# Senator Murray Sinclair retires from Senate

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Senator Murray Sinclair was acknowledged for his work as a senator upon his retirement from the Senate of Canada on Jan. 31.

"I am pleased to congratulate Murray Sinclair on his retirement from the Senate of Canada," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "Murray is a respected leader who has fought for Indigenous people with distinction and honour. He has forced Canadians to acknowledge this country's injustices towards Indigenous people while holding the government of Canada accountable. Murray's leadership to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) ensured that thousands of Indian residential school survivors received the justice they deserved."

Sinclair echoed the words he spoke at the closing of the TRC in reflecting upon his work in the Senate: "We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing."

"My tenure as senator has been a remarkable opportunity to serve the people of Manitoba, which I have striven to do with pride and humility for the last five years," Sinclair says in a letter to the Governor General.

Sinclair has also moved many of the TRC Calls to Action forward during his time in the Senate, including pieces of legislation on: revitalizing and protecting Indigenous languages; reforming Indigenous child welfare; establishing a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; and including a recognition of treaty rights for new Canadians taking the oath of citizenship.

"Since working on the TRC, we have seen a shift in how our country

understands and speaks of residential schools and Indigenous issues in Canada," Sinclair says. "I leave the Senate feeling happy with how things are progressing and knowing that reconciliation will take a long time. I will continue to work on this for the rest of

Fiddler stressed the importance of the work Sinclair did during his investigation of the Thunder Bay Police Service Board, which uncovered systemic racism and validated long-standing concerns held by the Indigenous community.

"The recommendations from this ground-breaking report have been essential to ensuring work is done to fix the broken system that governs the Thunder Bay Police Service," Fiddler

Fiddler adds that Sinclair's wisdom and knowledge have inspired many, including young people from across Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) terri-

"Over the years, he has taken the time to meet with NAN youth and listen to their stories about their lives and communities," Fiddler says. "Murray once said: 'Our children do not set out in life to fail. They want to be someone. We have to be the someone they want to be.' I do not doubt that for generations to come, Murray's work and passion will inspire many of our young people to do great things.'

Sinclair, who was appointed to the Senate in 2016, plans to focus on his work in Indigenous law mentorship and on writing his memoir, tentatively titled, Who We Are after retiring from the Senate.

Sinclair delivered a presentation on Knowing Right from Law: What You Need to Know about Law School at



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Senator Murray Sinclair, pictured at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in 2018, retired from the Senate of Canada on Jan. 31 to focus on his work in Indigenous law mentorship and on writing his memoir.

Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in November 2018, where he spoke about wanting Indigenous people to be living in a better place.

"I want them to be able to walk

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

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#### **INSPECTION**

#### Inspection of 2021 - 2022 Annual Work Schedule Red Lake Forest

The April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Red Lake Forest** is available electronically for public viewing by contacting **Red Lake Forest Management Company (RLFMC)**, during normal business hours. It will also be available on the Natural Resources Information Portal https://nrip.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

RLFMC is responsible for tree planting on the Red 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 MNRF 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 MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact:

#### Mark Zhang, R.P.F.

Management Forester MNRF Red Lake District 227 Howey Street, Floor 2 P.O. Box 5003, Red Lake, ON PoV 2Mo tel: 807-727-2575 e-mail: mark.zhang@ontario.ca

#### Stay Involved

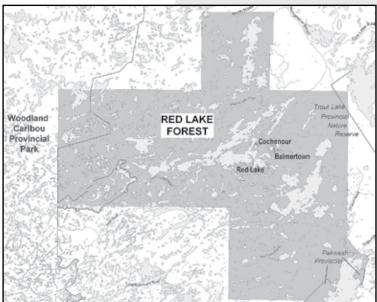
Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

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

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/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 MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact 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.





#### Robert Partridge, R.P.F.

General Manager RLFMC P.O. Box 1338, Red Lake, ON PoV 2Mo tel: 807-728-3832 e-mail: redlakeforest@gmail.com

#### News



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

A group of women drummers sing a song outside the Courthouse Hotel in Thunder Bay where the Brayden Bushby manslaughter trial was being held.

# Bushby sentencing decision to be held on May 4

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Barbara Kentner.

Ontario Superior Court Justice Helen M. Pierce reserved decision and reasons until May 4 at the Brayden Bushby sentencing hearing for the death of the late Wabigoon Lake citizen

The Crown had called for a sentence of eight to 12 years and the defence a sentence of four years at the Feb. 17 sentencing hearing at the Thunder Bay Courthouse. Bushby was found guilty of manslaughter in Kentner's death on Dec. 14 by Justice Pierce after he pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated assault and not guilty of manslaughter at his judge-only trial in early November at the Courthouse Hotel in Thunder Bay.

The sentencing hearing heard impact statements from Kentner's daughter and other family members as well as from the Nokiiwin Tribal Council, Indigenous Bar Association and Ontario Native Women's Association. Bushby also delivered an apology for his actions in the death of Kentner as well as the impacts on her family during

the hearing.

The hearing was heard at the Thunder Bay Courthouse, which was closed for about four months due to a fire in an electrical unit. The hearing included submissions from Bushby's lawyer and the Kentner family.

Pierce states at the beginning of her decision, which is posted online at: www.canlii.org/en/on/onsc/doc/2020/2020on sc7780/2020onsc7780.html, that Section 268 of the Criminal Code defines aggravated assault as wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of another.

"By pleading guilty to aggravated assault, Mr. Bushby has admitted that the Crown can prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he intentionally applied force to Ms. Kentner to which she did not consent, and to which he knew she did not consent," Pierce states. "While the indictment does not specify the result of his actions, the evidence supports that he wounded her and endangered her life when he did so."

see DECISION page 6

# Thank You, Airlines!

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













## **Arts and Entertainment**



submitted photo

Eagle Lake filmmaker Victoria Anderson-Gardner, right, is honoured to be recognized with the Glenn Gould Protégé Prize for her work, which includes award-winning films Becoming Nakuset and Tenaya.

# Victoria Anderson-Gardner wins Protege Prize

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Eagle Lake filmmaker Victoria Anderson-Gardner was recently recognized with the Glenn Gould Protégé Prize after being chosen for the \$15,000 prize by this year's Glenn Gould Prize recipient Alanis Obomsawin. Two of Anderson-Gardner's recent films, Tenaya and Becoming Nakuset, were recognized with awards in 2020: Tenaya with TIFF's Big Pitch Audience Choice Award 2020 and Becoming Nakuset with Best Short Film, Audience Choice Award at imagineNA-TIVE 2020. Anderson-Gardner and Obomsawin will be presented with their awards in the fall of 2021 in Toronto, depending on COVID-19 conditions. Obomsawin is the first Indigenous person to be recognized with the lifetime achievement

"Upon watching the work, I was very moved and impressed with how professional and serious Victoria was," says Obomsawin, an award-winning Abenaki filmmaker who has created more than 50 films, including Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance. "I was touched and happy to see the responsibility in such a young person, and how Victoria was really listening to Nakuset in Becoming Nakuset. This is work that is worth being recognized and encouraged."

Anderson-Gardner says it is an honour to be recognized with the Glenn Gould Protégé Prize.

"I've known for a couple of months now but it's still kind of unbelievable," says Anderson-Gardner, a Bachelor of Fine Arts student at Rverson University's School of Image Arts. "I feel really honoured and almost humbled in a sense for the recognition because it goes to show all work I've been doing is being seen. It's just a really good feeling because my main goal for everything is just hopefully to impact one person. Hopefully my films can impact even more than one person but I'm just going to continue with the fact that as long as I can

impact one person then that's all that matters."

Anderson-Gardner says it was "amazing" that Obomsawin knew who she was and had watched her work. Each Glenn Gould Prize laureate chooses an outstanding young artist for the Glenn Gould Protégé Prize.

"To have this recognition bestowed upon me by Alanis Obomsawin is something I will take with me for the rest of my life," Anderson-Gardner says. "I dedicate this to all of those who have passed, the few who are living, and the multitudes of those who are yet to be born."

Anderson-Gardner's film Becoming Nakuset is currently posted on the CBC Gem website at: https://gem.cbc.ca/media/short-docs/becoming-nakuset/38e815a-0138d8e42c9.

"I decided to focus on Indigenous content in order to educate and hopefully inspire other Indigenous people," Anderson-Gardner says. "I feel that (Becoming Nakuset) is aimed at the generation who was a part of the Sixties Scoop, but then also the generation after, all the kids of people who were in the Sixties Scoop."

Anderson-Gardner says Becoming Nakuset is about an Indigenous woman who was taken away from her home in Thompson, Man. during the Sixties Scoop.

"So she grew up not knowing her Indigenous identity and she only found out as she got older through the help of her adopted grandmother," Anderson-Gardner says. "When she was old enough she went off to find her family and then she kind of reclaimed her Indigenous identity. Now she is the executive director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and she is paving a path for future generations, which is really inspiring and I hope it helps people who were in the Sixties Scoop to understand themselves better or at least to see that they are not alone."

Anderson-Gardner says her work on the film helped her to understand her own mother, who was also part of the Sixties

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#### Mark Zhang, R.P.F.

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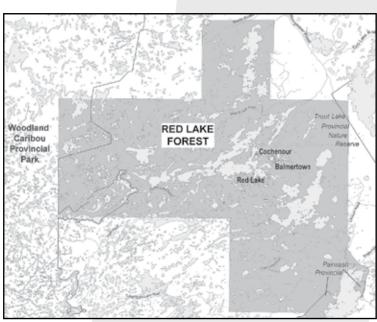
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Serving the First Nations in Northern Ontario since 1974. Wawatay News is a politically independent monthly newspaper published by Wawatay Communications Society.

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# **Commentary**

# We Need A Change



Xavier Kataquapit

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

The are still dealing with this Covid19 pandemic after more than a year and it is not looking like there is any light at the end of the tunnel just yet.

Thankfully there are vaccines being rolled out but it is not happening fast enough to keep this virus in check.

Governments continue to open everything up way too much and rapidly even though the virologists and epidemiologists have been warning us that is far too dangerous as this virus is mutating into new variants which are much more contagious.

As if that was not enough to deal with on a daily basis there are populists movements all over the world pushing us to the extreme right. These kind of fascist realities should remind us all of how history unfolded in the 1930s leading up to the Nazi regime in Germany and fascist governments in Italy, Spain and other European countries.

Those experiments in combating socialism by the most wealthy families and corporations in the world ended up killing millions of people. In an eerie repeat of history, that rise of fascism in the early part of the last century occurred around the time of disruptions made worse by a great pandemic

Let's face it, the average person is at their wits end sitting at home in some form of confusing lock down that comes and goes while we do our best to protect ourselves and loved ones by wearing masks, staying two metres from others and washing hands often. It has been more than a year of this and regretfully many of us are feeling isolated, disappointed, sad and angry because we don't have the freedom to move about and live like it was before the pandemic.

If I was not a fan of the study of history I would think this period in time was extraordinarily dark and foreboding.

However, I am reminded that history provides me with a wake up call in that we as human beings have been acting out in all kinds of tragic and ridiculous manners since we first walked out of caves and began beating each other over the head with large clubs.

Throughout time we have been ruled by the few wealthy and powerful in all kinds of civilizations and societies. We have fought many battles over money, power and ideologies. Much of the time though the battles were about grabbing rich resources, plundering others and expanding power and influence.

Interwoven into all of this crazy and frantic constant conflict we have had to deal with disease, plagues and famine.

Somehow here and there in time we have managed to produce beautiful developments in art, writing, ideas and architecture.

We connected here and there with the realization that peace and love were in fact honourable quests but most of that development gave way to the greed of the wealthy and powerful few who dominated the many.

How many intellectuals, progressive free thinkers of the day, scientists, philosophers and true democratic individuals have been tortured, banished, discredited and slain to keep the few very wealthy in control of the many who serve them. It is a sad recurring theme that keeps repeating with no end in sight.

So, we can all take some comfort in looking back at history and realizing that this all happened before and that we survived. As an Indigenous person who knows very well the affects of colonialism, the missionary zeal of true believers, the stark reality of racism, injustice and inequality this is all too familiar.

After over 400 years of colonialism in North America, the recipe for disaster is very familiar to Indigenous people.

If a fortunate few horde their wealth and power at the expense of everyone else, then war, plague and famine will continue to be part of our history now and into the future. Perhaps, instead of repeating history again and again, we can learn from it and create more of a balance of power and a fair share of wealth for everyone.

With the development of this world wide pandemic and the rise of ugly fascist right wing movements perhaps we will have an epiphany and it might occur to us that there still could be a chance that peace, love and a more sharing world might just be possible.

There are elections on the rise and that gives us all a tiny little bit of say in how things will play out for our future. Let's pay attention this time and become truly educated and informed so we can give the honour of leadership to those who actually care about us and will put people before profit. We need this change.

www.underthenorthernsky.com

# Rangers assist in first vaccinations for remote First Nations



photo submitted by Master Corporal Jason Hunter, Canadian Rangers

Canadian Rangers provided support for a medical team that flew into Peawanuck to give the first COVID-19 vaccinations to the community. Sergeant Mattherw Gull and Master Corporal Pamela Chookomoolin were among the Canadian Rangers who assisted Ornge in the Covid vaccine inoculation program in Peawanuck.

#### Winter makes a comeback



Tinter is technically December, January and February, the three coldest months in the calendar year. If we count the days, it adds up to 90, which makes it the shortest seasonironic if one lives in Northern Ontario. Winter-like weather routinely spans from November through March in this part of the world.

It seemed, at least until we were into February, that this winter was an exception to the routine. January had its warmest start on record for most locations in the region. The second half of January was a see-saw of warmer, colder and warmer than average. It finished as the third warmest in Thunder Bay records that date back to 1941 and in the top five in most areas.

The higher temperatures in January were a continuation of conditions that began in early November and extended through December last year. There were occasional groups of days with seasonal or below average temperatures but it was remarkable to have three months with mild conditions. It was relatively comfortable to be outside for walking, recreation and work, especially welcome

because of stresses imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

An outcome of these "warm" winter months was likely reduced use of fuel for space heating. Whether you heat with natural gas, electricity, propane, firewood or oil, it has been a gentle winter for heating costs. Or at least it should be. A friend pointed out that, because of Covid-19 with "working from home" and being "confined to quarters", people may keep their houses warmer than usual.

#### **Winter Roads**

Another consequence of these warmish months was postponement of building and use of the Winter Road network in the north of the region. Construction usually starts in early winter during extended times of cold weather. These cold spells result in frozen ground and thicker ice at river crossings and over swamps. Snow plows routinely remove new snow to maintain frost depth. These seasonal roads are essential for transport of bulk goods, heavy loads and general travel. More than 30 communities beyond the provincial highway system typically are connected with the winter road system. By early February only one road was open to full loads and two other sections were open to light loads. In the second week so eral more sections were open for light loads.

The present weather combination of extreme cold and less snow on the ground may help

to rescue some use of this network. See Outlook below.

#### The Polar vortex

The current bitterly cold temperatures have prompted headlines of "Outbreak of the Polar Vortex" and variations on this theme. There is some myth and hype in the reporting.

The Polar vortex, with its equivalent in Antarctica, is a feature of circulation in the Earth's atmosphere. It is an area of cold air with low atmospheric pressure over the Arctic. As with low pressure areas in the northern hemisphere, the winds of the Polar vortex flow counter-clockwise and inward. This airflow is towards the higher latitudes near the North Pole. The vortex strengthens, i.e. becomes colder, through the winter because of 24-hour darkness. The cold-core is often centred over mid-Greenland where temperatures can be -80° C and colder.

Usually, there is a large temperature difference between air within the polar vortex and the mid-latitudes which drives the polar jet stream. Jet stream position can reinforce the separation of cold and warmer air. However, the polar vortex often expands during the winter season, pumping cold air southward in association with the jet stream.

Outbreaks of Arctic air vary with location, extent and duration. When the polar vortex and jet streams are "strong," cold air is more likely to be contained in the far north with milder conditions in the mid-latitudes resulting.

The first part of this winter featured extended times of bitter temperatures in Asia and Europe with corresponding weeks of warm conditions in much of North America. In early February another pattern set up with headlines like "Alberta considerably colder than the North Pole" (CBC)

The Polar vortex was discussed and referred to meteorological articles in the 1950s but became used as a synonym for cold and extreme winter weather in the media less than 10 years ago.

The Arctic is warming faster than other areas of the planet, which reduces the temperature difference, which may cause the polar jet stream to meander more. Researchers have found that there is a connection between the break down of the polar vortex and the dramatic decline of Arctic sea ice in the 21st Century. These changes and trends in the Arctic may influence timing and/or duration of breakdowns of the Polar Vortex

#### **Outlook**

Winter is far from over but new all-time records for cold are unlikely. The bar is quite high. Daily records for cold during the last two weeks of February from Kenora to Timmins and north to Hudson and James Bays are quite frigid. Lingering cold associated with the Polar Vortex is likely to moderate in late February.

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# Commentary

## In The Spirit Of My Great Aunt Mary



Kataquapit UNDER THE ORTHERN SKY

people have always had a great fear of new diseases and illnesses. Many Elders have stories from First Nations in the north along the James Bay coast of outbreaks of measles, polio, tuberculosis and other diseases from which no one was protected. In my home community of Attawapiskat there was a dark period in the 40s or 50s when an outbreak of disease affected the community. This was a legendary period that many Elders including my parents often recounted. My dad Marius remembered one time where scores of funerals were held regularly throughout the year. Deaths happened so frequently and so quickly that people were buried two per plot at times.

My mother Susan and her family spent part of the year in the community and the rest of the time in Nawashi River with her family further north closer to Hudson Bay. Even though she and her family were very much isolated in such a remote traditional setting somehow my mom's aunt Mary Paulmartin contracted polio. Mary spent most of her life in a wheelchair as a result of polio. It is important to realize that we no longer know anyone affected by this

terrible disease because a fellow named Jonas Salk discovered a vaccine for polio in 1955 and polio was eradicated. Other diseases that killed and maimed people but thankfully were eradicated by vaccines include tetanus, influenza, hepatitis B and A, rubella, measles, whooping cough (pertussis), chicken pox, diphtheria and mumps. Please remember and be thankful for the science that created all these vaccines so that we do not have to die or become disabled due to these diseases.

During the last pandemic of 2009, Native statistics of infections were disproportionately higher than the rest of the population. Disease outbreaks affect us as Indigenous people to a great extent because many of my people are living in substandard living conditions in remote isolated places. The combination of people living in crowded conditions with a chronic lack of medical services and medical professionals has meant we are more at risk. During this current Covid19 pandemic, my home community of Attawapiskat has had to deal with some cases recently and health professionals like my sister in law Christine Rose and our leadership and health professionals are doing their best to make sure people understand that vaccines are a good idea. However there are elements that question vaccines and that could result in a dangerous situation for my family and friends back home.

In the past, one of our greatest fears of new diseases was a lack of information. Today the

constant never ending stream of news stories, reports, videos, and documentaries about what this disease is, what it might be, what its not, where it came from and what it will do, is feeding into our worries and deepest fears. Officially verifiable and recognized news organizations were once the only places for information but now news of any kind and with little fact based proof can be spread by anyone on social media. Right wing and extreme fundamental movements are spreading conspiracy theories. It's important that we put our trust in the medical organizations, epidemiologists, virologists and scientists. False rumours and conspiracy theories are not going to keep you and your family safe.

New vaccines for Covid19 are providing hope that we can effectively deal with this pandemic. There are several that have been released in record time to keep people from dying and getting very sick. It is true that as things evolve with Covid 19 and many new variants occur, scientists will have to tweak the current vaccines and may have to develop new ones over time. Still the best bet to help us manage this dangerous virus is in getting the vaccine to as many people as fast as pos-

I often think of my grand aunt Mary who ended up in a wheelchair before she got the vaccine. I urge you all to trust in the science and get the vaccines as soon as you possibly can.

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### Keeping Your Body And Mind Healthy



winter.

**Xavier** Kataquapit

'haven't been out and about much this past winter. It's been almost a year since I last visited a restaurant or fast food place. I would in more normal times before the pandemic take walks to the local coffee shop or restaurant during the

This winter, I've been to a some local retail stores but only for quick visits. I do curb side pickup for my groceries mostly but there are times when I do venture inside for specific items.

These are quick stressful visits when I wear a mask, latex gloves and use hand sanitization and washing as a followup. It's been a huge change in lifestyle and I am getting a little fed up with it.

I live with my partner who has compromising lung health issues so we stay safe and avoid any situation where we might get together, meet or mix with people, even outdoors. Our anxieties are increased with the news of new variants of the Covid19 virus that are becoming ever more infectious.

I spend a lot of time in front of my computer or our large screen television. Over the past month or two, the monotony has been wearing on me and I find that I am starting to become more and more lethargic in everything I do. Every day seems to be the same with the never ending drone of the talk about the pandemic, negative or depressing political news and constant conflict between different groups of people on social media. I find I have shut all my devices down every now and then in order to keep myself grounded.

Since I have been feeling the lethargy of sitting still all the time, I've been doing my best to keep up my physical health. I do my best to keep up a bit of an exercise routine in the basement with a weight set and an exercise bench.

I've also setup a treadmill in front of my living room big screen TV so that instead of sitting to watch an hour long show, I go for a walk and get my entertainment at the same time.

Recently, I've also motivated myself to start doing some basic Tai Chi with Don Fiore on Youtube every morning in order to keep moving my aging frame and aching joints.

Tai Chi is an ancient form of martial arts but its modern form is simplified to allow practitioners to maintain and enhance posture, balance, flexibility and strength.

The slow methodical movements and required concentration is also a form of meditation and relaxation.

Tai Chi is not too intensive and I find that the unique and unusual movements force me to move my limbs in ways I don't normally do during my day.

As a writer, my life now is in stark contrast to the one I lead over 20 years ago with my

RODU

parents in the north. Back then, I spent the majority of winters outdoors constantly working at maintaining our contracting business in the community, transporting goods up and down the James Bay winter road, hauling wood to heat our home and enduring regular trips up and down the coast to maintain hunting camps in preparation for the spring hunt.

My free time was filled with skating and playing hockey at a local outdoor rink in the community.

I can remember my dad Marius commenting that his life had become more sedentary in a modern world. When he was a young Cree hunter and trapper, there was no motorized transportation and everything worked on the strength of an individual and his dog team. By the time he made it to his 50s, he had difficulty walking a kilometer, yet as a young man, he was capable of covering hundreds of kilometers in the snow on dog sled and snowshoes every winter. Often we would stop at the many distant lonely wilderness trails to take a break on our snowmachines and he would remind us that he and many others like him had been here before on snowshoes and sled to get to their destinations.

We all need to remember how lucky we are to be here in Canada and in our safe communities with vaccines on the way. Things will get better in the long run but in the meantime try some Tai Chi and put your dancing shoes on.

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#### **QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR MEDICATIONS**

when you see your health care provider

**KEEP YOUR MEDICATION RECORD UP TO DATE.** 

#### 1. CHANGES?

#### 2. CONTINUE?

What medications do I need to keep taking, and why?

#### 3. PROPER USE?

How do I take my medications, and for how long?

#### 4. MONITOR?

How will I know if my medication is working, and what side effects do I watch for?

#### 5. FOLLOW-UP?

Do I need any tests and when do I book my next visit?

SafeMedicationUse.ca www.stayonyourfeet.ca

#### Remember to include:

- drug allergies
- vitamins and minerals
- √ herbal/natural products
- all medications including non-prescription products

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to review all your medications to see if any can be stopped or reduced.

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Properly disposing medication will help keep them out of the wrong hands, prevent abuse, or accidental ingestion.



















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## **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," Camerson 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 inlaws. 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

"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-advisoryboard-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

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

"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 Stud-

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

#### 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://nrip.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 MNRF 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 MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact:

#### Michele Kan, R.P.F.

Management Forester MNRF Red Lake District Office 227 Howey Street, Floor 2 P.O. Box 5003, Red Lake, ON PoV 2Mo tel: 807-727-1349 e-mail: michele.kan@ontario.ca

# Trout Lake Forest

#### Cole Wear, R.P.F. Domtar Inc.

Postal Bag 4004 1 Duke Street, Dryden, ON P8N 3J7 tel: 807-223-9038 e-mail: cole.wear@domtar.com

#### Stay Involved

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

https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involvedforest-management

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/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 MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact 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.



# 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. Kent-ner 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

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

## **Politics**



Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy delivered information about COVID-19 variants during his Wawatay Radio Network (WRN) Update

# DGC Smallboy updates communities on COVID-19 variants

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Jason Smallboy recently focused on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine and information about COVID-19 variants during his Wawatay Radio Network (WRN) Update on Feb. 9.

"Week two of the vaccine rollout in the NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) territory is underway and I am encouraged by the number of community (citizens) giving their consent to receive the vaccine," Small-boy says. "We all have a part to play in this pandemic and this includes receiving the vaccine if you can to protect those in our communities who are not eligible to receive it. While you wait for the vaccine to come to your community, please remember to wear a mask, wash your hands and not go out unless it is essential — this is so impor-

Smallboy says cases of the B.1.1.7 variant first identified in the United Kingdom, the B 1 351 variant first identified in South Africa and the P.1 variant first identified in Brazil have

appeared in Ontario.
"The different variants are more transmissible and spread easier to others," Smallboy says. "It is important to recognize a few key points: first off, we do not have all the answers about these variants yet, and it is so important to take this seriously and be careful. Everything that we are doing to protect ourselves against COVID-19 will work against the variants as well, this includes masking, physical distancing and hand hygiene."

Smallboy says the COVID-19 vaccines will likely be effective against the B.1.1.7 variant but for the other variants the vaccines may be less effective.

"However, the Moderna vaccine still works and provides some protection against the variants," Smallboy says, noting the Moderna vaccine is being rolled out to the NAN communities because it is easier to transport and store. "It seems that the vaccine prevents people from getting sick from these

variants, and that is a good thing. In the future there will be other vaccines and booster shots to cover these variants."

Smallboy says NAN, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority and the federal and provincial governments are working on information about the Moderna vaccine and distribution plans for the NAN communities.

"It is important that everyone in our communities understands this material, so it will be translated into Cree, (Anishinabemowin) and (Anishininimowin)," Smallboy says. "Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19. It is important to remember that only vaccines that are effective and safe are approved by Health Canada and vaccines can help keep NAN (citizens) and communities safe. In the meantime please continue the public health measures in your communities until the vaccine is more widely available."

Smallboy says the Moderna vaccine does not cause a COVID-19 infection.

"It helps build up our ability to fight off the virus," Smallboy says, noting that the Moderna vaccine is an mRNA vaccine, which is a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. "These vaccines teach our cells how to make copies of the coronavirus (COVID-19) spike protein that are harmless to us and do not cause disease but creates an immune response if you become infected with the virus."

Smallboy says it is "very important" that people receive both doses of the Moderna vaccine, which are administered 28 days apart.

"The vaccination teams will visit each community twice, and if community (citizens) miss the first vaccination dose, they can receive dose one when the team is back in the community 28 days later for dose two," Smallboy says.

The NAN leadership WRN Updates are posted online at: nancovid19.ca.





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# **Politics**

# NAN holds COVID-19 vaccine Q&A session online



screensho

Mae Katt, lead of the NAN COVID-19 Task Team, speaks during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation virtual COVID-19 Vaccine Question and Answer meeting.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation held a virtual COVID-19 Vaccine Question and Answer meeting featuring Health Minister Patty Hajdu, Dr. Isaac Bogoch and Mae Katt hosted by Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. Bogoch is an infectious diseases consultant, associate professor at the University of Toronto and member of the provincial Ministers' COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force and Katt is a nurse practitioner and lead of the NAN COVID-19 Task Team.

"It's an important part of our ongoing effort to provide a forum for our community (citizens) to raise any issues or ask any questions they may have about the vaccine, what's in the vaccine and why it is important to take the vaccine," Fiddler says. "So it was a really good opportunity for our community (citizens) to interact directly with the minister of health and with Dr. Bogoch and with our Task Team lead Mae Katt."

Fiddler says NAN has been having virtual meetings with the chiefs, tribal councils, health authorities and the Task Team every week to go through all the issues that are a priority for the communities and also concerns they may have about what is going on with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was a real opportunity to meet with NAN to talk about vaccinations with some of the communities and the leadership of the communities," says Hajdu, Thunder Bay-Superior North MP. "A lot of the questions were for me and Isaac but we answered general COVID-19 questions as well."

Hajdu says the federal government has been engaged with the provincial and territorial governments to make sure the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the communities is proceeding.

"NAN generally speaking is saying that it is going well," Hajdu says. "Obviously Indigenous people are a priority population for a whole bunch of reasons, living conditions, remoteness, but also pre-existing health conditions. So the idea of making sure that the communities get access to the vaccines is very important."

Hajdu says she had a meeting with Fiddler and provincial Health Minister Christine Elliott in January to make sure the province was focused on and had a plan for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in remote First Nation communities.

"Of course the federal government is there to support if there needs to be any additional supports," Hajdu says. "So far it appears to be going well in the northern communities."

Hajdu says there have been some delays in the delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, noting the companies are shipping millions of doses of vaccines to countries around the world.

"With Pfizer it was related to the expansion of a manufacturing facility," Hajdu says. "They assure us it is on target and we will get the remaining doses from Pfizer by the end of quarter one."

Hajdu says Moderna did not provide a reason for the reduction of vaccine shipments to Canada.

"We do have doses this week (early February) and we have

more doses coming next week," Hajdu says. "We anticipate a steady (delivery) of vaccines over the next several weeks, and we also anticipate that we will hit our six million doses target by the end of March."

Hajdu says the federal government will start to see "a real flow of vaccines" in April with the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines as well as the potential addition of the Astra-Zeneca, Johnson and Johnson and Novavax vaccines, which are still being reviewed by Health Canada for use in the country.

The regulators ... review all and science and the data on each vaccine to make sure that it's safe for use and that the vaccine does what it says.

 Patty Hajdu, Thunder Bay-Superior North MP

"The regulators are independent," Hajdu says. "They review all and science and the data on each vaccine to make sure that it's safe for use and that the vaccine does what it says. They even review things like the data on where the vaccine is manufactured — all of these companies have manufacturing facilities around the world."

Hajdu says the federal government has been working on building up the bio-manufacturing landscape in the country for "quite some time."

"We knew right away when we started that this was a bit of a weakness for Canada in that we didn't have the capacity to make medical PPE (person protective equipment) and then furthermore pharmaceuticals or vaccines," Hajdu says. "For those kind of things we have not seen really a strong industry for a long time so we've been investing in a number of companies to try and boost capacity."

Hajdu says the federal government has invested in Medicago, a Canadian vaccine company based in Quebec City that is working on a plant-based platform to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Medicago received the agreement of regulatory authorities to launch its Phase 2/3 clinical trials for the vaccine this past November.

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

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# **Education**

# Lakehead, Confederation and Canadore announce MOU to support Indigenous students

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Lakehead University, Confederation College and Canadore College recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop seamless transfer opportunities for Indigenous students during a Zoom virtual meeting on Feb. 12.

"We have been working with Canadore and Confederation College as two of our partner colleges that we get a lot of transfer students from to continue their education," says Denise Baxter, vice provost Indigenous Initiatives at Lakehead University. "One of the pieces that we had noted from talking with students was there were some specific supports that could be in place to make their transfer more successful."

Baxter says one of the issues they heard from first-year college students was that they didn't know what their options were for continuing their education in university after completing their college diploma.

"So just making students aware of (their options) was one piece, understanding what the transfer process looked like in terms of how you apply was another piece," Baxter says. "Students also spoke about the unknown, not knowing people, not knowing who to talk to moving from a system of (prescribed) courses — when you are doing a program at college these are the courses you take. At university, degrees have a lot more flexibility to them so you



submitted photo

funded by the Ontario Coun-

cil on Articulation and Trans-

fer (ONCAT) to explore the

enhancement of wrap-around

supports for Indigenous trans-

mitment to social responsibility

recognizes the importance of

our role as a regional university

in making a difference to all the

"Lakehead University's com-

fer students.

Lakehead University, Confederation College, Canadore College and Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer leaders.

have to make some decisions about what courses you want to take."

Baxter says Lakehead support staff visited the colleges to meet with students and answer questions.

"So when students applied and then they came to Lakehead, they knew who our support staff were at Lakehead already," Baxter says. "They had already spent a year or two or three developing relationships with people and getting all their questions answered up front or if they didn't even know necessarily the questions to ask, we could share that information with them so they knew what to expect and who to connect with when they applied and when they arrived at Lakehead."

The five-year MOU resulted from the collaboration by Lakehead's Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Confederation's Negahneewin Research Centre and Canadore's First Peoples' Centre on several projects communities we serve," says Moira McPherson, president and vice-chancellor at Lakehead University. "This MOU further demonstrates our continuing and collective commitment to encouraging and facilitating education opportunities for Indigenous learners."

The MOU outlines how

The MOU outlines how Lakehead, Confederation and Canadore intend to collaborate in planning for, developing and establishing a seamless transfer agreement to strengthen retention of Indigenous transfer students at each school.

"We are always pleased to partner with fellow post-secondary institutions that share our vision of excellence in education and support of student success," says Kathleen Lynch, president at Confederation College. "Through our formalized relationship with Canadore College and Lakehead University on this project, we look for-

ward to reducing barriers and increasing supports for Indigenous transfer students."

The three postsecondary institutions intend to explore the cultivation of inter- and intra-institutional academic and cultural support for Indigenous transfer students.

"Canadore has a proud history of commitment to Indigenous students by offering programs and services based on cultural values and practices," says George Burton, president and CEO at Canadore College. "This partnership carries on that tradition and creates exciting new educational opportunities for Indigenous learners."

Ross Romano, minister of Colleges and Universities, says it is "great" to see colleges and universities finding ways to work together to support students in the north.

"With support from ONCAT, the ability for Indigenous students to transfer easily and gain a post-secondary credential will strengthen the well-being and economy of Indigenous communities," Romano says.

Yvette Munro, executive director of ONCAT, says the partnership between the three postsecondary institutions will find new and better ways to support Indigenous students and enrich learning as a transfer system.

"ONCAT is thrilled to collaborate with our partners at Lakehead University, Canadore College and Confederation College to improve access to programs and degrees — and reduce cultural barriers to success — for Indigenous transfer students," Munro says.

ONCAT was created in 2011 to enhance academic pathways and reduce barriers for students looking to transfer among Ontario's public colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes.

#### **INSPECTION**

#### Inspection of 2021 - 2022 Annual Work Schedule Whitefeather Forest

The April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Whitefeather Forest** is available electronically for public viewing by contacting **Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority (WFCRMA)**, during normal business hours. It will also be available on the Natural Resources Information Portal https://nrip.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

WFCRMA is responsible for tree planting on the Whitefeather 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 MNRF 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 MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact:

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#### Stay Involved

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

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

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/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 MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact 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.

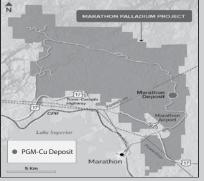
## GENERATIONPGM News Brief

#### The Marathon Palladium Project

The Marathon Palladium Project is a proposed open pit copper and palladium mine located approximately 10km north of the Town of Marathon in Northwestern Ontario. The Project is subject to a joint provincial and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, led by the Canadian Impact Assessment Agency. The original EIS Report was published in 2012, and Volume 1 of the EIS Addendum was published in 2020. Volume 2 is planned for publication in early 2021.

The Marathon Project will include three open pit mines, a processing capacity of 25,000 tonnes per day and an on-site process solids facility. Construction is expected to begin in 2022, with a maximum workforce of 900. Mine operations are planned to be active for 13 years plus 2 years of construction, providing 450 permanent full-time jobs.

As the proponent of the Marathon Palladium Project, GenerationPGM values our relationships with Indigenous communities. We strive to keep people informed of the Project, answer their questions and understand their concerns.



For more information about the Marathon Palladium Project please visit the GenerationPGM website or contact us at comments@genpgm.com

Contact us at comments@genpgm.com

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# Education

# Lakehead hosts Zaagidiwin love teachings online



screenshot
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug's Elton Beardy delivered a virtual presentation on Zaagidiwin Love Teach-

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Lakehead University kicked off the Family Day weekend with a virtual presentation on Zaagidiwin Love Teachings by Biwaase'aa youth outreach worker Elton Beardy on Feb. 12. The presentation on the teachings, philosophy and history behind the sacred law known as Love was hosted by Indigenous Initiatives Orillia.

"With Valentine's Day being on Sunday and Family Day being on Monday, why not take the time to talk about love," says Jasmine Panacheese, Indigenous Initiatives coordinator at Lakehead University. "I think right now the people around us need our love and need to know that we see them, whether it's the youth or our Elders or parents and families. Our communities need love right now."

Beardy, a cultural educator, storyteller and writer from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI), began his presentation by describing his work during the COVID-19 pandemic in a secondary school in Thunder Bay.

"My job is to introduce and make sure that the culture and the language and Indigenous history is cultivated in schools..."

- Elton Beardy

"It's been a really long year, especially the school year," Beardy says. "My job is to introduce and make sure that the culture and the language and Indigenous history is cultivated in schools. I work in the only high school we are in and we are all remote workers — before we would always have Elders coming into our schools and we'd have other traditional people come in and do openings, but because of the pandemic it's been very different."

Beardy says he has only been able to work with Elders and other traditional people over the Zoom virtual platform, noting it was good to hear the opening song by Elder Trish Monague at the beginning of the presentation.

"Even just hearing a song after a handful of months without having something opened in the right way, you forget how good it feels," Beardy says. "You forget how proper that is and how essential that intergenerational link is."

Beardy says his family moved to Thunder Bay when he was seven-years-old because his mother needed medical treatment that was not available in

"That kind of began my journey through life's obstacles and what it can throw at you," Beardy says. "My mom was my best friend — she was everything to me. And my dad always took care of us. I was lucky in

the sense I had both my parents with me."

Beardy says his grandmother also stayed with them for a while.

"I owe a lot to my kokum," Beardy says, noting she often babysat him while his parents were working. "She was the one who gave me my language, she was the one who always spoke to me in the language because that was the only language she knew. She gave me the foundation with which I could build my understanding and my fluency with Anishininimowin, with Oji-Cree, and later on in (Anishinabemowin), and I am able to move between the two now."

Beardy says his grandmother also made him winter gear out of moose hide.

"She made me all these beaver pelt hats and these moose hide gauntlets and moccasins," Beardy says. "I'd be decked out for the winter — winters would be like minus 40, I was good. My kokum took great care of me."

Beardy says he looks back on those first six years of his life in KI as the best years in his life.

"I had my mom's love, I had my dad's love, I had my kokum's love, I had the love of my friends, my family," Beardy says. "And that was what I grew up on. That was very important to me."

Beardy says he was introduced to the traditional teachings when he was about 16-years-old, and recalled a sacred fire ceremony he attended during one of the coldest days of the winter.

"I was there on the first day and I just had jeans on — I didn't even have winter boots," Beardy says, noting some of the other people provided him with some winter gear for the overnight event. "That was one of the first instances where I truly felt the love of community."

Beardy also shared stories about the traditional teachings during his presentation.

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ings during a Feb. 12 Zoom event hosted by Lakehead University.

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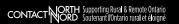


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# Education

# Lakehead's Indigenous Speaker Series continues

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Lakehead University Global Indigenous Speakers Series recently featured Sámi research professor Rauna Kuokkanen's virtual presentation about Indigenous Self-Determination and Gender Justice on Feb. 3. She referenced her award-winning book: Restructuring Relations: Indigenous Self-Determination, nance and Gender, which was published by Oxford University Press in 2019, during her presentation, which is available online at the speaker series webpage at: www.lakeheadu. ca/indigenous/global-indigenous-speakers-series.

"My talk today draws on my most recent book to discuss the ways in which Indigenous women in Canada, Greenland and Scandinavia envision gender justice in their communities," says Kuokkanen, research professor of Arctic Indigenous Studies at the University of Lapland (Finland) and adjunct professor of Indigenous Studies and Political Science at the University of Toronto. "The book and my research is based on interviews with over 70 Indigenous people, mostly women and many grassroots in Greenland; in Sápmi, which is the Sámi territory in Scandinavia; and three regions in Canada, which were southern Ontario. lower mainland and Victoria in B.C. and Sahtu community of Tulita in the Northwest Territo-



screenshot tice during

Sámi research professor Rauna Kuokkanen delivered a virtual presentation about Indigenous Self-Determination and Gender Justice during Lakehead University's Global Indigenous Speakers Series.

Kuokkanen says one of her main arguments in the book is that the key challenge in implementing and exercising Indigenous self-determination is the binary opposition between so-called self-determination issues on the one hand and social issues on the other.

"Indigenous women in recent grassroots movements like Idle No More and Standing Rock however have challenged this binary in their politics and practice," Kuokkanen says. "Based on my analysis of existing self-government institutions and drawing on extensive conversations with Indigenous women, I've concluded that the main reasons for the separation of gender questions from governance issues include the international Indigenous rights discourse that limits self-determination largely through relations with the states as well as the existing gender regimes of Indigenous political institutions."

Kuokkanen says she introduced a question posed by Val Napoleon, a Cree feminist scholar, in her book on why is it so difficult to write and speak as an Indigenous woman, explicitly from an Indigenous woman's experience, about the (broader) political issues of self-determination, Indigenous legal orders and law, self-government or Aboriginal rights.

"I suggest that the difficulty for Indigenous women to speak and write about these issues arises from the fact that in spite of their long and active involvement and participation in multiple ways, their views have been typically and systematically brushed aside in formulating Indigenous participation and self-government discourses which have been formalized in international law and national legislation in the past couple of decades," Kuokkanen says, noting that merely inserting Indigenous women's views into these discourses will not transform them to reflect or represent what self-determination means for these women. "This was one of the most interesting findings

in my research that it was often ... how Indigenous women really discussed self-determination in sometimes radically different ways that we often hear in the formal Indigenous political discourse. So drawing on the interviews and other research, I theorize Indigenous self-determination as a foundational value — it is a right but I argue it is also a value. Following feminist legal scholar Jenny Nedelsky, by foundational value I mean a shared articulation or what a group considers indispensable for their wellbeing as individuals and as a people.'

Lakehead University is holding the five-speaker Global Indigenous Speakers Series to highlight the theory, research and practice of international Indigenous scholars and offer students and faculty across disciplines inspiration, creativity and paths forward in uncertain times.

"The purpose of this speaker series is to help share Indigenous knowledge approaches to contemporary issues," says Moira McPherson, president and vice chancellor at Lakehead University. "Indigenous knowledge systems can be used to understand and address non-Indigenous issues by helping us reimagine how we perceive our future."

The final presentation with be delivered by Linda Payi Ford, associate professor and principal research fellow for The Northern Institute Charles Darwin University, Australia, on March 3



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## **Environment**

# Naotkamegwanning youth complete climate strategy project

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

A group of Naotkamegwanning youth recently completed a Climate Strategy project for their community with input from Elders through Grand Council Treaty #3's Youth Cli-

mate Strategy Development Team project.

"To know what to do about (climate change), first we've got to know what is exactly happening in our area," says Kolby White, a member of the youth team. "So the things we were doing was gathering stories from Elders (and) having them evaluate things that might have changed in the past to now especially with the environment, maybe the amount of animals they saw (and) how thick the bushes were.'

"Forty or 50 years ago they were able to just go to the lake and take a drink and that's obviously not the case today."

- Kolby White

White says the Elders told them that trees and plants do not seem to be as colourful as they used to be and there are now fewer animals on the land

than in the past.

"(They said) things have been a lot greyer in recent times," White says. "They said the deer before and partridge would be pretty much everywhere and you would be able to get dinner that way. You would know that would be fit to eat because there were lots of them running around and they looked perfectly healthy. But now it's kind of different, they said you have to look out for maybe a disease or make sure they are not dirty."

White says the Elders also told them that the water has changed since when they were young.

"Forty or 50 years ago they were able to just go to the lake and take a drink," White says.

"And that's obviously not the case today."

White says the condition of the water in Lake of the Woods was the key part of the project for the youth.

'That was our key to evaluating just how worse things have gotten than before," White says. "We went out on the lake, did a little fishing, and then obviously we needed to test the pH level of the water."

White says the pH level of the water in their local area on the Lake of the Woods "was a bit more acidic than before."

White says the youth completed the project, which was due to be completed in April 2020, through virtual means during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's definitely been a little more complicated because it's a lot easier for everyone to gather in a big room and talk to each other and bounce ideas off each other," White says. "It's become a lot more online with Facebook messages, Zoom calls."

White says the Climate Strategy was presented to chief and council in January.

"The ideas were given to them and hopefully they can pass it along," White says.
White adds that there was a

positive response from the community to the Climate Strategy.

"They do want it to go back to where you could drink water from the lake and when things looked a lot more greener,' White says. "Obviously people want that back, and hearing that we were developing a strategy to get that back for them has been really positive."

The Naotkamegwanning youth began working on the Climate Strategy after the Youth Climate Strategy Development Team project was launched in late 2019 by the Territorial Planning Unit of Grand Council Treaty #3.

"It's fantastic to see the youth from Naotkamegwanning taking leadership on the climate strategy and working with the knowledge of our Elders," says Grand Council Treaty #3 Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh. "These opportunities are important to continuing all the work Treaty #3 is doing to protect Mother Earth and our terri-

### www.wawataynews.ca

Victim Witness Program at Nishnawbe Aski **Legal Services Corporation** have partnered with *Pikangikum First Nation* and have launched their Finding the Way Podcasts Shows.

Please tune into **Wawatay Radio** on Wednesdays, Feb. 24 - March 24, at 2 pm & 4 pm CST or 3 pm & 5 pm EST to listen in on the Programs related topics.

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# Health

# MPP Mamakwa helps with vaccine rollout in Muskrat Dam

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa rolled up his sleeve for a COVID-19 vaccination shot in Muskrat Dam on Feb. 1 as part of a campaign to combat vaccine hesitancy in First Nation communities.

"I was having some discussions with the leadership of some communities regarding the vaccinations that were happening and one of things they were telling me is the number of people that were signing up to be vaccinated, some of them were fairly low, some of them were fairly low, some of them were saying no and some of them high, so it varied," Mamakwa says. "So I knew based on that — how can I help, how can I support the communities."

Mamakwa says Muskrat Dam Chief Gordon Beardy asked him to take the vaccination shot due to low COVID-19 vaccination sign-up numbers in some First Nation communities.

"In our way of life, in the way we do things in our communities, we lead by example and that was one of the ways I could do it so I went up there," Mamakwa says, noting that the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) supported his vaccination in Muskrat Dam as a way to increase the uptake of vaccinations in the communities. "I was honoured to be invited

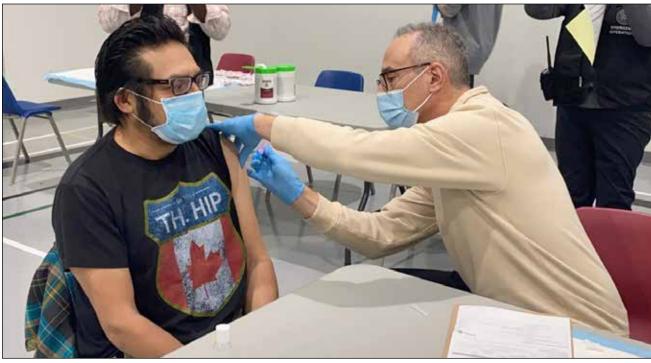
even though I was hesitant, not because of the vaccine but I was hesitant because of the optics of it. But when they did the blessing ceremony of the vaccines, when the Elder spoke, when the chief spoke ... and when I was there with the community and the vaccination team and also the support team, I knew I had made the right decision."

Dr. John Guilfoyle, public health physician at SLFNHA, says Mamakwa's support of Operation Remote Immunity, the first phase of the immunization program against COVID-19. was very much appreciated.

19, was very much appreciated. "Your ability to support the community of Muskrat Dam at the request of its leadership is useful," Guilfoyle says. "Creating a climate in which community citizens choose confidently to accept the vaccine is critical. To be safe, we must aim for the goal of the highest level of vaccine uptake in those eligible. High profile, trusted community citizens setting an example helps to normalize accepting immunization and reinforces that it is an appropriate response to what continues to be a worrisome situation."

Mamakwa says it was "very clear" to him that people need to be educated about the importance of getting their COVID-19 vaccination shots.

"It is extremely important for our communities, our Elders and our residents to take this vaccine," Mamakwa says. "I



submitted photo

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa was invited by Muskrat Dam Chief Gordon Beardy to get his COVID-19 vaccination shot in Muskrat Dam to help increase the uptake of vaccinations in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities.

want First Nations families to know: I trust in the science. The vaccine is safe. It is used as a shield against the virus. As more of us get vaccinated, the end of this pandemic will be in sight. With the vaccine, we will be protecting ourselves, our languages and our traditions to thrive for future generations."

Mamakwa also travelled to Wapekeka on Feb. 8 to encour-

age people to get their vaccina-

"They had invited me to the first day of vaccinations," Mamakwa says. "They weren't sure about the numbers but the rate was going up, the number of people that were taking the vaccine was increasing so it's about encouragement, it's about public health."

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

says it was encouraging to see the leadership of the Nishnawbe Aski Nations communities stepping up and being among the first citizens to receive the vaccine.

"That's what we saw again yesterday (Feb. 9) in Cat Lake with Chief Russell Wesley and in Wapekeka and Webequie and right through the rest of our communities — it's usually the

chief or the council that are the first ones, and that's what we're seeing in terms of the communities that have been visited so far," Fiddler says. "It's really encouraging to hear the leadership support for this and them knowing how important it is for their (citizens) to get vaccinated."

**ADVERTORIAL** 



# Tikinagan works to maintain connections during COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as children's social worlds shrink, maintaining those connections is more important than ever, said Tikinagan Executive Director Thelma Morris.

"We know that children and youth are interacting less with adults, so that is why it is so important we look to our service model Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin," she said. "Everyone needs to work together to take care of our children."

# "Everyone needs to work together to take care of our children."

Tikinagan has turned largely to technology to maintain connections with children in care during the pandemic.

That has included launching a foster parent hotline with service in English, Oji-cree, and Ojibway, providing cell phones to youth in care, and increasing check-ins over the phone or virtually.

Communication with foster parents has actually increased during the pandemic, said Morris, with check-ins by phone or video conference at least once per week.

"Support through ongoing communication for children, families, and foster parents has been essential during this time," Morris said. "And it's made a difference."

Many child protection agencies across the province and the country have reported lower numbers of child wellbeing concerns during the pandemic, Morris added, but Tikinagan's service levels remained steady.

The agency has worked to minimize in-person contact as much as possible during COVID-19. In-person contact with clients is limited to urgent child protection matters.

However, families can still seek support through the 24/7 phone line at 1-800-465-3624.

When in-person support is necessary, Tikinagan works to ensure families have sufficient PPE and workers are following all COVID-19 precautions, which can vary by community.

Learn more at tikinagan.org or call 1-800-465-3624

# Health

# Scientists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers harmonize worldviews at third annual gathering

#### **Wawatay News**

Indigenous Elders, NWMO leaders and staff, and profestive year, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) hosted its annual "Indigenous Knowledge and workshop topics were anchored in discussions on fundamental differences, interconnectedness, and interweaving worlddifferent 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

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 pro-

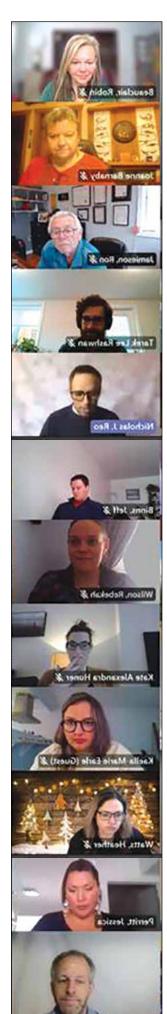
"In our creation stories, Turtle Island was created when a big turtle emerged from the water to support the world. Our continent North America,' said Dr. Thrasher. "Kanata (Canada) has always meant a 'clean place' to Indigenous people. If we explore the depth of this meaning from an environmental perspective,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

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 Keep-

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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# Health

# Ginoogaming declares state of emergency over COVID-19 cases

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Ginoogaming brought its number of active COVID-19 cases down from nine to one since declaring a State of Emergency over a COVID-19 out-

"When we declared at State of Emergency ... there were 6 active COVID-19 cases in the community," says Ginoogaming Councillor and Health Director Sheri Taylor. "We are at one active (case) now — we had six previous and five resolved as of Monday, Feb. 8."

Taylor says the road-access community implemented a series of restrictions to halt the spread of any further COVID-19

"We're just keeping up with the current restrictions we have in place and keeping up with informing and educating our community," Taylor says. "We are not allowing people that don't reside, don't have an address on the community, so they are not allowed in at this time. The only ones allowed in are essential staff or service pro-

Taylor says the community's Headstart building was used as an isolation centre for two citizens who needed to isolate from their families.

Four adults who live in a home with three-to-five others also developed COVID-19 but they were able to isolate in their home and have since recovered.

"We managed to bring what they needed that was essential. communicate with them and keep in contact with them to





submitted photos

Ginoogaming received assistance from the Canadian Rangers after declaring a State of Emergency due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the community.

make sure they were all feeling OK," Taylor says.

Three other adults in another home also developed COVID-

"That is what brought us up to nine (COVID-19 cases) at that time," Taylor says. "The restrictions seem to work, so we are going to keep on with doing this for a little while yet just to make sure that we don't have any further cases in the community."

Ginoogaming also engaged in a Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) process, which acts as a single point of contact in emergency situations and ensures key decision makers are able to respond to evolving situations as quickly as possible, during the State of Emergency.

"Through our work with PEOC, we have been able to receive support of the federal and provincial governments that will begin to address some of the assistance needed including the deployment of the Canadian Rangers to provide more needed boots-on-theground in our community," Tay-

Taylor says the community is also beginning the process of vaccination planning, including with Dr. Janet DeMille, medical officer of health at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Constance Lake also declared a State of Emergency on Jan. 21 in response to a COVID-19 outbreak in the community of 11 positive cases, which was identified by the Porcupine Health

Unit as beginning on Jan. 16. "We are seeing an exponential spread in our community in a span of less than a week - this is why a second COVID-19 State of Emergency was declared." says Constance Lake Chief Rick Allen on Jan. 21. "For a community that has not had cases for the past 10 months, and with a number of cases in our community affecting children, we are alarmed but we are urging calm. We are calling on federal and provincial governments to come together to provide funding and emergency management supports in order for CLFN to effectively respond to the outbreak."

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler says Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) was able to secure COVID-19 vaccines for the Elders and staff at the Sunrise Elder's Complex in Constance

"Obviously we're concerned whenever we hear about a positive (COVID-19) case in one of our communities but it's more troubling when we hear about a possible outbreak or multiple cases in communities," Fiddler says. "We are closely monitoring those communities and having regular calls with the leadership and also supporting the communities."

Fiddler says the next part of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is

to provide vaccinations in the road-access communities.

'That's the work that's got to (be done) now is to vaccinate the road access communities and then right after that the urban population," Fiddler says. "We have many families that reside in urban centres, whether it's in Sioux Lookout or Timmins or Cochrane or Thunder Bay, so we need to try to get to them as soon as possible."

Fiddler says NAN is also concerned about the COVID-19 situation with inmates in the provincial correctional institutions.

"So we're always monitoring that with the provincial officials to make sure everything is being done to keep them safe,'

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#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

To all persons who were Crown Wards in Ontario at any time from the period on or after January 1, 1966 until March 30, 2017 and suffered physical or sexual assault before or while a Crown Ward ("Class Members")

A proposed settlement has been reached with Ontario in this class action to provide compensation of up to \$3,600 to Class Members who are former Crown Wards who suffered physical or sexual assault before or while a Crown Ward.

This lawsuit is not about seeking money from your abusers for the abuse you suffered. The lawsuit is about the government's alleged duty to consider and, where appropriate, apply for specific benefits on behalf of Crown Wards who were victims of crime, or to seek damages in civil actions on behalf of Crown Wards. The lawsuit, and this settlement, do not impact your ability to sue someone who abused you.

If you opted out of the class action, the settlement will not impact you.

There will be a court hearing on May 12, 2021 to decide whether the proposed settlement of the lawsuit should be approved. The hearing will take place virtually.

There is no money available now. If the court approves the settlement and you are part of the lawsuit, you can then make a claim.

To obtain further information, please visit https://OntarioCrownWardClassAction.ca or contact Epig Global at 1-877-739-8936, or by email at info@ontariocrownwardclassaction.ca.

The lawyers acting for the class are Koskie Minsky LLP. You may also contact Koskie Minsky LLP at 1-866-778-7985, or by email at OCWclassaction@kmlaw.ca.

If you approve of the settlement, and want it to proceed so you can claim money, you do not need to take any steps. If you want to object to the settlement, you must send an objection to Epiq Global by April 1, 2021.



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

# 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 driving 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**

road season.

#### 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 MNRF 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 MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNRF contact below:

#### For Whiskey Jack Forest

Kaitlin Moncrief, Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Kenora District Office 808 Robertson Street, Kenora, ON PgN 1X9

tel: 807-468-2597 e-mail: kaitlin.moncrief@ontario.ca

#### For Kenora Forest

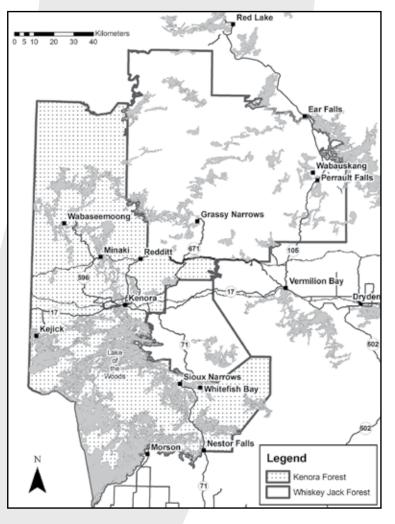
**Kyle Myschowoda, Management Forester**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Kenora District Office
808 Robertson Street, Kenora, ON PgN 1X9
tel: 807-468-2559

e-mail: kyle.myschowoda@ontario.ca Kurt Pochailo, Management Forester

Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company 510 Ninth Street North, Kenora, ON PgN 2S8 tel: 807-467-3351 ext. 2 e-mail: kurt.pochailo@miisun.ca

#### Stay Involved

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



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

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/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 MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shannon Diehl, MNRF, District Business Co-ordinator, at shannon.diehl@ontario.ca.



# 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.

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

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

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

announcement "Today's 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," Mulroney 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."

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 communities 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.'

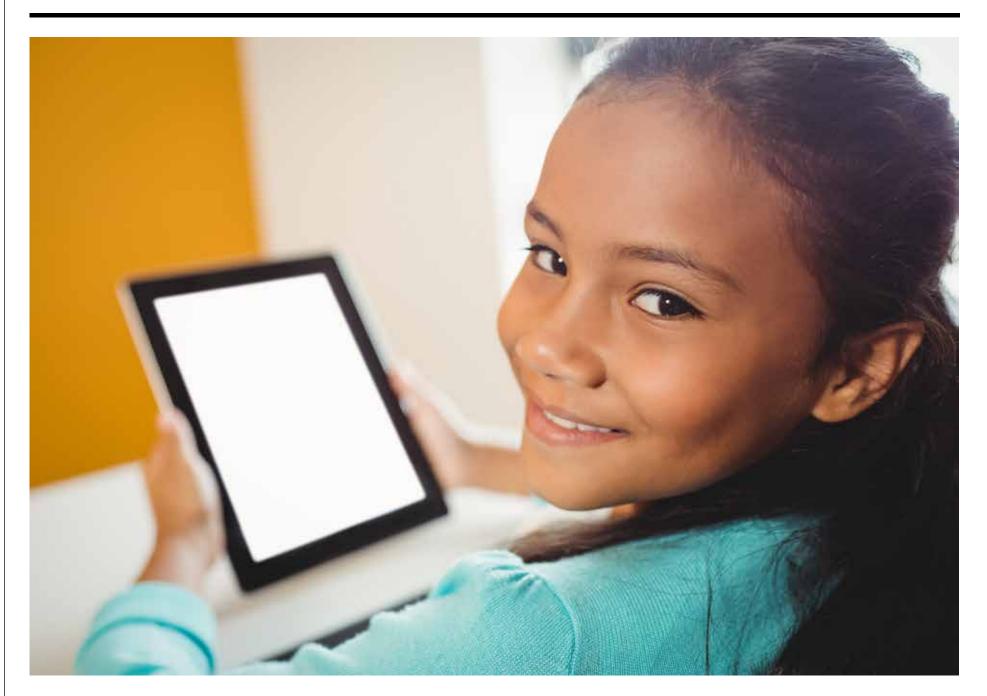






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For anyone interested in pursuing counselling services during this difficult time, we are happy to help clients access funding through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Indian Residential School (IRS) programs.

During the past 15 years, we have been proud to provide counselling services for Indigenous communities throughout Northern Ontario.

However, with travel restrictions and concerns about contracting COVID-19, we are happy to continue providing counselling services virtually with Zoom.

We have also created an Indigenous Mental Health video series online via Facebook to help provide further support for Indigenous communities.

If you are interested in booking a counselling appointment, please contact our clinic toll-free at (888) 269-0237 or (807) 768-0660.

# Matawa asks for regional partnerships on development

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management CEO David Paul Achneepineskum is calling on the federal government to establish partnerships with the Matawa First Nations on development of the north and the Ring of Fire. Achneepineskum presented his outline of areas for the federal government to invest in during a Feb. 10 virtual panel on the 2021 federal pre-budget consultations hosted by Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu and Thunder Bay-Rainy River MP Marcus Powlowski.

"We presented to them the ideas about what should be included in their upcoming budget," Achneepineskum says. "I discussed the idea of setting aside a fund to establish regional partnerships that Matawa could get involved in or even other tribal councils within Nishnawbe Aski Nation. I call it an investment fund."

Achneepineskum says the idea behind the proposal was to build capacity in the Matawa communities, for example with infrastructure, all-weather roads and energy development.

"These kind of projects would get our people ready for any kind of economic development that will happen in our territory, mining for example," Achneepineskum says. "There needs to be all-weather road access to haul out the material, possibly to railroads. So what we're saying is rather than government building it themselves or even industry, why not build partnerships between private

industry, public like Canada and Ontario and First Nations."

Achneepineskum adds that the Matawa communities currently need a range of infrastructure, including housing, water and sewer systems and electrical power.

"These are badly needed," Achneepineskum says. "Why not make an initial investment in those communities so that they have that capacity and willingness to proceed with these kind of ventures or jobs without having to worry about their poor housing or poor infrastructure."

The Matawa Chiefs Council is advocating for a regional economic approach that includes the interests and participation of Matawa First Nations as equity partners with government, industry and investors in the potential opportunities and world-class mining district in northern Ontario, including the Ring of Fire chromite deposit.

"Matawa First Nations understand that the development of the north in Ontario is of global and national importance to the economic recovery and security of Canada and Ontario in a post-COVID-19 world," Achneepineskum says. "The ben-eficiaries of James Bay Treaty No. 9 may be holding the purse strings of Canada and Ontario's significant accumulated and accelerating debt being incurred due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Collaboration, negotiations and investments by Canada in partnership with First Nations will be required in order to prepare for the globally significant and



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations Management CEO David Paul Achneepineskum called for the federal government to establish partnerships with the Matawa First Nations on development of the north and the Ring of Fire during a Feb. 10 virtual panel on the 2021 federal pre-budget consultations.

truly world-class mining district that is expected to emerge from within the Matawa homelands and traditional territory."

Matawa's submission includes a call for Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett to be designated the lead federal minister to work alongside Matawa First Nations on the development of northern Ontario's "storehouse" of natural resources that is James Bay

Treaty No. 9.

Other components of the submission are: the role of the Crown of Canada and the minister responsible for Indigenous-Crown Relations must be more transparent as a treaty partner; and Canada's commitment to begin this process would be a substantial legacy for Matawa First Nations – and all Canadians – on joint efforts towards reconciliation and forging a new path forward for Indige-

nous-Crown relations.

The submission also called for collaboration and investments to support Matawa First Nations and other northern Ontario First Nations in priority areas related to: regional infrastructure and economic opportunity investments; planning for tangible improvements to First Nations quality of life, high cost of living and lack of services; regional and local financial management

supports and investment planning; strategic regional education, employment and training initiatives related to supporting First Nations communities and industry partners to prepare for specific and specialized job opportunities; and regional ecological and environmental initiatives that ensure the best science and technology are used in the remote north.



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photo submitted by Warrant Officer Carl Wolfe

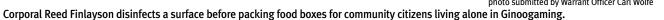




photo submitted by Sergeant Peter Moon, Canadian Rangers Carl Wolfe, an army instructor, is working with the Rangers in

# Canadian Rangers support First Nations in Covid emergencies

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 kilometrers northeast of Thunder Bay. It has a population of about

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 parttime 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

"I'm exhausted and a lot of our other staff are exhausted,' said Sheri Taylor, a band councilor 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 anywhere 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 Bor-

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# 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...impres-

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' head-quarters 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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photo submitted by Warrant Officer Carl Wolfe



Rangers Jody Grenier and Curtis Waboose deliver food to homes in Ginoogaming in bitter cold tempera- 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-

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 fulltime 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 Councillor 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

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

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