# Re-elected Grand Chief Fiddler plans on continuing youth and housing initiatives for NAN

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler plans to focus on continuing youth and child welfare initiatives, a NAN-specific housing strategy, the Remoteness Quotient project and other initiatives over the next three years.

One of the things I am most proud of over the last three years is how we have been able to engage our youth in the work that we do," Fiddler says.
"The Choose Life initiative, that is something that is unique to NAN. The communities have been able to access \$90 million over the last year and a half on Choose Life."

Fiddler says the Oshkaatisak (All Young People's) Council will meet again with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the cabinet, senators and other officials this fall in Ottawa.

"And this year, in November, we are sending eight youth delegates to Australia," Fiddler says. "That is empowering them to work with their fellow youth from across the world. They will engage youth from New Zealand, from Australia and from the United States. We want them to bring back what they learned, but we also want them

to share what they have from the NAN territory with their fellow youth they will be engaging with over there."

Fiddler says NAN is getting involved in the creation of a national housing

"But we also want to create a NANspecific housing strategy," Fiddler says. 'Whenever you create a plan or strategy, you need data. So in order for us to create a housing strategy, we need to know what the numbers are in the NAN territory, like what is the gap, how many units do we actually need, how many units need to be renovated."

Fiddler says Tanya Talaga will deliver the first of her 2018 CBC Massey Lectures Tour on Oct. 16 in a free NAN-sponsored event at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

"I think it is going to be an important conversation that we all need to have," Fiddler says.

Fiddler says NAN is also looking to complete and implement the Remoteness Quotient project.

"That is going to be a very important initiative," Fiddler says. "There are varying degrees of remoteness, it's not just you're up here and there is no road. In a community like Aroland or Slate Falls, even though there might be a road that goes up there, their service centre is over here so that needs to be factored in as well."

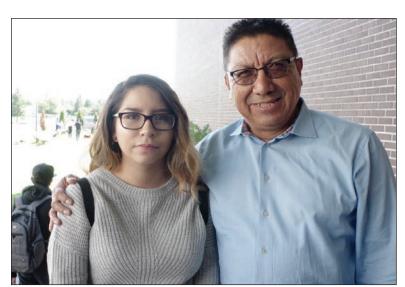
Fiddler also raised the recent court decision in favour of Eabametoong over lack of consultation for a mining permit and the importance of asserting jurisdiction over land, resources and territory.

"My message at the Keewaywin Conference was that we would extend our hand to this new government in partnership and friendship," Fiddler says, "and if they want to see progress, if they want to see positive results for themselves and everyone else, that they will accept our offer to work with

Fiddler says it is also important to support the chiefs for the work they are doing at the community level, noting how Attawapiskat Chief Ignace Gull is working to stop the flow of drugs into his community.

"I met with him, I met with the volunteers and the council along with our NAPS (Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service) personnel to see how we can support their work," Fiddler says.

Fiddler adds that it important to continue work on moving beyond the



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler poses with Sachigo Lake's Migisi Munroe at Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School.

"We cohosted a conference with Osgoode Law in May of this year in Ottawa to talk about how do we move beyond the Indian Act," Fiddler says. "The conversation now with Minister Carolyn Bennett and others is developing some sort of national framework on recognition of our rights. And that is something we want to ensure that what we heard in May is reflected in

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# Cry of the premieres October 11

Wawatay TV and APTN are excited to announce the return of Cry of the Loon. Join host Neil Mechelin and an assortment of guests as they explore the lakes and waterways of the Sioux Lookout area in Northwestern Ontario. Fishing, cooking and having a great time on each new fishing adventure, only on Cry of the Loon.

Cry of the Loon's final season will premiere will premiere on APTN on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. (CT) on APTN North; on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 6:30 a.m. (ET) on APTN HD; on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. (ET) on APTN East; and on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. on (MT) on APTN West.



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# Culture

# ONWA holds third annual MMIWG Powwow

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Ontario Native Women's Association 3rd Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Powwow featured the Grassy Narrows Women's Drum Group as the host drum.

"It was a little bit controversial when the women with the big drum came out at first," says Dawn Lavell-Harvard, president of ONWA. "The traditions differ across our many nations and the women were talking about how that drum was given by her father and how it was part of their tradition for the women to be at the big drum. As we are becoming more aware that many people don't exist in those very discrete boxes of male and female all the time, it is important that we honour that."

The powwow was held on Sept. 8 on the grounds of the ONWA office building in Thunder Bay, with a sunrise ceremony at 7:30 a.m.

"We are having a powwow today to celebrate the memory of our missing sisters and our missing mothers, grandmothers, aunties, nieces, all of those of our Indigenous sisters who have passed on to the spirit world, who have gone missing," Lavell-Harvard says, "to remember them and celebrate them and honour them so we are not focusing solely on the tragedy of that loss of life but honouring that spirit and remembering them in a positive way."

Sharon Johnson, organizer of the Full Moon Memory Walk, also delivered a special presentation featuring photos of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women during the powwow.

"Those are only some of the photos of the women that we walk for when we do the Full Moon Memory Walk," says Johnson, whose sister Sandra Johnson was murdered and found on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway in February 1992.



"Those pictures here that you see, that's just a small fraction of all the women that we lost and that are missing and that were murdered and lost their lives way too early."

Johnson says the 14th Annual Full Moon Memory Walk will be held on Sept. 24 beginning at City Hall in Thunder Bay.

"We've been walking to raise awareness about what is happening out there to families like mine," Johnson says. "It's something that I carry in my heart, this work. Every year when we do this memorial walk, my family comes together and they all help out with whatever they

Johnson says she prints the photos of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to put faces to their names.

"I do what I can so they are not just mentioned in the news once or twice and then forgotten about," Johnson says. "These women were mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, best friends."

Lavell-Harvard says it was important for Johnson to deliver her Full Moon Memory Walk presentation to keep the attention on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

"With the National Inquiry happening, we don't ever want to get to the point where people feel they've had the inquiry and this work is done," Lavell-Harvard says. "We want them to keep working until we are in a place where our sisters are safe or our daughters are safe. We can't let up for even one minute. We have to keep carrying on the message and really inspiring each and every one of us to do what we can with our own individual actions to keep our sisters safe."



Rick Garrick/Wawatay Nev

Top: Ontario Native Women's Association president Dawn Lavell-Harvard spoke about the importance of supporting the healing journeys of Indigenous families during the opening of ONWA's 3rd Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Powwow on Sept. 8 on the grounds of the ONWA office building in Thunder Bay.

Above: Full Moon Memory Walk organizer Sharon Johnson spoke about the importance of putting faces to the names of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

ONWA's Red Dress was also displayed next to the flags on the powwow ground.

"It's never meant to be worn

by anybody here on this realm," Lavell-Harvard says, "but it was for all of those murdered women who are in the spirit world now so that they can journey on into the spirit world in that red dress in beauty and dignity and honour."

# Thank You, Airlines!

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













## **Mattagami Powwow**





photos submitted by Xavier Kataquapit
Top: Invited Youth Drum for the Eighth Annual Mattagami FN Powwow were the Northern Spirit
Singers of Brunswick House FN. From L-R are: (in front) Ethanial Wesley, Brennan Briscoe, Jason
Saunders, Jacy Jolivet, Amadeus Neshawabin, Wilfred Tangie-Redbreast and Dreyden Agawa (in

Above: Jingle Dress Dancers from Mattagami FN taking part in a Powwow contest at the Eighth Annual Mattagami FN Powwow are L-R: Calee Boissoneau Hunter and Tessa Thomas.



Open to residents of Ontario 18+. Must be 19 or older to be served alcohol. Government issued photo ID may be required. For full details



# Back to School! 2018-2019 School Year Message from the Director of Education



Greetings, Wacheya!

I hope you are well, and that wherever you are across this breathtaking district, you and your families have had a restful "Summer of 2018"! I have often commented that I believe we live in the most beautiful part of Ontario, in what is the greatest country in the world! What an amazing place to call home; our beloved Northwestern

Ontario. As I pen this "Back to School Message, 2018 Version", I do so looking out over the calm waters of Lake St. Joseph, on the very site of where Treaty 9 was signed over 100 years ago. Times have changed since then indeed, but what remains is the relentless resolve of us Northerners, and impressive strength in our character. As a life-long resident, and as the proud Director of Education of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board, I love our Northwestern Ontario; and I know all of you do too.

Living in Northwestern Ontario, in addition to presenting us with unprecedented challenges, also undeniably makes us face unique challenges. We are closing achievement gaps between students from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, and we are ensuring that more interventions than ever to keep kids in school are available for all of our students, their families, and our staff. In a few short weeks, the long days of summer will gently become cool nights of autumn. And the spectacular hues of our sunsets in September and October will undeniably tell us that a new school year is underway. 2018-2019 will, like the years before it, have it's share of challenges and setbacks; but it will also provide us with unprecedented memories. For us in the KPDSB, we are walking into sparkling classrooms and learning environments, and in many areas, welcoming the largest number of new teachers to a start a school year that we have had; many of them, right out of university! We welcome all of our returning staff back, wish you well, and assure you that your Senior Administration team will never lose sight of our responsibility to you.

And in that same spirit, as the Director of Education, I can assure you with confidence, of our commitment to our students and their families. We are here for kids, we make decisions in their interests, and we will never waver from that stance. I am excited for this new year, and hope that all of our communities and schools reflect this enthusiasm. It will prove to be a year like no other, and so anticipating this, let us all grab a hold of our opportunities and make the lives of those around us extraordinary!

Have a great 2018-2019 school year!

Sean Monteith, Director of Education

## WWW.KPDSB.ON.CA

All stakeholders create a culture of learning so that students come first

16-5th Avenue North P.O. Box 1180 Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1B7

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# Commentary

# Singing and drumming hope



Xavier Kataquapit

UNDER THE RTHERN SKY

feel a greater sense of hope and optimism these days for the future when I talk to many of our young First Nation people. There are still many hurdles and difficulties they have to overcome but in many ways, they are becoming stronger, smarter and more confident people. I've witnessed those changes personally through the annual Wabun Youth Gathering, which I have been fortunate enough to attend regularly over the past

The gathering is an annual event that is hosted by Wabun Health Services, a branch of the Wabun Tribal Council based in Timmins. Wabun is a tribal council of six First Nations based in northeastern Ontario. The youth gathering was born out of a wish by one of its community Elders the late Thomas Saunders, of Brunswick House FN, over 12 years ago, who had a vision to see Wabun youth come together to learn about their culture, language and heritage. Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director took Elder Saunders' dream of a youth gathering to heart and developed the youth gathering with the support of the Wabun Chiefs and management.

I've watched it grow from a small gathering to a major event that provides young people with access to workshop facilitators that teach them about drumming, singing, traditional crafts and indigenous games. The gathering is not just fun and games as over the past ten years, it has brought together youth and trained individuals who provided education and knowledge about addictions, social issues, dealing with trauma, healing and bullying.

Every year, one or more Elders attend the event as a way to link the young people to their past through teachings and care from these grandmothers.

The greatest accomplishment of this gathering is the fact that it consistently offers a regular annual event that youth can look forward to every summer year after year.

They can count on adults taking the time to care for them in a wilderness setting surrounded by friends. I did not have these types of gatherings to turn to when I was a boy in my home First Nation of Attawapiskat.

We did have an event called Indian Days but it was a far cry from the healing and educational gatherings I see happening these days.
While attending the Matta-

gami First Nation Annual Pow Wow recently it occurred to me how lucky the new generation is with traditional events being brought back to First Nations. The Mattagami FN gathering regularly brings together drummers, singers and performers from the Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Cree and Algonquin communities. Mattagami FN also sits on the shores of Mattagami Lake which has excellent fishing and every year, the Naveau family feeds the participants with pickerel freshly caught nearby. Other families share foods like blueberries, fry breads and moose meat. I see with my own eyes and feel through my heart just how important the Pow Wows are to our youth. Many of them are involved in helping organize and stage the event and they beam with pride as they welcome outsiders to their community.

The most important idea behind every Indigenous youth gathering, Pow Wow or cultural event is the fact that it brings together friends, family, communities and the public at large to celebrate Indigenous culture and heritage. I believe it helps foster a sense of pride and hope for young people to feel confident in where they come from and who they are.

Over the years I have witnessed young men like Nathan Naveau and Mark Carpenter become accomplished drummers, singers and performers who have become respected and well known on the Pow Wow trail.

I've watched boys become men as singers and drummers in groups like the Northern Spirit Singers of Brunswick House First Nation. Belonging to these groups demands adhering to rules and sober lifestyles so the commitment these drummers and singers make is felt in their own community and beyond.

It makes me so proud to see young girls and women from the Wabun communities form their own hand drumming and singing groups.

In many cases they make their own regalia, construct their drums and learn traditional songs from the Elders.

We have come a long way but there is still much to be done to help our people. However, with every song, every dance and every beat of the heart of the drum, future generations find hope and strength.

www.under the northern sky.com

## Wabun Gathering for senior youth features traditional teachings



Archery, spears and traditional hunting techniques were demonstrated at the Wabun Youth Gathering at Elk Lake. From L-R are: Bruce Golden, Amanda Vanbuskirk (in back); Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, Sarah Dobson, Brenna McKay, Kailyn McKay, Jenna Harnack and Alicia

# Power in unity



**Xavier** Kataquapit

UNDER THE

s a child I never really Aunderstood what was going on in the wider world outside my small isolated community in the north. I grew up on the James Bay coast in Attawapiskat and the life we knew there was very far removed from everything and everyone in the modern world to the south.

The evening news provided a window into the world that we knew was out there. We saw all sorts of important things happening on the outside and we grew accustomed to the people that represented all this news. A couple of the regular CBC anchors that we all viewed regularly were Knowlton Nash and Peter Mansbridge. I grew up thinking that there was a small representative group of people that we should look up to in order to represent our world. There were the international leaders of major world centres and religious leaders. There were our national Native and non Native political leaders. provincial leaders and elected officials of the day.

Back then I also remember the news reporting on labour leaders who represented working men and women who formed great unions of people. Early on I understood that these leaders represented workers who fought for their rights to be safe from harm and to live in a fair exchange of benefits for their efforts. Back then, it was a common sight on the news to see these labour leaders speaking at public forums or headlining important news stories that involved strikes, workplace issues or workers negotiations in major centres across the country. At one point it felt as if it were a normal part of the news cycle to see a representative labour leader speaking on the evening news and it seemed as common as coverage of Canadian politicians.

Over the past 30 years things have changed. I suspect much of this change has come from the very powerful who control much of the world's wealth. They funded campaigns that were aimed at discrediting unions and their leaders. These days whenever I hear about unions, workers rights or strikes, it is usually from a negative point of view. We seem to suffer very short memories when it comes to recognizing how important unions have been for working people. Decent pensions, the average work week, rates of pay, safety in the workplace, sick leave vacation time, maternity leave and many other protections and benefits are the result of unions fighting for the common man and woman. Unions came about because none of this existed at one point and workers were little more than slaves.

According to Ed Finn, who once wrote a labour relations column for the Toronto Star for 15 years, throughout the 1970s, just about every major Canadian newspaper had reporters and columnists assigned specifically to labour-management relations. The job of these journalists was to provide a well balanced reporting of what was happening on any issues regarding workers and their employers. Today, there are virtually no dedicated reporters assigned to labour-management relations. That work is left to regular reporters who cover all sorts of other news subjects. This means that they seldom have the opportunity to dig deep into the complex issues that lead to strikes, work stoppages or issues of workers rights. The importance of the unions and their leadership has been diminished.

The image of the labour union has shifted in the opposite direction. The common misconception I hear about unions is that they are corrupt, misguided and are led by underworld bosses. Even the word labour leader has been replaced by the phrase 'union boss' which has been mirrored through movies and TV shows as another meaning for mafia boss or groups involved with organized crime.

Another common phrase I hear often is that 'unions have

too much power', as if to imply that the workers of one area of industry have the collective power to control everything. In actual fact, the average worker and their salaries pale in comparison to what individual management professionals make. When it comes to power a limited number of billionaires control most of the world's collective wealth.

In a study conducted in 2016, a report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives described how on average, a top-earning CEO in Canada will have already earned in less than one work day what the average worker makes in an entire year. The report showed how on average the 100 highest-paid CEOs at TSX-listed companies for 2016 annual compensation hit a record \$10.4 million, more than 200 times an average worker's salary of \$49,738. That description leaves little doubt as to who has too much power in labour-management relations.

I realized a long time ago that those leaders representing labour have a lot in common with our First Nation leadership in that we are continually striving to make life better for people. There still is power in unity and we are all capable of coming together to stand for our mutual goals dedicated to fairness and a sharing of the wealth.

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# Education

# KO mixes culture and education at 2018 KOBE Summit

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

A birchbark basket making workshop was one of about 30 presentations and workshops held at the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Board of Education (KOBE) Summit 2018.

"It shows me how to do the lacing of making the birchbark basket," says Doreen Rae, Native language and culture teacher in Deer Lake. "Even though I've seen it done (and) it was taught to me by my Elders, I've never been actually doing it. But now I have to do it hands-on."

Rae says the materials needed to make a birchbark basket are not easy to obtain in Deer Lake because they are located "very far away."

"So I might have to take a class out to do the gathering and gather enough materials for other classrooms too," Rae

Rae says the birchbark basket making workshop reminded her of what her grandparents taught her.

"It's taken me down memory lane," Rae says. "I never went to residential school, so I watched them make these things.'

Sigrid Neuland, a Grade 4-5 teacher in Poplar Hill, appreciated the hands-on instruction in the birchbark basket making workshop.

"I can see how it fits in with math and getting the kids to work on the land and trying to find materials to make baskets," Neuland says

Rae also delivered a Native Language Instructional Strategies workshop during the Summit on how to use a website application to teach Native lan-

"I use a certain website where I can actually plug in my Native language," Rae says. "I can pronounce my words, I record myself on there so the students can use it on the website. And it creates games for me, so whenever I'm absent from the classroom they just go to that website. Plus I can monitor which assignments they finished, who's having a hard time, which words they're having a hard time with.'

The first day of the Summit, which was held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, focused

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on a variety of ways to use the Google platform.

"We actually had the Google EdTechTeam come in and they organized some training sessions around how to use our Google platform, which our Grade 3 to Grade 9 students utilize within the communities as well as when they come out to any of the schools in either Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Dryden or Red Lake," says Jonathan Woolley, First Nation Student Success Program coordinator with KOBE. "The second day our sessions ranged from early literacy to numeracy, later literacy as well as some mental health sessions that are going

"The purpose of this is to bring all the education staff from our communities together at the beginning of the year ... "

os as well."

Darrin Potter, director of education with KOBE, says this was the second annual KOBE Summit.

"The purpose of this is to bring all the education staff from our communities together at the beginning of the year and just give a strong start with some meaningful professional development and some inspirational motivational speaking and making a good start to the year," Potter says. "It's good if we do it at the beginning of the year and get them all together."

Potter says the Summit provides all of the new staff with an opportunity to meet the other KOBE staff.

"And there are some new programming too and some changes that are occurring this year," Potter says. "We're able to get everybody on the same page right from the start."

Some of the workshops included: Storytelling with 360° Images; YouTube to Help Create a Flipped Classroom; Google's Geo Tools for Little Learners; Scope and Sequence and Planning a Numeracy Block; and Indigenize Your Literacy Block.

WEBSITE

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Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

Native language and culture teacher Doreen Rae works on a birchbark basket during a workshop at the Keewaytinook Okimakanak Board of Education Summit 2018, held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.



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# Education

# Oshki holds training for ECE's across the north



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Olivia Chow, founder and director of the Institute for Change Leaders, delivers a presentation during the Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute In-service Early Childhood Education Professional Development Program.



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**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute's In-service Early Childhood Education (ECE) Professional Development Program was a success for 19 Indigenous ECE's from across the north.

"It's been very informative," says Jennifer Meekis, an ECE from Sandy Lake. "I've been networking with a bunch of ladies from different parts of Ontario and finding out how we can help each other find funding and how to write propos-

Meekis enjoyed the presentations by Olivia Chow, founder and director of the Institute for Change Leaders, on the last two days of the program, which was held at Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiwedoon-Aboriginal Headstart in Thunder Bay.

"She is a very powerful woman and it is great listening to somebody who gives you motivation to work hard," Meekis savs.

Chow delivered presentations to the ECEs on building skills for change.

"I'm here for the second time to teach them about community organizing and I feel very blessed to share some time with them," Chow says. "We talked about the importance of celebrating their work (and) to be able to express the importance of their work to the community and to acknowledge their own accomplishments."

Chow encourages the ECEs to pursue their ideas on improving their communities and the lives of the children they serve.

"I want them to have the confidence and the skills to be able to express it and organize around it," Chow says. "So whether (it) is a play structure or a playground or a childcare centre, they know they need it in the community and I want them to lead people in the community to make it happen so that their community would be a better place for everyone, especially the children and the families.

Meekis says her community does not have a daycare facility, but it has an Aboriginal Headstart for parents and children to attend together.

"I want to network with other ECEs, other Headstarts, to see where I can expand for our children in our community," Meekis says. "And to hopefully find a funder where we can open a licensed daycare."

Marissa Nabigon, an ECE from Long Lake #58, says the opportunity to learn from Chow was "awesome."

"She's great — her spirit makes me look forward to coming the next day and staving and participating," Nabigon says, noting that she also attended the session in February when Chow delivered a presentation. "I was excited knowing that she was coming back for this session."

Nabigon says her community has a daycare but needs a playground structure.

"All we have is pretty much sand, so what I am learning here is where to start and how to start to ask for these type of things," Nabigon says.

Lori Huston, ECE program coordinator with Oshki, says the program was delivered through a partnership with Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiwedoon and Maamaawisiiwin Education Research Centre with funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

"We are in our second Institute of delivery, where we are developing leadership skills with our Indigenous educators," Huston says. "We are giving them opportunities to mentor and high-end training through Ryerson University, University of Toronto (and) others have been involved in this program."

John Hodson, director of Maamaawisiiwin Education Research Centre, says the idea of the program is to increase the on-reserve capacity of ECEs.

"What (INAC) is interested in is increasing capacities in this area of Early Childhood Education, but also interested in the research associated to it, so what works and what doesn't work," Hodson says, noting that a talking circle was also scheduled to ask the ECEs what they liked about the program. "Our thinking is that anything we do to increase the capacities of Early Childhood Educators will have an impact down the line."

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# Arts and Entertainment

# Art gallery celebrates Indigenous Youth Residency participants

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

The six Indigenous youth who completed the Indigenous Youth Residency program were celebrated during an opening ceremony at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

"The opening was amazing," says Quill Christie-Peters, creator of the program. "It's always nice to honour these young people and to hear them speak about their work."

The program provided the six youth, aged between 12-24, with a paid full-time six-week land-based artist residency where they engaged with Elders, knowledge keepers and local artists while working through a rigorous curriculum that taught them how to articulate their experiences of settler colonialism.

"This is the fourth time I ran this program, but previously it was out of large institutions," Christie-Peters says. "So this is the first year that it is being run independently, not tied to an institution."

Christie-Peters says the program included a three-day visit by the six youth to her grandmother Agnes Kabatay's home in Couchiching.

"She kind of did some unstructured teachings with them," Christie-Peters says. "My aunties came too and we worked with birch. They were just getting to know each other, so it was a way to bring us all together."

The youth also worked with local artists such as Jean and Leanna Marshall and Jana-Rae Yerxa, visited the Sexual Assault Road Show, learned about harvesting spruce roots and making birchbark baskets in Fort William and travelled to the Art Gallery of Guelph and Art Gallery of Ontario in

"It was amazing because we had a lot of opportunities to reconnect with our identities as Indigenous people," says Bethany Koostachin, a youth from Fort Severn. "And we learned a lot about our culture and our history with the government of Canada. I personally learned how to be comfortable with taking up space as an Indigenous person in these colonial structures. I just learned a lot about racism and how to combat

Koostachin also enjoyed learning about how Indigenous people are connected to the land during the program.

"We learned that Indigenous people have this huge connection to the land and we also learned about how that connection ended up being cut off," Koostachin says. "(Kabatay) was very educational about what life was like back then and how we took care of ourselves and the water and the earth."

Regan Ferris, a youth from Constance Lake, enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the Elders about the land.

"Myself personally, being in the city, I don't really get much time to be with Elders and to get knowledge from Elders," Ferris says. "So it was really nice to go visit them on the land and ask them about their life and teachings."

Ferris also enjoyed building friendships with the other youth during the program.

"We went down to southern



Rick Garrick/Wawatav News

The Indigenous Youth Residency Program participants created a collaborative art project as part of their six-week land-based artist residency.

Ontario for a week and that is when we got really close with each other," Ferris says.

Corrina McKay, a youth from Thunder Bay, says the project enabled her to integrate her artistic skills with her heritage.

"I gained more skills in traditional arts," McKay says. "And I got to learn more about my own culture, things that I didn't even know that really surprised me. And I made some friends."

McKay also enjoyed meeting people with different experiences and participating in the collaborative art project, which was unveiled at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery during the opening ceremony

"It was new and interesting," McKay says. "I liked it a lot."

The other youth who participated in the program were Adrian Polson, Megan Slipperjack and TJ Munroe.

## **Concerts**

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Rachael's practice is dedicated primarily to Aboriginal Law, Police Services, Education Law, and Labour & Employment Law. Where possible and appropriate, she integrates Indigenous Legal Traditions into her work in Police Services, Education Law and Labour & Employment Law.

Rachael has broad and deep knowledge of the structures, actions, limits and challenges of First Nations, First Nations Organizations, First Nation Councils, Education Boards and Education Authorities. That said, she also works extensively outside the domaine of Aboriginal Law. In addition to assisting clients with litigation and arbitration, she also advises and supports in policy-development and provides training relevant to her areas of practice.

Rachael was born in Sioux Lookout and raised in Northwestern Ontario, resided both on and off-reserve, and is bilingual in Northern Ojibwe and English.

## **About Cheadles LLP**

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LEGAL NOTICE

# **Sixties Scoop Survivor?**

You may be eligible for compensation. Please read this notice carefully.

A settlement has been approved between the Federal Government of Canada and certain survivors of the Sixties Scoop that provides compensation for loss of cultural identity for certain survivors.

### WHO IS INCLUDED?

The settlement includes people who:

- are registered Indians (as defined in the *Indian Act*) and Inuit as well as people eligible to be registered Indians; and
- were removed from their homes in Canada between January 1, 1951 and December 31, 1991 and placed in the care of non-Indigenous foster or adoptive parents.

Those who meet the criteria above will be included in the settlement as "Class Members". All Class Members, except those who validly opt out, are eligible for compensation.

In addition, all Class Members, except those who validly opt out, will be held to the terms of the settlement and covered by the releases in the settlement.

### WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

(a) compensation will be available for all Class Members who were adopted or made permanent wards and who were alive on February 20, 2009; and

(b) a foundation will be created to enable change and reconciliation. The mandate and governance of the foundation will be defined through a consultation process with survivors across the country. The work of the foundation may include providing access to healing/wellness, commemoration and education activities for all communities and individuals impacted by the Sixties Scoop – including those outside of the defined "Class."

## **HOW DO I GET THIS MONEY?**

To make a claim for money, you must fill in a Claim Form and send it to the claims office by August 30, 2019. Copies of the Claim Form are available at <u>sixtiesscoopsettlement.info</u>.

You do not need to pay a lawyer to complete the form. The administrator will help you fill out the form and there are lawyers you can speak with free of charge.

Also, if you do not have papers from the relevant provincial or territorial child service agency documenting your placement in care or documenting your status, you should still complete the Claim Form. The administrator will make the necessary record checks for you as needed.

## **HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I GET?**

Your payment will depend on how many Eligible Class Members submit claims in the settlement. The range of compensation will likely be \$25,000 - \$50,000.

The details are explained in the settlement agreement. A copy of the settlement agreement is available at sixtiesscoopsettlement.info.

## WHAT IF I WANT TO EXCLUDE MYSELF FROM THE **SETTLEMENT?**

If you want to exclude yourself from the settlement, you must opt out of the class action by October 31, 2018.

If you opt out, you will not be entitled to any compensation from the settlement and your claim against Canada in respect of the Sixties Scoop will not be released. A copy of the Opt Out Form is available at sixtiesscoopsettlement.info.

If you have commenced a legal proceeding against Canada relating to the Sixties Scoop and you do not discontinue it on or before October 31, 2018, you will be deemed to have opted out of the settlement.

Important Note: The settlement does not interfere with any Class Member's ability to pursue legal proceedings against provinces or territories or their agencies for physical, sexual, or psychological abuse suffered as a result of the Sixties Scoop.

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit sixtiesscoopsettlement.info, call 1-(844)-287-4270, or email sixtiesscoop@collectiva.ca.

## DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER SURVIVORS OF THE **SIXTIES SCOOP?**

Please share this information with them.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

The Wapikoni Mobile participants received recognition and awards during the Wapikoni Mobile Final Screening at Confederation College in Thunder Bay.

# Wapikoni Mobile screens four films in Thunder Bay

**Rick Garrick** Wawatay News

The Wapikoni Mobile Final Screening featured four films by artists, musicians and filmmakers from northern Ontario at Confederation College in Thunder Bav.

"It was a great learning experience," says Jack Belhumeur, a youth from Fort William who created a film about prescription drug and Elder abuse. "It was kind of a merge between prescription drug abuse and Elder abuse. The main key thing was about respect for your Elders."

Belhumeur enjoyed participating in the Wapikoni Mobile visit to Thunder Bay.

"It was definitely a learning experience in the writing and all of production," Belhumeur says. "But the best part was the teamwork and this event here tonight.

Belhumeur plans to continue making films in the future. He in the family and stealing off has been making short films for your Elders," Ishabid says, not-

wapikoni

about 13 years.

"The films that I usually make are social justice topics," Belhumeur says. "I like to address social justice issues with my art, so that is what I am going to continue to do. I've had my films played around the world. I have several awards and official selections for my short films regarding social justice issues."

One of Belhumeur's friends. Matthew Ishabid, who is from Eagle Lake, enjoyed watching the screening of Belhumeur's

"It was all about drug use

ing that he feels the final scene when the youth puts the pills back into his grandfather's prescription bottle was "just a bandage. I think that's what he was trying to convey. It's not like a solution to the problem. But it shows he is trying to progress."

Benjamin Murray, a musician/videographer from Thunder Bay, says it was an "awesome" experience working with the Wapikoni Mobile team.

"It was great," Murray says. "I've never worked with this kind of team before and had this professional setting.

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# Arts

### from page 8

So it was really cool to experience the whole thing, and we're going to take that and move with it because that's what we do — I go up north and I teach in the community here."

Murray says he has already been working on creating videos in Thunder Bay.

"So we're just going to take this as a learning experience," Murray says. "We're trying to get our own location here in Thunder Bay, a permanent location instead of a mobile location, where youth can come and work on their stuff when they're coming from other communities and just the youth who live here."

Ivy Durston, a youth from Thunder Bay, says working with Wapikoni Mobile was a "learning experience."

"I really developed my skills," Durston says, noting that she had previously done some work on films. "I didn't realize there was this much talent until I actually delved into it, so it was really fun."

Durston says she wants to continue making more videos in the future.

"I would like to thank Wapikoni," Durston says. "They opened my eyes to things that I didn't realize about myself and they made me delve into my own creativity and push my limits."

Thomas Simon, youth outreach worker with Wapikoni Mobile, says it was challenging working with the youth in Thunder Bay.

"They are really talented and they were fun to work with because they are awesome people," Simon says. "I loved all of the films — they are incredible. It was really challenging for us to do two fictions in that short of an amount of time because usually fictions take longer, but because we were with talented people, it turned out to be quite nice."

About 300 youth participate each year in Wapikoni Mobile's visits to communities across Canada. Participants are trained in screenwriting, directing and in the technical aspects of filmmaking with professional equipment.

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## PART 1

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12:45 PM — Guest "Earl Lambert: Sober is Sacred"

## PART 2

7:00 PM— Comedy Show with Ron Kanutski, Thunder Bay's Idol King of Comedy

- Earl Lambert, Neecheemoos Comedy Music
- Gerry Big Bear Barrett, The Original Aboriginal Comedy Show

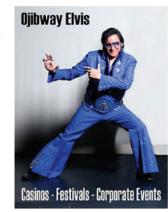
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# rts and Entertainment



Eagle Lake's Michelle Derosier was one of about 10 musicians and hand drummers who performed at the 1st Annual Memorial Concert Dancing in the Sky In Memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



The 1st Annual Memorial Concert Dancing in the Sky In Memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls featured a variety of musicians and hand drummers on Aug. 23 in Thunder Bay.

# First annual memorial concert honours MMIWG

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The first Annual Memorial Concert Dancing in the Sky In Memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls featured hand drummers and musicians from Thunder Bay and the region.

"It went pretty good — I am pleased with the turnout and the support," says Sharon Johnson, who organized the concert. "We need more events like this to raise awareness about violence against women, not only the vigils and the memorials, (but) to kind of celebrate in a good way, in a positive way. I think that's what we need too, to balance it out."

Johnson plans to hold another Memorial Concert next

"If no one showed up and these tables were empty, that would have made me sad," Johnson says. "But to see people here enjoying the music and just being here. I'm going to start working on it right away, tomorrow."

Arnold George Cook, a musician originally from Berens River in Manitoba, enjoyed performing at the concertat Waverly Park on the north side of Thunder Bay.

"It was pretty good — I'm enjoying myself here listening to good music," Cook says. "It's a good turnout. I'm for Native people should support each other. And I do have a lot of granddaughters I think about all the time — I hope they are going to be doing alright in

their lives. I'm telling them to be aware out in the world here and don't get yourself mixed up into drinking or drugs."

Lisa Labelle, therapist with Thunder Bay Counselling, says the music was "wonderful" at the concert.

"I have hope that with years to come there will be more exposure and it is an event that will continue to grow," Labelle says. "People have been coming up (to the booth) asking questions and taking some of the resources from the table. It looks like people are engaged with some of the community resources available today."

Katherine Brooks, community engagement coordinator with Thunder Bay Counselling, says it was important to remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

"It was a fantastic event to remember the women and the girls that we have lost and are missing," Brooks says.

Collin Graham, manager of community development with Ontario Native Women's Organization, says the concert was an opportunity for the community to come together and have an open and meaningful dialogue about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and

"Today we brought the Grandmother Earth Dress, also known on the trail as the Red Dress," Graham says. "She is here today and will be coming

back to this event next year for sure and is still continuing on her journey throughout the rest of the province, as she has been invited to a lot of gatherings when they are talking about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to help families grieve in that process and help them envision their loved ones in regalia."

Cassandra Blair, communications administrator with Beendigen, says the concert "went really well for a first year."

"There's a bunch of people sitting over here enjoying the music, there's been a lot of great artists and they've been sharing their stories," Blair says.

"There's been representation from a bunch of organizations and the food. It's been really good and I think it will continue to grow every year."

Frank Pullia, a Thunder Bay councillor who is running for mayor in the upcoming municipal election, says there were "so many people" who came out to support the concert.

"Î've been talking to many people who just love the idea and love being here listening to the music, so it is great way to bring people together in remembrance," Pullia says.



# FIRST MINING

### **Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference** Springpole Gold Project – First Mining Gold Corp.



First Mining Gold Corp. ("FMG") is beginning an Environmental Assessment ("EA") under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act ("EAA") for its Springpole Gold Project (the "Undertaking"). This undertaking involves the establishment, construction, operation and decommissioning and closure of an open pit gold and silver mine, ore processing facilities and any ancillary facilities required for the project. The Springpole Gold project site is located in northwestern Ontario approximately 110 km northeast of the Municipality of Red Lake. The Town of Ear Falls is south of the property and is within the Red Lake Mining District. The property has a long exploration history and has peen explored intermittently for gold since the 1920s

The Provincial EA Process: This study will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. The first step of the EA process is the preparation of Terms of

Act requirements when preparing the environmental assessment, including such things as the alternatives that will be considered and the public consultation activities that will be carried out. If approved by the Minister, the ToR will provide the framework and requirements for the preparation of the environmental assessment.

In addition to the Provincial EA process, the Undertaking is also subject to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012) and FMG has already commenced this process with the submission of a Project Description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and on June 19, 2018 the company obtained the Final Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012. For additional questions or information please contact: Springpole Gold Project, CEAA, 55 York Street, Suite 600, Toronto, Ontario M5J 1R7. Telephone: 416 952 1576, Fax: 416 952 1573 E-mail: Springpole.acee@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Consultation: Members of the public. Indigenous communities, agencies and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the planning process by attending consultation opportunities or contacting staff directly with comments or questions. Consultation opportunities are planned throughout the planning process and will be advertised in local newspapers, on local radio, on the Project website and via community newsletters.

For further information on the proposed study, please contact:

Director, Sustainability & Stakeholder Engagement dmchaina@firstmininggold.com

https://firstmininggold.com/projects/tier-1/springpole-

Mr. Giovanni (John) Sferrazza

Manager, Permitting and Environmental Assessment Telephone: 705 929 5245 john@firstmininggold.com https://firstmininggold.com/projects/tier-1/springpole

All personal information included in a submission - such as name, address, telephone number and property location - is collected, maintained and disclosed to and by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change 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 and Climate Change's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.



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- Community Wellness Worker in Kenora
- Mental Health Worker in Geraldton
- Mental Health Worker in Kenora

Please visit our website for more detailed information on each of these roles. If you have a passion for advocating & supporting Indigenous Women and their families, please apply with a cover letter and resume, in confidence to: <a href="mailto:hr@onwa.ca">hr@onwa.ca</a>



For the full job description please visit: www.onwa.ca/careers

# **Sports**



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Bearskin Lake's Randal Delorme drives for a basket during the championship game at the Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on Sept. 6.

# DFC hosts 3x3 basketball tournament

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament was won by the Celtics team 20-14 over the Spurs team on Sept. 6.

"It's an awesome feeling," says Wade Quill, a Celtics player and DFC student from Deer Lake. "Ever since the first day of school, I was excited to play. The turnout was really good."

The tournament featured eight teams made up of basketball players from DFC, Lakehead University and Thunder Bay firefighters, police and EMS (Emergency Medical Services)

"It was very scary," Quill says. "Especially that one guy who was taller than me, I just couldn't guard him."

Roman Munroe, a Spurs player and DFC student from Sachigo, says the tournament was "pretty good."

"A lot of LU students came out here, EMS, all working together showing us what sportsmanship is all about," Munroe says. "It was very competitive. They all know how to play, they've been playing for years. It was a good experience."

Munroe says the DFC students were looking forward to playing against the Lakehead University students, firefighters, police and EMS staff for weeks

"And once they got here,

they showed they wanted to be here," Munroe says.

Marc Laliberte, a Celtics player and Thunder Bay firefighter, says the tournament was "a lot of fun."

"We got to play with the Lakehead players and the DFC students and we gelled quite well," Laliberte says. "We ended up taking the title and we are pretty pleased with ourselves. It was good basketball. Those Lakehead players are a handful, and so are the DFC players. There's a lot of energy."

The tournament was held to continue forging strong bonds between emergency and police service providers in the City of Thunder Bay and DFC students. About 30 DFC students, eight to 10 Lakehead University students and more than 12 fire-fighters, police and paramedics played in the tournament and about eight to 10 Lakehead University students participated as referees and scorekeepers.

"As first responders, we need to show our other side to the youth that are coming into the city," Laliberte says. "We're not only out there in emergencies, we're part of the community and we want to welcome them to Thunder Bay and show them our faces and help them have a safe school year. They need to know that, for instance, a firehall is a safe space to go when you are in trouble in the city. You can go knock on the door if you are in trouble and find help, and we're there to give that help.'

Norma Kejick, executive director of Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, says the tournament was "great."

"I love the newly renovated gym," Kejick says. "And to have all the paramedics, the fire-fighters and all the police coming together to work with our students, I just think it is amazing. It's great."

The tournament builds on the relationship that was developed between Lakehead University Athletics and DFC over the past few years. Lakehead University previously sent student athletes to DFC to help run sports clinics for their students and hosted DFC basketball and volleyball teams as guests of honour at home games in the C.J. Saunders Fieldhouse.

"We are very grateful for this opportunity for our students to be able to have fun this afternoon, enjoy the barbecue and enjoy this time with the EMS workers, the city police and firefighters," says Sharon Angeconeb, principal of DFC. "It makes the students feel welcome. It's not just a quick visit, they are spending time here with them having fun."

Aaron Guthrie, healthy active living teacher at DFC, says it was nice to see the role models from the community playing in the tournament.

"We had a really great turnout," Guthrie says. "We had an eight-team tournament with lots of subs on both teams, so the action was quick and fast

## **WE'RE GROWING!!!**

The **Ontario Native Women's Association** is rapidly growing and expanding services to our community members. We are looking for educated, skilled, experienced and qualified persons to join our team and fill a number of full time roles in all of our sites across Ontario.

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# Business

# Environmental protection highlights the Northern Ontario Resources Expo

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

The use of mats to protect the environment was highlighted during the Procuring Partnerships presentation at the Northern Ontario Resources Expo: Building and Growing a Sustainable Resource Economy.

"Matting is placed down to protect the environment and it is also used for work safety as there is a need for safe and stable work platforms for cranes and other equipment to avoid machinery from tipping over or getting stuck in the mud or getting stuck in the swamps," says Marsha Smoke, president and CEO of Moccasin Trails, who delivered the Procuring Partnerships presentation on the first day of the Expo. "So it was really important for me to find out a way that First Nations could benefit. There are basically three components to matting: number one is the sale of mats, number two is the transportation of those mats, and number three is installing, moving and removing the mats at the completion of the project."

Smoke says the lucrative part of the matting business is in the handling or installing of the mats on work project sites, while the sales and transportation of mats is standard and competitive.

"When it comes to the installation of the mats, that is where businesses make their money, and a lot of it," Smoke says. "Our work has mainly been in the United States and we have some work in western Canada and the Atlantic (provinces). Matting in Ontario is fairly new, very new in northern Ontario."

Smoke says the installation process involves teams of three workers, a heavy equipment operator to move the mats, a worker to guide the placement of the mats and a safety person to ensure nobody gets hurt as the mats weigh from 1,800-2,400 pounds.

"Every time a mat is moved, a fee is charged," Smoke says. "The mat is first moved to install it, then it is moved further down the work site, and this can happen a few times, and then the mat has to be removed at the end of the project."

Smoke says major projects require many mats, which are moved a minimum of three times.

"The industry rate for handling mats is between \$25 to \$50 per mat," Smoke says. "Therefore, if a project requires 2,000 mats and they are moved three times at \$25 a mat, that is a revenue of \$150,000."

Smoke says Moccasin Trails is working with three tribal construction companies in the United States on using matting for projects.

"(For) one of the projects, we estimated that there would be 100,000 mats," Smoke says. "If you use the formula I showed earlier, those 100,000 mats are going to bring \$9 million in revenue to those three communities."

Smoke says First Nation communities need to benefit from work in their area.

"If you are going to do business in and around First Nation territories, they need to be a part of it and the local communities need to benefit from that," Smoke says.

Brian Davey, executive director of NADF, says the matting business could be important for winter roads and construction projects in the future.

"We saw how valuable of a role matting played with the road to Webequie last winter, where they had to put that into place to bring the rest of the modules homes into the community," Davey says. "It's amazing what matting does. You add that to the design and what it can do in using the road longer. There just needs to be more awareness that it should be part of the design."

The Expo was hosted by NADF at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay with a wide range of scheduled presentations on the first day, including Building the North Through Business Development; The Economics of Aboriginal Engagement; Revenue Resource Sharing; Getting to Consent: Development through Agreements; and Engagement and Economic Development.

The second day featured scheduled presentations on: Bridging the Gap: Aboriginal Workforce and Resource Development; Connecting the North; Watay Power Project; Aboriginal Laws and the Future of Environmental Assessments; and Opportunities and Risks in the Legal Cannabis Sector: Economic and Social Considerations for Indigenous Investors.

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▷▷L www.ontario.ca/forestplans ◁ժ፬७ ୮ዮ군・Δዮ군 31, 2019, ◁Λ С፫Λ>٩ ७△ፓ▷ܩ∪७ ◁ܩዮ·Δ٩ ७৬>५७.

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**Trout Lake Forest** 

## **INSPECTION**

## Inspection of MNRF-Approved Prescribed Burn Plan Trout Lake Forest

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved prescribed burn plan that will be carried out in the **Trout Lake Forest** (see map).

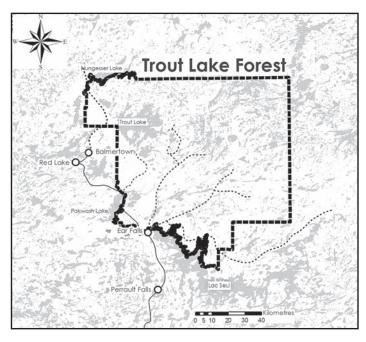
As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the guidelines of the MNRF's *Prescribed Burn Manual.* The prescribed burn will prepare and enhance the site(s) for subsequent regeneration and growth while reducing the fire hazard. The burn is scheduled for ignition between **November 1, 2018** and **February 1, 2019**.

The approved prescribed burn plan, including specific locations and maps, is available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the office of Domtar Inc. and on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/forestplans until March 31, 2019, when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange an appointment with MNRF staff to discuss the prescribed burn plan. For more information, please contact:

Corinne Arthur, R.P.F.

MNRF Red Lake District Office 227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003 Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0 tel: 807-727-1337 e-mail: corinne.arthur@ontario.ca



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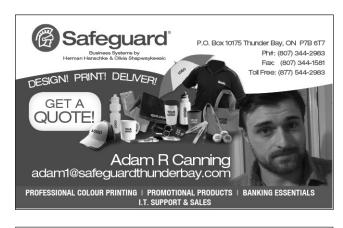
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# Business

# KKETS LiUNA sign agreement

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training (KKETS) and Labourers' International Union of America (LiUNA) Local Union 607 recently signed a Cooperation Agreement to develop Indigenous human resource potential within the Matawa communities.

"We've been working with KKETS for a number of years now for training opportunities and employment opportunities," says Terry Varga, business manager with LiUNA. "So we are just advancing our Cooperation Agreement and partnership to move to that next level and to work with them in every aspect as we can and employing as many people as we can through LiUNA and keep up the training opportunities and the career paths and give actual careers to the First Nations people in Ontario."

The Cooperation Agreement commits to working together to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities for the trades of Construction Craft Worker and Cement Finisher as well as employment opportunities with employers bound to a collective agreement with Local 607 or other affiliated Local Unions of LiUNA. LiUNA International is one of Canada's largest construction unions, representing about 120,000 Canadian workers, mostly in construction.

"The signing of this Cooperation Agreement with LiUNA is another step in the right direction for KKETS as we continue to create a foundation in bettering lives," says Roger Wesley, executive director of KKETS. "With this Agreement we are building beyond 'projects for work' to 'life-long work in the trades and elsewhere.' LiUNA is a cutting-edge labour association, one with a proven track record of working and dealing with Indigenous organizations and communities with positive benefits and results. We are looking forward to developing our relations with LiUNA now and into the future."

Wesley says LiUNA welcomed KKETS with open arms when they approached them about training and employment opportunities.

"They opened the door and welcomed us in," Wesley says. "They shared what their skill sets are and they asked: 'Who are we, what do we do.' And from those early discussions we built up a better understanding of each other and at the same time we built some concepts that we want to work towards, one of them being creating full-time employment."

Wesley says many of the employment opportunities for First Nations in the region are project based.

"Our people get the job while the project is on; when the project is over everybody gets sent home," Wesley says. "With LiUNA and their wealth of opportunities provincially, nationally and even locally, we believe there is much room to bring our people into those full-time jobs in other projects."

Wesley says the Cooperation Agreement will be key in changing the generational transition in the communities.



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News Labourers' International Union of America Local Union 607 representatives Shane Fugere and Terry Varga and Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training representatives Joe Baxter and Roger Wesley.

"We're going to create a lot of working parents, which the kids are going to see," Wesley says. "And the kids are going to want to get into the training. Skilled trades is one big area that is currently experiencing massive vacancies, so let's fill them with our bodies."

Shane Fugere, Indigenous relations representative with LiUNA, says generational change is more than just about jobs.

"It's about building careers and giving our youth hope for the future," Fugere says. "It's about giving the parents a chance at a career and changing the past socio-economic status to a modern one. Our children and grandchildren will truly see the benefits of the work we have started together in this Cooperation Agreement."

The Cooperation Agreement recognizes First Nations governments and related socioeconomic development needs as a key principle. It is similar to an agreement LiUNA renewed with the Assembly of First Nations at the LiUNA national convention last summer.

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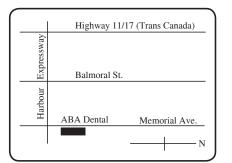
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# Business

# NADF changes name, logo



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

NADF executive director Brian Davey and NADF Chair Arlene Meekis launched NADF's new branding strategy, which includes a new name, logo and website in Thunder Bay.

SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL PROSPERITY

Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

NADF executive director Brian Davey shows off the new NADF logo during the launch of NADF's new branding strategy in Thunder Bay.

Rick Garrick Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund officially changed its name to NADF and launched a new logo to better serve the Aboriginal community across northern Ontario.

"Personalization of experience is the future of financial services," says Brian Davey, executive director of NADF. "NADF products and services are specifically designed by and for Aboriginal people, businesses and communities at all stages of their life, and we provide various doorways to achieve prosperity."

Davey says the new brand strategy and image was devel-

oped to cement NADF's market position as the first-choice for Aboriginal businesses in northern Ontario.

"Our team is very proud of our new brand, logo and website because it clearly represents our commitment to supporting a prosperous Aboriginal business community in northern Ontario," Davey says. "Regardless of where we come from, what community we are from and background, the more we contribute to the wellness and economic health of this region, it is all good for everyone. And that is important for our communities, our businesses and our people that we serve."

Davey says NADF wants to be part of their clients' entrepre-

neurial journey from day one and forward into the future.

"In the past, what we did was we provided them with a grant and that was it," Davey says. "We would see them for a little while after that, but now it is different — we want to be there on the loan side for the long term and if they have continued financial needs, we want to be there to support them."

NADF hired Firedog Communications, an award-winning Thunder Bay-based communications agency, to do the rebranding work.

"Ensuring that NADF differentiates itself and is top of mind for Aboriginal clients seeking financing and advisory services is essential in this increasingly

crowded market space," says Arlene Meekis, chair of the NADF board. "Our board recognized that NADF needs to better own its specialist role and services as an Aboriginal Financial Institution in order to build a stronger Aboriginal business community and compete with banks and credit unions."

Meekis says NADF's role has expanded over the years since it was established in 1987. NADF now services 89 First Nation communities as well as Aboriginal entrepreneurs and whollyowned or majority-owned Aboriginal businesses operating in northern Ontario.

"Our role has really expanded past the Nishnawbe Aski Nation to include Grand Council Treaty #3, Robinson Superior and now, most recently, the Metis people," Meekis says. "We need to make sure people understand that they are included in our vision as opposed to an add-on."

NADF began working on the change about two years ago. The new logo features the circle of life, the medicine wheel and Mother Earth. The circle symbolizes that all things in life are interconnected. The four points of the design represent the four directions — north, east, south and west — with each direction representing a stage of life and a doorway bringing gifts from that direction into the future.

The new logo also incorporates a slogan: Supporting

Aboriginal Prosperity.

"It's been part of our mission statement for a number of years, but now it is incorporated into the logo and I think that really is important," Meekis says. "As we develop the economies of our communities and of our people, then we can give them hope and we can build upon those successes to see the social change that we want to see. I have a grandchild — I want her to grow up with more than I did, (including) her vision for what she sees possible."

NADF has served entrepreneurs, businesses and communities in northern Ontario for 31 years by providing financing, business support, community planning and workshops.



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