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Leaders stress the importance of Remembrance Day

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse stressed the importance of remembering those who have served the country during the Remembrance Day ceremony at Waverley Park in Thunder Bay.

"Nov. 11 is the day we recognize all the service men and women, some that gave their lives and (those who) continued to serve so that we could protect the peace and integrity of this country, and also the contributions of our Indigenous soldiers that fought over the years that contributed to the safety of this nation," Narcisse says. "We mark this day to commemorate those who have fallen but also preserve their memory and also the legacy they have left behind and continue to uphold those values and strengths every day as we move ahead."

Narcisse says they also acknowledge those who continue to serve at this time.

"We really recognize and appreciate the long-standing service that they do," Narcisse says. "We must continue to do our part to support them and ensure that they are supported when they come home, but also that our thoughts and prayers are with them to ensure their safety."

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu, minister of Indigenous Services Canada, and Collin Graham, manager of training and capacity building at Ontario Native Women's Association, were among those who also laid wreaths during the Remembrance Day ceremony.

"It's an honour to represent Canada and to acknowledge the many fallen soldiers that have served here and abroad in multiple different wars," Hajdu says. "As we see conflict in the world actually growing, it's even more important this year to remember just how many ways Canadians have served both Canada and the world."

Hajdu says she was honoured to wear a beaded poppy at the Remembrance Day ceremony.

"I was honoured to get this yesterday," Hajdu says. "I was at Nishnawbe Aski Nation and they presented me with this beaded poppy."

Graham says it was important to show their respect by laying the wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony.

"It's really important to show our respect not only to the soldiers who fought in the World War I and World War II, but as well honour and pay tribute to those Indigenous veterans who also served," Graham says. "It's important for us to pay our tribute not only to those who are no longer here but who laid their lives down fighting for the rights of our Indigenous people. It's important for us to continue our contribution to service as we believe in living up to our community's roles and responsibilities when it comes to fighting (for) what we believe in, which is Mother Earth."

Jan Ritchie, an Indigenous veteran from Saugeen who served with the United States Marine Corps, also highlighted the importance of military service during the National Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 8 at Lakehead University.

"I am deeply honoured and grateful to be here today among friends, colleagues and fellow veterans to commemorate and honour National Indigenous Veterans Day," Ritchie says. "I am a proud Anishinabek man who had the honour of serving on the Battle of Fallujah in 2004 (in Iraq). As we gather here today it's crucial to recognize the contributions, sacrifices and resilience of Indigenous veterans throughout our history — the stories and experiences of Indigenous service members, their courage and their dedication, too often remain unacknowledged and underrepresented. It is our duty to ensure their stories are told, honoured and never forgotten."

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse laid a wreath to remember all the men and women who served the country during the Remembrance Day ceremony at Waverley Park in Thunder Bay.

Ritchie says his experience with the United States Marine Corps helps him with his community work as well as personal fitness.

"I'm very loyal, I'm very structured and I'm really passionate about our culture," Ritchie says. "I run really extreme long distances of 200 miles, 500 miles. That's another story of itself too because our people a long time ago carried those messages from community to community, and they would run for days and days, and that's one of the things that the Marines have really helped me to preserve because I was a good runner and they worked on that strength. So now I'm trying to carry on the culture by running, going to different community events for ultra running, and so far I've been running all over the world and participating in all these events and meeting interesting people."

ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᓂᐠ ᒥᓇ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᑭᑕᐃᐧᓂᑲᑌᓂ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦᐱᓂ

ᕒᐃᐠ ᑲᕒᐃᐠ

ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᓂᐠ ᒥᓇ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᐅᑕᔕᐧᐸᑕᓇᐊᐧ ᒋᔦᓂᓇᑭ ᐅᐢᑭᐊᔦᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑫᐊᐧᐨ ᐅᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᐊᔕ ᑲᑭᐃᐢᑲᐧ ᑕᐃᐧᓂᑲᑌᓂᐠ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦᐱᓂ ᑲᑭᐅᒋ ᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᓂᑖᐧ ᐅᒧᑌᕒᐃᔪ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦ' ᑲᐅᑕᐱᑫᒍᐠ ᐁᑲᐧ ᐃᒪ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᐅᑕᓄᑭᐠ ᑲᑭᐅᒋ ᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑫᑕᒪᐊᐧᐨ ᒣᑲᐧᐨ ᐊᐧᑌᐸᑲᐃᐧᐱᔑᐣ 21 ᒥᓇ 19.

"ᒥᐦᐅᐁᐧ ᑭᒋᑲᐢᑭᒋᑫᐃᐧᓐ ᑫᓂᒥᑫᐧᒋᑲᑌᐠ ᐅᒪ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐠ ᐱᓂᐢ ᐁᐧᑎ ᑫᓂᐱᒥᔦᓂᑫᐱᒪᑎᔑᐊᐧᐨ ᒋᔦᐸᒋᑐᐊᐧᐨ," ᑭᐃᑭᑐ ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᓂ ᐅᑭᒪᑲᓐ ᓴᐣ ᒣᒣᑫᐧ. "ᐁᑲᐧ ᑕᐢ ᓄᑯᐣ ᑲᐃᐧᓐ ᐁᑲᐧ ᓐᑲᑎᐸᐸᑕᒥᓐ ᒥᓂᑯᐠ ᑫᐊᐸᒋᑐᔦᐠ ᐃᐢᑯᑌ ᑲᑐᑕᒪᑭᐸᓐ ᑲᐊᐸᒋᑐᔦᑭᐸᓐ ᐱᒥᐸᓂᒋᑲᓇᓐ, ᐅᒪ ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᓂᐠ ᓐᑭᑲᐢᑭᑐᒥᓐ ᒋᓇᐸᐱᑫᓇᒪᐠ ᐣᑐᐢᑭ ᑭᑭᓄᒪᑎᑲᒥᑯᓇᓐ ᒐᐣ ᒐ ᒪᕓᑎᓐ ᐅᑲᓄᑫᑕᑯᐃᐧᐣ ᑭᑭᓄᒪᑎᑲᒥᐠ, ᑕᐊᐧ ᐃᒪ ᒋᑕᔑ ᑭᑭᓄᒪᐃᐧᑕᐧ ᒪᐊᐧ ᑲᐊᑲᔪᔑᐊᐧ ᐊᑯᓇᐠ 10 ᑲᐊᑯᐢᑲᐊᐧ. ᐁᑲᐧ ᒥᓇ ᑭᐅᔑᒋᑲᑌᐊᐧᐣ ᐅᑭᑭᓄᒪᑫᐠ ᑲᐃᔑᑲᐯᔑᐦᐃᑕᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐅᐢᑭᐊᐧᑲᐦᐃᑲᓇᐣ ᑫᔑᐸᑕᑭᒋᑲᑌᑭᐣ 25 ᒥᓇ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᒉ ᐱᒋᑲᑌᐊᐧᐣ ᒋᔦᓂᑭᔑᒋᑲᑌᑭᐣ."

ᐁᑲᐧ ᐁᐧᑎ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᑭᐅᓇᒋᑫᐊᐧᐠ ᒋᐅᔑᑐᐊᐧ ᐅᐢᑭ "ᐊᔦ ᐢᑯᕀ ᒥᓇ ᐅᐢᑭ ᐊᐧᑲᐦᐃᑲᓇᐣ ᑲᐃᔑᑲᐯᔑᓇᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᐊᔕ ᐊᐱᐣ ᑲᑭᐱᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑕᐧ ᐃᒪ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐠ.

"ᒪᐊᐧ ᐱᑯ ᑭᑭ ᒋᑫᑕᑲᐧᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᑲᑭᔑᑲᐢᑭᒋᑲᓂᐊᐧᐠ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲ ᐅᑭᒪᑲᐣ ᑕᐨ ᓴᐨᐳ. "ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᒪᐊᐧ ᐅᑭᒋᑐᑕᓇᐊᐧ ᑲᑎᐱᓇᐁᐧᐃᐧᔐᐊᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᐱᒧᒋᑫᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧ ᑲᑭᐃᔐᓴᓂᐠ ᒋᒥᐢᑲᐧᒋ ᐊᐸᒋᑐᔦᐠ ᐅᐢᑭ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᐣ ᑲᑭᐱᐊᐸᒋᑐᔦᑭᐸᐣ ᐱᒥᐸᓂᒋᑲᐣ. ᑲᐃᐧ ᐁᑲᐧ ᐊᐱᐣ ᑲᐊᐸᑕᐠ ᐱᒥᐸᓂᒋᑲᐣ ᐁᑲ ᑲᑭᐱᑌᐸᓄᑭᒪᑲᐠ ᐃᐢᑯᑌ, ᓄᑦ ᐣᑲᐢᑭᑐᒥᐣ ᒋᐊᐧᐁᐧᔑᑐᔦᐠ ᑭᑭᓄᒪᑎᑲᒥᐠ, ᒋᐅᔑᑐᔦᐠ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᑲᒥᐠ ᒥᓇ ᒋᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᑌᐠ ᒣᑕᐁᐧᐃᐧᐸᐢᑲᐧᐠ. ᐁᑲᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐣᑲᓂᐅᔑᑐᒥᐣ "ᐊᔦ ᐢᑯᕀ, ᐁᑲ ᐃᐧᐸ ᒋᒪᒐᐊᐧ ᐣᑐᐢᑲᑎᔑᒥᓇᓂᐠ ᐅᒪ ᒋᑕᔑ ᑭᑭᓄᒪᐃᐧᑕᐧ. ᐁᑲᐧ ᒥᓇ ᑕᓂᔑᐢ ᒋᔦᓂ ᐅᔑᑐᔦᐠ ᐅᐢᑭ ᐊᐧᑲᐦᐃᑲᓇᐣ."

ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᓂᐠ ᒥᓇ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᐊᒥ ᐃᓀᐧᓂᐊᐧᐣ ᓂᑯᑕᐧᔑ ᒥᓇ ᓂᓴᐧᔑ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᑲᑭ ᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑲᑌᑭᐣ ᐅᐣᑌᕒᐃᔪ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦ' ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᐅᑕᓄᑭᐠ ᑲᑭᐅᒋᐱᒪᓄᑲᑕᒧᐊᐧᐸᐣ, ᐁᑲᐧ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᐣ ᐃᒪ ᒥᔑᐁᐧ ᐅᒋᐱᒧᒋᑲᑌ ᐁᐅᒋᒪᒪᐃᐧ ᐱᒧᑐᐊᐧ 24 ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓇᐣ, ᒥᓇ ᐅᑐᒋᐃᐧᑕᓄᑭᒪᐊᐧᐣ ᐸᐧᕒᑎᐢ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᐣ ᒥᓇ ᑯᑕᑭᔦ' ᑲᑎᐱᓇᐁᐧ ᐱᒧᑐᐊᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᓇᐣ. 1,800 ᑭᕓᐊᒥᑐᕒ ᐧᐊᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᒋᓇᐱᑫᑯᒋᑲᑌᑭᐣ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦ' ᐁᐧᑎ 17 ᓄᐱᒪᑲᒥᐠ ᑲᔦᑭᐣ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓇᐣ, ᐁᑲ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᒉ ᒥᓇᐊᐧ ᒋᐊᐸᒋᑐᐊᐧ ᐱᒥᐸᓂᒋᑲᓇᐣ ᑲᐅᑎᓇᒧᐊᐧᐸᐣ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᓂ.

"ᐅᐁᐧ ᓇᓇᑯᒧᐃᐧᒋᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᒪᐊᐧ ᐣᑐᒋᑭᒋᒋᑕᒥᐦᐃᑯᐣ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᒪᑲᓇ' ᑭᓂᑲᐧᓇᐠ, ᑲᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᐱᒧᒋᑫᐃᐧᐣ. "ᒥᑫᐧ ᑭᑎᑯᓇᐊᐧ ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᐣ ᐅᓂᑲᓂᑕᒪᑫᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑲᑭᒋᐦᐊᐃᐧᐢᑲᒪᑫᔦᐠ, ᐊᐁᐧ ᒥᓇ ᒪᐊᐧ ᕒᐊᐠ ᐁᐧᓇᐱᑕᐨ, ᑲᑲᐯᐦᐃ ᑲᑭᐱᑲᑲᓄᒋᑫᑕᒪᑫᔦᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑲᑭᐱᒪᐢᑲᐃᐧ ᐊᔑᐢᑲᒪᑫᔦᐠ. ᑲᐃᐧ ᑕᑭᐅᒋᑲᐢᑭᒋᑲᑌᐸᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧ ᑭᐢᐱᐣ ᐁᑲ ᐸᑭᑎᓇᒣᑭᐸᐣ ᑭ ᑭᑭᓄᐢᑲᒪᑫᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐁᑲ ᑲᑭᐸᑭᒋᔦᐠ ᑭᓇᐊᐧ ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᐣ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐊᐧᐠ. ᐊᐧᒋᔦ ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᐣ ᐁᐧᐢᑲ ᑲᑭᐱᐅᒋᐱᐦᐅᔦᐠ ᐅᐁᐧ ᑭᒋᐊᐸᒋᑲᐣ ᑲᑭᑌᐱᓇᒣᐠ."

ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᐣ ᑭᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑲᑌ ᒣᑲᐧ ᐊᐠᑐᐳᕒ ᐱᔑᐣ 30 ᐁᑲᐧ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᑭᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑲᑌ ᐊᐠᑐᐳᕒ ᐱᔑᐣ 14, ᐅᑭᓇᑐᒪᐊᐧᐣ ᒋᐱᔕᐊᐧ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᐱᒧᒋᑫᐃᐧᐣ, ᐅᐱᑲᐸᐃᐧᐣ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᐣ, ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᓇᑲᓇ' ᒥᓇ ᑯᑕᑭᔦ' ᑲᐅᒋᐸᐸᒥᔑᐊᐧ ᐁᑭᐱᒪᒪᐃᐧᐢᑲᐊᐧ ᑲᐱᑕᐃᐧᓇᒪᐃᐧᑕᒪᑯᓂᑲᐧᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧ ᐅᐣᑌᕒᐃᔪ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦᐱᐠ.

"ᐁᑲᐧ ᐃᒪ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᒥᔑᓇᐧ ᑭᐱᔦᓂᒥᓴᐊᐧᐠ ᑐᑲᐣ ᐊᐧᑲᐦᐃᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ, ᒥᔦᐧ ᐱᑯ ᐃᒪ ᐅᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧᐠ, ᐁᑲ ᐁᑭᓇᐣᑭᑐᐊᐧ ᐅᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐁᑲ ᑫᑯᐣ ᐁᑭᐃᔑᒪᑕᓄᑲᑕᒧᐊᐧ ᑫᑯᓇᐣ ᐁᐧᓴ ᐁᑲ ᐁᑭᑌᐸᓄᑭᒪᑲᓂᐠ ᐅᑎᐢᑯᑌᒥᐊᐧ," ᑭᐃᑭᑐ ᑭᓂᑲᐧᓇᐢ. "ᒪᐊᐧ ᑭᒋᒥᑕᐦᐃ ᑭᐅᒋᑲᐢᑭᒋᑫᐊᐧᐠ ᐅᒪ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲᐠ ᐊᐱ ᑲᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑕᐧ ᒥᑕᐢ ᐁᑲᐧ ᐁᑕᐃᐧᓴᓂᐠ ᒋᑭᑐᑕᒧᐊᐧ ᒥᓇ ᒋᑭᐊᓄᑲᑕᒧᐊᐧ ᑲᑭᐱᔦᓂᒥᓴᐦᐃᑯᐊᐧᐸᐣ ᒥᓇ ᒋᔦᓂᐊᔕᐧᐸᑕᒧᐊᐧ ᒋᔦᓂᒪᑕᓄᑭᐊᐧ. ᑭᐊᐧᒋᔭᒥᑯᓇᐊᐧ ᐊᓭᐸᓇᑲ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐠ."

ᐸᑎ ᐦᐊᔾᑐ, ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᑕᒪᑫᐃᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᒥᓇ ᐅᑭᒪ ᒥᓇ ᓈᓂᔦᒪᒋᑕᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᑲᐱᒥᑲᓇᐊᐧᐸᑕᑭᐣ ᑭᐁᐧᑎᓄᐠ ᐅᐣᑌᕒᐃᔪ (Fed-Nor), ᒥᓇ ᑕᐧ ᔑᒥ' ᐅᐣᑌᕒᐃᔪ ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᑲᓇᐊᐧᐸᑕᐠ ᐃᐢᑯᑌ ᐸᐸᒥᔑᐃᐧᐣ, ᑫᐃᐧᓇᐊᐧ ᑭᐊᐧᒋᐊᒥᐁᐧᐊᐧᐠ ᑲᑭᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑲᑌᑭᐣ ᐃᓀᐧᓂᐊᐧᐣ ᓂᔑᐣ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓇᐣ.

"ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᐣ ᒪᐊᐧ ᒥᔕ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐱᒧᒋᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᐅᒪ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐊᐦᑭᐠ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᐦᐊᔾᑐ. "ᑕᐅᒋᑕᒪᑫᒪᑲᐣ ᐃᒪ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐠ ᒋᐸᔦᑲᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑲᐯᐦᐃ ᒋᐱᒥᔦᓄᑭᒪᑲᐠ ᐃᐢᑯᑌ ᐃᒪ ᐊᐧᑲᐦᐃᑲᓇᐣ ᑲᐃᔑᑲᐯᔑᓇᓄᐊᐧᐠ, ᑭᑭᓄᒪᑎᑲᒥᑯᐣ, ᓂᐱᑫᐃᐧᑲᒥᑯᐣ ᒥᓇ ᑯᑕᑭᔦᐣ ᑲᑭᒋᓇᐸᑕᑭᐣ ᑫᑯᓇᐣ. ᐁᑲᐧ ᑲᑭᐅᒋ ᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑲᑌᑭᐣ ᐃᒪ ᐅᐣᑌᕒᐃᔪ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦᐱᐠ, ᐅᒪ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᑲᐱᒧᑐᐊᐧᐨ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᓂ ᑕᐅᒋᑕᒪᑫᐊᐧᐠ ᑲᐯᐦᐃ ᑫᔦᓄᑭᒪᑲᓂᐠ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᓂ ᐃᒪ ᐅᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᐁᑲᐧ ᐯᑭᐢ ᐁᑲ ᒋᐃᐧᓂᒋᑫᒪᑲᐠ ᐊᐦᑭᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑫᓄᒋᒪᑲᑭᐣ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᓇᐣ. ᐊᐧᒋᔦ ᑭᑎᑯ ᒪᑲᓇ' ᑭᓂᑲᐧᓇᐢ ᒥᓇ ᑯᑕᑭᔦᐠ ᒥᔑᐣ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᓂᑲᓂᑕᒪᑫᐠ ᑲᐱᒧᑐᔦᐠ ᐅᐁᐧ ᑲᑭᒋᓀᑕᑲᐧᐠ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᐣ."

"ᐊᐧᒋᔦ ᐊᐧᓇᒫᔅᑲᐃᑲᐣ ᒥᓇ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᓂᔦ' ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᑲᐢᑭᑐᔦᐠ ᒋᐅᓇᑐᔦᐠ ᐊᐧᑌᓂᑲᐣ ᑲᐯᐦᐃ ᒋᔦᓄᑭᒪᑲᐠ, ᒋᐸᔦᑲᐠ ᒥᓇ ᐁᑲ ᒥᑕᐦᐃ ᑫᐅᒋᒣᑎᓂᑫᔦᐠ ᐊᐸᒋᑐᔦᐠ ᐃᐢᑯᑌ ᑲᐃᔑᑲᐯᔑᔦᐠ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᔑᒥ'. "ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᐊᓄᑭᑕᒪᐊᐧᔦᐠ ᐅᑭᒋᑐᑕᐣ ᑲᐊᔑᐢᑲᒪᐊᐧ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᑲᐱᒧᑐᐊᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧ ᒪᒋᑕᐃᐧᓂ ᑲᐅᒋ ᐊᓂᑲᐧᐱᑫᓂᑕᐧ ᓄᐱᒪᑲᒥᐠ ᑲᔦᑭᐣ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᐃᒪ ᐅᐣᑌᕒᐃᔪ ᐃᐢᑯᑌᐃᐧᔦᐱᐠ ᒋᐅᒋᐊᓄᑭᒪᑲᑭᐣ ᐅᐢᑭ ᑕᓇᐱᐃᐧ ᐊᓄᑭᐃᐧ ᒪᒋᑕᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᐊᔑᐨ ᒥᓇ ᒋᓇᐸᐱᑫᓂᑲᑌᑭᐣ ᐅᐢᑭ ᑭᑭᓄᒪᑎᑲᒥᐠ ᑫᒋᓇᐨ ᑲᐧᔦᐠ ᒋᐃᐧᒋᐦᐃᑯᐊᐧᐨ ᑲᑭᓇ ᐃᒪ ᑲᐱᒪᑎᓯᐊᐧᐨ."

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Community

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Wunnumin Lake celebrated its connection to the provincial power grid on Oct. 30 at the Wunnumin Lake TS.

Wunnumin and Kasabonika connect to power grid

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Wunnumin Lake and Kasabonika Lake are looking forward to upgrades in their communities after being connected to the provincial electricity power grid by Wataynikaneyap Power.

"This is a great achievement that will be felt in the community for generations to come," says Wunnumin Lake Chief Sam Mamakwa. "Now that our load capacity is no longer restricted from diesel generators, Wunnumin Lake has been able to connect our new John George Martin Memorial School, which has space for students from junior kindergarten to Grade 10. We have upgraded our teachers' accommodations and built a new subdivision of 25-plus housing units which are just waiting for final assessment procedures."

Kasabonika Lake plans to build a new high school and new homes now that they are connected to the provincial power grid.

"This is an exciting achievement," says Kasabonika Lake Chief Tom Semple. "Kasabonika Lake is proud to be an owner of the infrastructure that allows us to replace diesel-generation as our primary source of power. By removing power restrictions in our community, we are able to complete projects like renovating the school, building an office on the mainland and a lighted sports field. We can also build a new high school, which will allow our youth to stay in the community longer for education, instead of having to leave the community at a younger age. Finally, we can start building new homes."

Wunnumin Lake and Kasabonika Lake were the sixth and seventh communities to be connected to the provincial power grid by Wataynikaneyap Power, which is majority-owned by an equal partnership of 24 First Nations, in partnership with Fortis Inc. and other private investors. The 1,800 kilometre Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line is being constructed to connect 17 remote First Nations to the provincial power grid, which will end their reliance on diesel-generated electricity.

"This celebration is extra special to me," says Margaret Kenequanash, CEO at Wataynikaneyap Power. "Thank you to Wunnumin Lake First Nation leaders and Elders, particularly Elder Rod Winnepetonga, for their constant advocacy and strong support. This project wouldn't exist without the guidance and persistence from Wunnumin Lake First Nation. Congratulations to Wunnumin Lake First Nation on this long overdue and needed achievement."

Wunnumin Lake, which was connected on Oct. 30, and Kasabonika Lake, which was connected on Oct. 14, invited Wataynikaneyap Power, Opiikapawiin Services, government and other stakeholders to celebrate their connections to the provincial power grid.

"Kasabonika Lake First Nation has experienced many challenges with housing, community infrastructure, community expansion and other matters impacted by lack of reliable energy," Kenequanash says. "Connecting Kasabonika Lake First Nation is a huge accomplishment and will enable the community to address their challenges and look forward to more opportunities. Congratulations to Kasabonika Lake First Nation."

Patty Hajdu, minister of Indigenous Services Canada and minister responsible for FedNor, and Todd Smith, Ontario's minister of Energy, also congratulated the two communities on being connected to the provincial power grid.

"Wataynikaneyap Power is the largest First Nations grid connection project in Canada," Hajdu says. "It will provide the community with clean and reliable electricity to power homes, schools, water treatment plants and critical infrastructure. By connecting First Nations to Ontario's provincial power grid, this Indigenous-led project will bring reliable electricity to community members, while fighting climate change and creating jobs. Congratulations to Margaret Kenequanash and the many Indigenous leaders driving this important work forward."

"Congratulations to Wunnumin Lake First Nation and Wataynikaneyap Power on this historic achievement – bringing reliable, clean and affordable electricity to the community," Smith says. "Our government is proud to support this First Nation-led project that is connecting remote communities to Ontario's grid, lighting the way for new community development opportunities, including connecting your new school to the grid and ensuring a better quality of life for all."

Community

Sol Mamakwa speaks at Northern Roads Summit

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa speaks about improving transportation across Nishnawbe Aski Nation during the Northern Roads Summit, held Oct. 11-12 at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa stressed the importance of improving transportation across Nishnawbe Aski Nation during the Northern Roads Summit, held Oct. 11-12 at the Best Western Plus NorWester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

"It's important to have this dialogue and to kind of see where things are and the impacts of the climate crisis that continues (with) not only just the roads but also the way of life for the people that are up there," says Mamakwa, NDP deputy leader and critic for Indigenous and Treaty Relations, on the second day of the summit. "We cannot continue to have funding that there are no increases for the work that needs to be done. But on top of that, when we talk about roads we cannot forget about airports as well because for me, when we go fly by air, those are like highways in the sky and we need to treat them as such where we need to start working together as nations where you make these improvements with the airports, with the winter roads and the northern roads, … for example with airports, that there's extensions on those runways, that they are paved and the facilities are good, because it has an impact on the cost of living."

The first day of the summit featured a presentation by Ryan Dobson, senior geotechnical engineer at KGS Group, on Northern Winter Roads and Climate Change – Fort Severn First Nations Case Study.

"Grand Chief (Alvin) Fiddler talked about a road between Muskrat Dam and Bearskin Lake," Dobson says. "I was involved in that and I helped former (Bearskin Lake) chief Rodney McKay route that road, and that's built on the esker that runs from Bearskin to Muskrat. The community can do those things, if you find the right terrain type it's easier, you're not going through the muskeg, through the tough terrain."

Dobson says there are about 10,000 kilometres of winter roads in Canada, with about half of those located in northern Ontario and Manitoba.

"Winter roads (seasons) continue to become shorter, putting more stress on the communities for goods and services," Dobson says, noting that there has been an average annual increase in mean temperature since 1940 of two degrees. "2021 was the fifth warmest year in Canada on record and we keep setting records, things keep warming, seeing a reduction in freezing degree days."

Dobson says Fort Severn has already been building roads on higher beach ridges in the area.

"Pick the highest one if you can and follow it, clear the trees, lower the dozer blade, push and you have an all-season road just like they did between Muskrat and Bearskin, they built that themselves," Dobson says. "Step one, move the winter roads to high ground, and we're doing a lot of that now. Route where the all-season road can be established, minimize your environmental impact, why would we cut another winter road and move it again. In the wintertime if I have access to the future all-season corridor, that's huge for investigations, that's a lot of cost savings, you get to see the route, you get to drive it, build it in stages."

The summit also included the announcement of $5 million in provincial government funding for the new Winter Roads Program - Bridges and Culverts Stream by Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Kevin Holland, parliamentary assistant to the minister of Indigenous Affairs and parliamentary assistant to the minister of Northern Development.

"The new Bridges and Culverts Stream provides funding for the purchase and installation of pre-engineered bridges and culverts to replace dangerous ice roads and other crossings along the winter roads network," Holland says. "This will improve safety, increase the duration of the winter road season maximizing the existing program base funding of $6 million and mitigate environmental impacts. The new Bridges and Culverts Stream officially launched on Aug. 1, 2023 and the first application intake was closed on Sept. 22. I'm pleased to advise the ministry is opening a second application intake period for the 2023/2024 fiscal year and applications submitted by Friday, Nov. 10, 2023 will be evaluated for funding in the Application Assessment Period 1 and will extend through December 2023."

Information about the Winter Roads Program Bridges and Culverts Stream Program Guidelines is posted online at: forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/on00548.

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WAWATAY NEWS

16-5th Avenue North P.O. Box 1180
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1B7

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Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum

submitted photo

The Anishinabek Nation kicked-off its inaugural annual Economic Development Opportunities Forum in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. "Economic sovereignty has never been more important for our communities than presently," states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe. "With a shifting political landscape and a changing climate, we need to evolve our participation within the economic sector and create our own sustainable wealth opportunities. Our Forum will offer communities insight into creating meaningful partnerships and provide collaborative approaches to information-sharing."

Commentary

Take Care On Winter Roads

Xavier Kataquapit

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Winter is fast approaching and I worry about all my family members and friends from up the James Bay coast and in Northern Ontario that have to deal with the treacherous conditions on our highways during the snowy and icy season.

I have been driving these roads and mostly on Highway 11 and the 400 series for the past 25 years and I have seen the conditions of the roads become even more dangerous over that time and the traf-fic in transport commercial trucks increase. There are many accidents involving transport commercial trucks on Highway 11 and it is getting to the point that myself and most of the friends and family will not venture out onto the highways when the weather is not so great.

Thirty years ago not many people from up the James Bay coast owned vehicles that they drove on highways in the south. That has changed a lot with better winter road access to the south and my people finding more opportunities for employment in all kinds of resource based companies so that they can af-ford vehicles. So many people have been getting their drivers licences and purchasing vehicles over the past couple of decades and now it is normal to see family and friends hitting the highways to tour the province and beyond in all seasons.

This is fantastic in so many ways but at the same time I realize that there is always the danger of an accident with so much traffic on our highways and the huge number of transport commercial trucks on the road. I find it even more worrying during the winter months when people up the coast drive south on the winter roads and then travel on the snowy and icy highways in the south.

Last year in Ontario 359 people died on highways in motor vehicle accidents. Canada sees about 160,000 car accidents annually and more than 2,000 people die in those mishaps.

According to the Weather Network weather related vehicle accidents kill more people annually than huge weather disasters. Interestingly, it takes up to 10 times longer to stop on snow and ice than it does on dry pavement. A four-wheel drive can be good to get a vehicle to cope with deep snow or slip-pery surfaces at low speed but the fact is that they do not stop much faster than a regular front or rear wheel drive vehicle. The four wheel drive vehicles are also usually more heavy which requires more dis-tance to stop. So many of my family and friends have four wheel drive trucks and SUVs and they are un-der the false impression these vehicles are safer in snowy and icy winter conditions.

The Ontario Provincial Police attended 9,110 transport truck related crashes in 2022 and that number was the highest provincial total in more than a decade. Motor vehicle accidents are one of the ma-jor causes of death in Canada and every year things seem to be getting worse. Ontario privatized winter highway maintenance in 2000 under the Conservative government at the time. The province began turning over winter maintenance work to private contractors in the 1980s and by 2000, it was all taken over by them. This was all put in place by the Conservative government of the time and was kept in place during the Liberal governments over the years.

Decades ago the highways road maintenance and snow removal was all the responsibility of the government and making a profit was not a concern when it came to keeping citizens safe on our roads. These days this is done by companies who are dedicated to making a profit and that does not always guarantee making critical choices to protect the public. Perhaps there is message here for those wanting to support the privatization of our health care system.

Some tips I received from a long time highway grader operator a few years back have helped me in making my decisions on when to travel the highways. My friend Phil Heneberry, who has since passed, told me long ago not to hit the road in the winter until later in the morning if there was a snow storm that night as this gives the plows, graders, sanders and salt trucks time to get out and improve highway conditions. He also suggested that when it is very cold like -30 or -40 and windy we have to realize that the sand and salt will often not stick well to the highways. He also advised that if possible safely check the surface of the road you are driving on to determine just how slippery it is. He reminded me that it was always a good idea to check weather and highway conditions before heading out and to think twice about taking the risk. I have known too many people who headed out for that important trip in bad weather on icy roads and ended up dead or badly injured. Stay safe this winter.

www.underthenorthernsky.com

El Niño and Winter Forecasts

Graham Saunders

WEATHER

October, like the previous month September, was warmer than average across Northern Ontario. Unseasonal warmth was most apparent in the Northeast where the average temperatures in October were 2°C above longterm records from Moosonee to Sudbury. The first week featured some exceptional daily temperatures. Daily maximum temperatures at or near 30°C were widespread from Fort Frances to around Timmins (examples include Geraldton 30.1°C and Bonner Lake. 30.5°C).

In the final week of October, a vigorous cold front took temperatures from seasonal values to the coldest experienced so far this fall. Overnight low temperatures in the Northwest declined down to around 10°C and as cold as 15°C in Armstrong.

Precipitation in October

Thunderstorms are common in the summer and sometimes are associated with hail, severe wind gusts and, rarely, tornadoes. Thunderstorms take place in the other seasons but seldom bring severe or damaging weather events. However, this year multiple thunderstorms on October 1 resulted in damaging hail to Lac Seul First Nations. The communities of Kejick Bay and Whitefish Bay received golf ballsized hail, which damaged vehicles and buildings.

October was drier than average throughout the Lake Superior watershed. This was notable in the Thunder Bay area with a monthly rain total of 25 mm; 40 percent of normal. This was sixth month in a row with belownormal precipitation in Thunder Bay. No snowfall was recorded at Thunder Bay Airport.

This lack of rain and snow around Thunder Bay was in sharp contrast with the rest of Northern Ontario. Parts of Northeastern Ontario has significant snowfalls during the Thanksgiving weekend. Wet and heavy snow on trees combined with wind gusts of 70 km/h and resulted in over 9,500 customers without electricity. The Northwest had significant snowfall amounts associated with lowpressure systems beginning on October 27: Areas from Kenora to Geraldton received 15 to 20 cm. A few power failures occurred in the Kenora area and east and south of Lake Nipigon. Snow amounts (and few available snowplow operators) caused Highway 17 to be closed between Dryden and Shabaqua. Highway travel on Highway 11 east of Lake Nipigon was also restricted by snow.

Outlook for later November

The first week of November featured a continuation of the weather of late October – cool temperatures across Northern Ontario, snow on the ground in most of the Northwest and little or no snow cover in Thunder Bay and the Northeast.

The second week was more complicated. Significant snowfalls were recorded and as much as 30 cm was on the ground in Geraldton and east of Lake Nipigon. Temperatures changed abruptly from seasonal values to temperatures well above average for this time of the season. Temperatures 5°C warmer than average by day and as much 10°C warmer than average melted much or all of the existing snow on the ground.

This shift to warmer conditions can be traced back to El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific Ocean. The present weather pattern over western Canada and Northern Ontario resembles conditions that existed and persisted in previous strong El Niños in the past. The most recent example is November 2015. This is the warmest on record for the region and 5°C warmer than average.

It is risky to base forecasts on events eight years ago but the current predictions by Environment Canada and other agencies also favour a mild end to the month.

Winter outlook

It is almost certain that El Niño will play a major role in the coming winter. A substantial area in the Pacific Ocean is presently 1.5 to 2°C degrees warmer than average. This qualifies as a moderate or strong El Niño This huge input of energy is changing atmospheric flow patterns around the world. Typically, a moderate or strong El Niño resulted in milder temperatures and less snowfall than average in Northern Ontario.

"Bring it on" may be a response, but the effects may be complicated in the regional and global scale. Warmer winter temperatures can result in less snow but more rain and, sometimes, more freezing rain. Winter temperatures that change back and forth from below to above freezing tend to break up road surfaces.

Another almost certain problem area in the next months is going to be winter ice roads built over land, frozen rivers and lakes to connect remote and First Nation communities.

"As average winter temperatures continue to warm throughout Canada, the viability of winter ice roads is projected to decrease" (Stated at the Northern Roads Summit conference in Thunder Bay, October 1212, 2023).

Warmer climatic conditions will result in delayed construction and opening dates of the ice roads. I think the future is here now – rather the 2050s for isolated northern communities, The forecasted largescale circulation pattern over western Canada for the second half of November looks like past El Niño patterns in the early winter. The most recent 201516, featured either the warmest November and December on record or relatively warm months.

CONTACT US

Sioux Lookout
Office Hours: 8:30-5:00 CST

Phone: .... (807) **737-2951**
Toll Free: **1-800-243-9059**
Fax: ....(807) 737-3224
.... (807) 737-2263

Timmins
Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 EST

Phone: ....**(705) 360-4556**
Toll Free: **1-877-929-2829**
Fax: .... (705)360-1601

ACTING CEO/PUBLISHER
Mark Kakekagumick
markk@wawatay.on.ca

MANAGING EDITOR
Chris Kornacki
chrisk@wawatay.on.ca

NORTHERN LIGHTS BANNER
Dan Russell
http://NorthernLightsNow.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Tom Scura
Phone: 807 622-6000
Fax: 807 622-6010
toms@wawatay.on.ca

CIRCULATION/PRINTING
Safeguard Business Systems
Thunder Bay, ON

TRANSLATION
Vicky Angees
vickya@wawatay.on.ca

DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Through the Sky Studio

CONTRIBUTORS
Rick Garrick
Xavier Kataquapit
Graham Saunders

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Community

Northern Road Link project holds open house update

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Qasim Sadique.

An Indigenous Community Open House about the Northern Road Link project was held on Oct. 17 as part of a coordinated Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the federal Impact Assessment Act. The open house, held at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay, was one of four, including open houses scheduled on Oct. 18 in Thunder Bay, Oct. 19 in Geraldton and Nov. 13 in Timmins, aimed at providing the public with an opportunity to learn about the proposed Northern Road Link project, to ask questions to the project's technical team and to provide comments into the environmental assessment.

"What we're doing is something that is very important for our community and also our partner Webequie," says Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum. "It's a chance to lead development in our area and it's something that is important for us, leading all aspects of development. Why that is important is because of what is happening in our communities with the social economic conditions, we want to improve the quality of life in our communities but also the environmental issues that are happening on the ground."

Achneepineskum says with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area coming up, it is important that the communities understand the full scope of what is happening with potential development in the Ring of Fire and the all-weather roads into their communities and to the Ring of Fire. The proposed Northern Road Link is located between the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road and the proposed Webequie Supply Road.

"Most of the roads that we are proposing run through our traditional territory so we are very knowledgeable on the terrain, the land, the waterways," Achneepineskum says. "We use that traditional knowledge from our Elders, our community (citizens) on all aspects of our projects."

Achneepineskum says they are looking to improve the quality of life for their citizens through the development of the all-weather roads, such as improving access to healthcare or the opportunity to buy goods at a lower price.

"It's very dicey right now with the winter road, it's a very shortened season," Achneepineskum says. "We have about three to four weeks right now due to how much the climate has warmed in recent years."

Achneepineskum says they have narrowed down the routes for their proposed all-weather roads to where the ground is higher and more solid.

"But at some places we do have to cross some places of muskeg and we're going to employ different building technology, what they call floating roads," Achneepineskum says. "It's a new technology that doesn't actually build large dams as opposed to how they built them in the past, it will actually let the water flow through the roads."

Qasim Sadique, co-lead of the Northern Road Link project, says the Indigenous Community Open House was focused specifically on engagement and consultation with Indigenous nations who are interested in the Northern Road Link project.

"So it's a day dedicated to their involvement and feedback and input," Sadique says. "It's one of the few mechanisms available for engagement and consultation on the project, getting input and feedback from neighbouring Indigenous communities as well as from the proponent communities of Marten Falls and Webequie is one of the most important things for the project."

Sadique says the open houses are not the only avenue available for engagement and consultation on the Northern Road Link project.

"It's one of many and our contact information is available for us to be able to go back and meet with the community or meet virtually or through one of the many different avenues that we have available," Sadique says.

Information about the Northern Road Link project, including contact details, is posted at: www.northernroadlink.ca.

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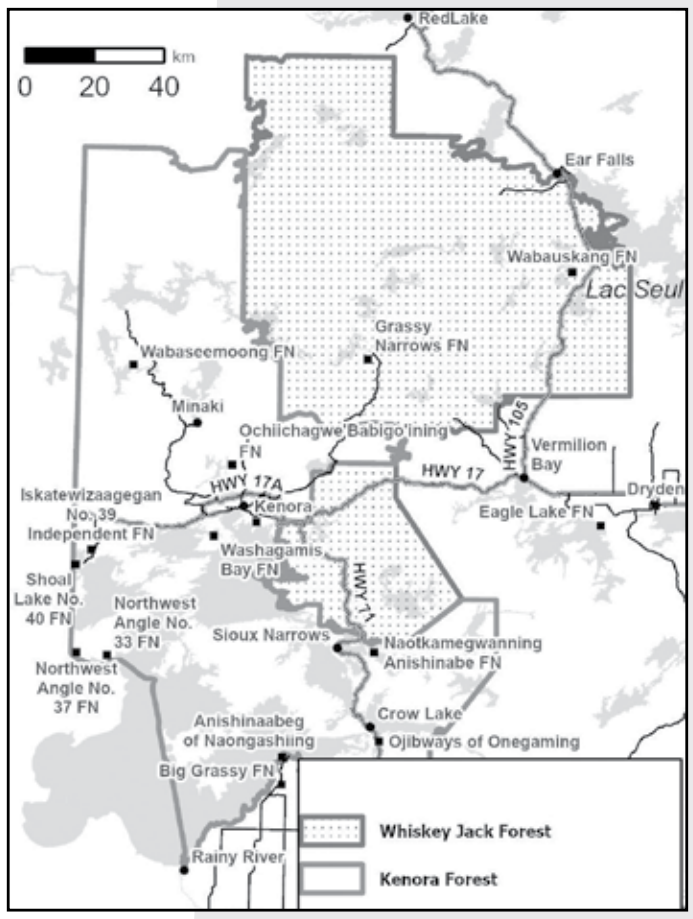
REVIEW

Review of Draft Forest Management Plan Whiskey Jack 2024 - 2034 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company (Miisun)** and the **Kenora Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to review and comment on the 2024 - 2034 Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the **Whiskey Jack Forest.**



The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The third opportunity (Stage Three) for this FMP occurred on July 25, 2023 to August 24, 2023 when the public was invited to review and comment on proposed operations for the ten-year period of the FMP. This '**Stage Four**' notice is to invite you to:

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

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

How to Get Involved

To assist in your review, information forums will be held at the following times and locations:

November 30, 2023	**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 238 40 John Street Ear Falls, ON P0V 1T0**	**3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
December 5, 2023	**Super 8 by Wyndham Kenora 240 Lakeview Drive Kenora, ON P9N 0H2**	**4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

The Draft FMP, including supplementary documentation, the Draft FMP summary and the current versions of the information and maps which were previously accessible will be available at the information forum and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at www.nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online and can be made available by contacting the Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company (Miisun), contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 60 days **Thursday November 30, 2023 to Monday January 29, 2024.** Comments on the draft FMP for the Whiskey Jack Forest must be received by Sam Hawken of the planning team, by **Monday January 29, 2024.**

Virtual or in-person meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can also 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:

Sam Hawken, R.P.F.
Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Kenora District Office
808 Robertson Street
P.O. Box 5080
Kenora, ON P9N 3X9
tel: 807-456-2697
e-mail: sam.hawken@ontario.ca

Kurt Pochailo, R.P.F.
Miisun Integrated Resource
Management Company
510 Ninth Street
Kenora, ON P9N 2S8
tel: 807-467-3351
e-mail: kurt.pochailo@miisun.ca

Dave Canfield
Kenora Local Citizens' Committee
c/o MNRF
Kenora District Office
808 Robertson Street P.O. Box 5080
Kenora, ON P9N 3X9

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1).*

The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is **Tuesday, February 13, 2024.**

Stay Involved

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

https://ontario.ca/forestmanagement

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

The approval date of the FMP is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, April 18, 2024.**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act,* 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Michelle Romeo, Regional Outreach Specialist, MNRF, 807-707-1976 or michelle.romeo@ontario.ca.

Renseignements en français : Mitchell Legros au courriel mitchell.legros@ontario.ca.

Ontario

In partnership with:

Eagle Lake First Nation · Fort William First Nation · Lac La Croix First Nation · Lac Seul First Nation · Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation · Seine River First Nation · Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation

hydro one

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One), in partnership with nine First Nations, has completed the environmental assessment for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project. As required under section 6.2(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and according to the Amended Terms of Reference approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on February 18, 2022, Hydro One has submitted the final Environmental Assessment Report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for review and approval.

The Waasigan Transmission Line Project is a proposed new double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line between Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. Once built, this critical project will provide enough clean energy to support economic growth in northwestern Ontario and improve reliability and resiliency of the regional transmission system.

HOW TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

As required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, **the final Environmental Assessment Report is available for public review and comment from November 17, 2023 to January 19, 2024**.

Comments on the final EA Report must be submitted by **January 19, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. EST** to Stephen Deneault, Project Officer, MECP - Environmental Assessment Branch.

135 St. Clair Avenue W, 7th Floor, Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Tel: 437-247-3443
Fax: 415-314-8452
Email: Stephen.Deneault@Ontario.ca

A copy of all comments will be forwarded to Hydro One for consideration.

For further information about this project, please contact Hydro One at:

Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

1-877-345-6799

Where to Find the draft EA Report

Online at HydroOne.com/Waasigan

DRYDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
36 Van Horne Avenue, Dryden
807-223-1475

ATIKOKAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
214 Sykes Road, Atikokan
807-597-4406

SHEBANDOWAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
142 Shebandowan Road, Shebandowan
807-926-2998

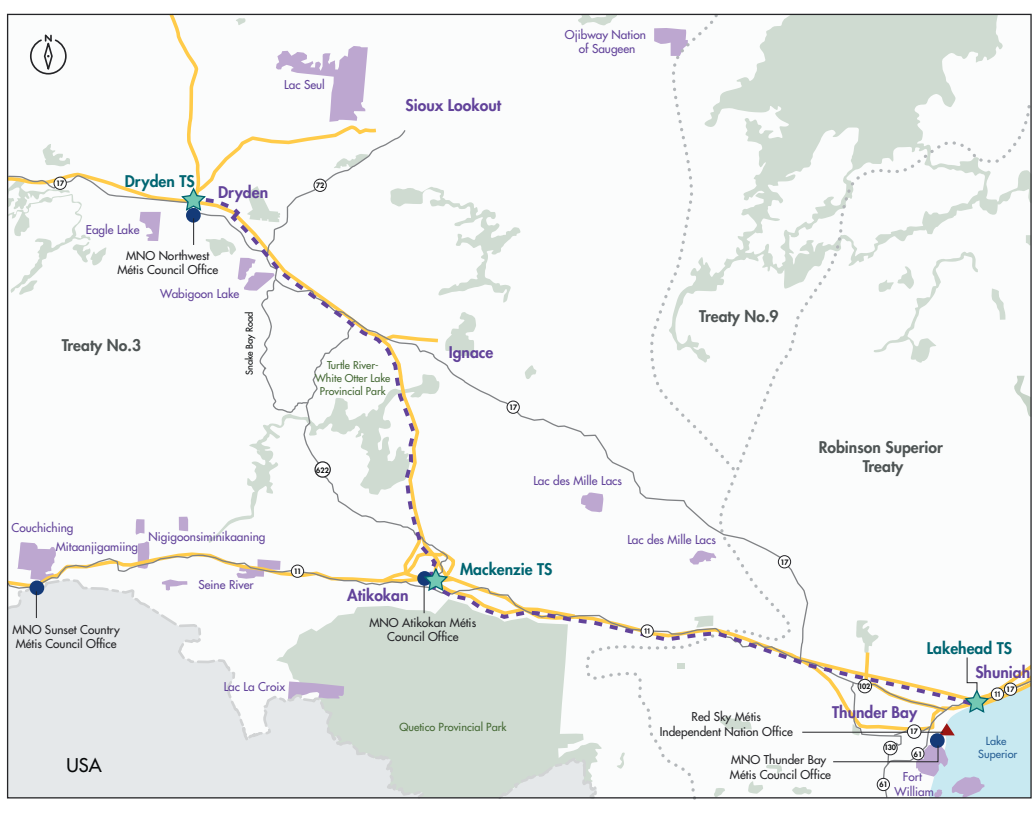
IGNACE PUBLIC LIBRARY (USBs ONLY)
36 Main Street, Ignace
807-934-3380

KAMINISTIQUIA COMMUNITY CENTRE
6197 Dawson Road, Kaministiquia
807-933-4020

THUNDER BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY (USBs ONLY)
Waverley Branch
385 Red River Road, Thunder Bay

SHUNIAH MUNICIPAL OFFICE
420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay
807-683-4545

MECP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BRANCH
135 St. Clair Avenue W, 7th Floor, Toronto
437-247-3443



WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

Map Legend

- Existing Transformer Station (TS)
- Preferred Route
- Existing Transmission Line
- Highway
- International Border
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Office
- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Council Office
- Treaty Boundary
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park

Scan the QR code or visit HydroOne.com/Waasigan to view a more detailed and interactive map.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, email address, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by 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 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-314-4075.

Politics

ᐊᐊᐧᔑᔑᐃᐧ ᐊᓅᑭᑕᒪᑫᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᑭᐸᑭᓇᑫᐊᐧᐠ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ ᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑫᐃᐧ ᔓᓂᔭ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᒣ $23 ᐱ᙮ᐃᔮᐣ

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ᒣᐡᑭᑲᐧᑲᒪᐠ ᑲᐅᒋᐨ ᐊᐡ᙮ᐃ ᐸᐧᐠ ᑭᑕᑭᐧ ᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᐃᒪ ᑲᑭᐃᐧᒋᐦᐃᐁᐧᐨ ᑲᑭᒪᐃᐧᓃᐡᑭᑫᐊᐧᐨ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᓂ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ ᑲᑭᔕᐳᓂᑲᑌᐠ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᒣ $23 ᐱ᙮ᐃᔮᐣ ᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑫᐃᐧ ᔓᓂᔭ ᒋᔑᐸᑭᑎᓂᐨ ᑫᐃᐧᒋᐦᐃᑯᐊᐧᐨ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᔕᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐯᒋᑫᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᒣᑲᐧᐨ ᐃᐁᐧ ᐊᐱ ᐅᐸᐊᒧᐃᐧᐱᔨᐟ 24 ᐁᐧᑎ ᐊᑐᐊᐧ. ᐃᑫᐧᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᔑᐃᐧᑭᒪᐠ. ᒐᐧ᙮ᑎᐣ ᐅᑐᓇᒋᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᐱᒧᒋᑫᐃᐧᐣ, ᑐ᙮ᐊᐅᐟ ᒥᓇ ᑭᐟ ᑲᑭᐅᓇᑐᐊᐧᐨ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧ ᒪᐃᐧᓃᐦᐃᑫᐃᐧ ᓇᑯᒥᑐᐃᐧᐣ ᑭᐊᔑᑕᒋᑲᑌ $23.34 ᐱ᙮ᐃᔮᐣ ᒋᐅᒋᑭᐁᐧ ᐃᐧᒋᐦᐃᑯᐊᐧᐨ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᔕᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐯᒋᑫᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᑲᑭᐱᒪᒋᓭᐦᐃᑯᐊᐧᐨ ᐁᐧᑲ ᑲᑭᐅᒋᑎᐱ ᑕᑎᐸᐦᐃᑲᑌᓂᐠ ᐅᑕᐊᐧᔑᔑᐃᐧ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐯᒋᑫᐃᐧ ᐃᐧᒋᐦᐃᑯᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᒋᑭᐅᒋᐃᐧᒋᐦᐃᑕᐧᐸᐣ ᒥᓇ ᐃᑫᐧᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᒪᒋᓭᐦᐃᑯᐊᐨ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑭᒪᐅᐣ ᑲᑭᐅᓇᑕᒪᑫᐸᐣ ᒐᐧ᙮ᑎᐣ ᐅᑐᓇᒋᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᐃᐧᒋᐦᐃᐁᐧᐃᐧᓂ ᐁᐧᑲ ᑲᑭᐅᒋ ᑌᐱᓴᐃᐧᓇᑯᒋᑲᑌᐠ.

"ᒪᐊᐧᐨ ᐣᑭᒋ ᒋᑫᑕᒥᐦᐃᑯᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐊᔕ ᓇᐊᐧᐨ ᒥᔑᓄᔭᑭᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᐅᓇᓯᓇᐦᐃᑲᑌᑭᐸᐣ ᒪᐃᐧᓃᐡᑯᑕᑎᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᒪᐧᔦ ᐊᓂᐊᔭᒪᑲᑭᐣ ᑭᒋᐊᑭᑯᑲᐃᐧᐣ (ᑯᐱᐟ - 19) ᐊᔕ ᐃᐁᐧ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᒣ ᓂᐦᒋᔭᑭᐃᐧᐣ ᐅᑕᓇᐠ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᐸᐧᐠ, ᐊᒥᐦᐅᐁᐧ ᓂᑕᐨ ᑲᔭᑭᐊᐧᓂᐠ ᐁᑭᐅᐡᑭᒪᒋᑕᐨ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧ ᑭᑭᓅᒪᑫᐃᐧᓂ ᐁᐧᑎ ᙮ᐁᐧᐦᐁᐧᐟ ᐏᓂᐳ᙮ᔑᑎ ᑭᒋ ᑭᑭᓅᒪᑎᑲᒥᑯᐠ ᐸᐧ᙮ᐊ ᙮ᐊᐢᑭᐣ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧ ᑭᑭᓅᒪᑫᐃᐧᑲᒥᑯᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑭᐱᔭᐱᑕᒪᑫᐸᐣ ᐊᓂᔑᓇᐯ ᐊᐢᑭ ᐅᐡᑲᑎᓴᐠ ᐊᐱᑕᒪᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ, ᒣᑲᐧᐨ ᐃᐁᐧ ᑲᐡᑲᑎᓅᐱᔨᐟ 1. "ᒪᐊᐧᐨ ᐱᑯ ᑭᓀᐧᐡ ᑭᐱᒥᔭᓅᑲᑌ, ᒥᓇ ᓂᑭᒥᔕᒣᑕᒥᐦᐃᑯᐣ, ᑐᑲᐣ ᐁᑭᑭᐁᐧᔦ ᑲᓅᑫᓴᔮᐣ ᐅᑕᓇᐠ ᓂᐃᐧᓴᑫᑕᒥᐦᐃᑯᐃᐧᓇᐣ, ᔕᑯᐨ ᐣᑭ ᑭᑫᑕᐣ ᑯᑕᑭᔭᐠ ᐊᐃᐧᔭᐠ ᑫᐃᐧᓇᐊᐧ ᐁᑭ ᑭᐁᐧᐃᐧᔨᓴᐊᐧᐨ ᒥᓇ ᐁᑭᐸᑭᑌᐡᑲᑯᐊᐧᐨ ᒥᓇ ᑲᑭᑕᑭᐧᐊᐧᐨ ᐅᒪ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫ ᒪᐃᐧᓃᐦᐃᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ. ᐣᑌᐱᓇᐁᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᒥᓅᑭᔑᒋᑲᑌᐠ ᒥᓇ ᓂᒥᓀᐧᑕᐣ ᓇᐊᐧᐨ ᐸᑭ ᐸᑲᐣ ᐁᑭᑐᑕᒪᐠ ᐃᐁᐧ ᑲᑭᐃᐧᔑᑲᐡᑭᒋᑲᑌᐠ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑐᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᔭᓂᒨᒋᑲᑌᐠ ᐅᑕᓇᐠ ᑲᐱᒥᑯᓇᑲᐠ."

ᐸᐧᐠ ᑭᐃᑭᑐ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑐᐃᐧ ᐊᓂᒨᒋᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ ᑲᑭᐃᐧᒋᑕᐧᐊᐧᐨ, ᐊᔑᐨ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑭᒪᑲᓇᐠ ᐊᓅᑭᓇᑲᓇᐠ, ᐅᑕᔭᒥᑕᒪᑫᐠ, ᐅᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫ ᒥᓇ ᑯᑕᑭᔭᐠ ᑐᑲᐣ ᐊᒋᓇ ᑲᑭᐅᓇᓯᐨ ᑲᓇᑕ ᑭᒋᐅᑭᒪᑲᐣ ᒧᐊᓇ ᐳ᙮ᓇ᙮ᐟ, ᐅᐣᑌ᙮ᐃᐬ ᑭᒋᐅᑭᒪᑲᐣ ᓯᐣᑎ ᐅᐟᐦᐊᐅᐢ, ᓯᐣᑎ '᙮ᐊᐠᐢᑕᐧᐠ, ᑲᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᐨ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᔑᐃᐧᑭᒪᐃᐧᓂᐠ, ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐊᑎᐟ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧ ᐊᓅᑭᓇᑲᓇᐠ ᑲᑭᐸᐸᒥᔨᐊᐧᐨ ᒥᔑᓅᔭᑭᐃᐧᐣ, ᓂᑕᐨ ᑲᑭᑕᔑᓇᑭᐡᑲᑐᐊᐧᐸᐣ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᑫᐧᐠ ᑲᐃᐧᑕᓅᑭᒥᑐᐊᐧᐨ ᐅᒪ ᑲᓇᑕ (NWAC) ᐊᓅᑭᐃᐧᑲᒥᑯᐠ.

"ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᐊᐱᐣ ᐃᐡᑲᐧᔮᐨ ᐣᑭᑐᑕᒥᐣ ᐣᓴᑲᐦᐊᐧᒥᐣ ᐅᐸᐧᑲᐣ ᐃᒪ ᐯᔑᐠ ᐸᑫᑲᒥᑯᐠ NWAC ᐊᓅᑭᐃᐧᑲᒥᑯᐠ ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᑭᒥᔑᓅᐊᐧᐠ ᐊᐃᐧᔮᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᔕᐊᐧᐨ," ᐸᐧᐠ ᐃᑭᑐ. "ᑭᒥᓀᐧᑕᑲᐧᐣ ᐃᐁᐧ ᑲᑭᐃᐧᔑᒪᒋᑕᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᐁᐧᑲ ᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᑕᐨ ᓚᒪᐠ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᑲᒥᑯᐠ ᐁᑭᐅᒋᐃᔕᓅᐊᐧᐠ. ᐣᑭᓇᑭᐡᑲᑎᒥᐣ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᑲᒥᑯᐠ ᑲᓂᔓᑎᐸᐦᐃᑲᓀᐧᔭᐠ ᓇᐣᑕ ᑲᓂᔑᐣ ᐊᐱᑕᑎᐸᐦᐃᑲᓀᐧᔭᐠ ᐊᐱ ᑲᓂᒪᒋᐊᓂᒨᒋᑲᓅᐊᐧᐠ."

ᐸᐧᐠ ᐃᑭᑐ ᑲᑭᓇ ᐅᒪᐃᐧᓃᐡᑭᑫᐠ ᑭᒥᓇᐊᐧᐠ ᓂᔭᓅᑎᐸᐦᐃᑲᓀᐧᐣ ᒋᑎᐸᒋᒨᐊᐧᐨ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ.

"ᓂᔭᓅᑎᐸᐦᐃᑲᓀᐧᐣ ᓇᐣᑕ ᐱᑯ ᐸᑭ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᒣ ᐣᑭᒥᓂᑯᒥᐣ ᒋᑎᐸᒋᒧᔮᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑫᑯᓀᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᐅᒋᐱᔕᔮᐠ ᒥᓇ ᒋᐃᐧᑕᒪᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᔑᒪᒋᓭᐦᐃᑯᔮᐠ ᒥᓇ ᐊᓂᐣ ᐁᐧᔑᐸᑯᓭᓂᒧᔮᐠ ᒋᔑᓇᑲᐧᐠ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑐᐃᐧ ᓇᑯᒥᑐᐃᐧᐣ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᐸᐧᐠ. "ᐣᑭ ᑭᒋᓀᐧᑕᐣ ᑲᑭᑲᐡᑭᑐᔮᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᒋᑭᑐᑕᒪᐣ ᒥᓇ ᐁᐧᑫᐧᓇᐠ ᑲᑭᐊᔭᒥᔮᐣ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᑲᒥᑯᐠ ᓂᐣ ᓂᑕᐨ ᑲᐅᐡᑭ ᑭᑭᓅᒪᑯᔮᐣ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧ ᑭᑭᓅᒪᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ."

ᑭᒋᐅᑭᒪᑲᓀᐧᐣ ᐸᐧᐱ ᓇ᙮ᓯᐣ ᑭᐃᑭᑐ ᐊᐁᐧ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᐣ ᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ ᑲᑭᔕᐳᓇᐠ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᒣ $32 ᐱ᙮ᐃᔮᐣ ᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᔓᓂᔭ ᐁᐧᑫᐧᓇᐠ ᑭᐊᐧᐸᑕᒥᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐁᐧᑐᒋᑲᑌᐠ."

"ᓂᐃᐧᒋᑌᐦᐁᐧᒪᒥᓇᐠ ᐅᑫᐧᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᑲᐃᐧᒋᐊᐧᑭᑕᐧ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐯᒋᑫᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᑭᓀᐧᐡ ᑲᑭᐱᑲᑲᐧᑕᑭᑐᐊᐧᐨ ᐅᒪ ᑕᐸᓯᑐᑕᑫᐃᐧ ᐱᒥᐃᐧᒋᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᓇ᙮ᓯᐣ. "ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐣᑐᒋᒪᒥᑯᒪᒥᓇᐠ ᐁᐧᑲ ᑲᑭᐱᐅᒋᐳᓂᒋᑫᐊᐧᐨ ᑲᑭᔭᓅᑲᑕᒧᐊᐧᐨ ᒪᐃᐧᓃᐡᑭᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑲᑭᓇ ᐊᐃᐧᔭᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᒪᒥᑲᑕᒧᐊᐧᐨ ᒋᓇᑯᑐᐊᐧᐨ ᐁᐧᑲ ᑲᐧᔭᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᑐᑕᐃᐧᑕᐧ ᑭᑕᓂᔑᓂᓂᒥᓇᓂᐠ ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᐊᐱᐣ ᑲᑭᔭᓂ ᑌᐱᓂᑫᑕᒪᐊᐧᐊᐧᐨ ᐅᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑯᐃᐧᐃᓂᐊᐧ."

ᓇ᙮ᓯᐣ ᐃᑭᑐ ᑲᑭᐅᓇᒋᑲᑌᐠ ᒪᒋ ᐨ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑭᑫᐃᐧ ᓇᑯᒥᑐᐃᐧᐣ ᑭᐃᔑᓇᐦᐃᑲᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᐃᔑᐅᓇᑌᑭᐸᐣ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐊᐦᑭᐠ ᑲᑕᔑᐱᒪᑎᓯᐨ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑯᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᑫᓇᑌᓂ ᐅᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑯᐃᐧ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑯᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐅᒋᑭᐡᑫᑖᒪᑐᐊᐧᐠ ᐅᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧ.

ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᐊᐱᐣ ᑲᑭᔭᓂ ᑌᐱᓂᑫᑕᒪᐊᐧᐊᐧᐟ ᐅᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑯᐃᐧᐃᓂᐊᐧ."

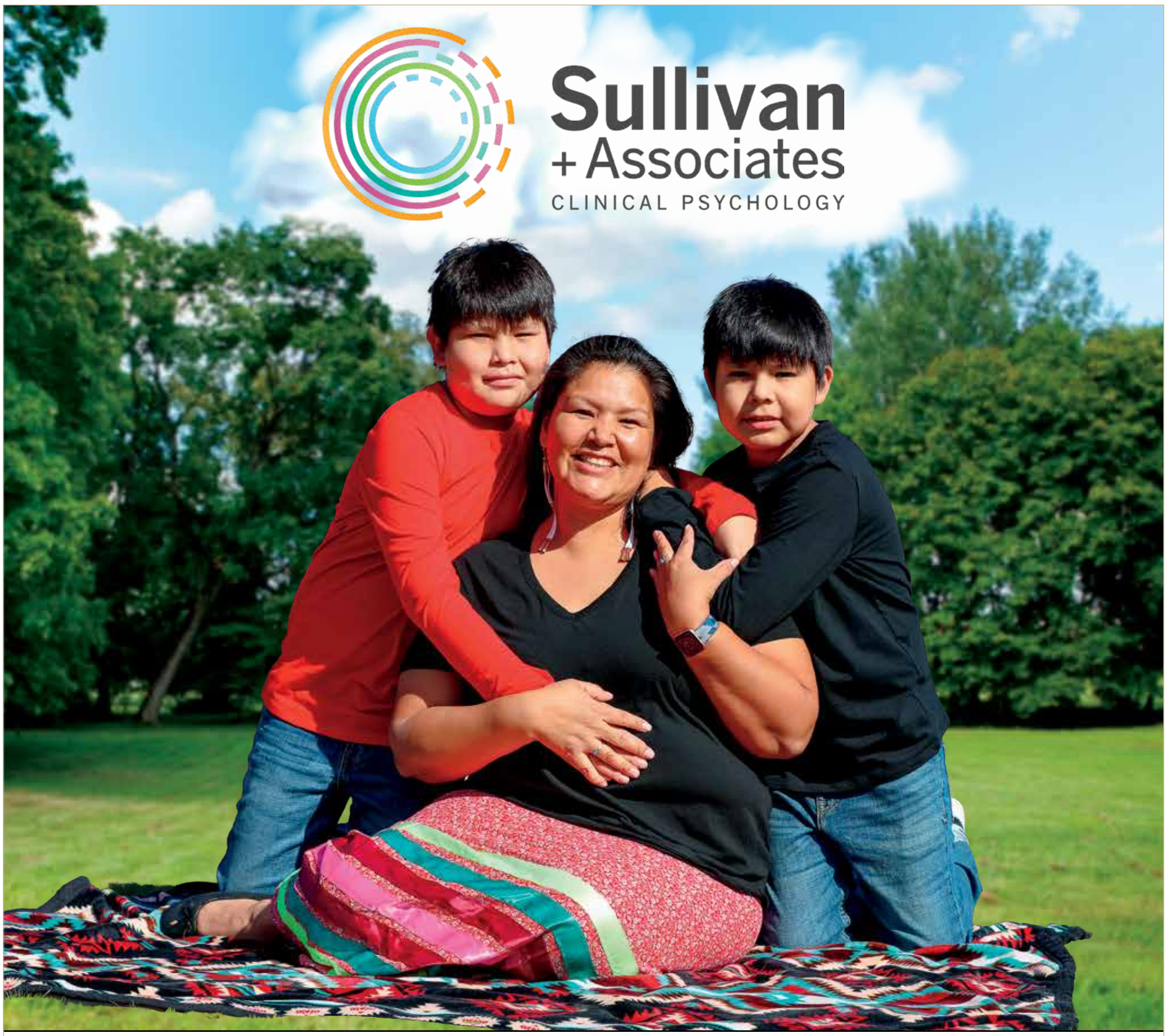
ᓇ᙮ᓯᐣ ᐃᑭᑐ ᑲᑭᐅᓇᒋᑲᑌᐠ ᒪᒋᐣ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑭᑫᐃᐧ ᓇᑯᒥᑐᐃᐧᐣ ᑭᐃᔑᓇᐦᐃᑲᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᐃᔑᐅᓇᑌᑭᐸᐣ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐊᐦᑭᐠ ᑲᑕᔑᐱᒪᑎᓯᐨ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑯᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᑫᓇᑌᓂ ᐅᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑯᐃᐧ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑯᐃᐧᓇᐣ ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᒥᓇ ᐅᒋᑭᐡᑫᑖᒪᑐᐊᐧᐠ ᐅᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧ.

"ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᐅᒪ ᑲᑭᐊᐧᐃᐧᒋᐦᐁᐧᔮᐣ, ᓂᐃᐧᒋᑲᐸᐃᐧᑕᒥᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᒥᓇ ᓂᑭᒋᓀᐧᓂᒪᐠ ᑲᑭᓇ ᐅᒪ ᑲᑭᐸᐸᒥᓯᐊᐧᐨ ᑲᑭᐊᓅᑲᑕᒧᐊᐧᐨ ᑭᒋᑫᑯᓂ ᒋᑭᑕᑭᒥᑕᐧ ᑲᑭᐱᔭᓂᒥᐦᐃᑕᐧ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᔕᐠ, ᐅᐡᑲᑎᓴᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐯᒋᑫᐃᐧᓇᐣ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᓇ᙮ᓯᐣ. "ᑲᐃᐧᐣ ᐃᐧᑲ ᑫᑯᐣ ᑕᑭᐅᒋ ᑲᓯᐦᐃᑫᒪᑲᐣ ᒥᓂᑯᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᒪᒋᓭᐦᐃᑕᐧ ᑭᑕᓂᔑᓂᓂᒥᓇᓂᐠ ᒥᔑᓂᔭᑭᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᑭᐱᑕᐸᓯᑲᓇᐊᐧᐸᒥᑕᐧ, ᔕᑯᐨ ᓂᐸᑯᓭᑕᒥᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᑲᑭᔑ ᑭᔕᑯᓂᑲᓅᐊᐧᐠ ᐁᒥᓇᐧᔑᐠ ᒋᔭᓂᔑᐱᒧᓭᒋᑲᐠ ᒋᔭᓂ ᑭᐁᐧᒥᓅᑲᓇᐊᐧᐸᒥᑕᐧ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑕᓇᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᔑ ᒪᒋᑐᑕᑫᐣ ᒥᓇ ᒋᒪᒥᓇᐧᑕᒪᑫᐣ ᑫᓅᒋᑭᑫᐊᐧᐨ ᑭᐃᐧᒋᐱᒪᑎᓯᒥᓇᓂᐠ. ᐊᒥᐁᐧᔑ ᐊᔭᒥᐦᐊᔭᐠ ᒪᐣᑐ ᒋᐃᐧᑭᑭᓅᐃᐧᓇᐨ ᑫᓂᔑᐱᒥᔭᓂᐨ."

ᐊᓂᔑᓇᐯᐠ ᐅᑭᒪᐠ ᑲᒪᒪᐃᐧᓅᐊᐧᐨ ᐅᑭᒪᑲᐣ ᙮ᐁᐧᐨ ᓂᑲᓅᐱ ᑭᐃᑭᑐ ᐅᐁᐧ ᐅᓇᑕᒪᑫᐃᐧ ᓇᑯᒥᑐᐃᐧᐣ ᐊᒥᐦᐅᒪ ᑫᓅᒋ ᒪᒋᔭᓅᑲᑕᒪᐃᐧᑕᐧ ᐅᑎᐸᑯᓂᑫᐃᐧ ᓇᑕᒪᑯᐃᐧᓂᐊᐧ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐃᐧ ᐊᐊᐧᔑᔕᐠ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐯᒋᑫᐃᐧᓇᐣ.

"ᑭᑫᑕᑲᐧᐣ ᐁᐧᑲ ᐃᐧᐣ ᔓᓂᔭ ᒋᑭᒥᓇᐊᐧᒋᐦᐁᐧᐨ ᒥᓂᑯᐠ ᑲᑭᐱᒪᒋᓭᐦᐃᑕᐧ ᐊᐃᐧᔭᐠ ᐃᒪ ᑕᐸᓯᑲᓇᐊᐧᐸᒥᑐᐃᐧ ᐱᒥᐃᐧᒋᑫᐃᐧᓂᐠ, ᐁᐧᑲᐧ ᔕᑯᐨ ᔓᓂᔭᐠ ᑭᐁᐧᓇᒪᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᐁᐧᑕ ᐃᔑᓇᑲᐧᐣ ᒋᑭᐃᐧᓯᓴᓂᐠ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᐣ ᒋᑭᐅᒋᑕᒪᑫᐸᐣ," ᐃᑭᑐ ᓂᑲᓅᐱ.

"ᑲᐧᔭᐠ ᐃᔑᓇᑲᐧᐣ ᐅᐁᐧ ᑲᔭᓅᑲᑌ ᑭᐁᐧᒥᓅᑲᓇᐊᐧᐸᒥᑐᐃᐧᐣ, ᐣᑕᔕᐧᐸᑕᒥᐣ ᒋᐸᑭᑎᓇᐠ ᐅᒥᒋᓇᐁᐧᔨᑲᑕᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᑲᓇᑕ ᑭᒋᐅᑭᒪ ᒋᔑᐱᒥ ᐸᑯᓭᓂᒧᓇᓂᐊᐧᐠ ᑲᓇᑕ ᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᐣ ᒋᔑᐱᒥᐊᐧᐃᐧᑕᓅᑭᒪᐨ ᐊᓂᔑᓂᓂᐊᐧᐣ ᒋᑭᔭᓂᑌᐱᓂᑲᑌᐠ ᐊᓂᑫᐱᒪᑎᓯᐃᐧ ᑭᑫᐃᐧᐣ ᐃᒪ ᐃᓅᑫ ᒋᑭᐁᐧ ᒪᒥᓇᐧᒋᑲᓅᐊᐧᐠ."



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Politics

Child welfare settlement awards $23-billion in compensation

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Mishkeegogamang's Ashley Bach participated as one of the representative plaintiffs in the Federal Court's hearing where more than $23 billion in compensation was approved for First Nations children and families on Oct. 24 in Ottawa. The First Nations Child and Family Services, Jordan's Principle, Trout and Kith Class Settlement Agreement includes a total of $23.34 billion to compensate First Nations children and families who were harmed by discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and those impacted by the federal government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle.

"I'm really excited about it because it's been several years, the class action was filed before the (COVID-19) pandemic started so that was over three years ago," says Bach, a first-year law student at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and former Nishnawbe Aski Nation Oshkaatisak (All Young People's) Council member, on Nov. 1. "It's been a really long process, it's been quite stressful for myself, like re-traumatizing, but I know it's been re-traumatizing for other people too who are impacted and who are likely class members. I'm glad that it's done but I'm also glad we were able to do things a bit differently when it came to the settlement hearing last week."

Bach says the settlement hearing participants, including the representative plaintiffs, Assembly of First Nations staff, lawyers, the judge and others such as Interim National Chief Joanna Bernard, Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, Cindy Blackstock, executive director at the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and some of the federal government ministers who were involved over the years, first met at the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) building.

"After that we did a pipe ceremony in one of the rooms that NWAC had and there were quite a few people there," Bach says. "It was nice to start in that way instead of just starting in a courtroom. We met at the court at 2:00 or 2:30 to start the hearing."

Bach says the representative plaintiffs each had about five minutes to address the court.

"We each had about five minutes or so to tell our stories and why we were here and provide a bit of an impact statement and what we were hoping for a settlement agreement," Bach says. "I was honoured to be able to do that and to be able to speak in court for the first time as a 1Ler (first-year law student)."

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse says the Federal Court's approval of more than $23 billion in compensation was a "monumental occasion."

"Our hearts are with our members and families who have suffered for far too long under this discriminatory system," Narcisse says. "We also acknowledge the resiliency of the representative plaintiffs and everyone who have fought for years to expose the injustices inflicted upon our people and secure rightful compensation."

screenshots

Mishkeegogamang's Ashley Bach, centre, participated as one of the representative plaintiffs in the Federal Court's hearing where more than $23 billion in compensation was approved for First Nations children and families on Oct. 24 in Ottawa.

Narcisse says the Final Settlement Agreement satisfies the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's Compensation Orders and respects the rights of NAN's member First Nations' citizens to receive meaningful compensation for harms they have suffered and continue to suffer.

"As an intervenor, we fully support this settlement and commend all parties involved on their monumental efforts to honour the affected First Nation children, youth and families," Narcisse says. "Nothing can undo the harm inflicted on our people from the years of discrimination, but we hope this ruling is a good step forward in reconciling Canada's colonial past and setting the healing path forward for our members. We pray for the Creator to guide them on their journeys."

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe says the settlement agreement is a step towards justice for First Nations children and families.

"Money cannot undo the harm that has been caused by this systemic discrimination, however, financial restitution is the only compensation Canada can provide," Niganobe says.

"As a meaningful act of reconciliation, we look forward to a formal apology from the Prime Minister and remain hopeful that Canada will continue to work with First Nations in achieving generational healing through reformation."

Patty Hajdu, minister of Indigenous Services Canada, says although nothing can make up for the harm and pain decades of underfunding caused, compensation is essential to moving forward.

"I sincerely thank the Assembly of First Nations, Moushoom and Trout class action plaintiffs and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society – amongst others – for their work," Hajdu says. "Their leadership has pushed Canada to do the right thing and is moving us forward on the path to reconciliation. We will continue working with them on a historic reform of our programs so that this never happens again."

BEAVERHOUSE FIRST NATION NOTICE OF BAND CREATION AND FOUNDING MEMBERS LIST

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to a direction from the Beaverhouse First Nation Council.

Beaverhouse First Nation ("BHFN") is in exploratory discussions with Indigenous Services Canada ("ISC") in the hopes of entering into an agreement that will have the federal government recognize Beaverhouse First Nation as an Indian Band under the Indian Act in 2024.

DESCRIPTION: As part of this exploratory process, Beaverhouse First Nation is considering criteria for an individual to be an eligible Member of the newly recognized Beaverhouse Band, pending confirmation of eligibility by Council by way of the enrollment process. This criteria will likely include the following:

• Have Indian ancestry (an ancestral connection to BHFN as a community through blood or adoption – either custom or legal);

• Complete a letter of consent or voluntary declaration agreeing to be on the founding members list (or parent/guardian for anyone under 16 years); and

• If transferring from another First Nation, complete a statement of intent to transfer to BHFN.

If an individual meets the above noted criteria and is on the founding members list, the individual will be entitled to be registered (to have status) under paragraph 6(1)(b) of the Indian Act, regardless of their current status, if any, following approval of the agreement by Canada.

Genealogical research is still being undertaken by the Genealogical Committee (the "Committee"). However, the Committee has begun identifying individuals who are interested in being on a founding members list and receiving letters of consent. The approach BHFN is taking, is that Council will have final approval of those individuals to be included on the founding members list by way of the enrollment process, which will be subsequently approved by Canada, and there will be an appeals process in place for those who feel they were wrongly denied inclusion on the founding members list.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Council of BHFN invites anyone who thinks they may meet the above criteria to write to the Genealogical Committee at assistant@beaverhousefn.com to ensure they are on the list of individuals who may be eligible for the BHFN founding members list, and to receive a Letter of Consent package for their completion. Council will consider all applications received in accordance with this Notice and the final Agreement to be entered into between BHFN and ISC.

ADDRESS AND CONTACT PERSON: For further information or questions regarding the work that BHFN is currently doing, please contact: Genealogical Committee at assistant@beaverhousefn.com, or by telephone at 705-567-2022 x 113.

Dated: October 24, 2023.

BEAVERHOUSE FIRST NATION

BEAVERHOUSE FIRST NATION / PREMIÈRE NATION BEAVERHOUSE AVIS DE CRÉATION DE BANDE ET LISTE DES MEMBRES FONDATEURS

CET AVIS est donné conformément à une direction du Conseil de la Première Nation Beaverhouse.

Beaverhouse First Nation ("BHFN") / la Première Nation Beaverhouse est engagée dans des discussions exploratoires avec Services aux Autochtones Canada avec l'espoir d'en arriver à une entente par laquelle le gouvernement fédéral reconnaîtra la Première Nation Beaverhouse comme Bande Indienne sous l'autorité de la Loi sur les Indiens en début de 2024.

DESCRIPTION: Faisant partie de ce processus exploratoire, Beaverhouse First Nation / la Première Nation Beaverhouse considère les critères permettant à un individu de devenir un membre éligible de la Bande Beaverhouse nouvellement reconnue, en attente de la confirmation de l'éligibilité par le Conseil dans ce processus d'inscription. Ces critères tout probablement incluront les suivants:

• Avoir une ascendance autochtone (une connexion ancestrale avec la communauté de BHFN soit par lien de sang ou par adoption – légale ou coutumière);

• Rédiger une lettre de consentement ou une déclaration volontaire indiquant votre accord à être placé sur la liste des membres fondateurs (ou parent/gardien pour toute personne de moins de 16 ans); et

• S'il s'agit d'un transfert d'une autre Première Nation, remplir une déclaration d'intention de transfert à BHFN.

Si un individu rencontre les critères ci-haut mentionnés et est placé sur la liste des membres fondateurs, cet individu aura droit à être inscrit (avoir le statut), sous l'alinéa 6(1)(b) de la Loi sur les Indiens, sans égard à leur statut actuel, s'il en détient un, après approbation de l'entente par le Canada.

La recherche généalogique est toujours en cours, effectuée par le Comité généalogique (le Comité). Toutefois, le Comité a commencé à identifier des individus qui sont intéressés à se trouver sur la liste des membres fondateurs et à recevoir des lettres de consentement. Le Conseil est responsable de l'approbation finale des individus qui seront inclus sur la liste des membres fondateurs par l'entremise du processus d'inscription, laquelle sera subséquemment approuvée par le Canada, et il y aura un processus d'appel établi pour ceux qui croient qu'ils ont été injustement refusés pour inclusion sur la liste des membres fondateurs.

DÉCLARATION D'INTERÊT: Le Conseil de BHFN invite toute personne qui pense pouvoir rencontrer les critères ci-haut mentionnés à écrire au Comité généalogique à l'adresse courriel assistant@beaverhousefn.com pour s'assurer qu'il se trouve sur la liste des individus qui pourraient être éligibles à être placé sur la liste des membres fondateurs de BHFN, et afin de recevoir une trousse de la Lettre de consentement à compléter. Le Conseil prendra en considération toutes les demandes reçues conformément au présent Avis.

ADRESSE ET PERSONNE CONTACT: Pour toute information additionnelle ou pour toute question ayant trait au travail en cours par BHFN, veuillez contacter : le Comité généalogique à l'adresse courriel assistant@beaverhousefn.com , ou par téléphone au 705-567-2022 poste 113.

En date du 24 octobre 2023.

Education

Cassandra Spade continues work with Anishinabemowin

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Mishkeegogamang's Cassandra Spade, a second-year student at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, is continuing her work with Anishinabemowin in the community while pursuing her law studies.

"I didn't grow up speaking Anishinabemowin," Spade says. "My family are fluent speakers, like my aunts, my grandparents, my uncle, my dad, but I did not grow up speaking and it wasn't until my mid-20s that I started to learn."

Spade says she learned Anishinabemowin from some Elders from northern Ontario as well as from some of her family members and other young people who spoke Anishinabemowin.

"I started learning from everyone around me and it was really the Elders who took me under their wing to start teaching me," Spade says. "One of the first things this one Elder in particular had said to me was: 'If you take care of our language, it will take care of you.'"

Spade says she didn't know what the Elder meant at that time, she just thought that she trying to learn Anishinabemowin and she carried it on in her life.

"Now that I'm in my later 20s I'm starting to realize that when we speak our language and specifically our Indigenous language, we're really centred in who we are, we know who we are, we understand where we come from and we are able to communicate to our communities, our land and essentially ourselves, understanding that we are from this place," Spade says. "I didn't grow up speaking Anishinabemowin, it wasn't until my mid-20s that I started learning and even to this day I'm still learning, I make mistakes all the time. When I started learning and that Elder had said to me to take care of the language, I realized that also meant that I have to share the language with as many people as possible and one of the first things I started to realize was that in Canada, Indigenous languages are on the decline."

Spade says there are currently about 70 distinct Indigenous languages across the country.

"Every single one of them experiences the real threat of extinction or endangerment in the next few decades," Spade says. "What I realized was that there was this huge decline of Indigenous languages in this country and for me I started to think about, OK, if this language takes care of me, how can I take care of the language. And then I realized speaking it every day, teaching people, learning more about it every day and sharing my love of language was how I could take care of language."

Spade says she founded a grassroots organization called Gaa-minwaajindizowaaj (GAAM) in 2020, which has a website at: northernvoices.ca.

"It's really just a group of people who want to do language programs or promote language," Spade says. "From there we started doing language classes for youth and just trying to get more young people involved in learning language and sharing language."

Spade says she currently runs three different classes, one at Lakehead University for a small group of Indigenous youth who gather once a week to practice language, the second at an online class with Nishnawbe Aski Nation and the third with law students at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

"I've been teaching the (online class) for about three years now, I teach it with my aunt — some years we've had over 200 students in the class and right now we have about 130 students in the class," Spade says. "There's a big range of language abilities so we get students who have never heard any Anishinabe language or students who are fluent and they just want to have someone to practice language with or learn grammar."

Spade says she is engaging law students in learning Anishinabemowin during the class at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law as a way to increase access to the legal system.

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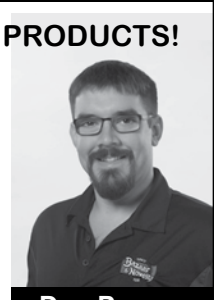
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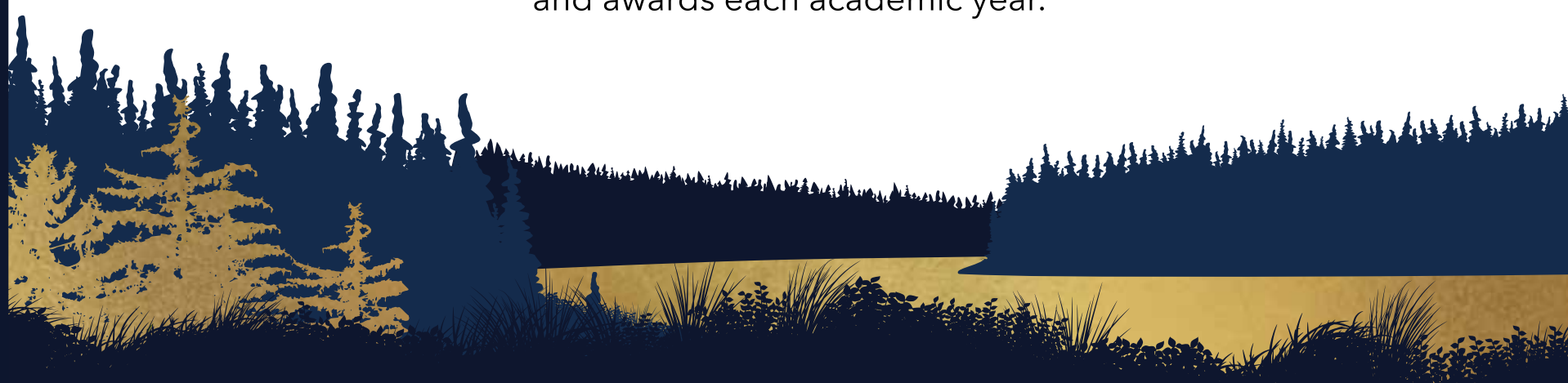

Northern COLLEGE

Community

NAN holds Nimbaabaa Fathers Gathering

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Moose Cree's Kris Morrison speaks about the importance of humility.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Moose Cree's Kris Morrison speaks with the participants during his Values for Success presentation at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Nimbaabaa: My Fathers Gathering, held Nov. 7-8 at Delta Hotel Thunder Bay.

Moose Cree's Kris Morrison delivered a presentation on the Values for Success on the first day of Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Nimbaabaa: My Fathers Gathering, held Nov. 7-8 at Delta Hotel Thunder Bay.

"A lot of the men, I believe, really enjoyed it — it was great, it was awesome," says Morrison, founder and leader of the Indigenous Men's Alliance (IMA). "I teach a model to follow that's based off of our Grandfather Teachings, our seven values, so that we can be successful."

Morrison, who started the IMA about seven years ago, says 80 per cent of success is showing up.

"That's what it is, taking that step to show up," Morrison says. "You have to remember that our grandfathers are sitting here with us — we may not see them but they're here with us, all those success steps that our grandfathers did brought you here."

Morrison says he always thinks of conferences such as the gathering as "like a fire."

"You're coming from every direction to feed the fire," Morrison says. "The more men you have coming to feed the fire, that fire becomes warmer and when you're sharing, how you were this morning, you're putting into that fire, you're enlightening all the other men."

Morrison says Indigenous men have a lot of healing to do but they also have to think about their success.

"The goal of the Indigenous Men's Alliance is to create a brave space," Morrison says. "If you look up the word brave in the dictionary, it means North American Indian."

Morrison says he did research for his university studies, he has four university degrees including a Masters degree, in Moose Factory.

"I found out what's available for the men," Morrison says. "What's the truth about Moose Factory, the truth is men need spaces, are we respecting the truth and what are the options to respect the truth."

Morrison says honesty is "our most important value as Indigenous peoples."

"That's the one we tell, we share our story, we share the truth," Morrison says. "How do we do it, by sharing, talking, and it's in our actions."

Morrison says the truth is Indigenous men have to learn.

"We have to continue learning," Morrison says.

Morrison says he was also scheduled to deliver the Feather Teaching and the 7 Directions teaching on the second day of the gathering.

"Sometimes our feathers get ruffled, like our mental health, emotional health, bodies, attitude, so I'm going to teach them a model to be successful in becoming healthy, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically," Morrison says. "The 7 Directions teaching is fulfilling your purpose in life to get to your destiny and to create a vision. I'll be talking about what the IMA does — we help to make men's vision a reality, we help them to envision their future and where they want to be."

A Nishnawbe Aski Nation Facebook posting states that the gathering allowed participants to have conversations around fatherhood to ensure that men and fathers have a voice in the decision-making process regarding child care, programs and family services. They also had the opportunity to learn together and teach each other.

"You each have the responsibility to be a champion and build healthier communities and families," says Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum in the Facebook posting. "We are here to move forward toward healthier communities and families. Each of you has a special reason for being here. We must take our role and responsibility as parents seriously."

The gathering also featured scheduled presentations on Fatherhood: Indigenous Men's Journeys by Sean Morriseau, First Aid Kit Build and Infant and Child Resuscitation by Brian Edwards and a Leaders Discussion by Morriseau and Clarence Fisher.

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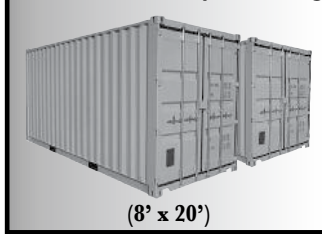
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Community

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Margaret Keesic, shelter coordinator at the Fort Albany Women's Shelter, was presented with one of the Community Housing Recognition Awards.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of students and teachers from Hammarskjold High School's Kendomang Zhagodenamon (KZ) Lodge program were presented with one of the Community Housing Recognition Awards.

2023 FNHC housing awards

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Fort Albany and the Kendomang Zhagodenamon (KZ) Lodge at Hammarskjold High School were recognized with two of the First Nations Housing Conference's Community Housing Recognition Awards on Oct. 25. Organized by nine tribal councils located across northern Ontario, the conference was held Oct. 24-26 at the Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

"It's a dream come true for the Fort Albany Women's Shelter and Fort Albany First Nation because we are here for the women that are the victims of family violence," says Margaret Keesic, shelter coordinator at the Fort Albany Women's Shelter. "It creates homes for them after they are in the shelter."

Keesic says they are building seven units for the transition home, with completion scheduled for the spring of 2024.

"We have women in the shelter that could really use those homes right now," Keesic says, noting that women and their families could be housed for up to a year-and-a-half in the transition home. "Because we serve the Mushkegowuk territory, after they live in the transition home they would be able to go back to their home communities so that the chief and councils could find homes for them there. I'm just very thankful for the award and thankful for CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) for the funding that they have been giving us and also to ISC (Indigenous Services Canada), that will be the core funders to ensure that we provide services."

The KZ Lodge program enabled a group of Indigenous students to work on the construction of two tiny homes at Hammarskjold High School in Thunder Bay to help alleviate homelessness and housing challenges in First Nation communities in the region.

"It's pretty nice — they teach us everything step by step," says Hunter Ritch, a Grade 12 Hammarskjold High School student and Eabametoong citizen. "There's lots of jobs on this house, it's not just one job, it's a lot of work. The framing is usually the easiest and my favourite."

Ritch says his parents were really interested in the work he has been doing on the tiny homes.

"They know that I'm on the right path and I'm in the right area because there's a lot of high paying jobs in this carpentry and plumbing and (electrical work)," Ritch says.

Zander Britt, a Grade 12 Hammarskjold High School student and Long Lake #58 citizen, says the project was easier than he thought it would be.

"It was actually really easy when you got the hang of it," Britt says. "I had friends in my class who showed me if I didn't do it right or maybe if they didn't do it right, I could tell them. It was really fun, I liked it."

Britt says most of his friends were also in the KZ Lodge program.

"It was always something I looked forward to in my day," Britt says. "(The completed tiny home) is really good, I'm really happy with how it turned out."

Britt says his parents are proud that he is building houses for other communities.

"Even my dad wants me to show him how to build a house some day, I don't know if I can do that but it's interesting," Britt says.

Lisa MacLeod, a teacher at Hammarskjold High School, says it was amazing for the KZ Lodge to be recognized with the housing award.

"It was very heartwarming to see the youth get recognized for all the hard work that they put in," MacLeod says. "It's a pretty amazing program to be involved with and I'm grateful to be able to work with the students."

MacLeod says they are building a larger building this year than the 10 by 30-foot tiny home they built last year, which was donated to Matawa First Nations for use in a northern community.

"We actually have a waiting list just to get into the program," MacLeod says. "It's got really good participation and attendance, the engagement is really good — in some cases I think it helps to bring students to school."

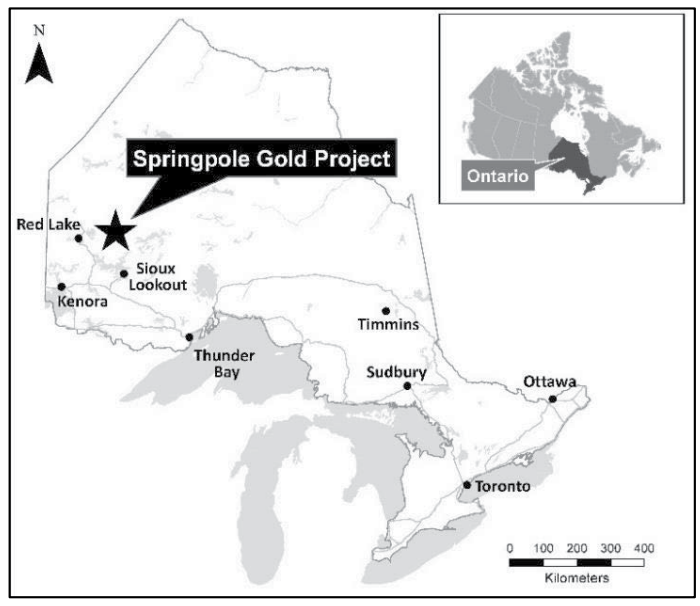
MacLeod says it was a privilege to work with the students during the KZ Lodge program.

"Every day I feel like I'm learning along with the students," MacLeod says. "We don't just build the houses, we do a lot of land-based learning as well and connecting up with the culture and the land. Bringing in Elders and different knowledge holders has been a really amazing experience."

Community Housing Recognition Awards were also presented to the Missanabie Cree, Garden River and Mohawks of Bay of Quinte's Belleville Affordable Housing LP and Tzeachten First Nation in B.C.

Springpole Gold Project – Environmental Assessment
Notice of Public Information Meetings

First Mining Gold (FMG) is undertaking an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* for the Springpole Gold Project. The proposed Project involves the construction, operation and decommissioning/closure of an open pit gold mine and ancillary activities. The deposit is in northwestern Ontario, approximately 110 km northeast of the Municipality of Red Lake and 140 km north of Sioux Lookout.



Environmental Assessment Report
FMG circulated a draft EA report in May 2022 for review and comment. The draft documents provide a detailed description of the Project plans, potential effects, and mitigation measures, and provides an opportunity for the Project to be considered and reviewed holistically so we can receive your feedback and make improvements before plans are finalized. The draft EA is on the FMG website and USB copies are available for review at the Ear Falls Public Library and the Sioux Lookout Public Library.

FMG is continuing to collect feedback and present information related to the Project and EA process. Members of the public, agencies, Indigenous communities, and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the planning of this Project by attending consultation opportunities or contacting staff directly with information, comments or questions. Your feedback is appreciated.

Consultation
FMG will be hosting Public Information Meetings as described below. The purpose of these Public Information Meetings is to present information about the EA process as well as provide an opportunity to share the findings of the draft EA, input received to date and answer any questions. These will include a combination of a formal presentation and a drop-in style meeting with English display materials.

Meeting Details

Red Lake
Date: November 29, 2023
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Place: **Red Lake Legion, #31 Hwy -105, Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0**

Dryden
Date: November 30, 2023
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Place: **Centennial Room, Best Western Inn and Conference Centre, 349 Government Street, Dryden, Ontario, P8N 2P4**

Contact
If you would like to be added to our project mailing list, or have project related questions, please contact our community relations team at: **communityrelations@firstmininggold.com**

You can also find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstMiningGoldSP

Comments are being collected to assist FMG in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number, and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change 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 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

Notice first issued on, November 20, 2023

Commentary

We Will Remember Why

Xavier Kataquapit

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

November 11 or what we refer to as Remembrance Day is a very sad time for myself and my partner Mike. I have been doing a lot of research on my great-grandfather John Chookomolin and my grandfather James Kataquapit who along with 22 other young men from Attawapiskat were literally kidnapped by an army recruiter back in 1917 and taken to Europe to participate in the Great War. My great-grandfather John did not return however grandfather James did make it back after the war. To hear more on this story visit my website at www.nativeveterans.com

Imagine what life was like for people on remote First Nations back in 1917. There was little or no communication with the outside world, my people only spoke their own Mushkego Cree language and they had no idea where they were going or what was being asked of them when an army recruiter found his way to Attawapiskat. This group of young men then were taken for training in the south and later boarded a ship to England. The Spanish flu was circulating at the time and John got ill and died in Eng-land in the outskirts of London near Englefield Green. Nobody bothered to notify my family of this and we had no idea what had happened to him until the late 1980s when a family member looked into this mystery and found out what had occurred. In the mean time my family had to suffer the loss of a hus-band, father, brother and community member and that meant a lot of sorrow and hard times.

My partner Mike's father James had a difficult life growing up in Toronto in the 1920s and he and his brothers ended up in foster care. When the Second Word War was well on its way he was recruited at the age of 18 to join up and he was accompanied by his younger brother Patrick who lied about his age and although he was only 16 he was accepted into the army. They were given limited training and then shipped out to follow up on the D-Day invasion by the allied troops where they were involved in the long and dangerous town to town fighting through France and Belgium.

In the fall of 1944 they had made there way to near Antwerp, Belgium and entered the fierce fighting in the Battle Of The Scheldt. That battle is known as a terrible loss of Canadian lives as they went up against experienced German troops holding ground in a muddy port area. Patrick was killed in the early stage of that battle and James was badly injured.

James made it back to Canada, met Mike's mom and fathered Mike and his sister. He made an effort to have some type of normal life but he suffered from shell shock or what we now refer to as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and he ended up making a lot of bad choices which put him in the prison system for most of his life. Mike knew nothing of his father until much later in his life and at one point had to deal with the fact that James had been killed by a couple of young OPP officers after a chase involving a stolen car in the late 1970s. As you can imagine this reality had a huge affect on my partner Mike and his family.

We are currently working on a project dedicated to my grandfather and great-grandfather as well as Mike's father and his uncle Patrick. Through our research we had really felt we have fallen down a rabbit hole. We have discovered the Second World War came about mainly because the very powerful corporations and leaders of the time decided they wanted nothing to do with social democracy, labour unions, communists, Jewish people, intellectuals, many minorities and the disenfranchised. The very wealthy assisted through funding and expertise in the setting up of fascist right wing regimes in Germany, Italy, Spain and many other countries to make sure this talk of sharing wealth was killed off.

After discovering all of this information we continued to uncover more and also realized that the western governments had hired on many of the Nazi Intelligence officers after the war to help fight Communist Russia. Post World War Two intelligence organizations were dedicated to making sure any form of democratic socialism was not going to exist in this world. Nazi war criminals were allowed to immigrate to many countries because they were considered anti communist. In Canada we are still waiting for the government to release the names of all of the Nazis who were allowed to enter Canada. As many researchers have pointed out from this period, it was far easier to be a fascist or a Nazi after the war than it was to be a communist.

In the name of John Chookomolin, James Kataquapit, James McGrath and Patrick McGrath we will remember and we will do our best to tell the truth about what happened to all our brave young men and women who left their good lives and were put in pure hell full of violence, death, terror and loss. We will remember why.

www.underthenorthernsky.com

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