draft Contingency Plan for the Whitefeather Forest.

Why is a Contingency Plan Required?

The approved planning of the first five years of operations for the 2012 – 2022 Whitefeather Forest Management Plan (FMP) expired March 31, 2017. A three-year Contingency Plan is required to conduct forest operations while a new 10-year 2022 – 2032 FMP is developed and approved.

The purpose of this notice is to:

- Invite you to review and comment on the draft Contingency Plan at the locations and times listed below, and
- Request contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

Comments will be considered in revisions to the draft Contingency Plan.

How to Get Involved

The Draft Contingency Plan will be available on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans and at the MNRF Red Lake District Office and WFCRMA offices at the locations noted below, by appointment during normal office hours for a period of 30 days from **December 12, 2018 – January 11, 2019**. Comments on the draft Contingency Plan for the Whitefeather Forest must be received by Corinne Arthur, Management Forester, at the MNRF Red Lake District Office, by **January 11, 2019**.

To assist you in the review and to provide the opportunity to ask questions, an Information Centre will be held at the following location from **2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** on the following day:

December 12, 2018
at the Super 8 by Wyndham
11 Hughes Crescent
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0

The following information will be available:

- Draft Contingency Plan, including supplementary documentation;
- MNRF’s preliminary list of required alterations.

Meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.
Management Forester
MNRF Red Lake District Office
227 Howey Street
P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-727-1337
e-mail: Corinne.Arthur@ontario.ca

Sarah J. Bros, R.P.F.
Plan Author
WFCRMA
138 Howey Street, P.O. Box 422
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 705-498-4165
e-mail: sarah.bros@merinforest.com

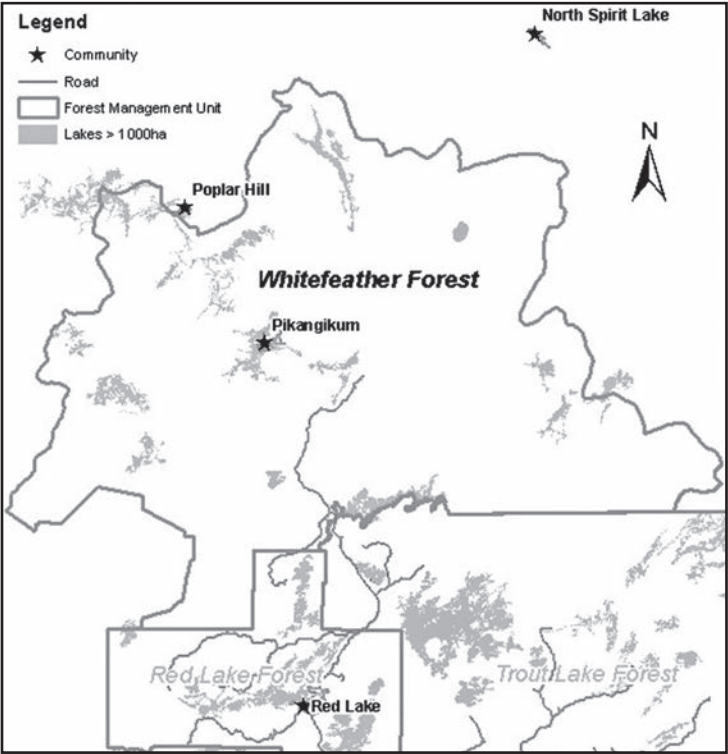
Len Hercun
LCC Representative
P.O. Box 425
Ear Falls, ON P0V 1T0
tel: 807-222-2447
e-mail: jlhercun@bell.net

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the *Forest Management Planning Manual (2017)*. The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is **February 10, 2019**.

Stay Involved

A final opportunity to inspect the approved Contingency Plan before it is implemented will take place during the inspection of the MNRF-approved Contingency Plan, which is tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2019.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 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 Kathy Crampton, District Business Coordinator at 807-727-1332.



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Environment

DGC Derek Fox gives presentation about wood stove pilot program

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox delivered a presentation on Nishnawbe Aski Nations's Wood Stove Changeout Pilot Program at the Biomass North Forum 2018 in Thunder Bay.

"I have many portfolios, education and health are two big ones, but we (also) have environment and climate change," Fox says during the Bioheat Solutions for Communities panel discussion at the Valhalla Inn. "Given how much the world pollutes and how little NAN pollutes, we do a lot with respect to the environment and climate change, whether it is waste management or recycling. We are very passionate about the land because our people have this deep connection to the land, we have a spiritual connection. We always think of it as alive, as our grandmother, as our mother, so we are very passionate about clean energy."

Fox says the Wood Stove Changeout Pilot Program started about two years ago with the involvement of six NAN communities: Sandy Lake, Deer Lake, Eabametoong, North Caribou Lake, Poplar Hill and Wunnumin.

"We just got word yesterday or two days ago that given all the cutbacks and all of the issues with the Ontario government, that they are going to let us finish the work," Fox says. "So we've been given approval

to finish the Wood Stove work up until March of the next fiscal year. So that is good news for us.”

Fox says NAN has been approaching the federal government for funding to continue the Wood Stove Change-out Pilot Program in the future once the provincial government funding ends.

"The wood stoves are very instrumental in our households," Fox says. "We rely on wood stoves a lot. So although we got approval and we're ecstatic about that, we've got to find ways to keep this work going. As you know, we've lost lives due to faulty wood stoves and we've lost lives due to fires in the home."

Fox says Amber's Fire Safety Campaign was launched last year in honour of five-month-old Amber Strang, one of nine who died in the Pikangikum house fire.

"We're hoping that this work continues," Fox says.

Fox also brought up concerns about the impact of climate change on the winter roads that provide access to NAN's remote, fly-in communities.

"As the years go on, we find that our winter roads are diminishing," Fox says. "The winter roads, if you don't know, are very important to us. They are like a lifeline for us for housing materials and fuel. And as those winter road seasons diminish, we've got to find other ways to get those resources in. So we're

right on the frontlines of climate change — it's forest fires, you've got evacuations, the people of Kashechewan are often evacuated due to flooding. So we're seeing the effects of climate change directly every year that passes."

The Bioheat Solutions for Communities panel discussion also included presentations by Alexander Zangerie, manager of Herz Canada, on Let's Combine Individual Strengths - We Have the Same Goals, and Andreas Wintzer, commercial and biomass system manager with Viessmann Canada, on Small Scale District Energy Systems for Local Communities.

The first day of the forum featured workshops on District Heating System Design in Canada and Northern Ontario Bioheat Workshop.

The second day of the forum featured sessions on Government Leadership in the Bioeconomy; Biopower in Commercial and Industrial Applications; Biofuels and Deep Fuel Switching; and Sustainable Practices and Climate Mitigation.

The third day featured sessions on Accelerating Cleantech and Innovation; Best Practices in Collaboration; SES Biotechnology and Allied Sciences Symposium; Mapping the Canadian Bioeconomy from Here to 2030: World Cafe; and Looking to 2030.

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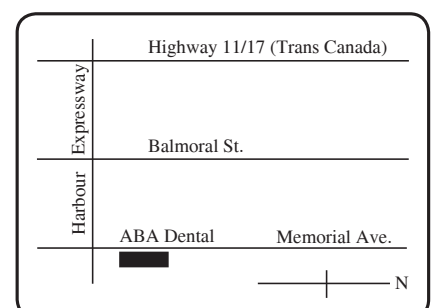
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January 7-14, 2019
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\$1,849 pp (all taxes included)



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Health

Talk4healing launches new text service for Indigenous women

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Talk4Healing recently introduced new text and chat services to add to the telephone helpline services it provides for Indigenous women across the province.

“We have evolved quite a bit from just a phone line that was initially targeting the north,” says Robin Haliuk, program supervisor for Talk4Healing. “We’ve really grown and expanded. We now have a training coordinator working with us, we have doubled our staff team and the number of people available on the phone to answer texts or chats. So it is really nice to see it come full circle.”

Talk4Healing provides free, confidential and protected talk, chat and text services on a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week basis to Indigenous women across the province. The services are provided by Indigenous women in 14 Indigenous languages as well as English. Talk4Healing officially launched its province-wide services on Oct. 19 and the text and chat services on Oct. 23.

“Most of our counsellors here speak either Ojibwa, Oji-Cree or Cree,” Haliuk says. “And we have subscribed to a translation service to support the Algonquin, Odawa or different languages.”

Talk4Healing also provides services through the translation service to Inuktitut, Mohawk, Oneida, Potawatomi, Micmac, Black Foot, Moose Cree and Swampy Cree speakers.

“It is only direct translation, so they will just work between the caller and the translator to make sure they are being heard and listened to,” Haliuk says. “We can have a translator on the phone within a matter of about three minutes.”

The Talk4Healing helpline has received about 20,000 calls from northern Ontario communities since it was introduced in 2012.

“Wherever you are, we’re here for you,” Haliuk says. “This new technology will enable Talk4Healing to reach a broader demographic, including younger Indigenous women that have identified that they are more comfortable texting.”

Talk4Healing has helped Indigenous women through various issues and circumstances since it was established, including escaping violent relationships, difficult personal relationships, financial turmoil and addictions.

“I’ve personally experienced mental health challenges in my life and know how critical support like Talk4Healing is for young women like myself,” says Melinda Henderson, who is featured in Talk4Healing’s new promotional photography. “This new texting option allows a younger demographic to communicate in a way we are more comfortable and it could have the potential to save a life.”

Debra Vermette, executive director of Beendigen, says the new text and chat technology will help “immensely.” Talk4Healing is a partnership between Beendigen and Ontario Native Women’s Association.

“Talking on the telephone to connect with others is fast becoming a trend of the past,” Vermette says. “Women now have a choice in how they connect with the helpline. A live, trained counsellor can talk with callers over the phone, text through a mobile device or chat via the Talk4Healing website’s Live Chat providing culturally sensitive counselling, advice and support.”

Vermette says women often need to talk to someone outside of their circle of family and friends.

“(Talk4Healing) gives that confidentiality that they are able to just talk and be able to say what they want to say and know that it is not going to be coming back through a community citizen or coming back through family and friends,” Vermette says. “It gives them that safe place to be able to talk about what is going on in their lives.”

People can connect with Talk4Healing by phoning or sending a text message to 1-855-554-HEAL or by visiting talk4healing.ca to chat on the Live Chat option.

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We work to keep children at home, but if a child does need to leave their home we first look to extended family and follow our tradition of customary care. While we do follow Ontario laws to respond to concerns about children and their families, we rarely use the court system as our communities prefer to operate with Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin and our traditional ways. Tikinagan truly is your agency- an agency built by our people, for our people.

Learn more about Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin and what makes Tikinagan unique at www.tikinagan.org.

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Health

Carmen Blais awarded Minister's Medal for Excellence in Health Quality and Safety

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management's Carmen Blais recently received the Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety (Individual Champion Category) for her work in improving Indigenous health care in northwestern Ontario.

"It's for the last 30-plus years in health care and trying to improve health care for Indigenous people and communities in northwestern Ontario," says Blais, a clinical coordinator at Matawa Health Co-operative. "In my previous role as Indigenous engagement lead at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, I expanded the Indigenous Advisory Committee from fewer than 10 members to 23, established a healing garden, hired an Indigenous spiritual care (worker), offered (Anishinabemowin) classes to the staff (and increased the) one patient navigator to five. I received the Walk the Talk Award for Indigenous Health at TBRHSC. At Matawa I've had the opportunity to travel to the Matawa communities to conduct engagement sessions with the communities to identify some of the health challenges and gaps in accessing health

services."

Blais was presented with the Minister's Medal at the Health Quality Transformation 2018 conference in Thunder Bay. The Minister's Medal honours excellence in health quality and safety.

"We are thrilled to learn that Carmen Blais is receiving this prestigious award," says David Paul Achneepineskum, CEO of Matawa First Nations Management. "I have had the privilege of working with Carmen over the years and she genuinely cares about the health of our First Nation communities. As we work towards developing the Matawa Health Co-operative for our nine First Nation communities, she has been a great asset in bringing the clinical skills and expertise in assisting the Co-operative as we continue to develop the Indigenous Inter-Professional Primary Care Health team."

The Matawa Health Co-operative was developed by Matawa to provide collaborative and accountable health services to its First Nations.

"We found that a lot of the communities are having challenges in accessing mental health services and have addictions, diabetes and chronic disease," Blais says. "So with the funding we received from the

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care we will deliver those services in the communities. We will have a primary team as part of a Health Co-operative — it's the first in Canada. Matawa hired me to recruit health professionals for the Primary Care Health Team, so we will have a physician, a nurse practitioner, nurses and we will be providing foot care services."

Blais says engagement sessions were done in the nine Matawa communities over the summer months.

"We had really good turn-outs," Blais says. "We had a lot of people come out and they shared their stories about some of the health issues they are struggling with in the community and some of the challenges in accessing services."

The Minister's Medals are awarded to: one team-based initiative that demonstrated commitment to collaboration, improvements in the health system and value for quality care; one individual who has demonstrated leadership in focusing on quality; and a patient advisor who enhanced patient engagement within their community.

"Carmen's commitment to the health care needs of Indigenous people and communities in our region is greatly



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Matawa Health Co-operative clinical coordinator Carmen Blais was recently recognized with the Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety (Individual Champion Category) for her work in improving Indigenous health care in northwestern Ontario.

appreciated and valued," says Gil Labine, board chair of the North West LHIN. "Her dedication to improving Indigenous health outcomes has had a positive impact on the health care system that will have a lasting effect."

Rhonda Crocker Ellacott,

CEO of the North West LHIN, says Blais' dedication to Indigenous health is a shining example of the incredible impact that one person can have on improving patients' quality of care.

"Carmen's achievements over her career show her unwavering passion, dedication and

commitment to addressing health equity by focusing on improving health outcomes for Indigenous communities in our region," Ellacott says. "I offer my sincere congratulations to Carmen for winning this prestigious award."

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Culture

Biwaase'aa youth outreach workers teach culture

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Jingle dress teachings were among the variety of cultural teachings and activities shared by Biwaase'aa youth outreach workers at St. Ann School in Thunder Bay.

"I told a story that comes from Whitefish Bay about the little girl who couldn't walk," says Faith Redsky, a Biwaase'aa youth outreach worker at St. James Public School. "I actually get the students to act out the story. This is our healing dress culture, so we remember that teaching of the little girl when we dance. It heals ourselves, but it also heals everybody else in the powwow arbour."

Dannell McGinnis, a Biwaase'aa youth outreach worker at Vance Chapman Public School, also shared some jingle dress teachings with students.

"I was showing the students how a jingle dress is made," McGinnis says. "I didn't just teach them about new-age jingle dresses, I also taught them about old-style jingle dresses."

McGinnis says the old-style jingle dresses were made with skirts underneath.

"I did explain to the children that the reason why these skirts were made under the dresses was because skin wasn't supposed to be shown on a woman because they were the life givers," McGinnis says. "So because it is a ceremony dress and a healing dress, it was very important that these dresses were made longer."

The Biwaase'aa youth outreach workers delivered the cultural teachings and activities to the students individually on a rotating basis in the students' classrooms.

"We had different topics like jingle dress, hand drumming for women, hand drumming for men, bustle teachings, head roach teachings, basically the way of life as Anishinabe people," says Kelvin Redsky, program manager for Biwaase'aa. "The message is to educate the children about the way of life as Aboriginal people, to teach them about what we do as Anishinabe people, like when we do our beadwork, when we do our wild rice and traditional foods."

The Biwaase'aa youth outreach workers also taught the students about flute music and singing, sewing and birch bark teachings.

"Today I am doing birch bark teachings and I was passing on the knowledge I was taught on how to make them and their uses," says Ryan Saarinen, a Biwaase'aa youth outreach worker at Our Lady of Charity School. "I talked about birch bark harvesting, the right time to harvest birch bark, I talked about the (spruce) roots we harvest to make the birch bark baskets and the different types of wood you can use on the round rim of the basket."

Dakota-Colt Meshake, a Biwaase'aa youth outreach worker at Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute, shared drum teachings with the students.

"When we're doing events, I try to stick with the same teaching every year," Meshake says. "I talk about the origin story I was told about the drum, I talk a little about the gender roles with the drum and I teach some

of the different songs we do. My goal is that when they reach Grade 8 or they go into high school, somebody can ask them what kind of teachings do you know about the drum and they can give them the origin story."

Fawn Meshake, a Biwaase'aa youth outreach worker at Ogden Community School, spoke about women teachings around the drum with the students.

"I spoke about how I learned to sing when I was young," Fawn says. "I taught (the students) how to lele — a lele is

when women sing with men. When they lele to the men's singing, it is an honour for that song to honour that spirit that comes in."

Biwaase'aa received a one-year extension to its funding in August to provide in-school and after-school programming and a nutrition program for the 2018-19 school year at eight schools in Thunder Bay.

"The Biwaase'aa program has been around since 2004, and we've grown from two programs to eight programs," Kelvin says.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Fawn Meshake, a Biwaase'aa youth outreach worker at Ogden Community School, shared some of the drum teachings during a Traditional Teachings session at St. Ann School in Thunder Bay.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Pineland Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Pineland Timber Company Ltd.** and the **Pineland Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to participate in the development of the 2021– 2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the **Pineland Forest**.

The Planning Process

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

- 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 MNRF office listed below or if you wish to 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 includes the following:

- Description of the management responsibilities on the forest and of the forest industry that is supplied from the forest;
- Values maps showing natural resource features, land uses and values;
- Description of the historic forest condition;
- A map of existing roads and their use management strategies;
- Management unit annual reports, audit reports, and provincial reports pertaining to forest management;
- Sources of direction for the forest such as past plans, land use plans, any relevant policy direction under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*, MNRF's provincial goals, objectives and policies for natural resource management.

The 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, will be available at the EACOM Timber Corporation - Timmins office and at the MNRF Chapleau District Office, at the locations shown below, by appointment during normal office hours. Meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to 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:

Kelly Ellis, R.P.F.
Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Chapleau District Office
190 Cherry Street, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
tel: 705-864-3163
e-mail: kelly.ellis@ontario.ca

Ryan Milne, R.P.F.
Plan Author
EACOM Timber Corporation
267 McChesney Road
Timmins, ON P4N 7C9
tel: 705-842-0985
e-mail: ryan.milne@eacom.ca

Rick McCord / Manfred Grasser
Pineland Local Citizens' Committee
c/o Kelly Ellis
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Chapleau District Office
190 Cherry Street, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
tel: 705-864-3163

Anytime during the planning process you may make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2017 *Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1)*.

Stay Involved

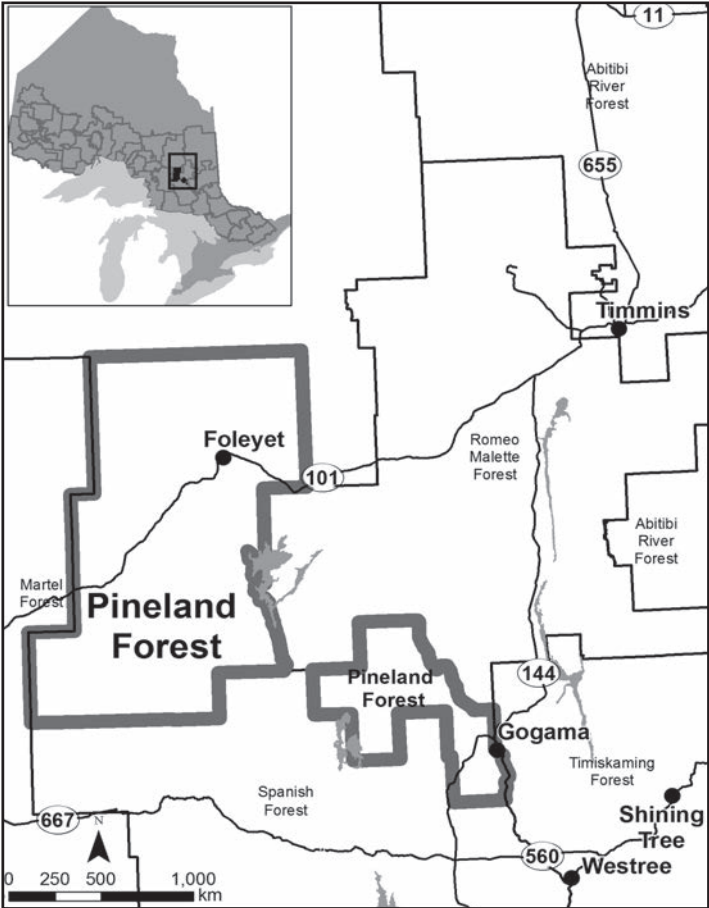
There will be four more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

Stage Two -	Review of the Proposed Long-Term Management Direction	August, 2019
Stage Three -	Information Centre: Review of Proposed Operations	December, 2019
Stage Four -	Information Centre: Review of Draft Forest Management Plan	June, 2020
Stage Five -	Inspection of MNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan	October, 2020

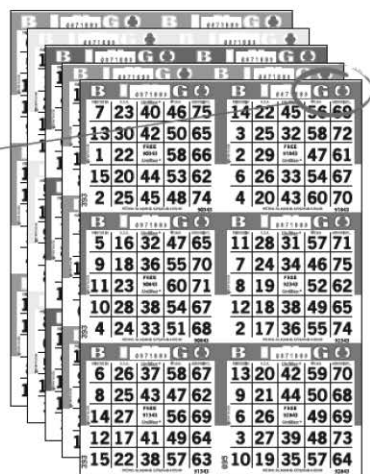
If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Kelly Ellis at 705-864-3163.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Kelly Ellis at 705-864-3163.

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Arts



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The two winning teams in a team building exercise at the Chiefs of Ontario Photovoice Facilitator Training Session, held in Thunder Bay, completed their pyramids of cups at exactly the same time.

COO holds photovoice facilitator training sessions

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The Chiefs of Ontario Photovoice Facilitator Training Session, held in Thunder Bay, included a SafeTALK presentation on how to help youth who may be thinking of suicide.

"It's been really good meeting new people and learning how to help friends in the community," says Valerie Ooshag, a youth from Eabametoong. "(The SafeTALK presentation was about) being comfortable and helping your friend seek help. If one of my friends is feel-

ing down or suicidal, I will have the skills to help them in a good way.”

SafeTALK is a three-hour training program that prepares helpers to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources.

Kayla Fiddler, a youth from Sandy Lake, says the Photo-voice Facilitator Training Session was informational about suicide.

"(The training helps with) recognizing the symptoms and seeing if anybody need help, if they want to talk to me or anybody else in the community," Fiddler says, noting that she has

known some people who committed suicide. "This is my second time taking SafeTALK and it is just very informational."

Mya Dixon, a youth from Sandy Lake, says this was a good opportunity for her to participate in the SafeTALK training, noting that she tried to take the training before but was not able to.

"I really want to see this training up north," Dixon says. "I find it really interesting and it is worth knowing."

Con't on next page...

INSPECTION

Inspection of the Approved Long-Term 2 Year Forest Management Plan Extension for the Trout Lake Forest 2019-2021 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Domtar Inc.** and the **Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** would like to advise you that the long-term Forest Management Plan (FMP) extension of the approved 2009 – 2019 FMP for the **Trout Lake Forest** has been approved by the Regional Director and is available for Inspection.

The long-term FMP extension extends the period of the current FMP to April 1, 2019.

The long-term FMP extension includes a description and a map of the planned operations that will be carried forward in the plan extension.

How to Access the Approved Long-Term FMP Extension

The long-term FMP extension is available for Inspection at the following locations:

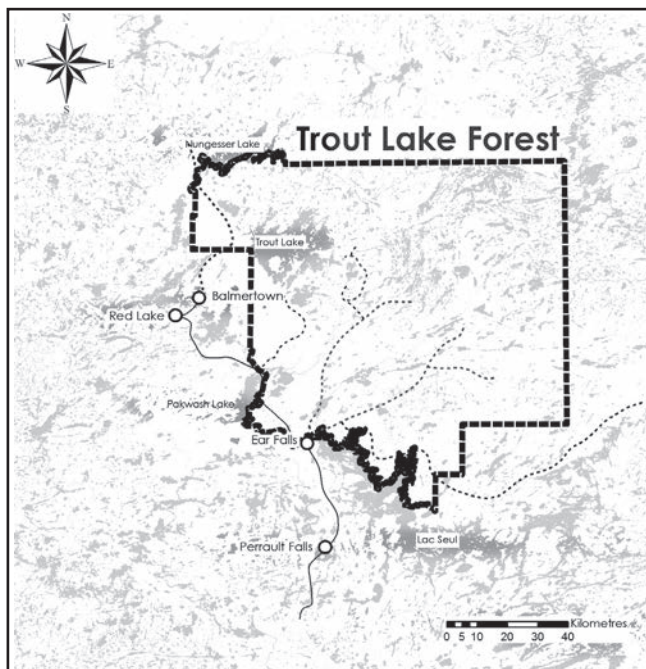
- Domtar Inc. office, 1 Duke Street, Janet Lane, R.P.F. at 807-223-9156
- on the Ontario government website (www.ontario.ca/forestplans)

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff at the MNRF Red Lake District Office to discuss the long-term FMP extension.

For further information, contact:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.
Management Forester
MNRF Red Lake District Office
227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
tel: 807-727-1337
e-mail: Corinne.Arthur@ontario.ca

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 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 Kathy Crampton, MNRF Red Lake District Office, at 807-727-1332.



Janet Lane, R.P.F.
Domtar Inc.
1 Duke Street
Dryden, ON P8N 3J7
tel: 807-223-9156
fax: 807-223-9401

Lori Lamond
Local Citizens' Committee Rep.
P.O. Box 864
Ear Falls, ON P0V 1T0
tel: 807-222-1116





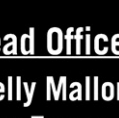
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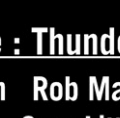
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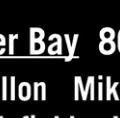
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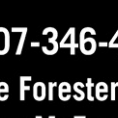
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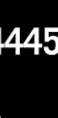
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Business

Agoke Development Corporation wins partnership of the year awards

Jason Rasevych
Special to Wawatay News

A 100% First Nations owned and operated company based in Thunder Bay has received prov-

It was officially announced on Thursday, October 18, 2018 that the Agoke Development Corporation (Agoke) was the recipient of the Business Part-

nership of the Year Award at the NADF Business Awards. The forestry enterprise owned by Aroland, Eabametoong and Marten Falls, manages the Ogoki Forest, oversees forest

access road maintenance and silviculture programs while protecting culturally sensitive areas and animal habitat. This marks the 28th year of the NADF Business Awards – Canada's longest

running Aboriginal Business Awards program that celebrates the best of the best in Aboriginal Business.

Seven award recipients were recognized for their achieve-

ments and contributions to local and regional economies at a gala dinner at the Senator Hotel in Timmins, Ontario.

Con't on next page

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Submitted photo

Photo from left to right – Jason Rasevych, Business Advisor; Mark Bell, President, Agoke Development Corporation; Bill Spade, Director, Agoke Development Corporation.

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Brian Davey, Executive Director, NADF stated "Receiving the Partnership of the Year Award is a major accomplishment for companies. This award is achieved by the willingness of partners to come together for the greater good, to hold a collective vision, and to work hard with the solid determination to succeed. All these factors are evident in this year's winner - Agoke Development Corporation. I wish them well and greatness, as they grow and become a major player in northern Ontario."

Mark Bell, who has served as the president of the Agoke Development Corporation for the past three years, is thrilled the corporation is being honoured with an award. "We're very proud," he said. "It's been a lot of hard work to get to this point. We've re-defined our position in forestry and have been gradually moving forward and growing."

The Agoke Development Corporation started in 2015 with the intent to build capacity in forest management and to maximize economic opportunities in the forestry sector. The three First Nations that own the corporation, haven't

seen much opportunity come their way in the past.

"Commercial forestry has always been a challenging business environment for our First Nations, historically we've been economically marginalized with little or no opportunity. In the Ogoki Forest, we set out to change that by taking Ontario's forest tenure modernization process to the next level by securing a greater role in managing the land" said Chief Bruce Achneepineskum of Marten Falls First Nation. "I'm very proud of the Agoke Development Corporation on receive-

ing this award, it truly shows that when we work together, amongst our First Nations and with industry, we can learn to co-exist.”

That same year, the three First Nations signed a co-operation agreement and established the Agoke Development Corporation to take on the business development on behalf of the three First Nations, a decision which has paid

off in a major way. In March 2018, Agoke made headlines when it announced a forestry agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to take over management responsibilities of the crown unit. Now, for the first

time, the three First Nations have a say on what goes on in the Ogoki forest and are building forestry knowledge to further their role as stewards of the land.

Agoke is driving the process and has secured the forest resource license to harvest wood, assign harvest blocks, complete compliance and monitoring of woodland operations, prepare annual work schedules and reports. Agoke is

also involved in developing the next 10-year forest management plan for 2020-2030.

Over the past three (3) years, Agoke has also successfully managed and administered the provincial road funding and advocated for a new \$600,000 pilot project for bridge and road repairs to mitigate barriers to wood fibre

for existing and new markets. Agoke is the only First Nation owned management entity in Ontario to manage the province's road money for forests and is striving to include their community citizens in numerous aspects of forestry.

Working well with others has also proven to be a valued and

necessary means of doing business. That's certainly reflected in the fact Agoke is being recognized for the way it works with others. "It really shows the importance of collaboration and a common vision of partnerships," stated Bill Spade, Agoke Director, Eabametoong First Nation.

Agoko took the time to build key relationships with consuming mills in the region and their efforts were successful in establishing a joint-venture agreement with the Nakina Sawmill to restart the operations which have been

dormant for over a decade. "That's very special to us," Spade said of the deal which saw first-right-of-refusal for road building, log harvesting and delivery contracts. The Agoke Board set up a working committee that provides input into the facility's hiring process, developing special programs for employment and training and are targeting 75% Aboriginal employment in the sawmill.

Over the next few years, Agoke is looking to expand into bio-mass and bio-fuel opportunities to help scale capacity for micro-grids in the Far North. "We understand there are pilot projects with solar and other types of renewable energy options. We would like to see our remote First Nations reduce diesel as an energy source", said Delia Okees, Agoke Director, Marten Falls First Nation. "With technological advancements being made, there is a huge opportunity to be innovators in renewable energy for combined heat and power in northern Ontario. There is a lot of work to do, but we believe we are on the right track, and we don't plan on slowing down anytime soon," Okees added.



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