

Politics



submitted photo
Niisaachewan citizen Tania Cameron recently submitted her application for the Senate of Canada.

Tania Cameron submits application for Senate

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Niisaachewan's Tania Cameron is looking to bring a different perspective to the Senate of Canada after former senator Lynn Beyak retired.

"I am community minded and continually serve my region in any capacity that I am able to," says Cameron, chief of staff for the Ontario Regional Chief. "Today, I am on my way into town in Kenora to take care of the sixth and final potato delivery into northwestern Ontario."

Cameron has been distributing 50-pound bags of potatoes from farms in Manitoba

to people across northwestern Ontario since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in April 2020. Bearskin Lake was one of 10 remote fly-in communities that received a total of 200 bags of potatoes on Feb. 12.

"A small farm put out a call for help to unload sacks full of potatoes he had because of the pandemic, their markets were shut down," Cameron says. "So I've since helped three farms unload their stock — today is the sixth and likely final potato run, which will have 185,000 pounds of potatoes. There is such a demand — the lineup of people is incredible. This one client I worked with, they

served McCain Foods, so these are giant potatoes."

Cameron has also worked with youth at Indigenous Sport and Wellness Ontario.

"Since 2015 I've been able to attract youth athletes in the region, including from some of the fly-in communities — there's excellent volleyball players up there," Cameron says. "I love that work and it coincided with the growth of my own children as they went through the high school years and playing sports. It's something I hope to continue, even if it's at a volunteer capacity."

Cameron previously ran for Parliament in the 2008 and 2011 federal elections.

"Of course that's partisan politics," Cameron says. "In my application I did say I would be willing to rescind my party membership because I am an active (committee) member within the NDP."

Cameron also served as a band councillor in her community at the age of 18.

Cameron learned about the opportunity to apply for the Senate on Jan. 25, two days before the Jan. 27 deadline to submit an application.

"Some friends had encouraged me to apply," Cameron says. "I did my best to put my application package together, which is quite exhaustive. They needed my CV, my background history information, even information on my family members, my siblings, my children, my in-laws. So it was quite exhaustive but it was a good, interesting process."

Cameron says she had previously been asked to consider a nomination for the Senate during a selection process a few years ago.

"I did give it some thought but in the end I decided it wasn't the time for me," Cameron says. "When it came around this time, I thought why not. We had Lynn Beyak retire on Jan. 25. I firmly believe I can do a better job representing the views and the values of the people living in northwestern Ontario."

Cameron says there has been a "very tremendous response" to her decision to apply for the Senate.

"A friend said people can support my nomination by filling out an online form on the Senate Appointments website (www.canada.ca/en/campaign/independent-advisory-board-for-senate-appointments/current-processes.html)," Cameron says. "So a lot of people have been sending in support for my nomination and it is very exciting, including some of the chiefs and colleagues I have worked with in the Kenora area for many years."

Cameron grew up in Winnipeg but has been living in northwestern Ontario since 1993.

"I did go back for a short time for education leave (when) I studied Aboriginal Self Governance and Administration at Red River College," Cameron says. "Earlier this year I did start working toward credits at the University of Winnipeg for an undergrad in Indigenous Studies."

Cameron previously worked at a range of First Nation organizations, including the Kenora Chiefs Advisory, Bimose Tribal Council and Chiefs of Ontario.

"This is my third stint at the Chiefs of Ontario," Cameron says.

INSPECTION

Inspection of 2021 – 2022 Annual Work Schedule Trout Lake Forest

The April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the Trout Lake Forest is available electronically for public viewing by contacting **Domtar Inc.**, during normal business hours. It will also be available on the Natural Resources Information Portal at <https://nrp.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> beginning **March 15, 2021** and for the one-year duration of the AWS.

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

Domtar Inc. is responsible for tree planting on the Trout Lake Forest. Please contact the Forest Company contact listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the locations and licence requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact the MNR contact listed below. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company contact listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a remote meeting with MNR staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact:

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e-mail: michele.kan@ontario.ca

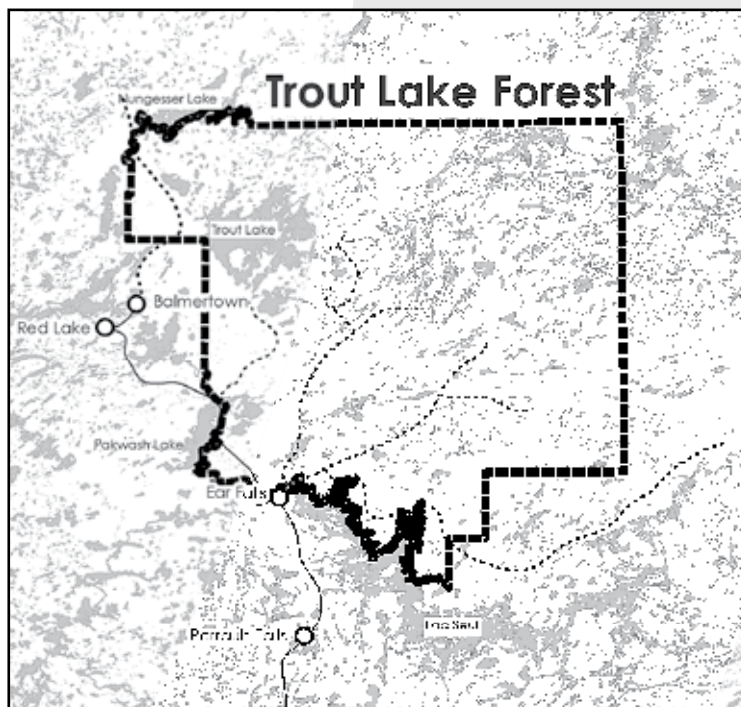
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<https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management>

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) 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 MNR and/or the sustainable forest licensee 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 MNR to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Kathy Crampton at 807-727-1332.

Renseignements en français : Michele Kan, F.P.I. au courriel : michele.kan@ontario.ca ou tél. : 807 727-1349.



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Decision looms

from page 2

Pierce states in her decision that it is not disputed that Kentner was seriously injured when, in the early morning hours of Jan. 29, 2017, she was struck with a heavy trailer hitch that Bushby threw at her from a moving car.

"She was struck in the abdomen with a force that perforated her small bowel," Pierce states. "Ms. Kentner was taken to hospital later that day where she underwent surgery. At the time of her injury, Ms. Kentner was seriously ill with liver disease. She died some five months later."

Pierce states in her decision that the Crown submits that it has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Bushby committed the unlawful act of throwing a trailer hitch at Kentner, striking her, and causing her death as defined by law and therefore submits that a conviction on manslaughter should follow.

"The defence argues that: a) the Crown has not proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Mr. Bushby caused Ms. Kentner's death as defined

by law; b) alternatively, the defence contends that there was an intervening cause that broke the chain of causation, such that, in law, Mr. Bushby was not morally responsible for her death," Pierce states.

Pierce states at the end of her decision that Bushby is still responsible if he injures a person whose health, social and psychological condition makes it less likely that she will recover.

"On the facts of this case, I find that the Crown has proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, that there was no intervening act that displaces his responsibility in law for Ms. Kentner's injury and ensuing death," Pierce states. "For the foregoing reasons, I find that the Crown has proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, that by an unlawful act, Brayden Bushby injured Barbara Kentner, accelerating and causing her death, and further, that the Crown has met its burden to disprove intervening causes.

Therefore, I find Brayden Bushby guilty as charged of the offence of manslaughter."

Health

Scientists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers harmonize worldviews at third annual gathering

Wawatay News

Indigenous Elders, NWMO leaders and staff, and professors from Canadian and international universities attended the two-day virtual workshop.

For the third consecu-

tive year, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) hosted its annual "Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science Workshop" in late 2020.

Building on the thoughtful dialogue of previous years,

workshop topics were anchored in discussions on fundamental differences, interconnectedness, and interweaving worldviews to address the safe and secure storage of nuclear waste.

"The whole world is struggling through the existence of

different world paradigms," said Bob Watts, Vice-President of Indigenous Relations at the NWMO. "By creating a collaborative space for scientists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, we are truly leading from an industry perspective."

Members of the Council of Elders and Youth participated, with Elder Fred Kelly opening and closing with an Indigenous ceremony for each day of the two-day workshops.

Dr. Michael Thrasher, an internationally recognized Elder, or as he prefers to be called Mooshum (Grandfather in Cree), shared learnings that had been passed on by oral tradition. He spoke about the importance of Indigenous worldviews, medicine circles, and "ways of knowing" as part of a relationship-building process.

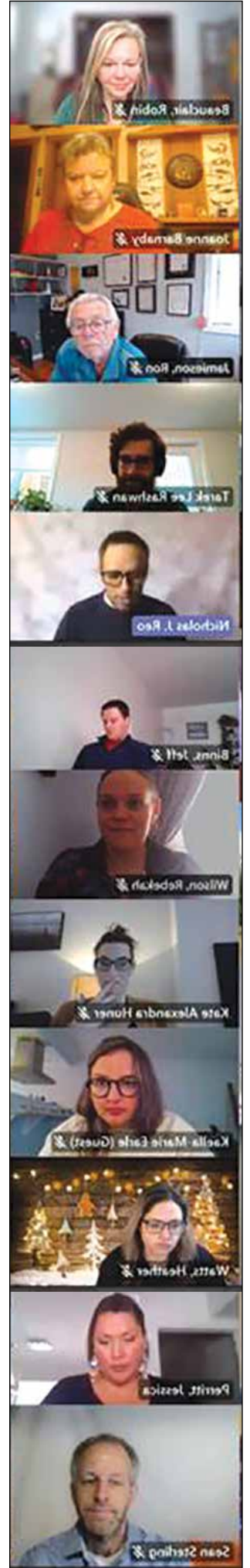
"In our creation stories, Turtle Island was created when a big turtle emerged from the water to support the world. Our continent North America," said Dr. Thrasher. "Kanata (Canada) has always meant a 'clean place' to Indigenous people. If we explore the depth of this meaning from an environmental perspective, then what does it mean to be Canadian?"

During a panel on Sharing Best Practices of Interweaving Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science, panelists discussed the importance of cultivating and tending to relationships.

Additional presentations included an Update on the NWMO's Progress of Interweaving Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science and Sharing the Reconciliation Assessment Experience.

"Within our technical work, we are only beginning to uncover the different layers of relationships," said Peter Keech, Manager of Engineered Barrier Science. "In expanding our thinking to engage more effectively with communities, we are also learning more about the relationships between different materials and the relationships those materials have with their own natural environments. By challenging ourselves in this way, I believe we will improve our project by seeking input from Indigenous Knowledge Keepers."

In 2021, collaborative work will continue on a national and international basis to make space for bringing together scientists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to address the safe and secure containment of Canada's used nuclear fuel over the long-term.



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<p>\$9,999</p> <p><i>Not exactly as shown</i> 2013 KIA SORENTO AWD V6, auto, air, cruise, tilt, pw, pdl, alloys, remote start, must see, very nice shape! stk 5040</p>	<p>\$10,999</p> <p>2013 GMC TERRAIN AWD 4cyl, auto, air, cruise, tilt, pw, pdl, alloys, remote entry, price to sell quick, MUST SEE! stk 4975</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">LOADED</p>	<p>\$11,999</p> <p>2010 FORD EXPLORER 4X4 auto, air, cruise, tilt, pw, pdl, alloys, remote entry, must see, Very Nice Unit, stk 5027</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">LOADED</p>	<p>\$9,999</p> <p>2010 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LTD AWD V6, auto, air, cruise, pw, pdl, nice clean SUV, fully loaded, MUST SEE, stk 5046</p>
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Community



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler stresses that people need to be mindful of the COVID-19 travel restrictions and measures during this year's winter road season.

Winter road status improving

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

The recent cold snap helped improve the winter roads conditions across Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory after a mild beginning to the winter season.

"It was a bit concerning even into January with how warm it was," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "But now with the cold temperatures here, the communities are (beginning) to open up."

Fiddler says his community of Muskrat Dam opened up their winter road in the first week of February.

"But what we're saying is this cannot be your regular winter road season where people just jump in their trucks on a Friday wherever they may be and driv-

ing down to Thunder Bay for the weekend and going back," Fiddler says. "We still need to be mindful of the COVID-19 travel restrictions and measures to keep our people safe, and that includes people travelling on the winter roads. They need to be mindful of those measures and practice those measures."

Fiddler says people need to limit their travel on the winter roads.

"I see these winter roads as being vital to make sure that the big projects move forward, that the equipment, the fuel (and) the materials are hauled during the winter road season so that projects can move ahead in the spring and in the summer," Fiddler says. "I caution (citizens) that live in those communities that rely on winter roads that this cannot be a regular winter road season — we need to be mindful of the travel restrictions that several of our communities still have in place."

Sol Mamakwa says he drove on the winter road to Muskrat Dam to participate in the vaccination rollout on Jan. 31.

"I spent a couple of nights there and then did the vaccination on Monday morning," Mamakwa says. "It's been a while — I haven't travelled up north probably since February-March 2020 and for me to be in the communities again, they are very glad to see people in leadership roles in the communities."

Mamakwa says the winter road to Muskrat Dam was officially opened the day after he left the community.

"They actually had a few trucks come in the day after me," Mamakwa says. "I know when I was driving north of Pickle Lake there was minimal traffic, but I could see the construction traffic, whether it's work trucks, company trucks, whether it's semis. There wasn't much traffic."

A Winter Road Updates list is posted on the NAN website at: www.nan.ca/news-events/winter-road-updates/ with information on the conditions/status of the different winter roads.

The list includes a note that the Wetum Road connecting Moose Factory to the provincial highway system would not be opened this year. Moose Cree announced in December 2020 that the Wetum Road would not be built this year because it would lead to a significantly elevated risk of a COVID-19 outbreak in the James Bay community.

"The PEOT (Pandemic Emergency Operations Team) had difficulty making this tough decision and it took a few meetings to reach it after much discussion on the risks to community safety compared against the benefits enjoyed by our (citizens) offered by Wetum Road travel to the south," the Moose Cree statement states. "PEOT representatives met with Council on Dec. 9 to discuss the decision. Council could have rescinded the motion passed in March 2020 which delegated authority to the PEOT and make a subsequent decision that Wetum Road would be built in 2021. After its own debate about the decision, Council chose not to take such action and instead agreed that the PEOT decision was appropriate as it places the health and safety of the (citizens) as the highest priority."

INSPECTION

Inspection of 2021 – 2022 Annual Work Schedule Kenora Forest and Whiskey Jack Forest

The April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 Annual Work Schedules (AWS) for the **Kenora Forest** and the **Whiskey Jack Forest** is available electronically for public viewing by contacting the **Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company**, on behalf of **Miitigoog LP**, during normal business hours. It is also available on the Natural Resources Information Portal <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> beginning **March 16, 2021** and for the one-year duration of the AWS.

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Tree Planting and Fuelwood

Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company is responsible for tree planting in the Kenora Forest and in the Whiskey Jack Forest. Please contact the Forest Company contact listed below for information regarding tree planting job opportunities.

For information on the locations and licence requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact the MNR Kenora District Office at 807-468-2501. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company contact listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a remote meeting with MNR staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNR contact below:

For Whiskey Jack Forest

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For Kenora Forest

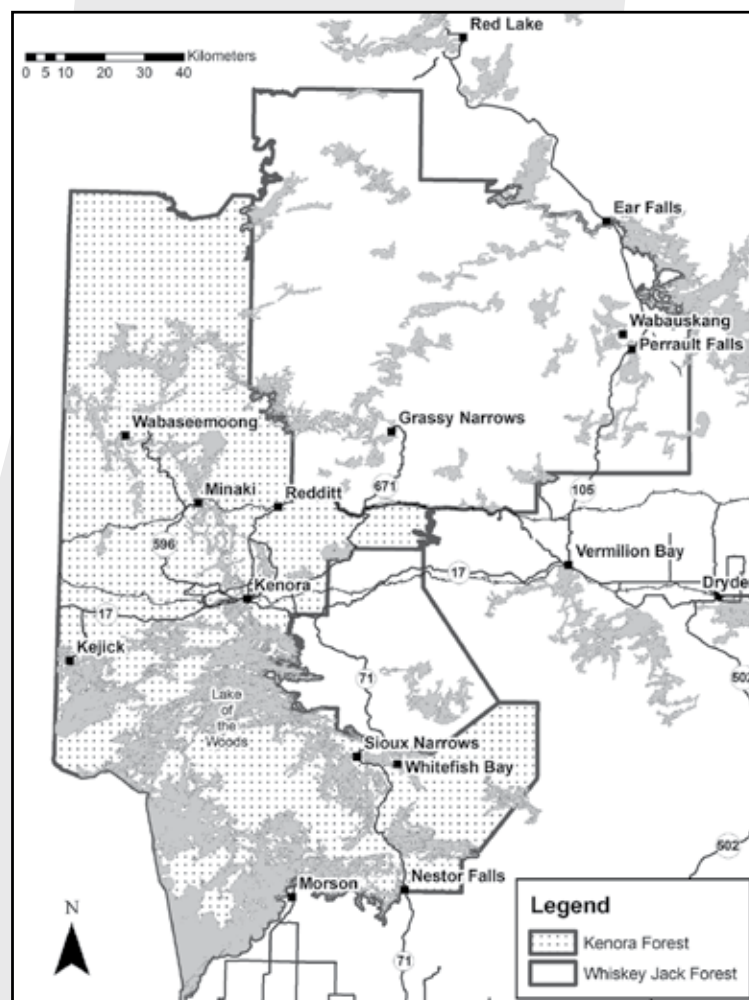
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The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNR and/or the sustainable forest licensee 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 MNR 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 Shannon Diehl, MNR, District Business Co-ordinator, at shannon.diehl@ontario.ca.

Community

More support announced for airlines in the north



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler recently welcomed support for air carriers serving remote First Nation communities through an agreement between the federal and provincial governments.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler recently stressed the importance of an agreement between the provincial and federal governments to support air carriers serving remote First Nation communities.

"I am pleased to hear of Ontario's recent announcement in partnership with the federal government to aid essential air travel to remote First Nations in northern Ontario," Fiddler says. "This commitment addresses inequities in services for First Nations and improve their quality of life. Air transportation in NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) territory is vital to the health and well being of our remote (citizens). We look to both levels of government to ensure these commitments will transcend beyond the COVID-

19 pandemic and continue to provide future enhancements."

The federal government announced an investment of up to \$11,134,000 for air services to remote communities in Ontario to cover the period of July 1 to Dec. 31, 2020 and the provincial government announced \$14.2 million to operate remote airports in 2020/21, including an additional \$4 million this year to ensure continued safe operations during the pandemic.

"Small air carriers provide remote northern First Nations communities with a vital connection to critical supplies and essential services, including health care," says Greg Rickford, provincial minister of Indigenous Affairs. "This funding will help ensure the unique and immediate needs of these communities are continuously met during COVID-19."

Caroline Mulrone, provincial minister of Transportation, says Ontario's small air carriers play an essential role in connecting northern and remote communities with goods and critical services.

"Today's announcement builds on our government's ongoing investment and support through our remote and northern airports program, demonstrating our continued commitment to supporting communities in northern Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond," Mulrone says. "This funding is part of our transportation plan for northern Ontario, Connecting the North, which clearly indicates how we will provide reliable transportation to meet the unique needs of the region and help ensure people have access to critical services."

Under the agreement, the

provincial government will allocate funding to air operators to ensure the continued supply of food, medical supplies and other essential goods and services to the communities.

"While we continue to work together to limit the spread of COVID-19, we must also ensure remote communities continue to have the air connectivity they need for essential goods and services, travel and business," says Omar Alghabra, federal minister of Transport. "This agreement with the government of Ontario will allow for reliable air services to keep remote communities in Ontario connected to the rest of the country."

The federal government announced new measures in August 2020 to support essential air access to remote com-

munities during the pandemic, including seeking bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to ensure continuity of service for at least six months; and establishing a \$75-million funding program for the federal contribution for the first six months and maintaining these essential services through an investment of up to \$174 million over 18 months, if needed.

"Flights are an essential link for fly-in and remote First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities," says Marc Miller, minister of Indigenous Services Canada, during the August funding announcement. "This funding will go a long way in ensuring that fly-in communities have the essential services, goods and equipment they need to prevent and respond to any

outbreak of COVID-19. Canada will keep working hard to ensure continuity of services."

Daniel Vandal, federal minister of Northern Affairs, says during the August funding announcement that the federal government has been working with partners to respond to the unique needs of northern and remote communities since the beginning of the pandemic.

"This support is positive news for all northerners and is a result of continued collaboration and partnership," Vandal says. "This will ensure supply chains remain open to those living in isolated Nutrition North Canada eligible communities, who depend on air transportation for the regular delivery of perishable nutritious foods, personal hygiene products and other essential items."



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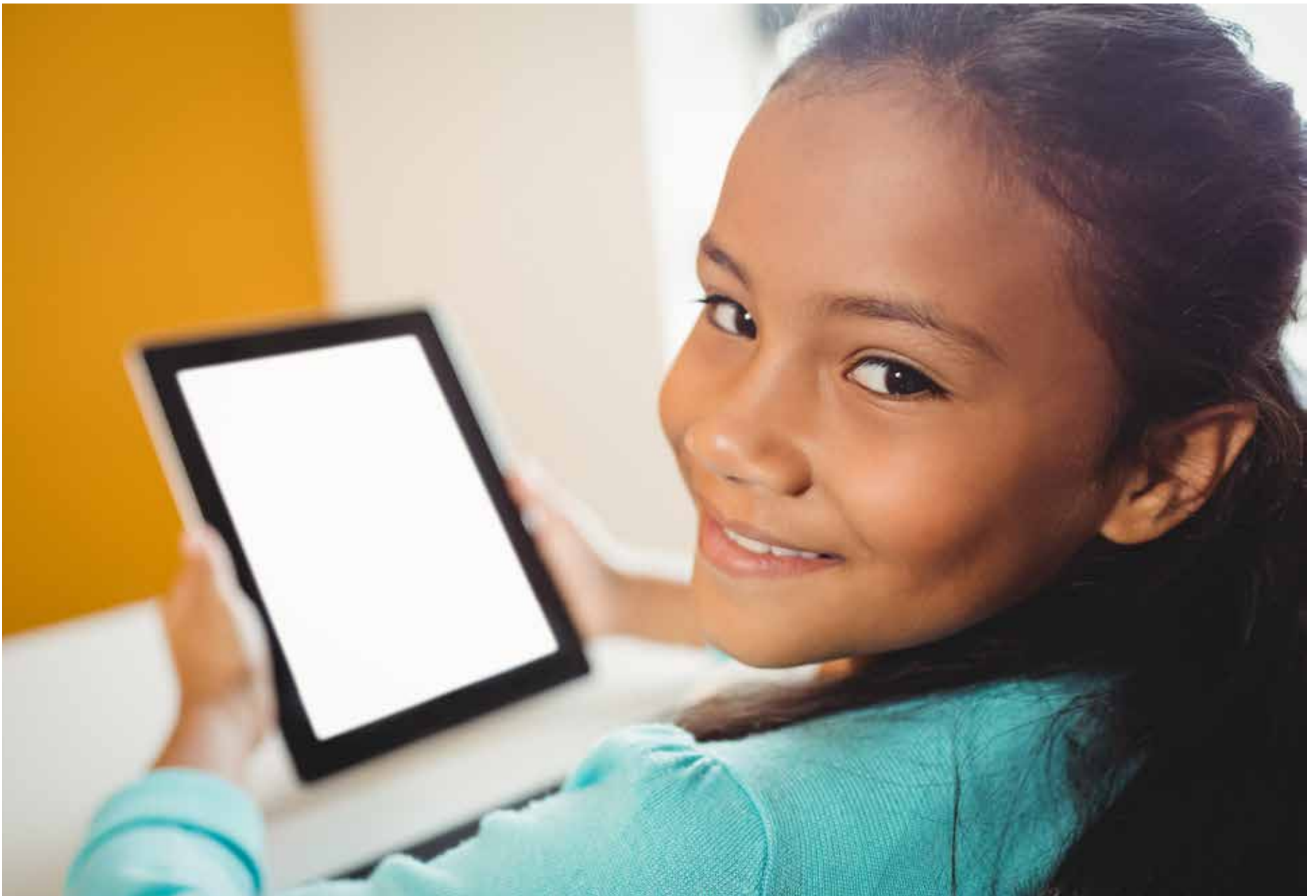


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Community



Corporal Reed Finlayson disinfects a surface before packing food boxes for community citizens living alone in Ginoogaming.



Carl Wolfe, an army instructor, is working with the Rangers in Ginoogaming.

Canadian Rangers support First Nations in Covid emergencies

Peter Moon
Special to Wawatay News

The well-known red sweaters worn by Canadian Rangers are boosting the spirits of a tiny First Nation in the midst of a Covid-9 crisis in Northern Ontario.

The six-member Ranger team arrived in Ginoogaming First Nation on Monday to assist the community after it requested military assistance.

Ginoogaming is an Ojibway community about 310 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay. It has a population of about 200.

On January 31 it reported nine active cases of Covid-19. Four cases have since been resolved leaving five active. The community asked for military assistance and the Canadian Army authorized the use of Canadian Rangers to provide support to the distressed community and its exhausted health workers. The Rangers are part-time army reservists.

“Seeing the Rangers in their red sweaters, which are a distinctive part of their uniform, has been welcomed by community citizens,” said Warrant Officer Carl Wolfe, a Canadian Army instructor.

“We going to be helping to distribute food and personal protective equipment,” he said. “We’re going to distribute educational materials to help the population understand the importance of following Covid guidelines and we’re going to assist in planning and helping them get ready for their next step, which will, hopefully, be to get the community vaccinated, but there’s no set date for that at the moment.”

The community is locked down and closed to visitors, except for residents and essential workers, with peoples’ movements carefully con-

trolled. “I’m exhausted and a lot of our other staff are exhausted,” said Sheri Taylor, a band councillor and the community’s health director. “Six Rangers may be a small number to some people but to us it’s huge. They are our own people and they understand life in an isolated or semi-isolated community in the North. We are so happy to have them here.”

Ranger Jody Grenier, one of the Ranger team, is from the nearby Long Lake No. 58 First Nation, which is also in lockdown. “I’ve been a Ranger for two years,” he said, “and this is

an honour for me to be here to help the people of Ginoogaming. I’m glad to be part of this operation and be able to help my people.”

The Rangers in Ginoogaming were a Ranger Go Team on standby in Thunder Bay, ready to respond if needed while a mass inoculation program reaches up to 32 First Nations across the Far North of Ontario.

When the team was dispatched to Ginoogaming on Monday another Ranger Go Team replaced them in Thunder Bay. Ranger Go Teams are ready and able to respond quickly to provide support any-

where across the Far North of Ontario.

“We’re very happy that we could respond in a timely way to meet the needs of the community,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur, the army officer who commands the Rangers of Northern Ontario. “They’ll do a good job, as usual, in their red sweaters.”

(Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)

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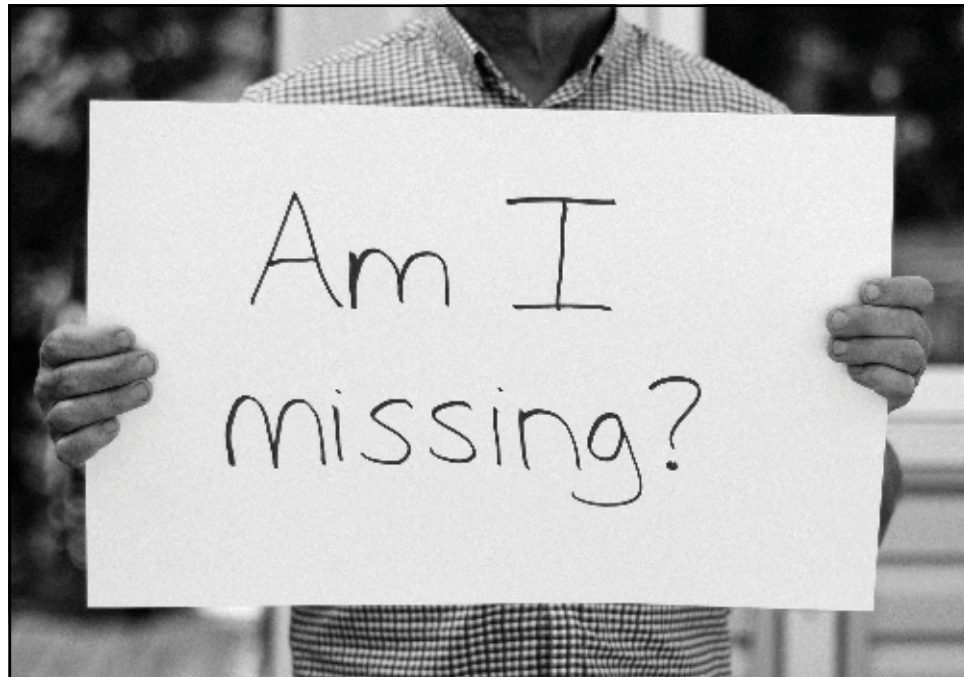


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Community

Canadian Rangers provide support for vaccine rollout

Peter Moon
Special to Wawatay News

The Canadian Rangers have completed their first full week of support for the delivery of Covid-19 vaccinations in Northern Ontario.

The vaccines are being delivered and administered in 32 remote First Nations across the province's Far North by Ornge, Ontario's provider of air ambulance and critical care transport services. The Rangers, who are part-time army reservists living in their communities, provided the medical teams with support in the delivery of the program.

The Rangers set up vaccination sites in schools and community halls for the teams, provided them with cultural and language support, transportation for the elderly and disabled, and encouraged residents, some of them apprehensive, to get vaccinated.

"The feedback we've got from Ornge makes me proud," said Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur, the Canadian Army officer who commands the Rangers in Northern Ontario. "They recognize the work the Rangers are doing."

"The Rangers were very, very good, very reliable, and they did the most important job in the community in encouraging people to come out and get vaccinated," said Chief Leo Friday of Kachechewan, a Cree community with a population of

1,825 on the James Bay coast, where 73 per cent of residents aged 18 and over got vaccinated.

"It was a lot of work but the Rangers did their job and the results were good," said Sergeant John Sutherland, who led the four-person Ranger support team in Kashechewan.

"I just want to let you know that I think the Rangers are awesome!" said Arden Penner, a critical care paramedic with Ornge, in an email to some of the Rangers. "I had not worked with Rangers before and meeting them today was a real pleasure... They had everything set up so well in both Cat Lake and Summer Beaver. The work they are doing in the communities to prepare for the vaccine rollout is very significant... The guys and gals in Summer Beaver basically created a field hospital in the gymnasium...impressive!"

The Rangers assisted Ornge last month in a week-long trial in which the residents of Peawanuck, an isolated Cree community on Hudson Bay, received Covid inoculations. The program began in earnest last week when Ornge medical teams flew into six First Nations to deliver vaccines to more than 2,000 people. This week the Rangers will be supporting Ornge teams in another six First Nations.

There are currently 70 Rangers on full-time duty in support



photo submitted by Sergeant John Sutherland, Canadian Rangers

Corporal Dennis Sutherland helps an elder in Kashechewan.

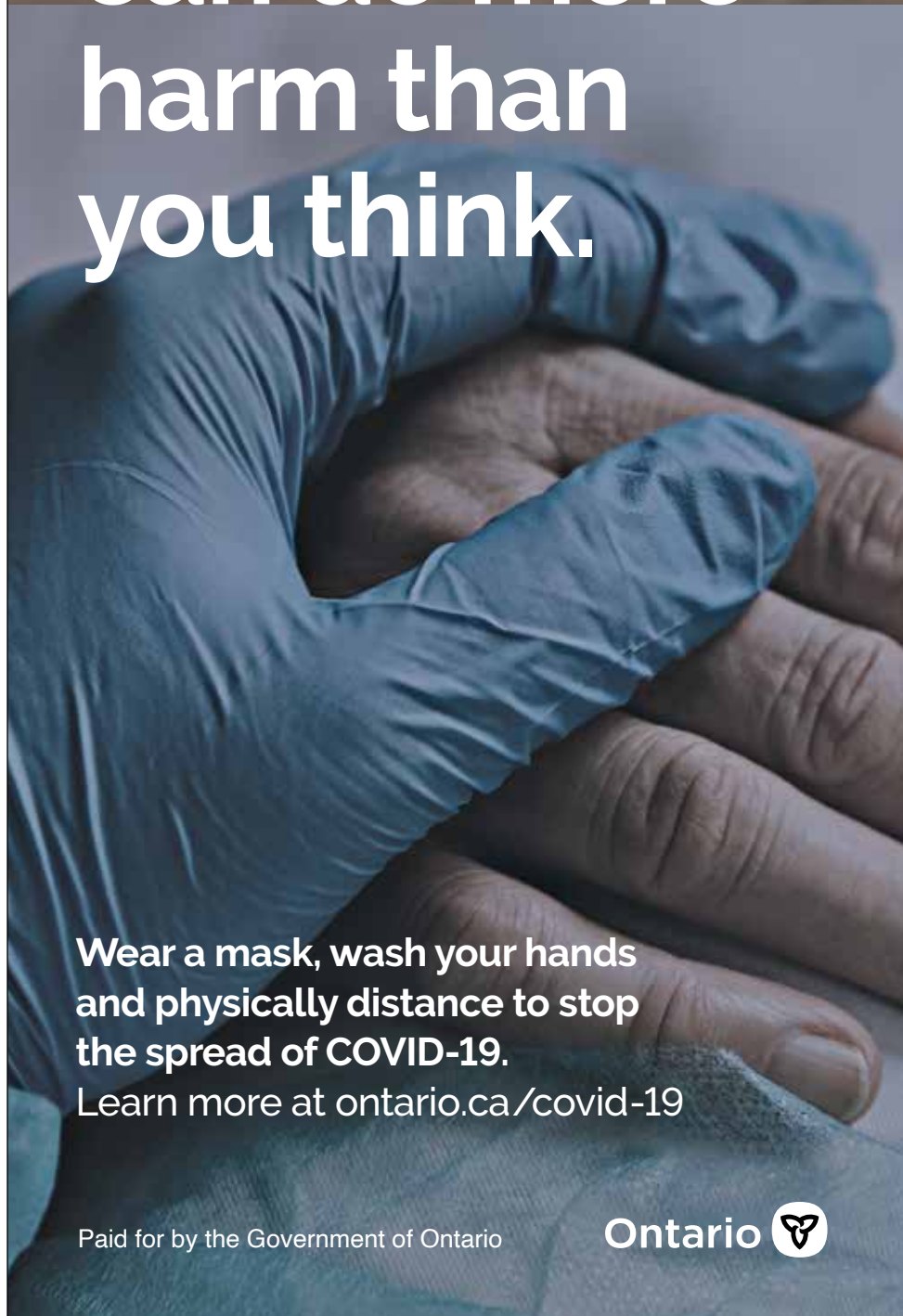
of the vaccination rollout program. They are supported by seven members of the Canadian Army from the Rangers' headquarters for Ontario at Canadian Forces Base Borden

"That could increase to 100 to 120," said Colonel McArthur. "The feedback we are getting on the Rangers makes me proud and reinforces the importance of the role the Rangers play in their communities. It is a long list and includes search and rescue, floods, fires, and things like support for the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out. They do all of it well."

(Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at CFB Borden.)



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Community



photo submitted by Warrant Officer Carl Wolfe

Rangers Jody Grenier and Curtis Waboose deliver food to homes in Ginoogaming in bitter cold temperatures.



photo submitted by Warrant Officer Carl Wolfe

Community citizen Tracy Dore receives a box of Covid emergency supplies from Ranger Jody Grenier.

Canadian Rangers brave the frigid cold to assist First Nations

Peter Moon
Special to Wawatay News

A small group of Canadian Rangers who responded to a First Nation's call for military assistance in a Covid-19 crisis made a huge impression on the small Ojibway community.

"We're sad to see them leave," said Sheri Taylor, a Ginoogaming First Nation band councilor and health director. "It's been a great experience working with them."

Ginoogaming, with a population of about 200, is about 310 kilometers northeast of Thun-

der Bay.

On January 31 the community reported nine active cases of Covid-19. It asked for military assistance and the Canadian Armed Forces authorized the use of Canadian Rangers, who are part-time army reservists to aid the distressed community and its exhausted health workers.

Six Rangers and two full-time members of the Canadian Army were dispatched to provide the community with assistance for 10 days.

"We assessed the situation and came up with a strategy,"

said Warrant Officer Carl Wolfe, a Ranger army instructor. "We said we're going to give the community the best ten days that we can and we would make as much difference as we could in those ten days and, regardless, we'd know we'd put forward our best effort."

The team did just that, according to Councilor Taylor.

"They were a friendly bunch of guys," she said, "and they did a lot of good for our community. They were willing to do whatever we needed them to do. They weren't fussy about anything. They were there.

Despite the temperatures (which dropped into the low minus forties) they braved the elements. The cold meant nothing to them."

Among other tasks, the Rangers delivered food and other items to residents who were restricted to their homes because of the Covid lockdown.

The number of Covid cases dropped from nine to one and with the assistance of the Rangers over the 10-day period of their mission the community was able to recover from its exhaustion and resume running its affairs again.

Ranger Curtis Waboose, one of the Ranger team, was from nearby Long Lake No. 58 First Nation, which is also in lockdown. "The best thing was delivering stuff for the kids," he said. "We gave them extra milk and cereal. The Elders were happy to see us. We cleared the snow from the paths to their homes."

Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur, the Canadian Army officer who commands the Rangers in Northern Ontario, said two Rangers remain in Ginoogaming to liaise and coordinate on behalf of the army

with the band council.

"In Ginoogaming," he said, "our Rangers did a fantastic job and provided great service to a community that needed help. It just goes to show we can react and help out when we are needed. Ginoogaming is a smaller community and was in need of help. We provided a service and everybody is happy."

(Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.)

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