



The Anishinabek Nation and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) sign a Memorandum of Understanding on July 3, 2024, committing to continuing to work together in a positive, solutions-based approach to resolve issues of concern in natural resource management. Standing from left: Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon, Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke, Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy and Nipissing First Nation Deputy Chief Mike Sawyer. Sitting from left: Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources, Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige and Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain.

- Photo by Laura Barrios

# Anishinabek Nation and Ministry of Natural Resources sign Memorandum of Understanding

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY (July 3, 2024) – The Anishinabek Nation and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) are committed to continuing to work together in a positive, solutions-based approach to resolve issues of concern in natural resource management through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

“The goal of our relationship and partnership is to improve communication, dialogue, and relations between the 39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nations and the MNR,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige. “Our shared goal is to preserve and protect land and resources for future generations, and promote opportunities for the social, political, economic, and cultural well-being of our communities and the Anishinabek Nation and MNR.”

The Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC), an advisory

body created by the Anishinabek Nation and Ontario, is renewing its commitment to a partnership through a Leadership Forum to discuss and set priorities by signing a Letter of Commitment, as well as through the signing of the MOU to explore opportunities for policy collaboration and partnerships between the Anishinabek Nation and the MNR.

The Leadership Forum is a meeting of the Anishinabek Leadership, as represented by the Grand Council Chief, Deputy Grand Council Chief, and the four Regional Chiefs, and MNR as represented by the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources, to strengthen the relationship with the MNR.

“My ministry values our long-standing relationship with the Anishinabek Nation as we share interests and priorities in managing natural resources in Ontario,” states Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural

Resources. “I’m pleased to be renewing this Letter of Commitment and Memorandum of Understanding to continue building on these positive and productive working relationships.”

The Leadership Forum will meet annually to discuss and set priorities for the resolution of emerging issues, and to monitor progress on the identified priorities.

In addition to the MOU signing, emerging issues to be discussed during this Leadership Forum include:

- AORMC Capacity Building
- Anishinabek Nation Moose Symposium
- Conservation Officer Cross-Cultural Awareness Gathering
- Commercial Fishing on the Great Lakes

“Natural resource management holds significant importance for both the Anishinabek Nation and the MNR,” explains Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain. “Our joint efforts will focus on fostering

an honest and cooperative relationship involving bridging traditional knowledge and modern science to address land and resource challenges.”

The AORMC was originally established in 1999 and continues to be a successful partnership between the Anishinabek Nation and the MNR.

The goal of the AORMC is to improve communication, dialogue, and relationships between the Anishinabek Nation and its 39 member First Nations and the MNR.

The purpose of the AORMC is to provide opportunities for the Anishinabek First Nations and the MNR to discuss resource management issues, exchange information, facilitate a common understanding, and collaborate on the resolution of policy-level issues.

A Letter of Commitment was also signed to identify and set priorities.

The print edition of the *Anishinabek News* is a quarterly publication of the *Anishinabek News*. Views expressed are not necessarily the opinion or political position of the Anishinabek Nation/ Union of Ontario Indians.

No portion of this paper, or online content, including advertisements, artwork, photos and editorial content may be reproduced without written permission of the *Anishinabek News* Editor.

Readers are invited to submit letters, articles, and photos for publication. Please include your name, address and telephone number on all material submitted. All submissions will be reviewed for publication based on priority of interest and edited for clarity of thought, taste, brevity and legal implications. Remuneration will be paid for submissions only if a written agreement with the Editor is made prior to publication.

For news all the time, visit:  
[www.anishinabeknews.ca](http://www.anishinabeknews.ca)

**Managing Editor:** Marci Becking  
**Copy Editor:** Laura Barrios  
**Layout:** Marci Becking  
**Advertising:** Marci Becking  
**Contributors:** Adrian Bell, Rick Garrick, Sam Laskaris, Catherine Murton Stoehr  
 PH: 705-497-9127 ~ 1-877-702-5200  
[www.anishinabeknews.ca](http://www.anishinabeknews.ca)  
 E-MAIL: [news@anishinabek.ca](mailto:news@anishinabek.ca)  
 P.O. Box 711, Nipissing First Nation, ON,  
 P1B 8J8



From left: Treasury Board Chair Gary Dokis, Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy, Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod, JimBob Marsden, Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskomon, US Consul General Baxter Hunt, Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige, Legal Director Fred Bellefeuille, Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain, Kettle & Stony Point Chief Kim Bressette, Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke and Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory Ogimaa Kwe Rachel Manitowabi met on August 21.

## Political Quarterly Update: Summer

It has been a beautiful and busy summer season as Anishinabek Nation leadership, E'Dbendaagzjig, and staff have welcomed the new Political Office with a warm embrace. It is an honour to serve our Nation and people and we will continue to work everyday on your behalf. As we usher in a new school year, we want to send our best wishes to all students and teachers returning for another successful school year, and acknowledge all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and guardians for your continued support of your children through their educational journey.

Politically, the Executive Council has been very busy within their respective region. The focus for the Political Office has been and continues to be ensuring priority areas within our Dodems are consistently addressed. As we move into the fall, we are working to ensure our systems of Governance are adhered to. We are looking to fill a few vacancies in each of the Nation Council Advisory Councils so that we can continue to fulfill the important and necessary work of each Advisory Council. The renewal of current council members is based on the existing Terms of Reference, which will continue to be evaluated to ensure they are in-line with our system of Governance. We are also looking forward to kicking-off of the inaugural Regional Meetings for this term of office with a focus on community priorities and regional planning.

We also took the opportunity to celebrate an important milestone for one of our Anishinabek Nation Ogiichidaa: the 100th birthday celebration of Justin Roy from M'Chigeeng First Nation. GCC Debassige presented Justin with an Anishinabek Nation Certificate of Achievement. Justin was also presented with some gifts on behalf of all Anishinabek Nation First Nations for his service. Justin took the time to thank those in the audience and he said, "I never expected this honour. These type of celebrations and recognitions are ones that make us Anishinabek and we need to celebrate our veterans throughout the year and not just on Remembrance Day, expressed GCC Debassige.

Throughout the summer, the Anishinabek Nation has been working collaboratively with Red Rock Indian Band at the site of Parks Canada's intended Lake Superior Administration and Visitor Centre in Nipigon, where remains, later determined to be of Indigenous ancestry, were uncovered. To date, four Indigenous ancestors have been uncovered; however, much of the land was heavily

disturbed by the excavation and the remains are currently scattered in unknown locations. An estimated 150 loads of earth were moved and relocated around Nipigon and surrounding areas before Parks Canada realized the extensive amounts of unearthened remains. Red Rock Indian Band and the Anishinabek Nation will continue to advocate for the ancestral burial grounds.

At the Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Council held in Ottawa on August 20, 2024, GCC Debassige and DGC Plain partook in discussions surrounding a resolution for the COO SCA Child Welfare Long-term Reform along with a motion for Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA). Other updates included Water Legislation, Mining Task Force, Land Policy Reform, Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, and Off-Reserve Distinctions Based Housing Funding.

On August 21, GGC Debassige joined the Anishinabe Nation Treaty Authority and Anishinabek Nation B'Maakonigan at the Anishinabek Nation Head Office. This Nation-to-Nation engagement session with Treaty 4 was an exchange of information to help one another advance governance in our respective nation.

At the Leadership Council retreat on August 21, 2024, the U.S. Consul General Baxter Hunt met with the Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council at the Anishinabek Nation Head Office. As the most senior U.S. representative in Ontario, U.S. Consul General Hunt came to build a relationship with the Anishinabek Nation. The U.S. Ambassador to Canada is the personal representative of the President in conducting official relations between the two countries. When the Ambassador engages in negotiations, initiates a policy, delivers an address, or takes part in ceremonies, they do so on behalf of the President. The Anishinabek Nation welcomed the U.S. Consul General and discussed many key priorities including border crossing issues and consultation and accommodation requirements when in Anishinabek territories.

The fall Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly is scheduled for October 29-30, 2024; however, the location is currently not yet determined.

As we transition into this new season, we will ensure the priorities and mandates are achieved in collaboration with all involved in making this our priority for our Nation. We understand that community work never stops, and some members of the Executive

Council had the opportunity to visit communities to both support work and celebrate momentous achievements.

Meetings and Events of note attended by Grand Council Chief Debassige this quarter:  
 June 9-13 Chiefs of Ontario Assembly – ORC Election and COO Leadership Council Meeting

June 14 Staff Visit at Anishinabek Nation Head Office in Nipissing First Nation

June 17 Attendance with Red Rock First Nation – visit to ancestors at Nipigon; Visit with Namaygoosisagagun Office in Thunder Bay with Kyle McLaurin (with Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy)

June 18 Attendance and remarks at Josephine Mandamin-baa Canada Post Stamp unveiling – Thunder Bay

June 19 Visit in Netmizaagaming First Nation Deputy Chief and Councillors – Community Priorities – Wellness, Policing, ATR, Fishing issues

June 20 Visit in Michipicoten with Chief Pat Tangie – Community Tour

June 22 Attendance at Aamjiwnaang Powwow – Community Visit and Tour with DGCC

June 25 Attendance at North Bay Retirement of Glenda St. Amour (Long Time Finance Manager AN)

June 27 Attendance at Great Lakes Sustainable Growth Forum – Toronto Meeting with Minister Guilbeault, Water Advocacy

July 2-4 In North Bay on July 3rd meeting with Provincial Minister Hon. Graydon Smith and signing of MOU

July 5 Meeting with Head Getzid Richard Assinewai and Nookmis Donna Debassige

July 6 Attendance at Anishinabek Educational Institute Convocation, North Bay

July 7 AFN Policing Taskforce meeting Montreal, AFN CCOHI Meeting Montreal

July 8 Presentation at AFN Policing Dialogue Session Montreal; Meeting with ORC Benedict and RDG Michael O'Byrne

July 9 Attendance at COO Leadership Council Meeting

July 10 Presentation in Assembly – Justice and Policing Presentation in AFN Assembly

July 17 Health Transformation Working Group RAMA

July 18 Meeting with Residential Schools Missing Children Canada Update; AN Leadership Council Meeting (evening)

July 19 AN Leadership Council Meeting

July 22-26 Bereavement – but many internal mtgs re: Management Committee and

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 3,000 copies.



DEADLINE FOR  
WINTER PRINT  
EDITION

November 8, 2024

For more information or inquiries to the Anishinabek News related to circulation issues please call our Toll-free number: 1-877-702-5200 All advertising inquiries can be sent to [news@anishinabek.ca](mailto:news@anishinabek.ca). Online job postings send to [jobboard@anishinabek.ca](mailto:jobboard@anishinabek.ca)

[www.anishinabeknews.ca](http://www.anishinabeknews.ca)

ISSN 1182-3178 ANISHINABEK NEWS (PRINT)  
 ISSN 1923-0710 ANISHINABEK NEWS (ONLINE)

### Treaties Recognition Week is November 4-8, 2024

The following resources are available to order:

*Nation to Nation* (Eng/Fre) - \$40

*We are all Treaty People* (Anish/Eng/Fre) - \$25

*Treaties Matter: Understanding Ipperwash* (Eng/Fre) - \$5

*Dakota Talks about Treaties* (Anish/Eng/Fre) - \$10

*Alex Shares his Wampum Belt* (Anish/Eng/Fre) - \$10

Wampum Belt Puzzles (Three sizes) - \$40

Please email:  
[orders@anishinabek.ca](mailto:orders@anishinabek.ca)  
 before October 15th to ensure delivery by beginning of November.



Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige attended Aamjiwnaang First Nation's 61st annual powwow on June 22.

CEO departure discussions

July 29 Travel to Sault Ste. Marie for Survivors' Gathering

July 30 Attendance and remarks at Survivors' Gathering

July 31 Attendance at Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Treaty Day Celebration

August 1 Attendance at Survivors' Gathering and meeting with Special Interlocutor Kim Murray

August 2 Attendance at Wiikwemkoong Cultural Festival - Guest Judge for Amateur and Professional Chef Competition

August 3-4 Attendance at Wiikwemkoong Cultural Festival

August 6-8 Attendance at Anishinabek Nation Caring Community Meeting

August 8 Attendance at OPP and First Nation Police Graduation Ceremony

August 9 Internal Discussion Water Commission

August 19 Attendance at Justin Roy's 100th Birthday Party - LC Legion

August 20 Attendance at COO Leadership Council Meeting and travel to North Bay

August 21-23 Leadership Council Retreat, AN Office

August 24/25 Attendance at Rama Powwow

August 27 Virtual attendance AN Child Well Being Working Group (DGCC)

August 29 AN Evening of Excellence

August 30 Attendance at Canadian Armed Forces Grey Wolf Graduation - Address Anishinabek Nation First Nation Graduates, Meaford, ON.

September 1-2 Attendance at M'Chigeeng First Nation Traditional Powwow

September 8-9 Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering, Atikameksheng Anishinabek

**Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

Anishinabek Nation Regional meetings:

September 29 Commemoration of 10th Anniversary of Indian Residential School monument, Anishinabek Nation Head Office

October 17-19 Anishinabek Nation 9th Annual Health Conference Sault Ste. Marie

October 29-30 Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly Location TBD

October 24-26 Economic Development Summit Chippewas of Rama First Nation

November 4-9 Treaties Recognition Week



Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain addressed the Ministers on climate change impacts in Anishinabek Territory at the First Nations Climate Leadership Agenda Leaders Summit in Ottawa on June 19th.



Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige and Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain attended the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity's Evening of Excellence on August 29. AN7GC Manager Jason Restoule organizes the annual event which presents Anishinabek Nation citizens with Lifetime Achievement Awards.



Manitoulin Island's last surviving World War II veteran, Mr. Justin Roy, returned to his home community to mark his 100th birthday. The island came alive with gratitude and reverence, as friends, family, and fellow veterans gathered to honour a man whose life has been a testament to courage, resilience, and service.



The Anishinabek Nation Caring Community Group meeting was held in Chippewas of Rama First Nation on Aug. 7-8. Reconciliation Manager Kelsey Anger and Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige presented Elder Darrell Boissoneau of Garden River First Nation with a custom quilt in recognition of his dedication to the sacred work at the previous Indian Residential School Sites. Elder Darrell facilitated a talking circle for Survivors and technicians in Chippewas of Rama, sharing is a crucial part in healing for many Survivors and their families.



# LAKE HURON ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



The Anishinabek Nation's Health Transformation Team is facilitating initial engagement sessions with interested Chiefs and Councils from the 39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nation communities.

The Team is focused on engagement opportunities within the Lake Huron Region to introduce Health Transformation, discuss how it can benefit your community, and to have an open discussion on your community's health and vision moving forward.

Let's start the conversation!

Contact Lisa for more information:  
[Lisa.Restoule@anishinabek.ca](mailto:Lisa.Restoule@anishinabek.ca)



# Nipissing First Nation teaches Anishinaabemowin on YouTube

By Kirk Titmuss

NIPISSING FIRST NATION – It's been a labour of love and a love of Anishinaabemowin (the Anishinaabe language) for Nipissing First Nation's Culture and Language Department staff who have been teaching it through self-created YouTube videos.

Nishnaabemwin E-Kinoomaaged (Anishinaabemowin teacher) Blair Beaucage and Inaadziwin minwa Nishnaabemwin (Culture and Language Coordinator) Katelynn Goulais create entertaining, instructional videos and make them available on their YouTube channel, Nipissing First Nation Administration. Nipissing First Nation's Nishnaabemwin Eniigaanzid (Culture and Language Manager), Mindy Lariviere, credits her two enthusiastic staffers for getting the engaging program off the ground last year.

The videos feature Beaucage teaching simple Anishinaabemowin words and phrases using humour and repetition.

The "Nishnaabemwin Simple Conversation" video is of Beaucage and a friend having a very short, laugh-filled chat about how the two are feeling. After the discussion ends, Beaucage breaks down the words and phrases used, displaying them on screen and pronouncing them repeatedly.

Co-creator Katelynn Goulais feels Beaucage's delivery is what makes the videos so appealing to viewers.

"He's been a teacher for a long time, so he has all the knowledge and he has all the tools to take information from his own head and the language and put it into people's heads really effectively."

Lariviere says the combination of Beaucage's on-camera teaching technique with Goulais' creative video production

result in entertaining videos that make learning what Lariviere says, is a difficult language a much easier process.

"I feel that a lot of new learners are picking it up and realizing and seeing how easy it is to sit through maybe a five, 10-minute video and kind of go, 'Ah, I understand it.'"

Anishinaabemowin has been on a steep decline in Nipissing, says Lariviere, due mostly to the dwindling number of Elders who are fluent in the traditional language. She says the trend worries her.

"I do know that we are losing our speakers at a dramatic pace, and I think that it's time for our language to be called in a state of emergency."

Statistics back Lariviere's concern. In the last 20 years, 60 per cent of Anishinaabemowin speakers have passed away. The Anishinabek Nation Socio-Demographic Profile – a survey conducted in 2018 by Prologica Research Inc. and based on the 2016 Census of Canada, indicates 96 per cent of Anishinaabe people do not speak Anishinaabemowin at home and only 12 per cent say it's their first language.

Beaucage has been teaching the language through various organizations in North Bay for the past 10 years. He says his lessons usually took place on Wednesdays, with reminders to his students to use Anishinaabemowin on that day. But he felt the once-a-week lessons didn't allow the language to sink in. That's why he and co-worker Katelynn came up with trying social media - notably YouTube - which allows learners to watch the lessons over and over whenever they want.

Goulais says what started out as an experiment has become a popular and effective teaching tool.



Anishinaabemowin teacher Blair Beaucage.

"I just thought it was really good for people to watch a video because I go on YouTube to learn most of the things I know. So, I just was like, what if we get a YouTube video for people to watch and then continuously hear it, and they can go back in the lesson, listen again, and then attempt to speak?"

Lariviere says the videos are proving to be a hit with the community's youth, especially in light of that demographic's push to learn about their Anishinaabe ancestry and traditions.

"I have spoken to some young people and their hunger for our language and culture is definitely increasing."

She says the community's adoption of the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act, a historical agreement between Canada and the Anishinabek Nation recognizing the Signatory First Nations' right to chart their own course under four pillars of governance: leadership selection, language and culture, citizenship, and management and operations, has made the video program's growth possible.

"The Governance Agreement allowed for our program (Culture and Language) to have more funding so that we can take these ideas and put them into real-time for our community and other communities, too.

And hopefully they come and follow suit as well to what we're doing for our Nation here at Nipissing, but also other Nations that are part of this Agreement."

The Agreement provides each Signatory First Nation enhanced funding that supports their work implementing the four pillars of governance.

Lariviere says her department is looking at other options for the videos down the road.

"When you hear about language learning and you go to a class and people are talking, you don't understand what they are saying, and it could be very overwhelming, so having Blair's expertise break down that language, the feedback has mostly been on the digital content of it of how pretty it looks and the breakdown of the language that Blair brings to the table."

Beaucage encourages others who are inspired by Nipissing First Nation's Anishinaabemowin videos to create their own or come up with other ways of spreading the language.

"Anyone, go ahead and just make, and I'm hoping people do take the stuff and either mimic it, either make shirts, make anything because we need to plaster this place with language because we need to remind ourselves."

## Anishinabek Nation leadership seek greater implementation of Ipperwash Inquiry recommendations

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY— In 2007, *The Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry* produced 100 recommendations for implementation and the Anishinabek Nation is disappointed that there has been little to no movement on the implementation of the recommendations.

The Ontario Provincial Police has addressed 25 policing recommendations, but has yet to implement them.

"The Anishinabek Nation has been working on heritage and burials, treaty and public education, but this is often done without the support from Ontario," states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige. "As an organization, we had identified these key recommendations to Ontario, and none were implemented. We are calling on the Ontario government to make a commitment to implement some key recommendations on this 29th anniversary of the shooting death of unarmed land defender Dudley George at Ipperwash."

Key recommendations that the Anishinabek Nation has identified for

immediate implementation are:

1. The provincial government should establish a permanent, independent, and impartial agency to facilitate and oversee the settling of land and treaty claims in Ontario. The agency should be called the Treaty Commission of Ontario.

15. The provincial government should promote respect and understanding of the duty to consult and accommodate within relevant provincial agencies and Ontario municipalities.

16. The provincial government should continue to work with First Nation organizations in Ontario to develop co-management arrangements and resource-sharing initiatives. The provincial government should also provide financial or other support to First Nation organizations and third parties to develop capacity, identify best practices, and formulate strategies to promote co-management and resource-sharing.

22. The provincial government should work with First Nations and First Nation organizations to develop policies that

acknowledge the uniqueness of First Nation burial and heritage sites, ensure that First Nations are aware of decisions affecting burial and heritage sites, and promote First Nations participation in decision-making. These rules and policies should eventually be incorporated into provincial legislation, regulations, and other government policies as appropriate.

30. The Ministry of Education should establish formal working relationships with First Nation organizations to promote more First Nation perspectives and content in the elementary and secondary school curricula.

37. The provincial government should establish and fund an Ontario First Nation Reconciliation Fund. The Ministry of Indigenous Affairs should work with First Nations and First Nation organizations to determine the mandate, governance structure, funding guidelines, and administrative structure of the fund. The provincial government should commit sufficient resources to the fund to enable it to achieve its objectives.

56. The federal and provincial governments should update their policies on First Nation policing to recognize that self-administered First Nation police services in Ontario are the primary police service providers in their communities.

The Anishinabek Nation remains committed to working with other First Nations, Provincial Organizations, and various government ministries within the Ontario Government to implement the recommendations.

"The Anishinabek Nation will continue to stand up for Anishinabek people every day and on this anniversary. We are putting the Government of Ontario on notice that we need to see movement on these recommendations before the 30th anniversary in 2025," says Grand Council Chief Debassige. "We look forward to hearing from Ontario Premier Doug Ford on his commitment to implement these recommendations in the spirit of reconciliation."

# Benefits of Being a Student at



## Cultural Programming

Choosing AEI means choosing opportunities to learn cultural knowledge and skills through our cultural programming and having access to on-campus grandmothers. Students can learn about beading, quill work, traditional teachings, language and much more through the experiences organized through these events.



## Land-Based Learning

Being a student at AEI means having access to land-based learning opportunities. Students can participate in Culture Camps and the annual Medicine Camp. These events focus on traditional medicine, cultural crafts, traditional food preparation and much more. At AEI we cherish these opportunities as a community.



## Awards, Scholarships & Bursaries

Some AEI financial opportunities include: The AEI Indigenous Student Fund (amount varies), the CIBC Scholarship Award (\$3,000), the Murray David Maracle Award (\$500), the Rose Nolan Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500), and the Delbert Horton Award (\$500).



## Accessibility Supports

Accessible education at AEI empowers students with disabilities to develop the same skills and achieve the same level of knowledge as their peers.



## Student Wellness & Cultural Support

Our goal at AEI is to ensure that our students are taken care of within the four directions. Being a student at AEI means access to wellness focused learning experiences, ongoing support, advocacy and counselling to care for you on your learning journey:



APPLY NOW



**Mentally Spiritually Emotionally Physically**

## Mark Your Calendars



# ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES' EVENTS

Ontario Universities' Fair

**OCT 5-6**

9:30 am - 5 pm  
in Toronto

Virtual Information Sessions

**SEP 25 and NOV 21**

5-7 pm

Learn about your university options in Ontario and discover Indigenous supports and services to help you get there.

[ouevents.ca](http://ouevents.ca)



## Plan Ahead

Research the universities you're interested in at: [ouinfo.ca/indigenous-student-resources](http://ouinfo.ca/indigenous-student-resources)

# BEING INFORMED IS YOUR BEST PROTECTION

We regulate the social work and social service work professions in Ontario to ensure you're working with people who are accountable to standards of professional and ethical conduct.

If you're working with a social worker or social service worker, make sure their name is on the Online Register. Find their name. Get peace of mind. Check the Online Register, or contact us at [info@ocswssw.org](mailto:info@ocswssw.org).



Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers

PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL QUALIFIED ACCOUNTABLE

Check the Online Register at [ocswssw.org](http://ocswssw.org)



**A**nishinabek  
**N**ation  
**E**conomic  
**D**evelopment  
**O**pportunities  
**FORUM 2024**

**October 21-23, 2024**  
**Casino Rama**

Register today:  
[www.anedo.ca](http://www.anedo.ca)

**Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity**



The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity (AN7GC) is a self-sufficient charity relying fully on the success of its fundraising initiatives in order to support its Mission and Vision.

The AN7GC is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek citizens by providing financial support, where no other funding exists, in the areas of Education, Health, Youth, Culture, Social, Elders, Emergency Crisis and Disaster Relief.

**Our Mission**

As the official charitable fundraising arm of the Anishinabek Nation, the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek Nation citizens by providing support where no other funding exists.

**Our Vision**

The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity will help create educated, healthy, and culturally enriched citizens that will continue to grow a stable, strong, and prosperous Anishinabek Nation.

Chi-Miigwech to our generous partners!



PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY ONLINE RAFFLE

[www.AnishinabekAce.ca](http://www.AnishinabekAce.ca)

1 Migizi Milkan, P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON P1B 8J8  
 P: (705) 497-9127 E: an7gc@anishinabek.ca W: www.an7gc.ca  
 Registered Charitable #895952471RR0001

# Supreme Court of Canada declares Canada a 'Historically dishonourable treaty partner'

*Decision lays out better path forward for Robinson Huron and Superior Treaty negotiations*

**By Catherine Murton Stoehr**

OTTAWA - In a series of unanimous findings released on July 26 that left the Robinson Huron Treaty litigation \$10 billion settlement unchanged, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected Ontario's claim that they are not liable to remedy past underpayments to the Robinson Superior communities, gave direction for how that amount should be determined for the past and in the future, and identified honourable negotiations between the Anishinabek, Ontario, and Canada as the preferred mechanism for determining augmentation of annuity payments.

The Robinson Huron and Superior Treaties include an augmentation clause requiring the Crown to increase annuity payments from time to time as their own profits from the territory increase. This has not happened since 1875. According to the July 26 decision, the courts will only invoke their authority to override the Crown's discretion to determine the annuity amount after a process of negotiation between the affected parties, noting that negotiation is "in and of itself important to effectively repairing the treaty relationship damaged by the Crown's failure to review and increase the annuity". Respectful negotiation better represents the nation-to-nation relationship and can further reconciliation.

The most immediate consequence of this finding is that the Supreme Court of Canada has instructed Ontario and Canada and the Robinson Superior Anishinabek to return to negotiations to determine how much money Ontario and Canada owe the Robinson Superior communities for past underpayments. The parties have six months to come to an agreement, failing which the Court has ordered the Crown to effectively "make them an offer." If the offer is not acceptable to the Robinson Su-

perior First Nations, they can then appeal it to the court which reserves the authority, in that case, to order the Crown to reconsider its offer or simply set an amount.

The Robinson Huron Anishinabek have already been through such a negotiation process and agreed on the sum of \$10 billion with Ontario and Canada. The Robinson Superior First Nations are currently seeking \$126 billion to compensate for past underpayments in a court process that has been further suspended by today's decision.

That said, the Supreme Court judgment, written by the Honourable Justice Mahmud Jamal on July 26, was blunt and withering in its condemnation of the Crown's failure to honour the Robinson Huron and Superior Treaties noting "for almost 150 years, the annuities have been frozen at a shocking \$4 per person, after the first and only increase was made in 1875. Today, in what can only be described as a mockery of the Crown's treaty promise to the Anishinabe of the Upper Great Lakes, the annuities are distributed to individual treaty beneficiaries by giving them \$4 each."

Elsewhere in the judgment, Justice Jamal tersely rejected Ontario's claim to sole authority to determine annuity increases saying, "For well over a century, the Crown has shown itself to be a patently unreliable and untrustworthy treaty partner in relation to the augmentation promise. It has lost the moral authority to simply say 'trust us'."

Today's judgment also sets new precedents for Canadian Treaty interpretation, clarifying the role of regular trial courts and appeal courts in determining treaty rights and obligations. The Robinson Huron and Superior litigation featured months of testimony from Elders, community knowledge holders, and historians,

all working to give the court an understanding of the common intention that the Anishinabek and British came to that was then expressed in the Treaty. Justice Jamal called it a "robust and highly involved trial process." Justice Jamal echoed that the Ontario appeals court interference by a higher court in a process like that would "undervalue" the trial judge's process and would suggest that "the involvement of the Treaty partners, particularly the Indigenous signatories, did not make the trial judge better situated to decide the case." Or put another way, the time that First Nation Elders and citizens took the time to tell the first judge the whole story should be respected.

The finding itself unintentionally underscores the challenge that voluminous unknown history poses to the higher courts by wrongly dating the Covenant Chain alliance between the Great Lakes Anishinabek and the British to the seventeenth century, more than half a century before it was first partially established at the Treaty of Easton.

Justice Jamal also echoed Justice Hennessy's finding that "...because treaty promises are analogous to constitutional provisions, they must be interpreted in a generous and liberal manner," noting, "treaties are nation-to-nation agreements that must be interpreted in accordance with the constitutional principle of the honour of the Crown. This transforms the interpretive exercise from a simple determination of the rights and obligations between private parties into an exercise of constitutional interpretation." While lower courts are best placed to determine the historical facts of any given treaty, the National significance of treaties demands that appeals courts take precedence in matters of interpretation.

As to how the Robinson Huron and Superior treaty augmentation clause should

be interpreted in the future, the Supreme Court charted its own course in some ways differing from both the trial and Ontario Appeals court's findings. Despite confusing language in the treaty text, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Crown is obliged to pay a lump sum to the "Chiefs and their Tribes" and that the treaty does not have a separate provision for individual payments. Such a provision would have been unprecedented at the time. Canada's long-standing practice of making individual payments to Robinson Huron and Superior annuitants may have given rise to such a misinterpretation. Further, it was determined that the Crown does have some discretion about when to increase the annuity and what factors should be considered in such an increase; however, as with the current dispute between the Robinson Superior communities and the Crown, that discretion is limited, and the courts have the authority to overrule the Crown if its proposed payments do not reflect a liberal and just interpretation of the Treaty.

The court rejected the Robinson and Huron community's argument that the Crown is required to interpret the treaty first and foremost for the benefit of the Anishinabek (exercise fiduciary duty). However, the court said that the concept of the Honour of the Crown must guide annuity decisions and in another new finding, said that the augmentation clause requires that the Crown be diligent in its reviewing of the annuity, which would avoid them putting it off for another 150 years.

In response to the judgment, Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation spokesperson Angus Toulouse called on Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford to honour their commitment "to fulfill the treaty promises of the Crown relating to the annuities augmentation clause for the future."



## Treaties Recognition Week

# November 4-8, 2024

Visit: [www.anishinabek.ca/education-resources/](http://www.anishinabek.ca/education-resources/)



Chi Mino Ozhitoowin CEO Peter Collins cuts the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony for the new Chi Mino Ozhitoowin office at 300 Anemki Place on June 28 in Fort William.

## Chi Mino Ozhitoowin celebrates grand opening

By Rick Garrick

FORT WILLIAM — Chi Mino Ozhitoowin celebrated the grand opening of its new offices at 300 Anemki Place in Fort William with a barbecue and networking on June 28.

“We just finished moving in here this Monday and we’re glad to be here,” says Peter Collins, CEO at Chi Mino Ozhitoowin. “We had a great grand opening and continue to grow — it’s so important for us to have a professional building and it really sets the tone of who we are.”

Collins, former chief at Fort William First Nation, says they have had a positive reaction from all of the seven partner communities, including Fort William, Eagle Lake, Lac Seul, Ojibways of Saugeen, Seine River, Nigigoonsiminikaaning, and Gakijiwawong (Lac La Croix).

“We’re a corporation that represents them, we’re not the mainstream corporation that everybody’s been used to seeing visit their communities so it’s been a good strong relationship and we enjoy every minute of it,” Collins says. “We’re getting prepared for the Waasigan Transmission Line, the EA (environmental assessment) is delayed for a

couple more months, but we’re continuing on our journey and the work we have to do to make sure people are ready for the employment.”

Chi Mino Ozhitoowin was engaged by Valard Construction LP to help maximize First Nations participation in the Waasigan Transmission Line project, which involves the construction of a new double-circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line in northwestern Ontario between the Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in Shuniah, located next to Thunder Bay, and Mackenzie TS in Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in Dryden.

“For me and our team, we’re really determined to make sure that people are a part of this project,” Collins says. “We have a pretty good turnout on our training right now.”

Collins says the completion date for the Waasigan Transmission Line project is 2027, noting that more electrical power will be required in the area due to growth, including mining activities.

“They can’t build the mines without power, so the power is an important part of

that,” Collins says. “If you listen to the premier and you listen to the ministers, there’s still not adequate power supply in the region.”

Shane Fugere, business development manager at Chi Mino Ozhitoowin, says they have set up the Chi Mino Ozhitoowin Business Directory for local businesses to have an opportunity to get involved with the Waasigan Transmission Line project.

“It is free to register and it’s searchable based on skills, services, and types of equipment that are in the area,” Fugere says, noting that the directory is shared with all of Chi Mino Ozhitoowin’s partners. “This way they know who is in the area who may have a backhoe, a dump truck. We are supporting people under our umbrella because we need to make sure we are building capacity, not only for our people but our future business leaders.”

Ginny Michano, training coordinator at Chi Mino Ozhitoowin, says students from two of their inaugural classes attended the grand opening.

“It’s really nice to see all the progres-

sion that’s made because when we first started this, it was all a concept,” Michano says. “We have students who are actually in courses [and] looking forward to recruiting some more. We have many programs coming up, it’s a really exciting time and we’re just growing so much and looking forward to having our students work on the Waasigan Transmission Line.”

Lac Seul Councillor Stanley Littledeer, a board member at Chi Mino Ozhitoowin, says Collins has been instrumental in leading the communities to training and procurement opportunities.

“We’ve had numerous events where community members are invited to participate in workshops,” Littledeer says. “There are opportunities for off-reserve members wherever they reside to get involved with this training because we do want to be a partner with Waasigan and we want to ensure all our members out there participate.”

Information about employment and training at Chi Mino Ozhitoowin, including contact information, is posted online: <https://www.cmo-fn.ca/learn>

## Rick Garrick Debwewin Citation recipient for excellence in journalism

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY (June 25, 2024) – Journalist Rick Garrick, member of Lac Seul First Nation, has been selected for this year’s Debwewin Citation for excellence in journalism and storytelling.

“For many years, we have all seen and read the work created by Rick Garrick through several publications, including the Anishinabek News,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige. “He demonstrates knowledge and passion through stories and photos of resilience throughout all of his work. His commitment to Indigenous people and specifically throughout the Anishinabek Nation territory, provides readers with in-depth knowledge of issues, successes, and facts that are very real and dear to us all. His contributions continue

to be valuable to all of us. We are both honoured and excited to present Rick with this reward for all of his inspiring work.”

Rick Garrick, who was raised on the land on Lac Seul during his childhood, is an award-winning freelance journalist who lives in Thunder Bay, Ont., with his partner and son. He has been writing stories and shooting photographs for Anishinabek News, the Great Lakes Pow Wow Guide, and Wawatay News since the early 2000s after graduating from Print Journalism at Cambrian College in 2002. He mainly covers stories about Indigenous people from Northern Ontario, and has also covered stories from all over Anishinabek Nation territory.

He previously received the Debwewin Citation in 2003 and will be awarded the

2024 Debwewin Citation this year.

The Debwewin Citation is the first major award intended to recognize and encourage excellence in reporting or storytelling about Indigenous issues by First Nations and other writers. A selection committee appointed by the Anishinabek Nation Communications Department solicits nominations for the award, whose name reflects the Anishinaabemowin words for “truth” and means “to speak from the heart”.

Cinematographer Ed Regan was the 2023 recipient. The award has been presented 15 times since first given to Toronto Star journalist Peter Edwards in 2002 for his extensive body of work related to the death of unarmed land defender Dudley George on Sept. 6, 1995, at the former Ipperwash Prov-



Rick Garrick, Lac Seul citizen, is awarded the 2024 Debwewin Citation for excellence in journalism.. - Photo by Lorraine Vella

incial Park. Since then, it has honoured journalists and those who use their storytelling skills to create greater awareness about First Nations people across Anishinabek Nation territory.

# Anishinabek Nation Evening of Excellence

## Chippewas of Rama First Nation, August 29, 2024

Photos by Ryan Peplinskie

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION - Winners of Lifetime Achievement Awards, the Anishinabek Education System Educator Excellence Award and the Debwewin Citation for excellence in journalism all were celebrated at the Anishinabek Nation Evening of Excellence on August 29.

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige, Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity manager Jason Restoule and former Grand Council Chief Glen Hare provided opening remarks at the event.

**Gloria Oshkabewisens-McGregor** of Whitefish River First Nation received her Lifetime Achievement Award in the category of culture.

She began her career by spending over 19 years serving her community as a primary school Educator, providing cultural language-based curriculum.

"My father told me, 'You will work your clan ayou were given. When you work in that way, you work for the people. You help in every which way you can.'"

Another winner in the culture category was **Mary Elliot** of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. She spent her career working in various roles, an instructor, addictions councillor, community capacity developer, health educator, traditional coordinator, wellness coordinator, and traditional knowledge keeper/teacher. She's also worked in Child Welfare agencies to provide support to families, children, front line workers, and communities.

"I'm just doing the Creator's work. I've been fulfilling the responsibility that I've been tased to do. I am very honoured and priveleged and humbled to receive this award. I'm going to continue to help the Anishinabek Nation."

Other recipients included **Dr. Deborah McGregor** of Whitefish River First Nation whose work has strengthened the connection between Indigenous knowledge and contemporary issues, promoted cultural revitalization and reconciliation, empowered communities through education, and served as a role model for future generations. Her award was in the environment category.

**Marjorie Trudeau** of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory received her award in the category of culture.

Serving as a volunteer Board Director for Debajehmujig Theatre Group for over 40 years, she had been instrumental in the growth of the Theatre Group, from their start as a seasonal operator in a Church basement to being a full time operation in a facility.

**Eric (Rick) Stevens** of Nipissing First Nation recieved his award in the culture category.



Rick Garrick receives the Debwewin Citation for excellence in journalism from Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.

egory.

Rick has been elected as a council member in Nipissing First Nation for 30 years and counting. He has assisted in many accomplishments in the growth of his community over the years, having a hand in the development of two community centers, two new day care centers, an outdoor rink, the development of an Elders long term care center and expansion of the Elders independent living.

In the category of political leadership, **Peter Collins** of Fort William First Nation received his award for being an inspirational leader.

He has been a leader of his community since 1998 when he was first elected as Chief. Prior to this appointment he served his community as a councillor for several years from 1984 to 1991. Throughout his tenure as Chief, he was instrumental in the successful negotiations of six specific land claim settlements, including the Fort William First Nation Boundary claim and the Grand Trunk Railway Claim which was identified as the largest railway expropriation in Canada.

In the public service category, **Grant Taibossigai** from M'Chigeeng First Nation received his award.

He is a firm believer that economic development can change a community's destiny and help it prosper as a First Nation. Thanks to much of his hard work, leadership, determination, and dedication, M'Chigeeng First Nation has made great strides in building a sustainable economic base and has become a leading First Nation community for business development and entrepreneurship.

**Gertie Manitowabi** of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory has served for the past 20 years as a volunteer Board Director for Debajehmujig Theatre Group, helping it to grow into the impressive arts centre it is today. Her award was in the public service category.

**Elaine F. Debassige** of M'Chigeeng First Nation is a true champion of education and our language, Anishinaabemowin.

A fluent speaker herself, she is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of our language. Over the past 33 years she has been a qualified teacher, developing various curricula that promotes language and culture.

Her award was in the education category.

**Christina Taibossigai** of M'Chigeeng First Nation who is recently retired, started her professional career working with Health Canada many years ago when there were only one to two nurses servicing the five First Nation communities on Manitoulin Island.



Randy Naponse of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

She spent 25 years as a Community Health Nurse for M'Chigeeng First Nation. Always advocating for a healthier community, she was instrumental in establishing M'Chigeeng Health Services as an independent service under health transfer, in addition to playing an integral role in developing and establishing the M'Chigeeng Wellness Centre.

Her award was in the health category.

In the category of health and culture, **Genevieve Jacko** of Whitefish River First Nation, a traditional knowledge keeper and Elder, took on the responsibility of sharing the teachings as a natural way of restoring the identity of our people.

She serves her community with strong cultural awareness, ethics, and pride. For many years she has worked as a mental health and addictions councillor, providing services to her community, ensuring that the option for mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellness was available.

**Ron McGregor Sr.** of Whitefish River First Nation enjoyed a career spanning over 30 years working as the plant manager at Laforge Canada Whitefish River First Nation Terminal. With safety as a priority, he was responsible for many safety practices that are still in place today and was key in employees winning awards for exemplary safety.

His award is in the health and culture category.

**Fred Bellefeuille** of Nipissing First Nation who has led in the development and periodical review of the Custom Electoral Code, and for over 20 years he has served his community as their Electoral Officer. Administering the community's Custom Election Code with a commitment to fair and transparent elections has resulted in the integrity and trust of the community's electoral process.

He's been a beacon of leadership, wisdom, and dedication. He has not only helped in the advancement of governance and sovereignty of First Nations, but has also inspired countless individuals from across our Nation.

His award was in the law and justice category.

**Barb Shipley** of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation was recognized in the category of health.

For over 30 years she has been an integral part of the health services of her community and her hard work and determination to provide the very best to her community is attributed with much of the success of the health program.

Starting her career as a CHR, she has taken on many roles over the years, including acting as the Health Director on several occasions.

Also recognized in the health category was **Cathy Wolfe** of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation.

For over 30 years she has been a highly valued team member of her community's Children & Family Services. Her dedication, passion, hard work and love for her community has created a welcoming and caring atmosphere in a field that can be uncertain and trying for families.

She has assisted in planning and executing programming that has brought her community together and through her administra-



Gertie Manitowabi of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and GCC Linda Debassige.

tive skills, the Children & Family Services program continually functions effectively and efficiently.

**Ted Nolan** of Garden River First Nation has had an incredibly successful career in hockey as both a player and coach. He has successful business ventures such as the 3Nolans First Nation hockey schools which he proudly runs with his sons Brandon and Jordan. Successful partnerships throughout his life. He inspires through his motivational speaking engagements. Not to mention his philanthropic work through the Rose Nolan Foundation, giving back to First Nation youth and to First Nation women across Canada.

His lifetime achievement award was in in the sports category.

**Michelle Smith** of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation has been involved in creating the opportunity for Kettle & Stony Point youth to be able to play sports. From the North American Indigenous Games, the Little NHL, to local sporting events, she has helped to find and provide the resources and supports needed for youth to participate and experience these wonderful events.

Her award was also in the sports category.

The **Late Gordon Naponse** of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek began his career in the logging and mining sector, eventually retiring as a top bonus miner at Creighton Mine.

Learning from his Elders, he was a fluent Anishinaabemowin speaker. He served as a band councillor for many years and was an instrumental part of the success of the First Nation Police building in Atikameksheng. He held his position as councillor dear to his heart and was very passionate and dedicated to his community. His award is in the political leadership category.

**Randy Naponse** of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek spent 30 years of his career in the logging and mining industries. After retiring he started his own family owned business, which was a success thanks to his hard work and dedication. Over the years he has been able to provide gainful employment to many members of his community in addition to making several worthwhile financial contributions to various community events. His award is in the business category.

Congratulations to all of the recipients!



Grant Taibossigai of M'Chigeeng First Nation accepts his award from Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.



HIV/AIDS awareness coordinator Laura Liberty who works closely with winner Mary Elliot of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.



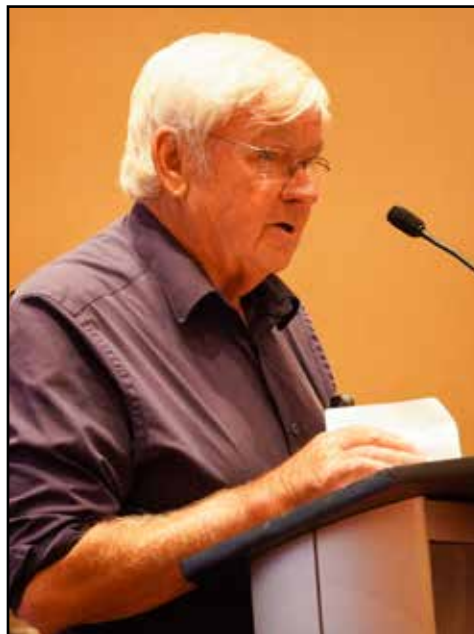
Dr. Deborah McGregor of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.



Gloria Oshkabewisens-McGregor and Ron McGregor Sr. of Whitefish River First Nation



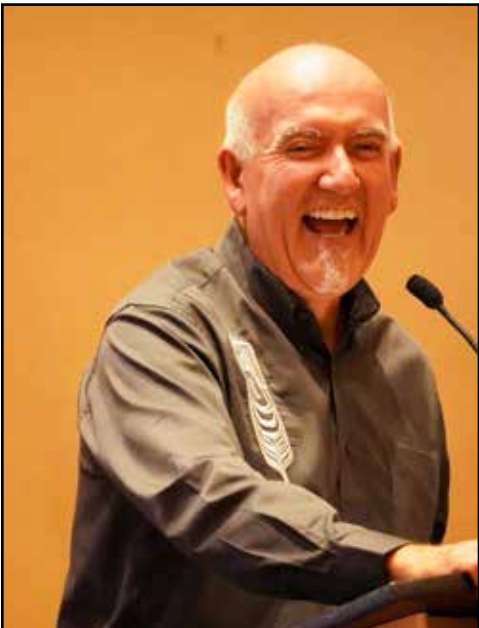
Michelle Smith of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation with GCC Linda Debassige.



Rick Stevens of Nipissing First Nation.



Bob Naponse of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, son of the late Gordon Naponse who accepted the award.



Fred Bellefeuille of Nipissing First Nation.



Christina Taibossigai of M'Chigeeng First Nation



Ted Nolan of Garden River First Nation.



Elaine F. Debassige of M'Chigeeng First Nation.



Peter Collins of Fort William First Nation accepts his award from Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.



Genevieve Jacko of Whitefish River First Nation accepts her award from Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.



Marjorie Trudeau of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory with Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige



Chief Kim Bressette of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation accepted Cathy Wolfe and Barb Shipley's awards on their behalf from Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige.

# Team 5672 First Nation Stem 2024 FIRST Canada highlights

By Adrian Bell, Team 5672 Driver

WIKWEMKOONG UNCEDED TERRITORY – Team 5672 is a completely Indigenous team from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island, and for the past nine years, it has been attending the FIRST Canada Robotic competitions. But this year was another good year for 5672 as they brought great highlights and made it to the Ontario Provincial First Robotics Championship this past April.

Nipissing University was the start of this season's competition for the team. Although disappointing, it still allowed the team to find structural and coding issues in its robot in preparation for McMaster University. The founder of 5672, Christopher Mara, describes this first event as “A cat-

astrophic failure, it was as though we almost got hit with a huge tsunami that we wouldn't have come back from.”

Despite an almost monumental failure, the team still received the judge's award.

McMaster University was the second event of the season, and Team 5672 came up from a 27-team deficit putting them at a provincial ranking of 101. Towards the end of the competition, the team was scouted and selected for alliance eight by Team 7200, Banting Robotics.

Along with an amazing team performance, Team 5672 also integrated cultural activities and pieces such as smudging circles, beading demonstrations, birch bark moose caller cheering, and a live Jingle and Fancy dance performed by Chyella



George and Avanya Wakegijig during the opening ceremony.

The Provincial Championship was overwhelming, but still, the team managed to persevere. It demonstrated this by winning a 2 versus 3 match due to technical difficulties experienced by one of their alliance team's robots.

Though the team did not qualify for the world championship, this competition and season was a great learning experience for

Team 5672.

It was a challenging year as Team 5672 had to get back on track after the COVID-19 global pandemic.

But against all odds, Team 5672 demonstrated perseverance, teamwork, relevance to Indigenous culture by implementing it into First Robotics, and its overall growth as a team attending FIRST Canada Robotics for its ninth year in a row.



## ANISHINABEK NATION Bemaadizijig Ganoonindwaa *Talking to People*



### PODCAST

Find us wherever you listen to your podcasts.

# Aamjiwnaang member wins top prize in Bears' Lair TV season

By Sam Laskaris

TORONTO – Though she had been selected as a contestant for a national reality business competition, Chelsea Pettit was debating whether to actually take part.

As it turned out, Pettit, a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, made a wise decision to compete on the second season of Bears' Lair TV. That's because she ended up being the grand prize winner of the show, which featured Indigenous entrepreneurs pitching their business ideas to a panel of judges.

Pettit, who lives in Toronto, operates Aaniin Retail Inc., an online store that sells various Indigenous products. The Ojibwe word Aaniin translates to 'Welcome' in English.

Pettit was awarded \$100,000 for being the grand prize winner of the show this season. She also previously received \$10,000 for being the winning contestant during one of show's previous episodes.

Bears' Lair TV was screened on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network during the months of June and July. All of the episodes can now be streamed on APTN lumi.

Pettit had to travel to Vancouver to film episodes of the show.

"It was like the busiest time of my life," she said. "I almost didn't go several times that week. I kept going back and forth. So, I wasn't really thinking about the moment. I was thinking I have so many things to do. I have to memorize a pitch. I have to go up and be on TV now. I had so much to do."

Pettit was told that 18,000 people had inquired about participating on the show this season and that about 9,000 applications were sent in.

From there, 18 contestants were chosen to take part.

"Just to get into the final episode was way beyond all my expectations," Pettit said. "But to win it was just unbelievable. It was a really crazy experience."

The judges on the show were rather impressed with Pettit's company.

"I think what they really liked about my business was that not only is it helping my business as an Indigenous entrepreneur," she said. "My brand focusses on Indigenous languages and visibility for Indigenous people 365 days a year through our apparel brand. But because I am also a retailer, I am able to help so many other Indigenous businesses as well. I think that's what really won them over."

After being the winning contestant in



Chelsea Pettit, a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, was the grand prize winner of the Bears' Lair TV second season. Photo courtesy Bears' Lair TV

one episode, Pettit advanced to the show's semi-final stage, which featured six entrants, in another episode. And then she qualified for the season finale, which consisted of four competitors.

"You can take feedback and alter the pitches," Pettit said. "But I was very informative with my pitch so I didn't really change too much of mine. I just kept doing it over and over, which was great because I feel I got better and better each time that I did it."

Pettit grew up in Sarnia, which is adjacent to her First Nation. She has lived in Toronto since December of 2020. The following June, she came up with her business idea. She managed Aaniin Retail via a Toronto store for about two years. And then she operated the business through a pop-up store in Mississauga last November through December.

Aaniin Retail is now exclusively online.

"My goal now is to basically scale my e-commerce platform to \$1 million in sales and then start to look at coming back to brick and mortar after that happens," Pettit said.

Bears' Lair TV is similar to the popular Canadian TV show Dragons' Den, which sees entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to a panel of wealthy Canadians, who decide whether to buy into their company.

"Instead of giving up equity to the business, it was a cash prize," Pettit said. "The show gets sponsors in order to give out the large sum of money. I took \$110,000 home which was amazing... And I didn't have to give up any equity to my business. So, as an Indigenous business owner, it's very important for me to keep my company 100 per cent Indigenous-owned, and the winnings from the show allows me to do that for a lot longer."

# Little NHL to be co-hosted in 2025 by three First Nations

By Sam Laskaris

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION – The 2025 Little Native Hockey League tournament will indeed be a team effort.

It was officially announced on August 24 that three First Nations will join forces to co-host the tournament, which is often simply called the Little NHL.

The co-hosts will be those that make up the Chippewas Tri-Council: Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, and Beausoleil First Nation.

The dates for next year's Little NHL have been set with the opening ceremonies being held on Mar. 9, and the tournament action running from Mar. 10-13.

As was the case this year, the tourney will be primarily staged at various rinks throughout Markham. And because of the large number of participating clubs expected in 2025, rinks outside of Markham will in all likelihood be used again next year as well.

This year's tournament, which marked the 50th anniversary of the event, attracted a record 245 clubs from across the province.

The Little NHL, which was first held in 1971 in the Manitoulin Island town of Little

Current, has become the largest Indigenous youth hockey tournament in Ontario.

The tournament was originally supposed to celebrate its golden anniversary a few years ago, but that did not happen because the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the tourney for three consecutive years from 2020 through 2022.

Tournament representatives opted not to count those cancelled events in the official tally of Little NHL celebrations.

The Little NHL has been awarded to various hosts since its inception, but none of the three co-hosts for next year's event have previously served as hosts.

"It's something that we've thought about for a while now," said Chippewas of Rama First Nation Chief Ted Williams. "And this is a big deal for us to host with our sister communities."

Traditionally, Little NHL officials announce the host Nation at their event each year, but that didn't happen at the tourney this past March since the hosts for 2025 had not been selected yet.

Chief Williams said he was approached by members of the Little NHL executive at this year's tournament and asked whether his



An official signing ceremony for the Chippewas Tri-Council to co-host the 2025 Little NHL was held on Aug. 24. - Photo courtesy Chico Ralf

First Nation would be interested in serving as hosts.

"I thought this was a good opportunity to involve Georgina Island and Beausoleil," Chief Williams said. "Without question, both of their Councils said, 'Yes, let's do it.'"

Chief Williams is confident that his First Nation and the two others will do a fabulous job of hosting the 2025 tourney.

The official signing of the hosting con-

tract was held on Aug. 24 during a ceremony at the Rama First Nation Pow wow. The pow wow was one of two major events the First Nation hosted this past weekend. Rama also hosted the All Ontario Native Fastball Championships.

"The Little NHL is just another opportunity to showcase what our community can do," Chief Williams said.

# FAMILY WELL-BEING PROGRAM



## About

The Anishinabek Nation's Family Well-Being Program is an early intervention program grounded in Anishinabek culture, values, language, and traditions.

Programming is designed to improve the outcomes and opportunities for children and youth by encouraging the use of wholistic, community-driven approaches that help keep our children connected to their families, communities and culture.



## Supporting Families

The Program addresses the root cause(s) of violence and trauma, and reduces the over representation of Anishinabek children and youth in child welfare and youth justice systems. Providing support, culturally-based resources, and capacity-building training.

## Family Well-Being Workers

Supporting the unique needs and requests of Anishinabek communities - Family Well-Being Workers bring traditional knowledge to the forefront of the community, so that it can be passed down for generations to come.

## Safe Spaces

Supporting the development of safe spaces, where community can gather and support prevention and early intervention efforts.

## Community-Based Programming

Programming for children, youth, and families who have experience(s) or are at-risk of violence - designed to suit the needs of each Anishinabek First Nation.



## CONTACT US

Vicki Niles  
Family Well-Being  
Coordinator

Email: [vicki.niles@anishinabek.ca](mailto:vicki.niles@anishinabek.ca)

Tracy Robinson,  
Family Well-Being  
Development Worker

Email: [tracy.robinson@anishinabek.ca](mailto:tracy.robinson@anishinabek.ca)

## SURVEY

We will be distributing a survey to learn more about your community's priorities in family well-being, as part of the planning process for a future conference.

Update your contact info with Tracy.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: [KOGANAAWSAWIN.CA](http://KOGANAAWSAWIN.CA)



A group of participants practice some of their lacrosse techniques as facilitator Kevin Sandy looks on during the Anishinabek Nation's Indigenous Traditional Games camp, held Aug. 17-18 in Fort William First Nation.

## Anishinabek Nation's Indigenous Traditional Games camp connects youth to traditional knowledge

By Rick Garrick

FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION — The Anishinabek Nation's Indigenous Traditional Games camp was a hit with a group of children and parents on Aug. 17-18 in Fort William First Nation. The camp featured teachings about lacrosse and other traditional games for Indigenous youth aged seven to 12-years-old on Aug. 17 in the Fort William First Nation Community Centre and on Aug. 18 the Fort William First Nation Arena.

"This was a great opportunity for the kids to get together and play," says Tara Kowtiash, a Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek citizen. "They're having a lot of fun."

Kowtiash says her two children also learned about the language and other information that was shared by facilitator Kevin Sandy, from Six Nations, during the camp.

"Even counting in [Anishinaabemowin], his was different than ours," Kowtiash says. "We had a good weekend, it was fun and we learned a lot of new activities that I've never even seen or heard of, so it would be great to bring back this information to my community and for my community members as well."

Tara Hedican, an Eabametoong citizen who lives in Kenora, says the camp was great.

"Our kids all love sports and it's just kind of a good way to reconnect with family and have a fun time in the summertime," Hedican says. "The facilitators were really amazing and very welcoming, showed us so many skills and we got to do so many things in the two days that we were here. They made traditional balls with raccoon tails inside and deer hide. We got to play a lot of games and learned the history of lacrosse and some other games they play in Six Nations. The kids were active the whole time and it was a really great experience for them."

Ozaawaa Benesi Ikwe, a Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg citizen, says it was interesting to hear about how the deer is so important for the Haudenosaunee people in southern Ontario, noting that she grew up on the land hunting, fishing, and trapping.

"So in these traditional games, we're also learning about the other pieces where those hides such as the deer hide and fox tail can be used in games to play alongside people, and that's also ceremony as well, being able to spend time together and laugh," Ozaawaa Benesi Ikwe says. "It's been a joy to watch the confidence in my children develop and also a little bit of competition that comes

out from them when they're playing and just hearing their laughter. They're making friends and connections and community, it's all about community and relationships so that's been beautiful."

Andrea Aiabens, special project coordinator with the Labour Market Development Department at the Anishinabek Nation, says the main goal of the camp was to bring children together to learn more about culture and traditional games and to provide them with some fitness, health and nutrition.

"Our facilitator Kevin Sandy is knowledgeable in all the traditional games and culture that has gone on way before us to teach us about our past history," Aiabens says. "[The children] are really enjoying all of the different traditional games, especially yesterday learning about the bone and toggle, double ball [and] caribou or moose antlers. I think they're really enjoying it and they're getting tired — there's a lot of running."

Aiabens says they received funding through the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care program for children up to 12-years-old.

"We're going to have four more workshops across the region in Ontario to get more youth involved in sports and culture," Aiabens says. "We're going to have [workshops] in Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury,

Rama, and Sarnia."

Sandy says he has been delivering programs such as the Indigenous Traditional Games in First Nation and non-Indigenous communities for about 15 years.

"For me, it's all about getting the participants to understand these games are more than just games, it's not a sport for us, it's our way of life," Sandy says. "For us, it's a medicine game, it's a healing game, it was used to settle disputes, it's a game that was played not only here on Mother Earth but what we're taught, [as] the Haudenosaunee people, when we pass away there's also a game waiting for us in the sky world because that's where the game came from originally."

Sandy says the Anishinabek had their own game, bagatawaywin, with a stick that was different from the lacrosse stick.

"All these stick ball games were used for a purpose and used for a meaning, and it connects people," Sandy says. "I'm just trying to make sure they understand why we're playing and why we still keep these games alive. I travel all over and it's always interesting when you hear participants say, 'Oh, these are sticks they used to use.' But no, we still play with them and they're still very much a part of our way of life."



### Members of the Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council attend First Nations Climate Leadership Meeting

On June 19, Katelyn Peters and Lance Copegog - members of the Anishinabek Nation Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council - met in Ottawa for the First Nations Climate Leadership meeting. They are pictured, left with Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Youth representative Katisha Paul.

The week was hosted by the Assembly of First Nations. Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain and Lorieann Whittaker from the Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Department also attended.

Peters and Copegog opened the meeting with youth remarks, alongside UBCIC Youth Representative Katisha Paul. They addressed the federal environment minister Steven Guilbeault and senior officials, highlighting Anishinabek Nation's personhood of water initiative and requesting that the federal government fund youth-led, community based climate initiatives.

# KOGANAAWSAWIN.CA



supporting the  
**Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family  
Well-Being System**

- Child, Youth and Family • First Nation Rep Support • Prevention •
- Repatriation • Office of the Children's Commissioner •
- Anishinabek Nation Circle Process •

**NEW SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 8-10, 2024  
PROVINCIAL FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE CONFERENCE**

# Be Money Wise!

## DON'T GAMBLE YOUR FUTURE AWAY

Use your opportunities to INVEST into your FUTURE.

### Things you can do with your money:

- Set financial goals, create a plan
- Create a budget
  - Save! "Pay yourself" first each month. Treat it like a bill, start small.
  - Invest - set-up a Tax-Free Savings Account with your bank/financial institution
  - Save money for a home. Create a rainy day account which you can use for mortgage down payment
- Renovate your home to extend useful life
- If you want to buy a car, BUY USED from a reputable car dealership, it will save you money in the long run. Buy small - cheaper on gas
  - Fact: 0% interest on a new car does not save you money
- Know the difference between NEEDS and WANTS. Needs are things you need, like paying your basic bills, mortgage, rent. Wants are those things like entertainment, going to casino, eating out
- Pay off your debts
  - Make large lump sum payment into your mortgage and/or car loan

For support, contact  
[www.connexontario.ca](http://www.connexontario.ca)  
ConnexOntario 1-866-531-2600

Sponsored by Gambling Program, Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat



Anishinabek Nation

Follow us!



[www.anishinabek.ca](http://www.anishinabek.ca)

# ANISHINABEK NATION



**WAMPUM BELT PUZZLE**

**504**  **PIECE**  
59.5 x 42 cm (23.4 x 16.5")

 **EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS**

WAMPUM BELT PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN PEPLINSKIE  
BACKGROUND IMAGES COURTESY REGAN PICTURES  
BLANKET PHOTO BY LAURA BARRIOS



**504** **WAMPUM BELT PUZZLE**  
PIECE PUZZLE  
59.4 x 42.0 cm  
23.4" x 16.5"



**ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 711, North Bay, ON  
P1B 8J8  
orders@anishinabek.ca

# WAMPUM BELT PUZZLE

## ORDER NOW!

*Want to learn more about treaties? The Anishinabek Nation has created resources to help!*



To learn more or to place an order, please contact:  
[orders@anishinabek.ca](mailto:orders@anishinabek.ca)

- \*10% Shipping and Handling
- \*No Taxes Included
- \*Visa and MasterCard Accepted

# Canada Post unveils Indigenous Leaders stamp series honouring Anishinaabe Water Walker

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — A new stamp paying tribute to the late Grandmother Water Walker Josephine Mandamin-baa was unveiled by Canada Post on June 18 at the Spirit Garden on Thunder Bay's waterfront. The stamp is one of three Indigenous Leaders stamps, including stamps featuring Elisapie and Christi Belcourt, that will be released on June 21. The set of three stamps is the third in Canada Post's multi-year Indigenous Leaders series.

"Thank you for being here ... to celebrate the life and the legacy, just the message of my mother," says Regina Mandamin, Josephine-baa's daughter. "This is such a huge honour, not just for my mother, but for our family because I don't know if people realize how much we shared with her and how much sacrifice she made. The water and the communities were calling her to do this work, she loved the lodge — she [was] a fourth-degree Midewiwin, the Three Fires Lodge, and that's where she got this calling, this message to speak up for the water, and she started a movement."

The late Grandmother Water Walker, who served as the Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner before she passed in 2019, walked more than 25,000 kilometres, including around all five Great Lakes, beginning in 2003 and until her final Water Walk in 2017 to raise awareness of water pollution and environmental degradation in the Great Lakes and other waterways across Turtle Island.

"It's quite an honour to have her image on a postage stamp," says Andrew Mandamin, Josephine-baa's surviving spouse. "The whole family is ecstatic and we're so proud of her for Canada Post doing this. She did sacrifice a lot for the water and it's good that she's being recognized for what she did, she started a global movement for the Water Walks."

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige says she participated in some of the late Grandmother Water Walker's journeys.

"She helped mobilize the Water Walker movement and we've created some in our own communities back on Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island)," Grand Council Chief Debassige says. "I sat with her at the Great Lakes Guardian Council and I've learned from her for many years — she's truly a remarkable woman who has brought awareness and advocacy to the Great Lakes by far more than anybody else ever has."

Grand Council Chief Debassige says the late Grandmother Water Walker's sharing of a prophecy that water would be more expensive than gold by 2030 resonated with her as a young woman.

"My own journey has been influenced by Josephine-baa in our efforts and efforts that I've participated in to ensure our First Nations have access to clean safe drinking water and that our water is preserved for generations to come," Grand Council Chief Debassige says.

Wiikwemkoong Elder Shirley Williams



Regina Mandamin, daughter of the late Grandmother Water Walker Josephine Mandamin-baa, speaks about her mother's path as a Water Walker during the unveiling of a Canada Post Indigenous Leaders stamp series stamp featuring Josephine-baa's image on June 18 at the Spirit Garden on Thunder Bay's waterfront.

says she and the late Grandmother Water Walker used to keep their language alive at Indian Residential School by going for walks where they secretly spoke Anishinaabemowin with each other.

"We survived the Residential School, we survived to keep our language and for what, for our culture, for our future of our people because we knew what it was like to be forbidden to speak your language and forbidden to practice or even talk about our culture," Elder Williams says, noting that she and the late Grandmother Water Walker used to talk about the hardships they went through, laugh about it and then go on with their lives. "She said, 'Until I leave this world, I'm going to do as much work as I can,' and I said, 'So am I.'"

Jon Hamilton, vice-president, strategic

communications at Canada Post, says Canada Post's stamp program recognizes incredible stories and incredible people.


"Today, we are here to recognize our Grandmother Josephine, the Grandmother Water Walker and her incredible story, just a tireless environmentalist, a tireless advocate for water conservation, and the feat of just walking around the Great Lakes [and] dedicating her life after a childhood spent in Residential Schools and the difficulties to say every minute I'm going to be on this Earth I'm going to use it to do some good," Hamilton says. "Josephine's story is a story that one person can make a difference."

Information about this year's issue of the Indigenous Leaders stamp series is posted online at [canadapost.ca](http://canadapost.ca).

ANISHINABEK NATION

# WESHKINIJIIG

"THOSE WHO ARE YOUTHFUL"




**Weshkiniijig**, Anishinabek Nation's Youth Program, supports all 39 Anishinabek First Nations with implementation and development of annual work plans and activities for the:

- **Youth Life Promotion (YLP) Program**  
Funded by the Ministry of Health; YLP is based on the belief that all young people are capable of finding their own path to a meaningful life. Programs and services are holistic, strengths-based, and empowerment focused, while aiming to honour youth individuality.
- **Youth Culture Camp (YCC) Program**  
Funded by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; YCC creates culturally relevant experiences that revitalize cultural knowledge in Indigenous youth aged 8-29 years old.

WWW.ANISHINABEK.CA



Presented by the  
Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat



# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference

**OCTOBER 22-24, 2024**

Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

**NIMAAJI-TOOMIN MAAMWII**

We are on this journey together.



STAN WESLEY  
Master of Ceremonies



We are excited to have Stan Wesley as our Master of Ceremonies for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Conference.

Stan was born and raised in Moose Factory, ON, a Cree community on the south coast of James Bay. As a youth, Stan began a career of bringing laughter and meaning to audiences with creation of 'Bunnuck', a weekly show that aired on TVO and TVNC for several seasons.

Since then, for over 20-years, Stan engaged and entertained audiences with his unique style of fun and depth in presentations, keynotes, emcee and facilitation services. Stan speaks on a variety of issues with a focus on celebrating success and advancing good, healthy relations among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Stan has worked at the local, regional, provincial and national levels. With his high energy, sincere professionalism approach, he is considered by many to be one of the top speakers in the country today.

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Registration for this event is now open and will be limited to 200 people in-person. Priority will be for Anishinabek Nation Community Wellness Workers, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Workers and Health Directors.

Click link to register: <https://anhealthconference2024.sched.com>



## Tony H. Joico Memorial Heroes in Health Awards

Community heroes build capacity for our First Nation by empowering residents to become more active, healthy, and improve the overall well-being of our community. They are our team, our family and an important part of our community. **Extending the deadline to September 13th.** Send you nomination to Priscilla Goulais and [priscilla.goulais@anishinabek.ca](mailto:priscilla.goulais@anishinabek.ca). If you have any questions, please reach out to me at 705-845-5120. These individuals will be honoured at the Anishinabek Nation 10th Annual Health Conference.

For information, please contact Jess Pamajewon at 705-497-9127 or by email at [jessica.pamajewon@anishinabek.ca](mailto:jessica.pamajewon@anishinabek.ca)