

Spring Newsletter



**BINGWMI NEYAASHI
BANISHINAABEK**

**20
24**



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A Message from Chief & Council

Greetings BNA Members,

We trust this message finds you well and that you had a warm and joyful festive season with your loved ones. As we look back on the past months, we are delighted to share some highlights of recent events and updates within our community, since BNA's last Newsletter.



Unveiling of Plaque Honoring Norval Morriseau: A Legacy Preserved

On October 9, 2023, a significant event occurred as a plaque was unveiled at the Nipigon Lookout, honoring Norval Morriseau, also known as Copper Thunderbird, and the Indigenous Group of Seven. Norval, a distinguished member of BNA, gained national recognition for his art. The plaque stands as a lasting tribute to Norval's legacy, ensuring that his contributions to art and culture will resonate for generations to come. We are proud to celebrate and honor the achievements of one of our own.

Vaccine/Flu Shot Clinic: Prioritizing Health and Well-being

On November 24th, 2023, BNA hosted a vaccine and flu shot clinic at the Van Norman site. This clinic aimed to promote the health and well-being of our members and affiliates. Your participation in prioritizing community health is a testament to the strength of our collective commitment to each other's welfare.



Annual Community Christmas Party: Spreading Joy and Cheer

The BNA Annual Community Christmas Party was a resounding success, with a wonderful turnout and joyous celebrations. This event, as always brings our community together, promoting a sense of unity and shared happiness. Santa's special appearance brought delight to the children, making it a memorable occasion for all in attendance.

Community Meeting: Sharing Updates and Building Connection

A community meeting took place on Sunday March 24th, 2024 where members were provided with updates on several ongoing projects. These gatherings are important for open communication, building transparency, and ensuring that the community is well-informed about the initiatives that shape the future of BNA.

As we move forward into the new fiscal year, Council remains dedicated to creating a thriving and connected community. Your continued support, engagement, and participation in community events contribute to the growth and strength of BNA.

We extend our gratitude to all members for your ongoing commitment to the well-being and prosperity of our community. May the coming year be filled with continued growth, shared successes, and the strengthening of our bonds as a community.

Miigwetch,
Chief & Council

Update from the Finance Department

Our finance team has been as busy as ever over the last few months. Our new task is to get ready for the upcoming year end audit. The audit is scheduled to start late in May and is expected to be completed by the middle of July. The audit of the Annual Financial Statements from the previous year (2022/2023) was also completed back in November.

If you are a band member and wish to receive a digital or paper copy of these financial statements or a copy of the schedule of Remuneration and Expenses for Council, please contact our Communications Coordinator, Jake Alfieri, at jalfieri@bnafn.ca or by phone at 1 (807) 623-2724 ext. 208.

The FAC has been working closely with Council and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's (BNA) administration. BNA places a strong emphasis on financial transparency and accountability, as well as making preparations to achieve certification through the Financial Management Board (FMB).

Here are a few key items that the FAC and administration has been working on:

1. Audit Review and Approval: The FAC is actively involved in the audit review process. They had the opportunity to sit down with MNP and thoroughly review the 2022/2023 audit. This process allowed them to ask questions and provide suggestions for the next year's audit. The audit was subsequently recommended for approval by Chief and Council, and it was approved. This process enhances transparency and ensures financial accountability.

2. Financial Administration Law (FAL) Update: As BNA moves closer to certification through the FMB, we have updated our Financial Administration Law (FAL). This updated FAL is necessary to approve amendments from the previous FAL and repeal the 2020 version, ensuring that our financial practices are in compliance with current standards.

3. Preparation for Certification: BNA is actively working with the Financial Management Board (FMB) to complete our certification. This involves reviewing key policies, including Human Resources Policy, Information Management Policy, and Finance Policy, to ensure they align with the requirements for certification. This is a huge milestone for BNA and a lot of hard work has gone into reaching this point. This is an added step to provide BNA with a certification to support our financial accountability practices and will open the door for external partnerships. The certification team attended our office from April 24 – 26 to complete their field work to ensure that BNA is operating in accordance with its policies and the FAL. From there, based on their findings, they will recommend BNA to be certified.

The FAC's actions reflect a strong commitment to sound financial governance and a dedication to ensuring that BNA is well-prepared for certification. The FAC and BNA leadership are working together to ensure financial responsibility and transparency for the benefit of the BNA membership. In the next couple of months, the FAC, along with Council and BNA administration, will be working on completing the planning process for the next fiscal year. This includes budgeting for next fiscal and completing BNA's multi-year financial plan.

Chief and Council, at the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), met and approved the annual operating budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year on March 18, 2024. This budget was prepared in collaboration with the program directors and managers as we head into another operating year.

As always, to ensure a smooth and accurate processing of paperwork on our end, we ask that everybody please continue to allow a minimum of two weeks for any payment requests to be processed and paid. Our team continues to process cheques and direct deposit payments every Thursday.

New Loan from First Nation Finance Authority

As you will recall, back in June of 2023 the road into the community suffered extensive damage as a result of the spring thaw. This required BNA to invest a significant amount of money to have the road repaired and make it suitable for use. This road construction was performed by Teranorth Construction over a number of months and cost BNA approximately \$2.5 million to complete. At the time, in order to ensure that the road was repaired as quickly as possible, BNA initially paid the repairs solely from cash on hand and from its GIC investment; no external financing was received. These funds needed to be replenished through some form of financing, so in February BNA approached the FNFA and received a loan for the total cost of the project, \$2.5 million. The FNFA is a fully First Nation-governed entity and is run by its borrowing members. Because of the structure of this organization, BNA was able to secure this funding at a much lower interest rate than if it had borrowed from a traditional lender. The FNFA is the only funding source for this project; no other sources of financing were used.

As part of its mandate, ISC is responsible for funding key infrastructure, such as roads. Our infrastructure team has prepared and submitted capital applications to ISC to recover as much of the expenses associated with the road project as possible.



Brandon Favel, CPA
Director of Finance



Economic Development Updates

Sawmill Expansion: New Planer-Moulder Building

In the summer of 2023, BNA was approved through the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs for a new building study for the BNA Sawmill expansion. This new building is critical to ensure that there will be enough room for the new value-added equipment line, which simply will not fit in the current Sawmill building. However, to get funding support for this building, BNA must prepare the required background material to show the funder that the project is indeed feasible.

Therefore, BNA worked with its consulting partners at TBT engineering to conduct both geotechnical studies as well as new topographic surveys at the site around the current Sawmill building. This is important to show the amount of material that will need to be brought in to ensure the structural sustainability of the new building. BNA also worked with Northern Community Solutions (NCS) to complete a business plan for the new building. It is critical that the wood flow from the Sawmill operation fits well in the plan, as the planer-moulder stage is the final stage of wood production, after the sawing and kiln drying is complete.

The next step is for BNA to apply to funding agencies to support this important piece of infrastructure.

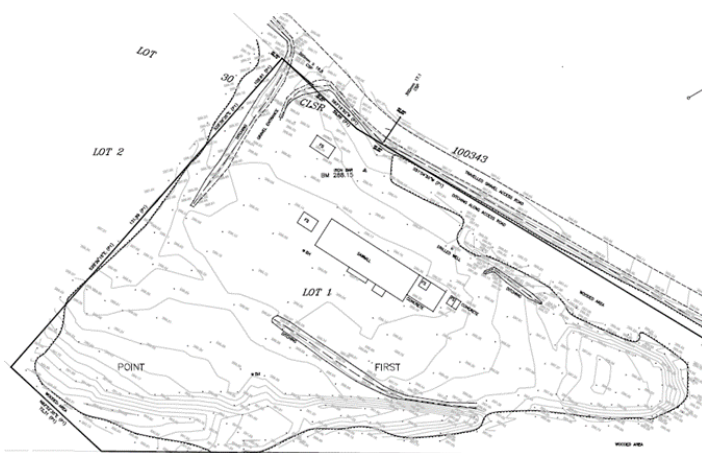


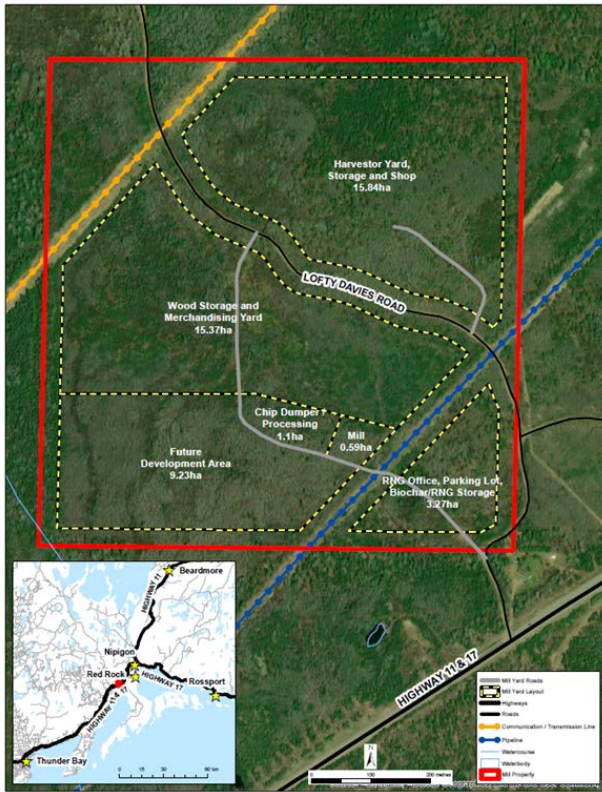
Little Jackfish River Hydro Project Update

BNA has continued to meet with OPG regarding the re-commencement of the Environmental Assessment for this project, which would be nearly 80 MW in size. It would involve the Lake Nipigon First Nations being co-proponents on the Environmental Assessment for the project, and equal equity owners of the site in case it were to move forward to construction. Discussions continue at a preliminary level with OPG and the neighbouring First Nations on this proposed development.

Associated with this Project would be a transmission line capable of transmitting this power to both mining developments and the overall provincial transmission grid. This process is a planning exercise with the Independent Electrical Systems Operator (IESO), which analyzes transmission routing, while looking at the major projects and developments occurring in the region. BNA and its neighbouring First Nation communities plan to be at the table for these discussions. Currently, our community is being serviced by the terrible and inadequate A4L transmission line, which has frequent outages for BNA and the Greenstone region. We believe we are in dire need of new transmission in the region, both for the development of our community, but also to enable regional mining, forestry, and other projects throughout the Greenstone region and beyond.

We will continue to update the BNA membership about Little Jackfish and the regional transmission initiatives that are being pursued.





BNA Commercial Zone Study

In 2023, BNA carried out its Commercial Zone Feasibility Study with TBT Engineering and MNP, and support from Indigenous Services Canada’s Community Opportunities Readiness Fund. This involved looking at the feasibility of multiple proposed developments on its reserve lands: a gas bar and convenience store, including electric charging stations and showers for truckers; a hotel and restaurant; and a helipad. This development would take place on the northern-eastern most portion of the BNA reserve, which offers good line of sight for truckers coming in either direction. The study included a new traffic study, development costs, and marketing research, and recommendations for proceeding to the next stage.

The results of the study were mixed. The gas bar, convenience store and helipad were given a positive feasibility outlook. While the hotel and restaurant were not viewed as favourably in the study, more work still needs to be done to ensure that the proper inputs are considered, including looking at changing the scope and size of that development.

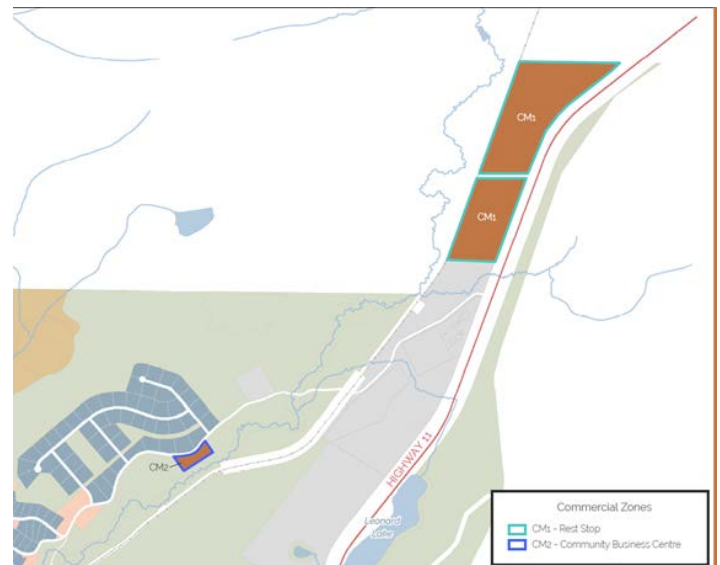
BNA has an opportunity to access significant supports from ISC for site development, however cannot move that forward without first having all of the soft studies complete, including business plans for each proposed business. We will continue to work on this development to ensure that BNA is well positioned to take advantage of the multiple projects that will be occurring in the region.

Biomass Project in Hurkett

On March 13th, Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc., in which Papasay is a 25% shareholder along with its neighbouring First Nation communities, had its signing ceremony in Hurkett along with our partners, Char Technology. This Project will be taking wood waste and residue from forestry operations throughout the Lake Nipigon and neighbouring Forests, gasifying it and turning it into clean, renewable natural gas, which will supplement dirtier natural gas in the system. The residue, which is called “biochar” will be sent to southern Ontario to supplement coal in the steel plants.

The signing ceremony was attended by the LNFMI Board, Char leadership, Chiefs and Councillors from the neighbouring communities, and representatives from industry and government. This project is a true example of what can happen when communities work together for the betterment of the region, and use best technologies to help to improve the planet. Benefits to the communities will include employment opportunities for members, and revenue generation to assist with the re-building of Sand Point.

The timeline for this project is ambitious. We hope to be in operation by the summer/fall of 2025.



Economic Development Updates

MTO Highway Projects

For many years, BNA has struggled to realize real opportunities with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on regional highway projects. However, over the past few months, opportunities for participation have become a reality.

The first was a set-aside opportunity for our First Nation on a culvert replacement between BNA and Beardmore. We supported Teranorth, and along with revenues, we were able to sell aggregates from our Papasay Pit. More recently, an opportunity for set aside culverts has again arisen for work on Hwy 11 heading northeast. Papasay formed a 50/50 company with Rocky Bay First Nation called “2-Nations Construction LP” and are prepared for the upcoming opportunities for 3 culvert replacements. We will again be working with Teranorth for this work. 2-Nations construction will also be working with our neighbouring communities of AZA, Aroland and Ginoogaming and their “Minodahmun” corporation, and will work together for the larger culvert contract. This will be competitive however, so opportunities for revenue generation may be more limited.

Closer to home, through its Title negotiations BNA continues to fight for the Orient Bay #20 Aggregate Quarry near the community and will continue to find a way to open up the on-reserve aggregate opportunity in its Industrial Park.



BNA Tourism Study

Last summer, BNA commenced a regional tourism study with NCS, focused on its two Papasay properties: Blue Lake and Big Virgin Island.

Blue Lake was purchased over a decade ago, and has an old sauna, pergola, and aggregate material on-site. While this property provided the majority of the materials currently making up Lot A of the BNA Industrial Park, we were hoping to utilize the property as an income generator. Unfortunately, the results from the study were not great. Greenstone Gold Mines did not show an interest in the site as a rental, and feasibility-wise it is not a major revenue generator. However there could be opportunities for partnering with other tourism operators in the region to make a go at a small operation. This would also get BNA’s “feet wet” in the tourism industry regionally.

Big Virgin Island was just purchased a few years ago, and the study looked at opportunities for tourism. Based on the completed study, the best opportunities for development on Big Virgin currently is related to programming for the Family Well-Being department. This would ensure that infrastructure is developed on the island. Through this study, the co-management of the north and south ends of the island was also explored, which would involve discussions with the province to put in nature trails or other additions that would assist with tourism in the future.

The study also talked about a local option, something small on-reserve that could both bring revenues into the community, as well as prepare BNA and its members for the future, large-scale tourism opportunities that will come with the building of our eco-lodge when we get our new lands. This could be fully funded, ensuring the community is not out of pocket for development dollars. BNA will explore these options further as part of our overall regional development.



In Memoriam

R.I.P. Lawrence Ishkwegaa

January 12, 1975 - April 27, 2024



It is with great sadness, that the family of Lawrence Ishkwegaa (Esquega), age 75, announce his passing in the late hours of April 27, 2024, at Southbridge Lakehead Manor. Lawrence is survived by his daughters Kari Esquega, Selena Esquega, and his son Karhu Esquega, his sisters Lucy Day, Theresa Esquega and Myria Esquega, his numerous nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and his 9 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter.

Lawrence was predeceased by both his parents Margaret and Victor Esquega, his brothers Victor Esquega, Edward Esquega Sr and Quincy Esquega, and special sister Irene Harper, his nephews Gene Esquega, Edward (Eddie) Esquega Jr, Craig Johnston, Nicky Bannon and Tommy Bannon.

Lawrence was a Councillor and beloved Elder for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek formerly, Sand Point First Nation. Lawrence loved learning about his Culture, Traditions and Anishinaabemowin. Lawrence participated regularly at BNA events over the years, providing advice, wisdom, and guidance to both staff and leadership. This included sharing his knowledge and history of the area around Sand Point in Elder interviews. This allowed BNA the opportunity to properly document its traditional territory, which has been vital to our work in the land claim negotiations. His humour and wit was always welcomed.

Lawrence worked on the ships for many, many years, and he loved being around his family, he enjoyed his music and playing the guitar. Lawrence always portrayed a smile and had a contagious laugh. Most of all, he was great father and grandad who will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Private viewing services were held at Blake's Funeral Chapel on Monday April 29, 2024, for family and close friends. His immediate family will be taking his ashes to Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek where they plan to hold a small, intimate gathering at his final resting place.

R.I.P. Frank (“Tunny”) Hardy

January 14, 1964 – March 19, 2024



BNA sends its best wishes to Peggy and the community of BZA on the loss of Tunny. Tunny was a long-time employee at BZA, working in the lands and resources areas. The Chief, Jordan and others in the BNA office worked very closely with Tunny on joint projects in the region. These included the Little Jackfish Hydro Development, the Axor Hydro project, mining and exploration work, Lake Nipigon Forest Management and biomass initiatives, Hwy developments, and joint conservation and sustainability work.

Always hard working and diligent, Tunny brought his experiences from living and working on Lake Nipigon his whole life to the table. In the process, he made us better at our jobs, ensuring that we never forgot about the importance of the environment whenever we worked with industry. Tunny will be missed.



Community Energy Coordinator

Hello and Happy Spring from BNA's Community Energy Coordinator. Below is the list of energy projects we have been working on:

Transmission Line Projects

All transmission line projects within the community have been completed (Copper Thunderbird, Middle Beach, Phase 4 housing Area, and Phase 1 Housing Loop). We are continuing to work with the Indigenous representative from Hydro One on when they will take over the transmission lines.



Food Sovereignty Sea-Can

BNA was recently successful in receiving funding for installation of a Sea-Can to clean and store traditional food such as moose meat, fish, etc. Equipment inside the Sea-Can will consist of folding tables, tabletop ice machines, shelving, a smoker, and vacuum sealing bags. The installation of the Sea-Can has an expected completion date of August 31st, 2024. All equipment has been purchased, and we are waiting on Sea-Can delivery.

BNA Ice Making Shack

BNA was successful on getting funding for the construction of a ice shack on the land. This will provide fast and fresh ice to keep fish quality for longer periods of time. The construction has an estimated completion date of July 31st, 2024.

Energy Savings Tip

Open your windows. Opening windows creates a cross breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switching on air conditioners. This is an ideal approach in spring when temperatures are mild.



District Biomass Heating System Project

BNA and TBT Engineering have completed the design for the construction proposals for the District Biomass Heating project. We have sent in several proposals to several funding agencies for this work and waiting for approval. The geotechnical and site clearing have been completed as well as all feasibility studies. The project consists of using one small and one big boiler to provide heat for a large portion of the BNA community. The distribution lines will be buried underground and can last for approximately 30 years. The district biomass heating system is a clean and reliable way to heat homes.

Housing & Infrastructure



BNA 2024 CMHC Section 95 Housing

CMHC Section 95 serves as a pivotal program in facilitating access to housing for First Nations communities across Canada. Through this initiative, eligible entities, such as BNA, have the opportunity to apply for housing units to meet the pressing needs of community members. Typically, BNA submits applications for a specific number of units, aiming to provide stable and suitable accommodation options. If approved by the funder, CMHC, BNA's housing administration will issue notifications to the community, informing of the opportunity to reside in these units under a rent-to-own arrangement. It's worth noting that all CMHC Section 95 units operate under 15-year agreements between BNA and CMHC. This agreement structure ensures a long-term commitment between BNA and community members/tenants eventually having the option to transition from renting to ownership at the end of the agreed-upon period. Overall, CMHC Section 95 stands as a vital mechanism in fostering housing security and empowerment within Indigenous communities, emphasizing sustainability and community engagement in the housing process.

CMHC Housing Internship for Indigenous Youth

BNA's decision to apply for the Housing Internship for Indigenous Youth program offered by CMHC demonstrates a commitment to nurturing talent within BNA community and supporting youth development. The program targets Indigenous youth aged 15 to 30, offering valuable work experience and training opportunities in various

aspects of housing administration, maintenance, construction, renovation, tenant relations, and related areas. BNA, acting as a sponsor, will play a crucial role in providing on-the-job training, coaching, mentoring, and support for skills development and technical training to the selected interns. It's important to note that interns must not be otherwise employed or receiving Employment Insurance benefits during the internship period, ensuring a focus on skill enhancement and career advancement. By participating in this program, BNA contributes to building a skilled workforce and empowering BNA Indigenous youth to pursue meaningful careers in the housing sector.

First Nations Market Housing Fund



and BNA

In late fall of 2023, BNA conducted outreach through an Expression of Interest within the community members to assess interest in participating in the First Nations Market Housing Fund program, and the response was high. Working closely with the Fund, BNA is dedicated to fostering the capacity within the community to establish and sustain loan-based housing initiatives. This endeavor aims to enhance social welfare, spur economic development, and bolster civic improvement across the community and for the community residents. With strategic foresight, BNA identified and allocated six lots, each 0.25 hectares in size and situated along the shoreline of Lake Nipigon. As BNA progresses through the program, the community will be kept informed and engaged, particularly as the next phases unfold, including the acceptance of applications for BNA housing and financial lender partnerships, and ultimately, the allotment of lots to successful applicants. This transparent and inclusive approach underscores BNA's commitment to empowering its community members and fostering sustainable housing solutions that positively impact their lives.

Governance Coordinator Update

Boozhoo my fellow band members. It has been a busy year in the governance coordinator department. I have completed Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Onboarding Manual for Council. This is a proactive step towards ensuring smooth transitions and effective governance within Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek. It shows a commitment to transparency, efficiency, and supporting your Council members in their roles and responsibilities. This Onboarding Manual has been officially implemented on April 1, 2024.



BNA – Papasay Cooperation Agreement

A proposal for a Cooperation Agreement between BNA and Papasay (including Ratification) has been submitted to and approved by the Professional and Institutional Development (P&ID) through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). This Cooperation Agreement demonstrates a proactive approach to fostering partnerships and collaboration. It will be completed throughout this fiscal year.



Wills and Estates

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has been approved to have 30 members take part in having their Wills or Power of Attorney (POA) or Power of Care (POC) done. We will have an attorney come in from Edwards Bell Jewitt LLP to meet individually with our members who have expressed interest in having their Wills, POA's or POC's completed. The first meeting with an attorney would be to gather relevant information like marital status, child(ren), grandchild(ren), assets, liabilities, intended executor and beneficiaries. A second meeting with the attorney may be required if there is any missing information, the attorney will then draft up the Will, POA, or POC. Further information will be sent out to those members who have signed up for this and I will personally reach out to you once we near the date. Please note that it is especially important for those members residing in Sand Point to complete their wills.

Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator
lesquega@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 623-2724 ext.203



Communications Update



Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)

We are excited to announce through the support and dedication of community members, staff, directors, Elders, and Chief & Council we have been able to publish the completed Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek “Geh-zhe Naak-ko-ne-geh-ing: Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)”

Miigwetch to the community members who stepped forward to participate on the CCP Implementation Committee and dedicated many hours to CCP discussion from June 2021 – February 2022 in the first phase of the project. Our CCP Committee Members included:

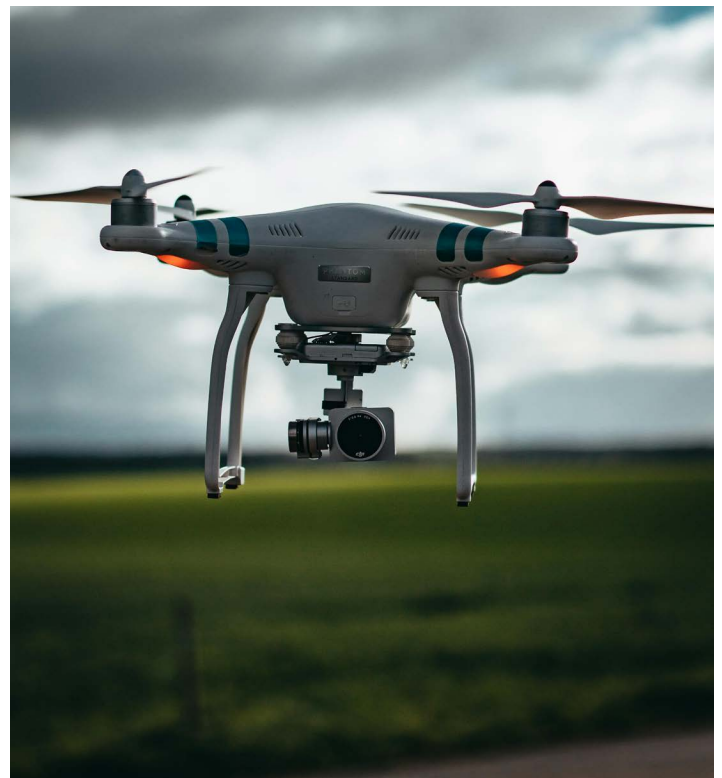
- Jeff Fuller
- Ryan Gorrie
- Ashley Stevenson
- Jennifer Davis
- Joe Ladouceur Jr.

The CCP is a guide for leadership, staff, and managers to stay on track to the community’s overall vision. All staff will be given a copy of the CCP to ensure they can follow our priority actions and will use as a frame of reference for developing any new plans going forward such as the Land Use Plan, Economic Development Plan, ect. Alongside that, as the CCP Coordinator, Jake will be working with the staff to follow-up on any priority action items throughout the year.

As a community member, you will receive a CCP package in the mail that summarizes all the

important information listed in the CCP. Any important or substantial updates will be noted in our quarterly newsletters and there will be annual updates for all CCP changes and successes at our Annual General Meetings. The plan will not change long-term, but every 5 years we will re-look at the CCP and see if Action Items need to be revised and moved to the appendix.

A digital copy of Geh-zhe Naak-ko-ne-geh-ing can be found on our website. If you receive your CCP package and would also like to request a physical copy of Geh-zhe Naak-ko-ne-geh-ing, please contact Jake by email: jalfieri@bnafn.ca.



Drone Training

In February of 2023, Jake, Chris, and Jessica were trained by Liam at CE Strategies on advanced drone operations. From this course, they were all able to successfully pass the online exam. With the exam results complete, in November of 2023, Jake and Chris passed the flight review, giving them their Advanced Operations Drone License. Jessica will be able to complete the flight review once she returns from maternity leave.



Digital Heritage Project

We are pleased to announce the completion of the Digital Heritage Project, also known as the Reclaiming our History Project. This has been a year-long project with assistance from CE Strategies where we have been collecting photos, stories, and videos of Sand Point members and their families to store securely. This is incredibly important to record and keep for future generations to be able to access.

Through this project, we collected over 1000 images ranging from 1900-present day! We also appreciate the stories written or orally given to us- allowing your family to be preserved in BNA's History.

Families will soon be receiving a photo album with some of the photos and stories shared with us. In the meantime, please see the website at www.bnafn.ca/reclaiming-our-history-community-photo-album. Some of the lower content is protected to band members only. Please sign up via the website or email Jake for assistance.

Although we no longer have funding for this project, we are still taking images and stories and will be continuously updating the website portion with anything new shared. We also have some unknown people in images (labeled as such), so if you have any information regarding the unknown people, please contact Jake.

Jake Alfieri, Communications Coordinator
jalfieri@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 623-2724 ext.208



Family Well-Being

Boozhoo,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying all this spring season has to offer. I would like this opportunity to provide you with an update on our BNA Family Well-Being Centre and to share some exciting developments with you.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication to our Family Well-Being Centre. Your commitment plays a crucial role in the success of our program and the well-being of BNA families in our community.

Over the past season we have provided wider range of cultural enrichment activities, such as regalia making, drumming sessions, and traditional workshops. These workshops provide families with opportunities to connect with their cultural heritage and strengthen their sense of identity and belonging.

In collaboration with our BNA health department, we have developed holistic wellness programs that focus on the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of families. These programs incorporate physical fitness, cultural activities, information sessions on various ailments, prevention activities and programs to strengthen mental wellness.

We are actively engaging more with our families residing in our community through outreach events and partnerships. These events provide platforms for sharing information about our programs, fostering community connections and provide valuable resources to our community members.

We have strengthened our Band Rep services to provide more personalized and comprehensive support to families. Our dedicated Band Rep team works closely with families to develop tailored support plans and connect them with resources and services that meet their unique needs and goals for keeping their family united.

Our EarlyON centre has continued to provide programs and resources to parents/caregivers with children 0-6. This early learning program provides a safe space to strengthen belonging, well-being, expression and engagement for children and families. BNA's EarlyON centre provides ongoing learning experiences that encourage exploration, play and learning through inquiry. The EarlyON centre also promotes and nurtures healthy parenting, child development and well-being while fostering relationships and connections.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to promoting the well-being and resilience of BNA families and community. We believe that by empowering families and honouring their cultural traditions, we can create positive and lasting change for generations to come.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions as we continue to evolve and grow our programs and services. If you have any questions or would like more information about any of our initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Miigwetch
Camille Borysewicz
Director of Social Services





Family Well-Being: Grandview property

It's exciting to mention about the progress of the interior renovations project undertaken by FWB at the Grandview property. With draft floor plans finalized and the scope of work established, the next crucial step involves working with a contractor to obtain cost estimates. Once these estimates are received, FWB can proceed with confidence to submit an application to the funder, ensuring the necessary funding is secured to carry out the renovations. With an anticipated spring start date, FWB is well on track to commence the renovations and aims for completion before the year's end or early next year. The floor plan is thoughtfully designed to accommodate the community's needs, featuring three programming rooms upstairs alongside a spacious open area suitable for community gatherings, meetings, and cultural events such as pow wows. Additionally, office spaces on the lower level will provide functional work environments to support FWB's operations. This project reflects FWB's commitment to enhancing its facilities to better serve the community's needs and foster a vibrant, inclusive space for various activities and gatherings.

Community Cultural Coordinator

Interested Participants who would like to be part of Cultural Programming at BNA:

Email events or programs of interest you would like to see in the future as the worker will put them under priority on the list of events for further discussions and workshops/craft nights.

We have invited many dancers of categories that facilitated programs to show an atmosphere and colour of regalia and teachings.

The next step is to start making items on a weekly basis and for the participants to take the items home to finish them and if needing more support, the Community Cultural Coordinator can work one on one with the subject or craft.

Meaning of the word, “Cultural”-relating to ideas, customs, and social behavior:

Self-esteem, pride, nourishment balances of life we value using our Medicine Wheel... we will continue to use the Medicine Wheel as a teaching tool Mental-Emotional-Physical and Spiritual wellness.

Over the course of three months, we held Cultural Programming including: Drum Socials, Hand Drum Making, Pow-wow Gathering for Residential Survivors 2024, worked traditionally one on one Member Sand Point First Nation Participants, and continually works with partnerships within BNA.

I would love to chat with all members one day over the phone or to meet in person and to see what you would like to see in Community Cultural Programming.

Baamaapii Miinawa (see you again)
Miigwetch (thank you),

Nathaniel G. Moses, Community Cultural Coordinator

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)

nmoses@bnafn.ca

807-344-3055 Ext. 241





Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

MAMAWEH NEEBWEEDOAH “LETS STAND TOGETHER”



10:00AM Warm Ups

12:00PM Grand Entry

5:00PM G'wee Sinamin “We will eat”



We invite you to celebrate
Indigenous Peoples Day and
Pride Month with us at our
Powwow.

JUNE 1 2024

150 Grandview Road Thunder Bay
Parking at Jackpine Park.

- EMCEE:** Dave Simard
- Arena Director:** Carmela Moses
- Elder:** Marcel Donio
- Host Drum:** English River
- Co-Host Crum:** Walking Bear
- Head Dancers:** Allen Wemigwans & Jacie Indiann

Family Representation Team

Aanii!! Jordan's Principle applications continue to roll in over the past several months. Upon approval from the government, Jordan's Principle covers families/caregivers with children aged 0-17 that have any needs spiritual, physical, mental and/or emotional to bridge the gaps in lack of services. For families that have youth ages 0-17 an intake form will be sent out for a group application to be processed. If you have any questions or would like to get a Jordan's Principle application started for your child(ren) please reach out!

Tylyn Silander, Manager of Family Representation
tsilander@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 623-2724 ext.230

From the education portfolio, BNA will have a working Education Service Agreement signed and in place for the 2024-2025 school year with Superior Greenstone School Board. Graduation days are slowly creeping up and we are very excited to see the children and youth graduate!! We can't wait to see the children/youth move forward with their education and future endeavors! If you have a child or youth who is graduating this year, please reach out!

Over the weekend of April 12th, the Band Rep team had an amazing turn out for a Making Change weekend! Families were able to vocalize their wants and needs and play fun games. Families had time for family swim, board games, family drawing, and time to reconnect and bond as a family unit. The youth helped making a mural for the Band Rep team and the families developed a vision board for band rep services. Guest Speaker Earl Lambert came and provided valuable encouragement, family building skills, and provided families time to be able to connect in a good way. The Band Rep team continues to complete home visits, help with housing and food security, advocacy, and access to services, providing education on rights and helping build a community. If you or your family requires prevention or child welfare assistance, please reach out to Braidey or Tylyn to see what we can do for you!!

Tylyn Silander, Manager of Family Representation
tsilander@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 623-2724 ext.230

Braidey Stein, Child & Family Advocate
bstein@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 623-2724 ext.230



Health Team - Winter in Review and Upcoming News

Over the cold and blustery winter months the health team has been focusing on bringing information sessions on health-related topics, how we can move our bodies in new ways by incorporating monthly exercise classes and our regular programs.

The team has also enjoyed bringing the 55+ members together for socialization. We have delighted in sharing meals around a table, listening to music and conversations that lead to laughter. The importance to keeping and building the bonds of our members keeps our community strong. This population shares stories about their childhood, work experiences, life experiences and wonders about what is coming next.

As the snow melts, we are starting to plan for outside programs and education regarding whole body health including mental health and positive ways to beat boredom.

Being that we work with members and families moving into different stages of life, we are excited to be having a series of presentations brought to us from The Alzheimer's Society so please keep an eye out for this happening this fall. This will be at minimum 4 sessions all with a different focus with regards to Dementia.

We will also be focusing on bringing more regular programming to the land that will incorporate health, wellness, education, and Indigenous platforms.



Footcare news and update:

Jamie, our RPN and footcare nurse will be creating a dedicated space at the Van Norman site where she will be able to address your footcare needs. Please watch for postings when the space is set up and appointments available. Jamie will also be working on organizing a dedicated area at the Health Clinic at the Land to assist members in need of foot care services.

We will of course continue to incorporate and addressing topics of interest brought forward by our members and coworkers so please reach out and let us know what you enjoy and would like to learn more about and keep busy with!

Please watch for posts where we will be adding a live stream so those unable to attend in person can still attend virtually.

- Tashia Smith-Ennis, Family Health Team
tsmithennis@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 344-3055 ext.239



FAMILY WELL-BEING **SUMMER CAMPS**

**YOUTH
CAMP**

**JULY
15-18**

**JUNIOR'S
CAMP
OVERNIGHT**

**JULY
31**

**FAMILY
CAMP**

**AUG
13-16**

Child and Youth Worker Update

As we rolled into the new year with such a bizarre winter, we made the best with what mother nature had to offer us. Kicking off the new year with our Juniors Night at Countdown Escape Rooms where we had a bunch of our juniors split up into two groups and each group had to escape a different room with a different theme. Both groups were able to escape their rooms just before the time ran out. Lots of laughter, problem solving and great teamwork by our Juniors. We had our Youth Bingo Night at Van Norman, making it available to youth members online who live on the land or out of the city. We had lots of great prizes to be won and many came out to join. In February, we got our Youth and Juniors together for a fun evening on the hill, tubing at Mount Baldy. Everyone always enjoys this event as it adds a little thrill to our program. It was nice to see the two groups interacting with each other and getting to know each other better. We started a third group this month. An Adult Youth Night where we brought out our Adult Youth (Age 18-29) to Wacky Wings for a night of food and games. It was a good turn out and we had a lot of positive feedback from these young people about being able to go out together. We will continue with our Adult Youth nights this new year due to the awesome turn out and feedback.

In March we had our Youth come out for two cooking classes with Roots to Harvest. There they got to learn how to make chicken fettuccine alfredo from scratch, as well as pasta noodles and spaghetti sauce. They Learned basic food handling skills, how to cook meat, use knives and the importance of clean workstations. At the end of the evening, they enjoyed their homemade meal together and it was such a delicious meal. March Break Events were a huge success. It kicked off with our Annual Fishing derby out on the land, we had many members come out and spend time on Lake Nipigon. They fished for speckle trout, lake trout, white fish and more. We had a Fishing Net Demonstration and managed to catch a few different species in the net. The wind was very fast, and the weather was cold on the first day, but the second day was much warmer. It was awesome to see that many showed up for both days. Watching our Youth try out different

parts of the lake attempting to get that big fish was a highlight for sure. Everyone spent time fishing and socializing with each other while eating great food and listening to the sounds of the ice sing. There were only two fish caught on rods the whole derby, but we had fun regardless.

The rest of the week was filled with fun activities such as a Family Movie Matinee where we went to see Kung Fu Panda 4. This was a back up plan from cross country skiing which couldn't happen, followed by a family tubing day at Mount Baldy. To top it all off had our "winter" carnival out at Grandview, where we had Boreal Journeys bring their sled dogs and people were taught how to harness the dogs and drive the sled while getting to interact with the dogs and pups. We had Science North come out and did a ton of activities with our kids. We had a BBQ and made Bannock on the fire. It was a beautiful day spent together with our families as a community.

We were a little disappointed we couldn't finish our hide tanning this winter as the weather just wasn't co operating but we hope to finish the hides next winter.

This brings us into Spring, where we have many plans for the upcoming months and are excited to see what they have in store for us here at Family Well-Being. We will be focusing a lot on Family Events over the summer but will have some great opportunities for our young people to gather and continue to build relationships, skills and have some fun. We hope we see many of them out at our upcoming camps and events over the summer months. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for posters which provide all the information you need for our programs. We will be basing our programming around 4 groups. Kids Group (0-6), Junior's Group (7-11) Youth Group (12-17) and Young Adult Group (18-29). We hope to see our groups continuing to grow over the next year and look forward to all the events we have coming up.

Miigwetch

Youth Council

“BNA Youth Council was developed in 2022 and we have now started our 3rd year! Our Youth Council consists of 14 Youth from the BNA Community. Over the past two years we have focused on getting to know each other, getting to know the inner workings of our First Nation, meeting with Lawyers and giving input to the CPP. We will be looking for more Youth to join! If you are a youth or know a youth from BNA that would like to know more or would like to join please send a email with a resume and cover letter to elatta@bnafn.ca. Youth are provided with an honorarium for their time at meetings!! Members can be from outside of Thunder Bay as we join them to our meeting through Zoom. They would just need to have access to Internet.

Our Youth have been given a space to use their voice, so here are some messages from BNA Youth Council for you to learn more!”

-Liz Latta, Child & Youth Worker
elatta@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 623-2724 ext.226



“The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Youth Council has been gathering every few months for the past 2 years now. Within this time, we have had opportunities such as fishing derby’s, tubing, Hyde tanning, getting to know the land and getting to know the fellow youth in our community a little better and so much more. Within our group we have a widespread of people from our community and having access to ZOOM has been so amazing

for being able to keep all members (even ones out of town) informed and most importantly, present, at every meeting. The sense of community and inclusivity we all get at each meeting is beyond measure.

We have had different guest speakers join us to provide information and knowledge about different events or anything significant happening within the community so that us, as youth, can remain informed for when it comes time for us to have a voice and say on the decisions being made. Gaining this insight into the band has given so many of us a new perspective to look at things from and a better understanding of how we can make potential decisions and changes that will positively impact BNA one day. Having this youth council is very beneficial to the community so that the youth can join together to share experiences, thoughts, questions and knowledge with each other. This encourages the younger generations to become involved and have a voice in what will be shaping the future, our future within the community.

The youth council aims to create a voice for all of the younger generations within our community as well as bring everyone together to stay informed of current and future decisions or events happening within our band. Eventually we wish to be heard by more than just BNA, by other communities and a larger amount of people, we want everyone to understand that us, as youth, can have a say in our future.”

-Sophia Biteznik

“Hello,

To anyone wanting to join youth council I would 100% recommend it. Being on youth council is something you do not want to miss out on. You meet a variety of new people, partake in a lot of different activities and accomplish a lot of new things.”

- Carsen Davis



“Hello,

Youth Council is an assembly of the community’s youth who commit themselves to attending quarterly meetings to discuss issues that they see as important topics to them. This gives the youth an outlet to share their ideas on current issues and their vision of the future of the community. Having a council for the youth we can gather the thoughts to give opportunity for a youth voice in community discussion. Between youth council meetings, the members work to bridge connections with the youth from other communities through volunteering to attend various conferences that are presented to them. Knowledge, traditional teachings and tools learned from these conferences are brought back to be shared at youth council meetings to aid in the development of our youth’s strong leadership skills. At these meetings the youth also help to devise upcoming activities for community events as well as provide the chief and council with the insights of the youth from our community.”

- Dylan Robert



“Hello all,

Those who may not know me, my name is Jade Gilbert, I'm 26 years old, I'm a University student studying Fine Arts and Indigenous Learning, and I work for the Nijii Indigenous Mentorship Program where we help reduce barriers to post secondary education for Indigenous youth in Northern Ontario!

I have been involved in our youth council for a few years now. Being a part of our youth council has given me opportunities to connect with other youth from, as well as stay informed on, our community. We typically meet and have dinner together while we chat about youth programming, important developments in our community, as well as catch up with one another. Additionally, being involved in our youth council has given me opportunities to travel for conferences hosted by Independent First Nations, and most recently Chiefs of Ontario. Representing BNA as a youth delegate at the past 3 IFN conferences has been life changing for me. I have learned and experienced so much, connected with youth from across Ontario, and have always left the conferences being inspired and excited for what the future holds.

I strongly encourage all BNA youth to be involved in the youth council and youth programming! It's important for us to be in the know, and have our voices heard in our community. Each and every youth in our community has a unique perspective that is valuable to the youth council and community. The youth will one day be the leaders of our community, so the more involved we are now, the better we can lead our community in the future!

Miigwetch!”

- Jade Gilbert

EarlyON Updates

The EarlyON Centre had a busy winter as we continued to offer a wide variety of programming to the community. Our family cultural nights, drum socials and men's nights were well attended. We invited an Elder to sing songs in Anishinaabemowin and to share stories as the winter months is a time for storytelling. We attended a variety of staff trainings and wellness activities which we both enjoyed and gained a lot of knowledge and learned new things to bring back to our families and community. We joined NAN at their Early Years Gathering and had an information table to share what our centre does, to provide support and ideas to all other NAN communities interested in incorporating and providing land based cultural programming. We had beautiful weather for the winter carnival, EarlyON did an Easter egg hunt and provided prizes for children. Our Spring event was at St. Micheal's church with the IWC committee. In our Minogi'aawaso program, we are working on regalia's. New families are coming to the centre and enjoying the space.

Miigwetch,
Karen and Sage



Introducing Aandeg Skelly: Community Volunteer



As my name is showing up on more BNA documents, I thought it was time I introduced myself. I am Aandeg Miigwan Skelly.

I started the band's genealogical and historical research in 2005. In 2012 I reviewed the Sand Point Historical Files, and in 2017 I was asked if I could volunteer full time for BNA as Researcher, Genealogist & Family Historian. Since then, I have continued to assist with work on our Title Negotiations and in 2017 became actively involved in the Robinson Superior Annuity Case – reviewing all Expert Witness Reports, attending court every day through Stages 1 and 3 while housing and organizing all documents generated through the trial. Since 2021 I have continued assisting with work on the Framework Agreement and the Annuity Case and have also worked with staff on various projects including Norval Morrisseau Project; Cemetery Project; Community Photo Album (Digital Heritage Project); BNA Vision Statement; Repatriation of Artifacts; Digital Archives Project, and more.

At this point I must inform the members that I was firm that I did not want to receive a salary, but would prefer to see the money go to band programming. I was able to do this due to the support from my wonderful husband Marcel Donio.

I have written several articles for BNA: Sand Point's Historical Timeline; 9 Identified Dodems of Lake Nipigon; Understanding Treaty Annuity Pay Lists; Census Sources Explained; McIntyre Bay History and Timeline; Colonial Interference of Band Population; Theft of Land – Historical Fiction – Death and Rebirth of a Cemetery; Understanding The Robinson Superior Treaty; History of the Canadian National Railway – Kinghorn Line.

When time allows between transcribing the Lake Nipigon Hudson's Bay Journals 1792 – 1897 and the Indian Affairs Treaty Annuity Lists 1850–1950, it has been my pleasure to assist members and staff with their genealogical history. It has also been a privilege over the years to successfully obtain (at no charge) Indian Status or Métis Status for over 500 people. Work is ongoing regarding the inequities for individuals due to the Indian Act, such as Bill C38 regarding the expansion of Enfranchisement limitations, plus revising the 'Two Generation' cut off.

If you have any questions regarding genealogy, family history, historical research or Indian Status feel free to contact me.

Aandeg Skelly
askelly@bnafn.ca



Save the Date for 2024 Unity Gathering

August 12 - 16, 2024

*Bingwi Neyaashi
Anishinaabek*



Nokiiwin
TRIBAL COUNCIL

More information to come at a later date.

BNA Member Business Listings

It is important to highlight the success of our Band Members and create a network through our membership. If you wish to be included, please contact Jake at jalfieri@bnafn.ca with your business name, logo, website, email, or other additional information.



Carey Calder, MBA
Founder & Principal of
Nakanagis Consulting



NAKANAGIS
CONSULTING

Email: careycalder@nakanagis.ca

Phone: (343) 500-6474

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Nakanagis Consulting is a proud Indigenous-owned consulting company in Canada providing tailored approaches and solutions to Indigenous businesses, not-for-profit (NFP) service delivery organizations, and corporate executives by understanding their unique needs.



Paulette Facca Owner/
Director, Senior Designer
& Project Manager



Email: admin@creativetouchinteriors.ca

Phone: 778-699-2152

Website: www.creativetouchinteriors.ca

Over the last 17 years, I have worked in the housing and construction industry in Kelowna B.C. to build my business in Interior Design and Renovations. Since beginning Creative Touch Interiors, I've grown it into a multi-award winning interior designer/renovator throughout the Okanagan.



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