

Education

Drew Hayden Taylor speaks at Confederation College

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Confederation College recently held An Exclusive Conversation with Drew Hayden Taylor on Feb. 13 at the Dibaajimogamig Lecture Theatre on the Thunder Bay campus.

"I had to find my own way of telling my own stories," Taylor says. "For me, the luckiest thing I ever did was I found myself on the Blood reserve in Alberta where I met an Elder, and I was telling him my problems, that my mother was a wonderful, vivacious woman with a great sense of humour, my mother was not oppressed, depressed or suppressed and I didn't know how to become a writer with all that, and he laughed and he said, 'In his opinion, for Native people, humour is the WD-40 of healing.'"

Taylor says he thought the Elder's advice was so cool that it was t-shirt worthy.

"So I embraced that," Taylor says. "I've travelled to over 150 First Nation communities across Canada and the United States, and everywhere I've been I've been greeted with a laugh, a smile and a joke. I wanted to go out and celebrate that because I think it was our sense of humour that's allowed us to survive and go on and become the people we are today."

Taylor says the An Exclusive Conversation went very well.

"It was a warm interested crowd that asked a lot of cool questions," Taylor says. "It was a delight to interchange with

them."

Shadow Orwick, Indigenous student advisor at Confederation College and emcee for An Exclusive Conversation, says Taylor's presentation was awesome.

"I'm a fan of Drew and his writing and I thought it was great," Orwick says. "We're going to extend this into Apiwin as well so hopefully we get a little more questions and answers. It was a great inspiration to staff, faculty but especially the students."

Gull Bay's Blake Kawtiash says Taylor's presentation was very epic.

"We're in the Dibaajimogamig Theatre in Confederation College, there's a lot of high profile people coming through and giving talks and Drew Hayden Taylor is one of those people," Kawtiash says. "It was very refreshing and you could definitely tell he's one of us, he's definitely able to joke and it was interesting to see his world view about how other countries are interested in Indigenous people, their cultures and their way of life."

Aroland's Britiny Jabic also enjoyed Taylor's presentation. "He leads his stories with a really good sense of humour, he ended his presentation with a couple of good jokes and there's a lot of experience that he shares," Jabic says.

Dylan Jourdain-Spence says Taylor's presentation was insightful. "It was pretty insightful into the writing world," Jourdain-



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Curve Lake writer Drew Hayden Taylor speaks during Confederation College's An Exclusive Conversation with Drew Hayden Taylor on Feb. 13 at the Dibaajimogamig Lecture Theatre on the Thunder Bay campus.

Spence says. "It's kind of nice to get a different perspective and kind of learn more about their writing style and writing process. It was really nice to hear his words and meet him and see him in person, and it was really enjoyable to watch."

Tammy West says Taylor's presentation was fantastic.

"It really resonated with myself," West says. "His plays were excellent, I'm a teacher myself so I taught these in classes so it's nice to meet the author face to face."

Jerri-Lynn Orr, associate dean Indigenous Studies at Confederation College, says Taylor's jokes were hilarious.

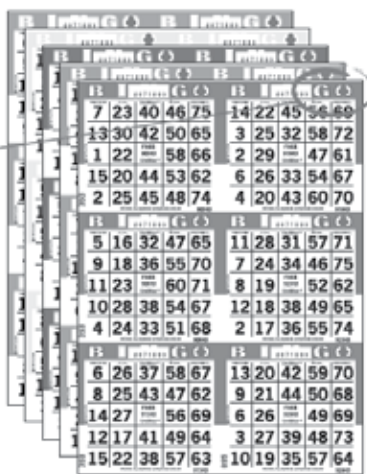
"I liked how he did the presentation in a storytelling kind of way and how he really engaged the audience and told jokes and highlighted our humour within his presentation," Orr says, noting the importance of bringing in writers like Taylor. "It's important so that our students can see

themselves reflected and if they have hopes or dreams of being a writer or wanting to be a bigger part of the Indigenous community, that they have the opportunity to see how that's done and how Drew went about becoming a writer."

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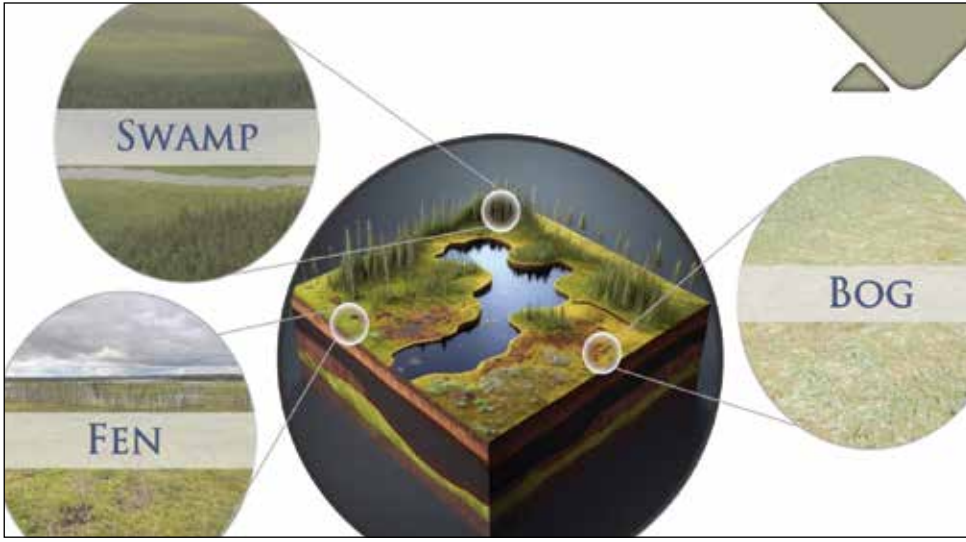
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Education



screenshot

University of Guelph assistant professor Catherine Dieleman explained the difference between bogs, fens and swamps during her webinar on Peatlands and Carbon that kicked off Matawa First Nations's Four Rivers Group reintroduction of its webinar series on Feb. 10.

Four Rivers reintroduces webinar series

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Matawa First Nations's Four Rivers Group reintroduced its webinar series with a presentation on Peatlands and Carbon by Catherine Dieleman, a boreal forest ecologist from the University of Guelph, on Feb. 10. The webinars are being hosted live on the Zoom platform.

"The webinar is meant to be a general introduction to peatland and peatland ecology in our northern landscape," says Dieleman, an assistant professor at the University of Guelph. "So just kind of introducing what are the different types of peatlands, why are they important from a range of different per-

spectives, what are some of the different eco system services or gifts they provide and why are they just so incredibly important in our northern landscapes in particular but on a global scale as well."

Dieleman says peatlands have an incredible capacity to change their location and their height.

"They can go up and they can go down, and this is called bog breathing and it's just recognizing that in response to the water table, the levels will go up and they will go down," Dieleman says. "But I believe the Breathing Lands is particularly important for a number of communities because it recognizes that cultural connection to these peatland spaces as well."

Dieleman says the webinar will cover some of the different types of peatlands, such as a fen, a bog and a swamp.

"How do you know what they are and what are some of the key differences among them," Dieleman says.

Dieleman says she will also cover some of the aspects of peatlands that are commonly highlighted, such as the role of water, the role of biodiversity, the relationship between these landscapes and food and medicinal plants and the importance of climate regulation.

see WEBINAR page 7

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Education

Webinars hosted on Zoom platforms

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“Then we’ll go on to explore just how incredibly vast the carbon stores are in these particular types of eco systems, so in peatlands,” Dieleman says. “In northern Ontario we have a truly globally significant peatland, it’s the second largest contiguous peatland on the planet, so just emphasizing how remarkable that really is and how important that is from a global climate change perspective.”

Jennifer Duncan, community values coordinator at Four Rivers, says they are excited to be able to share the information through the webinars.

“We’re lucky here at Four Rivers that we’re able to learn so much about the environment from both an Indigenous perspective and a Western science perspective,” Duncan says. “We’re also really fortunate to be able to build relationships with communities and governments and academics and other non-profits — we’ve got a really good network and we’re able to share a lot of different information on a lot of cool topics like the peatlands with hopefully all of the people in the Matawa communities, that’s who the target is but it’s really open to anyone.”

Duncan says the goal is to kick off the series with a webinar every two weeks over the next couple of months.

“And then the hope is to host (webinars) throughout all of 2026 and 2027 kind of on a monthly basis,” Duncan says. “We’re looking to do the next one probably on the Land Guardians — Four Rivers, Matawa has an internship program right now that’s being offered to Matawa youth to become guardians, so the goal of that one would be to get some more information out about that internship program but also have some of our current interns that are enrolled in the program to speak to their experiences so far and some of the things they’ve learned.”

Duncan says one of the upcoming webinars would be about some of the research the federal government has done in the Hudson Bay Lowlands.

“At then the end of March we’ve got one scheduled with a researcher from Lakehead University on lake sturgeon,” Duncan says.

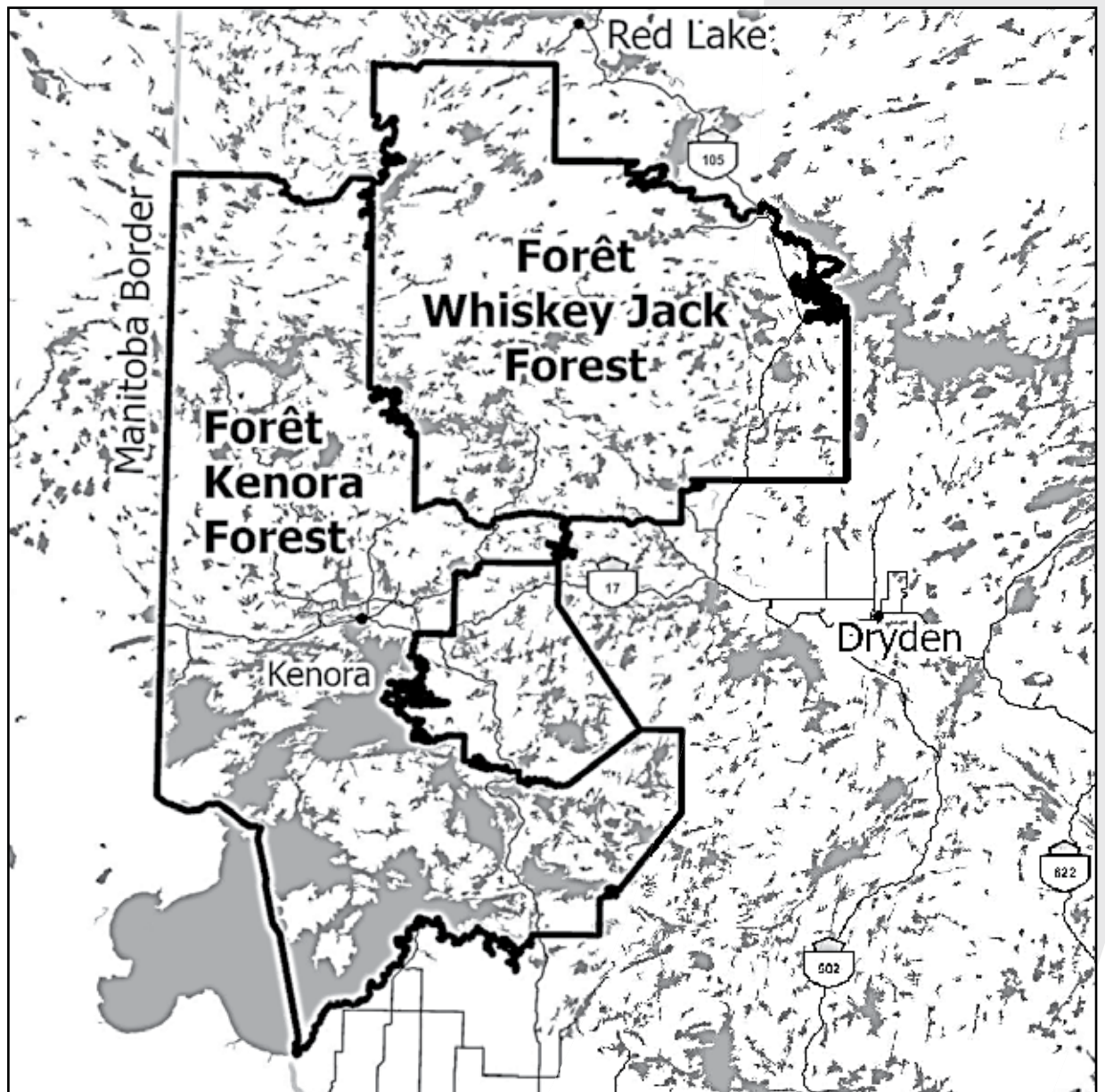
Information about upcoming webinars will be posted on the Four Rivers Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/FourRiversGroupFRG.



Inspection

Inspection of the 2026 - 2027 Annual Work Schedule for the Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests

The April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forests is available for public viewing by contacting **Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company**, during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at ontario.ca/ForestPlans beginning **March 15, 2026** 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.

More Information

For more information on the AWS, to arrange a virtual or in-person meeting with MNR staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNR staff listed below:

For information on the rules for obtaining wood for personal use, please visit: ontario.ca/CrownLandWood. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the Forest Company listed below.

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Arts & Entertainment



submitted photos

Attawapiskat musician Adrian Sutherland collaborated with a group of Kashechewan youth on a song and video, which was recently posted on Youtube, as part of the Choose Life program.

Adrian Sutherland collaborates with Kashechewan youth

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

A video featuring a music collaboration over the past year between Attawapiskat musician Adrian Sutherland and a group of Kashechewan youth is posted on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru8IhEVMJIA. The I'm Not Afraid music video, which features an upbeat and positive song that carries the message of hope and connection, was undertaken as part of the Choose Life program.

"We went in last year, last fall and then the winter, visiting

the community and doing some writing and videoing," Sutherland says. "I had a really good time and I think the kids had a blast."

Sutherland says he used to do more work with young people in different communities when he was younger.

"So it was kind of nice to go back to where I started and work with those young people," Sutherland says. "There was a huge learning experience for all of us, I have learned so much from working with them."

Sutherland enjoyed working with the youth on the project, which included Albert Mattinas,

Anson Hughie, Coen Wesley, Deacon Lazarus, Jaime Williams, Jazmin Stephen, Khayden Koosees, Leondre Lazarus and Raymos Nakogee.

"This group was so giving, they wrote this song, they had the theme," Sutherland says. "We started to see a theme in the first writing session we had with them."

Sutherland says he had been asked by the program coordinator to work with the group of youth.

see MUSIC page 10

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Arts & Entertainment



New music video out now

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"I felt compelled to do it because I know some of the kids there and I have some family in that community and I thought it would be good to go in and just kind of see how this goes," Sutherland says. "We got so much out of the kids, they were so willing to express themselves through lyrics and they also were singing along with the whole gang, so it was great."

Sutherland says the youth are very connected to the land.

"They are very traditional, (there's) a very strong language retention in the community

too," Sutherland says. "All those kids are fluent in Cree so it was nice to see that and just kind of be around that and visit some of the places where they go and swim or where they do snaring or where they gather with the community."

All those kids are fluent in Cree so it was nice to see that and just kind of be around that...

2026.

"We spent the week in Toronto on media activities a couple of weeks ago, so it's been really good," Sutherland says. "The book is out there and I think the people that have read it have been reaching out and saying that they really enjoyed it. When you hear good things coming back, I think that's really all you could ask for."

Sutherland says one of his goals with the book was to show people a different dimension of where he lives.

"I think a lot of times people just see the mould, they see the crisis, they see the decaying water system, they don't see beyond those troublesome things, so for me it was important to show a different dimension from the point of view of somebody who's actually lived here their whole life and what that was like," Sutherland says.

Sutherland says they were able to capture some of the personalities of the youth in the video.

"You could see (by) the expressions on their faces that they were very interested in what we were doing and they were very in tune with what was happening and you could see from the video that they were enjoying it," Sutherland says. "You could see in the video clearly that they were really comfortable and they were having a good time."

Sutherland adds that he has received a good response to the release of his first book, *The Work of Our Hands: A Cree Meditation on the Real World*, which was released on Dec. 30 by Penguin Random House Canada. The book, which reveals insights into Sutherland's life in the far north, was selected by Indigo as one of their Most Anticipated Canadian Books for

"It's really a philosophy about how people live up here, it's very hands-on, people are in a rhythm of survival, they're in a rhythm of collecting water, harvesting, building and doing ceremonies and raising their children. The world teaches you differently when you have to harvest your own food, it teaches you differently when you have to carry an 80-pound jug of water because the pipes are not reliable, so I wanted to kind of reveal that part of Attawapiskat and growing up here in the far north that most people don't see and will never know."

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Sports



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Aroland artist Shelby Gagnon created the artwork for the uniforms that the Canadian curling teams will wear at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics in Italy; the Paralympics; the World Women's Curling Championship in Calgary; the World Men's Curling Championship in Ogden, Utah; and the World Mixed Doubles Championship in Geneva, Switzerland.

Shelby Gagnon's artwork featured on Canada's curling uniforms

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Aroland artist Shelby Gagnon says it feels surreal to see her artwork on the uniforms of the Team Canada curlers at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics in Italy.

"I feel like it all happened so quickly, kind of in the summer, fall," Gagnon says. "And seeing them with the designs, it's pretty exciting."

Gagnon says she incorporated the Maple Leaf in her

design for the uniforms, which will also be worn by Canadian teams at the Paralympics; the World Women's Curling Championship in Calgary; the World Men's Curling Championship in Ogden, Utah; and the World Mixed Doubles Championship in Geneva, Switzerland.

"So in the Maple Leaf I have some elements of land, water and moon or sun," Gagnon says, noting that she was honouring the land she lives on. "Growing up on the big lake (Lake Superior), water is so important for me and of course

for everyone else. We are water, so wanting to kind of honour that."

Gagnon says she also had an image of a hummingbird with water elements surrounding it on the artwork.

"(I was) kind of thinking about curling and thinking about the athletes on the ice, which is also another form of water, and how they're interacting with it," Gagnon says.

see AROLAND page12



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Aroland artist showcased in Milano

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Gagnon says she also incorporated some earth elements in response to the curling stones into the artwork.

"Part of those stones coming from earth, so I was kind of looking at this in a holistic way," Gagnon says.

Gagnon says she worked with a graphic designer, Steph Schmidt, on the project.

"Steph is a graphic designer who put my drawings on the jersey and we kind of worked together to see how it could fit best to represent what we wanted," Gagnon says.

Schmidt, who is also a curler, says the project was a dream come true.

"This collaboration brought profound moments of wisdom and creativity," Schmidt says. "I'm so excited to offer Canadians

a re-imagined Maple Leaf with depth and meaning, and a creature as small as the hummingbird and its relentless spirit despite its size. Sometimes I think these stories wait to be rediscovered and told at just the right moment, when the world needs to hear it. It has been the honour of my career to be part of this creative team."

Gagnon says she did all of the drawings digitally.

"With the Maple Leaf, I did three different iterations," Gagnon says. "For the hummingbird, I just drew it, it was so quick, it just kind of came to me and just those elements and the team loved it."

Gagnon says a lot of people

are proud to see the representation of Indigenous art on the uniforms.

"And even just opening the conversation around honouring the lands and the waters, I think that's the most important thing for me because there's this large scale audience watching," Gagnon says. "It's international, so if my art can be talked about in a way of honouring the land and honouring the bird and honouring that special moment that you have with the natural world, I think that's more important for me to advocate for the water beings, the air beings, the water itself, the land. So that's been very empowering for what I do as an artist."

The uniform designs were produced by Goldline Curling, Curling Canada's official uniform and merchandise supplier.

"To see our company's vision come to life on the global stage, in collaboration with artist Shelby Gagnon and designer Steph Schmidt, is profoundly meaningful," says Erin Flowers, president at Goldline Curling. "Their creativity and authenticity have elevated this project beyond design — it's a celebration of art, sport, and community. Together, we are honoured to share this collective expression of Canadian artistry on the world stage; it's both humbling and inspiring."

Replica versions of the uniforms are available online at shop.curling.ca/curlingca-jerseys/curlingca-jerseys-national-jerseys.

Community

Fort William Historical Park holds winter carnival



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Hockey was one of the activities available for visitors during Fort William Historical Park's Voyageur Winter Carnival.

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

A snow snake game was one of the indoor and outdoor activities that were featured at Fort William Historical Park's Voyageur Winter Carnival, held Feb. 14-15 in Thunder Bay. The snow snake is a traditional Indigenous winter activity that involves launching a wooden snake along an ice track.

"A lot of them were entertained by the fact that it does undulate like a snake going down the trough," says David Turner, a volunteer and Lac du

Flambeau citizen from Minneapolis who helped with the snow snake. "I love the history behind it, I'm a big fan of just the material history and the culture associated with it and I love sharing that. So having a theatre background, taking that to this was just a natural progression."

Turner says the snow snake game requires more technique and less brute force to launch the snow snake further down the trough.

"It is a skill game, it's easy to learn though," Turner says.

Turner says he enjoys volunteering because he likes to teach

people and share different skills.

"I met a woman just this morning who is a medieval reenactor and we just discussed loom work, and the terminology she has that I didn't know and vice versa," Turner says.

The Voyageur Winter Carnival also featured a kid's sliding hill, winter games and contests, live music, artisan demonstrations, farm animals and delicious food.

see SNOW page 15

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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

A group of visitors check out the wigwam at the Anishinaabe Encampment during Fort William Historical Park's Voyageur Winter Carnival.

Snow Snake game a crowd pleaser

from page 13

"This is our big weekend here at the Fort to celebrate winter, celebrate being outside, winter games and sports, all of the fun things," says Jennifer McFarlane, manager of marketing and visitor experiences at Fort William Historical Park. "On the wharf we've got the snow snake, we've got a big maze. On the Kaministiquia River we have made a 2.5 kilometre skating loop that goes from our main wharf all the way up to the Visitors Centre and back, and then we also have throughout the day members of the Thunder Bay Kings and Queens hockey team, so they'll be coming out to skate and play little games of hockey with folks and have fun on the river. Curling is also taking place on the river as well, and folks are welcome to just come and skate around."

McFarlane says they also had staff interpreting at various locations around the Fort.

"We have our staff in the Anishinaabe Encampment, they are in the wigwam today and we have interpreters there," McFarlane says. "We have artisans on site showing their different skills."

McFarlane says they also had some modern activities such as Zorb Balls and tubing at the carnival.

"We have our friends from Boreal Journeys and their sled dogs are here today," McFarlane says. "And then down at the farm folks can visit with our two new farm additions, their names are Jelly and Millie, and they are heritage breed cows."

Jim Bowles, a councillor at Red Sky Métis Independent Nation, says they were sharing mullein tea with the visitors during the carnival.

"We're making mullein tea," Bowles says. "It grows all over, we don't pick it by railroad tracks or roads where there's too much contamination. But we go out and we gather the leaves in usually early fall."

Bowles says the visitors liked the mullein tea.

"It's very mild, it's very good," Bowles says. "It should be shared. I've been gathering medicine since I was little, my gichi kokum was a medicine woman and a canoe maker."

McFarlane says the visitors had a great time at the carnival.

"We have our Cantine Restaurant so if folks are hungry they can grab something to eat," McFarlane says. "Wonderful musicians (are) out throughout the weekend so we have music throughout the day. People are having fun, kids are having fun."

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Community



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Canadian Rangers, including Master Corporal John Ray Meeseetawageesic, participated in training for a new communications tool with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, including Training Officer Donald Hancock and Sergeant Ross Blair, in early February at the Best Western Plus Nor'Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

Canadian Rangers from across the north train in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

A group of Canadian Rangers from about eight communities across northern Ontario recently gathered for communications training at the Best Western Plus Nor'Wester Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.

"It's very interesting filling up the little gaps of our communication being in the bush," says Master Corporal John Ray Meeseetawageesic, from Eabametoong. "That's one of the tools they're giving us to use when we do our search and rescues. We've been in the classroom touching up on the apps — but today (Feb. 5) we went outside, we did some points here and there looking (at) how to describe the area where we will search."

Sergeant Ross Blair, from the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, says the new communications tool will help facilitate communication for the Canadian Rangers.

"We're working on some new software and hardware that helps fill the gaps and facilitate communication and geospatial awareness and situational awareness of where team members are while they conduct their business in the north, generally search and rescue and other elements of community assistance, land navigation, enforcing Canadian sovereignty in isolated regions of Canada," Blair says.

Training Officer Donald Hancock, from the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, says the new communications tool will help the Canadian Rangers during situations such as

ground search and rescues or wildfires, noting it enables them to track and communicate and send photos.

"We're learning about new team tracking information, so it's about how do we communicate (and) track our location when we're moving in locations that don't necessarily have strong cell service," Hancock says. "It basically involves piggybacking on the radio network and using that to cover the cellular gaps so when the Rangers are doing their job, they are better enabled to communicate."

"Communication is one of the biggest issues that we run into while we're working up north..."

— Sergeant Ross Blair

Meeseetawageesic says the new communications tool will help them to keep in contact with the command post (CP) when they are away from cell service out on the land.

"We do have satellite phones that we carry around but sometimes the satellite phones don't connect depending on the satellite," Meeseetawageesic says.

"It's kind of hard to communicate when the cell service is so limited, this is going to be a big plus for the Canadian Rangers up in the northern communi-

ties. We've had a lot of issues in the past where we go out in the bush and we have no communication to report back to the CP, so that's one of the benefits we're going to have with this new tool that we're learning."

Meeseetawageesic says they have been using a relay system to keep in contact while away from cell service.

"The handheld radios, they go so far and we have to put people on the ground to relay the messages to the command post," Meeseetawageesic says.

Meeseetawageesic says this was the first training session on the new communications tool.

"It will be good for other Rangers if they take it because it will educate them to be more capable of doing their job," Meeseetawageesic says.

Blair says the new communications tool is pretty exciting.

"Communication is one of the biggest issues that we run into while we're working up north," Blair says. "It's less what to do when you lose communication with your command post, but it's more the expected reality that you lose communication, and having the opportunity to fill those gaps and provide the situational awareness to the lead elements and the Rangers on the ground will enhance our ability to search for people in the areas that are covered and provide another layer of safety for the Rangers that are willing to go out and help people. We really appreciate the Ranger program and everything that they do for the isolated regions of the north, they're fantastic people to work with."

Community

Prosperity Northwest holds gathering in Thunder Bay

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's JP Gladu stressed how the country is in a defining moment in history during his Beyond Platitudes: Equitable Pathways to Prosperity in Project Development keynote at the Prosperity Northwest gathering. Held Jan. 28 at the Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay, the gathering was hosted by the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce (TBCC) in partnership with the Anishnawbe Business Professional Association (ABPA).

"Over the past decade, we've seen a remarkable change in the Indigenous landscape," says Gladu, founder and principal at Mokwateh. "We've also witnessed technological advancements, shifting geopolitical landscapes and a global push towards sustainable resource development — in the north we know what that is. The last 10-15 years have been substantial, but it's not going to compare to what is achievable in the next 10 years if we get it right. But the question we must ask ourselves today is if not now, when."

Gladu says he is sure everyone heard Prime Minister Mark Carney's remarks at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"I'd like to borrow some of that sentiment and kind of plant it in this room today, particularly in the way that we've



JP Gladu, founder and principal at Mokwateh, speaks during his Beyond Platitudes: Equitable Pathways to Prosperity in Project Development keynote presentation at the Prosperity Northwest gathering, held Jan. 28 at the Valhalla Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

always done and have relationships or a lack thereof with Indigenous people and communities in this country and how we must think and reshape the way we are going to progress our relationships with Indigenous peoples in this country," Gladu says. "This is the time to act with urgency, to seize the opportunity before us and to build a future that our children and grandchildren deserve, because, make no mistake, never has there been a more critical time for our country and for Indigenous nations to lead and shape the future."

Gladu says Carney has estab-

lished a national Indigenous Advisory Council with the Major Projects Office, which he has been on for about six months now.

"As Dawn Farrell, the CEO, said, we're building a plane as we're flying it," Gladu says. "Everybody around that table realizes that this disruption, this is really an opportunity for reconstruction of the way this country going forward. Destruction can also be a constructive force, forcing us to

abandon outdated models and embrace something better, the choice is really ours."

Charla Robinson, president at TBCC, says the highlight at the gathering this year was the change in some of the opportunities they were talking about.

"We just had a panel talking about innovation in mining and forestry and other industry and how that is changing things," Robinson says. "And then this afternoon we're going to be talking about defence procurement and opportunities there, so people are talking about mining and forestry and energy and those sort of things, as we

always do, but the new things are how some of the dynamics are changing in innovation and defence and how that could potentially be a huge pathway for us."

Jason Thompson, owner at Superior Strategies, Warrior Supplies, Warrior Office and Warrior Engineering and a member of the ABPA, says there was a lot of buzz about project development.

"I think there's a lot of buzz relative to our region around project development and you're seeing a strong emphasis also on Indigenous participation, so that's great to see," Thompson

says. "As Indigenous businesses, we're really finding our stride, finding our voice, and I think that's the important aspect of things."

Peter Collins, CEO at Chi Mino Ozhitowin, says Prosperity Northwest was a fruitful gathering for the participants.

"It helps connect people in the business world and develop a relationship with each other," Collins says. "Our organization continues to grow daily and we look to be a really strong organization into the future."

Notice of draft Environmental Report Northeast Power Line



February 2026

Hydro One has completed the draft Environmental Report (ER) for the Northeast Power Line project. Now, you're invited to provide feedback. The proposed project involves building a single-circuit, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Hanmer Transformer Station (TS) in Greater Sudbury and Mississagi TS, located near Wharncliffe. The line will be constructed parallel to an existing transmission line between the two stations within a combined corridor. This project includes a reconfiguration and expansion of both stations to accommodate the new line.

In October 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) published a new regulation specific to the project. Requirements include the completion of several technical studies and engagement with Indigenous communities, government agencies, interest groups and community members.

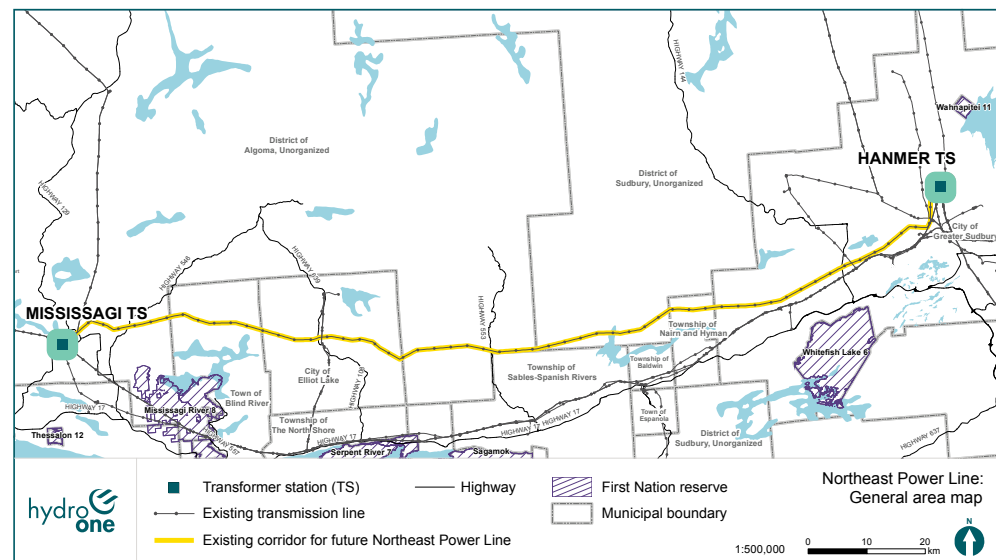
For more information on the project and the environmental process, visit HydroOne.com/NortheastPowerLine. For a map of the project route, please see below.

We want to hear from you

The draft Environmental Report and highlights document are available for public review and comment from Monday, February 2 to Thursday, March 19, 2026. The report summarizes the environmental process that was completed for this project.

Submit your comments by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026 to Community.Relations@HydroOne.com or call 1.877.345.6799.

Comments can also be submitted via mail to: Andrew Roberts, Manager, Environmental Services
Hydro One Networks Inc., 483 Bay St., North Tower, 14th Floor, Toronto, ON M5G 2P5



We'll review and address all feedback brought to our attention before finalizing and submitting the final ER to the MECP. The project will then be considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ER. We'll continue to work with community members as design and construction planning continues.

Si vous souhaitez une copie de cette notification en français, envoyer un courriel au projet pour en demander une copie.

Where to find the draft ER:

The draft ER and highlights document can be viewed electronically on Hydro One's website at HydroOne.com/NortheastPowerLine

We're here to help

If you would like a printed copy of the ER or if you would like any further information on this project, please contact us at:

- 1.877.345.6799
- Community.Relations@HydroOne.com
- HydroOne.com/NortheastPowerLine



Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416.314.4075 or Foi.mecp@ontario.ca.

Community

Family Day Powwow 2026



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

TOP LEFT: A dancer in a wheelchair shares their style.
TOP RIGHT: A young jingle dress dancer shares their style.
BOTTOM LEFT: The Rolling Thunder drum group.
BOTTOM RIGHT: A men's fancy feather dancer shares their style.

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Community

Greenstone transmission line construction to accelerate

Rick Garrick
Wawatay News

Ginoogaming Chief Sheri Taylor is stressing the need for First Nations involvement after the provincial government announced the acceleration of construction of the Greenstone Transmission Line on Jan. 28. Stephen Lecce, minister of Energy and Mines, and Greg Rickford, minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation and minister responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships, were joined by Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek Chief Yvette Metansinine, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek Chief Gladys Thompson, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Chief Paul Gladu and Red Rock Indian Band Chief Allan Odawa Jr. for the announcement.

"In the past around any type of major projects or any type of projects that happen within our ancestral homelands, our traditional territories as some like to call it, a lot of times it's done without us, it's done without First Nation participation," Taylor says. "And if there is any participation, it's usually at the end for First Nations and not right at the beginning where it needs to be, so having an opportunity like this where we're involved right at the start is a step in the right direction for sure because that's where we need to be. When any type of development happens out on the land in our traditional territory or

homeland, it needs to have First Nations involvement. This is what honouring the spirit and intent of the treaty relationship is, it's involving the First Nations on an equal opportunity basis, and that's what this transmission line will do."

The provincial government states that the Greenstone project will create more than 7,000 jobs and is part of the government's broader plan to protect Ontario by driving economic growth in the north, supporting mining sector development and reshoring Ontario's domestic supply chains. The government and Hydro One have also committed to leveraging the Canadian and Ontario supply chain, with 93 per cent of the project's costs to date staying in the country and supporting thousands of Canadian workers.

"Through the designation of the Greenstone Transmission Line as a priority project, our government is expediting the construction of this critical 230-kilometre line connecting First Nations and northern communities to clean power that will reduce reliance on diesel, advance economic reconciliation and unlock the Ring of Fire," Rickford says. "As outlined in our Shared Prosperity Agreement with Aroland First Nation, we are working in lock-step with First Nations leadership to power the north, supercharging economic growth and meet electricity demands for generations to come."

Ontario committed to building the Greenstone Transmis-

sion Line as part of the Aroland – Ontario Shared Prosperity Agreement, which includes \$70 million to advance work on the new line which will be essential for advancing mining operations in the Ring of Fire. Indigenous communities will also have access to Hydro One's First Nations Equity Partnership Model which will include First Nation leadership in decision making and 50 per cent ownership of the line.

"Opportunities like investment and oversight in the Greenstone Transmission Line honour the spirit and intent of the treaty relationship," Taylor says. "It's heartening to see our communities start to become equal partners. First Nations are looking toward a bright future of more frequent collaboration in our many shared interests. In order for us to exercise our sovereignty, we must have own-source funding for independence. Economic development opportunities are integral to our community's development, and equity investments are a path forward to resolving our challenges today. There's still a lot of work to do. This is just one project, and just a start – there's more to come. We're willing to do our share of the work."

The provincial government states that electricity demand in northern Ontario is projected to increase by 81 per cent by 2050, adding that once the Greenstone Transmission Line is complete in 2032, it will provide the capacity needed to unlock 350-700 megawatts of



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Ginoogaming Chief Sheri Taylor, pictured at a recent Matawa event, stresses that opportunities like investment and oversight in the Greenstone Transmission Line honour the spirit and intent of the treaty relationship after the provincial government announced the acceleration of construction of the transmission line.

additional hydroelectricity and other power generation.

"The Greenstone Transmission Reinforcement Project will bring much-needed infrastructure improvements to the region," Metansinine says. "As

my community continues to develop, we will benefit from improved electricity reliability and increased capacity to support future growth and economic opportunities. Our partnership with Hydro One will

be a meaningful step towards economic reconciliation — helping us create generational wealth while building the electrical infrastructure our community and local economy need to thrive."



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services is looking for dynamic, qualified and committed individuals for the following positions:

Miijim Worker/Employment Community Coordinator in:
Marten Falls First Nation

Employment Community Coordinator in:
Aroland First Nation
Constance Lake First Nation (Temporary)
(Internal/External)

Background:

KKETS provides culturally appropriate opportunities for education, training and employment by providing professional advisory, support services, relevant systems and programs to empower individuals to take initiative for change in their own lives.

Position Summary: Reporting to the ISETS Manager and the Miijim Director, the Employment Community Coordinator shall assist their respective community membership with the employment and training strategies as set out by the KKETS Program. The Coordinator will implement programming that enhances the community situation pertaining to employment and training and will liaise on behalf of their community membership. The Coordinator will also establish and maintain partnerships with the community, Aboriginal organizations and all levels of government as required.

The Miijim Worker will also serve as the community promoter of Harvesters' activities, traditional food literacy components and provide dietary guidance for healthy food information and coordinate food deliveries on behalf of the program.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience:

- Full G license
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- Strong written and communication skills

Locations: Applicant must live in the First Nation community of Marten Falls, Aroland or Constance Lake

Deadline: Open until filled

Please submit cover letter with resume and three employment references to:

Roxann Shapwaykeesic, ISETS Manager
Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services (KKETS)
523 Algoma Street North, 3rd Floor, Thunder Bay ON P7A 5C2
Or Fax to: (807) 768-4471
Or Email to: rshapwaykeesic@matawa.on.ca

We thank all who are interested, however only those candidates selected for an interview will be notified.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

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

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

Mission

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

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

Location: Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Timmins

Position Summary:

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

The Position will be Posted until Filled Start Date: ASAP

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

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For full job description please visit www.wawataynews.ca

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