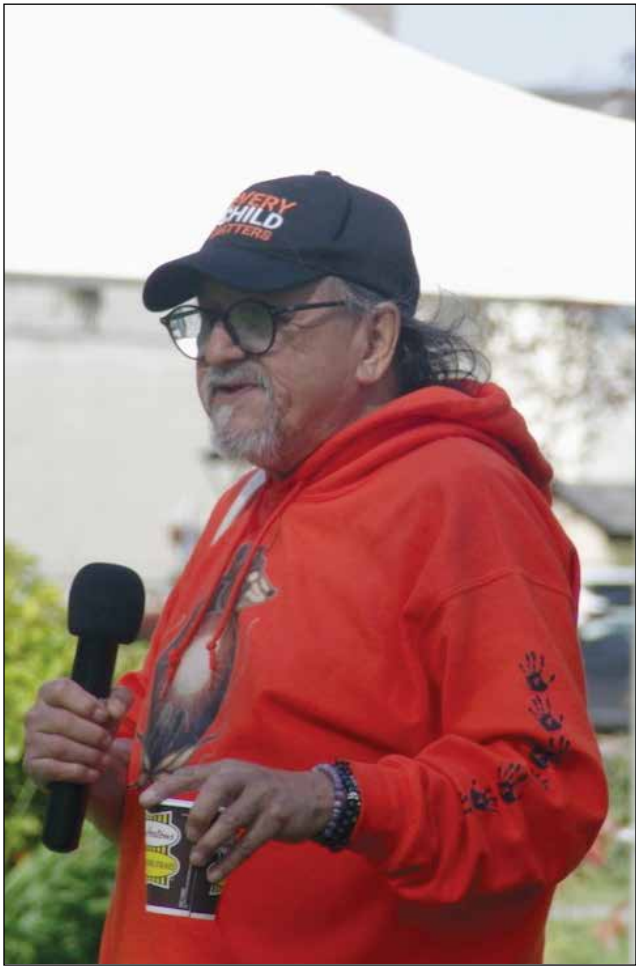


News



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Peter Sackaney shared his story during Nishnawbe Aski Nation's.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Former Long Lake #58 chief Allen Towegishig.

NAN holds Orange Shirt Day walk in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Residential school survivor Peter Sackaney shared his story during the circle event at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Orange Shirt Day Walk, held from City Hall to Vickers Park in Thunder Bay.

"It's so ironic it should be here (in Vickers Park), but as a kid I used to run to that little cabin and hide ... because that's where I found comfort," Sackaney says. "The (St. Joseph's residential) school was just located on the other side of the street (Arthur St.) and I was there, and I was also in Fort Albany,

one of the worst places a person can send children. When I tell this story I don't try to tell it with comfort because there is no comfort in the things that happened back then."

Sackaney says he could have stayed angry and hated religion and non-Native people after his residential school experience.

"I could have stayed all of that but that's not me, what happened in residential school was something that moulded me into becoming the person I am today — today I'm more spiritual in my walk, I still have some issues with anger but it's something that we work with as we go," Sackaney says. "When

I went to that place, I met with things that should not happen to children but they did happen, and it happened to many children. We became victims of monsters that were in those walls, and the sad thing about it is we carried the torment and endured the pain throughout our walk."

Sackaney says he still gets nightmares and he still feels the pain when he comes out of the nightmares.

"So the trauma is real, the things that happened are real and the people who are going to sit out there and deny the fact that these things happened, then you better do some work

on yourself," Sackaney says. "I'm not coming here to bring shame to anybody, I'm coming here to educate you about a history that was real, I'm here to share a little bit of that."

Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin says the residential school legacy did not stop with just the survivors, noting that the next generation is called the intergenerational survivors.

"The legacy continued behind closed doors in our homes, the dysfunction that is carried from residential school," Metatawabin says. "The story didn't end when the last school was closed, and for your information the last school only

closed in 1996, that's only 29 years ago. So it's still very fresh, it's still part of our lives, but we want to move forward, we want to thrive, we want to be a part of the economy, we want to be a part of the opportunities."

Metatawabin says when you displace, dispossess and disown people of their lands, what opportunities do you leave for them.

"So that is what you have to take back with you and discuss, you have to reverse what's been done, the displacement, the disowning," Metatawabin says. "We're very much part of this planet each and every day when we wake up."

Former Long Lake #58 chief Allen Towegishig says he went to St. Joseph's residential school for two years, McIntosh residential school for six years and a day school for two years.

"They cut our hair, we couldn't speak our language," Towegishig says. "I've been healing all my life, it takes a long time to be healed, but one thing we have to share with the other people (is) our pain that we went through."

Towegishig says he was glad that he attended the Orange Shirt Day Walk.

"It's good to see young people want to learn what we've gone through," Towegishig says.

Thank You, Airlines!

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



Community

Matawa Co-Op features local Indigenous artisans

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Constance Lake's Steven Martin shared his cedar leaf essential oil products at the Matawa Health Co-operative's Indigenous Artisan Market at the Matawa Training and Wellness Centre in Thunder Bay.

"I make products using cedar leaf essential oil that I produce," Martin says. "I make balms and candles, bath salts, bar soaps. All my products are 100 per cent natural. I have a very high return rate, especially from Elders."

Martin says cedar is a spiritual medicine.

"We all recognize its power and its effect in our lives," Martin says. "I use steam, which distills the essential oils out of the cedar leaf."

Martin says he collects the cedar leaves from the traditional lands around his community.

"I travel far out to get mine," Martin says. "I do everything on my own, I collect the cedar leaf, I cut it down, I use steam distillation, then I make the body products myself."

Martin says he began making his cedar leaf essential oil products about five years ago.

"It was sort of a hobby, it was something I wanted to do for close friends and family," Martin says. "As I advanced in the business, I started to see the demand for this product was so high I decided to go into it full

time and to initiate a full scale business."

Martin says people who are interested in his products can reach him at www.facebook.com/p/Martin-Cedar-Products-61577002415525/.

Kaija Saarinen, health promotions worker at Matawa Health Co-operative, says the Indigenous Artisan Market featured a variety of arts and crafts for all ages.

"We have tons of different stuff, a lot of beading, a lot of sewing, ribbon shirts, ribbon skirts," Saarinen says. "We just wanted to showcase any of our Indigenous vendors, whether they are Matawa members or not. It is really amazing work and it's a lot of work, so we really want these people to be able to continue with it and support themselves."

Saarinen says she has been enjoying the use of Martin's cedar leaf essential oil balm after previously purchasing it from him.

"It's just really soothing," Saarinen says. "It just smells amazing and it really does work and it makes you feel good, but I found even when they were setting up we walked in here and the smell hit us and that is enough to just make you feel amazing."

Saarinen says their new building includes a smudge room with ventilation next to the cultural room where the Indigenous Artisan Market was held.

"We do have an Elder in residence," Saarinen says, noting they usually have smudges on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons. "So we always start and end the week in a really good way. It's a good way to refresh and just really take the load off."

Saarinen says they also hold Elders events once a month in the cultural room for the Matawa Elders.

"And we've got our community garden outside and we're already getting quite a bit of harvest, which is great because we do have a lot of issues with food security," Saarinen says. "So people are coming to the garden, they're learning about growing their own food but we're also able to use it for our Elders meals and send them home with some veggies."

Karen MacDougall, public health nurse at Matawa Health Co-operative, says it was great to have the space to host the Indigenous Artisan Market in their new building.

"It's great that we have programs like this developing where we have vendors coming and we have events in the cultural room," MacDougall says. "The new building is great, it's lovely that we're all in the same building because we used to be split in three different locations. Now we're all under one roof so it feels more cohesive as a working group to have everybody together."

Homicide investigation begins landfill search

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler recently stressed the importance of the search for evidence, including partial human remains, at the Thunder Bay Solid Waste and Recycling Facility as part of the homicide investigation into the death of Deborah Anishinabie. The Thunder Bay Police Service announced on Sept. 22 that they are, with assistance from Ontario Provincial Police and the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, conducting a search for evidence beginning on that day at the Thunder Bay Solid Waste and Recycling Facility.

"It's important that the investigation continues to look for the evidence related to Deborah's death and to ensure that the Crown, once this goes to trial, that they have strong evidence against the suspect so that Deborah and her family can have some measure of justice," Fiddler says on Oct. 3. "(The search) needs to be meticulous, and of course that will take time to cover the area that they want to cover. We just hope that they are able to find what they are looking for."

Anishinabie, 42, was reported missing in early December 2024. After an extensive search was launched by police, members of her family and community, Thunder Bay Police Service officers located a deceased individual on Dec. 14.

A suspect was arrested by members of the Thunder Bay

Police Service's Major Crimes Unit and Intelligence Unit on Dec. 17 and charged with indignity to a human body, and as a result of the continued investigation, the suspect was also charged with second-degree murder.

Anishinabie's family, with support from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Executive Council, released a statement on Sept. 22, as follows:

"Deborah will always be remembered for her radiant, bubbly spirit and the warmth she carried wherever she went. She had a way of lighting up every room, making people feel seen, heard and loved. She was eagerly pursuing a career in health care, and her determination, strength and kindness inspired not only her classmates but also everyone fortunate enough to cross her path. Deborah was devoted to her family. We were her heart, just as she is ours. Deborah was never far from us, constantly checking in with friends and loved ones. She always had so much love to give. In her work, she poured every ounce of that same compassion into the people she cared for.

Deborah had a unique gift – one that left a mark on every soul she touched."

The NAN Executive Council has issued the following statement:

"We had always hoped that Deborah would be returned to her loving family. Our prayers are with her family, friends, and everyone in Sandy Lake who are suffering and continue to

grieve. We ask the Creator to give them strength during the difficult days ahead.

This investigation has been heartbreaking, and the next phase of this investigation will be especially difficult for the family. We have joined them in ceremony as they prepared for today's announcement and will continue to support them in any way possible.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the investigators, Thunder Bay Police Service, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, the City of Thunder Bay, and everyone who has supported the family throughout this difficult process. We will continue to support them throughout the investigative process to ensure they receive the justice they deserve."

The Thunder Bay Police Service is asking anyone with information related to the investigation to contact them at 807-684-1200. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.p3tips.com.

NAN encourages all those who are grieving to seek support and care from loved ones, community resources and mental health professionals. Anyone requiring emotional support or assistance is urged to contact: NAN Hope at 1-844-NAN-HOPE (626-4673), First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line at 1-855-242-3310 or Beendigen Talk4Healing – For Indigenous Women at 1-888-200-9997.

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Health

Narcise Kakegabon receives successful lung transplant

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Long Lake #58 Councillor Narcise Kakegabon is feeling better thanks to a lung transplant this past April after being diagnosed with a terminal lung disease in 2016.

“The thing now is for me to watch out for the rejection, but since I had my surgery it’s been going well,” Kakegabon says. “I wasn’t afraid to die because I knew I had lived a good life and no matter where I went, I knew I was going to wake up somewhere peacefully, either continue on with my life or somewhere else in the spirit world. So going through that and having a positive mindset really helped me get through this whole situation.”

Kakegabon says he had decided to live his life the way he wanted to after being diagnosed in 2016.

“At that time it wasn’t the right time for me to give up because I knew I had an opportunity to go and share what I had to share and I had a lot left in me to share with the people and the students,” Kakegabon says.

Kakegabon says he was told he had seven years to live, but he made it to eight years before he began to get worse.

“The symptoms were lack of oxygen, every time I would get up and move my oxygen levels would drop down to the low 70s,” Kakegabon says. “The average range is from 88 and up. So they did put me on

an oxygen concentrator to help me with my breathing and my energy level. By the time I had my surgery I was on 12 per cent oxygen that I needed for my activities.”

Kakegabon says he had the lung transplant at Toronto General Hospital, noting that he knows who the person is that passed on and gave him the opportunity for the lung transplant.

“I’m grateful for that but since I had the surgery I never had any complications or any doubts about the lung that I have,” Kakegabon says. “I can walk around, I can dance, I can have lots of opportunities with my children, my grandchildren, it gives me all that time.”

Kakegabon says he was not able to do activities with his youngest son and his grandchildren before the lung transplant.

“But now I’m able to do things and pick up where I should be doing things with my grandchildren and my youngest son,” Kakegabon says. “Spiritually, I’m thankful for the guidance I had, I always had my faith in God so I never gave up my faith in where I was going to end up and it really helped me a lot.”

Kakegabon says his medical team wanted him to focus on gaining his strength back during the first three months after the lung transplant.

“Once the surgery was done I was immobile for a while, it takes a lot out of you,” Kakegabon says. “So now I’m building up my strength, I’m able to



Long Lake #58 Councillor Narcise Kakegabon enjoyed being able to participate in Lakehead University’s Fall Harvest on Sept. 20 after receiving a lung transplant this past April.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

walk and I’m able to do a lot of things. I do have goals set aside and right now it’s day by day, I’m grateful for every day that I wake up.”

Kakegabon says he is currently on immunosuppressant drugs.

“My immune system is really low right now so getting a cold could be pretty hard on me,” Kakegabon says. “It’s going to

be a really big test this winter. We’re getting colds already in my household and I was able to manage them.”

Kakegabon says he is thankful for the support team he had while undergoing treatment.

“When I was living in Toronto I needed a support team and my brother was there, my eldest brother Patrick,” Kakegabon says. “And my post-

support was my daughter after surgery — she helped me out in the post-physio and getting me going. She had a goal to increase my level of activity by each day and that really assisted in my development and getting me home.”

Kakegabon says he is thankful that he can now attend events such as Lakehead University’s Fall Harvest on Sept. 20.

“Right now being out and checking out all these people here at Lakehead University putting on this great event for the students, it’s good and it’s very diverse,” Kakegabon says. “(They) have a lot of people here from different nationalities.”



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Guidance

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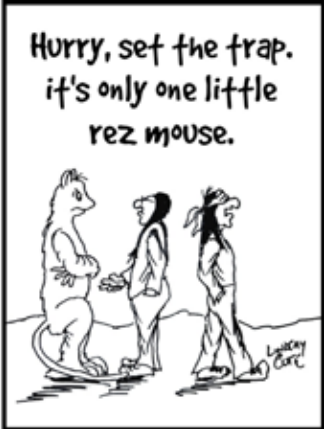
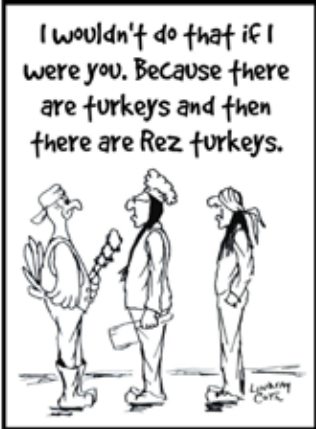
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Job Posting



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

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

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

Mandate

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

Mission

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

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

Location: Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins

Position Summary:

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

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

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

Governance, Strategy Development, Planning and Reporting

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

Community and Relationship Management

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

Operational Management

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

Staff and Contractor Management and Leadership

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

Financial Management

- Prepares and presents an annual budget to the Board for approval complete with all supporting background information and documentation; and
- Establishes financial controls in relation to undertaking and monitoring the activities of Wawatay Communications Society against the approved budget and provides monthly (or more frequently, as necessary) reports to the Board on the performance of Wawatay Communications Society against the approved budget.

Job Knowledge:

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

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

QUALIFICATIONS:

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

The Position will be Posted until Filled Start Date: ASAP

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

Board Chair Nick Day nickday@sandylakefn.com

Board Vice Chair Vivian Waswa vivianw@wunnumin.ca

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

