

# SPRING 2023

## GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION NEWS

Updates from Council and Program Managers



### Enhancing Financial Governance Practices with the First Nation Financial Management Board

In August 2019, Ginoogaming started working in collaboration with the First Nations Financial Management Board (FMB) on a multi-year project, to enhance financial governance practices for Council and Administration.

The purpose is to continually build capacity in Administration and Council Governance as Ginoogaming sets a clear pathway to achieve sustainable financial independence.

That pathway involves a coordinated approach to implement making informed decisions for community well-being and development. It's a collective effort, and everyone involved is important and vital.

In 2021, Council held a series of Knowledge Sessions, resulting in 4 key policies updated in 2022:

- Governance Policy
- Finance Policy
- Human Resources Policy
- Information Management Policy

As policies are implemented into day-to-day practice, and continued training takes place this fiscal year, more progress will be made towards achieving Ginoogaming First Nation's goals. The goal to exit default management is becoming reality! See more on page 24.

### OVERVIEW:

- Ontario Works Programming
- Band Rep Services
- Human Resources
- Pow Wow Update
- Timber Claims Trust
- Aboriginal Head Start
- Minodahmun Development
- Treaty Land Entitlement
- Forest Management Units Meeting
- Mental Health & Addictions Team
- Implementation Coordinator Update
- Economic Development
- GFN Peacekeepers
- Meet the Team
- New Garbage & Recycling
- MNP Report on GFN's Continued Development



# MESSAGE FROM CHIEF SHERI TAYLOR



Boozhoo Ginoogaming Members;

It has been a very busy time here in Ginoogaming FN. Our team has been working on many projects, and programs as you will see from the information in this newsletter. We were able to finish up the new housing units which included a 4-plex, and family unit homes. We are continuing to apply for more units, and looking into creating a new-subdivision. We also applied for some renovation funds to housing that will start taking place this spring into the summer. We have also started some work on revising and re-negotiating our Education Service agreements with the Catholic and Public School Boards with MNP. We are also working on developing our own Child Welfare Law, under C-92. We have done some engagement work with Chief and Council, staff and some of the membership on-reserve and off-reserve. We have just hired our lawyer to help develop our own laws and policies based on our history, culture and own circumstances.

We also wanted to share that we just received a letter from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) that Ginoogaming FN will be de-escalated to lowest level of intervention, this is wonderful and welcomed news for our Community. Our community has been under a Recipient Appointed Advisor for last 25 years or so, and it just goes to show that when we all work together good things will continue to happen. We will be having some meetings with the Community and FMB (First Nations Financial Management Board) and MNP to work on Management Action Plan to continue to build our financial management and governance capacity. For more information on how we have progressed, check out pages 26 - 28 to see more detailed information as provided by MNP.

We are working on other projects like: baseball field, gym (exercise room), continued improvements on our roads, ditches and bridge. On behalf of myself and Council, I thank you for taking the time to read and hope you find our newsletter informative. We look forward to seeing you all hopefully at our David Charles Traditional Annual Pow Wow this summer. Until then, take care and enjoy the warmer weather ahead.





# Ontario Works Programming

Ontario Works staff of Ginoogaming are excited and ready to start the upcoming summer employment. Here is the update as follows:

- Gardening (vegetables) at the greenhouse
- Gardening (flowers) at the greenhouse
- Community spring clean up
- Clearing debris at campsites (powwow grounds), varnishing of bleachers and painting of picnic tables
- Healing camp upgrades: cabin for girls, lodge seating, outside shelter and kitchen extension

## *Upcoming 4 Seasons Programs*

- Spring Gathering: traditional foods and cooking (fishing and geese hunting)
- Summer Gathering: Anishnabe Day, traditional activities, one day pow wow and community BBQ
- Fall Gathering: Traditional foods and cooking (moose and partridge hunting)
- Winter Gathering: community feasts, round dance, one day pow wow and traditional crafts

## Past Events:

Attendance draws at each event. Refreshments and snacks served. Everyone is always encouraged to come out and participate. Have a great day from Ontario Works Staff

### April 4, 2023 | Sewing Night Making Curtains

Location: Ginoogaming Training Centre  
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

### April 8, 2023 | Community Kitchen

Location: Ginoogaming Training Centre  
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

### April 25, 2023 | Scrap Book Making Night

Location: Ginoogaming Training Centre  
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Meegwetch,

Liz Ferris, Ontario Works Manager

Simone Echum, Caseworker

Vanessa Legarde, Employment Worker



# Ginoogaming Band Rep Services

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A107 Poplar Crest – 807 876 4498 (Office)

Geraldine Taylor – Band Rep Manager  
Coral Echum – Admin Assistant  
Debbie Morris – Case Worker  
Lisa Echum – Choose Life Mental Health  
Priscilla Fisher – Choose Life Worker  
Dallas Echum – Choose Life Worker  
Tamara Loney – Family Support Worker  
Holly Charles – Family Well Being Worker

The Ginoogaming Band Rep Program has been very busy with prevention programming.

Choose Life staff has weekly traditional programming which includes Drum Social, Regalia Making, Cultural Teachings. They are able to do home visits as well as work in a group setting and one on one.

Family Well Being hosts a ladies night weekly on Monday evenings which gives working members a chance to enjoy programming.

Family Support Worker will work with clients one on one with home visits and prevention measures. Tamara also hosts an after school program twice per week, Tuesday and Thursdays from 330 – 430PM which the students really look forward too.

Band Rep Services have added Family Playgroup to the calendar bi weekly on Tuesday April 11th and Tuesday April 25th. We are also starting Beading sessions which are starting on April 13th from 130PM to 330PM for clients at the Band Rep Office.

Please call or come in to the center for any comments, questions or ideas.

Miigwetch



# Ginoogaming Band Rep Program Memories



APRIL 2023  
Band Rep Services Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
	2 Ladies night 6-8 pm	3 Ladies night 6-8 pm	4 Ladies night 6-8 pm	5 Ladies night 6-8 pm	6 Ladies night 6-8 pm	7 Good Friday Offices closed and no programs
8 Ladies night 6-8 pm	9 Ladies night 6-8 pm	10 Easter Monday Offices closed and no programs	11 Ladies night 6-8 pm	12 Ladies night 6-8 pm	13 Ladies night 6-8 pm	14 Ladies night 6-8 pm
15 Ladies night 6-8 pm	16 Ladies night 6-8 pm	17 Ladies night 6-8 pm	18 Ladies night 6-8 pm	19 Ladies night 6-8 pm	20 Ladies night 6-8 pm	21 Ladies night 6-8 pm
22 Ladies night 6-8 pm	23 Ladies night 6-8 pm	24 Ladies night 6-8 pm	25 Ladies night 6-8 pm	26 Ladies night 6-8 pm	27 Ladies night 6-8 pm	28 Ladies night 6-8 pm
29 Ladies night 6-8 pm	30 Ladies night 6-8 pm					



Ginoogaming  
Band Rep  
Program  
Memories





# Human Resources

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One more Policy Orientation Workshop to go! The Policies and Procedures are always being updated according to the Canada Labour Code.

We are currently working on Workplans from all staff and everyone is getting used to submitting those on a regular basis.

Performance Management Evaluations have begun. This is something new and is useful to both employee and employer. These evaluations will be helpful as we strive to become an efficient “teamworking” organization.

The Financial and Governance Policy(s) are a work in progress.

There are always jobs available here at Ginoogaming, especially in the social field. We encourage you to submit your resume or if you don't have a resume but would like one, that service is available to you.

Check out our new official Facebook page and follow that for current information. Turn on your notifications and you should always get the current feeds. You can also visit our website at:  
[www.ginoogamingfn.ca](http://www.ginoogamingfn.ca)

As always, I continue to do my best to serve the Ginoogaming Members in this capacity. Don't forget....my door is always open. Please feel free to call or drop in at any time.

Chi - Meegwetch,

**Debbie Charles**

[debbie.charles@ginoogamingfn.ca](mailto:debbie.charles@ginoogamingfn.ca)

807-876-2242 or 807-853-627

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





# DAVID CHARLES TRADITIONAL POW WOW

August 18, 19, 20, 2023  
(third weekend in August)



## 'Honouring Our Roots'

### HEAD STAFF

Master of Ceremonies..... Jimmy Mishquart  
Arena Director.....Cecil Mendowegan  
Head Male Dancer.....Allan Wemigwans  
Head Female Dancer.....Sasha Michano  
Honourary Male Elder.....Victor Chapais  
Honourary Female Elder.....Edna Charles  
Host Drum.....Walking Bear

### INFORMATION

First five drums will receive honorarium

For more information call 1-807-876-1678  
Maryann Charles, Pow Wow Coordinator

# Pow Wow Update

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**Boozhoo everyone.** Yes count the months It's coming up fast !!

Planning is underway for our upcoming Pow Wow. We have been meeting since February and things are falling into place, but with still lots more to do.

Our Ginoogaming Pow Wow title has returned to its rightful founder's namesake '**David Charles Traditional Pow Wow.**' This year, it falls on August 18, 19, 20, 2023 (which has been always 3rd weekend in August). As some may have noticed, there is a new sign on Highway 11.

This year's Annual Pow Wow we will recognize and honour our roots of our community and history. This includes our past esteemed elder, Medicine Man, grandfather, leader, teacher and so much more, David Charles Sr. As well the people who have walked our grounds in earlier years and who have been a part of the growth of our community, our children who are our future and mother earth who provides for us each and every day.

Our leader David Charles Sr had a dream and his dream was that we would be close to the Earth and to its Creations and to take care of his dream moving forward. We have a responsibility to ensure the Pow Wow is carried on with positivity because that is what nurtures our own wellbeing and is essential for the growth of our community.

Any other suggestions are welcomed "any idea is a good idea." A pow wow suggestion box is available at the Training Centre, Just outside the Timber Claims office. You are also welcome to come into the office to speak to myself and Priscilla to ensure it's passed on and considered.

If anyone would like to be involved with the planning, please let us know. We need lots of help. We will be taking names for cooks, gate keeper, grounds keeper, helpers, preparations people for the grounds ....

It's an absolute privilege to be Pow Wow Coordinator again this year but it is my hope to have someone else doing this next year, we'll see. I will have a Guide prepared with the help of others as well to follow for the coming years to help with the planning process.

All staff and community members are invited to participate in the planning process to make for another successful Pow Wow.

**Meegwich !! Maryann Charles, Pow Wow Co-ord. Ph; 807 853 1511 or 807 876 1678**



# Timber Claims Trust

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## Boozhoo Everyone

As part of the follow up to our recent Annual General Meeting for the Timber Claims Trust where I informed everyone present that we are looking to network with other Aboriginal Trust Organizations. The purpose is to gather information about how they operate and learn ways to grow our services to better meet the needs of our Community. As the General Manager for the Trust I had the privilege to attend the National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association conference held in Vancouver.

I will be reporting back to the trustees and to you membership what I was able to learn and implement into our operations that are unique to Ginoogaming and its members but also keeping up with the changes in the economy. It is a reality that our world has been changing and with this in mind we have to adjust to the economic and social demands for our current society, through inflation rates increases, high costs of living, and the effects of world events ie; Covid and the War etc...

We are actively planning for the future at all times, taking care of your investments and planning with Chief and Council to ensure we are working alongside each other to make positive changes for the community. With ongoing programs supported by the Timber Claim Trust we are committed to making positive changes with what we are able to spend each year from the Interest earned on the Portfolio (what we have as assets).

Communication is key to any successful relationship. If there are any questions you have about the Timber Claims Trust please feel free to call me **Maryann Charles, at the office at 807 876 1678, my cell 807 853 1511 or Priscilla Shaganash at the office 807 876 1678.**

Our Trustees meeting are quarterly every second Tuesday of March, June, September and December of each calendar year. This year the General Assembly is planned for early September with dates to be determined. We also meet on an as needed basis with Chief and Council and as the Trustees.

As follow up to the Meeting held this past December with Chief and Council, the general manager is part of the working group to further support strategic planning for economic development and entrepreneurship. The committee consists of representatives from the Council, Trust, Economic Development and Band management.

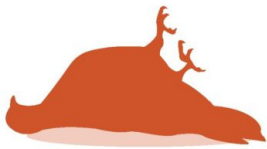
On behalf of the Timber Claim Trustees and myself and Priscilla, we thank you for having the opportunity to be a part of the community and to serve and preserve the future generations to come.

**Meegwich**



# Prevent the Spread of Avian Influenza in Wild Birds

Follow these tips to **stop the spread**



## **SPOT AND REPORT** the signs of avian influenza

Report a sick or dead bird to your provincial Wildlife Emergency Hotline:

**1-866-431-BIRD (2473)**



## **DO NOT TOUCH** or feed wild birds by hand

If you are a hunter or bird bander always follow safe handling practices.



## **CLEAN** backyard bird feeders and baths regularly

Use a weak solution of domestic bleach (10% sodium hypochlorite), rinse well, and allow time to dry.



## **SEPARATE** domestic and wild birds

Minimize contact between domestic and wild birds, especially if they have access to the outdoors or bodies of water used by wild birds.



## **CONSERVE** migratory bird habitat

Birds that have access to high quality habitat and food are more resilient to disease.



**SCAN  
TO LEARN  
MORE**



For more information on preventing the spread of avian influenza in wild birds [Canada.ca/Avian-flu](https://Canada.ca/Avian-flu)

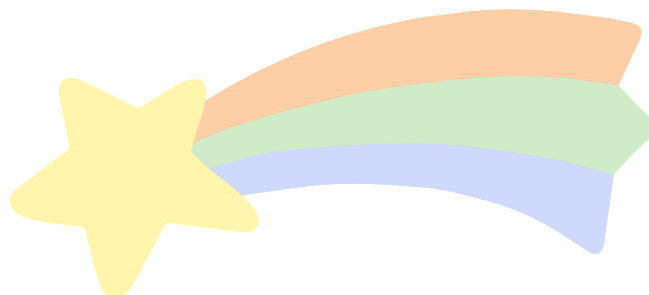
# Aboriginal Head Start

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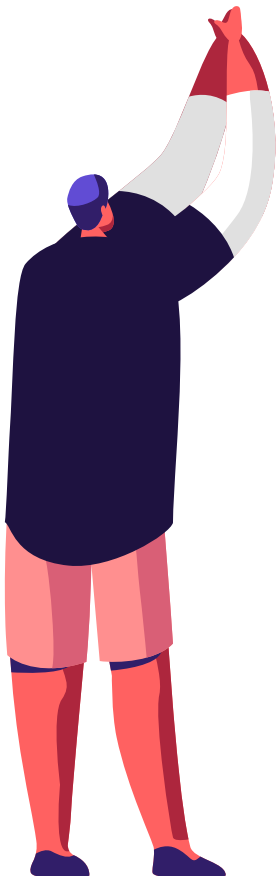
Laughter, giggles and the beat of drum fill the rooms as the children and staff engage in activities throughout the day. The air is filled with the fresh, homemade meals being prepared in the kitchen by Darlene and every window and floor is squeaky clean with thanks to Margaret. Everyday we make memories and surround ourselves with learning and kindness in an environment that promotes healthy learning. The winter kept us indoors when there was too much snow but we were able to make a maze throughout the playground that the children loved. As the snow melts we are enjoying puddle play in our tuffy suits keeping us warm and dry. We are excited to explore and learn about the greenhouse and planting as spring arrives. In February NAN Early Years Department visited the centre and interviewed Elders and staff while their videographer captured moments to use for NAN's Early Year Campaign. Before summer the staff will participate in a

staff retreat hosted by NAN and have the opportunity to focus on self-care, think creatively and self reflect. Please come to visit, share a story, have a meal or snack with us or just sit back and enjoy the environment and make precious memories with us. In the Infant Room you will find Maegan (Head Teacher), Toddler/Preschool Room Destiny and Emmerae (Head Teachers) and Samantha and Tanya (Teacher Assistants) If you are interested in visiting, volunteering, or enrolling your child please give Charla or Shelley a call at 876-5437.



# Minodahmun Development Wins Partnership of the Year

By Peter Rasevych, Special Projects Director



On March 24, 2023 the corporation known as Minodahmun Development LP (MDLP) won the Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund (NADF) Partnership of the Year Award in Thunder Bay.

MDLP is 100% owned by three First Nations: Ginoogaming First Nation, Aroland First Nation, and Aniimbigoo Zaagi'igaan Anishinaabek (AZA). MDLP commenced its work in 2019, after a Long-Term Relationship Agreement (LTRA) was signed between the three First Nations with Greenstone Gold Mines (GGM) after years of negotiations.

MDLP's key focus over the past three years has been to provide benefits to the three First Nations in the form of employment, contracting, and business opportunities. MDLP currently enjoys over 40 joint venture partnerships with various industry proponents. Over the past 2 years, MDLP has spearheaded the Indigenous Workforce Development Program (IWDP) for First Nation members to gain access to training, apprenticeships, and employment at the GGM site.

(In the photo is AZA member James Nord who is MDLP IWDP Manager, MDLP CEO John Glover, Aroland member Damien Bouchard who is MDLP Training Coordinator, and GFN member Peter Rasevych who is MDLP Board Director)



# Treaty Land Entitlement

By Peter Rasevych, Special Projects Director



GFN Chief Sheri Taylor is seated with Ginoogaming First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement Claim (TLE) Chief Negotiator Wally McKay, and GFN TLE Legal Counsel Greg Johnson. She is pictured signing the Terms of Reference for a Loss of Use study for the land claim on February 15, 2023 in Toronto at the Ontario government office.

GFN traveled to Toronto to partake in two days of sessions for the GFN TLE land claim, which also includes a Land Selection component. The signing of the Loss of Use Terms of Reference is an important step. The GFN TLE Negotiation Committee is looking forward to the future signing of a Land Selection Terms of Reference also.

The GFN TLE will progress in the coming years, as the claim negotiations commenced in 2016. For Land Selection, 11.4 square miles will be added to the GFN land base by the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada will pay GFN financial compensation for Loss of Use due to the fact that GFN was not able to utilize the land. All GFN are updated on the progress of the TLE through regular newsletters which are distributed at community engagement sessions which have been held regularly in Thunder Bay, and also at Ginoogaming First Nation.



GFN TLE Loss of Use Researchers Norris Wilson and Gina Gallant, who have been employed by GFN to conduct appraisal work on the claim.



### 3 Forest Management Units Open House Meeting

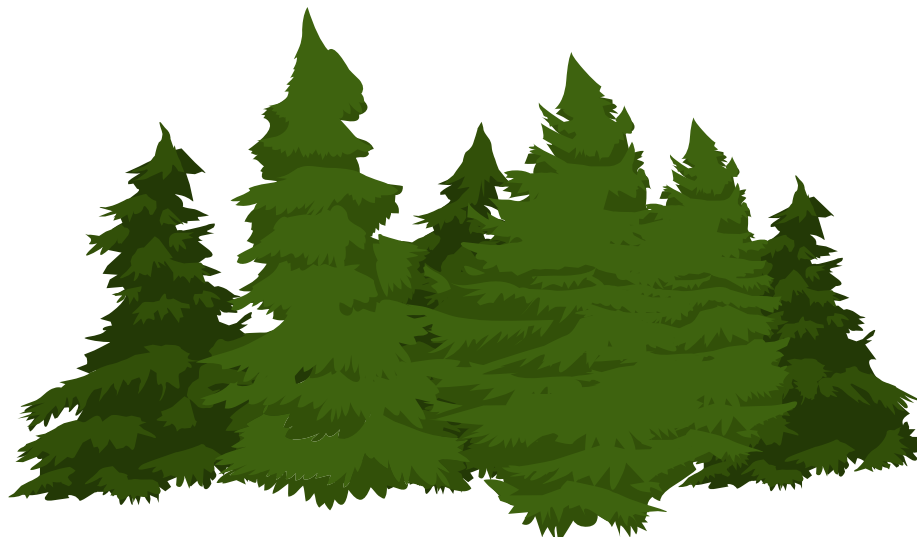
By Peter Rasevych, Special Projects Director

This meeting took place at the Longlac Legion February 23, 2023. GFN Chief Sheri Taylor and LL58FN Chief Judy Desmoulin were in attendance along with foresters from three (3) forest management units. They were: Neil McDonald from Naawiinginkima Forest Management Corporation (NPMC) from Marathon, who administer to the Pic Forest; Hannah Rideout from Greenforest Management Inc, who administer to the Ogoki Forest; and Deanna Hoffman from Nee-Daa-Kii-Me-Naan Inc (Longlac), who administer to the Kenogami Forest. In total, there were about 65 people in attendance. The forest management companies were giving presentations on their annual work schedules, including maps and any other information for those interested.

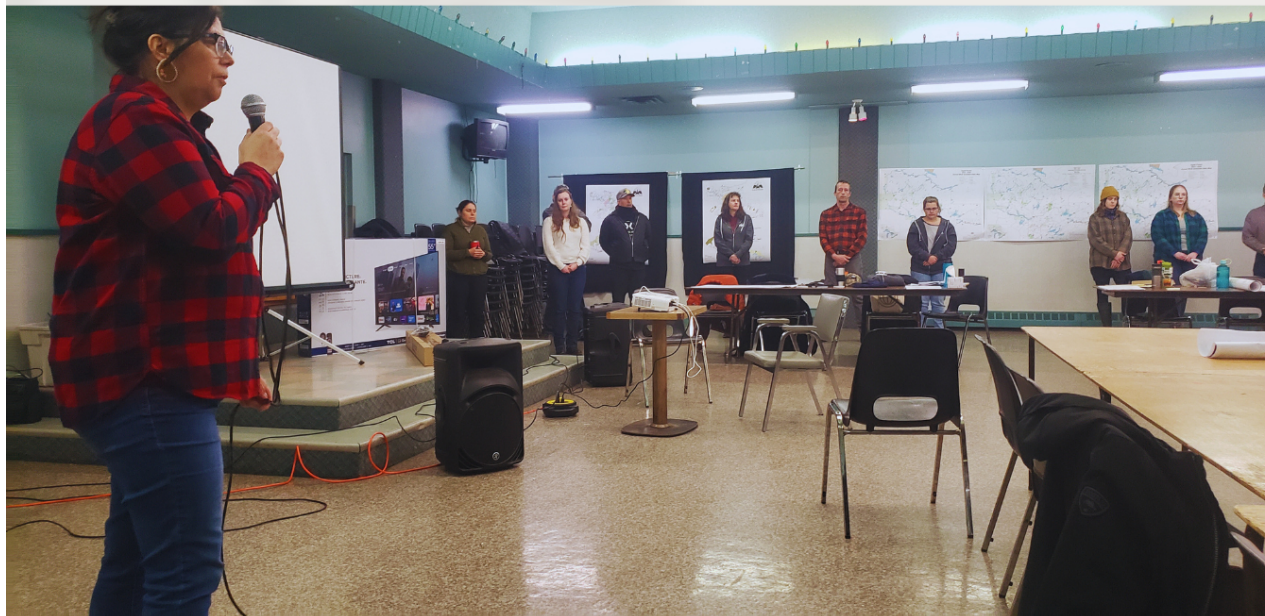
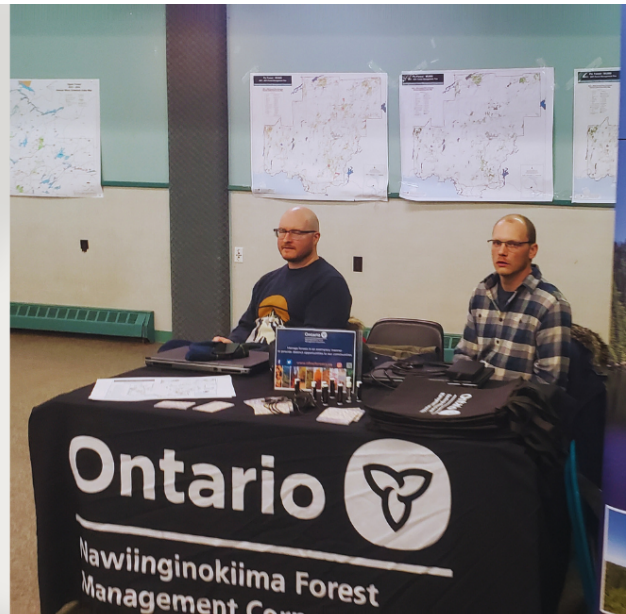
The original idea for an event of this nature stemmed from the fact that I had Hannah Rideout (RPF for Ogoki Forest Management Unit through the Agoke Development Corporation) and Richard Shwedack (her general manager from Greenforest Management Inc) lined up to present their AWS (Annual Work Schedule) for the Ogoki Forest for the evening of Thursday February 23 at the Ginoogaming First Nation Training Centre. Instead, AWS's for three different forest units in one location/ evening took place which is excellent -- our community members should not have to attend multiple night events for their needs.

See pictures of this wonderful evening on the next page.

**Annual work schedules are prepared every year for each management unit by a registered professional forester identify forest operations (such as harvest, road construction, tree planting, aerial spraying) from the approved plan that will occur that year include more details about the planned forest operations**



### 3 Forest Management Unit Meeting Photos





# MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS TEAM

Spring is here and everything is starting anew.

The MH&A team has a lot of new things happening too. We continue to assist those that need medical withdrawal management, detox, treatment and aftercare. If this is something that you would be interested in, contact the Health Centre 876-2732.

We welcomed a new member to the team at the beginning of December. Carol Marszowski is the family and victim service worker. I will let her introduce herself, look to the right >>

- We are now certified to provide Sublocade injections (a once a month shot of suboxone)
- If you want to find out more about it, or if it would be something for you...talk with Kelly or Lana and they will let you know all about it
- We have been meeting with Geraldton District Hospital to improve communication and service to our Ginoogaming members that present with mental health and/or addictions issues
- With the warmer weather coming we are looking forward to having more activities take place out at the Healing Lodge
- Gretchen and Dan will be coming up once a month once the weather gets better as twice this winter they had to cancel due to weather. They are still available by phone or video for those that need
- Aftercare program for women, men and youth at Ginoozhay Healing Camp will take place soon
- Lunch and Learn every Wednesday at noon (or as Carol calls it...ask and eat 😊)

## Coming soon...

- Paint nights
- Bonfires
- Sober dances/ "Pub" nights

Stop in any time for coffee and say hello!!

..... to be continued!!!



Hello Ginoogaming First Nations Members,

My name is Carol Marszowski and I am from Geraldton. I have two daughters ages 8 and 6. I'm expecting my third daughter in May. My partner and I live with my gramma as we take care of her full-time. This has been something I've always pictured doing growing up. I'm happy I have the job and life I do now that allows me to do this. Family is everything to me. I started working for GFN December 1st 2022 as the Family and Victim Services Worker. Helping people is something I've always been passionate about. Some of my past job experience in different fields include working as an educational assistant, dietary aide, and private respite worker. These careers have given me the knowledge I have working with a diverse range of people with different needs physically and intellectually as well as providing safety and culturally sensitive care. I have been through active addiction myself and have lived in that stage in my life for about 10 years. I'm proud to say I've been in recovery now for coming up to two years. Having lived through my addiction and fortunate enough to find recovery, I'm even more eager to help people going through the same in life. I'm always ready to learn new ways I can help people so for that reason I strongly believe in having an open door policy at work. My office is located in the Health Centre here on Ginoogaming. If you have anything you need help, come on down, if I don't have the resources to help you, I will find them.



# Implementation Coordinator Update

Spring is here and grounds are thawing out which means more job opportunities and training are coming. Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years? Although it would be great to be employed with Greenstone Goldmine (GGM), but what happens after they complete the mine? It's important to know that we are looking for long-term sustainability within our community even after the mine is decommissioned. Please contact me to share your ideas and how I can best help you on your venture?

With attending Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) in Toronto early March, it was a great opportunity to create more partnerships and relationships for future developments for Ginoogaming First Nation members and land. As I'm continuing to learn about other successful projects whether in business or mining, its becoming the standard to respect our people, to be involved in community engagement. We are all part of growing our capacity which makes us become stronger as a Nation.



Ginoogaming First Nation recently completed Life Skills and G1 Test Prep Training in our community. We will begin another Life Skills on April 24th and another G1 training in the next few months, hoping to complete G2 as well.

Sad news, an Eagle's nest was knocked down on Greenstone Goldmine (GGM) in April, even though there was a no-entry buffer. The eagle is a sacred animal to our Anishinaabe people. Greenstone Goldmine had an internal investigation and is rectifying the matter, which includes:

- Trail cameras, increased security
- Environmental Agencies notified and will continue to monitor and consider relocation and consult with ornithologist
- GGM provide wildlife protection and notify community members in May





# Implementation Coordinator Update Cont'd

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## MDLP Update

Mining Essentials is now complete and students were able to take a site tour at GGM. The Plumbing course will soon be complete as well. Two members, Curve Lake and Aroland First Nation, advanced to Security Supervisors with Synterra Security. In March, MDLP was awarded the Partnership of the Year Award by NADF. Congratulations to a strong team that are helping our members build capacity with training and employment. MDLP also conducted an entrepreneur workshop with Greenstone Economic Development Corporation late February.

GGM Update: More Ginoogaming members have been hired by Greenstone Goldmine- Congratulations to those in the departments of Environment, Operators, and Water Treatment Plant. We look forward to more members being hired and advancing into management positions. GGM will continue to hire haul truck operators. They are very much in need of Heavy Equipment Technicians, electricians, and instrumentation.

GGM will finalize construction of the Plant site to prepare for the new Highway 11. Bell Canada and Hydro One have been busy supplying new lines. All buildings are now open, in the process of interior work, mechanical, piping, and trades, which includes the powerplant. Goldfield Creek is now finalized and flowing. Operations is now in effect for many plants on GGM: water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, site mixed emulsion plant, and pit fuel station.

## Upcoming

Career Fair – Fall 2023

GGM Site Tour – TBD 2023

Hiring haul truck operators – Ongoing

Eagle briefing by GGM – May 2023

# Economic Development

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Our new Director for Economic Development and Resources, Denan Kuni, started his role in August 2022. Since then, the Economic Development team comprising of Peter Rasevych, Calvin Taylor, Crystal Iserhoff, Jason Chapais, Leslie O’Nabigon, Aidan Fortier, Curtis Towegishig and Marianne Echum have been working hard to serve the community.

In September 2022, we hosted two (2) community engagement events with regard to the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and hosted the Main Table meetings with Ontario and Canada in Longlac and Toronto. A technical land selection working group has been established between GFN, Ontario and Canada and the first working group session took place on November 30.

Also in September 2022, we secured \$300K for a Hardwood Plant feasibility study. The study will examine the merits of constructing a hardwood mill on GFN land to produce oriented strand board (OSB) and laminated strand lumber (LSL) with the products being marketed for export to the central United States. Our objective is that the increased hardwood harvests will result in additional employment, contracting and supply opportunities, increased fibre utilization, increase transportation business opportunities for our community and ultimately, increase revenue for Ginoogaming.

Denan is also been nominated by Chief and Council to represent GFN on the newly established Matawa Development Corporation (MDC), as a Board of Director under a Unanimous Shareholder Agreement and Partnership Agreement. MDC will enter into commercial agreements in conjunction with the following industry partners: EPCOR (industrial water management), PCL (general contracting company, modular building construction, services contracts, Ontario Power Generation (energy demand/supply) and Enterprise Capital (to begin discussions around the creation of a Matawa Capital acquisition company - debt and risk management). We are always looking at ways in which these developments at a regional level, will benefit the GFN community.

The team has been intimately involved in the Matawa Environmental Technical Table (METT) which was established in July 2022 with support from Four Rivers, to develop a draft Terms of Reference to guide its ongoing work that will follow the Elders guiding principles, to advance the regional assessment in the Ring of Fire. The team has also been involved in the Kenogami Environmental Technical Table (KETT).

Other initiatives we are working on include revitalizing the GFN Radio station and renewing our Bingo license for increased community engagements and revenue generation as well as engaging with Greenstone Municipality on a Communications Protocol, Waste Management planning, joint initiatives on economic development projects, joint training initiatives in areas like Renewable Energy (connected to mining and forestry). The strategy here is to diversify the sector base of GFN/Greenstone.



# Economic Development Cont'd

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For 2023, we are aiming to host quarterly Community Economic Development Engagements which will include guest speakers, motivational speakers, economic trends and developments and GFN quarterly economic updates. We will be strengthening our Environmental Guardians program in the community as well as our Community Communication Liaison Officer (CCLO) position that will brief community members on existing and new mining permits around GFN.

We will be adding more weight to our Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator role by more effectively coordinating GFN's community outreach including hosting regular community sessions (complying with pandemic safety precautions) to increase community involvement in current and future economic development projects.

We are in the process of applying to multiple provincial and government funding sources to boost community and regional economic development while earnestly seeking new industry partners to diversify our stakeholder base. We are also working with multiple partners to renew our 5-year Economic Development Strategy with the view of establishing a dedicated Economic Development unit in Ginoogaming by April 2024.

The Economic Development team will be moving ahead with a streamlined and more effective team where there is accountability, transparency, individual and team effort which will result in more economic benefits for the community!



# GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION PEACEKEEPERS

## A note from Chief Sheri...

These are our peacekeepers, I would just like add that our Community was in dire need of assistance with so many social issues, the use of drugs and alcohol, and as Chief and Council we knew that our answers had to be found in our community.

We put out a notice for community to help us with looking after our community, and they did!

We had community members young and old step up to help resolve the issues and concerns and keep the community safe. The C&C wanted to keep this going so we reached out to ISN Maskwa to help with building capacity for our peacekeeper team. We found some financial support through First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, Health Emergency Management through many discussions with our leadership.



## Article submitted by ISN Maskwa is Canada's first Indigenous Emergency Operations Centre (IEOC)

Owned by Missanabie Cree First Nation, ISN Maskwa is Canada's first Indigenous Emergency Operations Centre (IEOC) and a leader in training and deploying teams into Indigenous communities for a variety of specialties.

Established in November of 2020, ISN Maskwa has been working extensively to build on the concept of an "Indigenous-led Community Support" with regards to evacuation and emergency response. The ISN Maskwa team strives to establish and build upon many meaningful relationships with First Nations, Metis and Inuit leaders and communities across the province of Ontario.



In June of 2022, ISN Maskwa deployed a team into Ginoogaming First Nation to provide support with a focus on supporting and mentoring the Peacekeepers Program. The team remains in-community and is comprised of an on-the-ground Supervisor who makes efforts to promote community safety and well-being while also continuing to



# Ginoogaming First Nation Peace Keepers Cont'd

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mentor the Peacekeepers Program. The team continues to work together to increase the capacity and abilities of the Peacekeepers while improving the safety for all community members in Ginoogaming First Nation.

One example of how the ISN Maskwa Supervisors with the Peacekeepers assist in the community is by conducting regular wellness checks. These checks also include providing direct mental health first aid to those who benefit from additional supports. They also conduct regular patrols of the community throughout their shift and offer assistance where needed.

In February of 2023, ISN Maskwa provided their Evacuation Support Specialist Security training to the Peacekeepers to build upon their skill sets. The group received training and certification in the areas of First Aid and CPR, Security, Search and Rescue, Mental Health First Aid and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. After 10 full days of training, the Peacekeepers team successfully graduated the course. All trainers noted how engaged the Peacekeepers were on the course and that it was apparent that they want to make a difference in their community.

Ginoogaming First Nation Chief and Council, in recognition and support of their Peacekeeper Program, recently passed a Band Council Resolution ("BCR") to acknowledge the community band member lead team of Peacekeepers. The BCR calls upon all police agencies and stakeholders to acknowledge and support the program. The goal of the BCR is to build upon and enhance the level of service required to make the community a safe place for now, and for the next seven generations.

Moving forward, the ISN Maskwa team in partnership with the Ginoogaming Peacekeepers Program, will work closely to continue to promote community safety and wellness. The Supervisor will continue the mentoring of the Peacekeepers with a focus on identifying future leaders and providing the team with the necessary skills to be successful in the community.

**ISN Muskwa**

**Toll Free 1-866-790-ISNI (4764) | [WWW.ISNINC.CA](http://WWW.ISNINC.CA) | Best People. Best Methods. Best Results.**

## GFN PEACEKEEPERS NEED A LOGO!

Chief and Council would like a logo, and we are having a logo contest for the Peacekeepers logo, open to community members \$ 1000.00 prize



# MEET THE TEAM

## AIDEN FORTIER, ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIAN



Aidan is an off-reserve member of Ginoogaming First Nation, but has kept close to his home community throughout the years. He is a recent high school graduate (2022) and has decided to join the workforce rather than pursuing a post-secondary education.

He has been gaining work experience and developing his skill-set throughout his high school years such as; interpersonal skills, problem-solving, teamwork etc. But his eagerness to learn and motivation is his biggest asset.

His last employment was with Cloutier Contracting and was employed as a labourer for 7 months. Gaining hands-on experience working for the construction of the Greenstone Gold Mine. His reason for leaving? To be more involved in his home community through the Lands & Resources team as an Environmental Guardian.

Aidan doesn't have much of a background pertaining to work experience and education, but has what's more than that: hope in our community to be more engaged in the environments and ultimately, in the protection of our homelands for the betterment of our people and Mother Earth.

"We have a long way to go for the future we desire of our homelands. The way has already been prepared for us through our Chief & Council, our dedicated Lands & Resources team and our partnerships. Now we as a community need to make that first step towards our future." – Aidan Fortier

Continued from Page 1...

To the right is diagram of our work with the First Nation Financial Management Board. Some of our goals this year with them are:

- Meeting the criteria for 10 year grant
- Community Engagement Session
- Developing a Financial Administration Law







## New Garbage and Recycling Collection Programs



New garbage truck coming!  
Each house will get a black  
95L wheel bin for garbage.



Each house should have received blue bags  
& 2 blue boxes for inside. Curbside  
collection program to start end of April, or  
members can take to the big green  
dumpsters past the Training Centre.  
Remember to keep bags/bins separated as:  
1 - mixed containers (plastic, tetra, cans)  
and 2 - cardboard/paper.



Waiting for funding  
to purchase each  
household a blue  
95L wheel bin for  
recycling.

Keep an eye out for a household  
hazardous waste collection event  
this summer!

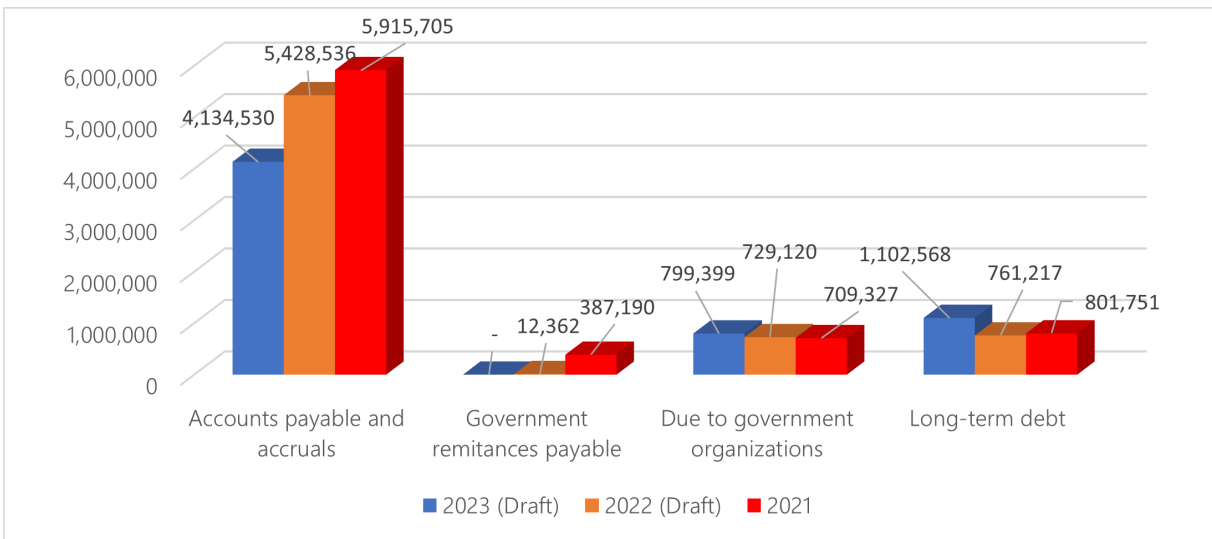


## Intervention

In the spring of 2023, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) announced plans to de-escalate Ginoogaming First Nation from intervention. Ginoogaming First Nation has been in some form of government intervention since the 1990's. This is phenomenal news for the community.

## Debt

The First Nation had total payables in the amount of 6.9 million dollars at the end of March 2022. In the past year the Council has been able to reduce this by approximately \$900,000.



### Large payables to date

	2023	2022	2021
Matawa First Nations Management	481,154	483,404	472,363
Municipality of Greenstone	2,043	976,710	889,353
Superior Greenstone District School Board	2,179,817	1,880,614	2,295,073
Superior North Catholic District School Board	1,082,091	1,173,100	1,313,807
Others	389,424	914,708	945,109
<b>Total payables and accruals</b>	<b>4,134,530</b>	<b>5,428,536</b>	<b>5,915,705</b>

These debts are long-standing going back many years, prior to the current Chief and Council

The First Nation has continued 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.

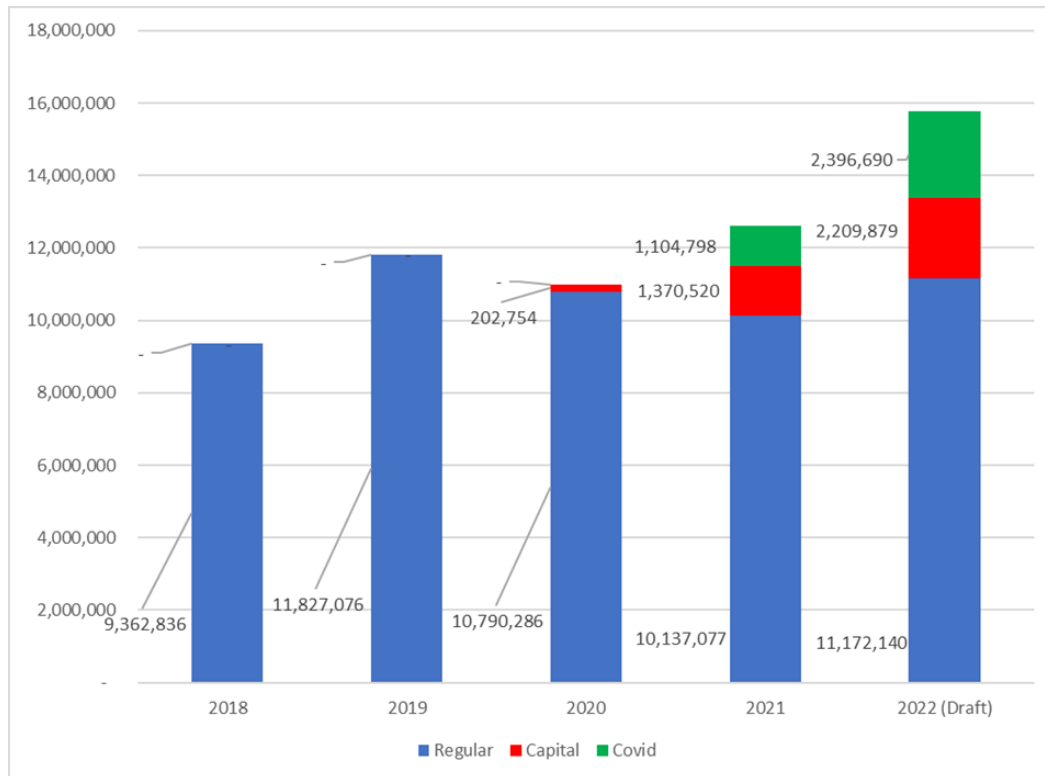
## Reporting

The First Nation completed it's 2021 audit in the fall of 2022. The 2022 statements are currently in progress and are expected to be completed in the spring of 2023.



## Revenue Trends

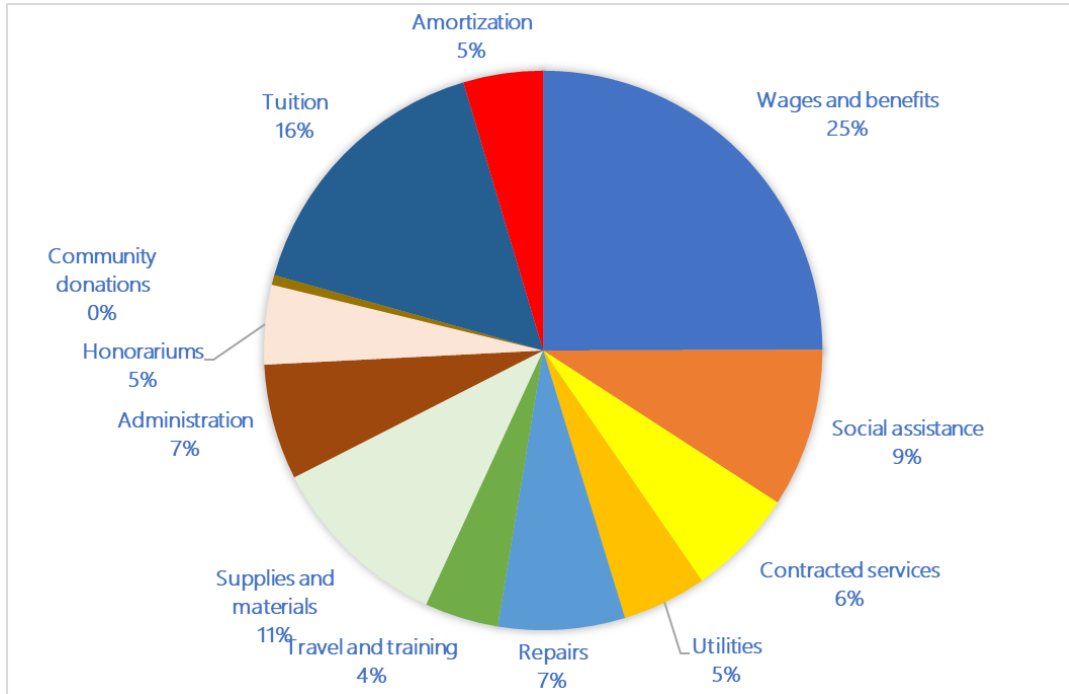
Over the past 5 years, revenue has continued to increase due in part to special COVID-19 funding and the increase in capital projects undertaken by the community.



## Expenses Trend

	2022	% of Total
Administration	1,385,336	14.87%
Community Infrastructure	1,103,656	11.85%
Education	2,332,793	25.04%
Social Housing	230,875	2.48%
Social Services	1,666,760	17.89%
Employment and Economic Development	473,894	5.09%
Other First Nation Activities	2,121,638	22.78%
	<b>9,314,952</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Expenses by Object



## Capital Projects

The First Nation has a number of capital projects that were recently completed or are in the early stages of development. These include:

- The completion of a feasibility study towards a transition home in the community. The First Nation is working with Architecture 49 to complete the detailed design for the next stage of the project
- The completion of a safe space in the community. This 2 unit building will allow displaced members a place to stay and access mental health supports
- The remediation of the First Nation's roads. This project will be continuing in the late spring, early summer.
- The purchase of a safe temporary bridge over the former 132 km bridge. Ginoogaming is working with ISC for a permanent, safe replacement.