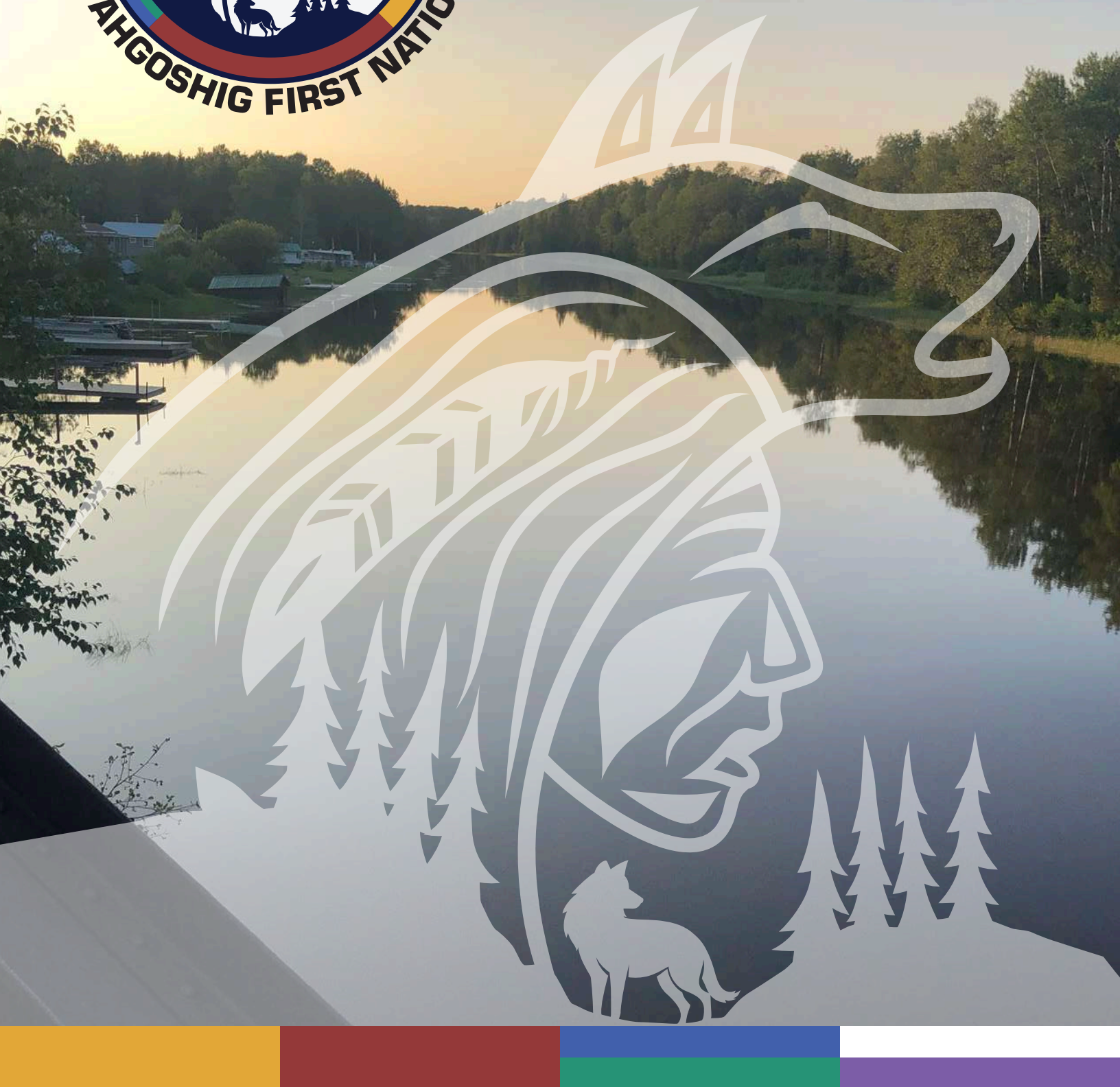




Apitipi Anicinapek General Assembly Report 2019-2020

March 26-27 | 2022





APITUPI ANICINAPEK GOVERNMENT CHIEF AND COUNCIL

Official Portfolios

Okima K8e June Black

Governance
Administration

Councillor David Babin

Lands and Resources
Community Development

Councillor Paul McKenzie

Economic Development
Finance

Councillor Rachel Chokomolin

Culture
Human Resources

Councillor Shawna Mallette-Collins

Education
Energy

Elder Councillor Betty Singer

Social Development

Youth Councillor Chelsea Tremblay

Health

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APITIPi ANICINAPEK VISION

PREAMBLE

Apitipi Anicinapek Vision for Seven Generations

The Apitipi Anicinapek achieves sovereignty wholistically and provides security in a self-sustaining way. We do this to support our sovereignty and the collective Algonquin Nations sovereignty for the next seven generations.

We, the Apitipi Anicinapek have the inherent right to govern ourselves; to pursue our own political, cultural, social, and economic development initiatives. We govern our own reserve lands and territory as responsible stewards.

We, the Apitipi Anicinapek govern our nation according to our own customs and laws.

We, Apitipi Anicinapek promote sustainable business development and the personal wealth, success, and fulfillment of our membership.

We, the Apitipi Anicinapek create and govern by our own political organization, history, language, economy, health and culture as a proud Apitipi Anishinapek people.

In summary, we, the Apitipi Anicinapek, having the authority of governance, govern these lands and territory by our design; we are entrusted as leaders with the authority to shape our future, maintain our sovereignty and prosperity moving forward. Our Chief and Council does so with the memory of our ancestors in mind, the spirit and intent of the responsibility to secure and protect our nation, our membership, lands, waters, air, laws, culture, health, wellbeing, education, history, and economy for the next seven generations. We are the caretakers of this sacred duty and include all other nations to join in our efforts to create a community that is all inclusive of human beings to respect and eliminate social justice issues stemming from colonialism such as race, gender, religion, and language. As a nation, we acknowledge our duty to the greater world as a whole with respect to the rights written under the Charter of the United Nations:

United Nations Preamble: We the People of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of a human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better of living in larger freedom.

Mik8etc.





HISTORY

K8e k8e! It is with great honor and pleasure that I provide historical Apitipi Anicinape knowledge. The purpose of this section is to inform you that I have been given the mandate in April 2021 to review the outer limits boundaries of the Apitipi Anicinapek. The following information is an overview of our history and traditional land use and occupancy which will help guide our journey as an Apitipi Anicinapek.

Portrait of Wahgoshig

Wahgoshig First Nation is part of the Anicinape Nation. It is politically affiliated with the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council in Quebec (AANTC, 2021) and the Political Territorial Organization, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in Ontario NAN. The Band is composed of a population of 234.

The Wahgoshig First Nation reserve [the community] originally known as the Abitibi Indians Reserve No.70 was created on June 1, 1906. It encompasses 19,239 acres; the north end meets the south shore of Abitibi Lake, which divides Northeastern Ontario

from Northwestern Quebec. The community is accessible from Highway 101. The units in the community have been built in 70 hectares of flat land adjacent to Blueberry Lake. On June 18, 1986, the Ontario Band officially changed its name to Wahgoshig First Nation (AANTC, 2022).

Lake Abitibi was the site of an important Hudson Bay Company Trading Post in the 18th Century since its closure in the mid 20th Century. The Abitibi Anicinapek, historically one band, are now composed of two communities. Wahgoshig (Ontario) and Pikogan (Quebec). The Hudson Bay Post mentioned above was located at a Point called Abitibi Matcite8eik located on the Quebec side of the lake.

Wahgoshig First Nation (WFN) is an Anicinape^[1] community whose members have lived since time immemorial on their traditional territory with a documented archaeological presence of 8,000 years on their traditional territory (Côté et al, 2002). They have been hunting and fishing in Northern Ontario from time immemorial. Since the earliest days of colonization their

rights to occupy and use their ancient lands have been recognized (Regina & Baptises, 1978).

The WFN territory is comprised of the lands and waters identified by WFN where they and their ancestors traditionally occupied and used that straddles a large segment of what is now Northeastern Ontario and Northwest Quebec. The community of Wahgoshig (Abitibi #70), a smaller component of the WFN Traditional Territory was created in 1906 through Treaty No.9, one of the historical treaties in Ontario, is situated in the District of Cochrane approximately 50 kilometers east of Matheson, Ontario and is accessible from Highway 101. The north end of the reserve meets the south shore of Abitibi Lake. WFN members speak Anicinapemo8in (Algonquin Anicinape), English (wakanacimowin) and/or French (Wemitikocimo8in). Historically, the WFN people were a nomadic group of hunter-gatherers.

As time passed, more and more First Nations located adjacent to WFN began encroaching and impeding on the Traditional Territory of WFN using the terms: “area of interest” or “area of concerns” to justify this encroachment. When verifying the current map of the traditional territory that Wahgoshig was using, we noticed that the outer limits of the said territory contained some deficiencies and errors in terms of the justification information used, which has led to the need and necessity to scientifically document through empirical scientific research and through elders and traditional territory users’ s testimonies the Traditional Territory of WFN to prove beyond a doubt the outer extents of the territorial boundaries of the Traditional Territory of WFN.

DEFINITIONS

Algonquian or Algonkian

The term Algonquian people used by early colonial researchers and for them it is a term

that covers the Montagnais (today, Innu, Line), the Naskapi, the Cree (today Eyob Eenou along the Quebec James Bay Coast and the Mushkegowuk along the Ontario James Bay Coast), the Ojibwa, Algonquin (today Anicinape), Têtes de Boule (other name given to the modern Atikamekw people), Penobscot, Micmac and Wabanaki (Speck, 1915). According to Rhodes and Todd (Rhodes et al, 1979) it refers to a group of different nations speaking similar dialects. Per example, the languages of the Subarctic Shields except for the northwest sector belongs to two of the branches of the Algonquian (āl’g k n) language family. The northern branch was the Cree, comprising the Montagnais (Innu, Innu), Naskapi and the southern branch, called Ojibwe.

Other well-known descriptions for the Algonquins (Anicinape) demonstrate the continuity of this territorial organization in the second half of the 19th century (Latulippe, 1902). These descriptions are identical in every respect to the descriptions reported by anthropologists who studied this territorial organization among the Algonkians at the beginning of the 20th century (Davidson 1926; Davidson, 1928; Frenette 1993; Jenkins 1939; Leroux et al. 2004; MacPherson 1930; McGee 1950; Moore 1982; Speck 1915a, 1915b, 1929 and more generally among the Algonkian nomads of the Subarctic and The Middle North (Speck and Eiseley, 1939).

Anicinape

Anicinape or in plural Anicinapek is the term used to refer to itself by members of the Algonquin/Anicinape people who live on either side of the Ottawa River and further north, around Lake Abitibi and the Harricana River. The members of the Ojibway people also refer to themselves as such but write it Anishinabeg^[2]. The plural of Anicinape is “Anicinapek.”

Some Anicinape and Ojibway communities use Anishnaabe or Anishnaabeg or Anishinabeg (Kistabish, 2021; Inksetter,





2017; Bousquet, 2016; Saint-Arnaud, 2009; Davidson, 1926). This group is also known as the Abitibi ánicenàbi (Davidson, 1926). Wahgoshig, however, because of its historical proximity to Pikogan uses the term Anicinape/ Anicinapek and it is this identifier that will be used in this section.

Apitipi Anicinapek

Refers to the original band members belonging to Apitipi^[9]. The term Anicinapek is used to mark the plural. These were eventually separated in 1906 and were known as the Abitibi Ontario Band for the Ontario group and Abitibi Dominion Band for the Quebec group. They changed their names to Wahgoshig First Nation for the first and the Abitibiwinni First Nation for the latter group.

Band

The band composed of various constituent families is an organized group which its cohesion being more traditional, habitual, and social is also of political nature. The political activities of a band concerned its relations with other bands in the country and by the resistance to the numerous invasions of certain other nations on their territory (Davidson, 1926).

Family Hunting Territories

A family hunting territory is the stem “anoki” in anicinapemowin may correspond to “wabanaki “alo’ke” [work] hence [the working land] (Davidson, 1926). Each family had its own family hunting territory (Cooper, 1939; Jenkins, 1939). When a man died, his land was passed on to his widow or eldest son (Davidson, 1926).

Traditional Territory

A Traditional Territory is the geographic area identified by a First Nation (modern day of saying a group of bands, a Nation) as the land they and/or their ancestors traditionally occupied and used (Wilson, 2018). The traditional Territory is comprised of several family hunting territories regrouped together that belong to a band.

METHODOLOGY - HOW WE COLLECT OUR KNOWLEDGE

The work herein is to delimitate the Traditional Territory of the people of Wahgoshig using existing written historical empirical data. This Research is identifying and analyzing different historical papers conducted by specialists from various academic backgrounds, including, but not limited to, anthropology, ethnology, archaeology, geography, etc. This research has also analyzed other non-scientific materials and documentation found in the course of this work.

ORIGIN OF THE ALGONKIANS, ALGONQUINS AND ANICINAPEK

For several decades the origin of the Algonquin was the subject of various interpretations, based on oral tradition, which testified to an occupation on the edge of the sea. (Frenette, 1988; Speck, 1929). Some authors have spoken of the Atlantic Ocean (Frenette, 1988; Couture, 1983; Quebec, 1984) and according to information obtained by (Day and Trigger, 1978) their occupation would be located further east in the St. Lawrence Valley before contact with Europeans.

In addition, ancient legends tell that the ancestors of the Algonkian Nations first occupied the territories located in the northwest of the continent. About 90% of them later migrated east from 1397 and occupied the territories we know today (Frenette, 1988:33; Wake, 1894)”. Other research indicates that for 500 A.D. (about 1,500 years ago) the valley was occupied by a cultural complexity identified by archaeologists as Algonkian. The occupation of this generalized cultural group of Algonquians extended from Quebec to northern Saskatchewan; their material culture, and probably their socio-political culture,

was distinct from that of the Iroquois people, Athapascan of the Plains and the Neighboring Mi'kmaq/Maliseet (Holmes, 1993, Vol. 1A: 2). The peoples identified as descendants of this Algonkian culture are the Chippewas, the Mississaugas, the Cree's, the Ojibway, the Algonquins Anicinapek proper, as well as the Innu (Montagnais) (Ibid, 1993, Vol. 1A: 2).

According to (Frenette, 1988) archaeological excavations conducted before 1988 show that the Anicinapek are descendants of the indigenous groups of the Archaic Shield. A little later, during the initial Silvicultural period, new populations from the south would have come to join them to give birth to the Laurellian culture, from which comes the ceramics recently found by archaeologists (Ibid, 1988).

The Anicinapek later centered part of their occupation on the Ottawa Valley and beyond the St. Lawrence Valley. However, it is unclear when exactly this migration took place. However, when Champlain arrived in 1613, he met the Anicinapek in and around the Ottawa Valley. The Algonquin Anicinapek had already occupied and controlled these territories for over 1000 years. (Frenette, 1988; Hessel, 1987)

The Anicinapek are known through time in different ways from different sources. The main synonyms of the Algonquins are:

- In 1603, at Tadoussac, Champlain is said to have heard Algonquins, Montagnais and Maliseet celebrate among themselves a victory against the Iroquois. The Maliseet nicknamed the Algonquins by the term "Elagomogwik" which means they are our relatives or our allies, of whom Champlain would have transcribed "Algoumequin". (Frenette, 1988; Day and al, 1978)
- In 1613: Algoumequin "they are our relatives or our allies" by Champlain.
- In 1632: Algonquain "they are our parents or our allies" by the Jesuits.
- In 1632: Aquannaque "nation of unknown language" by the Hurons.

- Atirotaks "tree eaters" by the Mohawks.
- Wesogonak "?" by the Abenaki.
- Omamiwininiwak "the people of the bottom of the river" by the Nipissings
Anicenabe "the real men" by the Algonquins (Frenette, 1988)

Other terms were identified a little later. This time, it is at the level of the specific bands located on the upper basin of the Ottawa River.

- In 1613, at the time of the French: Kitchesipirini (Allumette/Morrison's Island) by Champlain: Weskarini (Petite Nation, Lièvre, Rouge) by Champlain
- Kinouchepirini (Keeinoouche on the Ottawa river, downstream of the Allumette) by Champlain
- Matouweskarini (Madawaska River) by Champlain: Ottagoutowuemin (Ottawa, upstream of the Allumette) by Champlain
- In 1763: Arundacs (Algonquins and Nipissings) by S William Johnson (Holmes, 1993: Vol.1A)
- In 1659, known as the Outabitibek (the Abitibis) by the Jesuites
- In 1613, the Omamiwinini (Algonquins of Ontario: Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and al) by Champlain
- (Hanewick, 2009)

Around 1760: Omamiwininiwak (The people of the downstream, that is to say of the lower Outaouais basin) in reference to the Algonquins of Lac des Deux-Montagnes by the Nipissingues (Savoie et al, 2013)

In 1872: Wanawaians "the Indians of Lake Wanawaya (Longue-Pointe) by the missionaries"

In 1896: Matajan "?" (Longue-Pointe) " by a missionary (Savoie et al, 2013).

With our rich and vibrant culture and history, we are committed to continue our efforts in researching and sharing our Apitipi *Anicinapek knowledge for the next seven generations.*

Mik8etc,
Maurice J. Kistabish, M.A., 2022.





MESSAGE FROM OKIMA K8E JUNE BLACK

Responsible for Governance and Administration

K8e Kakina,

It is my honour to deliver the Chief and Council Apitipi Anicinapek General Meeting report to our membership regarding our community developments and achievements since elected in December 2020.

As the newly elected Okima of Apitipi Anicinapek, I have had the privilege and honour of working alongside the Council members of whom I have respect for their continued efforts in working towards the betterment of our community. We have dutifully pursued our community goals progressively despite the many obstacles we have faced during the worldwide pandemic.



I want to acknowledge the Council, administrative staff and frontline workers who did exceptional work to ensure the overall safety and wellbeing our children, families and Elders during this unprecedented time. We remain optimistic that we will continue to provide every possible relief and services moving forward.

Following are the list of achievements that have been guided under the Chief and Council leadership in 2020:

1. A “Transition Team” was created during the COVID Lockdown to ensure the safety of our membership
2. Maintained comfort and assurance during the pandemic.
3. Maintained open dialogue with government Indigenous Services Canada and intergovernmental agencies.
4. Implemented and monitored COVID health and safety protocols during provincial lockdowns - food baskets and food cards were available for community members affected by the pandemic.
5. Communications through digital literacy and implemented effective telecommuting/online work from home measures.
6. At the administration level, ensured interdepartmental communications.
7. Priority to the housing crisis: renovations and fire restorations
8. Lateral violence and kindness for administration and staff to co-create a flourishing inclusive environment to work in and most importantly in order to serve our community better.
9. MONETA - Ongoing mining and forestry discussions and negotiations. Initiating positive dialogue in the mining and forestry sectors.
10. Initiated dialogue regarding the development of a Apitipi Child Welfare Prevention.

11. Governance Training for the newly elected Band Council conducted by Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend (OKT) LLP. Law.
12. Collaboration of Truth and Reconciliation efforts with township of Black River Matheson and Iroquois Falls, Ontario.
13. The development of “Engagement and Consent Law” with the assistance of OKT law.
14. Elder’s appreciation ceremony

Our duty as the Chief and Council, with respect to our governance structure, intend to normalize the common practice of accountability, transparency, equity, equality and responsible ethics as the Apitipi Anicinapek sovereign government. We recognize our duty to respect our membership by strict adherence to our current Wahgoshig First Nation Governance and Custom Election Code. We are anticipating changes with respect to our governance strategy to embody the spirit and intent of the Apitipi Anicinapek community vision.

The Chief and Council will protect and secure Apitipi Anicinapek territory to maintain our sovereignty. We are experiencing a great number of mining and industry activities in Wahgoshig territory that demand our attention and action daily.

Employment, training, skills development, and mentorship is a priority for the Apitipi Anicinapek government. Our community membership requires the appropriate training, tools and equipment for our community for growth and development. We will provide sustainable employment through the recruitment and retention of qualified community members. The leadership is recruiting specialized services today to those who will mentor our next generation. The Apitipi Anicinapek training unit is utilizing an Indigenous community-based training approach. We will be working collaboratively and respectfully with our partners and stakeholders in the development and implementation of the training to employment program.

All our efforts as Chief and Council are guided by the traditional values rooted in our sacred lands of Apitipi Anicinapek ways of knowing and being. Let it be recorded in the history of the Apitipi Anicinapek that we are a strong and self-determined government that supports all our membership equally. In our path forward, we must continue to make our community a home for all members where we can all live prosperously, equitably, equally, and peacefully. We are a strong united community, and our work ahead demands the needs of our community be met by all of us. In closing, I wanted to share that it has been my pleasure to be of service to you and will continue to work hard to create a strong and sustainable community for the future generations to come.

Mik8etc to all those individuals who provided support during the pandemic for our community, we appreciate you very much.

All My Relations,



Ogima K8e June Black, 2022





CHIEF AND COUNCIL



Dave Babin - Deputy Chief

As the advocate for Lands and Resource and Community Development, Dave is responsible to ensure that the community's voice is heard within these two sectors of our government.

Greeting Membership!

"It is my pleasure to provide a brief update on my roles and responsibilities as an elected council member. I currently hold the portfolio for the Lands and Resources department and the Community Development portfolio and my mandate is to ensure that our community's best interest and voice is being heard within resource development sectors and within the community departments."

"I have the best interest of the community at heart when dealing with both external resource development and internal departments. When I accepted my Council role, I promised to work towards enhancing our community needs for the future of our children by sharing our traditional values and history so our members can raise their families in a good way. I also work with Chief Black and my fellow council members to ensure that we provide ongoing adequate and modern housing. It is my vision to have our families live a healthy and positive future for themselves and the future generations to come."

"I want our people to maintain our traditional values and history and to be proud of who we are." Councillor Dave Babin, 2022



Betty Singer - Elder Councillor

As the advocate for Social Development, Betty is responsible to ensure that the community's voice is heard within these two sectors of our government.

"Thank you for voting me into the position to represent our community Elders and advocate on behalf of our community. It is my responsibility to ensure our community has the best possible care and programs to ensure our future generations are safe from poverty, illness and injustice. As the Elder, I take pride in my role and responsibility and I will always advocate for our community's best interests.

My parents are William Sr. Singer and Helen Singer. I am the 9th child of an Algonquin aboriginal hunter, trapper and fisherman guide. Singers lived in Low Bush River and their trapline Snare Lake, Baker Lake for years. I am a residential school survivor and want to better my community for the good and for our future generations" Councillor Betty Singer, 2022.

"As the advocate for social development, I am making sure elders and everyone who is a member has a food supply funding" Councillor Betty Singer, 2022.



Chelsea Tremblay - Youth Councillor

As the advocate for Health, Chelsea is responsible to ensure that the community's voice is heard within these two sectors of our government.

"Upon election, my platform consists of the following goals:

1. Include all on and off band members - eliminate discrimination
2. Create an accessible park for all
3. Promote beautification projects
4. Increase access to therapy and counseling
5. Support and create Two Spirited/LGBTQ programming and access
6. Support community programs and activities
7. Create full/part time and seasonal employment for the youth
8. Establish a Daycare for everyone who really needs this service

As the advocate for youth, Youth councillor, I want to see the kids have a childhood with opportunities and places to have fun like recreational parks". Councillor Chelsea Tremblay, 2022.



Shawna Mallette-Collins - Councillor

As the advocate for education and energy, Shawna is responsible to ensure that the community's voice is heard within these two sectors of our government.

"First and foremost, I would like to say Thank You for believing in me and giving me another opportunity to represent us. I do have some explaining to do, our AGM is finally here! I have been anticipating the day I get to see where we are financially. We get a chance to sit amongst one another, enjoy each other's company, and share an old memory. If I may please understand that this meeting is the transparency of the daily operations to understand where Wahgoshig is sitting financially."

This is our Chief and Councils opportunity to be accountable to our membership.

My vision going forward is that WFN works towards filling the cracks, breaking stigmas, creating a system without fear, ending the division, and creating an overflow of opportunity for generations to come. Choose now to understand the importance of our Annual General Meeting" Councillor Shawna Mallette Collin, 2022.





Rachel Chokomolin - Culture and Human Resources

As the advocate for Culture and Human Resources, Rachel is responsible to ensure that the community’s voice is heard within these two sectors of our government.

“My spirit name is Beautiful Sun. I am a proud Indigenous woman and spent most my life living in the community. I have served the community in education, social work and youth work. I am a mother of three children and an auntie of plenty.

I plan to use my knowledge and experience of the community to voice concerns and create positive changes” Councillor Rachel Chokomolin, 2022.



Paul McKenzie - Economic Development and Finance

As the advocate for economic development and finance, Paul is responsible for to ensure that the community’s voice is heard within these two sectors of government.

“Greetings Membership!

Mik8etc for taking the time to come and participate in our AGM considering the many challenges we have faced with Covid. As an elected Councillor, I want to assure you that we have worked very hard to maintain the overall health and safety of our community while we continue to govern and manage the affairs of Wahgoshig First Nation.

As an elected Councillor, I have agreed to hold the portfolios of finance and economic development. I have been working hard with the department directors to ensure that we maintain financial accountability and continue to pursue economic development opportunities for Wahgoshig First Nation.

Again, Mik8etc, for your support and trust in me. Know that we all continue to work together to create and sustain our community for generations to come” Councillor Paul McKenzie, 2022.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APITUPI ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP

Greetings Wahgoshig First Nation Membership!

I am honored to provide an update from WFN's administration level. We are grateful to having an in-person Apitupi Annual membership meeting and we say Mik8etc to you all for your patience and understanding while we continue to deal with Covid-19 challenges. It is a priority to continue to provide a safe environment that protects the health and well-being of our employees and membership.

As done in the past years, we will be providing departmental annual reports for the period of December 2020 to present which also includes reports from the Chief & Council.

Currently, the Chief & Council continues to have ongoing meetings to ensure the First Nation's business and political affairs move in a timely, forward direction. We remain hopeful to continue to have regular in-person Chief & Council meetings by following our Covid-19 protocols. WFN departments and offices were closed during the initial Covid-19 lockdown with the Chief and the essential workers along with me providing emergency services. Upon re-opening of the administration office, we continued to follow our Covid-19 protocols until we were impacted with two (2) community outbreaks where we closed the office and had staff work from home.

Although these past couple of years proved and continues to be challenging and exhausting for WFN, we continue to work and operate to the best of our knowledge and abilities as an administrative team and Chief & Council. We are learning to live and deal with the challenges that Covid-19 pandemic brings to our small First Nation community. I have been working alongside the Chief and the pandemic emergency response team to help navigate through these new situations and have had to make difficult decisions and use all the public health tools available to avoid future lockdowns and contain the spread of the virus.

As directed by the Wahgoshig First Nation Chief & Council. My role and responsibility is to manage the delivery of government administration/operations/services:

Administration:

- Successfully managed support staff during the Covid-19
- Lateral Violence to Kindness workshops ran on two separate occasions for staff and Management
- Held staff and Director meetings

Health:

- Worked closely with the health director to ensure the ongoing management of the Covid-19 relief efforts
- Monitored youth and children's programs were ongoing through distanced programming





Community and Social Development:

- Social Programs delivered mental health care packages with craft items specific to the individuals receiving them.
- Emergency support was provided by administration during Covid-19 isolation

Human Resources:

- Supported the recruitment of staff during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Once again, I would like to recognize the outstanding work of the Pandemic Emergency Team and our health professionals, as they provide leadership in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis. It's during these times of crisis that one learns who can be counted on and our health professionals certainly demonstrate their commitment to the health and mental well-being of Wahgoshig community members.
- I trust you will find the Director departmental reports very informative as they have been working diligently to ensure to provide high quality programs and services to each of you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Tremblay
Interim Executive Director



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

Economic Development facilitates and supports economic opportunities for Wahgoshig First Nation. It looks to create and maintain revenue streams and business opportunities for the Band as an organization, and for the companies it owns, as well as foster and grow business opportunities and knowledge for community members. It works to contribute to a community that is economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally vibrant, independent and resilient. Economic Development strives to create diversity of opportunity, while embracing both traditional and contemporary knowledge and practices.

MANDATE

Economic Development contributes to a robust economy in Wahgoshig that is self-sustaining and sovereign, capable of supporting its own businesses and community. Diverse economic activity lessens the dependency on one revenue stream or industry and thereby contributes to Wahgoshig's self-determination. The stronger Wahgoshig's economy is, the more services there can be, and Wahgoshig will more fully control its future.

“Economic Development activities balance the needs of our community now, and for the future generations, while embracing the traditional and contemporary values for our members, as Wahgoshig works to be a visible leader, pathfinder and mentor to other First Nations.”

External Partnerships

The department has focused on getting WFN the appropriate conversations and making WFN presence known in economic development discussions and initiatives. Extensive networking and partnerships development with local, regional and provincial governments, tribal councils, municipalities, mines, and other First Nations, as well as political lobbying to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund and Corporation, Provincial Ministers, CEO's and leadership of local mining companies. EcDev also works closely with established consultants and institutions with Indigenous relations to provide the necessary resources for capacity building and business development planning.

Internal Partnerships

Ongoing working relationship with WRI for monitoring current projects as well as potential opportunities within the community such as community owned business initiatives.





KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

CERRC – Bioheat Stream

CERRC stands for Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities, and is a series of funding opportunities made available to communities through Natural Resources Canada. WFN was able to create a Biomass project from this program in 2018, and began with a feasibility study which was conducted to determine energy savings for WFN, if any. From this analysis, several buildings were identified for conversion from fossil fuel (propane or heating oil) to biomass energy.

Since that time, funding was secured to install a biomass boiler near the Firehall, and convert the Firehall, Ambulance Bay, Community Center and Elder's Complex to biomass energy. The project also includes the installation of a biomass processing center at the WRI site with a specialized tractor and chipper to efficiently turn logs into wood chips.

There are numerous benefits to this Bioheat Demonstration Project which include environmental, economic, workforce capacity development, and increased collaboration benefits which will benefit both Wahgoshig First Nation and the surrounding nature in general.

The project will become operational early 2022, and WFN will begin to see the cost savings benefits. Plans to expand the utility service to more of the Band buildings are in discussion which will optimize the cost benefits further.

WAHGOSHIG COMPANY UPDATES, AND HOW ECDEV HELPS THE COMMUNITY

Wahgoshig has several companies that conduct business in a myriad of different sectors. Diversifying our business portfolio will allow us flexibility, and help us to open up multiple channels of revenue so we are not reliant on one sector of the economy.

GAS STATION

Wahgoshig members have a self-operated fuel station available 24/7. Since late 2019, the Gas Station has been monitored and managed by WFN administration. EcDev believes there is much potential to grow this business and it is possible to hand this operation over to a community member who encompasses an ambitious business plan.

KISIS AKI INC.

Wahgoshig and Taykwa Tagamou Nation jointly own a 37.5% interest in the Cochrane Solar Projects. A company was formed through the business relationship called Kisis Aki Inc. Northland Power introduced a business venture to include Kisis Aki Inc. as a business partner of a 40MW solar project. The company in turn, began contributions to WFN and TTN in 2019. The contributions were not optimized in terms of a large loan debt with high interest rates arranged through Northland Power. In 2021, an opportunity to increase the amount of money available from these projects was agreed from refinancing of existing loans from Northland Power with cheaper financing from the First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA). In late 2021, an agreement was signed which will allow for four times the amount paid annually to Kisis Aki Inc., making this a significant business deal for the next 15 years of the project.

Operating History

Prior to the start of construction, Cochrane Solar conducted a feasibility study to determine a forecast of long-term production. Cochrane Solar has exceeded the availability expectations, which is a measure of the amount of time the projects are available to generate. However, output energy has been below initial expectations due to poor weather conditions and cloud-cover. Snow and ice on the solar panels became a large concern for achieving electricity output and since, the Northland Operations team has introduced a snow clearing production which has improved winter output.

WAHGOSHIG ENERGY LP (WELP)

A second solar project was invested back in 2019 through a partnership with Compass Energy Consultants. Wahgoshig Solar FIT 5 LP was created which have four 500 kWac/600 kWdc (2.4 MWdc total) solar projects, two sites in Parry Sound area, one in Tara and one in Drumbo. WELP owns 51% of the partnership with Jonathan Cheszes owning the other 49%. These projects were all built to their specifications despite the effects from supply chain and delays created by the pandemic. The project is managed by Compass Energy Consulting and we have now seen the benefits from one full year of operation since October 17, 2020.

NIIWIN

Partnership owned by WFN, Matachewan, Flying Post and Mattagami. This is a resource revenue monetary sharing benefit to WFN.

Community Engagement

Ongoing engagement with community members to encourage entrepreneurship and small businesses development. Through the pandemic, EcDev was able to capture funds for business Covid-19 relief and development. This funding assisted in the

creation of five new entrepreneurs, assisting support for existing businesses, providing resources for business planning and related studies.

There are many great talents within the community and EcDev encourages those individuals to investigate possible business opportunities. Resources are available to support the feasibility studies or business plans for start-ups, development and growth. EcDev is available at any time to discuss bringing ideas to a plan.

Services Economic Development Provides the Community

Ultimately, a small business and entrepreneurship is the responsibility of the owner. EcDev can help navigate the process and provide advice or resources, but the main driver of the business will be the owner. EcDev support can include:

- Assistance in finding available funds to support your business needs
- Education channels for small business owners and providing support for getting your business started
- Advice and resources for investigating new business opportunities
- Connecting individuals with skill development and learning opportunities to expand business knowledge





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

EcDev has assessed the community's readiness to successfully participate in economic development opportunities. Two studies which will provide the necessary support of our community entrepreneurs will be undertaken in the near future, an economic strategic plan will provide pathways in accomplishing the goals, through support of findings from the economic state of the Study.

1. Economic Research Study

This study will investigate the community spending habits both internally and externally of WFN. The research will initiate findings of feasible business ideas, and business growth of WFN entrepreneurs. Through proper planning and engagement, WFN will optimize the sectors of business partnerships within WFN to plan for economic development strategies. The study will assist community businesses, as well as the strategic plan for the community moving forward.

The Opportunity

- Identify market size of WFN to support a further feasibility study (eg. convenience store)
- Expand on feasible and successful economic opportunities
- Support community development opportunities
- Identify funding opportunities through which the recommendations from the study can be implemented

2. Economic Strategic Plan

A strategic plan assesses the current environment of your community, both internally and externally. It establishes future goals and targets and describes the strategies it will implement to reach them.

In other words, a business plan describes a current business or a specific new project. A strategic plan talks about how you want to change your community to grow or be ready for the future.

Strategic planning benefits for the whole community

- Focuses activity on the community's vision
- Empowers leadership to deliver on community's goals
- Provides employees vision and direction

An updated strategic plan is currently undergoing which will specifically provide a five-year plan including the vision of projects or investigation of opportunities, and a detailed economic development work plan. This document will be readily available by June 2022

It will be of focus to ensure economic development supports the building of entrepreneurs moving forward. This year we have seen the creation of exciting diverse ideas and start-ups

from our community entrepreneurs. These businesses will need support from the community as well, most goods and services are developed for the Wahgoshig community and also the local areas.

The pandemic has not allowed for these individuals to promote in person sales or promotion, which EcDev intends to support through WFN public events with intent to create awareness for a Wahgoshig marketplace and travel destination. Community engagement is more in need than ever as we incumbent our resilient nature through this time; by supporting our neighbors, families and friends. Development must begin with the community support of all to ensure the growth of our Nation economically and socially.

Training is an essential component to sustainable growth and retainment. The Skills Development Fund Program has allowed for capacity building of our peoples in diverse opportunities ranging from traditional skills to specific sector soft skills. We encourage you to take advantage of the program and inquire of any type of training you would like to attend, leading to a hobby, job creation, upskill for job growth, or event to deliver training of any sort. When we vision to become self-reliant and resilient, we must ensure that traditional practices are passed on to the next generations and further. Denyse Nadon has been leading the skills development program and she has provided her expert support and motivation to participants of the program.

Economic Development has focused on creating paths through the current barriers for development. Moving forward, we will investigate feasible plans:

1. To overcome infrastructure obstacles such as the need for higher energy to support large builds or more housing.
2. Higher internet speeds are also a priority to ensure development is available for all.
3. The pandemic has shown us the future of virtual practices through education, communication, and business development. The federal government has planned to deliver 50mbps connection to 95% of residences by 2026. WFN administration has investigated other opportunities to react and implement much higher internet speeds and much sooner than the government wishes.

EcDev is available to provide any insights or trade thoughts with any potential community member business idea or development plan. We also request community support to provide information for a better understanding of socioeconomic factors that support studies and development projects.

In closing, I want to thank you for allowing me to bring my expertise and knowledge to your community and it is always my pleasure to be of service to the Chief and Council and community. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Strategic Plan 2018, please email request to wfnedo@wahgoshigfirstnation.com.

Respectfully,

Jason Wong
Economic Development Officer





FINANCE (INCLUDING 2020-2021 AUDIT)

OVERVIEW

WFN's Finance Department ensures that accurate and efficient accounting records are kept, and this is known as our financial system.

The Finance Team is a relatively new group of personnel. We have had to overcome many issues due to Covid-19, but have managed to maintain consistency throughout the periods of lockdowns and stay at home orders through increasing on-line payments. Reducing the number of cheques was a key goal and we estimate that upwards of 90% of all payments are made online, while we are continuing to raise this number. This ensures that people get paid in a timely manner, with no delays. Also, cheques are now deposited without going to a bank which ensures that the monies received are deposited in a timely fashion.

The ultimate purpose of finance is to maximize the value of Wahgoshig First Nation Community through planning and implementing management procedures while balancing risk and sustainability. Wahgoshig First Nations' Financial resources come from Indigenous Service Canada (ISC), CMHC Housing, other governments funding agencies, and Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) with companies that have agreements to work on Wahgoshig's Territory.

Wahgoshig First Nation has put in place many procedures to increase our value as a community to allow for more funding opportunities. The following successful documents are now in place:

1. **Financial Administration Law (FAL) Approved** - good governance and finance practices in a law. This will be updated in 2022 and revised to coincide with the increased activity for WFN.
2. **Financial Management Board (FMB) Certification** - Ensures WFN members and other stakeholders the confidence that the First Nation is well-run, transparent and accountable. There will be testing for Phase 2 of this certification in 2022. This is to ensure these procedures are up to date and still actively in place.
3. **Financial Management Systems Certification (FMS)**
 - proves to Council, community members, lenders, business partners, and others that Wahgoshig uses good governance and finance practices as outlined in the Financial Administration Law (FAL)
 - also allows borrowing members (WFN) to remain in good standing with First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA), which provides low-interest loans

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

To keep our Financial Management Certification in good standings, WFN must provide Budgets and Financial Statements for approval as follows:

1. Q4 Yearly-Financial Budgets and Work Plans created by Department Heads, reviewed by Finance and Audit Committee, approved by Council
2. Q2 Yearly-Audited Financial Statements recommended for approval to Chief and Council by the Finance and Audit Committee, approved by Chief and Council
3. Ten Year Grant Finding (ISC) Indigenous Services Canada

We are in year three of the 10-year Grant Funding. We are in good standing with our reports being completed in a specified time limit. Additional funding due to Covid-19 has been distributed as food baskets, cleaning supplies, and other items needed for community members. These funds have also been used to assist with the Security Gate that was required to help maintain safety for community members. Funding was also used to allow employees to work from home to ensure the day to day operations of the First Nation remained intact. Covid-19 funds have been used in accordance with the guidelines set out by ISC.



NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

Re-establish a Finance and Audit Committee. This committee was dissolved before our time at Wahgoshig. Due to Covid-19 we have been unable to re-start this committee. One of the goals in 2021-2022 is to get this committee going again and find members to be active in it.

FINANCE – AUDIT

Wahgoshig First Nation's Finance department is responsible for ensuring that funds are being used appropriately and administered in a manner consistent with government guidelines, regulations and all relevant legislation. The Finance department ensures that WFN remains transparent and accountable to its Community and Funding Agencies. The Annual Consolidated Audited Statements for 2020-2021 and 2019-2020 are attached on the following pages.





CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION - ABITIBI RESERVE #70

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon - Year ended March 31, 2021

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of Wahgoshig First Nation - Abitibi Reserve #70 are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Chief and Council of the First Nation.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. Consolidated financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgments. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances, in order to ensure that the consolidated financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.

The First Nation maintains a system of internal accounting and administrative controls. Such systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and the First Nation's assets are appropriately accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The Chief and Council are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and are ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the consolidated financial statements.

The Chief and Council review the First Nation's consolidated financial statements and recommend their approval. The Chief and Council meet periodically to discuss and to review the annual report, the consolidated financial statements and the external auditors' report. The Chief and Council take this information into consideration when approving the consolidated financial statements for issuance to the Members. The Chief and Council also consider the engagement of the external auditors.

The consolidated financial statements have been audited by KPMG LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the First Nation.



 Chief



 Councillor

WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION - ABITIBI RESERVE #70

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Financial assets		
Restricted cash (note 3)	\$ 448,018	\$ 413,246
Cash	13,073,056	10,467,796
Accounts receivable	2,458,125	2,419,302
Consolidated revenue trust funds	403,709	398,699
Investments (note 2)	1,093,190	1,093,190
Due from Indigenous Services Canada	32,699	264,140
Advance to Wahgoshig Resources Limited Partnership (note 5)	144,000	144,000
Investment in government business enterprises (note 4)	2,490,537	2,604,828
	<u>20,143,334</u>	<u>17,805,201</u>
Financial liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,251,431	1,668,321
Deferred revenue (note 9)	1,297,947	1,568,768
Capital lease obligations (note 8)	-	47,827
Long-term debt (note 7)	8,535,316	8,145,232
	<u>12,084,694</u>	<u>11,430,148</u>
Net financial assets	8,058,640	6,375,053
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (note 6)	24,670,370	20,052,743
Prepaid expenses	146,981	98,886
	<u>24,817,351</u>	<u>20,151,629</u>
Contingencies (note 13)		
Accumulated surplus (note 11)	\$ 32,875,991	\$ 26,526,682


See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



Chief



Councillor



Councillor





WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION - ABITIBI RESERVE #70

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Annual surplus	\$ 6,349,309	\$ 2,459,754
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(5,654,223)	(2,653,019)
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	28,812
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	-	236,794
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,036,596	944,146
	1,731,682	1,016,287
Acquisition of prepaid expenses	(146,981)	(98,886)
Use of prepaid expenses	98,886	143,388
Change in net financial assets	1,683,587	1,060,789
Net financial assets, beginning of year	6,375,053	5,314,264
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ 8,058,640	\$ 6,375,053

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION - ABITIBI RESERVE #70

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Annual surplus	\$ 6,349,309	\$ 2,459,754
Adjustments for:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,036,596	944,146
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	28,612
Share of loss in government business enterprises (note 4)	581,056	307,944
Write-down of investments	-	3,347,384
	7,966,961	7,087,840
Change in non-cash working capital:		
Increase in accounts receivable	(38,823)	(544,320)
Decrease in due from Indigenous Services Canada	231,441	532,329
Increase (decrease) in prepaid expenses	(48,095)	44,502
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	583,110	319,178
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(270,821)	889,048
	8,423,773	8,328,577
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of capital lease obligations	(47,827)	(78,455)
Issuance of long-term debt	706,384	-
Principal repayment on long-term debt	(316,300)	(322,011)
	342,257	(400,466)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Consolidated revenue trust funds	(5,010)	(7,675)
Investment in Wahgoshig Energy Limited Partnership	(466,765)	-
Distribution from Little Fox Lodge Limited Partnership	-	1,297,411
Distribution from Niiwin Limited Partnership	-	100,000
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(5,654,223)	(2,653,019)
Decrease in investments	-	(1,363,637)
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	-	236,794
	(6,125,998)	(2,390,126)
Net increase in cash	2,640,032	5,537,985
Cash, beginning of year	10,881,042	5,343,057
Cash, end of year	\$ 13,521,074	\$ 10,881,042
Represented by:		
Restricted cash	\$ 448,018	\$ 413,246
Cash	13,073,056	10,467,796
	\$ 13,521,074	\$ 10,881,042

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.





SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND

April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

OVERVIEW

The vision of the Wahgoshig First Nation Skills Development Fund (WFN-SDF) program is to create a clear path to employment and business prosperity for Wahgoshig First Nation members. The spirit and intent are to create, maintain, and sustain ongoing strategic opportunities through the management, coordination, and monitoring of the training to employment plan.

The WFN-SDF program is to provide cultural mentorship, knowledge sharing, academic upgrading, advanced employee skills (upskilling), wholistic essential work readiness, life skills, pre-apprentice, apprenticeship, and job-specific training programs to enhance the skills of First Nation members so they are prepared to enter the workforce and in particular, the mining, forestry, hospitality, and health sectors.

Mandate

The mandate of the WFN-SDF program is to:

1. Promote, engage, recruit, and retain an Indigenous local workforce through the development of individual training plans, essential life skills training, career readiness, technical training, mandatory training and introduction to trades training and apprenticeships.
2. Build an Indigenous skilled workforce that meets the needs of WFN existing agreements (resource development employment opportunities)
3. To provide relevant training opportunities for WFN members to develop non-technical and confidence needed to achieve long-term rewarding employment and careers.
4. Encourage, promote, and enhance culturally and innovative opportunities for growth and success in a variety of career paths.

5. Support all WFN members – especially those facing barriers to fully participate in the labour market to enter, adapt and remain in a changing workforce by providing guidance on how to access other social programs to remove non-training related barriers (e.g. substance abuse, mental health, childcare)
6. Specific targeted efforts to engage the youth and women in the community.
7. To support existing Indigenous entrepreneurs and encourage the development of new Indigenous businesses and services.

Key Issues and Activities

Wahgoshig First Nation leadership realizes adequate and culturally appropriate training is essential to the overall health and well-being for its membership and is developing an “Indigenist Training to Employment Strategy” that will begin to address the short-term and long-term training needs of the community and its members.

Below is the list of the training initiatives that have been completed for the period August 2021 to date:

- Career Readiness: Guiding Circles Train the Trainer
- Entry Level Multi Process Welder
- Microsoft Office Skills Training (online)
- Career Fair and Trade Fair
- Indigenous Human Resource Training
- Land use planning (online) – three staff
- On-the Job Training - IT Technician
- Cake Decorating
- Employee Upskilling Training
- Note Taking
- Firefighter Safety Training
- Working at Heights & Chainsaw
- Biomass Training

- On-the-Job Training Initiatives
- Digital Mentorship
- Chimney Certification
- Reiki Training Level 1 & 2
- Heal Yourself Workshops
- Proposal and Grant Writing
- Language Program

Next Steps – Moving Forward

In 2021-2022, the Ontario Government put out a request for proposals for a 2nd round of the Skills Development Fund (SDF) program to support training initiatives and/or projects. The intent is to support the quickest path to employment opportunities, encourage partnerships to enhance development of a skilled workforce, support efforts to create innovative training ideas and solutions, and improve the capacity of communities to respond to labor market shocks. A proposal has been submitted with hopes of obtaining approval so we can continue to provide ongoing training to employment for WFN members.

The following new and continuing implementation training initiatives have been identified and proposed:

- Indigenist Training to Employment Strategy
- Holistic Essential Life Skills Program – Career Readiness
- Learning Assessment & Career Planning
- Career Fairs
- Land-Based Pre-Trades Training Program
- Possession Acquisition License (PAL) and Hunting Safety Training
- Creation of WFN Indigenous Learning Center in partnership with Education and Northern College
- Individual career assessments - i.e. Guiding Circles, Essential Skills Assessments.
- Literacy Assessments and Career Planning

HIGHLIGHTS

Guiding Circles: Career Readiness – Train-the-Trainer

Lorelei Matthews, Melanie Hamelin, Cheryl Tremblay, and Mary Black completed the Train-the-Trainer Certificate program. Should you require any guidance on working on your career goals or ideas, please feel free to reach out to the staff and they will certainly guide you on a journey to fulfilling your dreams. Congratulations to our new community trainers.

Community Engagement

Career Fair – October 20th, 2021

In October, WFN-SDF program hosted a one day career fair for Wahgoshig First Nation members to give them an opportunity to meet businesses who are actively recruiting for potential employees. It was also an opportunity for WFN's joint venture partners to visit the community and network with one another.

We had over a 100 people register and participate in the great event.

Individual Training

Matthew Brohm

Congratulations to Matthew who successfully completed a 10-week Entry Level Multi Process Welder where he had the opportunity to participate in a blended learning environment of theory and practical-based.

Matthew also did not miss one day of class and is now in the process of furthering his learning.

Matthew now has knowledge and skills in welding theory, trades math, welding symbols, blueprint reading, shop practices, welding processes and qualification records.





On-the-job Training

Christopher St. Germain

Shout out to Christopher St. Germain who has completed his Information Technology (IT) on-the-job training and is now Wahgoshig First Nation's IT coordinator. Congratulations Christoper and we value and appreciate all your hard work that you do for us everyday.

Employee Upskill Training

Mary Black

Excellent and amazing. We want to acknowledge Mary who is the receptionist at the Lands Office. Mary has been working diligently on training that will enhance and enrich her employability skills. She has successfully completed the following courses while working full-time:

Microsoft Office Skills

Note Taking

Guiding Circles: Career Readiness Certificate

Meegwetch Mary for all your hard work and dedication. We truly appreciate you!

In closing, the WFN-SDF program was initially challenged with Covid-19restrictions, however, since August 2021 there has been a great deal of momentum, awareness, and tremendous team effort to continue to offer the appropriate training to meet the needs of Wahgoshig First Nations' economy.

As stated, the vision of the WFN SDF training program is to rebuild an Indigenous training/learning space to engage all members of Wahgoshig First Nation. Our people are our most valuable asset and must be honored by providing adequate and meaningful training that will assist in the revitalization of Wahgoshig First Nation. It has been an honor to work for my community and I hope to continue to provide ongoing training initiatives in the coming year.

In the Spirit of Learning Together,

Denyse Nadon, B.Ed., M.Ed.
SDF Advisor/Mentor

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

October 2021 to March 31, 2022

OVERVIEW

WFN human resource department is committed to the fair selection and development of creating a diverse workforce by anticipating the changing needs of our growing workforce. We are committed to providing our employees a stable work environment with equal opportunity for learning and personal growth. Furthermore, to demonstrate and maintain a healthy work environment spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally.

HUMAN RESOURCE SHOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BY WHAT IT DOES BUT BY WHAT IT DELIVERS

MANDATE

- Partnering with managers and directors in strategy execution, helping to move forward from the business to the workforce
- Organizing, executing, and delivering administrative efficiency to ensure that costs are reduced while quality is maintained.
- Representing the employees' concerns to Senior management and at the same time working to increase employee contribution, that is employee's commitment to the organization and their ability to deliver results.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

- Establishment of Human Resource Hiring Committee
- Revision of Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual
- Recruiting priority members
- Embracing for Change
- Fostering a Cultural of Continuous Learning

- Monitoring Health and Safety of employees and the workplace
- 2020-2021 has seen skill shortages and disruptions in the workforce

MOVING FORWARD

- Development of Health and Safety Committee
- Employee Orientation and Health and Safety Training
- Continue to attract, build, engage and retain community talent
- Continue to monitor the learning and growth of the community through our own data base where we can better evaluate and train our employees and future opportunities.
- To continue to promote a safe and culturally appropriate working environment
- Maintain the employer and employee relations
- Continuous training and development opportunities.
- Maintain the updated human resource policies and procedures manual

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiring of Apitipi Child and Welfare staff – 9 positions
- Hiring of Lands and Resources Department – 2 positions
- Hiring of Clinic – 1 full-time Nurse
- Hiring of Choose Life – 2 positions
- Hiring of Transition Home – 2 positions
- Hiring of Administration – 6 positions
- Hiring of 4 laborers
- Development of Human Resource Hiring Committee
- Development of Draft Human Resource Policy and Procedure Manual
- Participated Career Fair





In closing, this is an exciting time for Wahgoshig First Nation in all aspects of the community growth, new housing, skills, and training and plenty of employment opportunities. Despite the last two years of covid restrictions, virtual learning and working at home Wahgoshig First Nation will continue to grow and prosper.

Thank you for the amazing opportunity I have been given as the new Human Resource Administrator since October 2021. I look forward to working hard for the leadership and community.

Sincerely,
Corinne Watters

CULTURAL DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

Wahgoshig First Nation Cultural Department has been initiated to enable best practices of the Apitipi Anicinapek ways of knowing and being. The Apitipi Anicinape people are unique and sovereign nation and respect and value our way of being. We strive to ensure that we adhere to our Indigenous ethics and traditional values and customs in our programs and services that we offer to our people. The Algonquin Cultural competency is a spirited part in the restoration of language, culture and tradition by honoring the original Apitipi Anicinape of Wahgoshig First Nation.

DEPARTMENT VISION

Our vision is the identity and preservation of the Apitipi Anicinapek Nation, in recognition of the history of its traditional roots by reclaiming their rightful responsibilities to the land. To enhance the quality of traditional and cultural learning at the community level for all its members, and to ensure that the traditional roles and responsibilities are embraced in the learning process.

DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

The objective is to aim towards revitalization through an Indigenous lens of Indigenous society by encouraging WFN members to be part of the restoration of their roles and responsibilities by:

- Providing cultural support at the community level
- Providing traditional land based activities and programming
- Revitalizing language and teachings
- Revitalize traditional parenting program
- Supporting all ceremonies on an ongoing basis
- Engaging all ages in the revitalization delivery process
- Providing cultural activities and programming at the community level
- Supporting the needs of historical influence
- Providing cultural support for school age children and youth
- Utilizing Elder's Knowledge and Knowledge Keepers in the delivery process
- Scheduling land base approach, planning of each Harvest season
- Fostering and preserving rites of passage

PROGRAMMING DELIVERY AND SERVICES (2021/2022)

- Pow-wow Grounds
- Community Round Dance
- Regalia Making
- Pow Wow Event
- National Chief Event, Cultural Support - Sweat-lodge Ceremonies
- Seasonal Harvesting & Feasts
- Algonquin language revitalization
- Sacred Fires/grief and loss
- Boys/Girls Drumming Program
- Holistic Wellness Gathering



- Pow wow Regalia Support Program
- Providing various traditional workshops
- Residential School Support (215+)
- Indigenous/Multiculturalism Day Celebrations - Traditional Reiki/Healing Delivery
- Orange Shirt Day Event
- Land Base Healing Program Delivery

Upcoming Programming and Services Deliveries (2022/2023)

- Traditional Parenting Program - Walking Out Ceremony
- Ending Violence towards Indigenous women Referral Program
- GreenHouse Traditional Medicine Program - Elders Cultural Support Program
- Cultural Staff Support Program - Land Base Detoxification Program
- ILC Heritage Language Funding Program

2022 Projects/Events:

- Wholistic Pre-Trades Training - Land Base Healing Project partnership with Skills Development Fund and Northern College
- CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA “Cultural Spaces in Indigenous Communities Project” (Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corp)
- WFN Cultural Days: Commemorative Day Event, Gov’ Pandemic Support for Front Line Covid
- Workers/Mini Pow-wow

As we begin to work into the new approach for program and service deliveries, the cultural department embarks on new relationships and builds newer foundations for community wellness. Meegwetch!

Respectfully,

Gerald Chum
Interim Traditional Knowledge Keeper





HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the housing and community development department is to work with Chief & Council, governments and partners in our region to ensure that we have affordable, suitable and adequate housing, that means building new homes, completing minor and major renovations.

The program is designed to ensure we have adequate housing for our on reserve community members. That the houses are safe and up to date with codes and compliance. From 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) has provided funding per year to improve First Nations on-reserve housing. First Nations can use these funds to build and renovate houses as well as contribute towards costs such as maintenance, insurance, debt servicing and the planning and management of a housing portfolio.

MANDATE

The mandate of the Housing and Community Development Department is to administer and manage a seamless and timely building and planning review and approvals process. Tightly coordinated efforts between departments will help to facilitate sound development and redevelopment in the community and to improve the quality of life for our people.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

Activities with Wahgoshig First Nation Housing and Community Development are developing and expanding our community. The following projects have been completed:

1. The 8-plex building which is a multi-living space that houses seven single bachelor units, one handicap accessible.
2. Education and Training Building
3. Three new houses going up, that will be ready by March 2022. Two of these homes are three bedrooms, one is a one bedroom.
4. Creating another road, to help accommodate our Fire Safety Plan. This will allow another safer route for the community to ever evacuate, if needed.
5. Hired a crew of labourers with the Fire Safety in our community, ensuring that the risks of bush fires spreading to our homes are decreased significantly.
6. On-going minor renovations are up to date, that goes for CMHC homes and band owned homes.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

- improvements and maintenance of all housing, infrastructure and public works
- creating proposals and business plans to get funding for community expansions
- creation and implementation of housing programs and policies available to Wahgoshig
- planning, scheduling, initiation and management of all capital projects
- planning and starting of training programs for interested band members
- creating and management of long term land use planning
- maintenance and monitoring of basic needs such as water, sewage, and garbage removal
- community beautification



Highlights

- Re-hired labor workers/public works
- Greg Edwards – maintenance/public works/water treatment plant assistant
- Firewood crew – provides wood to community, prioritizing single families and Elders
- New builds - two modulars (three bedroom) and one (one bedroom)
- Major renovations
- Received funding for Band owned unit renovations
- Fire safety program

Community Engagement

- general meeting, feed back to community development from community members are considered
- community garbage clean up
- volunteers

Individual Training

- Allison Paul – received training from Northern College
- Lorelei Matthews – Train the trainer in Guiding Circles

On-the-job Training

- Laborers – chainsaw, work at heights, WHMIS

In closing, Mik8etc for taking the time to review my annual report and if please feel free to reach out to me anytime,

Sincerely,

Lorelei Matthews,
Interim Housing and Community
Development Manager





HEALTH REPORT

MANDATE

The WFN Health Team provides health care services and programming to meet the needs of each WFN member from the following wholistic components: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The Team receives updated mandates from the Chief and Council from time to time and as emergencies occur. The WFN Health Team effectively delivers intervention, and prevention services.

OVERVIEW

Vision: Together, community members, leadership, staff, and the health department build a stable, sustainable, safe community, where Elders, adults and children live free from fear, free from want, and free from harm.

ACTIVITIES

The health department has been working with the Porcupine Health Unit regarding COVID19 to ensure that the community is safe throughout this pandemic.

The WFN Health Center received two rapid machines, four staff are trained to deliver a safe rapid testing to all who need it. During Covid outbreaks, we provided emergency services. All medical health issues are tended to through our staff. The crisis coordinator and the First Response Team would ensure the health and welfare of our community members, but those who had tested positive received support. We held vaccine clinics, and testing clinics as well as PCR testing in Matheson.

Health has been working on getting the new Choose Life building up and running, once ready most programming services within health will move over to this new improved

building. We will have a grand opening to show the building once completed.

We are a Team of dedicated hard-working individuals responsible for the health care needs of the community. Our services range from physical to mental health care needs.

Following services are provided through the Health Department:

- Public Health
- Immunization for all age, including COVID
- Education on Chronic disease management
- Homemaker services
- Personal support worker
- Booking appointment with various care providers
- Arranging, medical transportation and accommodation for medical appointments for both local and long distance.
- CPR/First Aid Training
- Wound Care
- Naloxone Distribution Center
- Mental Health Services
- NNADAP services
- Group Home
- Nursing Services
- Child and Family Services
- Family wellbeing
- Diabetic Care
- Meals on Wheels
- Healthy Babies-Health Children
- Education for Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)
- Wound care
- Home and Community Care
- COVID 19 Rapid Testing and Education
- Counseling Services

Next Steps – Moving Forward

Our overall goal in the coming year is to secure more funding and work towards building a new health clinic. To hire additional employees within the health department and obtain a weekend/after hour medical driver and to continue to host covid vaccine clinics and testing.

In closing, we are very proud to announce that we hired a full-time nurse, Lynn Carey who has been a tremendous asset to our team and especially for our people. Welcome to Wahgoshig First Nation Lynn.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lee Gagnon
Director of Health

CHOOSE LIFE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Choose Life is to ensure that no First Nation community would be denied programming funding that promotes the mental, emotional, and behavioral well-being of youth.

Mandate

The mandate of the Choose Life program is to:

- Provide healthy, constructive, and educational activities for the youth of Wahgoshig First Nation.
- Provide the youth with opportunities to reclaim their Culture, connection to the land, traditional knowledge, and traditional practices.
- Establish healthy, dependable relationships with the youth in order to provide a safe space.

Key Issues and Activities

The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused several shut-downs, and we've had to temporarily change the way we provide our youth with services.

When programming is permitted, the Choose Life staff works hard to provide as much programming as possible.

Breakfast and Lunch Program:

When operating without restrictions, the Breakfast Program provides youth with a positive start for their school days. The youth are offered a hot or cold breakfast and a bagged lunch to take with them to school. When programming is shut down and we are not able to provide any indoor or group activities, the Choose Life Staff prepares lunches and delivers them to the youth in need.

Revitalization of Cultural Practices for the youth and their families:

Choose Life has been partnering with the Cultural Department, local artisans and indigenous facilitators to provide the youth with cultural teachings to carry throughout their lives. The participants will be able to pass these teachings down to their own children when the time comes, assisting in the continuation of Indigenous Crafting and Indigenous Practices in our community.

Some of these teachings include:

- Regalia
- Pow Wow Dance Classes
- Moccasin Making
- Beading Feather Fans
- Sweat Lodges
- Mitt Making
- Bunting Bags
- Ribbon Skirts





Foraging and Harvesting Program:

The youth are taken out into the boreal forest to learn which plants can be used for medicines and food.

Some of the things that the youth have learned include:

- to identify edible mushrooms like chanterelles, lobster mushrooms, and morels
- to identify “wild asparagus” (young fireweed chutes)
- to prepare a cattail for eating
- to tap a birch tree for birch water
- to harvest raspberry leaves, Labrador, and goldenrod for teas
- to harvest fireweed flowers, plantain leaves, pine sap, balsam poplar buds, St. John’s Wort, and dandelions and turn them into medicinal salves that aid with a multitude of skin problems and sore muscles.

Social-Distancing Programming provided by Choose Life:

Choose Life has been delivering care packages to youth’s households that have included:

- art kits
- traditional medicines
- groceries
- back-to-school packages with Choose Life clothing, backpacks, and hats and mitts, rubber boots, and jackets

Family Challenges to get the youth learning, having fun, and playing outside:

- recipe challenges (baking with parents)
- snowman building contests
- pet photoshoot challenge
- building a fort outside challenge
- family game night challenge
- art contest (Every Child Matters themed)

In the Summers, Choose Life brings the youth out for:

- Swimming
- Fishing
- Boating
- Campfires
- ATV rides on the back roads

In the Winters, Choose Life brings the youth out for:

- Snowmobile rides
- Campfires
- Ice fishing
- Snaring
- Trapping
- Sliding

In the Spring, Choose Life will:

- continue the tradition of teaching the youth to build goose hunting blinds
- offer another Gun Safety Course
- partner with local artisans and elders to make tikinagans
- start a youth-led gardening project

In the Fall, Choose Life aims to:

- take youth moose hunting
- teach the youth how to process the moose hide
- teach the youth how to honor the moose by utilizing as much of his body as possible
- teach the youth to donate the meat and organs to elders, single mothers, and community members

Next Steps – Moving Forward

In 2022-2023, Choose Life aims to have more community member involvement, with parents and Elders teaching the youth valuable life skills like carpentry, mechanics, hunting, processing meat and hides/furs, fishing, trapping, traditional crafting, etc.

Once the pandemic has passed and people feel safe enough to gather again, Choose Life will provide consistent opportunities for the youth to be surrounded by their community members in good, healthy, safe, and fun ways.

Choose Life will be hosting another “Youth and Elders Gathering” in the summer of 2022, as long as the COVID-19 guidelines allow for it by then.

Highlights

- Pow Wow Dance Classes
- The Youth began learning the hoop dance, a grand entry, and the crow hop.

ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP

Choose Life worked with Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services to present an anti-bullying workshop for the youth of WFN.

Holistic Wellness Gathering - Shibastik

Choose Life partnered with the Culture Department to provide Youth Entertainment during Culture’s Holistic Wellness Gathering. The children took turns recording their rhymes on Shibastik’s equipment and then they were invited on stage during the concert.

Respectfully,

Kelsey Chokomolin
Choose Life Manager

INTERNET TECHNICIAN REPORT - I.T. SERVICES

OVERVIEW

The vision of the Wahgoshig First Nation I.T. Services program is to Maintain Systems and Build up our structure for our internet and Computer Systems and home Internet services for Wahgoshig First Nation members.

Mandate

The spirit and intent are to create, maintain, and sustain ongoing strategic opportunities through the I.T. Field and Web based development and help build a better future for Wahgoshig First Nation and one day have our own Fiber Line to have full access to our own Service provider .

The WFN-I.T. program is to provide Web and Internet Domains for the Offices and Home internet for Wahgoshig First Nation members.

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The key issues and activities of the WFN I.T. program is:

1. Provide a steady flow of traffic across the fiber channel.
2. Provide service for the Wahgoshig First Nation Domains (Offices).
3. Provide Wahgoshig First Nation with basic home internet services with all new routers that will be issued to the homes (they will have to be provisioned for strictly home use and off the corporate network.
4. Maintain network and backups of all networks in case of an emergency e.g. A switch goes down or someone hacks into the corporate network systems.
5. Targeting illegal outside activities





Next Steps – Moving Forward

Wahgoshig First Nation I.T. will remain to train and eventually WFN will be able to have their own ISP and maintain their own Networks and Domains.

- Maintain a viable Network
- Train People Onsite
- Move homes to new domain

Highlights

- Hire and on-the-job I.T. Technician training
- Microsoft Tech Network Essentials
- Mastering Microsoft Teams

In closing, I want to thank Wahgoshig First Nation for giving me the opportunity to come home to work in my community and to provide my expertise and knowledge.

Sincerely,
Christopher St.Germain

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OFFERED

OVERVIEW

The vision of the Wahgoshig First Nation Social Development Department is provide assistance to all WFN members in different programs being offered. Working within our First Nation and with outside agencies to overcome barriers of services.

1. **Ontario Works Program** – OW is a part-time delivery service that provides our low income families and individuals with basic needs and shelter costs. OW also provides a limited budget of Transitional Support/Discretionary Funds following the Ministry of Community & Child Social Services policy and guidelines for clients who are in need of emergency assistance with different areas such as moving costs, employment start-ups, and furniture, etc. Referral Services to outside agencies within our administration.
2. **Membership** – Every First Nation has a membership clerk that provides status cards updates, transfers, and maintains an up to date band list with phone numbers and address.
3. **Recreation Program (Adults/Elders)** – Our Recreation Program began in the spring of 2021. The main focus is to deliver healthy living workshops and activities to our adults and Elders in our community. We are working towards having our Elders and adults come together to share knowledge of the future with the next generation.
4. **Emergency Support Program** – The Emergency Support program is for all members of Wahgoshig who are experiencing difficult times and if all other avenues have been exhausted. A policy has been in place since March 2018 to ensure all band funds supporting this program are transparent and fair for all WFN members.

5. **Funeral Support Program** – Financial and referral to family support for members who have experienced loss in their family.
6. **Drivers License Program** – Financially assist all members to obtain a valid Ontario Drivers License G1, G2 and G's. This program is to help assist our members to be independent and obtain employment that requires a valid drivers license.
7. **Food Voucher Program** – Assisting our members in the community with the food voucher program, and in an emergency. Also, assisting all members with food security during the Covid-19 pandemic. Community Baskets for special holidays and including Covid-19 food baskets for the community happened to ensure our members were safe and had access to groceries when we experienced the province lockdowns.

Community Events

It was our pleasure to offer the following community events to our members:

1. **Elders Appreciation Event** – Fall 2021
In the fall, we had our first annual Elders appreciation event. Our team made this event special for our community Knowledge Keepers. The event had a delicious supper followed by a live band and bingo. Each Elder received a basket of goodies along with a diabetic friendly treat/fruit basket.
2. **Community food baskets** – Thanksgiving/Christmas/Easter 2021
In each house in the community were delivered food baskets to enjoy dinner with their families during these two special occasions.

3. **Spring cleaning/house decluttering activity**

During a time of the pandemic lockdown the Recreation had hosted an activity for everyone to spring clean and declutter their homes for a chance to win some prizes, there were approximately 16 homes that participated. This activity was to help our members mentally, physically and emotionally as the pandemic has been hard on everyone.

Next Steps – Moving Forward

In partnership with Economic Development, we have just begun the planning stages of creating a Community Food Bank utilizing the community garden for fresh produce, and creating employment for operations of these projects.

We are looking to start a partnership between WFN departments to have a community garden.

To continue the Basic teachings of Birch/Quill Art WorkShop with Kyle Sauve from Rama First Nation. This event with the adults and Elders along with a “Game Night Out” with supper and prizes. This will be a time for our Elders and adults to have some quality time together to share their stories, laugh and have a good time together.

Recreation has been planning an Elders Trip south this spring – Planning ongoing.

Sincerely,

Tina Lacourciere SSW
Director of Social Development





WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

“All Children are nurtured by our strong culture and traditions through our Elders and families, and our vibrant community. Every child has an opportunity for a quality early year learning experience which prepares them for success in school and life.”

OVERVIEW

Wahgoshig First Nation Education Department focuses on the holistic learning of our children in our community. We believe for a child to succeed they should be spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally balanced. It is with this holistic learning in mind that we create relationships with various departments in the community, so we can support our children, youth, and young adults in every step of their growth through education.

The WFN Education Department has provided mentoring within our partnership (JHK and IFSS) schools, and we have also provided mentoring for our students in post-secondary education. We have been very active in bringing about cultural awareness and events within the schools. We have done professional development with the administrators and staff at both schools to provide them with strategies on how to work with our children. Our cultural overseers at the school have played a very important part in making sure our students are heard and are successful in both school settings.

MANDATE

1. No child is left behind. It is our vision and mandate to ensure that every child, youth and adult is given an opportunity to a wholistic education.
2. We believe in taking part in negotiations and putting forth suggestions, to make sure the tuition of our children, youth and adults are covered 100% by the government of Canada.

3. We want every First Nation in the catchment area to have a say in the education of their community.
4. We want to make sure that financially we can sustain our own education programs in our community.
5. We want to make sure that all IBA monies allocated for education are used appropriately in the areas of early years, primary school, secondary and post-secondary education.
6. We want to make sure that students are covered 100% by INAC for their education in post-secondary.
7. We want to make sure that co-op programs are available for students to get experience in a job setting.
8. We want to make sure that our post-secondary students can work during the summer in their graduating program of choice, to get experience in their field.
9. We want to make sure that every decision we make, is just and righteous in nature.

EDUCATION SERVICES

Early Years (0-8) joint program with WFN Health

Elementary School (JHK)

Secondary School (IFSS)

Special Education Services (JHK/IFSS)

Post-Secondary Program (College/ University)

Adult Education Program (OSSD/ Certifications)

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES

The WFN education department recognizes that there are some flaws in the education system. We realize that we are underfunded when programs are run on reserve, compared to off reserve. Though this is unjust, we know that this is a limitation we face, and it can only be changed at the Federal level of government. However, this does not stop us for taking an active role in bringing these issues to the forefront during NAN and Chief of Ontario Meetings on education. Due to the issues we face, we make it a point to address it at board meetings and IPAC meetings. We also make it a point to bring it up at SEAC meetings about our children with learning needs. We make our voice known in every proposal we write, and in every tuition agreement we sign with the boards.

LIST OF POSITIVE INITIATIVES TO DATE

1. Education forum with the community
2. Professional Development for administration and staff at JHK and IFSS.
3. After school Sports program (IFSS) bus arrangements.
4. Open house
5. Early years programs with children and their parents.
6. Dual-Credit program
7. Co-op program post-Secondary
8. Community activities
9. Joint programming with departments
10. IPAC, SEAC Meetings
11. Graduation Incentives
12. Monthly Attendance Awards
13. Post-Secondary Awards

NEXT STEPS – MOVING FORWARD

We would like to hire as many community members as possible to work in our department. We would like to see members graduate with ECE degrees, financial degrees, teaching degrees and teacher assistant diplomas. To make this a possibility, we provided a work and study employment program, whereby a staff member could hold a coordinator position if they completed their degree in that area within a 3-year time frame. The goal of this program is to make sure that the staff in the WFN education department are qualified to hold the titles given to them and fairness of hire is given to all community members with the appropriate qualification. Rachel Chokomolin was the first person to be given the opportunity to be an early year's coordinator based on this program initiative. We are looking forward to her graduating with an ECE diploma.

COMMUNITY GRADUATES

2019 GRADUATES - Kindergarten 2019

- Avaleigha Black-Mallette
- Mary Chokomolin-Bush
- Aaliyah Mathews
- Lennox Sackaney
- Max Richard-Singer
- Rayne Yin

2020 GRADUATES - Kindergarten 2020

- Raylan Chokomolin-Bush
- Andy Mallette-Scott
- Scarlet Morris
- James Rickard-Singer
- Jaxon Rickard-Singer
- Silas Shortt

GRADE 8 GRADUATES

- Xavier Babin
- Tamara Ellison
- Carlie Lacourciere





ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA (OSSD)

- Aaron Chokomolin
- Joshua Diamond

POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES

- Daisy Belleavance – Intervention Techniques Program
- Mathew Brohm- Culinary Management Program
- Steven Ellison- Television Production Program
- Tina Lacourciere- Social Service Worker Program
- Tess Matthews- Associate of Science-Business
- Faith Racicot- Social Service Worker Program

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our highlight of the year is our trip to Edmonton and Banff. Our incentives to motivate our students to achieve their goals are for them to have an opportunity to explore other areas of interest and to see the beautiful scenery that our Country has to offer. The Conference was hosted by MacEwan University, Robbins Health Learning Centre. Various workshops were available, and in groups, we participated in attending. All went well; everyone participated. Then we were off to board the MAGICBUS Tour. With six stunning mountain ranges and the sweep of the Bow Valley laid out before us, views from the Sulphur Mountain summit are nothing short of breathtaking. And more to discover an inside state-of-the-art facility that enlightened our senses at every turn. Lake Louise was a hit for all to see, so spectacular, and the magic was there. 20 participants from WFN.

Respectfully,

Margaret M. Edwards.
Director of Education

PUBLIC WORKS: WATER

Greetings WFN membership!

It is with great pleasure and honor that I submit my Apitipi Annual General Meeting Report to you. I have been the Water Treatment Plant Operator since 2003 and I am proud to share that I have been promoted to the Public Works Department Director as of December 2021.

I am pleased to announce that the Water Treatment Plant is operating smoothly with both myself and Greg Edwards. Greg has his entry level and Class 1 operating license which is a requirement for WFN Water Plant.

Mandate

To ensure that we provide potable, safe drinking water to the community of Wahgoshig First Nation.

Highlights

The main highlights for the Water Treatment Plant are:

1. Upgrades are ongoing and near completion – fence, roof, shop, fuel tank for generator, barrier to protect overflow pipe, scada system installed (computer software)
2. Chlorine residual is tested and maintained daily to meet government standards
3. Two licenced water plant operators as of 2021
4. Training is ongoing to maintain operator license – ONFTC – ¼ training
5. Water samples sent out weekly to North Bay – ecoli
6. Upkeep of continuing education units
7. Purchased a work vehicle – September 2021

Moving Forward

1. To hire two summer students to provide younger people with knowledge of the Water Department
2. To obtain Community updated blueprints
3. Fix up the road to the North End
4. Continue to build a positive working relationship with WRI
5. Looking to install a larger reservoir
6. Exploring the option of providing fire suppression systems in all public buildings

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Edward Black
Public Works Director

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

Overview:

This department was created in October 2021. The purpose for this is to create a unified encompassing emergency services. These services include emergency medical first response, crisis support, fire prevention and safety as well as commercial building security.

Mandate:

Fire – We provide the following services:

- continuous monitoring for forest fires during the dry seasons to determine fire safety risks.
- residential fire support and educational information to the community of Wahgoshig First Nation.
- Recruitment and training for the volunteer fire team.

- We are currently working with Tech Services to have a brand new fire hall built that is big enough to house the current fire equipment, and fire truck with a brand new mini pumper truck that I acquired with the help of our CFO Rod Goulding.
- Regular maintenance of all equipment to ensure that it is fit for service as well as obtaining new up to date equipment.

Emergency First Response – We are here to help with Emergency medical response services within the community via 911 until paramedics arrive. This is a service provided through Health Canada. This training is brought in consistently every three years to provide us with recruitment opportunities and First Response advanced first aid certifications. We are responsible for the health and safety of all our patients as well as making sure that the emergency vehicle is stocked and fit for service.

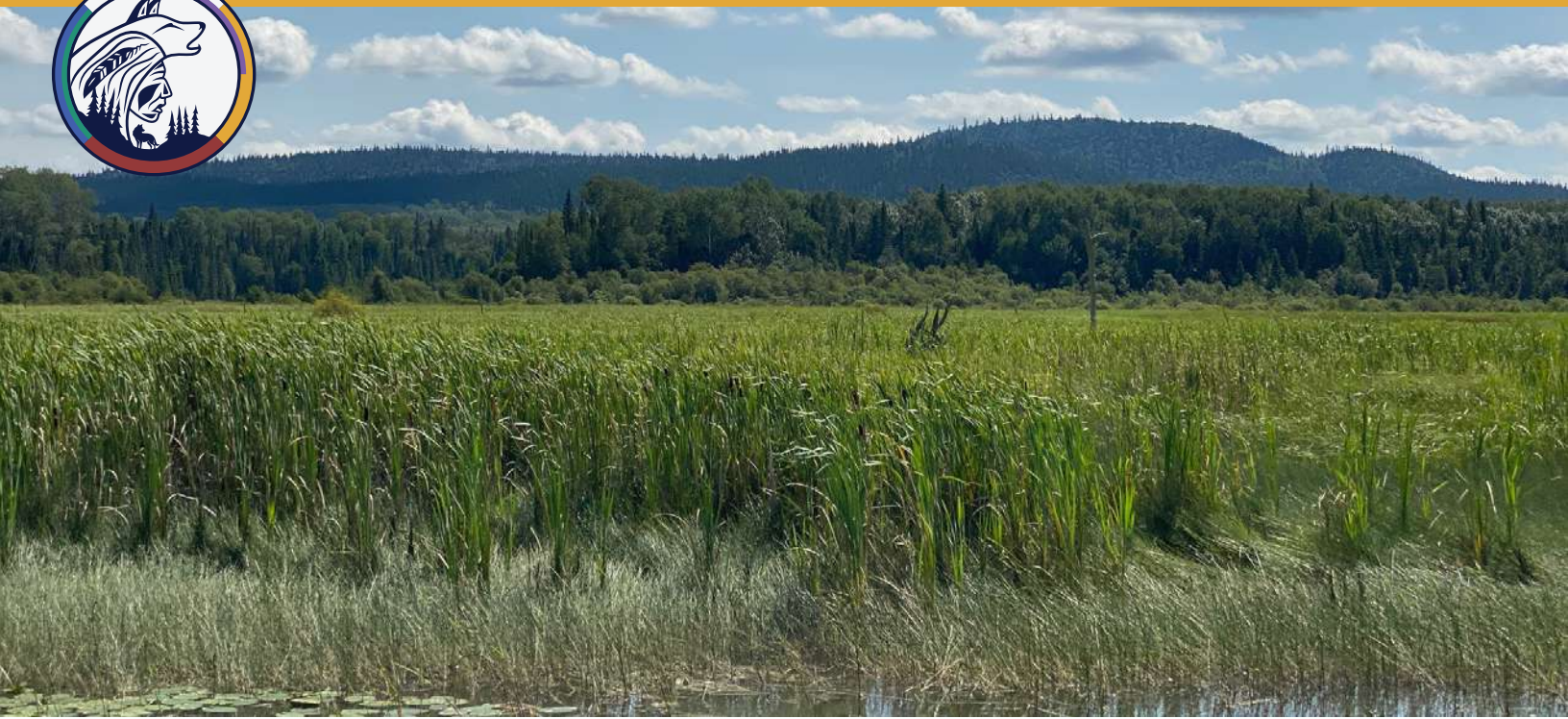
Crisis Support – The team provides recruitment, training and programming to build up our current crisis team so we can ensure the community has an active mental health support system. We make referrals when needed and actively follow up with clients to ensure that they are getting the emergency services they require.

Security – The security department ensures that all administration buildings are equipped with up to date and working security system panels and cameras to help protect Wahgoshigs internal assets, security of our information and respond to alarms.

Mik8etc,

Brian Tremblay
Emergency Response





LANDS AND RESOURCES

April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

OVERVIEW

The Lands and Resources Department is Wahgoshig's primary and focal point for preserving and safeguarding the land within our traditional territory. It ensures the good health of the land, Wahgoshig's ability to exercise its inherent and treaty rights, and the maintenance of a close relationship with the land now, and for future generations. Lands and Resources monitors land-use in Wahgoshig's Traditional Territory to ensure that any development is environmentally responsible and respectful of Wahgoshig's treaty and aboriginal rights. It also maintains data on Wahgoshig's historical and present land use through collaboration with archeologists and by recording oral history.

MANDATE

The inherent treaty rights of Wahgoshig and its members need to be represented. Lands and Resources helps to develop a

connection between industry proponents and Wahgoshig membership, ensuring Wahgoshig's rights and land are respected and protected.

KEY PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

MINING:

Agnico Eagle - Upper Beaver Gold Project

Lands and Resources has been actively involved on the Upper Beaver Gold Project since early 2015 and signed and advanced exploration agreement in July 2015. The Project is currently going through a Federal Impact Assessment where WFN members will have many opportunities to be consulted on the Project. Lands and Resources will make sure that you are aware of the opportunities to give your input on the Project during the Impact Assessment. In 2020 (before the Impact Assessment started) Lands and Resources reviewed a

number of advanced exploration permits for the Upper Beaver Project with support from our technical consultants from Shared Value Solutions. Lands and Resources identified a number of concerns on the advanced exploration activities Agnico Eagle is planning for the site, such as impacts to moose and the high concentrations of mercury in some of the waste rock at the mine.

Wahgoshig First Nation is party to an advanced exploration agreement with Agnico Eagle and Matachewan First Nation. In this agreement, we receive financial compensation for exploration work, benefits in employment & training, business opportunities during exploration activities, and mine development, amongst other provisions which are implemented through an Implementation Committee. Wahgoshig is currently waiting for negotiations to commence with Agnico Eagle towards an Impact Benefit Agreement and tentatively have April 2022 scheduled for resumed discussions.

The Impact Benefit Agreement discussions are important and a priority for Wahgoshig Membership and it is our intention to meaningfully consult with band membership on their support of the project.

Next Steps:

A merger has closed between Kirkland Lake Gold and Agnico Eagle, and the Lands and Resources Department will monitor the impact of this on our agreements and ongoing negotiations.

Kirkland Lake Gold (Macassa, Holt, Holloway and Taylor Mines)

Wahgoshig First Nation is party to an Impact Benefit Agreement that was signed in March 2017 along with Matachewan First Nation for Macassa and Taylor. We participate in regular implementation meetings and try to secure contracts for the Band entrepreneurs

and employment for Band Members. They are exploring this year close to the Holt and Holloway mines with a new drill program.

Next Steps:

They are going through a merger with Agnico Eagle, and we will monitor how this impacts staffing and implementation of the IBA. We continue to receive payments from Kirkland Lake Gold, and the new merged company will not affect the Impact Benefit Agreement.

Detour Gold – Kirkland Lake Gold - West Detour Project

The West Detour Project is an expansion of the existing Detour Mine and includes two additional open pits, new mine rock storage areas and a new pipeline to release treated mine water into Sunday Creek. In 2018, Wahgoshig First Nation re-negotiated the Impact benefit Agreement with Detour Gold to include the West Detour Project. In December 2020, Ontario approved the Provincial Environmental Assessment for the West Detour Expansion of the mine. Kirkland Lake Gold has been preparing permit applications to be able to build the West Detour expansion. Lands and Resources reviewed and continues to review and submit comments on the permit applications. The mine is changing hands, first to Kirkland Lake Gold in 2020 and recently to Agnico Eagle, where a merger will be completed between Kirkland Lake Gold and Agnico Eagle. The agreement WFN has in place will continue to be honored by all new owners. Issues being discussed at 2021 meetings included closure planning, the construction of a new airstrip, permits to take water and to remove trees, a dam safety review, and permits to compensate for loss of caribou habitat. We are working to ensure the community is better informed and able to participate in environmental initiatives - such as a Whitefish restocking initiative and Country foods study in 2022.





Next Steps:

Our IBA Coordinator has facilitated a consultation session at this year's Annual General Meeting with Agnico Eagle regarding Closure Plan Amendment 3 (CPA3) will be presented this year at our Annual General Meeting. Consultation regarding this has been challenging due to the existing COVID-19 crisis over the past two years, however, we felt it was necessary to include it in this year's AGM. We will continue implementing the Detour IBA with our enhanced budget and representing Wahgoshig on key issues related to environment, closure planning, consultation, jobs and contracts and business opportunities for Wahgoshig First Nation.

McEwen Mining – Black Fox Complex

Wahgoshig First Nation signed an Impact Benefit Agreement with Brigus Gold Corp in June 2011, now the site is owned by McEwen Mining. It is 27 km from our community. Wahgoshig First Nation benefits from contracts and jobs at this site and our two diamond drills owned by Black Diamond Drilling, have been working there for all of this fiscal year.

Next Steps:

We will meet with the management at McEwen Mining and continue the implementation of the IBA to secure more contracts and jobs.

Newmont: Porcupine Mines

Wahgoshig First Nation is part of a Resource Development Agreement (RDA) that was signed in November 2014 with three other First Nations. We continue to benefit from contracts through Niiwin Limited Partnership, which is owned equally by four First Nations: Wahgoshig, Flying Post, Mattagami and Matachewan.

Next Steps:

We will continue to participate on the board of directors of Niiwin General Partner Inc. and provide guidance on the operations at Porcupine Mines in Timmins and participate on the committees in the RDA and receive compensation.

Pan American Silver: Bell Creek Mine

Wahgoshig First Nation is party to an Impact Benefit Agreement with Pan American Silver signed in September 2016. We will continue to participate in receiving contracts and job opportunities.

Next Steps:

Lands and resources staff will reach out to Pan American Silver and continue with regular implementation meetings to secure the most out of the Impact Benefit Agreement and receive compensation.

Gatling Resources

Wahgoshig First Nation signed an exploration agreement with Gatling Resources on January 1, 2019. They are located west and south-west of Kirkland Lake, close to the Upper Beaver project owned by Agnico Eagle. They are a small exploration company, and we speak regularly to their representative about their drilling operations.

Next Steps:

Continue to liaise with Gatling and observe their progress. There is no pressing need to negotiate a new agreement at this time.

High Gold

We have successfully negotiated an exploration agreement with High Gold on the Munroe Croesus property (formerly Constantine Metal Resources who we had an exploration agreement with and expired

after ten years) providing Wahgoshig with enhanced provisions related to the project site due to its location in our Traditional Territory. Despite our on-going issues in negotiations and the project, we managed to negotiate a successful agreement with strong provisions that will protect our cultural and economic interests going forward. While allowing us to take advantage of the natural resource extraction industry to support our community and membership.

Next Steps:

Should the development of a mine advance towards advanced exploration, community consultation will begin and negotiations of a new agreement. We are also working with High Gold on the Golden Mile project closer to Timmins on a new exploration agreement. We will work closely with High Gold on the implementation of the Munroe Croesus exploration agreement.

Moneta Porcupine

We have recently amended our existing exploration agreement (January 2019) with Moneta to include the acquired mining claims O3 Mining Garrison (formerly Northern Gold) and allow them to continue their drilling program for the remainder of this year, with a feasibility study to follow in 2022, where at such time, we will update band membership.

Next Steps:

Moneta is located close to the Wahgoshig First Nation reserve, and they have recently expanded their proven and probable reserves and their inferred resources to a total of 8 million ounces of gold. As such, we will be initiating Impact Benefit Agreement negotiations with them in the 2022 fiscal year, and establishing open communications with key Wahgoshig Members about what areas of concern exist in the Moneta Porcupine claims.

Orefinders Resources Inc.

This is an exploration company located near Kirkland Lake and the operations of Kirkland Lake Gold and Agnico Eagle. We have begun discussions of an exploration agreement with this company.

Next Steps:

Conclude the negotiations of an exploration agreement in the 2022 fiscal year.

Victoria Gold Mines (Golden Arrow Project)

In December 2014, Wahgoshig First Nation signed an Impact Benefit Agreement with Victoria Gold. The mine is located 10 km south of Matheson. In 2021, Alamos Gold acquired the mine and is in the process of improving the resource and mining methods to start moving ore to the Young Davison mine near the town of Matachewan.

Next Steps:

Wahgoshig First Nation will work with Alamos to maximize the involvement of Wahgoshig First Nation on contracts and employment.

Exploration Companies in Traditional Territory

We are actively searching for and monitoring the exploration activity in Wahgoshig Territory with a number of companies identified for potential exploration agreements. It is our practice and mandate to pursue exploration opportunities with companies operating in our territory with a number already identified for 2022.





FISH & WILDLIFE

Fish Habitat Protection Workshop

Indigenous Habitat Participation Program:

In late 2020, Lands and Resources received funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to train interested community members on fish and fish habitat protection and environmental monitoring through a 3-day workshop. The workshop will take place in early Spring 2022. Members who complete the workshop will receive a recognized accreditation from Northern College, have access to Northern College's job-readiness program, and be well equipped to perform fisheries compliance monitoring for resource development projects in Wahgoshig's Traditional Territory.

LAND USE

Wahgoshig Land Use Plan:

Wahgoshig is starting to prepare a land use plan for the reserve. The land use plan will set out a long-term vision for land uses and infrastructure (houses, commercial areas, roads, utilities, cultural spaces, etc.) that will support future community growth. The planning process will involve discussions about what other lands should be added to the reserve to benefit our members. A planning team including a WFN Planning Coordinator, WFN Lands Advisory Committee and consulting team is being retained to lead this process. Funding and training is being provided through the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association (NALMA). The land use plan will be completed by the end of 2022.

Wikwatciwin acitc onakotamowin Inakonikewin

(Engagement and Consent Law)

In early 2021, WFN working with internal and external advisors embarked on revising and updating the previous Consultation

and Accommodation Policy and created an Engagement and Consent Law. Once endorsed by Council and the community, this Law will provide direction to industry and other governments about how WFN must be engaged on projects and activities that impact WFN inherent and Treaty rights. A complementary toolkit that will be used internally by WFN staff will support implementation of this Law.

FORESTRY

Romeo Malette, Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc. and Abitibi River Forest Management Inc. Forestry:

Lands and Resources will continue to participate in, plan and obtain benefits from contracts, sub-contracting, and more timber allotments for Wahgoshig Resources Inc. (WRI) and Black Diamond Forestry (BDF).

OTHER LANDS AND RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

Although the Environmental Coordinator position remained vacant throughout 2021, the Lands & Resources Department were able to address consultation requests on a wide number of resource development projects in the territory including the Munroe Lake Subdivision, Wasamac Gold Project, Gazoduq Project, Custom concrete, Ontario EA Act amendments, IAMGOLD Côté Gold, Newmont TLU Study, KLG Macasa/Holloway, NextGen Study, values mapping, Trevor Concrete, Rogers cell tower, Alexandra Bridge Replacement, forestry herbicide spraying and others.

Thanks,

Mike Guillemette, AACI, P.App, Dipl. M.A.A., DULE

Director, Lands & Resources



MIK8ETC, THANK YOU, MERCI

This report is brought to you by the representatives of our government, the Chief and Council with the help of our entire administration.

Thank you for your engagement in our Apitipi Anicinapek General Assembly Report meeting and taking the time to review our important achievements as a community. As the Chief and Council, it is very important that we carry out our roles and responsibilities and uphold our oaths to our community. We expect to work hard and provide the community access to the best possible services and outcomes our community deserves for the next seven generations.

With our clear mandates given by the community, the community is now tasked with the opportunity today to voice concerns in a good way and to advocate as to how our mandates can be improved. The community is now tasked with the opportunity today to voice concerns and to advocate as to how our mandates can improve. It is our history and where we are from that require us to preserve and protect our land, our environment, and community vision. Voicing our common interests and hopes are what guides all of us moving forward.

Mik8etc.





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