



# Arts & Entertainment

## Chapmans hosts holiday market in Fort William First Nation



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
Betty Carpick creates a portrait of Shelby Gagnon at her Face-O-Matic portrait booth at the Chapman's Gas Bar Holiday Market, held Dec. 19-20 in Fort William.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
Shelby Gagnon creates a portrait of Betty Carpick at Carpick's Face-O-Matic portrait booth.

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Indigenous artists Betty Carpick and Shelby Gagnon enjoyed creating portraits of each other at Carpick's Face-O-Matic portrait booth at the Chapman's Gas Bar Holiday Market, held Dec. 19-20 in Fort William.

"It's just a fun way to use the handmade boreal forest inks and charcoal sticks that I make, and draw people's portraits for \$5," Carpick says. "It's kind of a very analogue experience in a time when we have a lot of digital stuff, so I'm kind of playing with that."

Carpick says the transactions for the Face-O-Matic portrait booth are similar to using an ATM machine.

"But it only takes cash," Carpick says. "Yesterday I drew about 25 portraits and about half of that so far today. It's sort of slow and easy going and fun."

Carpick says people enjoyed having their portrait drawn.

"We get a lot of opportunities to get our picture taken but not to have someone draw

them," Carpick says.

Gagnon says it was fun to do the Face-O-Matic portraits.

"I haven't done the Face-O-Matic before so it was really fun to experience that exchange of creative energy," Gagnon says. "And also to go on the other side and paint her face was really fun. It was really cool for her to bring her natural ink here and share that with the community."

Gagnon says the holiday market was good, noting that she had some earrings she made from rawhide and deer hide as well as some prints and cards at her booth.

"It's nice and cozy in here and it's just also nice to socialize with people in the community that I feel like I haven't seen in a while," Gagnon says.

Paul Francis says he enjoys participating at Chapman's Holiday Market.

"It's a very good craft show," Francis says. "I have different styles of dreamcatchers, from two-inch up to eight-inch, and then I have quite a variety of necklaces that I make."

Francis says he also had sage and bowls, drums, porcupine

quills, earrings, bracelets and medicine pouches at his booth.

"They get a lot of people here," Francis says. "What I really like about it is you have to make all your own stuff to sell here. So everything that's here is handmade."

Audrey Deroy says Chapman's Holiday Market was created by the late Val Chapman.

"I just feel so honoured and I feel like all these memories that we have of Val Chapman, she's here with us and she's smiling and she's so happy for her children and for her community," Deroy says. "It's been such a great time to gather and be social and to get to spend time with people, that's what it's all about."

Elliott Doxtater-Wynn says his family had a huge setup at the Chapman's Holiday Market.

"When this sale first started it was a table in the gas station, and now it's 20 years in and my wife and daughter have this huge setup," Doxtater-Wynn says, noting that some of the artists from the early years of the Holiday Market have since passed on. "My daughter is the



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
A variety of portraits were created at Betty Carpick's Face-O-Matic portrait booth.

next generation artist who is a part of this."

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler says he and his family try to attend as many craft shows as they can.

"We know how hard (the artists) work and how difficult it can be to get to the market to sell your crafts," Fiddler says. "It's important that we go out and support them and buy

their beautiful crafts, so today I bought these home tanned mitts. They're beautiful and you know they were made with care and with love."

**Thank You, Airlines!**

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# Education

## Educators as 2SLGBTQQIA+ Allies conference 2026

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Moose Cree's Candace Manitopyes delivered a keynote on Honouring Gender Diversity in Schools at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Educators as 2SLGBTQQIA+ Allies conference, held Jan. 14-15 at Delta Hotels Thunder Bay.

"I'm talking about honouring gender diversity, I'm going to be talking about how the land teaches us about diversity in so many ways," says Manitopyes, CEO at Relentless Indigenous Woman Co. "I use the Model of Moss, moss is very expansive, moss is also trans, and there is a lot of diversity in land and what it could teach us about expression and humanity."

Manitopyes says her Model of Moss features two things for gender diverse people or queer people to feel safe: honouring each other's humanity and relational growth.

"So how do we build relationships beyond policy and looking good — how can we deeply make safe spaces and in order to do that as educators we need to be OK and safe with ourselves and our uniqueness that we bring to the world, because queerness is simply uniqueness that we bring to the world, expression or attraction," Manitopyes says. "Colonialism really stripped us of that, because colonialism is all about control and shame, so I'm going to be talking about letting that go because our

people have been so oppressed by shame and controlled for so long that we forgot about how the land has been our teacher and what we can learn from that, from diversity and stuff like that."

Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum says most of the participants at the conference were education service providers.

"It's very important that we learn together more on gender diverse citizens that are attending these educational facilities," Achneepineskum says. "As we heard from the two previous (youth) speakers just now in terms of how positive it has been for them to get their education ... when there is that acceptance and that education and awareness about gender diverse individuals. So that's the main reason why we're having this little gathering."

Achneepineskum says one of the students said it was "a little bit more scarier" for them to go on the city bus.

"But they have a right to get to school, get education and we need to create those safe spaces," Achneepineskum says.

Achneepineskum says it is important to hear from 2SLGBTQQIA+ presenters with lived experience.

"We need to hear from the individuals that have the lived experience, the ones that can speak to the negative experiences and how we can do better," Achneepineskum says. "And then they can also tell us about their positive experiences

and how we could continue to encourage that and expand it."

Jayal Chung, 2SLGBTQ mentor at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, says her presentation on Creating Safer Spaces was an introduction to understanding about the needs and realities of 2SLGBTQ people.

"2SLGBTQ people have always been part of community and colonization's impact really affects the way in which people in the community feel seen, heard, believed and are part of spaces," Chung says. "Everybody should have dignity, respect to move through the world and to be accepted and safe."

Elder Ma-Nee Chacaby, who was scheduled to deliver an Elder Teachings presentation, stressed the importance of creating space and a place for youth.

"I think about what's happening, referring to what this event is about, having space, a place to do things and how to gather ourselves to come together with the kids in schools, in friendship centres and different places," Chacaby says. "And also just to remind them that there are still kids out there that are not able to have what other kids have. I've met a few young people that would like to be home but it's not a place for them, whatever's happening in their home is really what they don't want. So that is why I fight for my young people, and I will do that until I'm gone."

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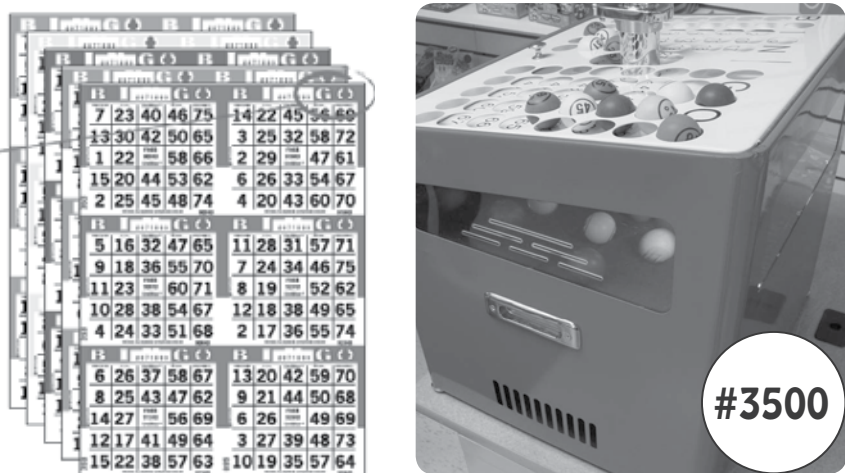
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# Community

## FWHP to hold Indigenous storytelling sessions

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Sachigo Lake's Elliott Cromarty will be helping to share stories at Fort William Historical Park's (FWHP) Indigenous Night Sky Storytelling sessions on Feb. 5, 19 and 26. Dave Bates, canoe builder at FWHP and a Métis citizen, will also be sharing stories during the sessions, which begin at the Anishinaabe Encampment site and move on to view the constellations and the collections at the David Thompson Astronomical Observatory.

"We're going to be teaching about Indigenous perspectives on the night sky, and how Anishinabe peoples and other Indigenous cultures utilize the sky," says Cromarty, Indigenous heritage program coordinator at FWHP. "Throughout the couple of hours that visitors are here they'll get a chance to, if the weather is agreeable, hopefully observe some stars and be able to see the night sky and the constellations. They'll also have an opportunity to visit with Dave and myself at the Anishinaabe Encampment in the wigwams next to a fire and listen to some of the fun stories before we go to see the constellations that we refer to and then as well get a chance to visit at the Observatory and see some of our collections up there."

Cromarty says they will have a fire going in the wigwam for the storytelling.

"Usually the wigwams are pretty comfortable with a good fire going, it's a nice enclosed space," Cromarty says. "There will be opportunities where visitors can warm up as well because there will also be some time spent inside the (David Thompson Astronomical



submitted photo

Fort William Historical Park will be holding three Indigenous Night Sky Storytelling sessions on Feb. 5, 19 and 26.

Observatory) as well."

The David Thompson Astronomical Observatory features a collection of meteorites and authentic astronomy instruments used by explorers such as David Thompson in the 1700s.

"We have some really impressive amounts of meteorites and all kinds of impact glass," Bates says. "You can handle and hold bits of space in the palm of your hand, so when we talk about the story of shooting stars, you can then hold one which is very exciting, for me anyway."

Cromarty says there is a lot of interest in learning about the Indigenous perspectives on the sky.

"We've been doing this program for a number of years now," Cromarty says. "Throughout the years we've also had different storytellers come throughout the park that have worked here over the years. It's always evolving, it's always changing."

"And the stories that are told, they change too depending upon the season and upon who is telling them," Bates says.

Cromarty and Bates say their favourite story is the Fisher in the Sky.

"There's different versions of the story and I think Dave and I know different versions," Cromarty says. "But my version

of it in essence is the Earth is encrusted in snow, and it's winter all year round."

Cromarty says the Anishinabe see the Big Dipper as the Fisher, which rotates throughout the sky during the year.

"At one point in the season it's on its back, laying dead, but then eventually as the seasons change it's back on its feet and alive again," Cromarty says.

Bates says they ran the whole Indigenous Night Sky Storytelling event at the David Thompson Astronomical Observatory last year.

"There were a couple of really cold nights," Bates says. "I brought a bunch of the furs from the Encampment up to the Observatory. People were coming outside and (we were) telling them some of the stories about some of the animals that you can find in the nighttime sky."

FWHP is also holding the Voyageur Winter Carnival on Feb. 14-15 with indoor and outdoor activities, a kid's sliding hill, winter games and contests, live music, artisan demonstrations, farm animals and delicious food.

Information about the Indigenous Night Sky Storytelling and Voyageur Winter Carnival events is posted online at: fwhp.ca/events/.

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# Community



North Caribou Lake (Round Lake or Weagamow) has had all-season road access since a bridge was built in 2017.

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

## Windigo calls for investment in all-season road network

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

The Windigo First Nations Council (WFNC) and Four First Nations Group have called for a federal government investment in a \$318 million, 613-kilometre all-season road network to six remote fly-in communities in northwestern Ontario. The call for investment in the project, which would be the largest Indigenous road infrastructure project in the country, was made in response to Prime Minister Mark Carney's federal budget announcement in November 2025. The federal budget was described as "a plan to build the major infrastructure, homes and industries that grow our economy and create lasting prosperity" in a federal government press release.

"We are coming forward today with a shovel-ready transformative infrastructure project," says Frank McKay, council chair and CEO at WFNC, in a Nov. 27 press release. "With federal investment partnership support, we could achieve construction starts next year and completion of the new road network in four to five years."

McKay says they had not received a response from the federal government about the call for investment in the all-season road as of Jan. 8.

"We haven't heard anything from the government, we haven't had any response at all," McKay says. "We wrote a letter to him (Carney) too also, to his office. There has been no word."

WFNC states in the press release that a 2025 business case prepared by Deloitte Canada found that greater affordability and lower cost of living would be the biggest economic benefit of the all-season roads. The business case estimates that, overall, the communities could expect a 50 per cent savings in the cost of essential goods like food, fuel and building supplies.

"For every dollar the federal government invests in the all-season road network, we expect \$1.60 to \$2.70 will be returned in wider economic benefits to Canada, Ontario and the First Nation communities — this is

how we build economic prosperity and resilience," McKay says. "We've been at this since 2008, and planning out the routing and trying to improve the winter road with the time that's available to us during the winter. But it's getting shorter and shorter to be able to get all the supplies and materials in that we require in our communities, and it's getting unsafe and unreliable for our community members to continue to drive that (winter) road, so that's why the decision was made by the chiefs and the communities."

McKay says they consulted with all of their communities to see where they stood in relation to having an all-season road.

"It was 95 per cent support for it to move forward on the proposal," McKay says, noting that they have been working on preparing plans for the all-season road network. "The routing has been established and we also need to have a road design, which is a requirement that we need to undertake before we can start construction."

North Caribou Lake Chief Cornelius Benson says his community has seen some differences since a bridge was built in 2017 to provide them with all-season road access.

"Since we've had that road there's been traffic going back and forth," Benson says, noting that transport trucks can now bring in supplies at any time throughout the year and community members can also drive south to bring in groceries and other supplies. "We have the road access, and some people think that the social problem increases as a result of (that access). I don't see it that way, because we have the same problem as other people in the remote, fly-in communities. Having the road doesn't make that much difference here."

Benson adds that the airlines with scheduled flights are still getting passengers from his community.

"I don't see any difference, they still have people jumping on the plane going out," Benson says. "We still have people using the airlines to go somewhere."

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# Community

## Funding announced for Indigenous economic development projects

**Rick Garrick**  
Wawatay News

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu announced a total of \$850,000 in funding for 14 Indigenous economic development projects across the country on Jan. 14 at Delta Hotels Thunder Bay. The funding will support engagement, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities tied to critical minerals-related clean energy and transportation infrastructure projects.

“Supporting Indigenous-led initiatives goes beyond economic reconciliation,” says Hajdu, minister of Jobs and Families and minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario. “Northern Ontario is stronger when Indigenous leadership and knowledge help shape our shared future, creates good jobs and builds sustainable economies and partnerships across the region.”

The funding for communities in northern Ontario included \$75,000 for the Mushkegowuk Council’s Aski Mamohitowin - ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ - Mushkegowuk Gathering on Land and Development project; \$50,000 for Nibinamik’s Indigenous Engagement to Inform Feasibility of a Utility Corridor in the Ring of Fire Region project; and \$50,000 each for Animbiigoo Zaagi’igan Anishinaabek, Aroland, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaa-

bek, Ginoogaming and Red Rock Indian Band for their Formation of Project Partnership and Community Engagement to Support FPIC for the Greenstone Transmission Line Upgrade projects.

“Nations are seeking reliable, sustainable sources of critical minerals to support the transition to clean energy, decarbonize their industries and anchor tomorrows prosperity, and we’ve talked a lot about critical minerals and critical mineral development obviously in northern Ontario,” Hajdu says. “When you talk to someone in southern Ontario, the only thing they think is Ring of Fire — of course there’s a lot of other critical mineral development and a lot of mining in this region, but in order to do this properly we have to do it with Indigenous peoples, not to Indigenous peoples.”

“And we can’t do that anymore, we can’t actually grow our economy if we are not going to include the full participation of Indigenous peoples and ensure that the way we develop materials, whether it’s critical minerals or other materials that we can sell to the world for things that the world needs, are done with respect of the land and with respect of the peoples that have been on this land since time immemorial,” Hajdu says. The federal government recognizes the immense strategic importance of critical minerals, and that’s why in Budget 2025 we set out this

transformative path and a host of new tools to secure mining’s place at (the) heart of our strong and clean economy.”

Hajdu says they launched the First and Last Mile Fund in the budget, which will build upon the successful model established by the existing \$1.5 billion Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund to support the development of upstream and mid-stream segments of the country’s mineral supply chain.

“This fund will include dedicated funding to support Indigenous engagement, leadership and participation in critical minerals development recognizing that responsibility for inclusive growth, the central role of Indigenous peoples in Canada’s clean energy transition and economic growth,” Hajdu says. “With tools like this, the goal is clear — we’re investing in (a) strong, sustainable and sovereign critical minerals economy while advancing reconciliation by ensuring Indigenous participation. We’re laying the groundwork to position Canada and all its regions including northern Ontario as leaders in the new age of clean growth. Being a global leader in critical minerals means more than extraction, it means leading with reconciliation, sustainability and innovation at the heart of what we do, it means making sure that communities are part of that journey and that Indigenous leadership is the head of Canada’s clean economy agenda.”



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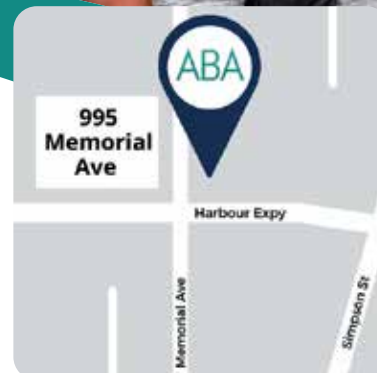
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# Community

## KI-Wapekeka declares permanent land protection

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) and Wapekeka have declared three million hectares of their homeland, called Anishinew Aki in Anishinimowin, as permanently protected in northwestern Ontario. The lands include the KI land withdrawal area and the Fawn River Indigenous Protected Area, which consist of largely intact boreal forest and wetlands, clean lakes and healthy rivers covering an area 48 times larger than the city of Toronto.

"This has been a long-standing issue for the community and community leadership," says KI Chief Donny Morris in a Nov. 27 press release. "When we say diplomatic, we're serious about an honest dialogue with Ontario to move this forward toward permanent protection of the three million hectares.

We need to leave some green behind. We don't know what the future will look like."

The press release states that 77 per cent of Anishinew Aki has already been withdrawn from mining.

"This area is important for the planet and our communities, (and it) is playing a role in helping to fight climate change by safeguarding a watershed that provides clean drinking water for all life, habitat for the fish, water life and animals, food and travel ways for our people, moisture for the air and rich carbon peatlands our people refer to as the breathing lands," Morris says.

Wapekeka Deputy Chief Allan Brown says in the press release that their Elders have been telling them that water is essential for life.

"This is for us: to protect our water," Brown says. "Canada and Ontario signed the treaty with us and it's intended to be

ongoing in implementation. It doesn't expire. Right now, Ontario appears more interested in mining and development."

Jacob Ostaman, lands and environment director at KI, says his community has been working on the protection of their homelands since the Platinex issue in the 2000s.

"Our KI chief and council leadership ended up in jail for 68 days," Ostaman says. "They were sentenced for six months but with pressure from different allies and friends from all over the country and perhaps the world, they were released. Those charges stemmed from some issues that happened in the past like protesting against Platinex's exploration and so on."

Leaders from the Wildlands League, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and National Audubon Society also expressed their support for the permanent protection of Anishinew Aki.

"We've been honoured to support KI and now Wapekeka for 20 years," says Jan Sumner, executive director at Wildlands League. "These lands are a powerful natural solution to climate holding more than 1.7 billion tonnes of carbon in their soils. The world owes these leaders an immense debt of gratitude. This is how we make progress on achieving the ambitious goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030."

Constance O'Connor, director, Ontario Northern Boreal Program at Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, says they are proud to support KI and Wapekeka in their work to protect their homelands and the wildlife that depends on them.

"Conservation must respect and uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples to safeguard their lands, worldviews and knowl-

edge systems," O'Connor says. "The lands, waters and wildlife of Anishinew Aki represent one of the world's rare intact areas of boreal forest, peatlands that are combatting climate change and free-flowing rivers. These ecosystems are essential for species at risk such as boreal and migratory caribou and lake sturgeon, which require large untrammelled areas for migration, breeding and feeding and are highly sensitive to human disturbance. Anishinew Aki and the surrounding area remain a refuge for many northern species at a time when development pressures continue to increase across northern regions."

Jeffrey Wells, vice-president, Canada Program at National Audubon Society, says the National Audubon Society supports KI and Wapekeka in their conservation vision for their homelands.

"Anishinew Aki supports

millions of nesting birds that migrate south to the U.S., Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America," Wells says. "The conservation of these rich ecological lands that are globally important for birds will be an amazing gift to the world."

Kiiwetinoong MPP Sol Mamakwa says it is very clear that KI and Wapekeka have jurisdiction over their homelands.

"I think the declaration is a rightful assertion of their sovereignty and it's important that the government of Ontario certainly honour and recognize the declaration," Mamakwa says. "I believe that KI and Wapekeka are asserting their inherent rights, they're asserting their title, they're asserting their sovereignty to permanently safeguard the ways of life, the land and the well-being of all."

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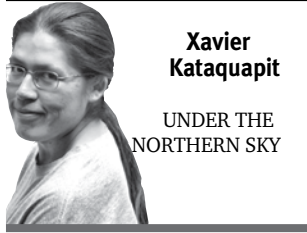
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Thunder Bay, ON

# Commentary

## Mike Was A Beacon Of Love And Friendship



**Xavier Kataquapit**

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

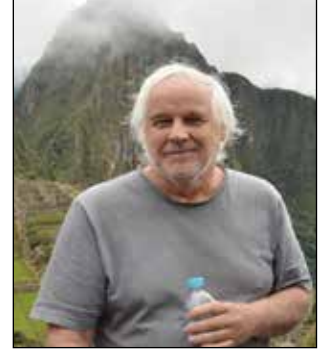
I lost the love of my life Michael McGrath this past Sunday December 28, 2025. He was a bright light that shone for so many people in our families but also in a circle of friends that seemed to span the world. Mike was born and raised in Iroquois Falls into a grand Irish Canadian family that originated from the Ottawa valley. His mother Emily McGrath imparted in him her kind and gentle spirit and his grandmother Margaret Dunn, whom everyone knew as Granny, guided and influenced his life. Their home was centred around the family piano where Mike and his sister Patty were serenaded from birth by their aunts Celia, Rita, Sara and Tessie. Their family then grew to include Celia's husband Johnny Mercier; Rita's husband Everett Elliott, Sara's husband Don Paquette and Tessie's husband

Harvey Ruddy. One of his greatest passions in life was music and as a teenager, he joined with a core group of friends including Barry Peever, Alex Cutten, Robin Olaveson, Rob Smith, Steve Lough and Ron Lefebvre who shared their musical talents or their love for music in their band 'More Of The Sayme'. They stuck together like a band of brothers during those pivotal years of the 1960s when music, culture and ideas were changing. As a young boy, he was introduced to motorcycles by a neighbour Gaston 'Tots' Lascelle and that passion for riding, combined with his talent as a writer, turned into a career that took him far from home to the city of Toronto. He went on to work for the corporate world at the provincial and national levels. Out of the corporate world, he built many friendships including a lifelong connection to Ted and Irene Casey, who allowed him to explore new ideas and passions for life. His sister Patty also built her life in the south when she married John Bradley, a Mohawk from Six Nations. They had a daughter Brooke and from that moment, Mike treated his niece

like a princess that he absolutely loved and adored. The Bradley family also became an integral part of his life as they showed only love, friendship, wisdom and guidance. When Brooke married her husband Rob and they had their two children Jack and Brynn, Mike's world shone a lot brighter knowing that these two new people were in his life. He never knew his father but later in life he discovered his dad James 'Jimmy' McGrath came from an Irish Canadian family in Toronto. James was a Second World War veteran who took part in the infamous Battle of the Scheldt in late 1944, where he was wounded and he also lost his younger 18 year old brother Patrick McGrath to this same conflict. We also discovered that two brothers Frank and Bernard also took part in the war. This sad chapter of Mike's family history further entrenched his disdain for war. It became a constant reminder of how war is driven by wealth and that it only destroys the lives of those without money. Mike constantly sought out ways to use his talents to represent others. In Toronto he worked with good friends Paul Toutant and Marie Jose Lacroix

who persuaded him and his four legged friend Nicky to move to Montreal. In this city, he met the Doan family who were Vietnamese and they treated him and Nicky like one of their own. No matter where Mike travelled, it seemed he made powerful friendships everywhere. He never forgot the north and he returned to Iroquois Falls where he became Museum Curator and later an Editor for the local newspaper The Enterprise. He reconnected with everyone and became great friends with local artist Alana Pierini and her husband Lee Holmes. He also never lost touch with Don Keast, an old family friend who shared his knowledge of sobriety and how to lead a healthier life. Mike always searched for new ways to help others and in Timmins, he worked with Indigenous organizations to help promote First Nations arts, culture and language. Again, he built lifelong friendships including my own family the Kataquapits in Timmins. It was through this friendship that he met my cousin Ron Kataquapit and they took their shared love for music to build a new music group they titled 'Under The

Northern Sky'. They worked alongside Mike's cousin John Elliott, a talented musician to produce an album 'Spirit Of The Wolf' that included a series of original songs. I met Mike through Ron and when we first connected, he saw my interest in writing and encouraged me to become a writer. He became my mentor in so many ways and taught me how to use communications as a way to represent and advocate for my people. He pushed me to write a regular column in May 1998 and I haven't stopped since. Not only did we work together but we travelled together as we both wanted to see the world. We went to 35 countries and saw every major world ocean, the Pyramids, ancient Roman and Greek ruins, historic European centers, South Asian countries, Caribbean locations, South American sites and rode our motorcycles right across Canada. Mike was like a never ending stream of activity, love and friendship. No matter where we went in the world he made friends. He gravitated to any old piano and he amazed people everywhere with how easily he could sing an old tune or come



submitted photo  
**World traveling was always a passion for Mike McGrath pictured here in the Andes Mountains at Machu Pichu in Peru in 2018.**

up with a new one. There are far too many stories for me to share here of Mike's life and how he connected and touched so many people. His only lasting wish for everyone is that everyone do their very best to love one another, to question war, to stand up against inequality in wealth, to lead a clean sober life and do more to make a better, healthier world for everyone. Keesahkeehinnan Mike. We love you Mike.

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# Cartoons

**Outcast**  
I KNOW WE DIDN'T DO WELL ON THE INTERVIEW  
BECAUSE WHEN THEY ASKED US WHAT WE LACK  
YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSE TO SAY, INTELLIGENCE

THERE, ALL DONE. ANOTHER SNOWMAN COMPLETED  
HEY, I GOT MINE FINISHED. WHERE ARE YOU AT.....!

**Outcast**  
NOW WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?  
I'M TAKING UP THE ART OF KUNG FU  
GREAT, WE HAVE THE CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON

**Outcast**  
WHY DO YOU MAKE US DO THIS EVERY YEAR  
ONE SHOULD NEVER GIVE UP HOPE  
HE'S THE ONLY ONE THAT MAY BE ABLE TO BRING YOU THE BRAIN YOU WANTED

**Oldguys**

What do you mean, he is suppose to come in the house?

**Oldguys**

What does it mean when your horoscope expires?

**Old Guys**

Well, at least I mastered growing weeds

**Oldguys**

Best I can do on short notice

**Leave my Flippin cookies alone!**

Are you kidding me. There's Flippin two of you

No, you can't use your grandfathers war shield as a solar panel

Told you to get a turkey for Christmas dinner. Not get one you can befriend and play poker with.

# Job Posting



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:

- Board Chair Nick Day [nickday@sandylakefn.com](mailto:nickday@sandylakefn.com)
- Board Vice Chair Vivian Waswa [vivianw@wunnumin.ca](mailto:vivianw@wunnumin.ca)

For full job description please visit [www.wawataynews.ca](http://www.wawataynews.ca)

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

## Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project


Comments invited and funding available

**January 5, 2026** — The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (the NWMO) is proposing a new underground deep geological repository system designed to safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel near Ignace, Ontario.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Canada Nuclear Safety Commission (the CNSC) invite you to review the summary of the Initial Project Description and provide comments on the proposed project. This will help IAAC and the CNSC prepare a summary of issues for the proponent.

Visit the project homepage on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry ([canada.ca/ciar](http://canada.ca/ciar)), reference number 88774, to:

- ✓ Learn more about the projects.
- ✓ Submit your comments online by 11:59 p.m. on February 4, 2026. All comments will be published to the Registry.
- ✓ Apply for participant funding by February 4, 2026.
- ✓ Join an information session to learn more about the project and the integrated impact assessment process.



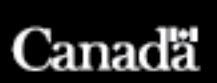
Scan the QR-Code to visit the project homepage.

**Have a question?**

Write to us at [NuclearWaste-DechetNucleaire@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:NuclearWaste-DechetNucleaire@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) or visit [canada.ca/iaac](http://canada.ca/iaac).

For media inquiries with the IAAC, contact [media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

For media inquiries with the CNSC, contact [mediarelations-relationsmedias@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:mediarelations-relationsmedias@cnscccsn.gc.ca).



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