



Aamjiwnaang First Nation hosts fall Grand Council Assembly

The Chippewa Point Drum and the Aamjiwnaang Kinooomaage Gamig students supported in the Grand Entry at the fall Grand Council Assembly held in Aamjiwnaang First Nation on October 24-25. Political updates on Pages 2,3 and 9. - Assembly photos by Ryan Peplinskie

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Eshki-niigijig Council Member Pierre Debassige, Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy, Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Jimbob Marsden, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, Chief Larry Roque and Councillor Bob Pitfield, Ministry of Environment Office, Toronto, November 22, 2023.

Quarterly political update

As the winter season begins to set in, we want to send our best wishes to all Anishinabek communities in your preparations for the holiday season. The holidays are a time for reflection, relaxation, and celebration and we extend seasonal greetings to all our communities this special time of year.

As we prepare for the New Year, we want to reflect on the activities and accomplishments of the past year. As always, the fall season is filled with an abundance of activity. It is important to meet this time of the year considering the final quarter of the fiscal year is forthcoming and we have a better purview of what our communities' urgent resourcing needs are.

We feel privileged to see the beauty and resilience of our territory and understand some of the unique challenges our communities face. The Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly in October was hosted by Aamjiwnaang First Nation, where Chief Chris Plain and the community welcomed us with open arms. During the Assembly, we discussed:

- A resolution that was passed to hold an in-person election for Grand Council Leadership starting in 2024. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous election was online, we will return to the Stand-Up Voting Procedure and will exclude online voting to maintain traditions for this portion only. At this time, the system of Regional Deputy Grand Council Chiefs will also revert to a single Deputy Grand Council Chief position.

- Strengthening collaboration between the Ontario Technical Table – Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA) and First Nations while demanding access to Indigenous Services Canada education data.

- Direction to advocate to increase funding for the Prevention-Focused Customary Care Program and to implement recommendations from Devon Freeman's Coroner's Inquest.

- Putting focus on wildfire management and climate change strategies and plans to develop carbon storage plans.

- Researching impacts of healthcare privatization and racism to advocate for culturally appropriate health, human resources, and policy reform.

- Direction to create and evaluate Safer Supply programs and to seek further funding and partnerships for harm reduction.

- Advocacy for funding and resources to develop comprehensive neurodivergent support programs.

- Exploring options for addressing ad-

equate and effective law enforcement.

Members of the Executive Council also attended the Chiefs of Ontario Fall Chiefs Assembly in Toronto from November 20-23. The Anishinabek Nation actively participates in the Political and Technical Tables at the regional level and members of the Executive also chair some of the Chiefs Committees. We attend the assemblies to hear leadership's concerns about top priorities and how impending legislation will impact our communities. On our radar right now is the upcoming federal legislation concerning Distinctions Based Indigenous Health as well as the First Nations Drinking Water and Wastewater where further resourcing and engagement is required. The Assembly also included updates on Long-Term Reform Child and Family Services Update, Policing and Enforcement of First Nations Laws, Restructure of First Nations Lifelong Learning Table, Supply Chain and Procurement, and the Indigenous Police Chiefs of Ontario Federal Court Challenge.

Leadership continues to be concerned about legislation with implications for Treaty and inherent rights, in particular the impending federal Bill C-53, Recognition of Certain Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan and Métis Self-Government Act. The Anishinabek Nation submitted a brief considering the impacts that this legislation will have on our collective rights. The brief, once translated, will be available online at the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Committee website. The following is an excerpt from the brief, which outlines what our approach has been and will continue to be in regards to this bill:

Legislating inherent rights is contrary to the very definition of what an inherent right is. Inherent rights are recognized, not granted by Canadian law, notably in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. These rights are inherent because they originate from Indigenous peoples' legal systems and practices, as well as their historical occupation and stewardship of their traditional lands. The role of Canadian law is to recognize and protect these rights, not to create or interfere with them. In this case, there is no evidence of historic Métis Communities in Anishinabek territory. Therefore, it cannot logically follow that the Métis Nation of Ontario has inherent rights, and therefore, this Bill will be challenged through a long and drawn-out process that benefits only those who have billable hours.

Leadership from other provinces will be meeting in December to attend the Assem-

bly of First Nations National Chief Election in Ottawa. We were happy to provide the opportunity for the candidates to have a meet and greet with Anishinabek Nation leadership in a caucus session during day one of the Assembly. They were also provided time on the Assembly agenda to overview their platforms and take questions from leadership. We extend our best wishes to the candidates as they ramp up campaign efforts and look forward to observing the election process.

We take every opportunity to meet with our ministerial counterparts to strengthen our relationships and work together to achieve the desired outcomes we need for our communities. We have recently met with the Canadian Minister of the Attorney General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Minister, and Indigenous Services Minister. With Ontario, we've met with the Ministers for Indigenous Services, Environment, Mining, Natural Resources, and the Solicitor and Attorney Generals.

The Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council representative, Pierre Debassige, accompanied by Grand Council Chief and Regional Deputies, met with the new Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in Toronto on November 22. Due to a mini-cabinet Shuffle, this project that was being escalated by the previous Minister has been reintroduced to the new Minister. The importance of this project was expressed to the new Minister, expressing that water has spirit that must be protected. We are grateful to the Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council for its brilliance, wisdom, and unwavering leadership to advance this priority.

We will continue to put great efforts into ensuring the priorities and mandates are achieved to the best of our ability. We are honoured to represent the leadership and communities of the Anishinabek Nation in this capacity.

Noteable Meetings and Events:

- Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering, Sault Ste. Marie: September 7-9

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

- Anishinabek Nation Regional meetings: September - October (various dates)

- Anishinabek Nation 9th Annual Health Conference, North Bay: October 17-19

- Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity Evening of Excellence, Chippewas of Rama First Nation: October 19

- Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly,



Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe at Bill C-53 Rally at Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario, September 20, 2023.



Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief JimBob Marsden attended the Georgina Island First Nation Pow Wow in September.



Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare, Chief Taynor Simpson, Alderville First Nation Veterans Ceremony, November 5, 2023.



Getzit Donna Debassige and Lake Huron Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau at the Chiefs of Ontario Fall Assembly.



Northern Superior Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy and Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe at the Indigenous Services Canada Joint Gathering November 16, 2023.

- Aamjiwnaang First Nation: October 24-25
- Meeting Grand Council Treaty 5 and Anishinaabe Treaty Authority re: Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement: October 26
 - 100-year Anniversary of the Williams Treaty, Chippewas of Rama First Nation: October 30
 - Economic Development Summit: October 24-26
 - Meeting with Minister of Justice and Attorney General: November 3
 - Treaties Recognition Week: November 6-10
 - Maajishkaatoon Anishinaabe Naak-

- nigewinan Maawnjidwin / Implementing Anishinaabe Laws Forum: November 20
- Upcoming Events and Meetings:
- Meeting with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Minister: December
 - Provincial Lobby Day: November 29
 - Federal Lobby Day: December 5
 - AFN National Chief Elections: Week of December 4
 - Grand Council Treaty 5 Gathering: January 31-February 1
 - Little NHL Tournament: March 11-15
 - Trapping Gathering: Week of March 25

Lifetime Achievement Awards presented to Anishinabek at Casino Rama

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION - Hosted by the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity, the Lifetime Achievement Awards were held on Oct. 19 at Casino Rama in Chippewas of Rama First Nation to honour Anishinabek citizens who have made a significant contribution to their First Nation.

Some 300 people from across the Nation attended this year's event and Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe presented the awards to the honourees or their families.

Honourees included:



Jeanne Naponse – **Atikameksheng Anishnawbek**

Earning her Master's Degree from Central Michigan State University, Jeanne Naponse has been involved in the field of education for the last 40 years. She served as a teacher, professor, student councillor, and education councillor in addition to an Academic Dean. She was instrumental in the development of several college diploma programs designed to address the needs of First Nations. She recognizes that education is an important tool in building stronger, healthy, and prosperous communities.

Throughout her professional career, she served on numerous boards and committees, gaining valuable knowledge, sharing her experience, and is recognized as a skilled negotiator. In her community, she served as a council member and she became the first female to be elected Chief. During her time as Chief, she was instrumental in creating the first self-government structure for Atikameksheng using the Dodem as a traditional governance model.

She is also a Knowledge Keeper and speaker of Anishinaabemowin and recognizes the importance of Elders and their knowledge in working toward the future of our communities. She is proud of her cultural teachings and traditions.



Dianne Thomas of **Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation**.

Dianne Thomas has been the Economic Development Officer in her community for close to 30 years and is directly responsible for much of the community's development in terms of policy development, infrastructure, and employment and training. She has helped in the acquirement and development of numerous businesses, which has resulted in many jobs being created and is considered a "ninja master" when it comes to finding support and proposal writing.

She has shown leadership and helps guide discussions in her region through the Southern First Nations Secretariat, often leading the charge for the betterment of all member First Nations in the area.

She believes that our heritage and culture are the roots in our successes, incorporating Anishinaabe components in all activities she is involved in, writes, or develops. She has a strong belief in her identity and culture.



Ferdinand Paibomsai – **Whitefish River First Nation**

A committed and loyal worker, Ferdinand Paibomsai began his career in carpentry in 1966. He learned from his mentors about what it took to build quality homes from the foundation up for his community of Whitefish River First Nation. He went on to work on many projects within the community including the construction and renovation of residential buildings as well as numerous administration buildings.

Loving the trade, he wanted to teach and mentor others. Many women in the community joined a "Women in Carpentry" project, where he was able to mentor and transfer his knowledge. To this day, there are still a few of these women who work in the trade of carpentry.

As though the literal building of the community wasn't enough, he wanted to give back in other ways as well. Learning from his best friend and mentor, he was taught the art and responsibility of becoming a cross and rough box maker for his community. In memory of the person who passed, he takes his time and creates a unique cross for the family, an important part of the grieving process.

He has since hung up the hammer, but still continues to work with wood, carving and making wooden bowls through his small business "From the Wood Pile".

Recognized in his community as "Living the good life", he has been presented with the Whitefish River First Nation Seven Grandfathers award. He is a respected Elder and lives his life demonstrating kindness and helping others when he can.



Jeff Naponse – **Atikameksheng Anishnawbek**

A retiree from the mining sector, Jeff Naponse has proudly served as band councillor in Atikameksheng, actively working with multi-levels of government, building strong relationships while fostering a healthy community.

Being a strong believer in the culture and healing, he has been an active member of the Health and Community Wellness Committee since 2018. In his role, he promotes a balanced holistic lifestyle, which includes emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being in addition to cultural values and principles.

He is an avid learner and user of Anishinaabemowin, actively promoting and searching for ways to advance the language, cultural teachings, and traditions. His exemplary knowledge, skills, and dedication to his community are an inspiration to others.



Paul Henry – **Kettle & Stony Point First Nation**

Paul Henry dedicated his career to helping create viable opportunities for First Nations in need of economic development and capital projects.

He began his career

gaining experience with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, which led him to employment with the Ontario Native Community Branch, Tecumseh Development Corporation, and the N'Amerind Friendship Centre.

During his time with various organizations and Ministries, he was determined to ensure First Nations accessed funding that would bring economic stability and employment opportunities to the communities. He worked within his role to help gain support for various project proposals that were submitted.

In his retirement, he continues to sit on various committees within the communities to help support initiatives and is regularly called upon by local First Nations to share his knowledge in the management and economic development plans.



Harvey Petahtegoose – **Atikameksheng Anishnawbek**

Harvey Petahtegoose has spent the last 29 years serving his community in the role of councillor as well as a few years as Chief. He is active in his community attending various programs, community events, visiting the sacred grounds, and on occasion, lighting a fire in the Arbour.

He has accumulated a wealth of knowledge over the years and brings that with him to share when dealing with any issues the community is facing or when he is sitting on one of the various boards that he participates in.

Having older siblings being taken away to Indian Residential School, he places high importance on his family. He is very proud to be part of the Elk Clan, known for their generosity and taking good care of the people.



Kevin Mossip – **Zhiibaahaasing First Nation**

After initially being elected as a deputy band councillor in 1995, Kevin Mossip has been elected to and has continued this role for the past 28 years. His hard work and dedication to his community is unmatched, working tirelessly in several roles throughout the years in order to help build his community, almost literally, from the ground up.

From his start in the finance department, he found himself being part of many projects throughout the years and is still going strong to this day.

He has gained extensive knowledge over the years, having a hand in several projects, such as the Robinson Huron Treaty, Wind Farm, Manitoulin hotel Project, \$10 million Tourism Project, Economic and Housing Projects, to name a few. He has also campaigned on Governance issues as well as for the Anishinabek Education System.

Through all this, he has also served as a Board Member for Waubutek Development for 15 years.

He is always available to help whenever called upon to share his knowledge and expertise wherever it's needed. He is dedicated to his community and the future of Zhiibaahaasing First Nation.



Judy Shawnoo – **Kettle & Stony Point First Nation**

Judy Shawnoo has always put her community first, spending over 40 years working for her community in Health Services as well as Finance. She is known for her integrity, character, gracefulness, and poise. She has been dedicated to her community, always helping in any capacity to ensure the community received the help required in any situation. Whenever help or guidance was needed, it was commonly said "call Judy, she'll know". She is a role model, holding a lot of community knowledge and always working with compassion and a smile.

In her retirement, she continues to serve her community through her church outreach and work with seniors along with her role on the Kettle & Stony Point Board of Education Committee. She shares knowledge on how to put people first, walk in love and integrity.



Larry Naponse – **Atikameksheng Anishnawbek**

A leader in his community, Larry Naponse served as Chief as well as councillor for many years starting way back in 1967. He was always active with a goal of creating strong relationships and building a healthy community.

Over the years, he has spent much time participating in various committees and working closely with the North Shore Tribal First Nations towards achieving goals in health, education, and self-governance.

His expertise and experience working with multi-levels of government over the years has given him the knowledge to help his community continue to grow and prosper.

He is a well-respected leader in his community and proud of his Anishinaabe ways.



The family of the Late Karen Mosko-baa of Munsee Delaware Nation accepts her Lifetime Achievement Award from Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe.

The Late Karen Mosko-baa – **Munsee Delaware Nation**

The Late Karen Mosko-baa's goal was to attend university to complete studies and gain her teachers certificate. As we all know, sometimes life can get in the way, but after approximately eight years of trying to make it work, she finally succeeded and successfully completed her studies. She helped in the community by creating updated communications so the community could stay current and spent almost two decades teaching and revitalizing the Lunape language, in-person and online, both within her community and abroad. Her dedication, hard work, and sharing of our traditional



knowledge and language will be carried for generations.

She started a YouTube page as a learning resource for her students. She always made herself available to her students for additional support. She was instrumental in teaching the younger generation about the importance of our Elders, the keepers of the knowledge, and the respect we should carry towards them.



Elizabeth Cloud – Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

Following her role as Band Manager, Elizabeth Cloud has served her community in the capacity of Band Councillor since 1996, which includes four years as Chief.

In her roles as Chief and Band Councillor, she moved the Stony Point/Camp Ipperwash file forward through negotiations, agreement, and settlement, while promoting healing among the membership.

In her over 30 years of commitment to her community, she has enthusiastically worked toward the improvement of community infrastructure, sound and transparent financial management, the development of children and family services, promotion of language and culture and sound governance that meets the needs of the citizens of her community. In all of this, she always makes sure that the people of Kettle & Stony Point are included in decision-making processes.

She is considered an excellent role model and throughout all of her accomplishments, remains humble, patient, empathetic, open to learning, and grounded in family teachings and customs.



Family of the Late Martin Restoule-baa from Dokis First Nation accept his Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Late Martin Restoule-baa – Dokis First Nation

The Late Martin Restoule-baa was dedicated and committed to the success and cultural revitalization of his home; Dokis First Nation. He served as Chief of the community in the mid 1980s with a vision of financial independence for the community. He championed utilizing the sustainable water resources of the French River to generate clean hydropower. This was the beginning of the Okikendawt Hydro Project, which ultimately won the 2014 Pollution Probe Sustainability Award. It has resulted in the Okikendawt Hydro Trust.

He was instrumental in the revival of the Dokis pow wow in 2001, which is continually growing to this day. This has culminated in the pow wow grounds being named in his honour in 2022 and is now

known as the Martin Restoule Memorial Traditional Grounds.

Knowing the value of culture and tradition, he was also responsible for the creation of the community Eagle Staff and shared teachings about how to care for it.

He was a talented self-taught musician and enjoyed playing music whenever the chance arose. In fact, he was inducted into the Aboriginal Country Music Hall of Fame in 2015. He was also a gifted wood carver and painter. Many of his pieces can be found in homes throughout the area in addition to the Joe Dokis Cultural Centre & Museum, another initiative that he helped bring to life.

He was a respected Elder in the community and abroad, carrying traditional knowledge, business experience, leadership skills, and authentic kindness that he generously shared with others.



Talon Chin-McGregor – Whitefish River First Nation

Whitefish River First Nation is known for honouring the people of their land who have served their community with strong cultural awareness, ethics, and pride. Talon is a great example of this.

A graduate of the nursing program at Cambrian College, his career choice was to become a community helper. After gaining knowledge as a long-term care nurse, he is now fulfilling his role as his community's Health Nurse. He is paving the way for young Anishinaabe men who are considering a career in nursing in addition to being a role model for those who have an interest in giving back to their community.

He has recently added to his role within his community as he was elected as a band councillor. In this role, he is committed to expanding his knowledge and his service to his community.

Recently, Talon was deemed a hero as he was dining in a local restaurant when a two-year-old boy was choking to the point of unconsciousness and without hesitation, Talon stepped in and administered life-saving efforts, helping the child to regain consciousness. A true act of selfless courage in a time of crisis.



Frank Ozawagosh – Atikameksheng Anishnawbek

Frank Ozawagosh carries much of his community's history and can always be found helping out at any ceremonies and teachings, often conducting workshops and sharing his traditional knowledge. Outside of the community, he has served as an Elder with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University since 2005.

He exemplifies the Seven Grandfather Teachings, always doing what needs to be done in the community because it's the right thing to do. In his spare time under his own initiative, he takes care of one of the

community's older graveyards, respecting those who have passed to the Spirit World.

He is very generous with his time and knowledge, always helping in any way he can. He lives and walks mino bimaadiziwin.



Friends and family of the Late Lorraine 'Girlie' Commanda-baa of Nipissing First Nation sang and danced while accepting her Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Late Lorraine (Girlie) Commanda-baa – Nipissing First Nation

The Late Lorraine Commanda-baa was affectionately known to her family, friends, and community as 'Girlie'. An inspiration to others, at the age of 53, she made the decision to go back to school to get her high school diploma. Following this, she went on to Lakehead University and graduated from their Indigenous Language Instructors Program. She spent the next 13 years teaching Anishinaabemowin to elementary school students.

Within her community, she was a dedicated member of the Nipissing First Nation Nishnaabemowin Translation Committee to help preserve the language, assist with translations for the Administration, as well as help young language teachers.

She attended and volunteered within her community at almost every gathering, providing fresh fish and scone as well as many laughs. She was an avid sports fan and could always be seen cheering on any team from Nipissing First Nation in any sporting events. She was a lifelong fan of her beloved Toronto Blue Jays.



Luke George Sr. – Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

Coming from a long line of police officers, Luke George Sr. retired from policing at the end of 2011 after over 32 years of service. Beginning his career as a First Nation police officer in Walpole Island in 1979, he

eventually began working with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in 1988. Over the years, he was known in his community as a constable that was kind, approachable, friendly, compassionate, and a jokester. Many community members still remember the days when he would pull up alongside their road hockey game and grab a stick and join in their game of hockey, in uniform.

During his time with the OPP, he continued to work with our First Nations through media relations, and was often called upon for his guidance when there were Indigenous persons involved in a call. He also worked directly with Victim

Services, teaching their new recruits to work with our First Nation people with sensitivity and respect.

One of his biggest challenges was during the Ipperwash Crisis. Being a first cousin to Dudley George, a member of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation and an OPP officer, you can bet this was a very difficult time; however, he continued to persevere.

He was gifted a drum, intended for relationship building after the Ipperwash Crisis and he has proudly travelled far and wide drumming at pow wows, graduation ceremonies, and other events. He is counted on as the family's traditional leader, quick to share teachings, stories, songs, and ceremonies while keeping the Anishinabek ways alive.



From left: Former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, the family of the Late Joseph Endanawas-baa and Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare accept his Lifetime Achievement Award from Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe.

The Late Joseph Endanawas-baa – Sheshegwaning First Nation

From serving in the US Army to being Chief of his community, the Late Joseph Endanawas-baa accomplished so much during his lifetime and touched so many lives along the way. He was known as an Indigenous advocate and well respected Elder, keeping his culture at the forefront in the work that he did throughout his lifetime. A strong advocate for language preservation, he received accolades for his role as a Knowledge Keeper of traditional teachings.

The importance of education for Anishinaabe children was a guiding force throughout his life, leading him to many roles in the area, supporting the movement for Indigenous rights and education.

His presence was felt at the countless meetings and functions he participated in over the years, always helping to continue the work for the betterment of our First Nations.

His distinguished service has been an inspiration to many; he was a true Anishinaabe warrior.

We would like to say Chi-Miigwech to The Late Joseph Endanawas-baa of Sheshegwaning First Nation for his unwavering dedication to his community and the Anishinabek Nation as a whole.

Two Educator Excellence awards winners were also given to Jake King of Beausoleil First Nation and Nicole Abotossaway of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation. Anishinabek Education System Academic Achievement Award recipients were: Alyssa Desmoulin-Luce, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Dion Maness, Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Brant Twance, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.

Photos by Ryan Peplinskie.

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Youth Contest Winner

Bryce King-Robitaille from Beausoleil First Nation won the Anishinabek Nation Holiday Card Contest that was held in November.

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HELP US RECLAIM OUR HEALTH!

We need Health Transformation Working Group Members

The Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat is moving forward with a Health Transformation Initiative as directed by the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly. Each Anishinabek Nation Member First Nation is encouraged to send one or two representatives to attend our quarterly Working Group meetings.

This Working Group will comprise of members with various backgrounds and expertise who will assist in building a health system that is better aligned and more responsive to the health care needs of their citizens.

If interested, please email your First Nation's Chief and Council or Health Director or email Lisa Restoule-Brazier at Lisa.restoule@anishinabek.ca

  www.health-transformation.ca

Celebrating two Heroes in Health at this year's Anishinabek Nation Health Conference

NORTH BAY - Anishinabek Nation Health Director Jamie Restoule was on hand at the 9th Annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference to present the Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health Awards. The award is named after Tony Jocko-baa who worked tirelessly for the Anishinabek Nation as a Federal Health Policy Analyst.

"I am very happy to be here with you today to celebrate another successful Health Conference and to be a presenter to a couple of individuals who have exceeded their regular duties in their community in order to keep our citizens safe. Let's celebrate and honour those members in our territory who have stepped up and extended themselves to help others while keeping us safe during this difficult time," says Jamie Restoule, Anishinabek Nation Health Director.

Kim Generaux, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

Kim Genereux is an Anishinabek Health Care Navigator and serves seven First Nations on Manitoulin Island as well as off-reserve clients. Kim goes above and beyond for all of her clients, treating each one of them and their families as though they are her own family. Kim regularly visits both Island hospitals as well as Health Sciences North in Sudbury to meet with clients and their families to assist with hospital discharges and setting up community services. Kim is in regular contact with community health staff, partner agencies and community home-care agencies to coordinate care and services to maximize the success of each client staying in their homes for as long as possible. Kim empowers her clients to make their own decisions regarding their health and plans for care, and will sit with them for as long as it takes to fully explain and for her clients to comprehend their situation. She is available to clients and their families in the last hours of palliative care.

Kim is often on the road early morning well before her work time and is last to finally go home. Never going home until she is sure that everyone's needs have been acknowledged and take care of.

Recently, Kim and our community nurse worked on ensuring food security to our seven First Nations' Elder population. Kim took the lead and was able to partner with community staff to order and deliver freezers to areas where food could be held and delivered as needed. Kim also researched and worked with many companies to see what type of high-quality foods she could order. This was a huge undertaking and she did this as well and continued with her full-time job. It was just that important to her.

Kim is a strong advocate for the First Nation population and she is always working on transportation methods so that clients can get to appointments and pick up food.

Kim is compassionate, caring, wealth of knowledge, a caring friend, and passionate about her work on Manitoulin Island. Our Island communities would be lost without her assistance and direction.

Congratulations Kim on your Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health Award!

Kimberly Lalonde, Nipissing First Nation

Kimberly's remarkable two-decade long tenure with Nipissing First Nation Health Services is a testament to her unwavering dedication, compassionate service, and tireless commitment to promoting health and wellness for Nipissing citizens. She is indeed an exemplary candidate for this honour. Kimberly has held the role of Director of Health Services, where her leadership has been instrumental in advancing health services and initiatives for our community.

Her profound impact on the well-being of our community members is undeniable. Kimberly's integrity and leadership qualities are exemplary and she consistently goes the



From left: Kim Generaux from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and Kimberly Lalonde from Nipissing First Nation recipients of the Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health award during the Anishinabek Nation Health Conference on Oct. 18 in North Bay, Ont.

extra mile to provide care, attention, and support to those in need. One of Kimberly's most admirable attributes is her ability to establish connections with people, marked by empathy and understanding. Her approach to her responsibilities is steeped in compassion, ensuring that every individual feels valued and heard. This exceptional level of empathy fosters trust and security among those she serves. Kimberly's dedication to her role is a continuous source of inspiration. Through the years, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our community's well-being, especially in the face of a global pandemic. Her resilience and unwavering determination have provided hope and strength to Nipissing citizens during challenging times and her contributions have significantly impacted the overall health of our community. As a leader and mentor, Kimberly is truly remarkable. She has consistently

shown her dedication to nurturing and guiding those around her.

Her ability to provide unwavering support and advice has made her an invaluable confidant to many. Kimberly is a beacon of wisdom, always ready to provide guidance with a level of insight that instills confidence in others. Her commitment to supporting capacity development is evident through her tireless efforts to empower and uplift her team members. Most notably, her active listening skills stand out, as she listens attentively to the concerns and ideas of her colleagues, making them feel heard and valued. Kimberly's exceptional qualities, remarkable dedication, and outstanding service to our community exemplify the essence of the Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health Award.

Congratulations Kimberly on your Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health Award!

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome addressed at 9th annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference

By Jesse Johnson

NORTH BAY – Dr. Astrid Guttman, a general paediatrician and Senior Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children, and her team spoke about Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and leveraging community strengths to address prenatal opioid exposure at the 9th annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference on Oct. 18 in North Bay, Ont.

Prenatal opioid exposure and neonatal abstinence syndrome have had a big impact on First Nations. Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and Child-Bright Network are working together with 13 First Nations in the lower half of Ontario. This project came about when communities raised concerns about the health of school-aged children with prenatal opioid exposure.

The project's goal is to build strong relationships with First Nations while gathering and sharing community and culturally-specific information about the impacts of prenatal opioid exposure and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Opioids are drugs that are used primarily to treat pain. They can be attained by getting a prescription (Codeine, Fentanyl

patch, Morphine, Oxycodone, etc.) or non-prescription (Heroin, Fentanyl). Synthetic opioids can be 50-100 times more potent than morphine.

"Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an opioid crisis in Canada and a substantial increase in prenatal opioid exposure," says Dr. Guttman.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a withdrawal syndrome sometimes seen in babies of mothers who used opioids (prescribed or illicit) or were treated for opioid-use disorder during pregnancy.

"Developmental concerns seen in children exposed to opioids could be related to other prenatal exposures such as alcohol, as well as, the social issues that lead mothers to use opioids," she says.

She then spoke about the long-term impacts of prenatal opioid exposure.

"Recent research has shown that children born to mothers who use opioids during pregnancy can experience challenges related to prematurity at birth; behaviour problems; learning disabilities; mental health problems; speech and language problems, etc.," Dr. Guttman says. "There's no clear scientific

consensus on the extent to which prenatal opioid exposure solely explains these outcomes. Emerging clinical guidelines suggest enhanced developmental monitoring of children with prenatal opioid exposure."

She also shared some statistics about prenatal opioid exposure.

"10.2 per cent of babies born between 2013 and 2019 had prenatal opioid exposure," she says. "So that is 279 babies over a seven-year period. The percentage of babies with prenatal opioid exposure increased for the 13 First Nations between 2013 and 2015 and then decreased considerably thereafter."

She then spoke about the challenges babies could face while having prenatal opioid exposure.

"Compared to babies without prenatal opioid exposure were more likely to be born early (before 37 weeks gestation); need a higher level of care (neonatal intensive care unit); longer hospital stay (six vs three days); and, they could be removed from their mother's care at birth."

Dr. Guttman's team spoke about the support that comes from the community and its members.



Dr. Astrid Guttman and her team spoke about Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome during the 9th annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference on Oct. 18 in North Bay, Ont. - photo by Jesse Johnson

"Support comes from the passionate and strong people working to make positive changes; programs such as Healthy Babies Healthy Children; daycares; Jordan's Principle; and supportive community leaders," she says.

First Nations remain committed to protecting their Inherent and Treaty Rights

(October 20, 2023 – Toronto, ON) The Chiefs of Ontario released the following statement regarding the protection of First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights in the Ontario region:

First Nations in the Ontario region have long opposed Métis rights assertions in our Ancestral and Treaty territories. We remain committed to protecting First Nations Inherent and Treaty rights from groups making false claims to section 35 Aboriginal rights in First Nations territories.

First Nation Leadership have been raising concerns about the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) for well over a decade. Since the MNO’s inception, its assertions have become increasingly aggressive to the point where it is now having a deeply negative impact on First Nations. This can no longer be considered unintentional. The concerns of First Nations are being explicitly ignored and mischaracterized. The MNO’s claims continue to be littered by inaccuracies and falsehoods.

The Chiefs of Ontario do not recognize the MNO as a legitimate organization, and therefore will not engage in dialogue with them. It is not reasonable to ask First Nations to have a dialogue with a group that is not honest about who it represents or what its intentions are. President Froh’s request for dialogue at the 11th hour is not a genuine attempt to engage with First Nations. We will not engage in political theatre. We simply want to share the facts.

The MNO often points to the 2004 COO-MNO Political Protocol to make the point that First Nations and Métis in Ontario used to “work in close collaboration and with mutual respect.” The truth is, as soon as First Nations realized that the MNO was making false claims to Indigenous identity that were infringing on their rights and that those false claims are damaging to groups that have constitutional protections, they took steps to end that relationship.

In 2010, First Nation Leadership stated that “the MNO was using the Protocol in a manner not envisioned or intended when authorization was given to the Protocol. In particular, some Métis groups are asserting alleged rights that are in conflict with established First Nation Aboriginal and Treaty rights,” and ultimately recognized that “the protocol had not been effective in its stated purpose.”

At the November 2010 Special Chiefs Assembly, Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution 10/30, directing the Ontario Regional Chief to terminate the COO-MNO Political Protocol. On December 2, 2010, correspondence from Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse to MNO President Gary Lipinski terminated the Protocol (supporting documentation can be found and downloaded here).

The Chiefs of Ontario do not wish to re-establish this relationship, as the MNO continues to make troubling and unlawful assertions in our territories that are negative-

ly impacting our rights.

This is about land.

The MNO claims that its Métis Recognition and Self-Government Agreement, and Bill C-53, will have no impact on First Nations section 35 rights in Ontario and that neither have anything to do with Métis claims to land. This is not true.

Despite taking the public position that this legislation is “not about land,” the MNO is telling a very different story to its own members.[i] In fact, the MNO’s central focus is on advancing claims to lands within First Nations territories. This is one of the reasons Canada’s misguided enabling of MNO is an existential risk to First Nations in Ontario. Specifically:

MNO actively claims entitlement to “MNO lands” in Ontario covering “vast swaths of the province”, in the words of MNO’s President.[ii]

MNO’s “Prime Statement of Purpose” includes as one of its central objectives to “re-establish land and resource bases”.[iii]

MNO also passed resolutions about pursuing “Métis lands in Ontario” through litigation and other means.[iv]

MNO representatives have said that MNO’s “land claims and recognition of [MNO’s] right to land” is one of MNO’s biggest issues,[v] and MNO characterizes its 2017 Framework Agreement with Canada and Ontario as providing the basis to negotiate a modern-day treaty or land claims agreement.[vi]

MNO even admitted recently that the Agreement and Bill C-53 do in fact create a platform for MNO to its land claims,[vii] despite their attempts to downplay the impacts on First Nations of the legislation.

The false narrative MNO advances to support its claims is that there were historical “MNO communities” in Ontario prior to treaty, therefore claiming that MNO has equal claims to the lands in Ontario as First Nations have in Ontario. The communities represented by the MNO did not exist historically, therefore they cannot be entitled to the same rights as First Nations. The reality is the MNO is doing everything it can to undermine First Nations rights in order to secure economic benefits that they are not entitled to.

The “communities” represented by the MNO did not exist historically.

The six so-called “new historic Métis communities” in the Ontario region do not meet the legal criteria set out in *R. v Powley*. The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that in order for a “Métis community” to qualify as having section 35 rights, it must have:

Their own distinct language, culture, customs; and Family descendants living in a given geographic area for multiple generations prior to Effective European Control.

Academic research that examined the MNO’s own documentation (i.e., Verified Métis Family Line Assessment Documents) demonstrates that:

The MNO “Métis Root Ancestors”



and their descendants are not recorded as “Métis” in the “Métis community” prior to effective control;

The MNO “Métis Root Ancestors” are not primarily identified as “Métis” in the historical record; and

Many of the Métis Root Ancestors are never actually identified as Métis in the historical record.

An example of this found in the Robinson-Huron Waawiindamaagewin Report (“RHW Report”) is that the MNO consistently acknowledges in its Ethnicity Charts that many of the ancestors included in the Verified Métis Family Lines (“VMFL”) were never identified as “Métis” prior to Effective Control. The RHW Report highlights that 32 of the VMFLs explicitly document the first recorded case of a “Métis” ancestor in their lineage after Effective Control, suggesting that these families were never part of an already constituted community prior to the legal threshold of Effective Control.

This example is only one glimpse into why First Nations have serious concerns about the MNO’s claims that they “represent people who come from historic Métis communities”. What’s more concerning is that the MNO and Ontario refuse to provide the evidence that they claim supports the basis of the “identification” of the so-called “historic Métis communities”.

The MNO says it has an “independent” registry, but experts have shown that their registry is deeply flawed.

We continue to encourage the public and allies to read the academic research on this issue:

Robinson-Huron Waawiindamaagewin – An Exploratory Study of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s “Historic Métis Communities” in Robinson-Huron Treaty Territory

Wabun Tribal Council – The “Historic Abitibi-Inland Métis Community” – Final Report

Manitoba Métis Federation – Historic Métis Communities of Ontario: An Evaluation of Evidence

With regards to consultation processes, since the MNO’s so-called “new historic Métis communities” completely overlap with First Nations Ancestral and Treaty territories, we had the right to be consulted before their “identification” in 2017, and before Canada entered into an agreement with them that recognizes them as having Aboriginal rights (see a side-by-side of the map of First Nation Treaties and Métis “Traditional Harvesting Territories” in the Ontario region here).

MNO is using their false claims to demand resources and benefits in First Nations’ territories and for “deep” consultation on development (including development on First Nation reserve lands), by falsely claiming that almost everywhere in Ontario are “Métis lands.”

As the MNO does not have a land base in Ontario, the MNO should not and cannot be consulted on projects that affect land-based

rights. First Nations rights are land-based rights that are intrinsically tied to the land. Without land, those rights do not exist. The MNO should not be treated as rights-holders by governments, institutions, and industry proponents.

This is an issue that has been created by institutions and groups that have not done their homework or research into who the MNO is and is not.

First Nations in the Ontario region are not the only ones concerned about the MNO’s false claims.

Indigenous groups in all regions are aware of the growing spread of groups falsely claiming Métis or First Nation status on the basis of distant or misinterpreted ancestry. First Nations in the Ontario region support the legitimate claims of Indigenous Peoples, however, recognition of unfounded claims undermines legitimate inherent rights-holders.

The Chiefs of Ontario are not alone in opposing rights assertions made by groups falsely claiming Indigenous identity. Across the country, there is a growing concern about Indigenous identity fraud and the negative impacts this has on First Nations Inherent, Treaty, and Aboriginal rights. The MNO’s claim that there are only “some Chiefs” in Ontario who are opposing Bill C-53 is simply false. Even the Red River Métis dispute the MNO’s claims of the existence of so-called “historic Métis communities” in Ontario or an “independent” registry, calling them fraudulent.

Opposition to Bill C-53

First Nation Leadership strongly encourages the public and allies to educate themselves on this issue and call on your Member of Parliament to vote against the passing of Bill C-53. You can send a letter to your MP here. The Bill is currently under study by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (“INAN”), with the Committee accepting input in the form of briefs until November 17, 2023. It is absolutely critical that the perspective of First Nations be heard and taken seriously in Parliament’s consideration of this Bill. It is the legitimacy of our sacred rights that is at stake.

The protection of our rights is something First Nations have always taken seriously so that our Nations can benefit from those same rights for generations to come.

However, it is important to remember – this is not just a First Nations issue. This is an issue that will impact us all. This is manipulative, callous identity, rights, and land fraud. We all need to stand united against false claims because if we allow this to happen anywhere, it can happen everywhere.

To read more statements, news articles and academic research, visit <https://chiefs-of-ontario.org/priorities/justice/rights-assertions/>.

For more information, please contact Jackie Lombardi, Director of Justice, at jackie.lombardi@coo.org.

ANISHINAABE AADZIWIN NIIGAAN Z FORWARD

Anishinaabe Ch

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is founded on the principles of Traditional Government of the Anishinabek Nation, within the Four Territories.

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is proclaimed through ceremony by the Anishinabek Nation, who in exercising their Sovereign, Inherent, and Treaty Rights, recognize the Anishinabek Nation Government as their Traditional Government.

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is a commitment to establish laws, regulations, and policies for the protection and betterment of the Anishinabek Nation. Anishinaabe Giizhigad (Anishinaabe Day) is an annual celebration of Anishinabek sovereignty as recognized in the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin.

ANISHINAABE MIIKAAN

- **From Time Immemorial:** Anishinaabe Aadziwin
- **1763:** Royal Proclamation established treaty-making between Anishinabek and settlers
- **1876:** *Indian Act* enactment
- **1949:** Union of Ontario Indians incorporated
- **1980:** Anishinabek Declaration confirming Anishinaabe principles
- **1999:** Anishinabek commitment to traditional governance and ceremony

Read the full version of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin at [www.anishinabek.ca](#). The Anishinabek Nation is a political advocate for 39 member First Nations and is the oldest political organization in Ontario and Canada, established before first European contact.



MIN - THE WAY WE LIVE

ZHAAMIN

TOGETHER

Chi-Naaknigewin

of the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe and reflects the
Inherent, Traditional, Treaty, and Unceded Lands of

mony, by the Peoples identifying as the Anishinabek
y Rights, now establish and empower the Anishinabek

sh a traditional collective that will develop positions, laws,
abe People.

tion and supportive implementation of Anishinaabe
n .

- ROAD TO NATIONHOOD

- **2012:** Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin approved
- **2015:** Anishinabek Child, Youth, Family Well-Being Law approved
In-Principle by Grand Council
- **2018:** *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement Act* implemented
- **2022:** Inaugural Anishinaabe Giizhigad
- **2021:** Anishinaabemowin Strategic Plan supports Chi-Naaknigewin
- **2022:** *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act*
implemented

anishinabek.ca/governance/anishinaabe-chi-naaknigewin/
across Ontario, representing approximately 65,000 Anishinaabe citizens. The
trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long
ocean contact.



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BLANKET PHOTO BY LAURA BARRIOS

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Persevering with economic development objectives key to success

By Rick Garrick

SAULT STE. MARIE — Five Nations Energy Inc. CEO Pat Chilton stressed the importance of persevering with economic development objectives on the second day of the inaugural annual Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum 2023. Chilton highlighted how the three James Bay First Nations of Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Attawapiskat persevered with their concept of building a transmission line on the James Bay coast to get rid of diesel-operated generators in the communities even though the federal and provincial governments and Ontario Hydro said it was not possible during his keynote at the Forum, which was held by the Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Department from Oct. 24-26 at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre in Sault Ste. Marie.

“Thirty-seven times we were told, ‘It can’t be done’, ‘You’re not going to do it’ — but we kept going. Eventually, we got the financing in place, we had the engineers, we talked to a lot of lenders, we talked to Indian Affairs,” Chilton says. “Indian Affairs came on side eventually. We went through what they called the avoided cost funding model, that’s basically identifying what the cost would be for the next 25 years to operate those diesels in those communities and transport [fuel] and that type of thing. We weighed them against the environmental damage the diesels were doing in our communities, so they finally came on board and they gave the money that fronted the whole thing.”

Chilton says Fort Albany and Kashechewan were connected to the provincial power grid in 2001 by the Five Nations

Energy power line, and Attawapiskat was connected in 2002.

“It was quite a feat actually just doing that, there were a lot of naysayers,” Chilton says, noting that one woman stood up in a community meeting about the power line and told the men to leave so the women could talk. “An hour and 20 minutes later, they came out and said: ‘You’re going to build that line, it’s for the best for everybody. Then we can power up, we can do whatever we want with electricity, no more diesel, no more noise, no more pollution.’”

Chilton says they set up independent power authorities in the three communities to manage the power lines within the community.

“My (Five Nations Energy) board wants to make sure that our message gets out to encourage First Nations to be part of the energy industry to make things work for them,” Chilton says.

Chilton says one of the challenges they have to deal with is climate change and how it impacts the power line.

“We had one pole where the frost is coming out and pushed the pole up, and then it started to lean,” Chilton says. “There’s erosion problems, flooding problems.”

Chilton says they took over the former DeBeers Victor Diamond Mine power line that connected the mine to the provincial power grid near Fraserdale, which now provides them with a twin line to the provincial power grid.

“The good thing about twinning that line is that we had redundancy,” Chilton says. “We used to worry about if a pole went down or if there is some sort of major issue, our communities would lose power. The good



Pat Chilton, Five Nations Energy Inc. CEO, delivered the keynote presentation on Day 2 of the inaugural annual Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum held in Sault Ste. Marie from October 24-26. - Photo by Laura Barrios

thing about this is if we shut off one line, the other line is operational and everybody has power. Any power outages there on the coast for Five Nations Energy are measured basically in minutes, not hours, sometimes seconds.”

Chilton adds that the DeBeers power line includes a fibre-optic line up to Attawapiskat, which enables them to track outages and to provide fibre-optic services to the communities.

“It works out pretty good, fibre right to the homes, it helps with the healthcare system,” Chilton says, noting that they can provide tele-ophthalmology, tele-mammography, and other services through the fibre-optic line. “We even went so far as, and

we helped with this, purchasing a portable MRI, the only one of its kind in Canada right now.”

The Forum also featured keynote presentations by Mike Jacobs, co-chair at Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and CEO at Cambium Indigenous Professional Services, and Dawn Madahbee Leach, general manager at Waubetek Business Development Corporation and chair at the National Indigenous Economic Development Board, as well as Joint Venture, Funding EcDev, and Business Development panels; EcDev Foundations, Resource Development and Economic Opportunities in Energy presentations; Energy and Resource Roundtables; and Networking and Tradeshow plenaries.

Business Development Panel highlights Indigenous Tourism during economic development forum

By Rick Garrick

SAULT STE. MARIE — Emerging opportunities across multiple sectors were highlighted during the Business Development Panel presentation on Oct. 25 at the inaugural annual Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum 2023. The Forum was hosted by the Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Department from Oct. 24-26 at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., to showcase its initiatives and those of its member nations, provide actionable insights and calls to action, and highlight policies and funding opportunities from Ontario and Canada.

“Our approach ... has been about destination development, which then turned into business development,” says Luke Wassegijig, manager at Wikwemikong Tourism. “Hearing the presentation yesterday about telling our story, I wanted to make sure that we tell our story and tell our story through our lens because again, through colonialism, through Residential School, it’s important to know the work we do is about changing a

colonial narrative and we do it through Indigenous tourism.”

Wassegijig says their mission and vision has been to build a foundation for sustainable tourism development that will position Wiikwemkoong as a four-season destination.

“We’re doing that by developing quality market-ready products, services, and events that will support the growth of the Indigenous tourism on Manitoulin Island and Killarney,” Wassegijig says. “In this post-COVID world and post-Kamloops world, we have found so many domestic travellers that were looking for a genuine experience and really looking for a genuine way to reconcile, so what we did is started creating programs around that. With our experiential tourism programs, it’s absolutely not about commodifying our culture. For us, it’s about changing that colonial narrative, and changing that colonial narrative through Indigenous tourism is the best way of doing it because it’s an opportunity for you to tell your stories, it’s an opportunity for Indigenous youth to reclaim those stories, reclaim that culture, reclaim that language, and reclaim their connection to the

land.”

Steven Debassige, cultural integrity lead at Indigenous Tourism Ontario (ITO), says ITO is the province’s first and only dedicated Indigenous tourism organization that supports economic stability for communities through experiential tourism.

“As Luke pointed out, the opportunities are vast across not just Anishinabek Nation but across the province about being able to help support communities and businesses and entrepreneurs to share their stories, share their passions, and explain what it is we do as Anishinabek people and sharing that with the global population,” Debassige says, noting that ITO’s four pillars are cultural authenticity, marketing and branding, workforce development, and product development. “Every conference that we attend we try to bring someone within our member organization to help elevate their platform and share their experience with the audience.”

Jennifer King-Callon, Indigenous business advisor at ITO, says ITO has five business advisors located across the province who provide a range of programs and work-

shops.

“There are opportunities with being an ITO member — we have the opportunity to bring in film crews,” King-Callon says. “This specific picture is Ojibway Park in Garden River First Nation, they have done some wonderful work on the beachfront, the cabins, the park itself, as well as the trails. They have a beautiful medicine trail so we had the opportunity on October 1st to bring a very large crew through so they could tell their story back from the 1950s when they started their park right through to the opportunities they have today. This one specific picture will be coming out as a Destination Ontario marketing promotion.”

The Business Development Panel presentation also featured Kathy Mair, chief commissioner of the Six Nations Cannabis Commission, who spoke about the Six Nations Cannabis Control Law and Regulations, and Barry Payne, founder of Adirondack Technologies Furniture Inc., who spoke about assisting Indigenous organizations and communities on bidding on federal contracts and the procurement process.



Need help with identification

Do you have any information about these photos? All we know is that Jim Couchie guided ambassadors from various countries. We are hoping to identify some of the people in the photos. If you have any information, please email news@anishinabek.ca



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Blueberry Bannock



8 Servings



25-30

minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (250 mL) whole-wheat flour
- 1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (175 mL) fresh or frozen blueberries
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp (2 mL) ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp (0.5 mL) salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (125 mL) skim milk or milk alternative
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (125 mL) water
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) canola oil

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C).
2. In bowl, combine flours, blueberries, baking powder, cinnamon and salt.
3. Stir in milk, water and canola oil and, using hands, moisten all ingredients, handling dough as little as possible.
4. Turn dough out of bowl and place on lightly floured surface.
5. Using hands, form disc about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1 cm) thick and about 9 – 10 inches (22 – 25 cm) in diameter. If necessary, sprinkle with flour to keep dough from sticking. Cut into 8 wedges.
6. Place wedges on parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 15 – 20 minutes or until bannock is golden brown.

Information provided by Diabetes Program, Health Secretariat, Anishinabek Nation

www.anishinabek.ca





Anishinabek Nations are exercising First Nations' inherent right to take care of our children.

As the central coordinating body of the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System, Koganaawsawin continues to meet with and support all 39 member Nations in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.

Koganaawsawin also supports Anishinabek First Nations who have chosen to enact the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* within their communities.

To schedule a community engagement, contact:
Ronnie Teresinski, Prevention Services Coordinator
Email: ronnie.teresinski@anishinabek.ca



Negotiations

in Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being

The Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Negotiations Team is currently negotiating a main table tripartite self-government agreement, and supporting bilateral fiscal agreements with the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.

The main table continues to meet monthly, discussing pre-scheduled negotiation topics. Negotiators have also identified a need to hold topic-specific meetings for topics requiring in-depth discussion and/or legal analysis.

The supporting bilateral fiscal tables continue to meet monthly, discussing funding needs in child, youth, and family well-being. Fiscal Framework Consultation Meetings are also being conducted with the 22 Anishinabek First Nations implementing the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*.

Negotiation dates for all tables have been scheduled until mid-2024.

Contact: Katrina Langevin, Assistant Negotiator and Implementation Manager
Email: katrina.langevin@anishinabek.ca



Back row from left: Assembly of First Nations National Chiefs candidates – Reginald Bellerose, Dean Sayers, Cindy Woodhouse, Sheila North and David Pratt. Front row from left: Chippewas of Rama First Nation Chief Ted Williams, Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Chief Louis Kwissiw and Northern Superior Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy at Chiefs of Ontario Fall Assembly, Toronto, Ontario, November 21, 2023.



Heidi Whetung is a member of the Anishinabek Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council. - Photo supplied



NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun (Longfeather) is a member of the Anishinabek Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council. - Photo supplied



Aaron Bowerman is a member of the Anishinabek Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council. - Photo supplied

Anishinabek Nation welcomes new advisory council

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY - With the goal of bringing 2SLGBTQQIA+ voices to the political forefront, the Anishinabek Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council was formed. The Anishinabek Nation Advisory Councils comprise the Nation Council and are present to ensure that all members of the Anishinabek Nation receive representation, support, and have their voices brought to the table. There are four other Nation Advisory Councils currently active in addition to the 2SLGBTQQIA+ and they include: Kwewag (Women), Eshki-niigijig (Youth), Getzidjig (Elders), Niniwag (Men's). Nation Council members are available to hear citizens' concerns so that they may advocate for current issues and be the change Anishinabek citizens wish to see. The Nation Council has a monthly meeting with the Political Office to work collectively on goals. As well, each Advisory Council meets quarterly to work on respective goals and priorities.

There are currently three members on the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council: NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun, Heidi Whetung, and Aaron Bowerman.

NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun (Longfeather) is a member of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and lives

in the Dish With One Spoon Treaty Territory. NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun's father is from Aazhoodena (Kettle and Stony Point First Nation) and his mother is from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun is Anishinaabe Ojokwe, one of many terms used by the Two-Spirit community. NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun was raised by his mother Sylvia, an Indian Residential School Survivor. He is a survivor of the Federal Indian Day School system. NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun is a family member of the late land defender Dudley George and a proud aunty/uncle to 84 nieces and nephews. He works in the justice field and has worked with Indigenous people all of his life, both on and off-reserve. Personally and professionally, NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun has made presentations on Indigenous matters via local, provincial, national, and international platforms.

Heidi Whetung is an Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer for Curve Lake First Nation Government Services. In her previous employment with the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre, she held the title of Indigenous Mentor for 2SLGBTQQIA+ people of all ages where she spent over two years building this program, offering services such as mentoring, programming, ceremony, traditional teachings, cultural activities,

helping with name change, gender-affirming gear, as well as working with parents and clients. Some of the activities that she has been involved with include bringing Pride back to Curve Lake First Nation. Last year, Curve Lake First Nation held its third annual Pride parade with activities and learning. Three years earlier, the community raised its first-ever Pride flag at its Government Services Building, and it flies year-round to show inclusivity and acceptance in the community. Proudly, two years ago, Heidi had the privilege of bringing in the Pride flag during Grand Entry at its annual pow wow for the first time. Heidi has sat on panels at Trent University as a speaker at the Elder's Conference and was the keynote speaker at the KII-GA-DO-WAAK Earth Day Conference. Heidi believes that "We all belong in the circle, and when it comes to our culture, our ceremonies, and our language, that we must step away from the Western Society way of thinking and get back to accepting all our people for who they are and what their gifts are."

Aaron Bowerman identifies as an Anishinaabe Two-Spirit man born and raised in Sheguiandah First Nation on Manitoulin Island. Aaron has worked in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) for over 10 years sup-

porting various communities as a front-line harm reduction worker. Aaron is currently employed with the City of Toronto as an Indigenous Research Associate. Aaron is passionate about harm reduction, 2SLGBTQQIA+ issues, HIV/AIDS, and social determinants of health within Indigenous communities. Through these passions, Aaron has been able to support the community with youth programming, community relationship-building, peer support programs, capacity-building in harm reduction, street outreach, and housing/shelter support. Outside of his professional life, Aaron enjoys hiking, travelling, rock collecting, socializing with new people/friends, water sports, sewing/leatherwork, listening to Top 40 music, and playing with kittens. Aaron's core values include, respect, honesty, courage, and kindness.

The 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council is eager to hear the voices of 2SLGBTQQIA+ citizens of all ages within their regions. Currently, there is a vacancy within the Northern Superior Region. If you or someone that you know is interested in supporting this important work, please contact Brittney Meunier-Gauthier (Special Projects Coordinator): brittney.meunier-gauthier@anishinabek.ca

Michipicoten First Nation purchases Victoria Inn

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — Michipicoten First Nation and Naicatchewenin First Nation (Treaty #3), along with Morris Group Canada announced the purchase of the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre in Thunder Bay on Sept. 19 with a cultural ceremony, ribbon cutting and gala dinner. The two First Nations, who collectively own the majority of the hotel's shares, bought the hotel with Morris Group Canada this past April through their Naagaaniyang Limited Partnership with the shared vision of building capacity and economic momentum for Indigenous business in northwestern Ontario.

"We're very excited about this acquisition particularly because with this deal there's 80 per cent ownership by Indigenous people for Indigenous people, because a lot of our clientele are Indigenous," says Michipicoten First Nation Chief Patricia Tangie. "It's really wonderful to move away from natural resource extraction to other investments such as this."

Tangie says Michipicoten wants to participate in business ventures that can build capacity for the community and move them closer to financial independence.

"The benefits of this acquisition will be felt in our First Nations and in the Thunder Bay economy for generations to come," Tangie says. "I'm really honoured to be here at this place and time and I'm inviting my council to come and stand with me because I could not do any of this alone. It takes a team and these are a really important part of

our team as are our beautiful Elders and of course John Kim (Bell)."

Bell, business advisor and negotiator for Michipicoten, says the settlement of five significant impact benefit agreements enabled Michipicoten to be more financially independent.

"This hotel was for sale, it has tremendous business and it's a very positive success story for us, Michipicoten First Nation, and for all the owners," Bell says. "This hotel has several Indigenous groups that take most of the rooms throughout the year, and as a result of that it makes it a very secure investment because the rooms are filled — I think we have 97 per cent of filled rooms almost 365 days a year. The hotel was recently renovated in 2019 which made it a really attractive investment."

Naicatchewenin Chief Wayne Smith says his community looks forward to working on the joint investment with their partners, communities and supporters.

"This business collaboration is a strength-based approach to bring prosperity to our First Nations, and at the same time, grow the Thunder Bay economy," Smith says. "Business development is a way to generate employment and wealth so that we can address the critical infrastructure and social conditions facing our communities, and, in turn increase our self-sufficiency and wellness."

David Morris, chair of the Morris Group Canada, says the Morris Group has been working with local communities in the area



Michipicoten First Nation Chief Patricia Tangie prepares to cut the ribbon with David Morris, chair of the Morris Group Canada, and Naicatchewenin Chief Wayne Smith during the announcement of their purchase of the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre in Thunder Bay on Sept. 19 through the Naagaaniyang Limited Partnership.

for more than 10 years.

"This is a really big deal and really historical achievement to see a partnership like this where all the limited partner capital was brought in from the First Nations," Morris says. "I feel that having real good buy-in here locally with the First Nations is going to just further emphasize opportunities and make them keen as well to invest in Thunder Bay and keep seeing economic prosperity for everyone."

Fort William Chief Michele Solomon says it was a honour to acknowledge the purchase of the Victoria Inn by the three partners.

"It's really a testament to our people and

our communities and the strength and resilience and the amazing things that we can do if given the opportunity, but more importantly when we take the opportunities that are put in front of us," Solomon says. "So I really have to acknowledge Chief Smith and Chief Tangie and your councils for having the foresight and the courage to embark on this path in partnership with the Morris Group to lead your community into a better place in this way. I know there are lots of ways we do work in our communities to make things better for our people, but providing an economic path for our future generations is certainly something to be celebrated and honoured and acknowledged."

Federal Court decision a step towards justice for First Nations children and families

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (October 25, 2023) – Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe commends the recent Federal Court approval of the \$23.4 billion settlement agreement for First Nations children, youth, and families impacted by the federal government's discriminatory funding of child welfare services.

"Money can't undo the harm that has been caused by this systemic discrimination; however, financial restitution is the only compensation Canada can provide. This settlement agreement is a step towards justice for First Nations children and families," states Grand Council Chief Niganobe.

The recent Federal Court approval is the latest decision in a historic human rights case filed in 2007 by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations.

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) found the federal government willfully and recklessly discriminating against First Nations through the inequitable funding of child and family services and through failure to fully implement Jordan's Principle. Canada was immediately ordered to cease its discriminatory conduct.

"The Anishinabek Nation's approach to preventing this kind of discrimination is embedded within the organization," says

Anishinabek Nation Children's Commissioner Duke Peltier. "We've been entrusted to ensure we raise our children in the proper way — together with our families and communities."

In September 2019, the CHRT ordered Canada to provide \$40,000 in compensation to all First Nations children who were unnecessarily placed into out-of-home care from January 1, 2006, to a date that is to be determined by the CHRT. Parents or guardians of these children could also be eligible for compensation.

In addition to the \$23.4 billion settlement agreement for compensation, the Government of Canada also agreed to provide

an additional \$20 billion for "long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and a renewed approach to Jordan's Principle, in order to eliminate discrimination and to provide reform to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to prevent the discrimination from recurring".

"The Federal Court has approved a settlement agreement that First Nations children, youth, and families deserve," adds Grand Council Chief Niganobe. "As a meaningful act of reconciliation, we look forward to a formal apology from the Prime Minister and remain hopeful that Canada will continue to work with First Nations in achieving generational healing through reformation."

Anishinabek Nation kicks off Treaties Recognition Week with new public education resource

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (November 6, 2023) – Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe encourages everyone to take the time during the 8th annual Treaties Recognition Week to learn about treaties, including using the latest interactive learning tool: a wampum belt puzzle suitable for a classroom or for use with the family.

"Foundational knowledge on Treaties is an essential educational requirement for all people living in Ontario. I encourage everyone to celebrate our Treaty partnerships by dedicating time this week to learn about your

local treaties, territories, and the obligations we all carry within these agreements," states Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe.

Treaties Recognition Week is the first week of November every year. Treaties Recognition Week honours the importance of treaties and helps Ontarians learn more about treaty rights, relationships, and responsibilities. The education and awareness of treaties made with First Nations will help Canadian citizens understand their own obligations as subjects of treaty conditions in this country.

The day also marks the official launch of

the wampum belt puzzles; a new interactive learning tool available for purchase in three different sizes for various ages. The puzzle comes with an informational piece that introduces what a treaty is, as well as links to videos that explore treaties more in-depth.

"Miigwech to Education Without Borders for helping with a financial contribution to help get this puzzle project off the ground," says Grand Council Chief Niganobe. "Having partners like Education Without Borders allows the Anishinabek Nation to ensure hands-on learning resources are made available for all learners not only in a classroom

setting, but those who wish to continue with their learning journey at home."

The Anishinabek Nation is committed to supporting a clear and responsible understanding of the treaty relationship and will continue to observe Treaties Recognition Week from November 6-11 by sharing information and resources virtually through its social media channels and the Anishinabek News.

The wampum belt puzzles, along with other treaty-related learning resources, can be purchased through the order form or by contacting orders@anishinabek.ca



Presented by the
Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat



SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual **Anishinabek Nation Health Conference**

OCTOBER 22 - 24, 2024

Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

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