

Education



Hoop dancers Kimberly Mason and Charisma Mason shared some of their hoop dance moves with students during their Creating Stories Through Our Hoops workshop at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School's DFC Experience on Sept. 15 in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News



Superior Screen Printing's Uriel Lubuk showed a student how to make a screen printed t-shirt during his T-Shirt Making workshop.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

DFC experience featured hoop dancing, sports and arts workshops

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Screen printed t-shirts, hoop dancing, dramatic arts and chocolate chip cookies were featured during 11 DFC Experience workshops at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School on Sept. 15 in Thunder Bay. The DFC Experience workshops also included Science North's I Like to Move It Move It + Gaming Revolution, Neechee Studio's Charcoal Drawing, Mackinley's Delusions's Magic, LU Athletics' Volleyball, Basketball and Boot Hockey and Sarah Kae's Song-writing.

"It was fun, I loved the design," says Laci Rae, a Grade 11 DFC student from Sandy Lake, during Superior Screen Printing's T-Shirt Making workshop. "My favourite one was the dog but I wish the ink was black. I hope I can print some of my artwork on the t-shirts one day too."

Uriel Lubuk, from Superior Screen Printing, shared the art

of screen printing with the students.

"It's great to see (students) engaged and paying attention," Lubuk says. "We put an image of the art teacher at DFC, Greg Chomut's face, on a shirt and it seems to be a hit."

Kimberly Mason and Charisma Mason, Fisher River Cree citizens from Manitoba, showed the students how to do some hoop dance moves during their Creating Stories Through Our Hoops workshop.

"We taught them about putting your effort into goals that you would like to achieve, about the history of hoop dancing, a bit about us and some moves and footwork," Kimberly says. "We've been doing it for about eight years."

"We learned from a couple of different people, we went to powwows and watched the dancers there and just stared at their footwork and what they did in the moves," Charisma says. "(The DFC students) learned fast, it was a good class."

Kyle Nobess, an actor and

official host of the Wake the Giant Music Festival, and Mattmac, a music producer and recording artist and the Wake the Giant 2023 Emerging Artist, enjoyed delivering their Dramatic Arts workshop, which included a question and answer session.

"This has been a passion of mine for many years bringing education in filmmaking and acting and photography to First Nations youth," Nobess says. "Just to give them the exposure and the hands-on training is super important because there's so much potential for us and opportunities in media, so just to kind of let them know it is possible has been a huge passion and mission of ours."

"This is good, we got to talk to people, we got to talk to the youth so this was amazing," Mattmac says. "I've been writing and recording for about four years. I've just always been into music, I've just always been singing as a kid and kind of grew up with it."

Caleb Fox, a Grade 11 DFC

student from Mishkeegogamang, enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the chocolate chip cookie competition, which his team won, during Chef Hayden Johnston's Chocolate Chip Cookies workshop.

"I was under pressure a lot," Fox says, noting that this was the first time he had made cookies. "It was fun."

Johnston, chef at Richmond Station in Toronto who is originally from Thunder Bay, says they usually do a dish or a technique or a recipe that is fun for the students every year for DFC Experience.

"This year we picked cookies and we made a larger batch — my hope is the students will then take their baked cookies and go and make some friends with them in the hallways," Johnston says. "Everyone likes chocolate chip cookies including kids and it's a pretty easy and transferrable recipe and skill and I thought it was something that everyone would be into."

Nolan Aysanabee, a Grade 11 student who was recently



A group of students mix up a bowl of chocolate chip cookie ingredients during Chef Hayden Johnston's Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

elected as DFC student chief, looks forward to participating in the Wake the Giant Music Festival.

"I'm going to be saying a speech," Aysanabee says. "I'm going to be hyping the crowd."

Thank You, Airlines!

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Education



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education president Lorrie Deschamps, Lakehead University president and vice-chancellor Gillian Siddall, Confederation College president Kathleen Lynch and Maadaadizi planning committee lead Leona Scanlon participated in the Maadaadizi Orientation on Sept. 9 at Marina Park in Thunder Bay.

Maadaadizi orientation welcomes Indigenous students to Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute, Lakehead University and Confederation College held the annual Maadaadizi Orientation to welcome and celebrate Indigenous students on Sept. 9 at Marina Park in Thunder Bay.

“I always enjoy this event, it’s been going on for about seven years now and it’s always nice to welcome our post-secondary students to Thunder Bay,” says Lorrie Deschamps, president at Oshki-Wenjack. “We had our orientation yesterday and it was really nice to see our students on campus. We can’t wait to see you graduate and cross our stage, in June of every year we have our graduation. We’re really hoping you enjoy your time on our campuses and that you are not afraid to ask for help, we’re all here to assist you

achieve your goals and your education.”

Deschamps says enrolment is up at Oshki-Wenjack, noting that they started up their newest program, Bachelor of Social Work, in May. Provided in partnership with Algoma University, the program was designed for Social Service Worker and Social Service Worker—Indigenous Specialization graduates to enable them to continue their learning.

“We have over 20 students in the program,” Deschamps says. “A lot of our students were asking for a degree program. We had our first on-campus session last May, it was a big learning experience, the students are very happy and they come back to us on Sept. 10.”

Gillian Siddall, the new president and vice-chancellor at Lakehead University, says although this was her first time at the Maadaadizi Orientation,

she was previously at Lakehead University for about 17 years.

“I’m absolutely delighted to be back as Lakehead’s president now,” Siddall says, noting that she welcomes the new students at Lakehead University. “We welcome you, we care about you, we want you to succeed and I can’t wait to meet all of you.”

Siddall says one of the new initiatives at Lakehead University is a partnership with the University of Guelph to start up a veterinary program.

“(It’s) designed for having vets in the north, including Indigenous vets,” Siddall says. “We’re very excited about this project. It will be training vets in the north for the north. I’d like to see the vet school get going and start bringing in students within the next couple of years.”

Siddall says another goal is to build the Gichi Kendaasiwin

Centre at Lakehead University.

“I would love to see that come to completion so we would have dedicated space on Lakehead University for Indigenous faculty, staff and students and Indigenous community partners,” Siddall says.

Kathleen Lynch, president at Confederation College, says it was great to work together with Oshki-Wenjack and Lakehead University to welcome the students.

“We want you to have a safe and happy year — at Confederation College, we’re happy to

say our Indigenous enrolment has increased significantly this year,” Lynch says. “For students who are at Confederation College, check out APIWIN, our Indigenous student centre. We have lots of supports there for you, you can make lots of great connections, so as (emcee Brent Edwards) said, we want to see you cross the stage (and) we want to support you to be successful.”

Lynch says they are offering a new Bachelor of Science and Nursing program this year.

“That’s taken a lot of work to

get that off the ground, and it’s full so we’re really happy with that,” Lynch says. “We have a lot of people that can come up from Practical Nursing and go into the degree program — we offer the Practical Nursing so it’s a nice dovetail right in. We’ve got great simulation labs and mannequins and lots of hands-on opportunities, so I think the students are going to really enjoy it.”


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Commentary

It Is Time For An Indigenous Prime Minister



**Xavier
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE
NORTHERN SKY

I feel like a survivor at times and there is good reason for that. As an Indigenous person living in this time and country I have seen so much happen over the past four decades of my life. The sad reality is that I have lost many young and Elders close to me over the years through tragic situations. No doubt about it I can point to colonization with issues like residential schools, racism, poverty, addictions and violence as the cause for all of the hardships Indigenous people have had to deal with over the past few hundred years. The problem is that things are not getting better fast enough. Too many of my people are still living very difficult lives and we have to move more quickly to make things better over the next decade. It is up to all of us to be aware of the problems and challenges we are facing and to put in place real solutions that help us heal from the injustices of the past and focus on changing our world and in doing so making life for everyone on Mother Earth better for everyone. In a report by Amnesty International it is pointed out that Indigenous peoples have a life expectancy that is 20 years lower than non Indigenous population. The reality is that we have high rates of poverty, malnutrition, unemployment and we suffer from all kinds of addictions that are more like epidemics in our First Nation communities right across Canada. The fact is that a lot of these issues result in people making mistakes and bad choices which ends up with breaking the law and ending up with incarceration. Our jails in Canada are filled with Indigenous people at higher rates than those who are non Indigenous. What could we possibly expect if our young people are growing up having to deal with extreme poverty, racism, addictions and a feeling of hopelessness? One of the most important quotes I have ever seen came to me when reading Les Mis-

erables by Victor Hugo so many years ago. That quote hit me like a lightening bolt and has stayed with me ever since. It is “If the soul is left in darkness, sins will be committed; the guilty one is not he who commits the sin but he who causes the darkness”. If you think about it this quote really challenges us to think more deeply as human beings to consider why things are like they are for so many of my people who have made and are making bad decisions. The problem is that we do not as a society really do our best to produce democracies that are dedicated to making life better for everyone. Most of us just don’t care as long as we are comfortable and have everything we want. Although we are making some progress for Indigenous people over the past few decades we still have not seen most treaties settled by governments and we still don’t have clean drinking water in many remote Indigenous communities across this country. To add insult to injury we have had to deal with impostors in the arts, business and academics claiming to be Indigenous to reap any rewards that have been afforded to my people by governments and organizations over the past few decades. It bothers me so much and saddens me to see these pretendindians reaping the benefits of their deception and without governments, businesses and organizations both- ering to check the validity and proof of their connections to claiming Indigenous heritage. It is infuriating. How are my people ever going to heal if this kind of situation continues. I see now that there is a movement all across the planet where more right wing and even fascist types of government are taking over and that really scares me. We see signs of this creeping far right wing fascism all across this country and I can’t imagine how things are going to get better for any of us with these, nasty, racist, homophobic power brokers in place. What we really need soon is an Indigenous Prime Minister and members of parliament representing a fair minded and generous parties. Let’s get behind that idea.

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Northwestern Ontario communities come together at Nuclear Exploration Event



submitted photo

Hundreds of people from Ignace, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and surrounding communities came together to learn more about nuclear energy, nuclear safety, community willingness, local environmental research and more at the recent Northwest Nuclear Exploration Event hosted by the Township of Ignace. Virtual reality headsets gave visitors the opportunity to take a virtual tour of Finland’s deep geological repository.

Extremes of Weather Continue



**Graham
Saunders**

WEATHER

Before I begin to write this column, I check back to what I said in recent months. I don’t want to make a mistake or repeat myself. Way back in April the topics included drought conditions in Western Canada, El Niño with warmer water temperature in the Pacific Ocean and predictions for a warmer than average summer. At the time I had no idea that these themes were going to persist as they have. In late spring and through the summer months the themes were: how the worst wildfire season on record was evolving, the dangers of smoke and how government policy was not addressing the “climate emergency”, such as a history of cutting aspects of emergency fire fighting services in Ontario and Alberta. Climate scientists have been predicting more intense fire seasons for decades. As Xavier Kataquapit wrote in his July column, “They told us the fires were coming”. For 15 years my work included assessing and predicting fire behavior of large or “project” wildfires in different locations in northern Ontario. I have been following this year’s fire situation on a daily basis. In recent articles I have given updates on the extent of area burned by wildfires this sum-

mer. I find thinking of numbers in the millions for hectares (17,330,903 as of Sept. 15) or acres (42,825,594) too hard to visualize and prefer to compare to the area of the Great Lakes. Last month the total burn area in Canada was equivalent to the total area of Lakes Superior and Huron, the two greatest of the Great Lakes. Now, in mid-September, this grim comparison includes Lake Erie and Lake Nipigon. There continues to be persistent drought in Western Canada and El Niño becomes more potent. What about that warmer than average summer? This is more complicated. The summer season was much warmer than average in western Canada and warmer than average in eastern Canada. Looking back at summer in Northern Ontario As readers may recall from previous editions of Wawatay, June was both warmer and drier than average in most areas of the region. In July, temperatures were close to long-term normals. Rainfall is more difficult to summarize because most rain in the summertime is associated with thunderstorms which is quite variable in timing and location. Substantial rainfall word occurred some areas especially in Northeastern Ontario. The Northwest featured slightly drier conditions than normal in the Thunder Bay area and higher amounts of rainfall to the north. Adding August to the mix changed a few things. It was cooler than average in North-

eastern Ontario and the final week of August included frost or close to frost in many locations. Temperatures were close to normal in the Northwest. Overall, for the summer season (June, July and August) temperatures were average in the Northeast and slightly warmer than usual the Northwest. Another way to assess summer warmth is to count the days which had temperatures of 30°C and higher. I explored this topic in part because I heard a news item that stated that the only major city in Ontario that had recorded 30°C and higher in August was Thunder Bay. This seemed unlikely because cities like Windsor, Sarnia, Toronto and other locations in southern Ontario are warmer than Thunder Bay and typically have multiple days at or above this threshold. Sure enough, the maximum temperature for a major Ontario city was 30.8°C which turned out to be in Thunder Bay on August 2. No other city was warmer than this in August. Quite odd. Then I was curious about the total number of days this year so far with 30°C and higher across the region. The Thunder Bay total was 6, Sioux Lookout had 4, Geraldton had 6 and Moosonee had, surprisingly, 11. August rainfall amounts were highly variable as they were in July. A corridor from Geraldton to Hudson Bay received considerably more rainfall than average but large areas both to the west and east received less rainfall than normal. Moisture deficiencies were most pronounced from Kapuskasing to James Bay.

September heat wave

Weather oddities have continued in September. Most areas in Northern Ontario had multiple days with temperatures 30°C and higher. Many daily records were set for high temperatures and the Humidex (feels like) readings of 40 and higher were experienced in Moosonee and Thunder Bay.

Outlook for September and beyond

Temperatures are likely to continue to be above normal in Northern Ontario for the rest of September and into October. For precipitation, there is no clear signal. Often El Niño is associated with below normal precipitation during the fall season in Northern Ontario. The present El Niño has strengthened much more rapidly than anticipated. In winter, a strong El Nino is typically responsible for warmer temperatures, less snow and more rain in Northern Ontario. A recent news item reports that the Ontario government delayed release of the report, “Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment”. The report was completed January 2023 but only released very recently. The report details the many expected impacts of climate change in Ontario. Why the delay? Next month we will take a look at this report.

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Community



Fort William Historical Park’s Anishinaabe Keeshigun powwow featured a variety of dancers on Aug. 19-20.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Anishinaabe Keeshigun holds 2023 Powwow

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The origin of the jingle dress in Whitefish Bay was highlighted during the powwow at Fort William Historical Park’s Anishinaabe Keeshigun weekend gathering on Aug. 19-20. The powwow featured regional dancers and drum groups on both days and a community feast on Aug. 19.

“Today, women who wear this dress, they are praying for people, they are shaking their jingles to call those spirits in,” says Georgina Redsky, a jingle dress dancer from Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinabek. “When we engage in those practices, they come and help us, they come and love us, they come

and support us. So that is your time to pray for someone who is having a hard time or to pray for yourself when we’re having these powwow ceremonies.”

Kelvin Redsky, emcee at the powwow, says he encouraged one of his sons to participate in the powwow.

“I’m always pushing him to be part of this circle, part of this way of life,” Kelvin says. “This is who you are, this is your identity, your identity is very beautiful.”

James Angus, a drummer from Fort William, says the powwow is healing, empowering and life giving.

“It’s good to see everyone again after a long hiatus,” Angus says. “It’s fulfilling, you go home with a feeling of well-

being, all of your other stresses and cares seem to melt away to the ground. Seeing all these kind people here and the kind men I’m singing with and seeing another traditional drum here, it just gives air beneath your wings and lifts you up so you can soar.”

Angus says he previously participated at the Anishinaabe Keeshigun powwow in about 2014.

“But when COVID-19 hit, it hit everybody, it hit singers, it hit drums, it hit people,” Angus says. “You keep up with practices but getting back into a full circle like this is really good, and here’s an example — I have a gentleman who mentored me to my left, and (he) left me a songbook that is very thick and rich because he enabled me when I

couldn’t sing very well yet.

He left that songbook for me but not only that, the meaning behind the songs and where they came from so when I want to sing that song I could feel good about having permission to do so.”

Melissa Roberts, a bear dancer from Thunder Bay, says it is always an honour to be able to dance with mahkwa (bear).

“She was gifted to me by my brother a number of years ago and I went to ceremony to ask ... the great spirit bear for permission to dance for people who can’t dance for themselves and to share her message and her teachings of courage and being brave in difficult times,” Roberts says. “So it’s always an honour to be able to be in the

circle with her. Mahkwa and I have been dancing together for probably five years now, it seems like a lot longer but she’s taken us to a whole bunch of different places and we’ve met all kinds of wonderful people.”

Fort William Elder Sheila DeCorte says this was the first time that she sang with the Sisters of Turtle Island drum group at the powwow.

“This was the first time that the Sisters of Turtle Island have been invited to come and sing at Anishinaabe Keeshigun,” DeCorte says. “It’s an honour to be able to sing and give the big drums a break because there’s only two drums.”

Anishinaabe Keeshigun also featured a variety of scheduled artisan teachings on wood carv-

ing by Alicia Brink, moccasins and leather work by Audrey Deroy, snowshoe weaving by Darren Lentz, birch bark biting and beading by Sister Bear Designs, birch bark canoe building and quillwork; food samples including bakwezhigan (bannock), corn roast, smoked fish, strawberry drink and wild rice; and activities and contests including double ball and baggataway (lacrosse) and atlatl (spear throwing), a visit to the Anishinaabe Encampment, ancient archaeology and flint knapping with Clarence Surette, crafts including leather medicine bag and sacred colour beaded bracelets, an Arrival of the Hunters drama and baggataway accuracy and bannock making contests.

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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
A group of children enjoyed creating t-shirts during a t-shirt design activity led by volunteer Pam Cain during Evergreen a United Neighbourhood's 10th anniversary celebration on Aug. 21 in Thunder Bay.

Evergreen United Neighbourhood celebrates 10th anniversary

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Evergreen a United Neighbourhood celebrated its 10th anniversary with an open house, a barbecue and a t-shirt design activity on Aug. 21 in Thunder Bay.

"Ten years ago this week me and three summer students moved our donated furniture into the building and we started doing programming," says Linda Bruins, executive director at Evergreen a United Neighbourhood. "This is our first community opening since COVID-19. We used to do weekly barbecues at Minnesota Park, so to have our older youth come back and all the different ages is just truly wonderful because (there's) lots of great memories."

Bruins says two of the youth who attended Evergreen a United Neighbourhood years ago and went on to complete their university studies returned for the 10th anniversary.

"Now they're both working professionals," Bruins says. "So I'm just really heart warmed because it was a lot of work, I helped do demolition on this building actually with my own two hands."

Jarrold Grasely, one of the two youth who attended years ago, says he enjoyed the sense of community at Evergreen a United Neighbourhood.

"It was nice to see they've made it to 10 years and more," Grasely says. "It's just a nice place to come, sit, talk and honestly have fun. I've spent a couple of years not coming back just because things got busy, but it's nice that no matter when you show up the community just knows to come together and have fun together no matter what time it is."

Jimmy Tsang, one of the two youth who attended years ago, says he met many people at Evergreen a United Neighbourhood.

"I've been coming here (for) about 10 years now," Tsang says. "Linda is like a second mother to me at this point. When we were younger we had a youth council that would help plan events and everything. It was just a fun time, we got together probably every week

for about an hour or two, just messed around and came up with some great ideas for great events and made everyone happy."

Pam Cain, an arts volunteer at Evergreen a United Neighbourhood who used to do neighbourhood arts projects with the organization when she was previously employed with the Community Arts and Heritage Education Project, says she did a t-shirt design activity with the children and youth at the 10th anniversary.

"It's a process of black t-shirts with diluted bleach using stencils," Cain says. "They are able to create their own design and come up with a unique t-shirt. It kind of goes orange where it's been bleached and then you neutralize it with the hydrogen peroxide. They've got their names on it, they've got little patterns on it, all sorts of things."

Cain says the children and youth enjoyed the t-shirt design activity.

"They enjoy hands-on activities and something that's going to be uniquely theirs that they can take and wear, and even making them as gifts for their grandparents or their caregivers or brothers or sisters," Cain says.

Sharon Kanutski, a board member at Evergreen a United Neighbourhood, says it is important to keep the community together, noting that she and her partner Ron Kanutski recently donated \$1,000 from their shirt sales to the organization.

"We do what we can alongside everybody else," Kanutski says. "It gives a place for the kids to go, which is mostly the thing I was always wanting to do right from the beginning is somewhere for my kids to go play and meet friends in a safe place."

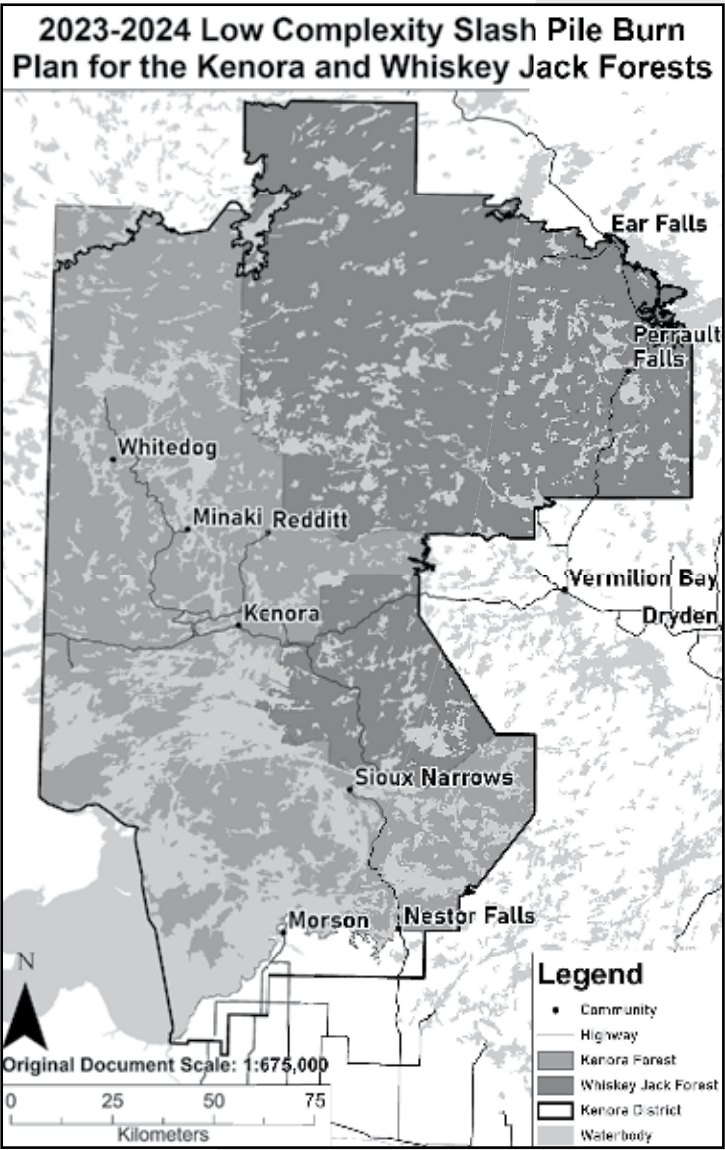
Kanutski says her children liked going to Evergreen a United Neighbourhood.

"They have fun, they enjoy the events and they have fun with the other kids and with their friends," Kanutski says. "I'm just happy we made it this far and got the house and it's all settled and everything is going well."

INSPECTION

Inspection of MNRF-Approved Prescribed Burn Plans for Slash Pile Burning for the Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved prescribed burn plans for slash pile burning that will be carried out in the **Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests** (see map).



As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the guidelines of the MNRF's *Prescribed Burn Manual*. The prescribed burn will reduce the area covered in slash piles while increasing the area available for regeneration and reducing the fire hazard. The burns are scheduled for ignition between **November 1, 2023** and **November 31, 2023**.

The approved prescribed burn plans for slash pile burning, including specific locations and maps, are available for public inspection by contacting Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> until **March 31, 2024**, when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a virtual or in-person meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the prescribed burn plans. For more information, please contact:

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Community

Wequedong Lodge shows plans for building addition



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Wequedong Lodge’s plans to build an addition to their building was featured during their 2nd Annual BBQ on Sept. 14 in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Wequedong Lodge’s 2nd Annual BBQ on Sept. 14 featured presentations on a planned addition in the lot beside the current building and donations from the Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup. The BBQ also featured a keynote

and music by Susan Aglukark, entertainment by the Sisters of Turtle Island Drumming Group during lunch and comments by Thunder Bay Acting Mayor Rajni Agarwal about a \$108,000 community partnership grant for Wequedong Lodge as well as by representatives from Lowery’s, Superior Foods and Gateway Casino

about their support for the project. “The design for Wequedong Lodge is really the result of numerous discussions and conversations and interpretations of what the staff need, how many clients are coming to the lodge, which is growing daily,” says Sean Serino, project lead and architect at Serino Architects.

“There’s capacity every single day and a lot of money being used to house people outside of Wequedong Lodge’s current building. The design that we have responds to not only the current needs but hopefully their future needs and then even beyond that.” Serino says the first objective of the design was addressing the

critical shortage of rooms. “Currently there’s about 100 rooms in the existing facility and with the additions and renovations into this building, we’re looking at close to 305 rooms and depending on funding, we might be able to increase that number too,” Serino says. “In addition to that is finding more functional spaces for the staff at Wequedong Lodge so they can assist in providing their clients the care they need or the space they need to be here and to come from afar, and that means an expanded kitchen area, more efficient and centralized laundry facilities, janitorial spaces, service spaces, the whole gamut that would go into a 300-room hotel if you will.” Titus Semple, co-organizer of the Casey Tait Memorial Klik Cup, says they turned the original Klik Cup into a fundraising tournament in 2018 after Casey Tait passed away. “Every year we raise some dollars and we give them to the long-term dialysis patients that reside here,” Semple says. “In the first two years I think we averaged about \$5,000-6,000 each of those years and then COVID-19 happened. Last year we did it again and we raised over \$50,000 in one weekend. And then this year we raised about \$40,000. Before last year we used to give out all the money right away, but what was suggested for us to do was give a portion of the funds to the recipients and save the rest as an emergency fund.”

Semple says they were able to help people last year who found apartments in Thunder Bay to get furniture. “For one family we were able to outfit their entire house with couches, beds, dressers, everything,” Semple says. “It was a good feeling to do that, but it was also a good way to honour our friend and to remember him and to continue his legacy of who he was. Casey didn’t have very much, but he always found a way to help others and that’s why we wanted to do this, to continue that about him.” Donna Kroocmo, executive director at Wequedong Lodge, says they need more rooms in the facility, noting that they currently have to place clients in hotel rooms. “I don’t think there’s been enough exposure about how badly needed it is,” Kroocmo says. “There are certain times of the year where we are over 500 (clients). We will no longer have clients sleeping on cots, that’s our goal.” Kroocmo says one of the issues with placing clients in hotels is that they are not culturally appropriate for the clients. “Number two, they have no security like we do,” Kroocmo says. “It’s not a healing environment the way I believe it needs to be for people that are coming in for medical reasons, and that’s 100 per cent of our clientele. So we need to have a more serene hospitable environment for them, more like home away from home for them.”



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Tikinagan

Child & Family Services



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HONOURING OUR CHILDREN ALL SUMMER!

Tikinagan’s Annual Honouring Our Children Day is all about honouring the children in care throughout the 30 Northwestern Ontario First Nations that the agency serves. Honouring Our Children Day is an opportunity to demonstrate Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin – “Everybody working together to raise our children” – and show our children and families they are important.

Be part of a community that holds our children up and carries them forward.

Celebrate in your community this summer!



LEARN MORE AT [TIKINAGAN.ORG/HOCDAY](https://www.tikinagan.org/hocday)

Bearskin Lake held a celebration of its connection to the provincial power grid.

see POWER page 10

www.bazaarandnovelty.ca



submitted photo

Power grid connection will bring fuel transportation relief

“Today’s announcement will ensure Bearskin Lake First Nation can transition away from diesel power and access clean, reliable electricity,” Hajdu says. “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. Thanks to Indigenous leaders, work continues and we won’t stop until every First Nations community is connected to the grid.”



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Learn more about how we are developing collaborative solutions for managing used nuclear fuel in alignment with Indigenous Knowledge.


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Community

First Nations announce decision to partner with Hydro One to develop new Greenfield Transmission Line from Wawa to Porcupine

Xavier Kataquapit
Special to Wawatay News

Wabun Tribal Council Chiefs have announced their support to partner with Hydro One to develop an important power line project in Northeastern Ontario. The Wabun Chiefs undertook a comparative analysis of prospective private sector partners, assisted by expert consultation. The clear decision is that Hydro One provides the best way forward in terms of ability to perform and deliver, and that Hydro One offers a fair and equitable 50-50 partnership and has a proven track record with equity partnerships.

"This is an opportunity we welcome, as Wabun Tribal

Council and our member First Nations are well positioned to partner with Hydro One on this Transmission Infrastructure Partnership. We have been left out of the loop historically in terms of development on our traditional lands, so this partnership with Hydro One is one more example that there is reconciliation at work in real time. The Ontario government's support to make this partnership project happen will go a long way to healing on the road to reconciliation," explained Chief Chad Boissoneau of Mattagami First Nation.

The five Wabun communities make up a majority of the potential coalition of First Nation communities that are



proximate to the proposed project. The developmental coalition includes the Wabun First Nations of Mattagami, Brunswick House, Matachewan, Flying Post and Chapeau Ojibwe.

The decision to partner with Hydro One came after an extensive review of the propo-

nents' proposals and included the independent review of consultants and financial experts. Partnering with Hydro One, an Ontario distribution and transmission company, will ensure that the Nations have access to the necessary financial backing and expertise required to complete the transmission line.

Wabun Tribal Council Executive Director Jason Batise explained that the partnership with Hydro One is important in terms of economic development and pointed out that Wabun Tribal Council is a leader in Indigenous success working with resource developers in striving towards self sufficiency.

"I am very proud of all the good work our Chiefs have

done over the years in establishing Wabun Tribal Council and its First Nations as leaders in driving economic development. This work has resulted in many agreements and partnerships that honour our traditions and culture as well as protections on an environmental basis," commented Batise. "With a 50 per cent equity stake in the line, these revenues will benefit our communities for generations to come."

"With the assistance of our Wabun Tribal Council administration, we as Wabun Chiefs have reviewed all of the analysis in determining which partner best fits with this huge power line development opportunity and our choice is without

a doubt Hydro One. We trust that the Ontario regulators will provide us with a decision to move this project ahead in a timely manner," said Chief Murray Ray, Flying Post First Nation.

The proposed 230-kilovolt transmission line will span over 260 kilometres and connect the Wawa and Porcupine transmission stations, bringing important benefits to northeastern Ontario and the Indigenous communities in the region.

The Ontario Ministry of Energy is presently undertaking its own comparative analysis to select a transmission company to develop the new greenfield line.



**Indian
Boarding
Homes
Class Action**

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING (SHORT FORM)

Indian Boarding Homes Class Action

Were you placed in a private home by Canada for the purpose of attending school? If yes, please read this notice carefully because it affects your legal rights.

WHAT IS THE CLASS ACTION ABOUT?

The Indian Boarding Home Program was an educational program in which the Government of Canada placed children from First Nations communities and Inuit villages in other communities (usually non-Indigenous) to stay with private families for the purpose of attending school. The class action alleges that Canada's actions in creating, operating, and maintaining the Indian Boarding Home Program were wrong. These actions created an environment where children were abused, harassed, and suffered other harms. The prolonged absence from family and community also caused loss of culture, language, and community bonding.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

The classes are defined as follows:

a) Primary Class: Individuals who were placed in private homes, during the period of September 1, 1951 and June 30, 1992, for the purpose of attending school, not including placements for post-secondary education. Individuals placed after June 30, 1992, are also included if Canada was responsible for their placement.

b) Family Class: Members of the individual's family who lost the guidance, care, or companionship they could expect from the individual.

To be eligible for compensation, Class Members must have been alive on July 24, 2016.

WHAT BENEFITS DOES THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The proposed settlement must be approved by the Federal Court before compensation will be available to class members. If approved, every Primary Class Member will be eligible for a Category 1 payment of \$10,000: a single payment to anyone who was in the Indian Boarding Homes Program.

You may also apply for Category 2 compensation ranging from \$10,000 to \$200,000 based on the harms that you suffered, such as physical or sexual abuse. You may hire your own lawyer to help prepare your application for Category 2 compensation. In that case, Canada will pay the lawyer an amount equal to 5% (plus tax) of the Category 2 payment you receive.

A foundation will be created to support commemoration, healing, and preserving languages and culture. Canada will pay \$50 million to be administered by the Foundation.

Family Class Members will not receive direct compensation. Their claims will be recognized and addressed by the indirect compensation available through the Foundation's reconciliation projects. More information on compensation can be found in the settlement agreement which is available at www.boardinghomesclassaction.com / www.foyersfamiliauxfederaux.com.

WHAT ARE YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS?

1. Do nothing – If you agree with the proposed settlement, you do not have to take any action now.

2. Show your support – If you agree with the proposed settlement and would like the court to consider your support, you must write to either of the lawyers listed below. You must write no later than **August 25, 2023**.

3. File an objection – If you disagree with the proposed settlement and would like the court to consider your objection, you must write to one of the law firms listed below. You must send your objection no later than **August 25, 2023**.

4. Participate in the hearing – If you would like to talk to the court in person or by video, you must write to one of the law firms listed below. You must send your request no later than **August 25, 2023**.

5. Watch the hearing – If you would like to watch the hearing, you can attend in Federal Court, 701 W Georgia St., Vancouver, BC, or use the attendee link (public) https://cas-satj.zoom.us/join/register/WN__cOzZSGfQ2-bgs_p3JB_KQ. The hearing will be on September 12, 13, and 14, 2023, starting at 9:30 am PST (later in time zones further east).

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS ACTION?

If the Settlement Agreement is approved, you will be able to exclude yourself ("opt-out") if you do not want to receive compensation under the settlement and wish to keep your right to bring your own lawsuit regarding your participation in the Boarding Homes Program. To exclude yourself, you must submit an Opt Out form before expiry of the Opt Out period. To submit an opt out, please visit www.boardinghomesclassaction.com / www.foyersfamiliauxfederaux.com to obtain an Opt Out form and submit the completed form to one of the law firms listed below. The Opt Out period will be set by the Court and will be at least sixty (60) days from the date on which the Court issues an order regarding approval of the settlement.

WHO ARE THE LAWYERS FOR THE CLASS?

Klein Lawyers LLP
1385 W 8th Avenue #400
Vancouver, BC V6H 3V9
1-604-874-7171
ibhclassaction@callkleinlawyers.com

Dionne Schulze
507 Place d'Armes, Suite 502
Montreal, QC H2Y 2W8
1-514-842-0748
percival@dionneschulze.ca

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you want more information about your rights and options, information about the settlement and details about the settlement approval process in the Indian Boarding Homes Class Action, and see the settlement agreement, please visit the following website at www.boardinghomesclassaction.com / www.foyersfamiliauxfederaux.com.

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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of dancers dance past the Ontario Native Women's Association's Grandmother Earth Dress during ONWA's 6th Annual MMIWG Pow Wow, held on Sept. 10 at the ONWA office in Thunder Bay.

ONWA hosts 6th annual MMIWG Powwow

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Ontario Native Women's Association held its 6th Annual MMIWG Pow Wow on Sept. 10 at the ONWA office in Thunder Bay after its 52nd AGA, Mother Earth: Women Are Medicine – Land. Healing. Roles.

"We gather here today in recognition of ONWA's 6th Annual Pow Wow to honour the lives of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, continue to raise awareness about the ongoing violence and support healing for Indigenous women and their families," says Debra Vermette, board president at ONWA. "We stand in solidarity with all the families impacted by this violence. Indigenous women are the heart of the family, we are the survivors, advocates and change makers who are working to create meaningful change for communities and beyond. The Pow Wow welcomes people of all backgrounds to stand together and make a difference, by coming together you contribute to raising awareness and advocating for the safety of Indigenous women and girls."

Ingrid Green, director of research and evaluation at ONWA, says ONWA's Grandmother Earth Dress carries 365 jingles.

“Each jingle represents the violence that Indigenous women experience throughout their lives and are a call for justice and safety for Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people,” Green says. “The Grandmother Earth Dress is a sacred representation of healing so that families and communities can commemorate their loved ones. We recognize that she has been here before and carries and supports the work of supporting survivors and families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Today is a reminder that we must continue to fight for justice and equality and continue our work towards ending violence against Indigenous women and girls.”

Anishinabek Nation Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy says the work that ONWA does and the difference it makes for families is "truly inspiring."

"You all deserve so much



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

TOP;: Long Lake #58 Elder Corrine Nabigon and a group of dancers dance their styles.

ABOVE: Fort William Chief Michele Solomon speaks about the reality of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

recognition for the outstanding work you have done over the years,” Hardy says. “I would like to especially acknowledge the overwhelming support ONWA has provided to the community during the (COVID-19) pandemic, a critical time when our nations were separated. It is especially encouraging to see the young ones here for they are the ones that we all do this for, to ensure the systematic change is implemented so they do not face unnecessary challenges and barriers.”

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu says she has not forgotten the words of an Elder who told her that the attack on Indigenous women and girls and LGBTQ people will not stop until people stop attacking Mother Earth.

"I've always given credit to the Elders for educating me because I think you're absolutely right, the way we are living as a human species is incredibly violent to the earth that we actually need to protect," Hajdu says. "And that Indigenous people have always known that we are a part of, not that we're over

top of, and that's the difference really when you think about Western ideology and Indigenous spiritual and world belief, that you care for the earth who cares for you in this culture. I wish that more non-Indigenous people understood that and I think that we will get there but it's painful to watch the ongoing onslaught of violence to the earth, to the water, to the trees and the animals."

And William Chief Michele Solomon says she had the privilege of being part of ONWA's MMIWG Pow Wow over the past few years as ONWA's community development manager before being elected as chief.

"It's really been a beautiful Pow Wow to bring together family and loved ones of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls," Solomon says. "I wish we could just gather together and honour these women and that this was no longer an issue that our women have to face every day, but the sad reality is this continues to happen every day as we all know."

Community

2023 Keewaywin award winners

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) recognized six Keewaywin Awards recipients for their outstanding leadership and contributions during the 41st Keewaywin Conference, held Aug. 15-17 at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay. The Keewaywin Awards ceremony was held on the evening of Aug. 16 with Cat Lake's Abraham Keesickquayash recognized with the Emile Nakogee Award for Outstanding Leadership, Sandy Lake's Teri Fiddler recognized with the NAN Elder Award, Bearskin Lake's Ardelle Kamenawatamin recognized with the NAN Woman Award, Kingfisher Lake's Austin Winters recognized with the NAN Youth Award (Leadership), Kashechewan's Layla Metatawabin recognized with the NAN Youth Award (Community Involvement) and Ashley Jellema, mental health training coordinator at NAN, recognized with the NAN Staff Recognition Award.

"I just want to echo Helen Cromarty's words earlier that it is so important that we take the time to acknowledge each other and celebrate our achievements, our accomplishments, our successes," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, who was acclaimed as grand chief earlier in the day. "I know there is so much good work being done in the communities by youth, by Elders, by people that may not necessarily carry a title but their work



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Sandy Lake's Teri Fiddler was recognized with the NAN Elder Award during Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Keewaywin Awards ceremony.

is just as important, and it's important that we take the time to do that to celebrate those wonderful people that make our communities just really dynamic and a really good place to live in for all our kids."

Teri says it was awesome, an honour and a privilege to be recognized with the NAN Elder Award, noting that she has been helping people with healing from grief.

"I see a lot of children here and it just reminds me that one of the teachings I received is when we see a child, they have a spirit that we have to nurture and it's up to us to nurture that spirit," Teri says. "But each of us also are born with a spirit and we have to nurture that spirit we carry in our hearts, with kindness, with compassion, belief in others, faith in others and especially forgiveness and love to each other. Always do a check in on Elders, find out

if they need anything, just ask them if they are OK. A lot of our leadership that have retired need to hear from us, just a phone call, to say hello, how are you doing — we need to lift up our former leaders that have retired. We need to acknowledge each other in a good way all the time."

Kamenawatamin, a telehealth coordinator with Keewaytinook Okimakanak, says it was an honour to be recognized with the NAN Woman Award, noting that she believes the youth are the future.

"In my volunteer time I do sports for the youth," Kamenawatamin says, noting that she has two children aged 11 and 14-years-old. "When I got the call to accept this NAN Woman Award, I was doing a volleyball tournament with Muskrat Dam. It's about a three-hour drive, so they came over. I had six prizes, I had six



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News
Kashechewan's Layla Metatawabin was recognized with the NAN Youth Award (Community Involvement).

teams. That's what I do on my volunteer time, I try and get people out. I like having to be a safe place for them. They're our children, we have to take good care of their feelings, their souls, their hearts, it's very important."

Metatawabin, who will be pursuing her Grade 9 studies at Kapuskasing District High School this fall, says she was proud to be recognized with the NAN Youth Award (Community Involvement).

"I know I worked hard and I was happy (with) whoever submitted my name (for the award)," Metatawabin says. "I'm open to new opportunities and all that stuff, but I also want to take a drama class or join a guitar club or something and work on my music, acting. When I saw the movies, I was just like I want to do that. And I saw that behind the scenes, (they're) meeting different people, making lots of friends and

going different places."

The ceremony also included NAN's acknowledgement of four members of the Oshkaatisak (All Young Peoples) Council who have completed their terms, Kasabonika Lake's Jericho Anderson, Mishkeegogamang's Ashley Bach, Wapekeka's Janine Frogg and Eabametoong's Linden Waboose, for their outstanding leadership over the past five years as well as Crisis Response Team members from the Community Wellness Department, Alarice Petawanikweb, director, Lillian Suganageb, Stewart Kamenawatamin, Tina Scocchia, Destany Johns, Amanda Desaulniers, and Delores Walker, for their response to countless calls for assistance and support.

Information about the 2023 Keewaywin Awards is posted at: www.nan.ca/event/2023-keewaywin-awards/.

OBITUARY



Mary Madeline Wheesk Coatsworth

Mary Madeline Wheesk Coatsworth peacefully passed away August 26, 2023, in Attawapiskat, ON, at the age of 90. The eldest of 10 children, Mary was born to Antoine and Charlotte Wheesk on April 5, 1933, near Attawapiskat. Mary and Richard Ross Coatsworth were married in the Mesa Arizona Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on November 21, 1962, and settled in Toronto. Mary was employed in childcare, dietary aid at Sunnybrook Hospital, hotel housekeeping, and cafeteria service at St. Michael's College School. She found great joy in sending many parcels of personally knit items, clothing, and dried goods to her family in Attawapiskat. She loved her family and was especially close to her niece Pauline Wheesk Hornyak and her nephew Norbert Koostachin. She leaves behind her husband, Richard R. Coatsworth; siblings Agnes Boddy (late Stanley), Ignace Wheesk (Bertha), Remi Wheesk, and Stella Okimaw (Greg); and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. She is predeceased by her parents Antoine and Charlotte Wheesk, and siblings Bernadette, Onisin, Thomas, Evelyn and Alice.



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Arts & Entertainment

Vox Festival featured films about language revitalization

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Films about language revitalization in Mattagami and all-season roads to Marten Falls and Webequie were featured at the Vox Popular Media Arts Festival, held Sept. 7-10 at Definitely Superior Art Gallery in Thunder Bay. The A Language Revitalization Project short documentary was directed by Morningstar Derosier, an Eagle Lake citizen, and Noles Dennhardt and the Bridges to the North feature film was directed by Tony McGuire, a Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinabek citizen.

“I was invited to go and record four Elders in Mattagami,” Derosier says, noting that they spoke with the four Elders over four days. “They were the ones who led the conversation, they told us what they wanted to see happen with language revitalization. So we just kind of went through the history of losing Indigenous languages and then we looked to the future together and how we would like to move forward with reclaiming our languages.” Derosier says they are looking to share the documentary with other communities. “We want to share it online so that more people in different

communities are able to watch it and get inspired and hopefully take action in their own language revitalization journeys,” Derosier says. Dennhardt, from Thunder Bay, says the four Elders liked the documentary. “I hope they do more with it and kind of keep going with it,” Dennhardt says. “It was a really amazing opportunity to get to meet everybody down there and to hear their perspective and their experiences and their stories and what they want. It was awesome — I can’t wait to do more.” McGuire says his film was about Webequie and Marten

Falls’ desire to do an environmental assessment that may lead to roads to the north and the struggles they face in the communities. “I don’t so much focus on opposition, it is in there and I touch upon it, but it’s more of a history and journey of the last 15 years of them getting to the point where they could even start having a discussion about roads,” McGuire says. McGuire says the key component of the film is the “shared hope and vision that Webequie and Marten Falls have about where they want their futures to head.” “I don’t focus so much on

the negativity, I touch upon some of the environmentalism that stands in the way of sovereignty,” McGuire says. “I’m a pro-sovereignty Anishinabe so I’m going to stand behind whatever decision they make. Canada’s had it’s chance at sovereignty, now it’s time to trust First Nations with their own sovereignty and that they’re going to make the right decisions and find a balance between environment and economic development.” Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum says they agreed to be part of the film to tell their own side of the story about why they need an all-sea-

son road to their community. “But it’s not only about the road, it’s more about being a self-determined First Nation and trying to improve our everyday lives in the community and trying to improve the social conditions in the community for our future generations,” Achneepineskum says. “And trying to reach agreements all around to improve not only the current generation but the future generations to come — that’s got to change overall.” Achneepineskum says the winter road season is getting shorter as the climate changes.

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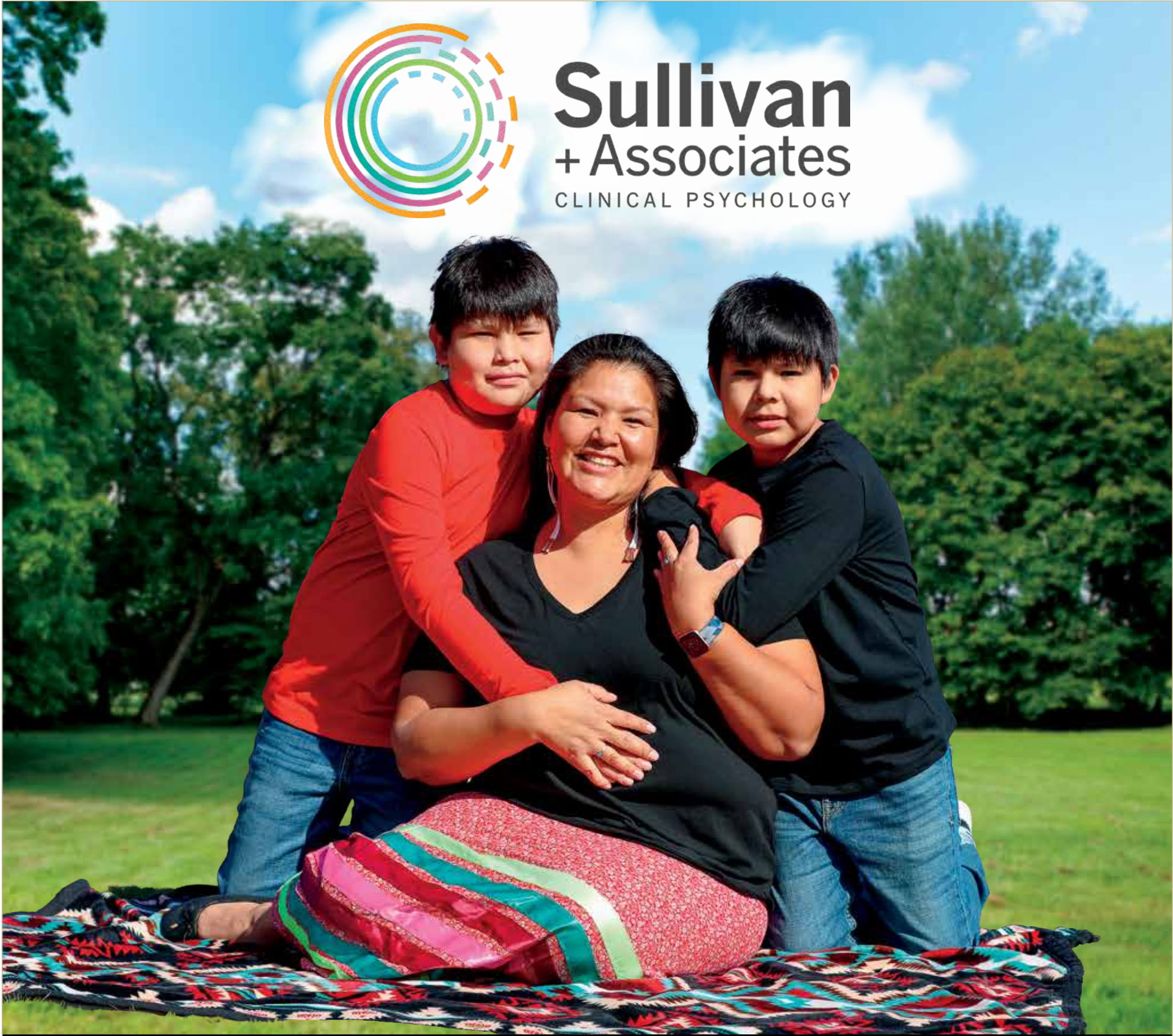
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HOW CAN AN ASSESSMENT BE HELPFUL?

Assessments can be helpful when there is an answer needed for an important question, such as:

- What mental health issue am I dealing with?
- Why is it hard to learn in school?
- Why is it hard to remember things?
- Is that fall making it harder for me to think properly?
- Is there a problem with my attention?

Assessments can help you figure out what the issue is and make recommendations to improve issues such as challenges with mental health, improve learning issues, or help with attention and memory issues.

At Sullivan + Associates Clinical Psychology, we offer assessments for:

- Mental health
- Learning
- Attention
- Behaviour
- Autism
- Neuropsychological issues
- FASD

For assessment services for children and adolescents, we are happy to help families access funding through Jordan’s Principle.

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