





# Health

# DGC Naveau gives latest COVID-19 update

**Rick Garrick**  
Wawatay News

Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau encouraged people to continue with the COVID-19 physical distancing and hand washing measures during his WRN (Wawatay Radio Network) update on Aug. 11.

“COVID-19 sure makes big restrictions on us,” Naveau says, noting his community recently lost a citizen who worked for many years with the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre in Timmins. “So right now (we’re) supporting one another and trying to lift their spirits up with the family ... but this COVID-19 kind of makes it a little bit harder.”

Naveau says the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Task Team has developed recommendations about wearing face masks, including a recommendation to begin wearing masks now even though it isn't required by the community.

“The Task Team supports the use of non-medical masks within communities where physical distancing is not possible,” Naveau says. “The Task Team believes that masking is an important action that community citizens can take to protect themselves, their families and others in the community, including Elders.”

Naveau says masks seem to play an important role, based on developing evidence, in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

“Non-medical cloth masks should be worn in public indoor areas and outdoor areas where physical distancing is difficult, except by children less than two years of age and people with certain medical or mental health conditions,” Naveau says. “Also this action protects yourself, your family and others in the community including children and Elders.”

Naveau says communities or business owners should make

exceptions for people who cannot wear masks, including the use of face shields.

“Alternatives including face shields can be helpful for some people and are better than wearing no face coverings at all,” Naveau says.

Naveau notes that the Porcupine Health Unit and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit had mandatory mask orders in place for indoor public spaces as of July 23 and 24. The Northwestern Health Unit also put in place a mandatory mask order for enclosed spaces accessible to the public on Aug. 17.

“Community citizens who are living in or travelling through these areas will (follow) these orders and have their own supply of masks if possible,” Naveau says. “These orders typically include exceptions for young children or people who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. In the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Porcupine Health Unit areas people who are exempted from wearing masks are not required to show proof of exemption.”

Naveau says it is still important to follow all public health measures such as physical distancing, hand hygiene and covering your cough even if people are wearing masks.

"Major cities like Toronto and Ottawa now have mandatory mask requirements," Naveau says. "If any community citizens are travelling to these areas please make sure you are prepared for these guidelines."

Naveau says masks are only one public health measure that community citizens should take to restrict the spread of COVID-19.

“The strongest protection we have against COVID-19 is the basic health protection measures, which is staying at home, practicing physical distancing, two metres or six feet apart, and also to wash



Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau, pictured at Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Income Assistance Summit in 2019, spoke about the importance of continuing to follow COVID-19 measures during his WRN update.

or sanitize hands regularly for 20 seconds,” Naveau says. “People who must travel out of their communities need to be reminded of the risks and given the appropriate information

to stay safe from the virus. It is being recommended that individuals who are returning from travel to urban centres self isolate for 14 days after returning to their community.”

Naveau's WRN update is posted online along with the updates of the other leaders at: [nancovid19.ca/?cat=62](https://nancovid19.ca/?cat=62).

**from front page**

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## Health

### Grand Chief Fiddler stresses importance of mandatory mask use

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler is stressing the importance of wearing masks in enclosed public spaces as the three area health units have issued instructions for the use of masks in indoor public spaces.

"It is important that all of us wear a mask if we are indoors in a public place, in stores for example," Fiddler says. "The public health experts have told us that masks, when worn properly, can be quite effective at stopping the spread of COVID-19, so it's really good to see, for example in Thunder Bay, almost everyone wearing a mask."

Fiddler says he was concerned about how the Northwestern Health Unit did not implement their requirement to wear masks in enclosed spaces accessible to the public until Aug. 17. The Porcupine Health Unit implemented the mandatory mask requirement for indoor public spaces on July 23 and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) on July 24.

"Overall we are encouraging communities or just everyone to start wearing a mask when going out into public places," Fiddler says.

Fiddler says he can understand why some of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities are starting to relax their COVID-19 restrictions after five months of isolation.

"People are starting to feel the impacts of the isolation," Fiddler says. "I think the decision that the leadership of some of those communities are making to loosen or ease up on some of those travel restrictions is understandable."

Fiddler says the NAN COVID-19 Task Team created a document outlining some of these guidelines over a month ago in anticipation of the possible easing of travel restrictions over the coming months.

"So a lot of our communities



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, pictured at last year's Oshki-Pimache-O-Win The Wenjack Education Institute graduation, is stressing the importance of wearing masks in indoor public spaces.

that have made this decision are following the guidelines that our Task Team developed over a month ago," Fiddler says. "We encourage everyone that is leaving their communities to travel to Sioux Lookout or Thunder Bay or Timmins or other centres that they still need to follow all of these public health measures. They still need to wear a mask, they still need to social distancing when they are in a public place (and to follow) all the hygiene practices of washing hands, using hand sanitizer and all of those things we still need to practice when they leave their community."

Fiddler says the NAN First Nations have made an "incredible effort" to prevent COVID-19 cases in their communities as only Eabametoong and Mishkeegogamang have reported cases as of Aug. 13.

"It's really paid off," Fiddler says. "I'm hoping with the announcement made by (Indigenous Services Canada) Minister (Marc) Miller recently for additional resources that these resources need to flow quickly to the communities so they are ready if there is an

increase in cases in the fall that we need to be prepared for that as well."

The TBDHU issued their instructions to employers, business owners and operators to have a policy in place requiring the use of a mask or face covering for any person entering into the public areas of their premises under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

"We have done well in navigating the reopening process so far; however, there have been outbreaks in other jurisdictions which have impacted workplaces, businesses and the community," says Dr. Janet DeMille, medical officer of health with TBDHU. "That risk is there for us too. As we continue to reopen, there will be increased opportunities for people to have closer contact with one another in enclosed spaces where transmission is more likely to happen. People and goods also travel daily through this region. It is important that we adopt all necessary measures to protect ourselves and our communities against the spread of COVID-19 in our area."

## News

### Misconduct allegations against Dr. Black-Branch cast further doubt on validity of University of Manitoba's anti-racism training for Lynn Beyak

Wawatay News

A recent letter to the Law Society of Manitoba from a group of University of Manitoba-affiliated lawyers questions the "honesty, trustworthiness and competency" of Dr. Johnathan Black-Branch, former Dean of the Faculty of Law at the university.

This news further calls into question the credibility of the May 2020 "Training on Racism in Relation to Indigenous People" for Senator Lynn Beyak, which was led by Dr. Black-Branch. The former Dean was chosen by Senate Ethics Officer Pierre Legault in May as an "eminently qualified" individual, to design and deliver the training for Beyak following an order from the Standing Committee on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Senators. In his June 9 report to the Committee regarding the training, Legault noted that the choice of an educational program provider must "inspire credibility" and that "Dr. Black-Branch and his team were indisputably qualified to assess Senator Beyak".

Dr. Black-Branch was

reportedly placed on leave from his position as Dean in early May 2020 for unknown reasons. Nonetheless he continued as head of the educational team who designed and delivered Beyak's tailor-made program. The Senator participated in sessions with the team via video from May 19 to 22.

Coalition spokesperson, Anishinaabe lawyer Danielle H. Morrison says, "From the moment it was announced that a recommendation was made to reinstate Senator Lynn Beyak based on training led by my former Dean, Dr. Black-Branch, I questioned the involvement of an academic institution so far removed from our lived experiences of racism." She goes on to note that universities are too often given more credibility as 'experts' than Indigenous knowledge keepers. "Why is a university deemed more highly qualified and 'impartial' than we are? Why are they given more time, money and authority to give not just a second, but a third chance to someone who has already been suspended twice from the Senate?"

Coalition member Garnet

Angecone adds "As a survivor of the Indian residential schools' system, I remain perplexed and angered by the never-ending issues related to the suspension of Senator Lynn Beyak. The recent developments – serious allegations of misuse of funds by the former dean of University of Manitoba law school – raise some real alarm bells. Where is the reconciliation effort in this mess?"

The University responded to Winnipeg Free Press inquiries August 14 that they take public accountability "very seriously" and "Failure to do so can have serious consequences for the institution".

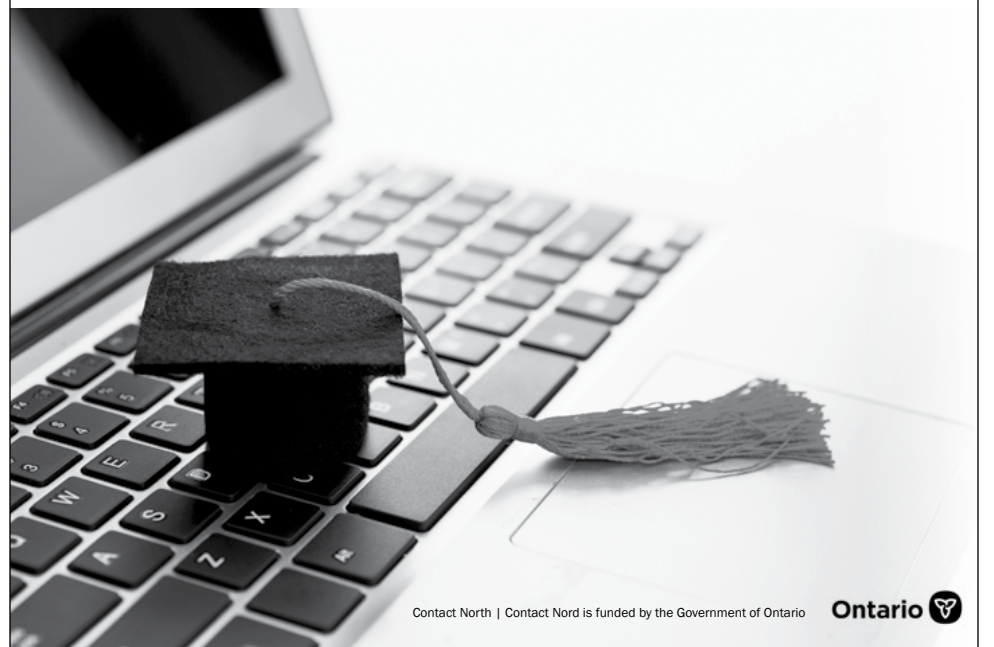
Morrison concludes, "It is unfortunate that a process that was meant to bring justice and healing for all involved is now tainted by seemingly unethical behavior of those at the top. Survivors, our community and our nations deserve better."

The Coalition urges both the University and the Senate to recognize and address the implications of Black-Branch's lead role in Beyak's training.

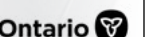
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Politics

Concerns raised over Bill 197

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Attawapiskat and Fort Albany have raised concerns about amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) in the provincial government's recently passed omnibus Bill 197, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020. Bill 197 was introduced on July 8 to lay the foundation to restart jobs and development, strengthen communities and create opportunity for people in every region of the province, and received Royal Assent on July 21. Information about Bill 197 is posted online at: [www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-197](http://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-197).

"Ontario pushed these amendments through in a wholly undemocratic way, hiding them in an omnibus bill misrepresented by a COVID-19 title, when the EAA changes have nothing to do with getting past the pandemic," says Attawapiskat Chief David Nakogee.

Nakogee also raised concerns about how First Nations have a disproportionate risk from COVID-19 due to higher health risks and over-crowded housing.

"Hundreds of years of colonialism, still being carried on today, have left First Nations largely impoverished, exposed to higher health risks and much

lower standards of health care," Nakogee says. "Our housing is over-crowded. We are at great risk if COVID-19 infiltrates our communities."

Fort Albany released a statement on July 24, which included comments on how the muskeg is the foundation of their identity and culture and is also one of the most important and delicate peatland ecosystems in the world, with a critical role in storing carbon that would otherwise accelerate climate change.

"As a community with a high poverty rate, Fort Albany understands the need for economic opportunity," the Fort Albany statement says. "However, development must be ecologically responsible and culturally sustainable. We already live with the consequences of irresponsible economic and industrial activity, including disturbances to our homeland such as melting permafrost, invasive species, pollution and river erosion. At a time when the whole world is facing unprecedented climate change and biodiversity loss, development must be supported with more and better environmental protections, not fewer."

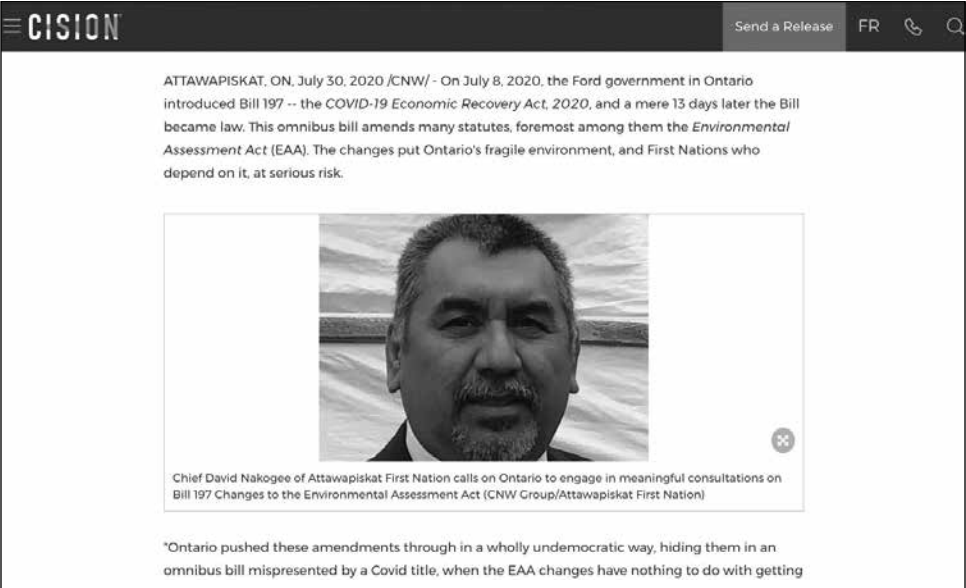
Kate Kempton, a partner with OKT Law who is representing Attawapiskat regarding its objection to Bill 197, says Bill 197's content continues the

provincial government's process of gutting environmental protection legislation.

"It is particularly concerning to First Nations because they have an innate identity-based relationship with land," Kempton says. "And they stand to be most seriously affected by any measures that remove regulatory protections for the environment and allow more of a free-for-all industrial development of that environment, so we are very concerned about the content."

An Environment, Conservation and Parks media representative says in an e-mail comment that the provincial government is committed to consulting with Indigenous communities prior to making a decision or taking action that could impact existing Aboriginal or treaty rights, noting that the ministry held six webinars with Indigenous communities in July to provide updates on the legislative amendments and proposed changes to the Class Environmental Assessment and proposed exemptions.

"The minister is retaining the Part II Order request process in respect of potential impacts of a project to existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, to ensure that concerns from communities can be heard and considered," says Gary Wheeler, communication branch, Ministry of Environment,



Screenshot

Attawapiskat Chief David Nakogee has raised concerns about amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act in the provincial government's recently passed omnibus Bill 197, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020.

Conservation and Parks, in the e-mail comment. "Each of our streamlined environmental assessment processes contains provisions requiring consultation with stakeholders, Indigenous communities and the public, and the elimination of the Part II order request process does not eliminate those consultation requirements. We are also proposing changes to eliminate duplication and reduce delay for projects or activities related to Indigenous land

claim settlements and other agreements with Indigenous communities dealing with land, projects within provincial parks and conservation reserves and select Ministry of Transportation projects."

Wheeler says the province advised communities that there will be additional opportunities for consultation in the future and have asked for their thoughts on how "we can work together" so their interests and perspectives can help inform the modernized environmental

assessment program.

"Our modern environmental assessment program will continue to fulfill the duty to consult Indigenous communities on matters that affect their rights," Wheeler says. "We will also continue working with municipalities, industry and partners to propose smarter ways of working to keep Ontario communities safe and strong, and our environment protected."

Regional Chief Archibald touring northern Ontario



Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald visited the gravesite of the late Ginoogaming chief Celia Echum during a trip to road access First Nation communities across northern Ontario.

"Under normal (pre-COVID-19) conditions I would have gone to her funeral and presented a funeral wreath or flowers on behalf of the Chiefs of Ontario but it was impossible," Archibald says. "So when they opened up so that people could travel I felt it was important to honour her and remember her and to place that funeral wreath on her grave because she was a sitting chief when she passed away and a leader who was very beloved by her community and by many people including myself. I thought it was important to do that in her memory."

Archibald adds that Echum was the Chiefs of Ontario representative on the Assembly of First Nations Women's Council when she passed on.

"When a leader passes on who was very active the way



she was, it has a very broad impact and you feel that loss," Archibald says. "I certainly felt a great sadness and my own grief about losing a leader like her who was active and committed and dedicated and caring. I just found it to be a very sad moment."

Archibald says Long Lake #58 was in lockdown but she still dropped off one of the packages of tobacco and cedar that she had prepared for leadership along her route.

"I of course sanitized the package I was dropping off," Archibald says. "It's just for me a way to connect to the communities at this time through prayer because that's what those offerings are, they're prayers for their safety and their protection and good health in our communities."

Archibald also visited two First Nations that earlier

had COVID-19 cases in their communities: Whitesand and Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay).

"I thought I would do a bit of a loop and get to the communities that actually had cases and had resolved their cases and still managed to keep the virus out," Archibald says. "So I went to Whitesand First Nation to talk to the chief and was greeted by the chief and one of the councillors. They told me the story of how they kept the virus out of the community after that initial outbreak, and I want to share that information with other First Nations across Ontario ... so they can really begin to understand what is happening in other parts of the province."

Archibald says she visited with a friend in Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek who was one of the first people to come



photos from Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald's Facebook page

TOP LEFT: Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald visited Whitesand.

ABOVE: Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald visited Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River) during her recent trip to place a wreath at the gravesite of the late Ginoogaming chief Celia Echum.

down with COVID-19 in the community.

"He actually showed me a video explaining how he recovered from it and what he learned from that experience," Archibald says.

Archibald had also stopped in Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River), Batchewana, Garden River, Mississauga #8 and Serpent River as of Aug. 12.

"Tomorrow my main place to go is Wiikwemkoong because they had a false positive in their nursing home," Archibald says. "As a result they were able to

create a more fulsome response to COVID-19 coming in, so I wanted to check in on Ogima Peltier on how they are doing now that they have acquired some new resources."

Archibald says she plans to stop at the First Nations on her route to and from Wiikwemkoong, including Aundeck Omni Kaning, Whitefish River First Nation and Sheguiandah.

Archibald says she is being careful on her trip and only having minimal contact with people.

"I'm only in contact with the chief in the community," Archibald says. "There are moments when I will see somebody else but I am really purposefully limiting my connection. I am not doing anything that involves a group of people more than 10. And I'm trying to do most of my meetings outdoors."

Archibald says she also downloaded the new COVID-19 app which lets people know if they have been in contact with somebody who tested positive with the virus.



Politics



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
Health Minister Patty Hajdu announced \$11.78 billion in funding to further expand testing and contact tracing capacity and for personal protective equipment outside the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Hajdu announces quarantine fatigue funding

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News


Health Minister Patty Hajdu raised quarantine fatigue as

one of the suspected causes of the increasing rise in COVID-19 cases across the country during an \$11.78 billion funding announcement. The funding


includes \$4.28 billion to further expand testing and contact tracing capacity, and the associated data management and information sharing systems, and \$7.5 billion for personal protective equipment. “After months of staying apart it is normal to want to come together and spend time together with family and with friends,” says Hajdu, Thunder Bay-Superior North MP during the announcement outside the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU). “Distancing measures have been really hard on everyone and it’s especially a difficult time because we’ve been missing each other. It’s been historically difficult in fact across this country and the world, but our government continues to work very closely with all levels of government to protect the health and safety of Canadians. And we know that while Canadians want to resume their daily lives, it’s very difficult because we still have restrictions and as we start to restart the economy it gets even more confusing for Canadians at times.”

“Hajdu says First Nation communities have “done proportionally much better” than non-First Nation communities...”

Hajdu says the funding, which is part of \$19 billion announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on July 16 as part of the Safe Restart Agreement, will help contain outbreaks of the virus by making more resources available for testing, public health data sharing and contact tracing. Funding for the Safe Restart Agreement will help address key priorities, agreed upon by Canada’s First Ministers, for the safe restart of Canada’s economy over the next six to eight months. “The inability to quickly understand what’s happening with an individual and how that connects to a larger outbreak has been a really challenging aspect of managing this pandemic at all levels of government,” Hajdu says. “So the funding of \$4.28 billion will ensure for example a national capacity to conduct 200,000 tests per day. We just want to make sure as a nation that we have capacity to test as many people as we need to depending on how this outbreak evolves.” Hajdu says rapid testing allows for the ability to do rapid contact tracing, which is critical to containing the virus and making sure people have the information they need to prevent further spread of the virus to their loved ones.




Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
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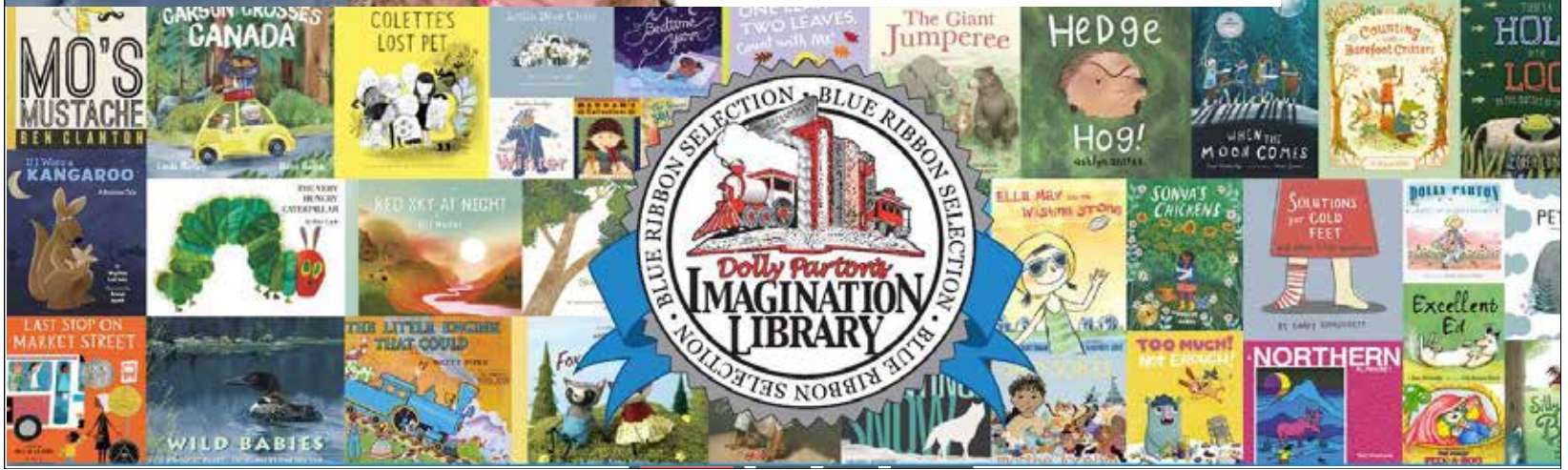
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# Politics

## Indigenous Services Minister announces more COVID-19 funding

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is currently looking into how Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) recently announced additional \$305 million in funding to support Indigenous peoples during the COVID-19 pandemic will be distributed.

"The issue right now is they didn't outline the process how communities can access these additional resources that were announced," says Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "So we are working with ISC officials right now to try to clarify those processes so communities can start to access these resources that were announced, so I'm hoping this can happen pretty quickly."

The \$305 million in funding, which is being provided through the Indigenous Community Support Fund, was announced by ISC Minister Marc Miller on Aug. 12. The funding can be used for a variety of measures such as supporting Elders and vulnerable community citizens, addressing food insecurity, educational and other supports for children, mental health assistance and emergency response services and preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"Health and safety remains our priority and we will continue to work in partnership with Indigenous communities

and organizations to support a strong and comprehensive pandemic response," Miller says. "This funding offers further concrete support for on-the-ground community solutions that respond to the unique needs and circumstances of First Nations, Inuit and Métis wherever they reside."

ISC states on its website that it was aware of 425 confirmed cases of COVID-19 on-reserve in First Nations across Canada as of Aug. 13, including 64 cases in Ontario. ISC also states that it is aware of 34 hospitalizations, 399 recovered cases and six deaths among on-reserve First Nations people as of Aug. 13. As of July 31, the percentage of reported positive COVID-19 cases among First Nation individuals living on reserve was one-quarter the rate of the general Canadian population, and the COVID-19 case fatality rate for First Nation individuals living on reserve was about one-fifth of the general Canadian population.

"It is a testament to Indigenous leadership and indeed Indigenous peoples that community exposure to the virus has been limited," Miller says. "We want to continue to support their strong pandemic management and to ensure that Indigenous leaders have the tools and support they need at their disposal to implement various aspects of their pandemic plans."

Miller says the federal

government has shipped about 1,051 orders for personal protective equipment (PPE) to First Nation communities as of Aug. 11, including hand sanitizers, N95 masks, isolation shields and gloves.

"Indigenous Services Canada continues to work closely with Indigenous communities and their leadership to make sure they have what they need to prepare for and prevent the spread of coronavirus," Miller says. "This includes quickly processing personal protective equipment requests as effectively as possible to help communities stand ready to respond to COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of health care workers and others supporting the delivery of health care services."

The \$305 million in funding will be distributed through allocations directly to First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership and needs-based funding, which will be application driven.

"This approach aligns with our commitment to support Indigenous leadership's approaches to community wellness while providing the flexibility to respond to emerging needs, for example in response to an outbreak of COVID-19," Miller says. "This funding will also be available to (First Nations) living off-reserve and Inuit and Métis living in urban centres on an application basis. Further details related to this will be



screenshot

Indigenous Services Canada Minister Marc Miller announced an additional \$305 million in federal government funding to support Indigenous peoples during the COVID-19 pandemic.

forthcoming."

Miller says the federal government has committed more than \$2 billion in funding specific to Indigenous and northern communities and

organizations.

"First Nations, Inuit and Métis have also accessed other measures provided through the government of Canada COVID-19 economic response plan,"

Miller says. "And I encourage everyone to review the plan for other financial supports that may be available to them based on their situation."



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Aboriginal Skills Advancement Program (ASAP) is accepting applications for the September 8, 2020 intake. ASAP provides Matawa First Nation and other remote Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) citizens the opportunity to acquire an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, life skills and employment readiness. This adult education program helps students achieve their high school diploma and the academic credits they need to pursue college, university or skilled trades training. Applications are open to individuals 18 years of age and over from Matawa First Nations & Remote NAN Communities. If you have previously applied for ASAP and it has been more then 2 years please complete a new application. To receive an application please visit our website [www.kkets.ca](http://www.kkets.ca) or for more information please call the ASAP on-call phone: 807-632-0215.

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### Invitation for Public Comment Independent Audit of the Red Lake Forest

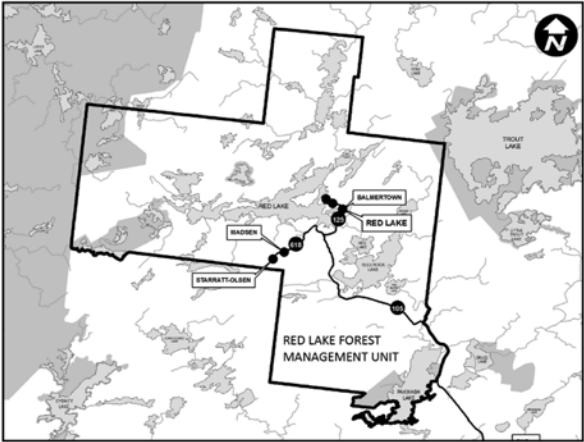
Under the Independent Forest Audit program, all Forest Management Units in the province are audited regularly to ensure that their management has followed approved plans and complies with the requirements of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. invites you to provide written comments to the Independent Audit of the Red Lake Forest.

This audit evaluates the forest management performance from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2020 by conducting a thorough review of the management plan, annual reports and other documents, and by conducting field inspections of a sample of operations undertaken in management of the forest.

The Red Lake Forest was managed by Red Lake Forest Management Company Ltd. (RLFMC) over the audit period. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) contributed to management of the forest by developing strategic portions of the management plan, overseeing operations, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, and approving forest management plans, annual work plans and reports.

You are invited to provide input to the audit regarding:

- the overall performance of MNRF and RLFMC in managing the forest;
- concerns regarding instances or areas in which forest management has not followed approved plans or provincial regulations;
- concerns regarding instances in which operations have not been effective or have been harmful to the environment; or
- specific or general instances in which forest management has been well-implemented.



The audit does not cover management of other forest units, or other aspects of the performance of the MNRF.

#### You can provide input in a number of ways:

1) An on-line survey is available to receive responses at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/red\\_lake](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/red_lake)

OR

2) Scan here with your mobile device here to take you to the survey:



3) We also welcome written correspondence (paper or digital) expressing your opinions or concerns. All correspondence will be treated confidentially and may be used to direct the auditors' attention and activities during the audit. Responses by mail or e-mail will be considered.

Please send your comments to ArborVitae Environmental Services:  
Mail: 5015 Ninth Line, Erin, ON L7G 4S8  
e-mail: [chris@avesltd.ca](mailto:chris@avesltd.ca)

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### NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE Webequie Supply Road Project Environmental Assessment Webequie First Nation

Webequie First Nation (WFN) has prepared a Terms of Reference (ToR) for an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Webequie Supply Road project ("the Project") and is submitting the ToR to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for review as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. If approved, the ToR will serve as a framework for the preparation of the EA for the Project. As part of the submission process, Indigenous communities, the public, agencies, and other interested parties are encouraged to review the ToR and submit comments to the MECP.

The proposed Webequie Supply Road will be an all-season road corridor approximately 107 km in length from Webequie First Nation to the mineral deposit area near McFaulds Lake. The preliminary corridor for the road consists of a northwest-southeast segment running 51 km from Webequie First Nation to a 56 km segment running east, before terminating near McFaulds Lake. A total of 17 km of the corridor is located within Webequie First Nation Reserve lands. The preliminary supply road route alternatives being carried forward to the Environmental Assessment are shown in the accompanying Key Plan.

#### Project Purpose

The purpose of the Project is to create an all-season corridor that will facilitate the movement of materials, supplies and people from the Webequie Airport to the proposed mine development and mineral exploration activities in the McFaulds Lake area of Northwestern Ontario. The Project is intended to provide the WFN with a means to better service their community and be a contributor to the local economy by providing employment and economic development opportunities.

#### The Planning Process

The WFN has entered into a voluntary agreement with the MECP to subject the Project to Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The ToR is the first step in the EA process and outlines the work plan for addressing the requirements under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The submitted proposed ToR considered comments received by WFN on the draft ToR. If approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the ToR will provide the framework for the second step of the process, the preparation of the EA. Important elements of the EA will be to evaluate the alternatives, assess potential effects and determine measures to reduce or mitigate these effects.

#### Review of the Terms of Reference

Members of Indigenous communities, the public, agencies, and other interested parties are encouraged to review the ToR and provide comments from **August 14 until October 13, 2020**.

The ToR can be accessed on the project website at [www.supplyroad.ca](http://www.supplyroad.ca) and hard copies will be available for review at local First Nation community band offices, as well as at the following public library and municipal offices:

- Thunder Bay Library – 285 Red River Road, Thunder Bay
- Sioux Lookout – 25 Fifth Avenue, Sioux Lookout
- City of Timmins – 220 Algonquin Boulevard East, Timmins
- Township of Pickle Lake – 2 Anne Street South, Pickle Lake

#### Submission of comments

Your comments regarding the ToR must be submitted to the MECP before **5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2020**. All comments should be submitted to:

Sasha McLeod and Shannon Gauthier  
Special Project Officer and Project Officer  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
Tel: 416-268-5984/416-258-8215  
Fax: 416-314-8452  
Email: [Sasha.mcleod@ontario.ca](mailto:Sasha.mcleod@ontario.ca) and [Shannon.gauthier@ontario.ca](mailto:Shannon.gauthier@ontario.ca)

A copy of all comments submitted to the MECP will be forwarded to the proponent for consideration.

#### For further information regarding this project, please contact:

Michael Fox  
Regional Consultation Lead  
Webequie First Nation  
100 Chippewa Road  
Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1B6  
Tel: 807-472-6147  
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Samson Jacob  
Local Consultation Lead  
Webequie First Nation  
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Fax: 807-353-1218  
E-mail: [Samson.Jacobs@supplyroad.ca](mailto:Samson.Jacobs@supplyroad.ca)

Don Parkinson  
Consultation Lead  
SNC-Lavalin Inc.  
195 The West Mall  
Toronto, ON M9C 5K1  
Tel: 416-252-5315 ext. 52584  
Fax: 416-235-5356  
E-mail: [Don.Parkinson@sncclavalin.com](mailto:Don.Parkinson@sncclavalin.com)

All personal information included in a submission - such as name, address, telephone number and property location - is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public, as described in s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at (416) 327-1434.

Notice published – August 12, 2020 (WSR-SNC-PR-PUN-0002 SNC-Public Notice of Submission of T of R-2020-08-12)



## Politics



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Dr. Janet DeMille, medical officer of health with Thunder Bay District Health Unit, announced the implementation of a new data system for COVID-19 cases outside the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

## Funding will increase COVID tests

from page 6

“Part of the funding will help ensure the availability of testing components like reagents and swabs and eventually point-of-care kits, and promote

innovation in developing new testing components and equipment,” Hajdu says.

Hajdu says First Nation communities have “done proportionally much better” than non-First Nation communities with regards to COVID-19 partly because of the quick response of the federal government with First Nations through the principle of self governance where the First Nations determined how they should react to protect their communities.

Dr. Janet DeMille, medical officer of health with TBDHU, says the TBDHU is currently beginning the implementation of a new data system that was launched by the provincial government.

“So by the end of the week any new COVID-19 cases in our area, the data will be inputted into this new system

and moving away from the old system that was causing a lot of challenges around sharing the data with the province,” DeMille says. “This is unrolling across the province and for us it is actually happening this week, so we’re excited about that.”

DeMille acknowledged Hajdu’s comments about the challenges around case and contact management as the economy opens up.

“What’s happening in other areas is that somebody who has COVID-19 often has a lot of people that would be deemed close contacts that public health needs to follow up on,” DeMille says. “This is quite different from what was happening a couple of months ago because we were all sort of isolating, we were all at home, we weren’t interacting a lot with one another, so one case can actually result in a lot of contacts that public health needs to follow up on. And that is a huge challenge to be able to step up and do all of that for a local public health unit.”

The TBDHU now requires, as of July 24, the use of masks or face coverings by all people of the public, employees and others in enclosed public spaces including indoor settings accessible to the public.



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Community

Annual Wabun Youth Gathering adapts to the pandemic

Xavier Kataquapit  
Special to Wawatay News

The 14th Annual Wabun Youth Gathering is being held in the Wabun territory this summer in multiple stages with a new format to protect youth and participants during a global pandemic. A small gathering was held in Matachewan First Nation on July 21 and 22 and a second compact gathering was held in Mattagami First Nation on July 28. A second day of events had been planned for Mattagami FN but due to severe storm activity and a community power outage the second day of events was cancelled.

“This year our Wabun Youth Gatherings look very different as we are all dealing with this pandemic but we have managed to move forward in a safe and careful way to keep this event going. Many thanks to our Executive Director, Jason Batise and all of our Chiefs for their ongoing support for this very important resource and support for our youth,” commented Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

Normally, Wabun Health hosts the events at a central gathering for two different age groups every summer but due to the requirements of physical distancing, keeping a minimal size to gatherings and in favouring holding outdoor activities, the format of this year’s gathering was changed. The organizers instead opted for hosting several smaller gatherings in Wabun’s communities.

Organizers instituted the wearing of masks or face coverings, maintaining physical distancing as much and as often as possible, spacing everyone six feet apart during all activities and encouraging and teaching youth to regularly wash hands and use hand sanitizer.

“We have had to make many changes to our gathering this year but we have chosen to see this as an opportunity to spend more quality time with our young people. We have smaller groups which means we get to spend more time with each participant,” explained Faye Naveau, Regional Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Health Services.

The events were headed by Naveau and Debbie Proulx-



photo submitted by Debbie Proulx-Buffalo

The 14th Annual Wabun Youth Gathering held recently in Mattagami FN featured traditional teachings and learning in a health conscious event designed to protect participants during a pandemic. Pictured is Vincent Boissoneau, Mattagami FN Youth participant.

Buffalo, Mental Wellness Coordinator, Wabun Health with the assistance of Wabun Health staff in Timmins. The annual event brings together Indigenous youth from the Wabun Tribal Council First Nations in northeastern Ontario to provide educational workshops on culture, heritage, outdoor activities as well as presentations on mental health and wellness. This year’s event welcomed youth to take part in soap stone carving activities as well as sharing in personal teachings and story telling from Elders and presenters. Naveau explained that the event was also an opportunity for everyone to speak and share their stories, thoughts and feelings in a safe environment.

Elder Vina Hendrix, took part in the Matachewan FN event and Elders Clara Prince and Leonard Naveau took part in the Mattagami FN event. These Elders provided guidance and teaching for youth and as well they led in ceremonies and prayers throughout the gatherings.

“I gained a lot of teachings and stories from my grandparents and parents and I want to keep sharing those stories with our young people. It’s important for me to take part in this as I want to keep those stories alive in our youth,” said Elder Leonard Naveau who is also a Councillor for the Mattagami FN Council.

Elder Prince explained that in addition to historical teachings, youth have to be encouraged to take a step into the future as well.

“I want our young people to remember their past but also to do their best to gain as much education as possible. I encourage my children and grandchildren to do their best in school at all levels because it will mean that they can help themselves and their people some day,” said Elder Prince.

The organizers were assisted in each community by local First Nation staff including Brittany Smart and Elaine Daley in Matachewan FN and Betty Naveau, Brent Boissoneau and Tina Minarik in Mattagami FN.

“This pandemic has made many changes in our lives but I



photo submitted by Debbie Proulx-Buffalo

First Nation Youth took part in the 14th Annual Wabun Youth Gathering recently in Matachewan FN. They took part in soap stone carving activities as well as day long events to share stories and history. Pictured is Ana Morningstar, youth participant of Matachewan FN.

think that it has caused changes for us that were also good. It has forced us all to slow down, to stay at home and to stay in closer contact with our loved ones and spend more quality time with each other,” said Betty Naveau who is involved in the Choose Life Project in Mattagami FN.

Wabun Youth new to the experience and returning young people made the effort to attend the events.

“It’s great to learn about my culture and history and to spend time with people, especially right now because we

haven’t seen many people over the past few months,” said 16 year old Wiinguish (Makobe) Flood, a citizen of Matachewan FN.

First time participants had the opportunity to learn on many levels.

“It feels good to be here and to learn new things. I got to carve a wolf in soapstone we cut from one big piece and that was fun. I got to hear stories from my Elders and that also makes me happy,” said eight year old Vincent Boissoneau.

The Wabun Youth Gathering originated through the vision

and dream of Wabun Elder Thomas Saunders of Brunswick House FN who lobbied for a youth gathering. Sadly, he passed on before his dream came to be but his legacy lives on.

Wabun Tribal Council is a regional territorial organization which represents the six First Nation communities of Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan and Mattagami in Northeastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

2020 Curb-side Residential Blue Box Recycling Collection Calendar

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2020, THE CURRENT BLUE BOX RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY SCHEDULE WILL BE CHANGING FOR BOTH AREAS NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE CN TRACKS.

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\*\*\*\*\*

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AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
Tuesday	Thursday	Tuesday	Thursday	Tuesday	Thursday
11 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
25 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		All Blue Box recycling must be set out by 8:00 a.m.	
Tuesday	Thursday	Tuesday	Thursday		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		
17 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>		
		29 <sup>th</sup>	(30 <sup>th</sup> )		

\*Thursday December 31<sup>st</sup> pick up will be rescheduled to Wednesday December 30<sup>th</sup>

BLUE BOX RECYCLING ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS AND BEST PRACTICES

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- Steel or tin cans – washed/rinsed with no food residual
- Aluminum cans – rinsed
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- Newspapers, inserts & flyers
- Shredded paper (bagged), household paper & envelopes
- Magazines, phone books & books (hard cover removed)
- Cardboard boxes – flattened (bundled & tied outside the box if required)
- Boxboard – flattened (cereal boxes, cracker boxes, tissue boxes)
- Cardboard egg cartons, paper tubes

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Community

Roots to Harvest garden reopens for business

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

A group of seven high school students are enjoying the opportunity to grow, harvest and sell vegetables and honey this summer through Roots to Harvest's Urban Youth Farm Program in Thunder Bay.

"It's good labour and a nice workout," says Kiaren Wapoose, a Hammarskjold High School student from Eabametoong who was working at the vegetable market stand on Aug. 6. "It's gone alright — I find it a little stress relieving working with other people."

Wapoose says he likes working with the potato plants at the farm but has also worked twice with the honeybees.

"Mainly for me it was just I needed a job and this seemed like a good thing to have on your resume," Wapoose says. "Plus it's just nice work in general."

Marshy DuBois, a Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute student from Thunder Bay who was also working at the vegetable market stand on Aug. 6, says her role has been "amazing."

"We've had so much to do," DuBois says. "Every day there is just more and more to do because the vegetables are growing like crazy."

DuBois says she liked working with the vegetables because it is a lifeskill that many people do not know.

"I loved working with



Rick Garrick/Wawatay News

Roots to Harvest Urban Youth Farm Program students Marshy DuBois and Kiaren Wapoose were busy selling vegetables and honey on Aug. 6 at Roots to Harvest's Urban Farm in Thunder Bay.

the bees," DuBois says. "It's definitely my favourite job. It was scary at first because there were bees flying around but then you realize they are really

friendly."

Mason Quarrell, supervisor with the Urban Youth Farm Program, says the students are taught about agriculture during

the program.

"While they're working here they get a nice paycheck but they also get school credits for their high school," Quarrell

says. "They get to learn skills they can take on to further work in other positions."

Quarrell says the students get a "lot of awesome

opportunities" at the Urban Farm.

see HARVEST page 12



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**April Head**  
Community Liaison &  
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📞 807-626-1897  
✉️ [ahead@oshki.ca](mailto:ahead@oshki.ca)

**Kelly Fossum**  
Admissions  
📞 807-626-1878  
✉️ [kfossum@oshki.ca](mailto:kfossum@oshki.ca)

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# Canadian Rangers complete two successful search missions

is a small Cree settlement on Hudson Bay, 1,500 kilometres north of Toronto.

Canadian Rangers rescued two stranded teenaged hunters and found an escaped suicidal patient in two successful search missions in three days in August.

The boys were hunting for caribou and fishing to provide food for their families in an area with an abundance of polar bears.

The boys, aged 14 and 15, got their all-terrain vehicles stuck in the challenging swampy terrain 100 kilometres north of Fort Severn and sent a text message to one of their fathers asking for help. Fort Severn, Ontario's most northerly community,

The local police in Fort Severn asked the Ontario Provincial Police for help but fog prevented a helicopter being used to rescue the boys.

**con't on next page**



photo submitted by Sergeant Christopher Koostachin, Canadian Rangers

Ranger George Kakekaspan, centre, with one of the caribou harvested by the two stranded Fort Severn teenagers, Dakota Bunn, 15, left, and Joseph Metatawabin, 14. Joseph is a Junior Canadian Ranger.

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# Community



submitted photo  
Sergeant Christopher Koostachin, Canadian Rangers.

## Rescue mission lasts three days

from page 14

The OPP asked the Canadian Armed Forces for assistance and the Canadian Army authorized the use of local Canadian Rangers, who are part-time army reservists, to go to their aid.

Sergeant Christopher Koostachin and Ranger George Kakekaspan, two experienced hunters, set out on ATVs. They travelled in heavy fog and had to cross four major tidal rivers to reach the area where the boys were stuck. They found the boys' tracks and followed them to a vacant hunting cabin where the teenagers had taken shelter after freeing their machines. The boys were unharmed. The Rangers and the boys spent the night in the cabin. The temperature at night dropped to 4C.

"The boys didn't want to waste (the fuel they had used in their ATVs) and wanted to get food for their families," said Sergeant Koostachin. "We decided to let them continue next day with their hunting and they succeeded in carrying out their task of getting food for their families. We helped them out. They each got a caribou and fish to take with them when we escorted them home."

The two Rangers both harvested a caribou as well.

Members of the local Ranger patrol were called out in Nibinamik First Nation after an 18-year old suicidal patient fled from the community health centre. Nibinamik is a small Ojibwe community 490 kilometres north of Thunder Bay.

The army authorized the

local Rangers to assist the small Nishnawbi Aski Police detachment in the community in their search for the woman.

The OPP had an emergency response team ready to be flown in to join the search but were not needed when Ranger Morgan Sofea found the woman after a three-hour search. He got her safely back to the health centre.

"The OPP had an emergency response team ready...but were not needed when Ranger Morgan Sofea found the woman after a three-hour search..."

The two missions "show once again the amazing resource the Canadian Rangers are to the OPP and to the province of Ontario," said Sergeant John Meaker, the OPP's provincial search and rescue coordinator. "It is a great partnership and the Rangers do save lives."

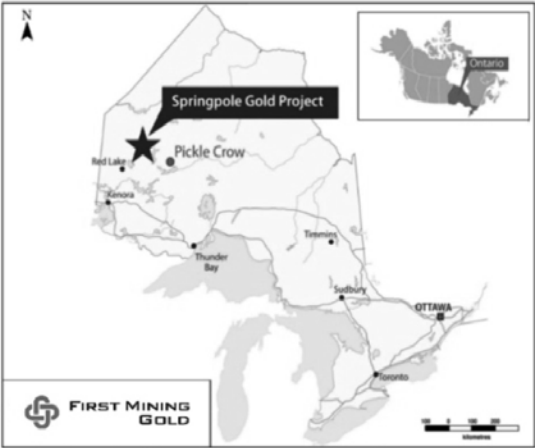
"It's wonderful news when the results of these two operations are so positive," said Lieutenant-Colonel Shane McArthur, the Canadian Army officer who commands the Rangers in 30 remote and isolated First Nations across the Far North of Ontario. "It was great work by the Rangers, great reaction, and good initiative and it resulted in positive results and the safe return of all the individuals."



## Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference Springpole Gold Project, First Mining Gold Corp.

As part of the planning process for the **Springpole Gold Project**, a **Terms of Reference** was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for review as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. If approved, the terms of reference will serve as a framework for the preparation and review of the environmental assessment for the proposed undertaking.

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). The purpose of the Undertaking is to develop a bulk tonnage mine and mill using open pit mining and conventional milling and processing methods to produce gold and silver. The deposit contains 4.9 million ounces of gold and 25.3 million ounces of silver, which will provide for an estimated 12-year mine production life. The maximum production capacity is 60,000 tonnes per day (tpd) from the open pit and the maximum ore through out capacity in the mill is between 36,000 and 44,000 tpd. The Undertaking will involve the construction, operation, and closure, including remediation, of an open-pit mining facility and associated infrastructure for the purpose of extracting gold and silver to process and sell. In addition to typical ancillary infrastructure, planned off-site Project components include a power line and associated infrastructure to connect to grid power and an all-weather access road.



The Springpole Gold project site is located in Northwestern Ontario approximately 110 km northeast of the Municipality of Red Lake in Northwestern Ontario, Canada. The Town of Ear Falls is south of the property and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout is situated southeast of the Property and is within the Red Lake Mining District. The property has a long exploration history and has been explored intermittently for gold since the 1920s.

For more information about the project, please visit [www.firstmininggold.com/projects/ontario/springpole-project/](http://www.firstmininggold.com/projects/ontario/springpole-project/)

**You may inspect the proposed Terms of Reference during normal business hours at the following locations. (Please call to book a viewing):**

**Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Client Services and Permissions Branch**  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5  
T: 416-314-8001 / 1-800-461-6290  
Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Client Services and Permissions Branch**  
3rd Floor, Suite 331B, 435 James St. S.  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7  
T: 807-475-1205 / 1-800-875-7772

**Red Lake Public Library**  
117 Howey St., Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0  
T: 807-727-2230

**First Mining Gold - (Temporary Office: The Vault)**  
Room 116, 231 Red River Rd., Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1A7  
T: 519-241-9655 / 807-632-6422 / 807-323-1565  
Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Dryden Public Library**  
36 Van Horne Ave., Dryden, ON P8N 2A7  
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214 Sykes, Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0  
T: 807-597-4406

**Fort Frances Public Library**  
601 Reid Ave., Fort Frances, ON P9A 0A2  
T: 807-274-9879

**Your written comments about the terms of references must be received before October 6, 2020. All comments must be submitted to:**

**Jenny Archibald, Project Officer**  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5  
Tel: 416-314-8433 / 1-800-461-6290  
Fax: 416-314-8452

A copy of all comments will be forwarded to the proponent for its consideration.

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Project Officer of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-314-4075.

**For further information on the proposed study, please contact:**

**David Mchaina, Vice President, Environment and Sustainable Development**  
First Mining Gold Corp.  
Suite 2070 - 1188 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4A2  
Tel: 519-241-9655 / 1-844-306-8827  
Email: [dmchaina@firstmininggold.com](mailto:dmchaina@firstmininggold.com) / [info@firstmininggold.com](mailto:info@firstmininggold.com)

**This notice first issued on July 31, 2020.**



# Community



submitted photo

Ontario Native Women's Association president Dawn Lavell-Harvard is pleased about the provincial government's decision to end the practice of birth alerts, noting that ONWA has been advocating for the end of the practice for decades.

**Rick Garrick**  
Wawatay News

The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) and Tikinagan Child and Family Services are among the groups applauding the provincial government's recent decision to end the practice of birth alerts in Ontario.

"This is something we have

been advocating for for decades now — these birth alerts are putting the youngest and most vulnerable citizens of our nations and our communities at risk,” says Dawn Lavell-Harvard, president at ONWA. “And very often by having the moms identified as being at risk of hurting their child, then that child is often taken away right at birth. It’s disrupting that

most important time between mom and infant where they are supposed to be bonding those first few days, weeks, months, when they need to be together.”

Birth alerts were identified as a discriminatory practice for many years at ONWA's Annual General Assemblies and the Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing

and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) recommended a Call for Justice to end the practice of birth alerts. The Call for Justice, 12.8, states: We call upon provincial and territorial governments and child welfare services for an immediate end to the practice of targeting and apprehending infants (hospital alerts or birth alerts) from Indigenous mothers right after they give birth.

“These birth alerts are disproportionately targeting Indigenous women, women of colour and the more vulnerable women,” Lavell-Harvard says. “Nowhere else in society do we have this situation where someone is punished before they have done something wrong.”

Lavell-Harvard says some of the red flags used to raise birth alerts include if a woman has an open file with child welfare, including when a woman was involved with child welfare as a child themselves.

"We see situations where if they were a foster child, if they were apprehended from their family as a child, they are seen at higher risk and these birth alerts are issued," Lavell-Harvard says. "So it is unfairly targeting our most vulnerable women at a time when that mom and baby needs to be together."

The provincial government's decision to end the practice of birth alerts was announced by Jill Dunlop, associate minister of Children and Women's Issues, on July 14. The government is directing children's aid societies to end the practice by Oct. 15.

"Ending the use of birth alerts is an important step as we shift our focus to prevention, early intervention and improve outcomes for families and their children," Dunlop says. "This change is part of our government's effort to build a child welfare system that is better coordinated and focused on community-based prevention services that are high quality, culturally appropriate and truly responsive to the needs of children, youth and families."

Thelma Morris, executive director at Tikinagan, says Tikinagan supports the provincial government's decision to end the practice of birth alerts in Ontario, noting that birth alerts can have negative impacts and unintended consequences for women, children, families and communities.

"We recognize that in most cases, birth alerts do not support our goal of protecting children while supporting families to stay together," Morris says. "Every new mother and father need to be treated with respect, not negatively impacted because of an alert that might result in judgement with discriminatory measures."

Morris says the ceasing of birth alerts is just a start, noting that First Nations people have seen a loss of culture, traditions and rights over the years.

"Our traditions used to be that birthing at home was the norm but this was taken away from our people," Morris says. "Even the use of a tikinagan, wrapping a child, was at one time taken away from us."

# ONWA and Tikinagan announce birth alerts to end

## REVIEW

# Review of Major Amendment Whiskey Jack Forest 2012-2022 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Miisun Integrated Resource Management Company** and the **Kenora Local Citizens' Advisory Committee (LCAC)**, invite you to participate in the review of a major amendment to a Forest Management Plan (FMP). This review is being held as part of the detailed planning of operations for the major amendment to the 2012-2022 FMP for the **Whiskey Jack Forest**.

This amendment provides for operational planning to add new harvest area to the 2012-2022 Whiskey Jack FMP. The new harvest area is required to ensure a secure and uninterrupted wood supply for the local mills as a result of the one-year delay in FMP planning on the Whiskey Jack Forest (a plan extension, up to two years if needed, to the 2012-2022 FMP will be implemented to extend the plan until the next Whiskey Jack FMP is completed).

This amendment request proposes to select new harvest areas from approved planned contingency areas and identified optional areas from the 2012-2022 FMP planning process.

## How to Get Involved

During preparation of a major amendment to a FMP, two formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. This 'Stage One' notice is:

- to invite you to review and comment on proposed operations for the major amendment; and
- to request additional contributions to the background information to be used in planning.

The Information Centre related to the review of the proposed Major Amendment will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

**Kaitlin Moncrief, R.P.F.**  
MNRF, Kenora District Office  
808 Robertson Street  
Kenora, ON P9N 3X9  
tel: 807-468-2597  
e-mail:  
kaitlin.moncrief@ontario.ca

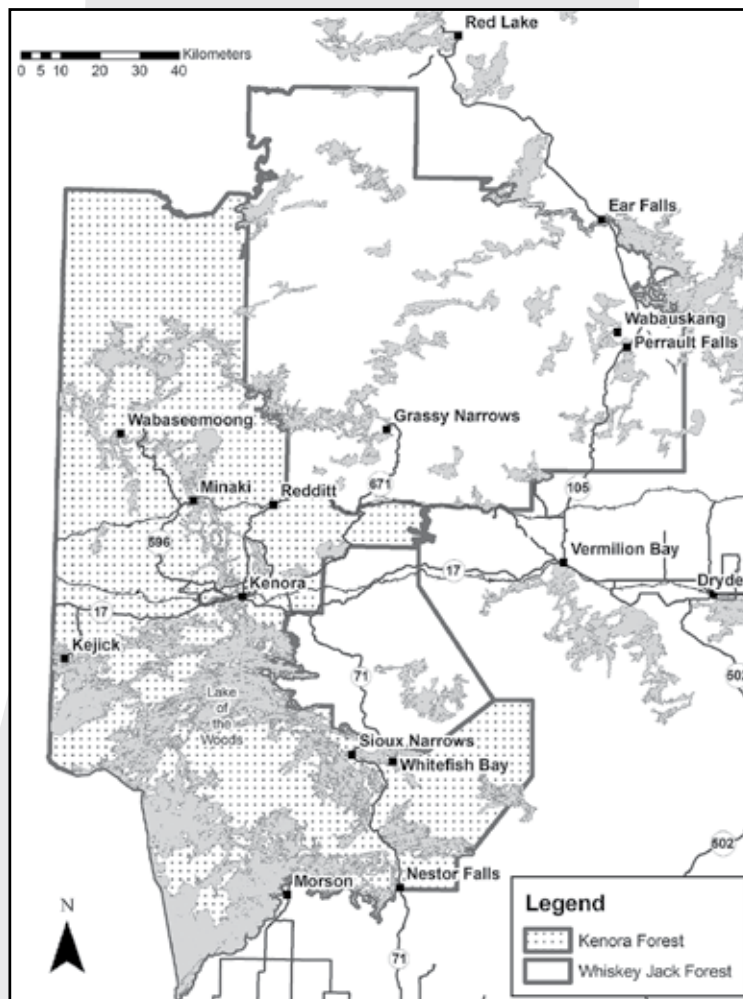
**Kurt Pochailo, R.P.F.**  
Miisun Integrated Resource  
Management Inc.  
510 Ninth Street North  
Kenora, ON P9N 2S8  
tel: 807-467-3351  
e-mail: kurt.pochailo@miisun.ca

**Kenora Local Citizens' Committee**  
c/o MNRF, Kenora District Office  
808 Robertson Street  
Kenora, ON P9N 3X9  
e-mail: [Kenora.MNRF@ontario.ca](mailto:Kenora.MNRF@ontario.ca)

To facilitate your review of the proposed major amendment for the Whiskey Jack Forest FMP, related information and maps can be obtained electronically on the Ontario government website ([www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans)) from **August 31, 2020 to September 29, 2020**.

The information described in this notice can also be made available electronically for review upon request during normal business hours, for a 30-day period **August 31, 2020 to September 29, 2020** by contacting Miisun Integrated Resource Management Inc. or Kaitlin Moncrief, R.P.F. of MNRF listed above.

Comments on the proposed major amendment to the Whiskey Jack Forest FMP must be received by Kaitlin Moncrief, R.P.F. of the planning team of the MNRF Kenora District Office by **Tuesday, September 29, 2020.**



You may make a written request to initiate a formal issue resolution process, following the process described in the *Forest Management Planning Manual (2020) (Part A, Section 2.4)*.

## Stay Involved

A final opportunity to inspect the approved major amendment before it is implemented will take place during the **"Inspection of MNRF-Approved Major Amendment" (Stage Two)**, which is tentatively scheduled for **November 2020**.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list and be notified of these consultation opportunities, please contact Kaitlin Moncrief, R.P.F. at 807-468-2597 or at [kaitlin.moncrief@ontario.ca](mailto:kaitlin.moncrief@ontario.ca).

For further information, please contact the MNRF contact, the Company contact or the LCC contact listed during normal office hours.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shannon Diehl, MNRF, Kenora District Office at 807-468-2538 or [shannon.diehl@ontario.ca](mailto:shannon.diehl@ontario.ca).



# Education

## Teach For Canada online summer enrichment program a success



submitted photo  
Native language teacher Bryan Bellefeuille delivered a Land-Based Learning presentation using a video game environment and videos he shot on the land during the Teach For Canada Summer Enrichment Program.

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Lac La Croix's Jim Windego appreciated the opportunity to meet the community's two new teachers during Teach For Canada's Summer Enrichment Program, which was held online due to COVID-19. The program is usually held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay but this year it was held over the Zoom platform with about 51 fully qualified accredited teachers joining in from across the country and the world.

"They had a Meet and Greet, and I was a part of that to meet up with our new teachers," says Windego, director of operations at Lac La Croix. "The principal and I met with them and answered any questions they may have and we made them feel welcome to be new additions to our teaching staff."

Windego says the Meet and Greet Zoom session went "very well."

"The teachers are really anxious for the school year to start," Windego says. "My job is to sell them on all of the good things that are available out here — we are

a semi-isolated community, the classrooms are much smaller. So that is my selling point for them, classroom size, free accommodation and adventures outdoors are right at your doorstep anytime you want to experience that."

Windego says his community is preparing for two options for the upcoming school year, one involving virtual classroom teaching and the other involving the reopening of the school with the use of personal protection equipment and physical distancing measures.

"It's easier to do here because our class sizes are much smaller," Windego says. "Our total school population is 50 for everything from Kindergarten to Grade 12."

The Summer Enrichment Program also provided an opportunity for the teachers to connect with Indigenous leaders and northern educators online to learn about First Nations histories, cultures, languages, culturally-responsive pedagogies and land-based education.

"It was very different than past years being entirely virtual," says Sara-Christine Gemson, vice president of

programs at Teach For Canada. "People were all over the world in some cases, we had some participants who hadn't yet come back to Canada, and people from all over Canada. People were doing it from different time zones but I think that despite it being very different it went very smoothly."

Gemson says the virtual format enabled Teach For Canada to do some things they couldn't do during the usual program.

"We had really amazing participation from community representatives," Gemson says. "We had some new sessions that we haven't had in the past where community representatives were able to join and talk more about something from

their community or from their culture. And in the language lessons it allowed us to have all of the languages — we had Rocky Cree and Swampy Cree represented in the language lessons."

Bryan Bellefeuille, Native language teacher at Blind River Public School and Nipissing citizen, says he used a video game format to create an environment similar to an immersion language to deliver his presentation on Land-Based Learning on July 17.

"I spoke the language as I walked about the game and engaged in actions about the game and at one point I got stung by a bee," Bellefeuille says. "I felt this would be a great medium to assist them in

understanding the importance and necessities of Land-Based Learning. There are quite a few things to teach with Land-Based Learning, safety is one of them, the depth that traditional knowledge holders have and the depth of knowledge and experience our people have had over thousands of years is immeasurable and unbelievable."

Bellefeuille says he also took videos on the land to supplement the video game environment in his presentation.

"I received comments after my presentation and quite a few of them thought the use of the video game was fantastic, they thoroughly enjoyed it and they found it quite engaging, not only for themselves but to model a way that teachers could teach beyond the walls of their classrooms," Bellefeuille says. "They thought that utilizing video games to create the bush I wanted and using a combination of pre-made videos was a fantastic combination of modern technology to assist in teaching Land-Based Learning."

The program also featured a variety of other presentations, including How Indigenous Education Will Save the World by Niigaan Sinclair and Trauma-Informed Classrooms by Emily Blackmoon.

More than 100 Teach For Canada teachers, including this year's cohort, were hired by First Nations to teach this fall.

### INSPECTION

#### Inspection Of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project White River And Pic Forests

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **White River and Pic Forests** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about: **August 20, 2020.**



The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project are available electronically for public inspection on the Ontario government website at [www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans) beginning **July 20, 2020 until March 31, 2021** when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

**Brian Harbord, R.P.F.**  
MNRF Wawa District Office  
48 Mission Road, P.O. Box 1160  
Wawa, ON P0S 1E0  
tel: 705-856-4736  
e-mail: [brian.harbord@ontario.ca](mailto:brian.harbord@ontario.ca)

**Rebecca Merritt**  
Nawiinginiima Forest Management Corporation  
22 Peninsula Road, P.O. Box 1479  
Marathon, ON P0T 2E0  
tel: 807-229-8118, ext. 12  
cell: 807-620-1738  
e-mail: [rebecca.merritt@nfmforestry.ca](mailto:rebecca.merritt@nfmforestry.ca)

Renseignements en français : Jennifer Lamontagne au 705 856-4747.

North West LHIN

The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is seeking:

Community Care Coordinator

Multiple Positions (Temporary and Casual) – Thunder Bay

Team Assistant

Multiple Positions (Temporary and Casual) – Thunder Bay

Mental Health and Addictions Nurse

3.0 FTE Permanent Full-Time in Fort Frances (1), Sioux Lookout (1), and Red Lake (1)

For more information on the North West LHIN and the description of these positions, please visit our website at [www.northwestlhin.on.ca](http://www.northwestlhin.on.ca). To apply, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to [nwlhin.hr@lhins.on.ca](mailto:nwlhin.hr@lhins.on.ca). Positions will be open until filled.

All applications will be reviewed; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Ontario



Business



submitted photo  
NADF loans manager Kim Bird encourages business people to contact NADF for any information they need about the COVID-19 financing options available through NADF.

# NADF announces three new COVID-19 loans

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

NADF has three COVID-19 financing options available for Indigenous businesses in northern Ontario, including \$40,000 federal loans, \$50,000 provincial loans and \$12,000-\$25,000 NADF loans. The federal government announced the \$40,000 short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions to Indigenous businesses on April 18, the provincial government announced the \$50,000 loans and non-repayable grants to Indigenous businesses on June

19 and NADF announced the NADF COVID-19 Emergency Loan Fund on May 6.

“It’s just to keep the business afloat while we are going through the COVID-19 pandemic...”

– Kim Bird

“We’ve been getting applications on a steady basis and we’ve hired some additional help outside our

organization to help us process them in a faster manner,” says Kim Bird, loans manager at NADF. “People who have a business operating anywhere in northern Ontario where we provide our financial services, those are the businesses that can apply to us as long as they are Aboriginal. We’ve been getting applications from Fort Albany, Moose Factory, Nibinamik, Timmins, Thunder Bay, Fort William First Nation. We have about 10 in process right now.”

Bird says the federal \$40,000 loans are for monthly business operating costs such as rent,

lease costs, insurance, utilities, wages and taxes.

“It’s just to keep the business afloat while we are going through the COVID-19 pandemic,” Bird says. “We did ask people to give us an idea of where they were doing financially when COVID-19 hit us in the middle of March 2020. From that point on we want to see how they are doing financially with their business operating costs up until the future of March 31, 2021 so we can gauge a 12-month period...”

see LOANS page 19

## REVIEW

### Review of Draft Forest Management Plan Trout Lake Forest 2021 -2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Domtar Pulp and Paper Products Inc and the Red Lake District Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the 2021 – 2031 Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Trout Lake Forest.

#### The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The third opportunity (Stage Three) for this FMP occurred on February 24, 2020 to May 25, 2020 when the public was invited to review and comment on proposed operations for the ten year period of the FMP. This 'Stage Four' notice is to invite you to:

- review and comment on the draft FMP; and
- contribute to the background information

Comments from the public will be considered in revisions to the draft FMP.

#### How to Get Involved

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

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

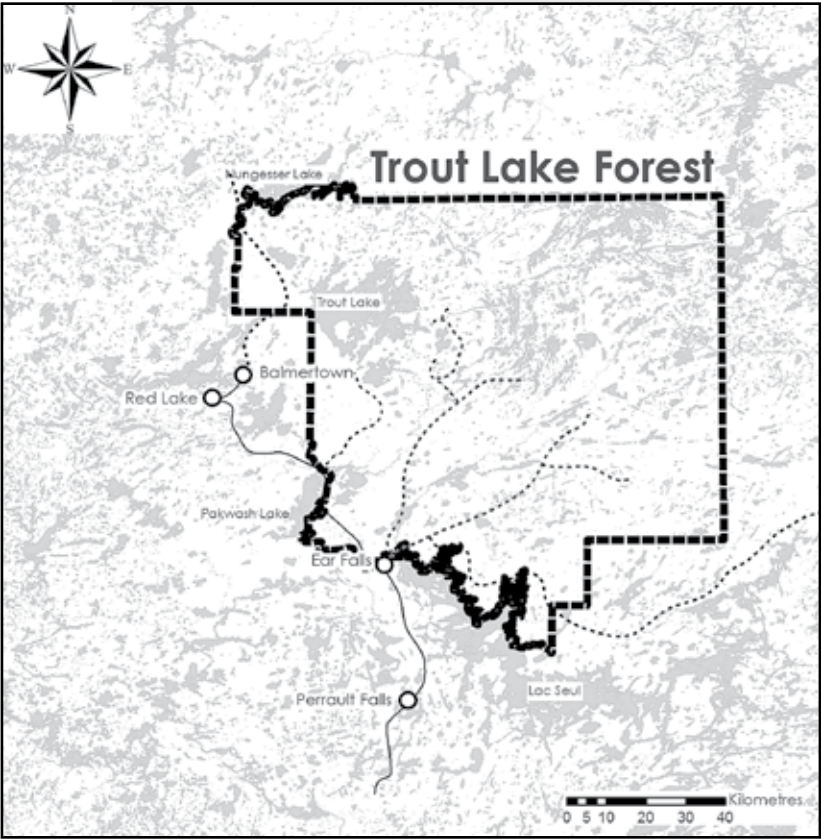
The Draft FMP and the Draft FMP summary will be available electronically on the Ontario government website at [www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans) and can be made available by contacting the Domtar Pulp and Paper Products Inc, contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 60 days **August 17, 2020 to October 16, 2020**. Comments on the draft FMP for the Trout Lake Forest must be received by Mark Zhang of the planning team, by **October 16, 2020**.

In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were previously available, the following information can be obtained electronically on the Ontario government website ([www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans)) to assist you in your review:

- Draft FMP, including supplementary documentation;
- Draft FMP summary;
- Final Report on Protection of Identified First Nation and Métis Values (Only if the First Nation and Métis communities agree);

The Information Forum related to the review of Draft Forest Management Plan will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

**Mark Zhang, R.P.F.**  
Management Forester  
MNRF, Red Lake District Office  
227 Howey Street, P.O. Box 5003  
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0  
tel: 807-727-2575  
e-mail: [mark.zhang@ontario.ca](mailto:mark.zhang@ontario.ca)



**Cole Wear, R.P.F.**  
Pulp and Paper Products Inc.  
Postal Bag 4004  
Dryden, ON P8N 3J7  
tel: 807-223-9038  
e-mail: [cole.wear@Domtar.com](mailto:cole.wear@Domtar.com)

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1)*.

The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is **October 31, 2020**.

#### Stay Involved

The MNRF-approved FMP will be available for inspection for the 10-year duration of the FMP

**Stage Five** - Inspection of the MNRF-approved FMP which is tentatively scheduled for **December 4 2020**.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee Domtar to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Kathy Crampton at 807-727-1332.

Renseignements en français : Annie Wheeler au courriel : [Annie.Wheeler@ontario.ca](mailto:Annie.Wheeler@ontario.ca) ou tél : 1 807 475-1251.

**Paul Mossip**  
Red Lake LCC Representative  
P.O. Box 864  
Ear Falls, ON P0V 1T0  
tel: 807-222-1116

## Northern Ontario's premier radio station for Indigenous people

WRN reaches more than 40 communities by broadcasting on 89.9 FM in Sioux Lookout, 106.7 in Timmins and Nationwide on Channel 962 via Bell ExpressVu. The only radio station that offers Cree and Ojicree language programming, WRN is a reliable, convenient and inexpensive way of reaching northern Ontario listeners.

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16- Fifth Avenue  
PO Box 1180  
Sioux Lookout, ON, P8T 1B7

**Phone: (807) 737-2951**  
**Ext. 2236**  
**Fax: (807) 737-3224**  
**Toll-Free: 1-800-243-9059**

[markk@wawatay.on.ca](mailto:markk@wawatay.on.ca)  
[sales@wawatay.on.ca](mailto:sales@wawatay.on.ca)

**"Blending Tradition with Technology"**









# Arts and Entertainment



Weenusk’s Dolores Gull created this plague doctor mask during the COVID-19 pandemic.

submitted photos

## Dolores Gull’ plague doctor masks to be featured in Indigenous fashion show



submitted photos

Weenusk’s Dolores Gull is looking forward to co-hosting the 2nd annual virtual Indigenous fashion show this fall



Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Weenusk artist Dolores Gull is looking forward to co-hosting the 2nd annual virtual Indigenous fashion show this fall after creating her own version of a plague doctor mask during the COVID-19 lockdown. Gull and co-host Jennifer Wabano, who held their first fashion show in Timmins in November 2019, are hosting this year’s fashion show to showcase their handmade crafts and custom apparel, with their models doing a virtual runway walk in the bush trail.

“When this whole pandemic

began, we were unsure if we were going to hold a 2nd annual Indigenous fashion show in the fall,” says Gull, owner of CREE STYLE BY De LORES, via an e-mail interview. “We were supposed to have the show next year, but something came alive, a vision came that we just had to do this — a first show of its kind. We always like to do something different and extraordinary. We wanted to bring change, so we took extraordinary measures.”

Gull says the idea for the plague doctor mask came to her while doing research on the last pandemic after her daughter showed her a Facebook group

called Breathe and encouraged her to make her own mask.

“The first thought that came to mind, it reminded me of a ceremony that’s held at a Sundance,” Gull says. “I knew right then and there; a vision came that I needed to create.”

Gull says the beaded flowers on the mask connect her to the land and the beaded lightning bolt on the middle of each side is there to remind people to be in balance with life.

“The three beaded circles are about life and to keep it simple,” Gull says. “I used the traditional smoked tan caribou hide that my mother gifted me, and I attached a ribbon hanging on the side with snowy owl feathers that my late grandfather gifted me. The whole element of the beaded doctor mask holds a special story and it has encouraged me to be more in life with my beaded creations and masterpieces.”

Gull says she loves to incorporate traditional smoked tan caribou hide into her art.

“The scent of the traditional smoked tan caribou hide brings fond memories of growing up,” Gull says. “This is what keeps my ultimate dreams alive and to keep the tradition alive. I knew what I wanted to be when I was five years old. I wanted to become an Indigenous fashion

designer and to carry on the traditions of making moccasins, mukluks, mitts and beaver fur hats.”

Gulls says she wasn’t doing much beading before the pandemic hit but beading and designing are now one of her daily routines. She is also working on spiritually inspired outfits for the fashion show.

“I’ve noticed that a lot of designers/artisans are trying new designs, new challenges in their skills,” Gull says. “We somehow motivate each other thru social media.”

Gull encourages people to take extraordinary measures if they want change in their life.

“Knock down barriers that’s holding you back, this will help your creativity come alive,” Gull says. “Putting off projects will keep you stuck from starting a new goal. Finish your projects and your motivation will come back. Create a vision board to keep your dreams and goals alive.”

Gull says she has been working on her art for the past 30 years by using visions of the past to keep the old style or traditional style alive with a contemporary look.

“Using the traditional components in my work keeps me connected to the land and my own personal history,” Gull says.

# Classifieds

## Obituaries



*Until We Meet Again*  
In loving memory of  
**Tommy Fiddler**  
May 1940-June 2020

Tommy stepped into heavenly glory on June 19, 2020 to his eternal home. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and pastor.

He was born in Michikan Lake on May 17, 1940 although INAC records state his birthdate as June 5, 1940. His parents were Ellen and Edward Fiddler, and after his father passed away, he gained a stepfather Jeremiah Sainnawap. He married Victoria (Beardy) and together raised six children.

Tommy was educated in the ways of the land and carried extensive traditional knowledge. His passion was hunting, trapping and fishing. His life was forever changed when he met his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He was a man of great faith and a dedicated pastor of the Christian Assembly Church. Tommy was also a leader in various roles which include being on Bearskin Lake Council at various times and serving as an elder for different organizations throughout his life. These organizations include Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Wasaya Airways, Michikan Lake Elders Council and others. Tommy was known for his kindness, wisdom and compassionate spirit.

Tommy was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Ellen Fiddler, stepfather Jeremiah Sainnawap, wife Victoria Fiddler, siblings Susannah Nothing, Alex Fiddler, and Ruby Beardy. He is survived by his six children and their families - Jemima Mekanak, Stanley Fiddler, Lorene Lyon, Brian Fiddler, Ellen Moskotaywenene, and Galius Fiddler. He is also survived by his sister Dora Beardy, numerous nieces and nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and cousins.

The family would like to thank the following for their help in various capacities: Bearskin Lake Chief and Council, Windigo First Nations, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Wasaya Airways, SkyCare, Sioux Lookout Funeral Home, Bearskin Lake Nursing Station, Home Care - Martina Mckoop and Cynthia Mckoop, Home Support - Lloyd Nothing, Gladys Mekanak and Harriet Mckay, Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Charles Fox, Pastor Angus Chapman, Jessie Mckay Sr., Shirley and Roy Fiddler, Sheila Beardy, Lynda Beardy, Sophia Mickenack, Reverend Genevieve Kamenawatamin, Phyllis Mckay, Wesley Nothing, Anita Nothing, Eric Kamenawatamin and there are many others who were there for the family.

May God bless each and everyone of you and as Tommy would say “God is always with you”.



*Forever Loved*

**Olivia Shapwaykeesic** passed away suddenly at the TBRHSC on July 29, 2020 at the age of 43. Born April 10, 1977, in Thunder Bay Ontario she was the eldest of three siblings who she loved and were her life companions. Her great-grandparents called her Kotagenace, their first great-grandchild. Olivia had a kinship with the spirit bear who came to her throughout her life.

Olivia made many friends while growing up in the east end and then later, wherever she travelled. She lived with strength, enthusiasm and energy. Her personal tag line was, “Liv’ to be wild.” People who knew her fell in love with her zest for life and kind generous spirit.

She moved freely, living across Canada and in Minnesota with many kinds of employment. Her pride was her own corporation Livy Marketing where she stayed busy and sold a variety of items including PPE supplies. She wanted to keep people in communities safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Olivia, as a citizen of Eabametoong won the 2019 NADF Business Woman of the Year Award which was a dream come true of hers. She was ambitious and fierce in achieving her dreams. She watched over her family and earned the nickname, “bossy”.

Olivia was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan. She followed the NFL with passion. She enjoyed horse races and studied the sport in detail. She loved being around her family and friends, especially to karaoke, play cards or have a bbq while listening to 90’s dance music.

Olivia will be sadly missed by her mother Maryann, son Cory-Tyler Cromwell Shapwaykeesic, and daughter Shayna Kabina Cheechoo, her sisters Esther, Roxann and her brother Forrest Rain, as well as her aunts and uncles Juliet (Teck), Webb, Morris, Ronnie, Agnes and Joanne and many cousins, friends and associates, especially Herman, who was by her side through her illness and as a best friend and business partner/mentor since 2015.

Funeral services were held August 3rd, 2020 in the chapel of Jenkins Funeral Home presided by Father Joseph Arockiam with a celebration of life at Chippewa Park. Cremation has taken place.

Special thanks are extended to her uncle Morris Shapwaykeesic for being our spiritual guide and leading the family in traditional ceremonies in Olivia’s honour.

Thank you to Jeanetty Jumah and Kim Ethier from the Slovak Legion for donating food to the family. To Todd and staff at Jenkins Funeral Home. To Pam and Chris for their help setting up the Celebration of Life. To Eabametoong First Nation. And many thanks for all the blessings and well wishes from friends and family of Olivia.



# Commentary



photo submitted by Xavier Kataquapit  
The Milky Way over a northern lake with Jupiter (the bright light over the trees) and Saturn (the next brightest light to the left of Jupiter) in view.

## The Wonder Of It All



**Xavier  
Kataquapit**

UNDER THE  
NORTHERN SKY

Last week, I had an opportunity while visiting a northern cottage to sit outside and contemplate the night time sky. Normally, in the summer this is almost always impossible as either the weather is not favourable,

the bugs are too numerous or a full or partial moon throws too much light to see many stars clearly. On this night, all the conditions were perfect as there was no moon, the sky was completely clear of weather and the biting insects somehow had miraculously disappeared.

I put out a lounge chair and reclined until I was completely lying flat and I stared out into the heavens to view the endless expanse of shimmering stars. Although I only had a pair of binoculars to help me get a better look at the stars this helped me to get lost in even

more of the infinite view. At this time of the year in North America, the Milky Way Galaxy appears as a wide dim stream of dark and pale cloudy light across the sky. Here in the night sky, with little light pollution, I could easily view the majestic Milky Way. True to its name I felt as though I was staring into a vast ocean of dark and sparkles with a huge whirl of wispy faint white light.

see WONDER page 23

## REVIEW

### Review of Draft Forest Management Plan Nipigon East Portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (LNFMI)** and the **Nipigon East Area Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)** invite you to review and comment on the 2021 – 2031 Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Nipigon East portion of the **Lake Nipigon Forest**.

#### The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The third opportunity (Stage Three) for this FMP occurred between May 6, 2020 and July 5, 2020 when the public was invited to review and comment on proposed operations for the ten-year period of the FMP. This **'Stage Four'** notice is to invite you to:

- review and comment on the draft FMP; and
- contribute to the background information.

Comments from the public will be considered in revisions to the draft FMP.

#### How to Get Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management>.

The Draft FMP and the Draft FMP summary will be available electronically on the Ontario government website at [www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans) and can be made available by contacting the Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 60 days: **September 2, 2020 to November 1, 2020**. Comments on the draft FMP for the Nipigon East portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest must be received by Raymond Weldon, R.P.F. of the planning team, by **November 1, 2020**.

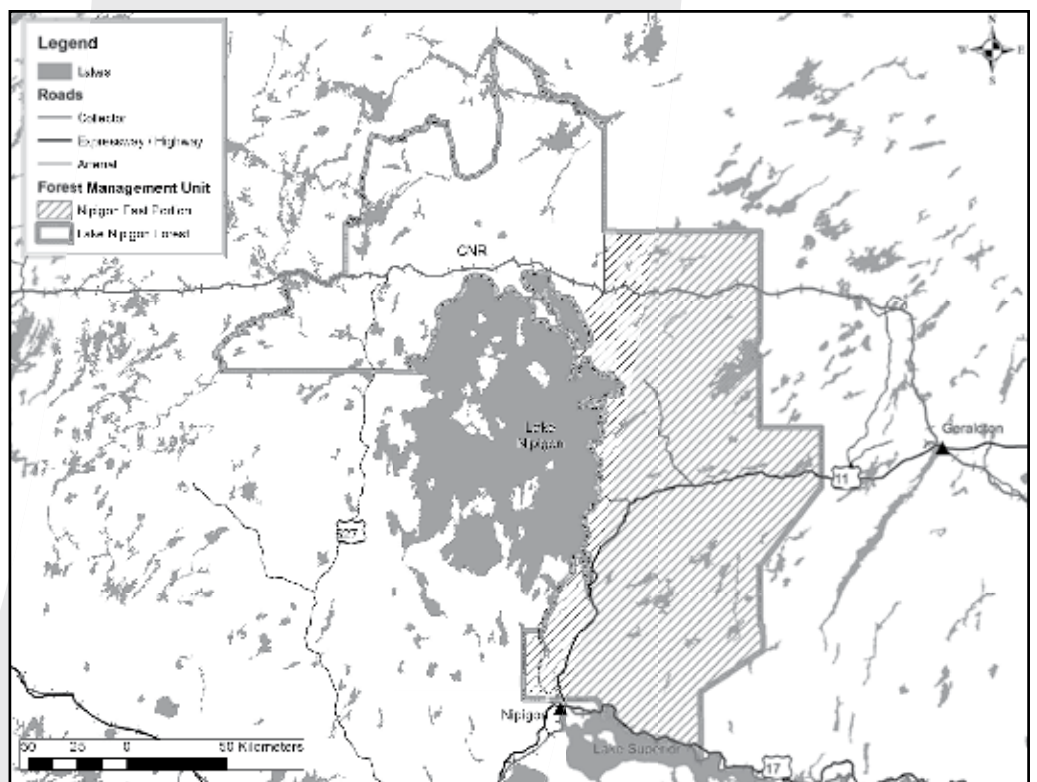
In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were previously available, the following information can be obtained electronically on the Ontario government website ([www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans)) to assist you in your review:

- Draft FMP, including supplementary documentation;
- Draft FMP summary.

The Information Forum related to the review of Draft Forest Management Plan will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

**Raymond Weldon, R.P.F.**  
MNRF, Nipigon District Office  
5 Wadsworth Drive  
P.O. Box 970, Nipigon, ON P0T 2J0  
tel: 807-887-5058

**Ryan Gleeson, R.P.F.**  
Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc.  
2225 Rosslyn Road  
Rosslyn, ON P7K 1G9  
tel: 807-285-4004



**Yvette Metansinine**  
Nipigon East Area LCC  
c/o MNRF Nipigon District Office  
5 Wadsworth Drive, P.O. Box 970  
Nipigon, ON P0T 2J0

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual* (Part A, Section 2.4.1).

The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is **November 16, 2020**.

#### Stay Involved

The MNRF-approved FMP will be available for inspection for the 10-year duration of the FMP.

**Stage Five** - Inspection of the MNRF-approved FMP which is tentatively scheduled for **January 26, 2021**.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Marie Parsons at 807-887-5012.

Renseignements en français : Justin Valiquette au 807 854-1831.



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# Commentary



The Milky Way and the pine forest.

photo submitted by Xavier Kataquapit

## Finding wonder in the night sky

from page 21

My father Marius taught us that the stars on clear nights were a way to help travellers move across the land. He didn't teach me any constellations but he showed me and my brothers how the formation of what is known as the Big Dipper provides a way of pointing to the north. He always reminded me that no matter the season, this formation of stars would always help me find my way home.

While growing up in the north in my home community

of Attawapiskat on the James Bay coast, my brothers, cousins and friends and I had many opportunities to view the night time sky. There is little light pollution up the coast and I recall many times when we headed out on the land we were swallowed up in the darkness as we moved from one place to another. In the chaos and dysfunction of growing up in the community, the eerily darkness of the night and the light of so many stars helped us to forget about our worries and caused us to wonder about the wider world above our heads.

On the land at my cottage those days back on the coast came back to me. Once again the starry night sky came to comfort me. I forgot about current world crisis happening right now. The idea of seeing so many distant points of light made my mind wander away from the worries of the world, the dread of a pandemic and the never ending stream of depressing news headlines filling our televisions, computers, tablets and smartphones.

I did some astrophotography with the bit of camera

equipment I had on hand. My set up, although not sophisticated, was enough for me to capture some long exposure images of the galaxy overhead. On one of my images, I was happy to discover that I could see the faint outline of the Andromeda Galaxy, the nearest galaxy to our own at 2.5 million light years away. I could also see it as a dim hazy almond shaped cloud through my binoculars. I am always amazed at this image in the sky because it means I am looking at light that had left that galaxy two and a half million years

## Pandemic Be Damned



**Xavier  
Kataquapit**  
  
UNDER THE  
NORTHERN SKY

I come from a large family with eight siblings. My mom Susan and my dad Marius certainly had a lot of challenges in caring for such a large group of children.

These days as I find myself with some time during this pandemic I drift back to an earlier time when I was a child at home in Attawapiskat and I think about all the work my parents had to do to raise us.

Life for my parents when they were growing up was hard as they lived mostly on the land, with little education that came with the trauma of attending the residential school system and living at home in conditions that were less than perfect.

Mom worked for many years in the kitchen of the local hospital and she learned some skills that made her a great cook.

Dad was always a hard worker and although he had ventured out from the community for a time here and there working mostly on the railroad and in forestry, his love was doing his own thing.

He was always coming up with a new project as part of his work in building, fixing, transportation and construction.

I have enough trouble caring for myself so I can't imagine what a huge job it was for my parents to provide for such a huge family.

I recall mom washing clothes every day. We had a huge home built hamper in the house and it was always full of our dirty laundry. I rarely saw the bottom of that hamper as mom worked every day to do the washing and keep us in clean clothes.

She also had to cook all our meals, clean the house, tend to shopping and arranging for supplies and making sure we were all behaving.

She was a supermom no doubt about that.

I wonder these days what she and dad would have thought if they had lived long enough to experience this pandemic.

It occurs to me that disease, discomfort, critical life challenges and hardship was something they were very accustomed to and they might see this pandemic as just

another turn in the trail of life.

Somehow, even with all of the hard work and challenges my parents had to face in their lives I know that most of the time they were happy.

They felt they had a purpose in life and they went to work every day to provide for their family and to be good friends and neighbours.

These days many of us are complaining about having to deal with the dangers of Covid19 and the challenges we have to live through every day.

Many of us are upset we have to wear masks in public, we don't want to understand that we have to stay two meters from others, we are fed up with washing our hands and not being able to move about freely.

However, at the same time our governments are helping us financially, we are mostly in the comfort of our homes, we have all kinds of devices we can use to communicate with others and we can be entertained by all kinds of media 24 hours a day.

Most of us in Canada are eating well, staying employed to a great degree and we know that if we do get sick with this virus that we have a health care system that is open to us all.

I think my mom and dad if they were still living would advise us all to just take this pandemic seriously, follow the rules set out by expert virologists and keep our family and friends safe.

They would remind us to be thankful for all that we have and for the fact that we are living in a free and democratic country. I am sure they would give anything to be able to come back and enjoy life no matter what the challenges are.

They would love to see their children, grandchildren, family and friends and to breathe the fresh northern air.

To be alive and well and to wake to the sounds of birds, a good breakfast, enjoying family and friends would be just fine with them even with the challenge of dealing with this pandemic.

My parents understood how precious life was and how short it could be and I remember their teachings on being aware of this and to be thankful for every day, even with all the challenges that come along.

Soon enough all of us will be gone and this magic we call life will be no more. It is us up us to remember how wonderful life is while we are in this world. Pandemic be damned.

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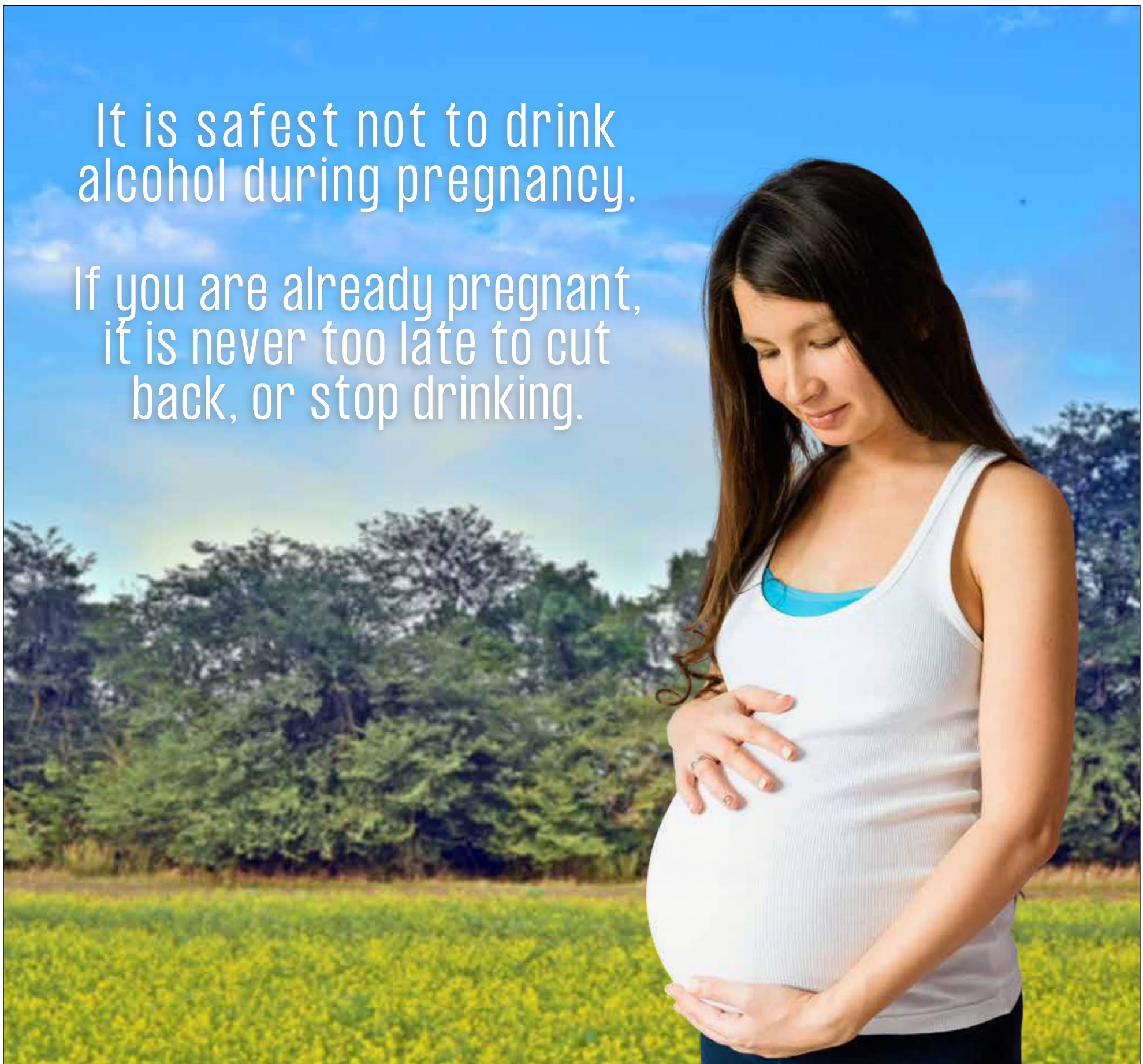
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