




Bingwi Neyaashi  
Anishinaabek

2023/2024

# Annual Report



# **Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek 2023/2024 Annual Report**



*An Ojibway First  
Nation dedicated to  
serving our generations  
by creating a  
self-sustaining and  
healthy community for  
today and tomorrow.*

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# Our Background

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is a progressive Anishinaabe community that is re-establishing and re-developing its land and culture after decades of forced eviction. BNA's reserve is located on the southeast shores of Lake Nipigon, approximately 60km north of the town of Nipigon, and 20km south of the town of Beardmore. In the current development process, families are relocating back to the land as housing becomes available.

BNA's community is located at Sand Point, on the southeast shores of Lake Nipigon, within the municipal boundaries of Greenstone, formerly occupied by the Lake Nipigon Provincial Park.

The Nation is led by Chief Paul Gladu and Councillors Lillian Calder and Tracy Gibson. BNA is a member of the Nookiwin Tribal Council, a Regional Chiefs' Council, and a member of Independent First Nations.

## Vision

To reclaim and protect our lands, gather and empower our people, embrace and restore our traditional ways, and sustainably build our First Nation.

## Mission

Our First Nation envisions a future where we live, work, and celebrate together in our traditional lands and protect Mother Earth by ensuring our community gatherings, cultural activities, and community development practices are sustainable, inclusive, and innovative.

## Values

### Ambition

We pro-actively seek out opportunities and are driven to achieve results

### Self-Sufficiency

We will make sound, sustainable business and financial decisions so we can set our own path and support our people

### Fairness

We consider all perspectives and potential impacts in our decision making and provide equal opportunity to all

### Continuous Improvement

We learn from our experiences, the wisdom of our Elders and our mistakes to ensure we are always getting better as we move forward

### Collaboration

We welcome and seek out opportunities to partner with our neighbours, local businesses, regional industry and government to achieve the best possible outcome

### 7 Grandfather Teachings

We adhere to the following Seven Grandfather Teachings: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, and Truth.



***We are pleased to present to you the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Annual Report for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, which reports back on our activities and progress that took place between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.***

This document is one of our communication tools for our Government, as it describes the goals we have set for ourselves as a Nation, and the work we have accomplished in reaching for those goals. This is our second Annual Report and we will continue to publish these on a yearly basis.

In this 2023/2024 Annual Report, we will be outlining and describing all of our programs, projects, committees, achievements, and financial statements.

The Annual Report is one of many tools we use in our ongoing effort to be transparent and accountable. Throughout the year we will continue to publish our quarterly Newsletters, with the summer date used to publish the Annual Report. This will keep members informed as we work throughout the year, and give a finalized and detailed report by the end of the fiscal.

# Executive Council 2023-2024

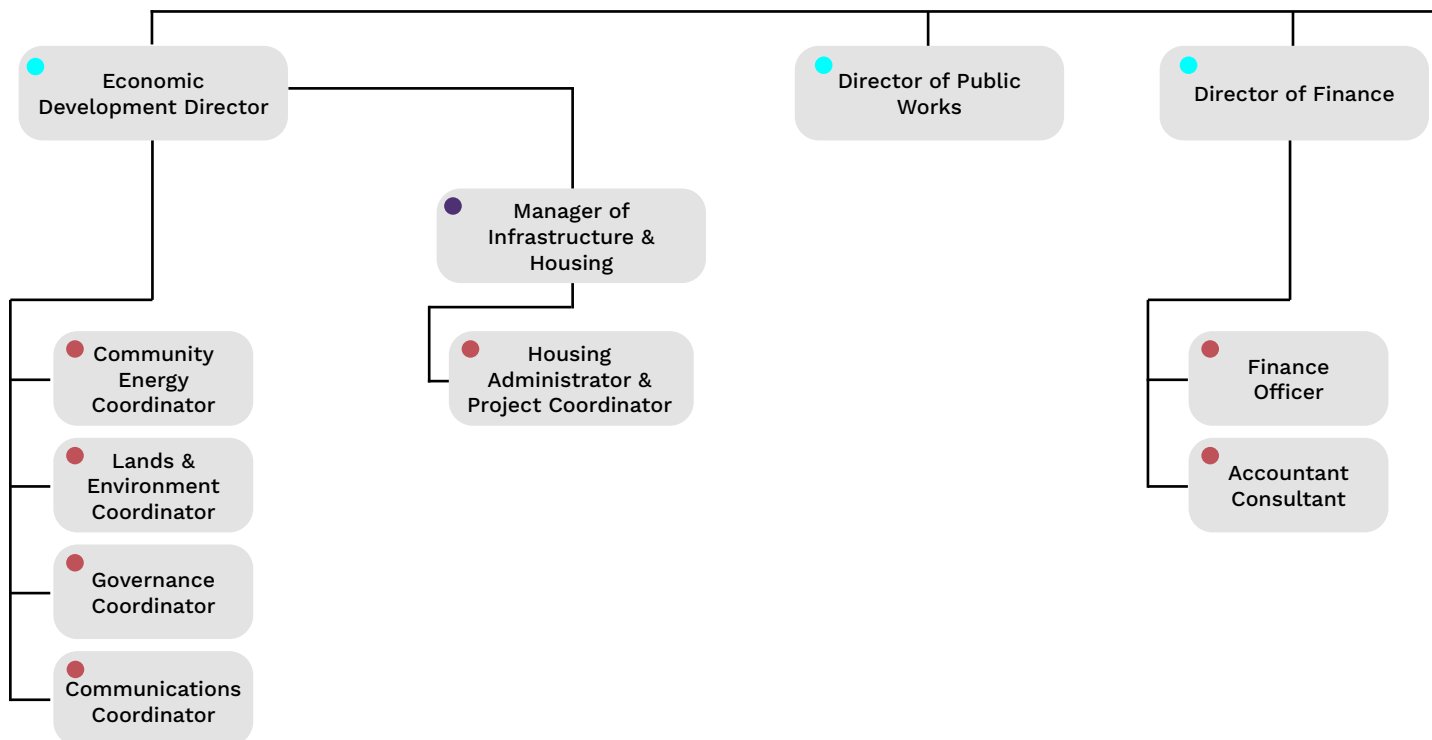
Chief Paul Gladu

Councillor Tracy Gibson

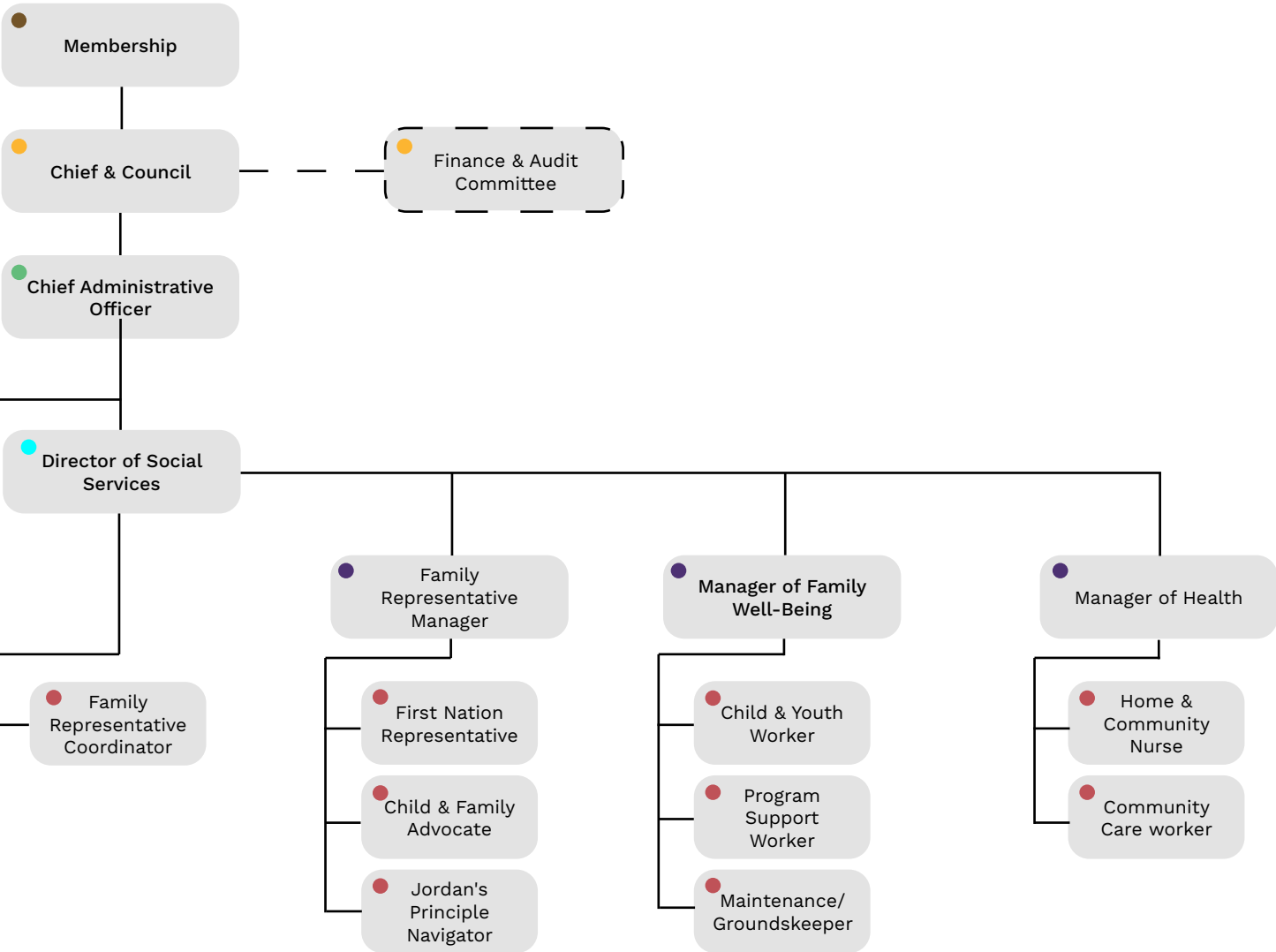
Councillor Lillian Calder



## Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Organizational Chart







# A Message From Chief & Council

Boozhoo Fellow BNA Members,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 fiscal year, we are proud to share that it was an incredibly busy and productive year for our community. Numerous important projects and events took place.

The spring of 2023 saw a crucial upgrade of 4 km of Copper Thunderbird Road. This was necessitated by the challenges posed by large trucks sinking into the deteriorating road. Construction in the community was halted temporarily to prioritize the road's safety. The upgrade was essential to ensure the safe passage of all vehicles, including emergency services, and to allow the continued development within our community.

Thanks to the hard work of BNA Employees, funding was secured and two four-plexes were constructed. These new spaces provide essential accommodations for workers on the land and offer temporary housing solutions for families in need until permanent housing solutions can be found.

BNA celebrated numerous annual events throughout the year which included:

- » Anishinaabe Kwe Celebration in May: Honoring the women of our community.
- » Pow Wow in June: A celebration of our traditions and culture.
- » Annual General Meeting in August: Providing transparency and member engagement.
- » Community Christmas Party in December: Bringing joy and unity during the festive season.
- » Fishing Derby in March: A fun-filled event fostering community spirit.

These events were organized and hosted by the Family Well-Being Team, who also provided numerous programming activities throughout the year, enriching the lives of our members.

Six lots were cleared in 2023 and are currently being prepared for members wishing to build their own home or cottage. This initiative is part of BNA's commitment to expanding and improving housing opportunities within our community.

A plaque honoring BNA's own Norval Morriveau, also known as Copper Thunderbird, was unveiled at the Nipigon Lookout in October of 2023. BNA recognizes Norval's remarkable contributions to First Nation art and culture, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire future generations.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to the continuous improvement and development of BNA. The progress we made over the last fiscal year is a testament to the hard work and dedication of community members and employees. We look forward to building on this momentum and achieving even greater successes in the future.

Chief and Council extend our deepest gratitude to all BNA members for your support and involvement. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Miigwetch,  
- Chief & Council



# An Update From Finance

Hello from the Finance Team!

It is an absolute pleasure for me to provide you, the members, with an update on what has been going on with the finance team over the last twelve months.

The finance team has continued to expand and evolve. I joined BNA in November 2023 as the Director of Finance, bringing with me ten years of experience in public accounting and knowledge in IT. This filled a capacity gap in the department as the workload was just too large for four people to maintain. I am very fortunate to have a strong, knowledgeable, fun, and friendly finance team behind me as we work closely with Chief & Council to manage the finance end of BNA's operations. Together we are able to keep up with the demands placed on us as a result of the many projects and programs that are ongoing for the benefit of the members.

## Financial Statement Audit

The audited financial statements for the 2022-2023 fiscal year were approved and issued in November 2023 after a varying array of delays. Despite these delays, the financial statements were issued with an unqualified opinion, meaning the auditors were able to prepare the financial statements with full confidence that they were materially correct and were able to satisfy all of their testing obligations. This is a huge testament to the work of the finance team and their abilities. The final annual audited financial statements are available to our members upon request by contacting BNA's Communications Coordinator, Jake Alfieri, at [jalfieri@bnafn.ca](mailto:jalfieri@bnafn.ca) or at (807) 623-2724 ext. 208.



## Financial Management Board (FMB) Certification Update

Throughout the 2023/24 fiscal year, the management team and the finance team have been diligently working to achieve the Financial Management System (FMS) Certification through the First Nations Financial Management Board (FMB). This process included the development of policies around finance, human resources, information technology, governance, and risk management to name a few. It also included updated processes, such as the annual update to terms of reference by the Finance and Audit Committee and Council and the annual requirement for staff to complete a conflict of interest declaration.

In April 2024 we had our FMS review, which entailed a team of three reviewers from the FMB coming

to BNA's offices to review and audit documents to ensure that we are following through with and operating within the confines of the policies that were developed. It is a great pleasure for me to announce to you that on May 30, 2024, the FMB officially granted BNA with their certification. This means that BNA now has a certified financial management system in place. We are the 11th First Nation in Ontario to achieve this, which is astounding when one considers that there are 133 First Nations in Ontario. This was a huge undertaking and is a testament to the hard work of the management team. This opens a lot of doors for BNA for partnerships and business ventures as we move into the future.

# Road Repair and FNFA Borrowing

As many of you are aware, in the spring of 2023 there was extensive damage to the road into the community. This required a very large repair, which was initially started by Cloutier Contracting and was completed by TeraNorth Construction. As there was no funding for this, BNA was forced to use its own cash reserves and source revenues to complete the repairs. This was a short-term solution to finance the project as much of the cash on hand was already committed to other projects and programs.

In February 2024, as an existing member with a borrowing law, BNA received a loan from the First Nation Finance Authority (FNFA) in the amount of \$2,500,000 to finance the road project. As a borrowing member of the FNFA, we have access to interest rates significantly less than those offered by traditional lenders with more favourable payment terms. These funds were put back into BNA to continue to support the many ongoing projects and programs brought to you, the members.

## Network Infrastructure

In April 2024, the finance team executed a large project to upgrade BNA's existing network infrastructure as it was significantly aging and beginning to fail. TBXI completed this project over two weeks, migrating the finance team to a new server. The new network setup provides more flexibility to expand brings us up to date with the latest technology, replacing the old server and infrastructure that was upwards of fifteen years old.



## Annual Financial Statements

The audit for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is currently in progress and is expected to be completed by mid-July so that the financial statements can be approved by Council and issued prior to the due date of July 29th. This is not only the due date set by ISC but is also the due date that BNA has chosen and embedded in the FAL and finance policy in order to ensure that the audit is completed before the annual general membership meeting.

## Member Information Changes

We continue to encourage our members to keep us up to date on their contact information. If you have a change in address, phone number, banking information, etc., please ensure to contact BNA's Governance Coordinator, Louise Esquega, at [lesquega@bnafn.ca](mailto:lesquega@bnafn.ca) so that our records can be updated.

## Financial Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) has continued to support the Finance team and Chief and Council throughout the year. They play an important part in ensuring that BNA is being fiscally responsible. Quarterly reports are provided to the FAC for review and recommendation to Council. The FAC also completed their updated Terms of Reference, outlining the scope, responsibilities, and role of the Committee within BNA.

# Into The Future

As we move into a new fiscal year, the finance team is committed to the continued success of BNA and keeping the finance department running smoothly. I am thankful to be a part of the BNA team and look forward to what lies ahead for the community.

Until next time,



Brandon Favel, CPA  
Director of Finance



# An Update From Economic Development Funded Projects & Initiatives

*\*\* Further details for many of these Projects can be found within the BNA Annual Report.*

## **Title Claim Negotiations – Federal and Provincial**

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, BNA continued with its Title Claim negotiations with Canada and Ontario, and the five other First Nations involved in the process. Funding is received from both Canada and Ontario to enable BNA to participate in these negotiations. At the end of this process, in return for becoming a signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty, BNA would receive financial compensation from Canada, and land from Ontario. This is a multi-layer process, with regular meetings between the parties to move through issues of importance. Funding is expected to continue into the 2024/25 fiscal year. More information will be provided to members at a future membership meeting.

## **Annuities – Federal and Provincial**

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, BNA received federal funding (not Provincial funding) to assist with costs related to its Annuities case. This matter is being handled through the courts. Funding is expected to continue into the 2024/25 fiscal year. More information will be provided to members at a future membership meeting.

## **Governance Coordinator Initiatives – Chief and Council On-Boarding Manual**

BNA received funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for the completion of a “Chief and Council On-Boarding Manual”. This is to be provided to Council following an election to ensure there is a seamless on-boarding process. The project was led by the BNA Governance Coordinator and was completed by March 31st, 2024.

BNA also received funding for the development of a “BNA-Papasay Cooperation Agreement” in the 2023/24 fiscal year, but this was fully deferred to the 2024/25 fiscal year.

## **Housing**

Through the work of the BNA Housing Team, including the Manager of Infrastructure and Housing and the Housing Administrator, BNA carried out multiple activities on the housing front in 2023/24, including:

- » Continued construction of two four-plexes, with completion expected in 2024/25 fiscal year.

These are ISC-funded units;

- » Continued construction of four single-family dwellings in the community, with completion expected in 2024/25 fiscal year. This is being supported with funding from CMHC;
- » Continued with the Lot Servicing Project, preparing 20 BNA lots for housing in the community. This is being completed with funding from ISC;
- » Prepared and carried out an “Expression of Interest” for members interested in building their own homes in BNA’s Phase 4 Housing Area;
- » Developed relationship with BMO regarding on-reserve mortgages;
- » Continued development of BNA Housing Policies with the BNA Housing Committee;
- » Maintenance and up-keep of homes with the hiring of an on-reserve Maintenance Worker;
- » Received funding for “Housing Management Subsidy”, which was utilized for housing-related activities on-reserve during the 2023/24 fiscal year.

## **Roundhouse Study**

In 2022/23, BNA received funding from the Province to complete its feasibility, engineering and design for its on-reserve Roundhouse. This funding was completely deferred until the 2023/24 fiscal year, and the project was led by the BNA Infrastructure and Housing Manager. This project was successfully completed by March 31st, 2024.

## **BNA Biomass District Heating Project**

In 2023/24 fiscal year, BNA received funding from the province to complete several activities for its Biomass District Heating Project. This included clearing of the site for the plant, completing the Geotech for the site, and any permitting associated with the plant. It allowed BNA to be in a “ready-state” for construction of the system. The BNA Biomass District Heating Project was completed by March 31st, 2024, and led by the BNA Energy Coordinator.

BNA also completed its engineering, design and costing studies for the Biomass plants, piping and retrofits throughout the year. It ensured that all studies were ready to send to funders for the

construction of the facility by the end of the year. During the 2023/24 fiscal year, BNA also received funding for retrofitting four of its current homes on-reserve from electric baseboard heating, to a biomass-compatible boiler and piping system. This funding was fully deferred to the 2024/25 fiscal year.

### **Commercial Zone Study**

In 2022/23, BNA received funding from ISC's "Community Opportunities Readiness Program" (CORP), which covers costs associated with getting on-reserve projects ready for eventual construction. BNA deferred this project completely into the 2023/24 fiscal year.

Through this project, BNA hired TBT Engineering and MNP to complete the feasibility, costing, marketing, traffic study and business case for several developments in the zoned BNA Commercial Zone in the northern portion of the reserve lands along Hwy 11. These included:

1. Gas Bar: This would be a full-service truck stop, with a full convenience store, electrical charging stations, showers, and other amenities;
2. Hotel
3. Restaurant
4. Helipad

The results of the studies were mixed. While the Gas Bar and Helipad were given a positive outlook, the hotel and restaurant were not deemed feasible through this study. However BNA will be having a second look at the hotel, as the demand in the region seems to support one along the hwy. We are having discussions with some developers who may be interested in the BNA Commercial Zone study. Next steps will be finalizing some of the soft cost studies that are required for this property.

The Commercial Zone Study Project was completed by March 31st, 2024.

### **BNA Food Sovereignty Projects**

In 2023/24, BNA initiated several projects to continue to enhance its food sovereignty. Some of these included:

- » Food Processing – BNA received funding to prepare a site for food processing, including drying, moose dressing, and other traditional activities. Completion of this Project was deferred to the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- » BNA Ice Shack – BNA received funding to develop an 'ice shack' on its reserve land for traditional foods. Completion of this project was also deferred to the 2024/25 Fiscal Year.

### **BNA Estates Project**

In 2023/24, BNA received funding from ISC to engage with membership and develop wills for members. Due to the late timing of the funding, this project was deferred until 2024/25 fiscal year.

### **BNA Digital Heritage Project**

In 2023/24, BNA received funding to complete a digital history of BNA, focusing on photos from members that could be archived and protected for future generations. This project was completed by March 31st, 2024, and on budget, thanks to the work of the BNA Communications Coordinator

### **ISC Economic Development Funding**

As part of the 10-year Grant, BNA receives funding for an Economic Development Officer. It is a small amount, and not enough to service the position. However, it is allocated to economic development activities throughout the fiscal year, and is part of the 10-year grant funding that BNA is a part of. As part of the 10-year grant, BNA is able to defer funding year to year, and utilize as required within the parameters of the agreement.

### **Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)**

BNA deferred its 2022/23 CCP funding to the 2023/24 fiscal year. During the year, the project – including community engagement, and completion of the final product with support from the Nookiiwin Tribal Council – was completed on time and on-budget by the BNA Communications Coordinator. The Project was completed by March 31st, 2024.

### **Consultation Coordinator**

BNA, along with every Ontario First Nation, receives yearly funding from the Provincial Ministry of Indigenous Affairs' New Relationship Fund to assist with consultation-related activities throughout the fiscal year. Costs include salaries, engagement with membership, travel, and professional fees as required. The project is completed and fully expended by March 31st, 2024.

### **Community Energy Champion**

BNA receives funding from the provincial Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) to provide funding for the Energy Coordinator position. This position works on energy projects on-reserve, including the BNA District Heating project, electric charging stations, and other energy and retrofit projects both on and off-reserve. The funding is fully expended yearly, and was again by March 31st, 2024.

BNA also receives a small amount of funding for IESO Capacity Building, which provides funding for the BNA Energy Coordinator to attend training conferences for her role.

### **Land Management**

Following the ratification of the original BNA Land Code in 2014, BNA began receiving Land Management funding from ISC. This provides support for BNA's land management activities on-reserve. This funding is received yearly, and is not required to be spent on a fiscal basis. In the 2023/24 fiscal year, BNA worked closely with the BNA Lands Committee to work through the new BNA Land Code, which will require re-ratification in the 2024/25 fiscal year. This work included multiple Lands Committee meetings, nearly monthly, where the document was worked through in order to prepare for the re-ratification process.

### **Flood Vulnerability Study**

Several fiscal years ago, BNA received funding to complete a Flood Vulnerability Study to look at the mapping and values of BNA and ensure that they are protected as Climate Change becomes more pervasive. We worked with CE Strategies for this work. BNA received all final reporting and mapping for this project by March 31st, 2024, as per the funding parameters from ISC.

### **Infrastructure Funding**

As part of the 10-year grant, BNA receives small amounts of on-reserve infrastructure funding from ISC. This includes:

- » First Nation Infrastructure Investment Program dollars
- » ACRS funding for on-reserve maintenance
- » Water and Wastewater
- » Dump Truck maintenance

This funding is utilized year-to-year for various maintenance activities on-reserve. Through the 10-year grant process, BNA is able to defer funding year to year, and utilize as required within the parameters of the agreement.

### **Tourism Study**

In 2023/24, BNA received funding to complete a Tourism Study for its properties in the Greenstone region: Blue Lake and Big Virgin Island. The community worked with Northern Community Solutions (NCS) for this work. The purpose of the study was to see if there was tourism opportunities within the region in which these properties could be utilized for, and which would create new streams

of own-source revenues for the community. The results were mixed. While there were opportunities for small-scale 'glamping' and other tourism-related ventures on the properties, the returns were modest. The better option was for Big Virgin Island to be utilized for Family Well-Being programming, and for much smaller tourism to be developed on-reserve at BNA. This would allow the community to 'get its feet wet' in the tourism sector, preparing it for expansion once BNA was able to pursue the 5-start eco-lodge operation in several years-time.

### **BNA Summer Students**

In 2023/24, BNA received funding from three sources to employ its summer students:

- » Canada Summer Jobs (ESDC)
- » First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES)
- » Anishinaabek Employment and Training Services (AETS)

BNA was able to hire 6 summer students with this funding, and ensure that the land was maintained during the summer months. All funding was expended on time and on budget by March 31st, 2024.

### **Capital Planning Study**

BNA received funding for a revamped Capital Planning Study in 2020/21 fiscal year, and this work continued in the 2023/24 fiscal year. The plan is being completed by TBT engineering, and it includes an overall "Master Plan" for the community, as well as specified costing for on-reserve infrastructure requirements. Community input was received at several meetings throughout the 2023/24 fiscal year. BNA expects the final Capital Planning study to be completed by mid-2024/25 fiscal year.

### **Sawmill Expansion Project**

Several years ago, BNA received funding from both FedNor and Natural Resources Canada for its Sawmill Expansion project. This project was to transform the Papasay Sawmill from one that is manufacturing green lumber, to one that is manufacturing dressed, kiln-dried and planed/moulded structural lumber. This project carried on through the 2023/24 fiscal year. Our current hold up on this project is the need for a new industrial building which is to be located near our Sawmill. This would house the planer/moulder machine, which cannot be purchased until this new building is in place. Significant headway was made in the 2023/24 fiscal year, and we hope to move forward on the construction of a new building by 2024/25 fiscal year.



### **BNA Sawmill Insulation Project and Green Energy Retrofits**

In 2023/24, through support from the IESO, BNA was able to secure funding to insulate its Sawmill Building with the required R-grade foam. This funding was fully deferred to the 2024/25 fiscal year, and BNA will be completing the foam insulation project this year. It will ensure that the additional biomass heating that will be salvaged through this project, and will be able to heat the kiln chamber and other Sawmill assets within the BNA Industrial Park.

### **New Sawmill Building Study**

In 2023/24, BNA was approved through the Provincial Indigenous Community Capital Grants (ICCGP) Program for a study to look at the development of a new building in the Industrial Park to enhance its value-added operation. This included several components:

- » Business Plan for the new Building, including leasing arrangements for PVAWP and costing (NCS);
- » A geotechnical study and report on the civil for the new building (TBT);
- » A topographic map for Lot A of the Industrial Park (TBT).

All reports and deliverables were completed and submitted prior to March 31st, 2024, and BNA will be taking these completed studies to the funders in order to have our new Sawmill Building funded and constructed. We will be moving ahead on this project in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

### **Fire Protection Strategy Fund**

In 2023/24, BNA was successful in receiving funding for fire protection equipment and activities on-reserve. This was fully expended on time and on-budget, and the Project was completed by March 31st, 2024.

### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**

In 2023/24, BNA has some small, outstanding items related to its final report and participation on the Canada-wide UNDRIP strategy. This report was completed by Mokwateh and Schwartz International Law in 2022/23, and fully completed in 2023/24. This project was fully completed and expended by March 31st, 2024.

### **911 Mapping Project**

In 2023/24 fiscal year, BNA's Infrastructure Team worked with Nokiiwin and CE Strategies to complete

its 911 Mapping project. This involved the completion of street signs, lot numbers, traffic control signs, and other items in order to make BNA a safe community for residents. The project was fully completed and expended by March 31st, 2024.

### **Ontario First Nations Economic Development Association (OFNEDA) Ec Dev Funding**

In 2023/24, every First Nation in Ontario, including BNA, received an economic development top-up from Ontario through OFNEDA. While not substantial, every dollar is critical for economic development, and BNA was able to utilize this funding for a variety of economic development activities during the fiscal year. We are expecting similar funding in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

### **BNA Recycling Services**

In 2023/24, BNA continued to receive recycling funding from ISC, which it used to service the recycling bins and continue with community education for the membership. The funding for recycling for this fiscal year was fully expended by March 31st, 2024.

### **BNA Dump Truck Project**

In 2022/23, BNA received funding to purchase a new dump truck. Due to the late approval of this project, the full amount was deferred to the 2023/24 fiscal year, and a dump truck was fully purchased in the early part of the year. This project was fully expended and completed by March 31, 2024.



## Regional Projects and Initiatives (unfunded)

Along with BNA's funded initiatives, the community is also working on multiple off-reserve initiatives that are not currently funded but could result in very substantial revenue generation for BNA if they were to proceed.

### BNA Nation Rebuild Project

In 2018, BNA, along with two neighbouring 're-build' communities – AZA and Lac Des Mille Lacs – commenced a joint rebuilding project with ISC. The goal is to find unique and out-of-the-box solutions for the predicament of all three of our communities, which is that the land was taken from them, then returned with no infrastructure or funding to develop. This is due to ISC's formulas for on-reserve infrastructure funding, which is based on the on-reserve populations for the communities. Due to our situations, unless a solution is found, our communities will not be able to re-build at the same pace which is demanded by the memberships.

In 2023/24, BNA continued working with our neighbours and ISC, and had several meetings both internally amongst the communities, and collectively with Canada (including with Minister Hajdu), in which we pitched our solutions to this problem. These solutions – including monetization of infrastructure funding, a joint economic development initiative, and enhanced operational funding – must be agreed to by Canada, through a joint process in which all communities can benefit. Our three First Nation communities will be pushing Canada on a joint charter in the new Fiscal Year, which ensures that we can continue to work together on these solutions, and that we can be funded to participate. This is an on-going initiatives that is incredibly important to the three First Nations, and BNA will continue to push for solutions to its slow development.

### Little Jackfish River Hydroelectric Development

In 2023/24, BNA continued to participate with OPG and its Lake Nipigon First Nations members on the potential hydro development of the Little Jackfish River, on the north-end of Lake Nipigon. This would be the 3rd iteration of this project, the first back in the early 1980s, and the second in 2008-13. This would see 80 MW of power developed at the site.

During our discussions with OPG, the communities have been discussing becoming co-proponents with OPG on the environmental assessment and have been pushing OPG to accept equity ownership in the facility if were to move ahead to construction. Regular meetings were held with leadership and technicians, with the four First Nations on the east

side participating fully in these discussions.

BNA has clearly stated that it would only consider supporting bringing this project to the membership for consideration if a new Environmental Assessment process were launched, and that at its conclusion it showed minimal environmental damage. Likewise, revenue generation for the communities involved would need to be substantial enough to ensure we would benefit accordingly. There is still significant work that must be completed for this project. We will inform the members as we continue to progress with our neighbours and with OPG on this potential development.

### Mining and Exploration

During the 2023/24 fiscal year, BNA continued to work with its neighbours on joint dealings with regional exploration companies. Depending on the location of the property in question, and whom Ministry of Mines would 'scope' into the project, BNA found itself in joint negotiations in some instances with BZA, some instances with BZA and AZA, some instances with BZA and RRIB, and some instances with all 4 First Nations. BNA will be setting up joint "four East Side of Lake Nipigon First Nations" meetings commencing in fiscal year 2024, in which a communal area will be proposed to the Chiefs in order to have all four First Nations on the east side of Lake Nipigon work collectively on permitting matters. In all cases, Nokiiwin's Mineral Development Advisor worked with the communities and proponents to move things forward.

No new Exploration Agreements were signed during 2023/24 fiscal year. Current agreements for BNA include:

- » Rock Tech Lithium (BNA, BZA, RRIB)
- » Imagine Lithium (BNA, BZA, RRIB)
- » Greenstone Goldmines (BNA)

For each of these agreements, benefits include employment and training, contracting preferences, revenue generation upon signing and through percentage of annual exploration agreements, scholarships, and share warrants.

Template exploration agreements have been sent to multiple companies operating in the region, and we expect to continue our work in signing new agreements during the 2024/25 year, with all First Nations working together as a collective.

# Infrastructure

**You are now entering  
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek**



**Bingwi Neyaashi  
Anishinaabek  
Sand Point First Nation**

**This road does not provide access to  
Lake Nipigon Provincial Park**

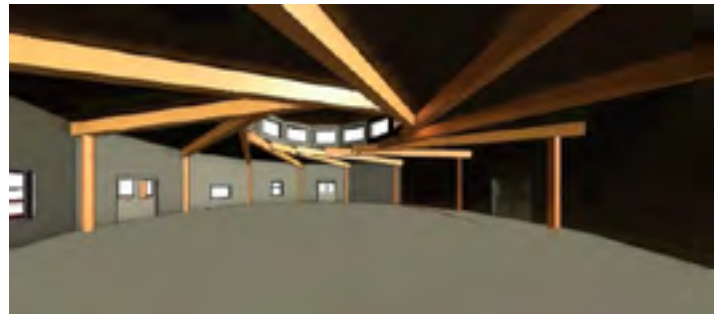
## Emergency Mitigation and Mapping

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has successfully completed the Emergency Mitigation and Mapping project, enhancing community safety and navigation. As part of this initiative, we have purchased and will install community street signage and traffic control signs in the summer of 2024, with the help of our summer students. These street name and speed control signs are essential for promoting roadway safety and controlling traffic within the community. Additionally, signage at the community entrance will guide visitors, including those trying to access Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. This project not only improves daily navigation but also equips emergency services with vital resources to efficiently respond to any incidents, further ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.



## Immediate Needs Lot Development

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has successfully secured funding and completed the development of 20 residential lots along Grand Bay Road, West Copper Thunderbird Road, and Diamond Willow Road. This achievement includes significant improvements in community drainage along Grand Bay Road and West Copper Thunderbird Road, effectively managing water runoff and preserving the community's landscaping. Additionally, lots have been cleared and will be ready in 2024 for the "Build Your Own Home" program, providing opportunities for community members to construct their homes. These developed lots mark a crucial step in supporting BNA's ongoing housing development, ensuring sustainable growth and improved living conditions for years to come.



## Roundhouse

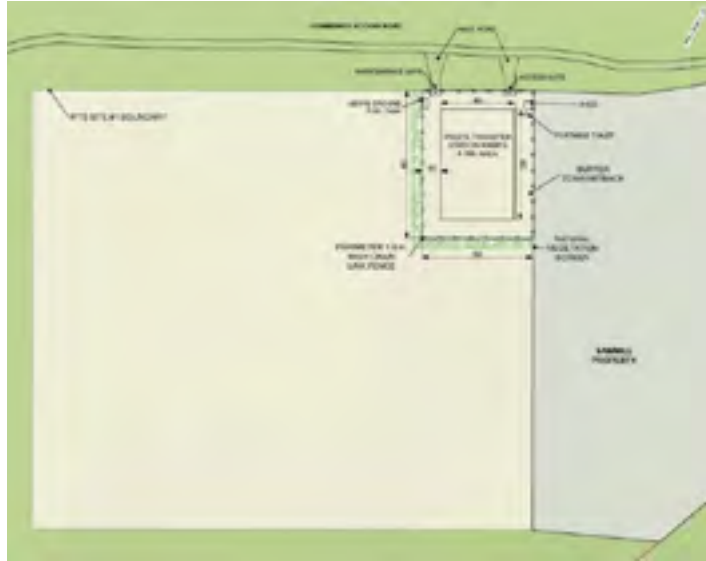
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has successfully completed the design and cost estimate for the BNA Roundhouse, marking a significant milestone in this culturally enriching project. With these crucial steps finalized, we are now poised to seek funding opportunities for the next phase: construction. The proposed location for the Roundhouse, on the picturesque shores of Lake Nipigon near the maintenance area, promises to provide a beautiful and meaningful setting. This facility will serve as a vibrant cultural hub where community members can gather, celebrate, and practice their traditional culture, strengthening the bonds of heritage and community.

## Hydrogeological Study

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is collaborating with TBT Engineering on a hydrogeological study to identify potential potable water sources within the community. Funded by the First Nation Housing Market Fund, this initiative supports BNA's ongoing community development efforts. Multiple potential drill sites have been identified, and a comprehensive

final report is expected in the last quarter of 2024. Despite some delays, the extended study will provide a thorough understanding of available water sources, ensuring informed decisions for future development. This project is crucial for securing sustainable and reliable potable water options for the community's continued growth and well-being.

and load restrictions remain, the road is now fully operational and is being diligently monitored by the Public Works department to ensure its continued stability and safety.



### Transmission Line – Hydro One

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has been working diligently with Hydro One to facilitate the transfer of ownership and responsibilities for the transmission line into the community. This transition, expected to be finalized in the coming weeks, will significantly reduce the overall operating costs for the First Nation. Partnering with Hydro One will enhance power management and service reliability for the community, ensuring a more efficient and robust electrical infrastructure. Once the transfer is complete, BNA will benefit from Hydro One's expertise and resources as their dedicated service provider for the transmission line.

### Waste Transfer Station

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has secured funding from Indigenous Services Canada for the design of a waste transfer station, a crucial step forward in our community's infrastructure development. Initiating in the summer to fall of 2024 and anticipated for completion in early 2025, this design phase will be conducted by TBT Engineering in close collaboration with BNA to ensure it meets our community's growing needs. Following the completion of the design stage, we will seek funding approval for the construction phase, anticipated in 2025. This project is essential for enhancing waste management and supporting a healthy, sustainable environment for our community.

### Emergency Road Repairs

In the spring of 2023, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek faced significant erosion along sections of Copper Thunderbird Road, which serves as a vital entry point into the community. This erosion necessitated immediate repairs to ensure safety and prevent further disruption to ongoing infrastructure projects. BNA promptly sourced a general contractor to address the extensive damage.

Collaborating closely with the Public Works and Infrastructure departments, BNA successfully remedied the issue, restoring the road to meet Ministry of Transportation (MTO) standards. Although some seasonal transportation methods





be crafted with the community, not just for it. Therefore, the study meticulously identifies current community requirements while forecasting future growth. It delves into essential aspects such as infrastructure, community facilities, housing, and the remediation of existing assets, laying out a clear vision for sustainable development. Led by TBT Engineering, the study is not merely an exercise in predictive analysis; it's a testament to BNA's dedication to ensuring that their growth aligns seamlessly with the community's aspirations and needs. This project has been extended from March 2024 to June 2024 to finalize some components of the planning activities and to input new information as the community continues to develop.

### **Waste Transfer Station Vehicle**

In collaboration with the Nokiiwin Tribal Council, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has successfully secured a waste transfer vehicle from Indigenous Services Canada. This vehicle will significantly enhance waste collection and disposal within the community, providing reliable garbage collection services for all members. The acquisition of the waste transfer vehicle is a crucial step towards developing a comprehensive community waste facility that supports a healthy and vibrant environment. Additionally, BNA has established an agreement with Greenstone for off-site waste disposal through a Municipal Type of Agreement, ensuring effective waste management until funding for a dedicated waste transfer facility is secured.



### **Family Well-Being Infrastructure Application**

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is collaborating with Innovation 7, a consulting firm based in Southern Ontario, to develop a major capital infrastructure application. This application, set for submission in early 2025, aims to secure funding for the construction of several facilities to support the Family Well-Being program and benefit the children and community members of BNA. Multiple potential locations within the community boundaries have been identified for these proposed infrastructures. BNA is working closely with consultants and funding agencies to ensure the successful planning and execution of this vital project, which will significantly enhance program delivery and community services.



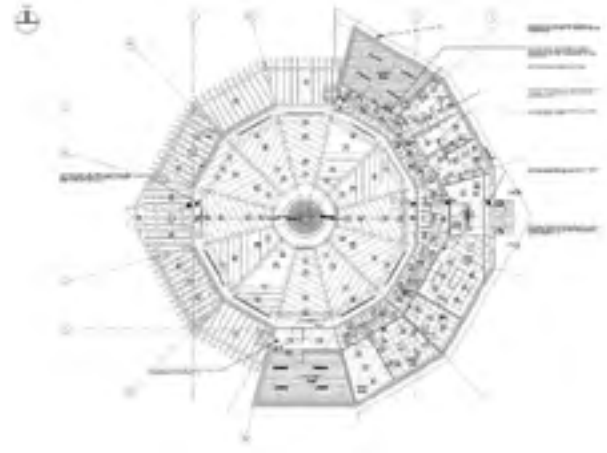
### **Capital Planning Study**

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is diligently engaged in a pivotal endeavor: the comprehensive Capital Planning Study, a vital roadmap that outlines the present and future needs of the community. In collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada, this study serves as the foundation for BNA's strategic planning and decision-making processes. What makes this initiative truly impactful is the deep involvement of the community itself. BNA recognizes that meaningful development must



The proposal will include the following infrastructure:

- » Recreation Centre
- » Powwow Grounds
- » Community Centre
- » Playground
- » Transitional Residence
- » Staff Residence
- » Sweat Lodge
- » Roundhouse
- » Maintenance Garage
- » Cabins
- » Community Kitchen



# Housing



## Phase 4 Housing Program – Build Your Own Home

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is paving the way for a transformative initiative through its Build Your Own Home Program, a testament to their commitment to empowering community members and promoting homeownership on First Nations lands. In collaboration with the Bank of Montreal and the First Nation Housing Market Fund, BNA is facilitating the construction of individual homes in Phase 4 of the community's lot development project. This innovative program not only addresses the pressing need for housing but also provides a unique opportunity for community members to actively participate in the creation of their own homes. By offering six available lots for participants, BNA is fostering a sense of ownership, self-sufficiency, and pride within the community. Through this program, individuals are not only building physical structures but also investing in their future and the future of their families. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has been working with our legal team and funding agency to complete the revision of the BNA housing

policy to accommodate the build your own home program. BNA has also secured financial support from BMO and the First Nation Housing Market Fund in support of the build your own home program. An expression of interest was conducted in early 2023 to determine how many members were interested in building their own homes at Sand Point.

## 4-Plex Residential Units

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) has taken a significant stride in community development with the construction of two detached single-story structure comprising of eight dwelling units, all conveniently located on the ground floor with shared or individual entries from Grand Bay Road. This multi-unit building, slated for completion in the summer of 2024, stands as a testament to BNA's commitment to meeting the immediate housing needs of its community members. Securing funding through the On-Reserve Housing Immediate Needs Program by Indigenous Services Canada underscores the collaborative efforts to create essential living spaces. These dwellings, strategically designed for short-term accommodations, will serve as a welcoming haven for both community members and workers engaged in land-based activities. By providing comfortable and accessible housing options, BNA not only addresses the housing requirements of its people but also fosters a sense of community and belonging, enhancing the overall quality of life for its residents. This initiative not only represents a practical solution to housing challenges but also exemplifies BNA's dedication to creating inclusive spaces for its community members.



**CMHC Housing Program 2023/2024**

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is embarking on an exciting venture, constructing four distinctive single-family residential dwellings along Grand Bay Road. This significant endeavor reflects BNA's dedication to providing high-quality living spaces for its community members. With a keen emphasis on individuality and privacy, these single-family homes offer residents the luxury of expressing their unique lifestyles and preferences in a home of their own. Nestled on shores of Lake Nipigon, each residence is designed to offer ample space and a sense of belonging. BNA's commitment to quality is evident in the meticulous construction process, ensuring that these dwellings not only meet but exceed the expectations of its future occupants. Moreover, this initiative signifies BNA's focus on enhancing the community's infrastructure, offering families comfortable and secure spaces to call their own. Anticipated for occupancy in the fall of 2024, these four residential dwellings stand as a testament to BNA's proactive approach in providing modern, well-crafted homes, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among its residents.



**CMHC Housing Program 2024/2025**

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has secured funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the construction of three additional single-family residential units in the fiscal year 2024/2025. With this funding, BNA will initiate the procurement process for a general contractor to build these new homes in 2025. The application process for these homes will be advertised on the BNA website towards the end of 2024, providing members the opportunity to return to and occupy their traditional lands. This initiative is a vital step in enhancing community development and supporting members' connection to their rightful territory.



Building on the successes of the fiscal year 2023/2024, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Infrastructure and Housing Department remains committed to seeking funding opportunities and resources to enhance community infrastructure. Our focus is on developing essential projects that support a healthy, thriving community. As we move forward, we will continue to prioritize the construction of residential units, the establishment of vital facilities such as the Roundhouse, and the implementation of advanced fire safety measures. Through strategic partnerships and dedicated efforts, we aim to ensure that BNA's infrastructure grows robustly, providing the foundation for a sustainable and prosperous future for all members.

This year, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) has made significant strides in balancing the complexities of fostering a strong, functioning community. With the submission of a Minor Capital Application to Indigenous Services Canada for the acquisition of heavy equipment for the Public Works Department, we are poised to enhance our capacity for community maintenance and infrastructure development. This essential equipment will empower us to undertake and complete more projects efficiently, ensuring that our community's infrastructure needs are met. As we continue to move forward, BNA remains dedicated to seeking opportunities and resources that support the growth and resilience of our community.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is actively working on a Minor Capital Application to Indigenous Services Canada to secure funding for additional street lighting from the highway into our community. Recognizing the critical need for enhanced safety for our members and visitors, this project aims to improve visibility and security throughout our beautiful community. With the transfer of energy responsibilities nearing completion, we are preparing to submit this application for review in the fiscal year 2024/2025.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is preparing to apply to Indigenous Services Canada for a comprehensive water and wastewater study. This study aims to assess and forecast the community's future water needs and available resources, ensuring we can adequately support our growing population. As BNA continues to expand, it is crucial to plan for sustainable water management and wastewater treatment solutions. By undertaking this study, we are committed to securing a strong, healthy future for our community, addressing the evolving needs

of our members, and fostering a robust and resilient environment.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has submitted a funding application to acquire essential wildfire equipment to enhance our community's emergency services and protection capabilities in potential fire zones. With an anticipated funding approval in 2024, this equipment will significantly bolster our emergency response efforts. However, to maximize its effectiveness, we will rely on dedicated volunteer human resources to ensure our community remains safe and proactive in the face of wildfire threats. This initiative underscores our commitment to safeguarding our members and preserving the integrity of our land.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has submitted a funding application for advanced Housing Management Software to streamline and enhance the management of our expanding housing portfolio. This software will enable efficient data collection for each home and its occupants, facilitating comprehensive maintenance planning and program management. By integrating these advanced management tools, BNA can ensure timely maintenance, better resource allocation, and improved service delivery to our community members. This initiative will significantly strengthen BNA's housing program, promoting sustainability, and enhancing the overall quality of living for our residents.

The Housing Department has been a cornerstone of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's development, embodying the community's resilience and dedication to growth. By continuously providing housing resources for our members, we are not only addressing immediate needs but also reinforcing our deep connection to our ancestral land. As we set our roots back into our rightful territory, we strengthen our community, honoring our heritage while building a vibrant, sustainable future for all.





# Energy

## Planar Molder Building Project

In the 2023/2024 fiscal, BNA was successful in receiving funding from the Indigenous Community Capital Grants (ICCGP) for the construction of the Planar molder building to host the new planar molder line for Papasay Value Added Wood Products (PVAWP) Sawmill. \$600,000 approved through the Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program (ICCGP) will cover some of the construction costs. In the 2024/2024 fiscal, BNA will be applying to the Northern Ontario Heritage Funding Corporation (NOHFC) for the remaining construction/ capital dollars to erect the Planar molder building.



In the upcoming 2024/2025 fiscal, BNA will work with housing department on fair roll out of the four (4) homes to become retrofitted. BNA will also be completing another application to the IEP program for more funding to complete more retrofits during the next fiscal.



## District Heating Biomass Facility Project

BNA was successful through the Forest Biomass Program within the 2023/2024 fiscal for \$250,000 to complete permitting studies, geotechnical and site clearing for the construction of the BNA District Heating Biomass Facility project.

This project was also guaranteed \$10 million through NRCAN's CERRC program, with other funding coming from NOHFC, ISC, and FEDNOR. The overall project will amount to \$18 million with being split into 2 phases. First (1st) phase is the site within the community of phase two (2) housing. The second (2nd) phase will be installed in phase four (4) housing to heat those homes and the future Elder's Complex. BNA also received funding in the 2023/2024 fiscal for home retrofits to be compatible with the district heating piping and unit through the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)'s indigenous Energy Project (IEP) stream.

## Food Sovereignty Projects

In the 2023/2024 fiscal, BNA received funding from Local Food Infrastructure Fund for the installation of a food sea can. This sea can will hold a fish cleaning equipment and provide a safe space that is sheltered to do so. Equipment included is table, smoker, tabletop ice machines, etc. The sea can container still needs electricity and will work with BNA's Community Cultural Coordinator to host fish cleaning workshop in the 2024/2025 fiscal.







### Ice Shack Project

In the 2023/2024 fiscal, BNA received funding from the Indigenous Peoples Resiliency Fund (IPRF). BNA has been working hard with hired contractors to install and construct an ice shack within the community for all members to use. The ice shack can be used all year round. The ice shack is needed as more membership live on the land and will be needing ice for fishing and hunting to keep traditional foods fresh and lasting longer. This project will also provide capacity building opportunities for membership to be taught by Elders/Chief on how to properly clean the different types of fish caught and proper storage. With this funding, BNA will be able to purchase the equipment and building materials to construct the ice shack as well as pay for salaries for construction, administration costs, and salaries for project team to make sure the project is on time and on budget. The equipment needed for this project includes an ice machine, pump for water, and construction materials for shelter of the ice machine.



### First Nations Commercial Building Retrofit Program

In the 2023/2024 fiscal, BNA received funding from the IESO for electricity saving retrofits for commercial buildings within the First Nation. BNA used this funding opportunity to complete energy audits on 5 buildings within the community (Sawmill, public washroom, Health Center, Government Building, maintenance garage). Overall benchmarking analysis results confirmed best results for funding will be used for the insulation of the sawmill roof, with the rest of the funding for other energy saving opportunities within the community for commercial buildings such as lighting retrofits.



### BEV Project

BNA completed the Battery Electric Vehicle project within the 2023/2024 fiscal. With the remaining funding, BNA completed the solar panel inspection from Hydro one. Solar panels passed inspection and are fully powered now. BNA also completed the Cost Saving Report for using BEV's vs. other modes of transportation.

### CORDA Moose crane

In the 2023/2024 fiscal, BNA received funding from the Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA) to purchase a hoist/crane system to hold the moose. This piece of equipment will make it easier to carve the moose. BNA also received funding from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit for other moose carving equipment such as tables, knives, cutting boards, etc.



# Governance

## Indian Registration Administrator

In 2023/24, our Indian Registration Administrator Louise completed eleven (11) status cards for members and sixty-eight (68) status cards for non-members. The IRA is here to assist First Nations in obtaining their red and pink status cards or their secure certificate of Indian status. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has been in a collaborative process with the government regarding the Second Generation Cut Off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds. The first phase of this process includes the Indigenous Advisory Process and Rights Holders Information Sharing Initiative. Next was developing a Consultation plan and guide. Bill C-38 is an Act to amend the Indian Act. This is meant to address the inequities in the registration and band membership provisions of the Indian Act. With special thanks to Aandeg Skelly who have assisted many members to regain their status, through this Act, BNA has had a dozen (12) new members and a dozen (12) more are in the process of becoming members.



## Summer Students

In the summer of 2023, we had five (5) summer students work for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek. These young students continue to help make BNA look beautiful. In the 2024 summer, we will have new youth who will be looking to gain some new skills like working with small, powered equipment and experienced youth who will maintain and acquire new skill sets like leadership and effective communication skills. We admire these youth who continue to be the keepers of our land. We hope to see more of our youth in the summers to come. We would not be able to do this without the assistance from Canada Summer Jobs, First Nations Inuit and Youth Employment Strategy, and AETS.



## Wills and Estates

In the fall of 2023, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek was approved for funding to have thirty (30) members have their Wills completed by attorneys from Edwards Bell Jewitt LLP. They will meet individually with our members who were on the list from last year (2022). It is important for members to have their Wills done, especially if you live on the land. Know your rights when it comes to BNA's Matrimonial Real Property Laws versus your rights as a member and your spouse, your children, and your grandchildren. Don't be caught off guard. There are limited spaces left for members to have their Wills done for free. For more information, reach out to Louise at (807) 623-2724 ext 203 or by email at: [lesquega@bnafn.ca](mailto:lesquega@bnafn.ca)



# Communications

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is proud of the level of communications we maintain with our band members through a variety of formats. The website is continuously updated and maintained, with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 as our standard. There are two Facebook accounts, one from our governance office and one from our Family Well-Being department. In the 2023/24 fiscal, we launched an App to continuously expand our communications techniques. All information, such as notices, job postings, and Newsletters are also still mailed to ensure those who do not use the Internet will receive copies.

If you have any concerns or can provide suggestions for future communications, please contact our Communications Coordinator Jake Alfieri at [jalfieri@bnafn.ca](mailto:jalfieri@bnafn.ca) or 1 (807) 623-2724 ext.208.

## Newsletters

In May 2023 we published our Spring Newsletter and in November 2023 we published our Fall Newsletter. Each of these newsletters summarize the projects, developments, programming, and new hires over the last quarter, following the last newsletter. In the Summer of 2023, the first annual report was published and presented at our AGM in August. Due to such small updates and the Christmas break, the Winter 2023/24 Newsletter was deferred and the content for the Spring 2024 newsletter will contain the two quarters.

In the 2024 Spring Newsletter and onward, we are adding a BNA Members Listings page for members to include their personal businesses. If you wish to be included in the section, please contact Jake at [jalfieri@bnafn.ca](mailto:jalfieri@bnafn.ca).



## BNA App

In 2023/24, BNA launched an App for mobile and tablet devices. This includes push notifications to your devices for: new job postings, events, notices, forms, surveys, documents, and more. This updates you in real-time and with most people owning smart devices, allows people to receive information quickly without social media accounts. To download the App, find it in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store under 'Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek'.



## BNA Digital Heritage Project

In 2023/24, BNA received funding to complete a digital history of BNA, focusing on photos from members that could be archived and protected for future generations. Alongside CE Strategies and Aandeg Skelly, BNA was able to archive over 1,560 photos, with 70 published on the website. These images are stored on a hard drive as well as in a digital cloud to ensure the safety of all the contributions.

In the 2024/25 fiscal, we will continue to accept photos, videos, and stories from members. If you wish to see and have copies of photos, please contact Jake at [jalfieri@bnafn.ca](mailto:jalfieri@bnafn.ca).

## Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)

BNA deferred its 2022/23 CCP funding to the 2023/24 fiscal year. During the year, with the support of Nokiiwin, we were able to go through the final phase of engagement with community and staff to publish and finalize the CCP. The CCP is a guide for leadership, staff, and managers to stay on track to the community's overall vision. All staff received a physical copy, with the digital copy published on the website for everyone to access.

In the 2024/25 fiscal, BNA will continue to implement the action items from the CCP, and move completed items to the appendix.

# An Update From Family Well-Being

## Vision

To create a safe space for families that promotes connection to culture, healing and well-being in all areas of the life cycle.

## Highlights

In this past year Family Well-Being hosted over two hundred (200) programs. This has been our busiest year yet. We made partnerships, we gained friendship, but most importantly, we made memories. Look below at just some of our amazing programs.

## Programs

The 2023/2024 fiscal year was probably our best year yet for programs. We had something fun and exciting happening every week throughout the year for every age group. Our team strives to provide programming, workshops and activities that help to support the overall well-being and cultural connection. On behalf of the Family Well-Being team, we would like to give a Chi-Miigwetch to everyone for participating in our programs, events and gatherings.

- » Kid's Nights
- » Roots to Harvest Youth Cooking Classes
- » Junior's Nights
- » Bowling Nights
- » Youth Group
- » Haunted Harbour
- » Adult Wellness
- » Haunted Fort
- » 55+ Nights
- » Vampire Circus at the Community Auditorium
- » Movie Nights at Silvercity
- » BNA Halloween Haunted House
- » Honouring our Strong Anishinaabe Kwe Event
- » Junior's Outing on the Land
- » Family Sunday Swims
- » Medicine Picking
- » Family Nights
- » Hide Tanning Workshop
- » Community Crafting
- » Bingos
- » Family Walking Group
- » Teepee Teachings
- » Educational Nights (Alzheimer's Society, Human Trafficking, Diabetes, Addiction to Gambling)
- » Youth Kickboxing
- » Flu and COVID Clinics
- » Bannock on the Fire
- » Drum Making Workshop
- » Good Food Box
- » Paint Night with Jackie Traverse
- » Junior/Youth Intro to Sewing Nights
- » Family Tubing Night at Mt Baldy
- » Father's Day BBQ
- » Cross Country Skiing
- » Boreal Foragers Walk
- » Pottery Nights
- » BNA Powwows
- » 55+ Drop In Days
- » Good Food Box
- » Virtual Programs (Cultural and Education programs)
- » Youth Camp
- » Junior's Science North Camp
- » Junior's Sleepout at Grandview
- » Family Camp
- » Family Beach Days
- » Family Fun Days
- » Family Boarder Cats Baseball Night
- » Grandfather Drum Nights
- » Hand Drumming Nights
- » Cultural Nights (Virtual and in person)
- » Women's Sharing Circles
- » Children's Sharing Circles
- » Education Dinner for students
- » Nature Walk and Talks
- » Learn to Snare
- » Teachings around the Fire
- » Sweat lodges
- » Spring Fasting Event
- » Winter Carnival
- » Ice Fishing Derby
- » Community Christmas Party
- » Drum Socials
- » Men's Drumming Night
- » Ziigwan Community Kitchen
- » Ribbon Skirt Workshops
- » Regalia Workshops
- » Wake the Giant Festival
- » School's Out Summer Bash!

# Child & Youth

Over the past year, the Family Well-Being Child and Youth Workers have been busy providing many services to the zero to twenty-nine (0-29) year old population within BNA's Membership. As well as helping with organizing most of our larger events!! We are always keeping busy trying to provide as many members and affiliates as possible with services and programming they need/request. Some of our focus goes to providing youth with help in areas such as transitional supports (like finding housing, grocery shopping, resume writing etc.) Mental Health support, school support, food programs and outreach. Trying to ensure no youth are feeling unsupported or left behind. So, if you are a youth in need please reach out!!! We will do our best to help in any way we can. We continue to push Land Based programming as much as possible, with cultural teachings and culturally based activities when possible or wanted.

*We would like to continue to add more programming in the up coming months. We would appreciate any feedback in this area.*

## **Kids Group (ages 0-6)**

- » Welcome in Spring Night
- » Movie night
- » Maple Tops outing
- » Sharing Circle in the Tee Pee and learned some traditional games.
- » Tie-blankets and wreathes.
- » Cooking night
- » Fun Night at the Park

## **Junior's Group (ages 7-11)**

- » Cooking classes
- » Fishing in Lappe, where they were able to catch many Rainbow Trout
- » Wooden sign workshop, the junior's created one-of-a-kind signs for their bedrooms
- » Mini putting at Boulevard Lake.
- » Junior's and Youth paired up for sewing class
- » Science North Summer Camp. Three days of coding and learning some cool science experiments.
- » Our 1st Junior's Sleepout happened out at Grandview, where the juniors stayed on the land under the stars, they played games, had an outdoor movie, and slept in tents.
- » Medicine picking at Grandview, they collected spruce tree sap and later turned it into a Salve meant for skin infections, cuts and dryness.
- » Partnered up with the 55+ group and went to The Hive to paint pottery, some made Christmas gifts for family members.
- » Escape Rooms where they broke into two groups and successfully escaped the rooms they were "locked" into.
- » Tubing at Mt Baldy
- » Night out at Movies.

## **Youth Group (ages 12-17)**

- » Drop-in programs at Grandview
- » Youth BBQ and games night
- » Kickboxing class at Movati - which they really enjoyed and was probably our most successful numbers to date.
- » Tee Pee teachings
- » Pinch Pottery at Lake Side Studio and painted pottery at The Hive.
- » Over the fall the Youth participated in a Hide Tanning workshop held at Grandview.
- » Participated in a workshop put on by Nokiiwin called "Healing Through HipHop" with Hip hop singer Shibastik, where members of BNA are featured in a song they wrote and sang together with other Nokiiwin community youth.
- » Equine Assisted Learning night focused on horses and healing in traditional ways.
- » Medicine picking at the Bluffs, collected spruce pitch (sap) and then partnered with the Juniors to turn it into Salve for healing skin issues on a bonfire in the Tee pee.
- » Cooking classes with Roots to Harvest
- » Bingo night which we were able to offer virtually! We would like to do more virtual programming with our Youth to include more of our out of town youth.
- » Our Youth also got to do some traveling over the past year!!! We had representatives from BNA attend some conferences. This including the IFN youth conference and Chiefs of Ontario conference.



## Youth Council (ages 12-29):

Youth Council finished up their 2nd year and have begun a new 2-year term for BNA. This now includes sixteen (16) youth from BNA, including youth who live in Sand Point FN, Thunder Bay, British Columbia, and Toronto areas. We will be expanding as youth ages 12-29 show interest. Youth Council meets every three months. We have had speakers come and speak with youth council over the past year including Chief and Council, Nokiiwin to help create the communities Comprehensive Community Plan, BNA's Family Well Being Director and Manager, and BNA's Director of Economic Development. The Youth have developed a love for Youth Council and are being used as an example for other First Nations!! It's a great way for them to be connected and to learn about their First Nation community. If you are a youth who is interested in being a part of Youth Council, please don't hesitate to reach out.

# Summer Camps

Our 4th Annual Youth camp for the 2023/24 fiscal was a hybrid week. It was a week for Youth ages 12-29 to participate in activities within Thunder Bay and provided an over night on The Land with a Fishing Charter. 18 youth attended the over night along with the other activities throughout the week. That week provides all of BNA Youth the opportunity to be together, to create memories as a community, and connect with their traditional land. As a part of the week, we went paddle boarding on Dog Lake, spent a rainy day at the Virtual Reality store in Intercity Mall, and two nights on The Land. While on The Land they went fishing (with a few youths catching large fish) swam with our beloved Pegasus Sally, played lawn games, and spent some time enjoying the beach. We explored The Land and some of the development such as the Community area and enjoyed a Bonfire playing bonfire games and watching a movie on our outdoor screen. All Youth were sad that we only had one night out together but enjoyed themselves immensely. On the way back to Thunder Bay they stopped at Ouimet Canyon and the Rope Bridges at Eagle Canyon. They concurred fears and ate some cold pizza subs while getting to know each other and making loon calls to find out where people were. The youth really connected during this week, and it provides an opportunity to bring them all together no matter where they live.

We had 9 Families participate in our 4th annual Family Camp this year. They spent three days and two nights out on The Land. They were able to go onto a commercial Fishing Charter and a couple fish were caught! For the three days they participated in various craft workshops such as tie dye, macramé, rock painting and Inuksuk building with our Summer Students. They also participated in games like capture the flag, a relay race (kids against adults), and a massive water gun fight! They swam in the lake with Sally, they spent time playing lawn games and on our last night we had a movie night outside

by the bonfire with fireworks. All Families involved had the best time and enjoyed valuable time on The Land disconnecting from the busy life at home.

The Junior's were given another opportunity this past summer to participate in Science North camp at Grandview. Spending the week learning about coding and making their own video game. They also were able to participate in rocket making and various other science experiments. On their last day of Science Camp, the Junior's stayed over at Grandview in tents where most made it through the night.

The Junior's also partook in their first day trip to The Land for a day filled with land-based adventures. While there they participated in some Tradition teachings with our Community Cultural Coordinator. They made Medicine Wheels out of rocks, sand paintings and learned about being out in nature and its significance in culture. They spent some time by the water collecting sea glass and rocks, spent some time exploring The Land and enjoyed some homemade cooking before heading back home. This provided an opportunity for the Junior's from Thunder Bay to meet the Junior aged kids at The Land and develop some connections.



# Honouring Our Strong Anishinaabe Kwe

The 2023/24 fiscal included our 4th Annual Anishinaabe Kwe event. The Family Well-Being team was very excited to host this year with rose bouquets, featured mocktails, a plated dinner, and rose coloured décor throughout. Thunder Lights & Entertainment brought out some games to keep everyone laughing and entertained. We also featured a rolled ice-cream bar after dinner, with a line-up all night. Many enjoyed trying out the 360 Photobooth, making memories with friends and family.

Everyone looked stunning and made it such a wonderful night at The Chanterelle.

We will host our 5th Annual Anishinaabe Kwe in May of the 2024/25 fiscal year.



# Schools Out Summer Bash



Each year Family Well-Being appreciates the dedication and hard work that the students have made throughout their school year by hosting a Schools Out Bash. This 2023/24 fiscal year we had Fun-Tastic Castles, Epic Cones, a dunk tank and the huge waterslide inflatable.

This is one of our favourite events as it showcases our students, for their hard work and dedication to their education, but also it's the best way to welcome in the Summer.

# Hide Tanning Workshop

This event was open to all members and affiliates, along with some members of Nokiiwin and EarlyON programs. Jean Marshall and her crew came to Grandview for three days to do phase one in hide tanning. It's done in three phases.

Day one (1) was how to flesh, clean, dehair the hide.

Day two (2) we built the frames, stretched the hides and did some scraping to ensure it was clean.

Day three (3) we made brain paste, applied brain pasted to the hides, and learned how to wring out the hides of the brain paste so they can be done again. This process softens the hide.



# Powwow's

June 3rd, 2023 was our 2nd Annual Powwow at Grandview Rd and it was a deadly day! We had over two hundred (200) people attend throughout the day. We had over one hundred (100) dancers, five (5) drums and at least twenty (20) vendors in attendance. We were so overwhelmed with the great response we had from our community and the surrounding area that we look forward to hosting more powwows at our beautiful Grandview Road location.



In March of 2024, we hosted a powwow 'Gaa Bii Gee Weh Waat' (Those who returned home) at the Current River Rec Centre. We had close to fifty (50) dancers in attendance, all ranging from tots to Elders. It was very healing to see everyone dancing, drumming, singing or just taking in the powwow. We ended the day with a delicious feast prepared by Current River Rec, we all left with a full heart and a full belly.

# Annual Haunted House

In the 2023/24 fiscal, Family Well-Being transformed the old Grandview school into the BNA Haunted Asylum. Patients were roaming the halls and rooms of the old asylum. Unsure what each room would endure, families were able to explore at their own risk. So many screams, some tears, and a few laughs could be heard throughout the nights. A couple of highlights from the haunted asylum include the creepy nurse who likes to sing you a song before she attacks, the possessed screaming youth, and the food.



# Community Christmas Party



December is one of our favourite months here at Family Well-Being, tis the season to be jolly! The 2023/24 fiscal year's Christmas party was a great turnout. Thunder & Light Entertainment provided lights, bubbles, and music to enjoy throughout the party. Patrick Chondon from Chondon Photography was on site again to provide families with family portraits and to capture those beautiful candid moments. Santa and his helpers came flying in to surprise the children and families. Everyone was so excited to see him, especially when he started handing out gifts and candy! It was a great day for the community to come together and celebrate such a wonderful time of the year.

Family Well-Being will be hosting the Community Christmas Party in December 2024 at The Slovak.

# Annual Ice Fishing Event

Our 4th annual Ice Fishing Event was a great turnout this year. We had a record-breaking attendance (31 adults and 18 children and youth) even though Saturday's weather was 80 km/h gusts of wind. Sunday was a gorgeous day to be out on Lake Nipigon. We put the Fishing Net under the ice and were able pulled out a large Lake Trout, a White Fish, and a Ling! Our winning fishermen this year were JP Gladu (Biggest Lake Trout) and John Noel (Biggest Speckle Trout). We had many skunked prize winners this year as the only fish brought in were those two. Children, Youth and Adult prize categories for all skunked prized were provided. Our delicious meals were provided again by Bon Appetite Beardmore. Staff provided all the fishing equipment and gear, drilled all the holes, gave fishing lessons when needed, provided transportation to the Land as well as provided accommodation in Nipigon for those wanting to stay for the whole weekend. This weekend provides an opportunity for all members to be together whether you live on the land or travel to participate it is valuable time spent together as a community.



We hope to continue hosting all these events and more throughout the years to come as they provide valuable time together here and, on the land, providing healing, learning and connection.

If you have any feedback or program ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out and share with one of the Family Well-Being staff.

Miigwetch for an amazing year!

# Family Representation



Over the 2024/23 fiscal year, the Family Representative Team has worked with multiple families, individuals, and community networks. We have been able to strengthen community bonds, family connections, provide food security, advocacy, and support. The Family Representative Team has been able to host a few movie nights, food bingo, baseball, family gathering for a weekend, and assist Family Well-Being when able with programs. The Family Representative Team has worked with multiple youth on developing life skills, future planning, and assistance with transportation. We have assisted families in reconnecting with the community and culture. The Family Representative Team has assisted with mental health resourcing as well as multiple avenues of outreach. We have assisted with child welfare court proceedings and assisted families in securing legal aid. If you or your family require assistance in the future, please send an email so requests do not get lost in Facebook Messages or Text Messages.

*(BNA youth: Maddie Gladu and James Abbott)*

# Education

Over the 2024/23 fiscal year, in Education we successfully completed the draft of our Education Service Agreement. This agreement is currently with the lawyers for a final review before going to the school board. Once the school board is satisfied with the agreement there will be a signing ceremony. Relationships have been strengthened with Superior Greenstone School Board and the surrounding schools. Staff from the Family Well-Being and Family Representative Teams attended Beardmore Public School Pow Wow on June 19 and supplied tacos in a bag. The Family Representative Team and Cultural Coordinator attended the Beardmore Public School curling bonspiel and ran the canteen. We are still on the lookout for a bus driver. If you are wanting to apply, please reach out.

# Jordan's Principle

Over the 2024/23 fiscal year, Jordan's Principle saw many applications come through to be processed. Many applications have been put in the queue due to the backlog of applications. For more information on the backlog please see The First Nation Caring Society website. Many individual and group applications were processed. We successfully saw back to school supplies for the 2023-2024 year, back to school supplies for the 2024-2025 year, and winter clothing for over 53 children/youth. A new project is started to assist families with food security, recreation, and household supplies. Should you need an application please reach out via email.

Tylyn Silander  
Family Representative Manager  
C: 807-355-9731  
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# Health & Wellness

The BNA's Health team continues to work hard to bring comprehensive wrap around health care supports in all needed areas of our members health journey. In the 2023/24 fiscal, we expanded our team to now include our Home and Community Nurse Jamie MacDonald, and Community Care worker Vierlyn Lunn. Our team has been outreaching to many members near and far bringing compassionate and client focused care and support needs.



## Program Supports

Over the 2024/23 fiscal year, the Health Team maintained coordination of the 55+ and Adult Wellness 18+ programs but has also networked collaboratively with our other team programs to bring many fun, educational and culturally geared events and projects. We brought the members on adventures to local parks and attractions to enjoy the beauties of nature, found excitement & relaxation with a variety of live music, plays & comedy, continued to hone the artistic side with pottery, painting and traditional clothing & Regalia making, and come together for tasty potlucks and casual socials. Our HCC nurse initiated monthly exercise programs to get our adults and seniors building both physical and mental fitness, as well as a variety of interactive health related education evenings including smoking cessation, nutritional bingo, and sleep hygiene in the 2023/24 fiscal, with much more to come in the 2024/25 fiscal.



## Outreach and Service Coordination

In the 2023/24 fiscal year, our HCC Nurse and Community Care worker enhanced outreach connections with membership and successfully serviced 60+ members with various in-person visits & calls and ensured that both mental and physical health supports have been accessible and connected to the BNA members. Our health team was able to host regular health clinic visits to the members at Sand Point and surrounding area on a regular basis. Our HCC Nurse became certified to deliver personal advanced foot care and has been able to bring this service to members in a variety of locations in the 2024/23 fiscal. We maintain many successful professional relationships with a variety of community health organizations to ensure access to health care & providers, medical equipment & supply funding and acquisition, food security, mental health & grief healing services, and short-term emergency housing supports where possible.



# An Update From EarlyON

Over the 2023/2024 fiscal year, EarlyON provided a variety of programs and activities for our children and families both indoor and outdoor. Our families enjoyed learning how to garden in the Spring, swimming and water play in the summer, moccasin making in the fall and regalia making in the winter. We continue to follow the 13 grandmother moons when program planning each month. The teachings we have received during our drum socials and men's night have been both healing and powerful for all our community members. As our centre continues to grow, we look forward to the year ahead as we have started implementing new programs and ideas for our community. We reached 584 children and adults who are registered or sign in using our KeyON system and 200+ more who are not registered.

Miigwetch,  
- Karen Williams



# An Update From Papasaay

*Papasaay is separated into three (3) separate entities: Papasaay Management Corporation (PMC), Papasaay Management Limited Partnership (PMLP), and Papasaay Value-Added Wood Products Limited Partnership (PVAWP LP).*

## Papasaay Management Corporation (PMC)

PMC is the entity that legally separates the Corporation from the First Nation. PMC is governed by a Board of Directors, which meets once per month virtually. There are five (5) Board of Directors in Papasaay, including:

- » Guy Gladu (President)
- » Linda Britt (Vice-President)
- » Jordan Hatton (Treasurer)
- » Mike Michon (Secretary)
- » Marcel Donio

While PMC is mostly dormant as most activities are carried out through the LPs, PMC does have several entities, including:

- » Papasaay Aggregate Pit Permit: PMC has a permitted pit located 3km north of the community road entrance, which was permitted to the corporation in 2016. No sales were made to entities or projects off-reserve.
- » Blue Lake: PMC owns the Blue Lake property, located just outside Jellicoe. PMC pays yearly property taxes on this property to the Municipality of Greenstone. No work was carried out on this property in 2023/24, with the exception of the Tourism Study for this property and Big Virgin Island.
- » Big Virgin Island: In 2022, PMC purchased Big Virgin Island for \$325,000, which it received from BNA. No work was carried out on this Property in 2023/24 fiscal year, with the exception of the Tourism Study for this property and Blue Lake.





# Papasay Management Limited Partnership (PMLP)

This is the entity that carries out the activities of the corporation. The exception of course is that only a corporation can have an aggregate permit or can own property (see above for PMC). PMLP has one employee: Art Gladu. PMLP has several activities that it carries out, including:



PMLP has several pieces of equipment that it utilized in the 2023/24 fiscal year. Set rates are charged out for 3rd party uses. Currently Tom Rentz Contracting utilizes our equipment and Papasay adds a percentage on to the rental.



## Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (1/4 shareholder)

LNFM Board met quarterly during 2023/24 fiscal year. LNFM is responsible for managing the Lake Nipigon Forest activities. It is a partnership between the 4 First Nations on the east side of Lake Nipigon. PMLP received dividends of \$80,000 for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

## Lake Nipigon Sustainable Energy Solutions Inc. (1/4 shareholder)

Through LNFM, a large, regional gasification project is underway. It will see the increased use of underutilized fibre on the Lake Nipigon Forest, including burn piles, poplar laid at roadside, and other feedstocks. This material will be trucked to Hurkett, where a wood merchandising yard will be constructed, and then gasified to clean renewable natural gas for the gas pipeline. The end product – bio-char – will be shipped to southern Ontario to supplement coal in the steel plants. This project is set to get off the ground in fiscal year 2024/25, and will bring significant employment and contracting opportunities for the region.

## 3-Nations Recourses (1/3rd shareholder)

3-Nations was created by BNA, BZA and RRIB to manage the partnerships involved in regional mining developments. In 2023/24, the only revenues that came in through our collective partnership is from our partnership with “Major Drilling”, which we receive a percentage of each contract through the arrangement.



## Papasay Bee-Clean (51% shareholder)

PMLP is the majority shareholder in the Papasay Bee-Clean partnership. Some revenue were generated in 2023/24 through our contract with “DREAM” construction, and through cleaning of TransCanada facilities.



## TURN-KEY COMMUNICATIONS (51% shareholder)

PMLP is the majority shareholder in the PTK partnership. No revenues were made through this entity in the 2023/24 fiscal year.



PMLP receives revenues from work that TBT undertakes for various entities in the territory. PMLP did receive some revenues in the 2023/24 fiscal year for work TBT did on the Rock Tech property, along with other work performed in the region.

# Papasay Value-Added Wood Products (PVAWP)

PVAWP is Papasay's most active entity, as it runs the Papasay Sawmill. The Sawmill was opened in 2017, and currently has three (3) employees who run the operation. Sales are made to BNA, individual customers, and various forestry, mining and other companies throughout the region and beyond.

In 2022, PVAWP installed its Baker Sawline, quadrupling its production from 2,000 board feet/day to 8,000 board feet per/day. PVAWP also built its kiln chamber, and had it connected to the biomass unit. PVAWP spent much of 2023/24 fiscal year building up inventory for future housing units. This lumber will need to be dried and planed/moulded for use in structural building.

In the 2023/24 fiscal year, the Papasay Sawmill continued to operate and building up material and inventory.







An Ojibway First Nation dedicated to serving our generations by creating a self-sustaining and healthy community for today and tomorrow.

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