

JULY 2021

GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION NEWS

Updates from Council and Program Managers



Aboriginal Head Start

In case you haven't heard, our new facility located just down the road is nearing completion and we couldn't be more excited to host an open house and show you the spectacular building! The walls are bare so we will be looking for suggestions on how you see them decorated and filled. The outdoor play space will continue to be a work in progress but will not delay our grand opening.

Over the past year, since COVID hit we have been operating only during times deemed safe for the children and staff. During any closure you will see our staff helping with food delivery and distribution, shuttling members, gate security and any other task set out. We will be gathering more activities to distribute to our families during closures as we know it is hard to keep the little ones busy.

While we are open we couldn't be more happy to see our friends smiles and hear their laughter, the continue to be strong and brave during these uneasy times (see our staff on page 3).

OVERVIEW:

- Aboriginal Head Start Message from Council
- Ontario Works Programming
- Progress in Finance!!
- Celebrating our Grads
- Health Director Update
- Human Resources Update
- Education Update
- Lands & Resources Update
- Housing and Operations & Maintenance Update
- Greenstone Project Update from Implementation Coordinator



MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL



Boozhoo! Health and greetings from beautiful Ginoogaming First Nation. It's been almost a year and a half since COVID-19 began impacting all of our lives—we've had to stay home and refrain from the gatherings we know so well. Some of us have had our loved ones become ill and sadly pass away from this virus. We are now getting over the third wave of the pandemic and with the vaccination clinics well under way, we hope to have some of the restrictions we have been under slowly lift.

We wanted to provide an update to the community on the work that has been done throughout the year during the pandemic, provide you with a financial report, update on some programs and services, and highlight our students and their accomplishments with finishing their respective programs throughout a difficult year.

In recent weeks, we have all seen on the news and social media the recent discoveries of unmarked graves of children as young as three (3) years of age at the former residential school in Kamloops, BC and Cowessess First Nation, Saskatchewan. This is devastating and disheartening but not surprising to many of us. Our families have had to endure so much trauma, injustices and hardships over the year, and today we offer our sincere condolences and sympathies to those families. We are going to mark July 1 as an awareness day for those children that never made it home, we will be honouring our residential school survivors, and having a ceremony out at our Turtle Monument that day, we hope those that are in Ginoogaming First Nation can join us.

Lastly, but always at our forefront, we must also remember our late Chief Celia Echum whom we lost during the start of the pandemic. As a Council, we appreciate the time we had with her. Until we meet again - ahpii miiniwah gawabamiikoo.

Ontario Works Programming

Easter Baskets

Lisa Echum and Priscilla Fisher ordered ready-made Easter Baskets online from a business owner in Hearst. They also delivered Easter Baskets right to our First Nation. The social team worked together in preparing a list of all children and youth names. New born babies - grade 5 received Easter Baskets and grade 6 - high school received gift bags. Gift bags included pizza voucher, popcorn, pop, chips and chocolate. The social team delivered all baskets and gift bags to each home, very successful event.

Food Security

We also delivered food to band members on and off reserve 3 times during the month of May 2021. This is a lot of work unloading boxes

from the delivery truck, filling up the boxes, then carrying out boxes to vehicles and delivering to each home. Our plan is to start hiring members to help us carry boxes as long as we provide a ride for them to deliver.



Homemakers

Dan Leinwand (Senior Policy Advisor for Ministry of Health) was emailed on May 18, 2021 in regards to more increase with the homemakers program. He



said it will take awhile to pass information to another analyst who has the final say. Vanessa and Elizabeth prepared a list of names on reserve that we know is in need of homemaker services. Vanessa printed out all the forms needed for the service.

Employment Assistance Program

Vanessa and Elizabeth went around the community to look for workers. Unfortunately, challenges were experienced and they were only able to fill 3 of the 6 positions. Workers were given employment start up.

GINOOGAMING ABORIGINAL HEAD START AMAZING TEAM IS

- Shelley Franceschini – Supervisor, Registered Early Childhood Educator
- Charla Charles – Family Outreach/Assistant Supervisor
- Gina Dore – Registered Early Childhood Educator
- Christina Taylor – Registered Early Childhood Educator
- Debra Loney – Registered Early Childhood Educator
- Tanya McCraw – Teacher's Assistant
- Kayla Loevoet – Teacher's Assistant
- Darlene Brizard – Cook
- Margaret Winn - Housekeeper



Ontario Works Programming Continued

Employment Experience Program

Two workers will be paid through this program, they will be an Instructor/Trainer and a Supervisor.

These workers will be ordering material/supplies for youth cabin and upgrades on healing lodge and bleachers for Ginoogaming Powwow Grounds. We are in the process of ordering a brand new generator for Ontario Works Employment Program.

Ontario Works

We ordered appliances and furniture for clients in need and gave out cleaning supplies and whatever groceries that they are short of throughout the month.



Progress in Finance!!

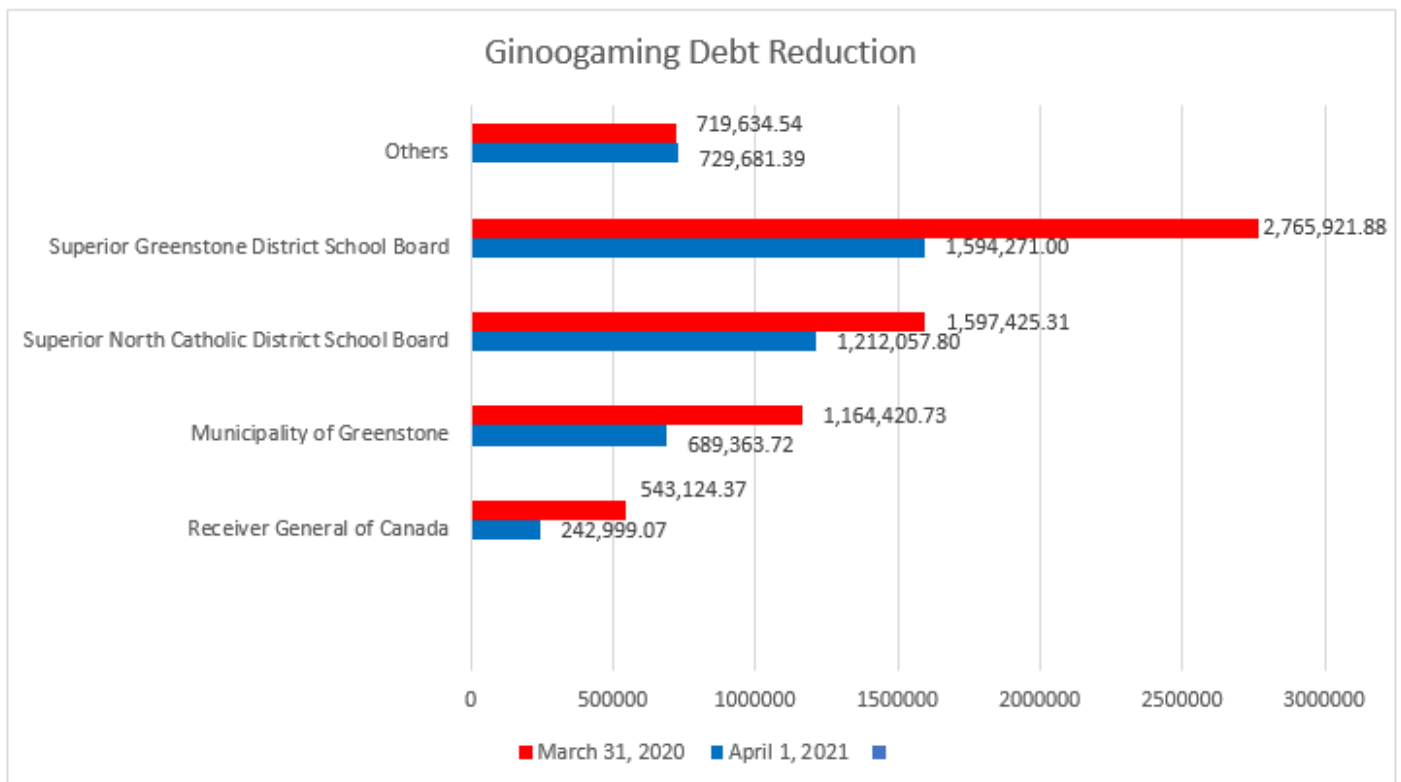
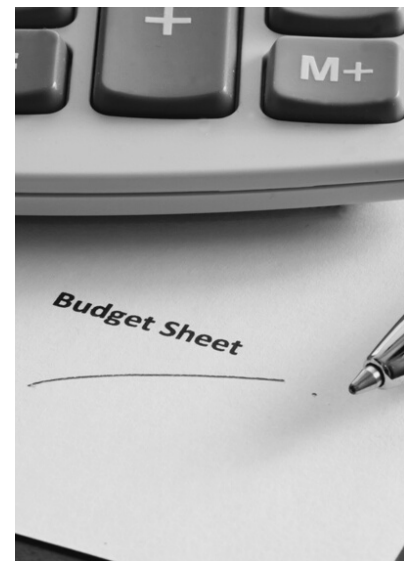
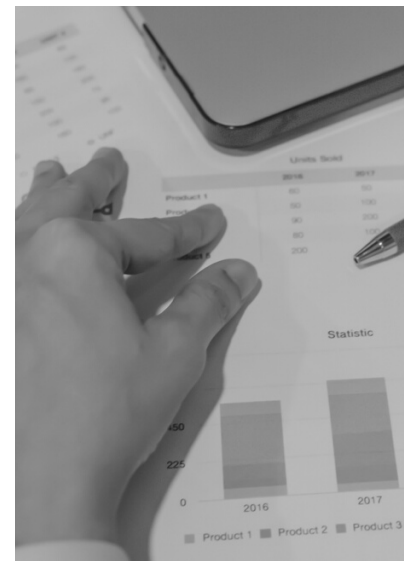
We wanted to report to the community all the strides Council and management have made in the past year. Along with the pandemic, the First Nation was dealing with the following struggles:

- a huge amount of debt that had built up during the previous few years
- issues related to the lack of reporting to funders had constricted cashflow and made it difficult to operate on a day-to-day basis, and apply for new funding for new projects

Debt

The First Nation had payables in the amount of 6.7 million dollars at the end of March 2020. In the past year the Council has been able to reduce this by approximately \$2,300,000.

Vendor Name	April 1, 2021	March 31, 2020	Debt reduction
Receiver General of Canada	242,999.07	543,124.37	300,125.30
Municipality of Greenstone	689,363.72	1,164,420.73	475,057.01
Superior North Catholic District School Board	1,212,057.80	1,597,425.31	385,367.51
Superior Greenstone District School Board	1,594,271.00	2,765,921.88	1,171,650.88
Others	729,681.39	719,634.54	(10,046.85)
	4,468,372.98	6,790,526.83	2,322,153.85



The First Nation has been able to pay down this debt by applying for additional funding dollars and by completing outstanding reporting to recover held funding from funding agencies. The Council and band management are working to further reduce the debt by seeking new funding sources and negotiating with vendors.

Reporting

- At the beginning of the period the First Nation had last filed it's audit for 2017 - this lack of reporting over the prior 4 years considerably hampered the First Nation in applying for funding, or managing it's finances
- In the past year the First Nation has completed our 2018 audit, and will soon complete 2019
- By next year, we hope to be fully caught up

The membership has done a phenomenal job of pulling together to support one another during the pandemic. Doing so, has allowed the administration and council to address many issues:

- Ensuring members had adequate food and cleaning supplies during lockdown
- Addressing the education needs of members by coordinating with the school boards to ensure access to course materials for those who did not have access to online learning
- Finally settle the ongoing dispute with Long Lake #58 over the former School Board
- Get New Headstart Building Project back on track with completion expected in late Spring 2021

What else we're working on...

- Working with the First Nations Financial Management Board - it is a default management prevention pilot project to do capacity development, develop policy and procedures in finance, financial law, development of finance and audit committee etc.
- Housing, both renovations and the new builds
- Health benefits program for staff
- Addressing required renovations to the training centre and the band office
- Application for Feasibility Study/Seeking funding to build a Safehouse/Transition Centre
- Continued Treaty Negotiations for the Land Claim
- Creating a baseball diamond for the community
- Studies to address the drainage issues in the community
- Repairs of pumps and building a battery backup system
- Healing Camp
- Starlink satellite internet connections for the community
- More supports for families in crisis regarding child and family services. Creation of Band Representative Services office in Ginoogaming
- Repatriation of responsibility over child and family services – creation of own Child and Family Services Law



Celebrating Our Graduates!



CADENCE GEGWETCH



Grade 12 Graduate - GCHS



TIMOTHY TAYLOR



Grade 8 Graduate - MM



ROBBIE JO MENDOWEGAN



Grade 8 Graduate - MM



NATHANIEL SHAGANASH



**Grade 12 Graduate -
Manitowadge High School**



**CELESTE WESLEY
GRADE 8 GRADUATE - OLOF**



**PRISCILLA SHAGANASH
BUSINESS DIPLOMA - OSHKI WENJAK**



SICILY CHAPAIS



Grade 8 Graduate - MM

Celebrating Our Graduates!



LAYLA LEGARDE
GRADE 8 GRADUATE



KYANA CHARLES



KATYANA SHAGANASH
GRADE 8 GRADUATE

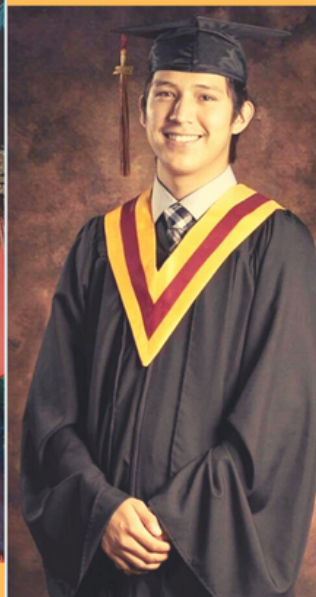


TREYSON CHAPAIS
SK GRADUATE - OLOF



JACOB LONEY

Grade 12 Graduate - GCHS



ETHAN BELL



GRADE 12 GRADUATE



NOEMIE MARTIN

Grade 12 Graduate - St. Pat's



TANNER TAYLOR

Grade 8 Graduate - OLOF



Celebrating Our Graduates!



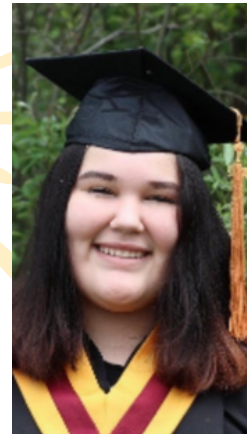
ASHLYN ECHUM

POPE JOHN PAUL GRADE 8 GRADUATE - STARTING
ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021



RAYMOND MICHANO

OUR LADY FATIMA GRADE 8 GRADUATE



JORDYN MENDOWEGAN
GRADE 8 GRADUATE

GRADE 8 GRAD CODY WESLEY



(TOP: L TO R) GRADE 12 GRAD ETHAN BELL
(ALATYPPO), GRADE 8 GRAD EVAN WESLEY
(BOTTOM) SK GRAD CODY WESLEY

SK GRAD EVAN WESLEY



JEROME MESHAK

Grade 12 Graduate - GCHS



CARY BOERE

Grade 12 Graduate -
Hornepayne High School



Health Director Update

Since March 2020, the Ginoogaming Health Centre has had to oversee the pandemic by establishing community protocols and policy that will keep the community and its members safe. In January 2021, we seen our first cases in the community. We went up to (7) active cases, and had to declare a State of Emergency. The community worked together to combat COVID by staying inside, social distancing, and wearing masks. The cases came down, and we didn't have anymore cases up until May 2021 when we had a total of 4 active. To date, we have 0 active cases in the community.

During this time, we had no alternative but to turn our Aboriginal Head Start Centre into a make-shift Isolation Centre to house individuals that had no where to isolate due to overcrowding in the home, or to house community members that were homeless.

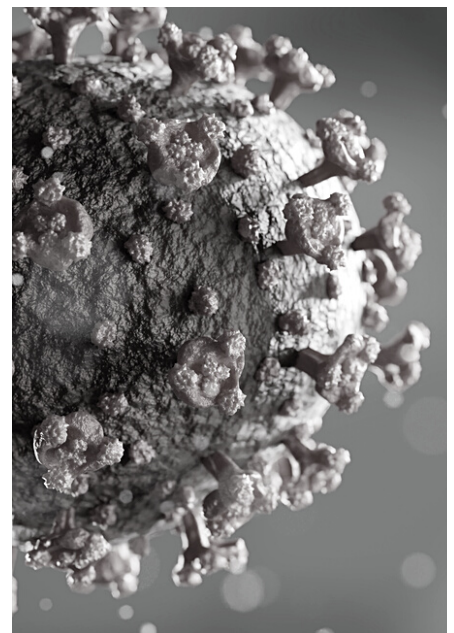
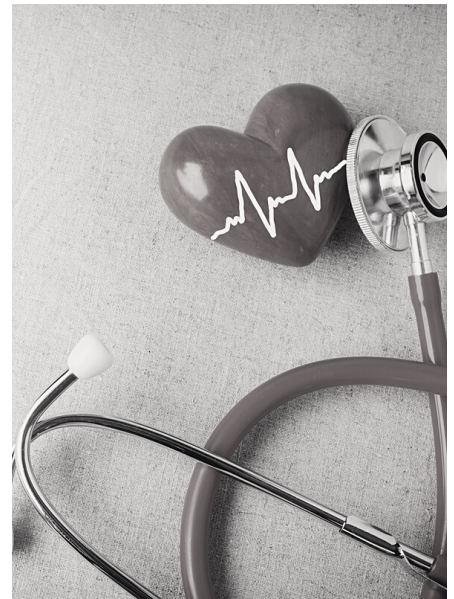
Vaccination Clinics started in April 2021. We have vaccinated 48% of total eligible adults in the community. We are going to be holding more vaccination clinics targeting youth 12- 17 years, and other adults that haven't received first dose yet. We started a vaccination campaign and did a poster with Elders, youth and Leadership to encourage our community members to get their COVID vaccine. We will also be doing some draws for those that get their vaccine, more information to follow.

In terms of food security, we provide food once a month or as needed for community members living in Ginoogaming FN and those that reside in Longlac.

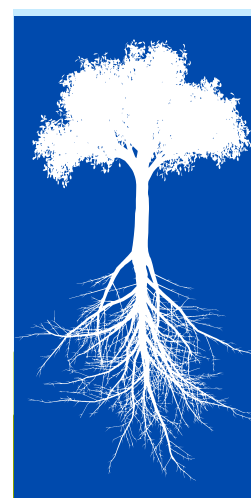
Our Health Centre works in partnership with both Dilico Health and Matawa Health Cooperative, they have both been so helpful throughout this pandemic, from doing COVID testing, close contact tracing, care for our members health while in isolation, and providing the vaccination clinics.

Matawa Health Cooperative has a new doctor that will be working with our community. His name is Dr. Koo. Our first Walk-In Clinic, done virtually, happened on June 23, 2021.

In terms of security, our community still has a restrictive gate at this time which allows for the GFN community members access into the community. Essential services through Dilico, Matawa and those services for emergencies, are only allowed access.



Healing Camp & Responding to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic



It takes the whole community to protect against COVID-19. Let's do this Ginoogaming First Nation.

We need more people to get vaccinated to be able to host our annual Pow Wow this year.

"At first I was reluctant on getting the Covid-19 vaccine. After reading and discussing with my family I made the decision, I am glad that I received the shot as it protects me and my family."

Landyn Echum, 19yrs



"Give me 2 shots Nurse!! Thanks to our front line workers for all their hard work and time, I am able to keep my family, friends, Elders and community a little safer from COVID-19. You can too by getting your shot today!"

Hannah Bedwash



"Please keep me safe. I had no side effects after receiving both my vaccines".

Edna Charles, Elder



"Can't travel without having had the vaccine... my love for traveling is why I'm vaccinated and to keep everyone safe around me and protect myself."

Martha Taylor, GFN Councillor



"If we want to get back to our pow wow life, we need to get a vaccine. My reason to get vaccinated was for our youths and elders to keep them and myself safe. The vaccine is safe as we can see from all those getting it from our community and from around the world. Thank you to all who did get vaccinated and asking those who haven't yet to please do."

Victor Chapais, GFN Councillor and Elder



"I got the vaccine because I care, we have to protect those that are most vulnerable our children, Elders and those that can't get it due to their health. We want to be able to gather in our sacred circle again, let's do this♥"

Sheri Taylor, GFN Councillor



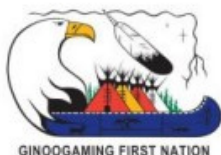
"I was a little nervous and hesitant with all the stories about getting vaccinated out there but I did it and have no regrets, you can do it too!"

Noah Echum



"Vaccinated, still standing and ready to roam safely! Lol"

Kelly Fortier, GFN Councillor



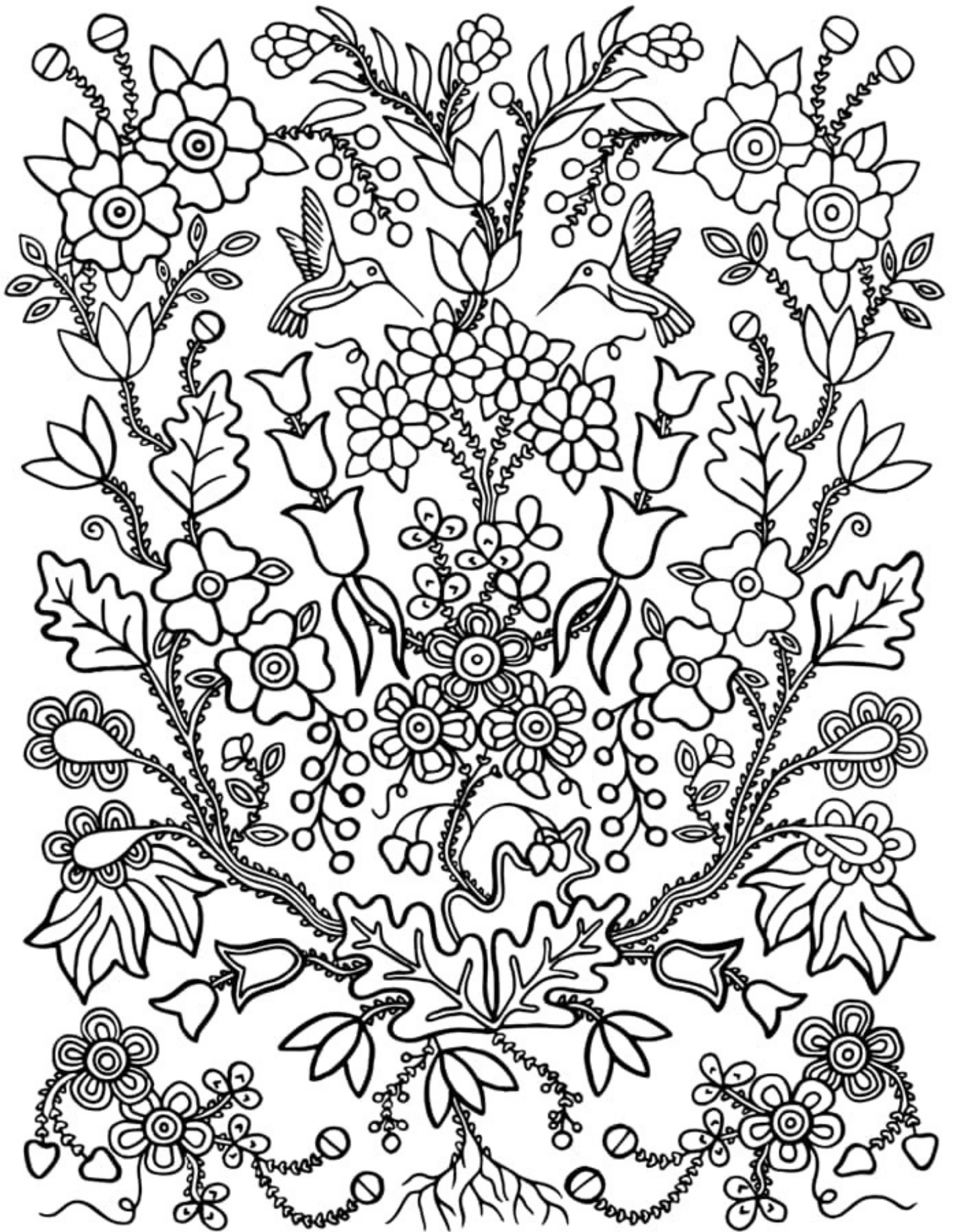
Contact us to book your vaccine appointment today

1-888-570-8942
(807) 876-2242



Questions about Vaccines?

Contact Georgina Redsky
or Curtis Hildebrandt at
1-855-623-8511



Human Resources

First of all I would like to pay respects to the late Chief Celia. I think I may have been one of the last people that she hired. She knew there was an importance in getting a human resources (HR) department going and I'm very honored to have been recruited for the position of HR Manager.

A big thank you to Council and everyone that has worked very hard in keeping our members safe by bringing in the vaccines, PPE and also by keeping us up-to-date on the latest requirements. This has been a tough, topsy turvy year. Thank you to everyone who is doing their part in keeping our community and general public safe by vaccinating and practicing the safety protocols.

Special thanks to all the people who have worked at the gate as security. It's not been an easy job and everyone has done great. Thanks so much.

This past year has been one filled with policies, regulations and guidelines as well as on demand requirements that need to be fulfilled. I am presently working with an HR expert who is reviewing the policy that I've drafted with the help of many people. As we move forward, it will become busier as orientations begin to take place for the Ginoogaming staff. These orientations will include reviews of job descriptions, requirements of the staff and the newly accepted policies. These policies follow government regulations and are mandatory in the workplace for the benefit of employee and employer alike.

One of the duties that I have been fulfilling are job postings. To all the members, please if you are looking for employment, there are always positions opening up. Also, send me a copy of your resume to keep on file for recruiting. If you don't have a resume contact me, I can direct you to the right person to help you with that. If you are a part of the Ginoogaming FB page, you can find job postings there and they are also posted on the Ginoogaming website at: ginoogamingfn.ca.

This position has been a learning experience and thank you to everyone who has been supportive this past year. Meegwetch, stay safe and healthy!

Debbie Charles, HR Manager



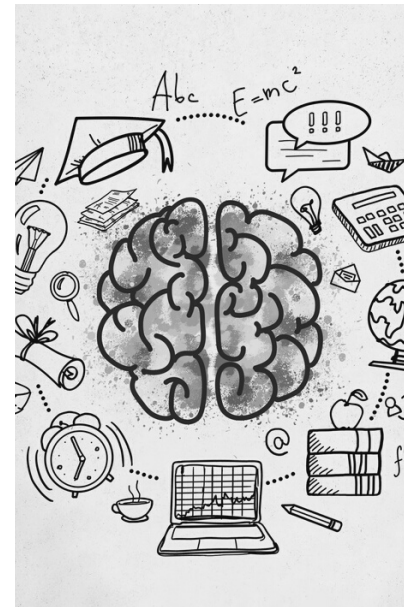
Education

First, would like to congratulate our students for another year in education as it was not easy in this pandemic times. You all did what no other student has done in our life time and you all need a pat on the back on a job well done.

Safety is our main concern as we continue to look at ways to keep you all safe in a learning environment. We are at a cross road in how we want our students to continue with their education. At the present time, we are looking at ways to better our education system by staying status quo that is continue with our tuition agreements with the school boards, negotiating a new agreement in which we specify what we and how our students are learning, having our own schools, working with the schools to have land based learning in our traditional territory or we could work with other school boards to have virtual learning with teachers in our community.

All this is being looked at in Nishnabe Aski as we are still working on taking over the jurisdiction of education in our area, it could be community, Matawa region or NAN wide with each community will be responsible to deliver the best option that we choose as we all will have a say on how Ginoogaming will move forward in our education goals. Ginoogaming will inform you when we do start to have gatherings in our hall to discuss and to have the best way forward for the students of Ginoogaming. At the end of our discussions all members will have a vote.

On behalf of our council, we would like to congratulate all of our graduates who persevered to achieve your goals and we are so proud of your accomplishments. Our ancestors used arrows to survive and today education is another form of an arrow as you all will be our future leaders who will take Ginoogaming further than where we are today, I feel very comfortable for the future as you all are doing what good leadership would be doing.



Lands and Resources

Boozhoo! Wachiye!

Lands and Resources covers a lot of issues. With this as a reality, it can be very challenging to manage and meet the demands of reporting/reviewing on every topic that arises. Responding to every correspondence on behalf of our First Nation comes with great responsibility that we truly appreciate when it comes to defending our Nation's Treaty Rights or Customary Laws in our Ancestral Homelands.

I'm pleased to say there's a lot of support out there to meet this responsibility. We have our own Resource Technical Team which consists of a group of staff, namely our Economic Development Officer, Consultation Coordinator, Implementation Co-ordinator, Environmental Co-ordinator, Special Projects Officer and myself. We try to come together every month or so and perhaps weekly when issues arise requiring Ginoogaming's immediate response to industry or governmental agencies infringing on our Ancestral Homelands.

A lot of our support comes from our Matawa Tribal Council's environmental advisory service: Four Rivers. Their staff are well equipped to assist us in providing oversight in responding to governmental/industrial-led land based activities. Four Rivers provides us with advice on environmental, regulatory, policy, legislative driven issues facing our community's traditional territory. Some of which include:

- Webequie Supply Road
- Marten Falls Community Access Road
- Northern Road Link
- Ring of Fire Area/Regional Assessment
- Melchette Lake properties
- Sandspit Project
- Marathon Palladium Project
- Climate Change
- Our court case challenging Mike Malouf and William Kerr's mining claims to the south of our boundary—our Ancestral Homelands that we know as Wiisnii Zagiigin (our food basket that we use for traditional foods, gathering and to practice our spirituality)

These are just some of the most recent files that Four Rivers assists us with. They also help us with proposal writing to capture funding to participate in Federal Impact Assessments and Provincial Environmental Assessments and providing prompt responses to industry and government on proposals and correspondence.



Lands and Resources Continued

Our Matawa Tribal Council also has recently developed a number of tables to discuss environmental concerns affecting our traditional territories. Several other neighboring First Nations whom we share traditional territories with also sit on this table. They include Long Lake #58, Aroland, and Constance Lake First Nation. The table team's name is Kenogami Environmental Table (KET). We try to meet every month virtually.



At the local level, Ginogaming FN Lands and Resources is addressing:

- Historic land management issues
- Our boundaries being threatened by industrial, municipal, government corporate agencies or properties
- Ontario Power Generation leased flooded lands (currently being surveyed by Tullock)
- Greenstone Waste Management Table
- Adita Birla's use of our Marten Falls Drive which requires a Road Agreement
- Land Disposition Request from MNR for ownership and Buchanan's owned Water Lot which includes the Making River Bridge and the Industrial Road that leads onto our FN, Canadian National Railway, which covers our North-Easterly Reserve Boundary
- Ongoing Relationship Agreement with TransCanada PipeLines Ltd
- Buchanan's Longlac Lumber-Sawmill ongoing start-up



These are just some of the most current tables that are being negotiated with monthly zoom meetings where fact finding information sessions are discussed. We do have some technical support folks from Indigenous Service Canada and private consultants at these tables that assist us to navigate through the information being provided (see the next page for some of the specific things we are working on with our Forestry Advisor Bud Knauff).



We also have a few active forestry related boards that provide capacity building through Nedaakiminaan Inc, our Forest Management Company. This company consists of seven First Nations. It provides forest management activities for the Kenogami Forest along with silviculture-tree plant/slash alignment and forest management planning for the harvest companies.

Lands and Resources Continued

Another company—Ogwidachwaning Inc.—is 50% First Nations-owned which consists currently of five FNs, GFN, LL58, AFN, AZA, RRIB, and three forest industry companies including: Adita Birla, Lecours, and Columbia. The government's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will be assigning us with a 20-year Enhanced Forestry License for the Kenogami Forest. We are currently also negotiating to sit on the Lake Nipigon and Pic River Forests managing companies whom we have identified traditional territories within their governmental defined boundaries.

Ginoogam Development Corporation is a Forest Harvesting company with three other FNs, AFN and LL58, our representation on this board is to provide capacity building for Harvesting opportunities and generate revenues for our First Nation.

We, the Resource Technical Team, keep in close contact with Council's priority issues that may require us to provide technical advice that will benefit our community's progression both on and off Ginoogaming. The topics range from many levels and do require technical advisory brainstorming sessions to best support Membership at the grassroots level. Here are the most current files:

- Capital Planning/Drainage Studies for Community Roads-future paving
- Community Well-Being-Baseball Field/ Hockey Rink
- Infrastructure Upgrades to our Community Hall/Resource/Headstart/Health Centres
- Capital Planning for new sub-divisions for New Housing Development Studies
- Resource Revenue Sharing Agreements with Ontario's Forestry/Mining Royalty Agreements
- Monitoring the Long-Term Resource Agreements-Greenstone Gold Management Agreement
- Exploring National Aboriginal Lands Management Agreements, Municipal Transfer Agreements and Correspondence/Communications Agreements with Municipality of Greenstone
- Treaty Lands Entitlement Negotiations
- Community Land Use Planning Agreements
- Transmission/ Natural Gas Agreements
- Canadian Specific Claims Branch applications
- Impact Benefits Agreements with Industry
- Providing advisory services along with Matawa's Nibi Services, for our Maintenance Department on O&M occurrences from time-to-time

We must not forget the Community Grassroots level work in the field for Ginoogaming's Healing Camp maintenance and expansion to accommodate Youth and Elders Camps in the Wiisnii Zagiigin Area and completion of our newly constructed Seagram Lake Fish Camp.

Ongoing negotiations of possible Joint Ventures/Partnerships with our FNs companies Manoodamohn Inc, Nedaakiminaan Inc. Ogidachwaning Inc. and Ginoogam Dev Corp and Rocky Shore Dev Corp. And last but not least, the gathering/identification/ of Ginoogaming's Traditional Values collected by Interviewing our Elders. Also, we can't forget to mention the upholding of Ginoogaming's Protocols- Consultation and Accommodation/Heritage/Business and our Nanagjitoong Niibi-Water Declaration.

These are the most current topics that are being discussed of late. We also, when called upon, make ourselves available to assist in any crises that occur within our community. Therefore, if you have any questions or require any further clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact myself or anyone from the team for more information.

Miiaway!! Miigwech!!
Mr CTaylorSr



SOME THINGS WE ARE WORKING ON WITH OUR FORESTRY ADVISOR BUD KNAUFF

1. Making Ground River Bridge: A strategy has been developed to acquire the bridge from the Buchanan Group and the road from Picnic Point Rd to the bridge from the MNRF. This would facilitate GFN seeking funding to replace the bridge with a new one.
2. The Lake Nipigon Forest sits inside Ginoogaming's traditional territory; a formal request has been made to the MNRF for Ginoogaming and to be involved in the management of this forest.
3. AV Terrace Bay: An Industrial Traffic Agreement for Marten Falls Drive Road has been developed. This agreement will provide for compensation to Ginoogaming and address long standing safety and road maintenance issues.
4. Longlac Lumber: Negotiations have started with the Buchanan Group in an effort to restart the sawmill with possible ownership by Ginoogaming.
5. Resource Revenue Sharing with Ontario: Ginoogaming First Nation is seeking to receive a share of the stumpage fees and mining royalties that Ontario currently collects from area forest and mining companies.
6. Community Roads: Ginoogaming is seeking funding from the Ministry of Transportation's Community Roads funding program to assist.
7. Ginoogaming is seeking funding from Indigenous Services Canada to prepare a flooding contamination study.
8. Ginoogaming is studying the construction of a plant to manufacture hardwood lumber and/or panels. The plant to be located on our industrial park. This project would use underutilized poplar from the Kenogami and surrounding forests.
9. Ginoogaming is exploring its Aboriginal Right to Harvest Timber on Crown Land for community use and to build businesses.





HOUSING & OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

A last report from our beloved late Ernest Waboose, Housing/O&M Manager

The housing and maintenance department like to thank the members for keeping our community safe as we continue to move forward through these pandemic times.

We have been forced to postpone a few renovation projects because of the COVID crisis but look forward to finishing past projects as they slowly lift restrictions and allow us to start entering homes once again.

We continue to move forward with projects that benefit the safe keeping of the community as we have started some retrofits with our lift stations to ensure community wellness when it comes to dealing with water and sewer.

You will continue to see other renovations happening throughout the community as the warmer weather approaches. We will eventually address all the needs for our housing as we continue to find the dollars to address the existing housing concerns as we move forward.

The maintenance team would also like to thank the council team for their continued efforts to ensure community safety and all the help they have extended to members both on and off the reserve.

We would also be having a community cleanup starting the first week of June.

We appreciate the patience you have shown towards our team as right now we may only enter residents for water issues at this time but this will lift as the COVID restrictions are lighten up.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and understanding for what we are all going through at this time.

Council gratefully acknowledges the late Ernest's contributions to our community and offer our deepest condolences to his family and all who loved him.

Thank
you

Greenstone Project - Implementation Coordinator

Ownership

On December 15, 2020 Premier Gold Ltd. and Centerra Gold Inc. announced that an affiliate of the Orion Mine Finance Group entered into an agreement with Centerra and Premier for Orion to acquire Centerra's 50% interest in the GGM Ownership Partnership. The acquisition was completed on January 19, 2021 and at the same time the claim related to the Partners dispute was dismissed. In December 2020, Equinox Gold Corp. and Premier announced that the companies entered into an agreement where Equinox Gold will acquire all of the outstanding shares of Premier.

In April 2021, Equinox has acquired an additional 10% of the Hardrock Project from Orion, making them the majority owner. Equinox now holds a 60% stake in GGM, and Orion 40%. This gives Equinox control over how the Project will be built and operated. For more information about Equinox Gold, go to: <https://www.equinoxgold.com>

GGM On-Site Summer Activities

GGM is conducting early-work activities by cutting trees from the project area that started early March. The tree clearing will be done using a phased approach focusing on early-works areas first. All of the work will be done according to environmental standards before the nesting season. Health and safety standards will be a high priority on the worksite. Activities are as follows but is dependant on many factors such a construction decision from owners:

- Initiate and Complete final phase of Engineering and commit for Process Equip., Mar-21 to Nov.-21
- Update Detailed Project Schedule Feb-21
- Update Project Budget (Capex & Economic) Feb. & Mar-21
- Construction Decision (after owner's transaction all completed) potentially sometime toward the end of Q2

Since March of 2021 Tree-cleaning and very limited earth works have commenced, upon a construction decision we can expect more development:

- Temporary Camp Installation (including utilities – Power, NGas, potable water...) June to Sept-21
- Temporary Guard House (trailer) and security gate June 21
- Temporary Effluent Water Treatment Plant and related infrastructure July to Oct-21
- Site Power Distribution (few permanent and temporary segments of power lines) June to Oct-21
- East Service Road construction July to Sept-21
- Process Plant Site (Phase 1 of site preparation) July to Nov-21
- Process Plant Site – Construction Office and main gate Installation Aug-21
- Process Plant Site – Fuel tank Sept-21
- General - Commence Mobilization for main construction Phase Oct-21

Minodahmun and the Board of Directors along with Leadership have been communicating with GGM during these exciting times.

Greenstone Project - Implementation Coordinator Continued

Minodahmun Development LLP

Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (AZA), Aroland First Nation (AFN) and Ginoogaming First Nation (GFN) have created a jointly owned training and economic development corporation called Minodahmun Development Limited Partnership (Minodahmun). Minodahmun means "a clear path" in Ojibway.

The vision of Minodahmun is to create a clear path to employment and business prosperity for First Nation members. The spirit and intent of the organization is to facilitate and maximize the full participation of Indigenous people in the economic opportunities it generates through training, development, employment, business development and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Through this partnership Minodahmun and leadership identified a need to train our members for job readiness, a proposal was developed, submitted to Employment and Social Development Canada with last week's announcement of the creation of the Indigenous Workforce Development Program. Minister McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development committed \$3.6 m. towards this initiative.

Indigenous Workforce Development Program (IWDP)

The Indigenous Workforce Development Program (IWDP) aims to maximize First Nation Employment in Greenstone Gold Mines and the Municipality of Greenstone by providing essential skills and work readiness training to foster meaningful career paths for local Indigenous people.

The IWDP was created by Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek, Aroland First Nation and Ginoogaming First Nation to help prepare members for employment opportunities related to the GGM Hardrock Project. The mine and the First Nation have arranged priority hiring for Indigenous people to create a skilled Indigenous workforce, in total there will be 650 jobs during construction and 550 jobs during mine operations. The project objectives are to develop and implement a mining sector training to employment program that will address the workforce challenges and needs of Indigenous people.

With this commitment we have a good start and recruited the following and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce IWDP team members:

IWDP Manager, James Nord
IWDP Program Coordinator, Carole Tanguay
IWDP Project Coordinator, Damien Bouchard
Learner Success Advisors (Vacant)

Contact information for these individuals will be made available ASAP or through the Implementation Coordinator.

Greenstone Project - Implementation Coordinator Continued

Implementation Activities

Procurement

This procurement table has representatives from the 3 First Nations and Minodahmun to discuss business and contracting opportunities and provide clarity on upcoming tenders.

Heavy Equipment Inventory

GFN will be doing an extensive search of our community members who have machinery to contract for major projects.

Cross - Cultural Training Program Development

Elders, Youth and community at large will be engaged to share stories and perspectives on community history, Anishnabek cultural practices/traditions and how the mine and its employees/contractors can best work with the community. The information will be integrated into the overall Greenstone Gold Mine Cross-Cultural program and used to create the community specific presentation. Four Rivers Environmental Services has a rapport with the community and technical staff that can compile content from many years of service which works out for our benefit.

Commercial Plaza Study

Minodahmun has hired Colliers through tender to develop a business plan, feasibility and engineering for the commercial plaza. GGM has already allocated property to Minodahmun on site on the south side of the new highway re-alignment, GGM has agreed to clear cut the site at no cost. The First Nation can do all investment or develop businesses through partnerships.

Energy Working Group (4 FN)

This group focuses on advancing First Nation ownership of the GGM Power Plant as per the LTRA. The group is in the process of securing funding through Indigenous Services Canada for detailed feasibility study work on powerplant, heat exchange and greenhouse projects. A new company will be formed called Kenogamisis Energy which is owned wholly by the 4 First Nations.

Please stay tuned for more announcements on our Minodahmun Development LP, GFN Mineral Development and Ginoogaming First Nation #77 Facebook pages.



We need YOU to raise our vaccination rate in our community. Next clinic to take place July 15, 2021. Join the other 48% and be a #GFNVAXCHAMP



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**PLEASE KEEP ME
SAFE. I HAD NO
SIDE EFFECTS
AFTER RECEIVING
BOTH MY
VACCINES”.**

**EDNA CHARLES,
ELDER**



”

**IF WE WANT TO GET BACK TO
OUR POW WOW LIFE, WE NEED
TO GET A VACCINE. MY REASON
TO GET VACCINATED WAS FOR
OUR YOUTHS AND ELDERS TO
KEEP THEM AND MYSELF SAFE.
THE VACCINE IS SAFE AS WE CAN
SEE FROM ALL THOSE GETTING IT
FROM OUR COMMUNITY AND
FROM AROUND THE WORLD.
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DID
GET VACCINATED AND ASKING
THOSE WHO HAVEN'T YET TO
PLEASE DO.”**

**VICTOR CHAPAIS
GFN COUNCILLOR AND
ELDER**

Contact us to book your vaccine appointment today

1-888-570-8942 or (807) 876-2242

