



FALL '24 NEWSLETTER

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A Message From Chief & Council

Greetings Sand Point Members

Another busy season has come to an end, and what a season it was! This summer provided BNA Members with numerous events and programs, starting with a well-attended Pow Wow on June 1st at our Grandview location.

Ten BNA youth were employed for the summer: six worked on the land, one student worked at the Court Street Office, and three students worked with the Family Well-Being Team. These fully funded employment opportunities equipped our youth with valuable experience and skills.



From August 12th to 16th, Nokiiwin held their annual Unity Gathering on BNA's land during BNA's family camp week. The event was open to all BNA Members, and throughout the week, there were various events, crafts, and cultural teachings, ending off the week with a mini Pow Wow.

To end off summer, BNA's Annual General Meeting was held on September 7th, and the Annual Report was subsequently mailed out to every Member aged 18 and over. To ensure you receive BNA's various mail outs throughout the year, it's important to keep your address up to date. If you have a change of address, please contact Louise Esquega (lesquega@bnafn.ca) at the Court Street office.

We are excited to share some promising developments within our community as we approach the completion of housing projects. Currently, four homes and two four-plexes are under construction and nearing completion. These new housing units represent significant opportunities for BNA families to return to our homeland, reinforcing our community ties and fostering a sense of belonging.

The nearing completion of these homes and four-plexes marks an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to provide quality housing for our members. These new living spaces will accommodate families who have long awaited the chance to return home, and they will also support the growth and sustainability of our community.

Looking ahead, BNA is planning to begin construction on three additional homes next year, as we were recently approved for funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). We are committed to expanding housing opportunities for our members in the coming years.

The growth and development of the BNA community are made possible by your unwavering support and dedication. Every step forward we take is a reflection of the strength and unity within our community. We deeply appreciate your continued support as we work together to create a brighter future for all BNA members.

Thank you for your trust and commitment to our shared vision. Together, we will continue to build a thriving, connected, and resilient community.

Miigwetch
Chief and Council



Finance Department Updates

The Finance team has been extremely busy since my last update. This is the result of the many projects that Chief and Council have undertaken on behalf of the membership along with certifications and the year end audit.

Thanks to the hard work of the management team, BNA is now Financial Management System certified by the First Nation Financial Management Board (FMB). This is a huge milestone for BNA and affirms the direction that Chief & Council have taken to be as transparent as possible with the members of the First Nation. The FMB certification team spent a week at our office back in April to review our procedures and make sure that they are being followed. This doesn't only pertain to Finance; the team reviewed and collected documentation to support that the BNA team is following all of its policies – Finance, Governance, Human Resources, and Information just to name a few. I am excited to announce that, on May 30, 2024, BNA received its Financial Management System (FMS) Certification from the FMB. This means that BNA has policies in place and they are being followed strictly. This certification comes after years of hard work by the management team.



More recently, the Finance team has been working diligently and closely with MNP LLP to complete the year end audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) was presented with the audited financial statements on September 3rd, and after reviewing them with the auditors, recommended that they be accepted by Chief & Council. The audit was then approved by the membership at the annual general meeting on September 7, 2024. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion which means that, based on their testing,

the financial statements are correct in accordance with the applicable accounting standards. Even more exciting, the letter to management, which outlines areas for improvement, had no points on it. This means that, in MNP's opinion, BNA is following its policies and keeping the proper documentation for all transactions. I want to thank MNP for working so closely with me and the Finance team to get the audit completed.

In the not-so-distant future, the Finance team will be taking steps to reduce number of cheques that are issued and move towards electronic payments. We have started collecting direct deposit information from our vendors so that we can issue payments via EFT. This is not only a more secure method of payment to the vendors, it also reduces the processing time for payments. Currently, cheques are processed weekly, but by the time they get signed, mailed, and delivered to the vendor, it could be two to three weeks before the payment is received. Moving to direct deposit payments cuts down on that lag time and allows us to reduce or eliminate service disruptions.

As always, it is incredibly important for you, the members, to make sure that we have the most up to date contact and bank information for you. If you change your address or change your bank account please make sure to contact Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator, at lesquega@bnafn.ca to give her your updated information.

In the nine months that I have been with BNA, I have seen first-hand how great of a team this First Nation has and how hard working they are. Our teams work hard day in and day out on behalf of the members to keep this Nation moving forward. I am very impressed with everything that I have seen so far and I am excited and honoured to be a part of such an amazing team. I look forward to what the future has in store while the Nation continues to grow.

Brandon Favel, CPA
Director of Finance

Economic Development Updates

Nation Rebuild Project

Over the past several years, BNA has been working in partnership with Animiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (AZA) and Lac Des Mille Lacs (LDML) First Nations to try and change the way that Canada treats newly developing communities. All three First Nations fall into the 'chicken and egg' scenario: Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) funds on-reserve infrastructure based on the number of Indigenous members residing on-reserve, however our three communities cannot fully develop our communities for the return of the members if there is not adequate infrastructure to support their living. It is a continuous loop, and our First Nations are forced to develop with a fraction of the funding that we require. We have developed a very substantial report from our work that was sent to Canada for consideration.

This past spring, the Chiefs of the three First Nations met with Minister Hajdu on this project, and expressed their frustrations at the pace of their developments. The result was the commencement of a "Working Table", in which the three First Nations would set up sub-committees with high-level ISC representatives in order to work through our issues. Our First Nations have 3 major asks: (1) that we find new, innovative ways to develop our communities, including looking at the monetization of federal funding; (2) that we are able to proceed with a large-scale economic development venture to bring in own-source revenues; and, (3) that operational funding be increased for our communities.

The sub-committees developed include:

- Infrastructure, including looking at monetization as a solution;
- Economic Development, to look at a way to forge ahead with a large-scale project;
- Operational Funding;
- 10-Year Grant, to potentially use a vehicle for new funding; and,
- A New Relationship Agreement between the First Nations and Canada.

The hope of our communities is that as a result of this work, we can find a solution to the dilemma that new-build First Nations face as they try and re-build their reserves.

Title Claim and Annuities Negotiations

BNA has continued to forge ahead with its work on both its Title Claim and Annuities Negotiations.



Title Claim Negotiations

BNA, along with five other First Nations in the Robinson Superior Treaty area, has been working hard to finalize its negotiations with Canada and Ontario on its Title Claim. For Canada, this means a significant financial settlement for BNA for the loss of use of its reserve land, and for Ontario, it means a significant new land quantum, which would increase our reserve size substantially. This work has been exhaustive, with many meetings on a weekly basis between BNA and its negotiating team, Canada, Ontario and in some instances, with the other five First Nations in the process. Offers have been made to BNA for both the financial settlement, and the land settlement, with BNA considering a 'phased settlement' where the community could receive its financial settlement prior to its land settlement. This is even more important considering the complexities of the land negotiations, which include dealing with mining claims and leases, private and patent lands, and 3rd party interests.

Annuities Negotiations

In its decision this past July, the Supreme Court of Canada has given Canada and Ontario 6 months to negotiate a fair and just settlement with the 12 Robinson Superior area First Nations with respect to its Annuities Claim. This would see a settlement for the fact that Annuities to First Nation members has remained at \$4/year since the 19th century. With the clock ticking away, multiple meetings and negotiations have been set for the Chiefs, Canada and Ontario, with the first one taking place on Sunday, September 15th at old Whitesand near Armstrong, where the Federal and Provincial Ministers were in attendance with all 12 Chiefs. This will be a challenge with the timelines, but

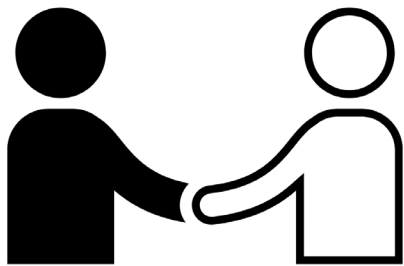


| **Economic Development Updates**

BNA's Chief and legal team are rolling up their sleeves and are ready to work for a just settlement for the BNA membership.

BNA held a Community Meeting on Saturday, November 2nd in Thunder Bay. Our legal team was present, as well as our economist and lands expert, to present and discuss different elements of these two processes with the membership.

BNA-Papasay Cooperation Agreement



Papasay Management Corporation was formed in 2009 by BNA in order to provide a vehicle for BNA's economic development. As part of good governance and for liability reasons, it is best to separate business ventures from the day-to-day politics of the First Nation, and to have a separate Board of Directors to run that entity. Papasay currently meets on a monthly basis, and the Board does its best to ensure that the business of the First Nation moves ahead with the best decision-making possible. However, in many communities there can be strife between the First Nation and its corporation, when there should be cooperation.

In the last fiscal year, BNA was successful in receiving funding to develop a "BNA-Papasay Cooperation Agreement", which would set out how the two entities should work together going forward, including a Service Agreement which would set out rates for equipment rental, aggregate use, and other matters. This project is a long-time in the making, and it is hoped that it will be a shining example of how a First Nation and its economic development entities can work together in a cooperative fashion, in the interest of the membership that they both serve.

Land Code Re-Ratification

BNA has brought the Land Code re-ratification to the membership on two occasions: first back in November of 2023, and then again at our recent AGM in Thunder Bay. The goal of this project is to streamline the BNA Land Code, which it originally passed in March 2014 under the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management. This would ensure that BNA adopts the

best practices of the "Model Land Code" that was developed in BC.

Now that the members have been informed of this process, the community is ready to proceed with re-ratification. The BNA Lands Coordinator, Jessica Hubbard, will be working with Katharina Trottier from the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre (LABRC) in order to forge ahead with this process.

For questions related to the Land Code Re-Ratification process, please contact Jessica Hubbard at the BNA office, or by email at jhubbard@bnafn.ca.



New Sawmill Building

BNA's Sawmill Expansion has been on-going for some time. While significant new equipment has been acquired through this process, including the new Baker Saw-line which has allowed Papasay to quadruple its production, the planer-moulder value-added line has run into a snag, as the current building does not have the required space to operate this new line. BNA has received some funding from the Province to commence construction with our design and business plan. If we can complete the geotechnical work on the foundation and complete the tender process, our hope is to pour the foundation soon.



| *Economic Development Updates*

The Sawmill Expansion Project is part of BNA's overall growth in the forestry sector. Along with the Sawmill, BNA's new District Heating Project will require the residual products (wood slabs) from the sawmill's operation. Our goal is to utilize every part of the tree, which is truly operating in a sustainable way.

BNA Summer Student: Ian Robert



Every year, BNA hires several summer students to work down at the land. This is important work, as it ensures that the community is maintained and beautified during the summer months, as well as providing for employment opportunities for BNA youth. This year, Chief and Council decided to have some of the summer students work within an office setting, assisting BNA staff in the work that they do. While different work than on the land, working the office can provide for a unique experience for BNA's youth as they proceed through their education, and gives them a flavour for what it means to work for the community.

At our satellite office in Thunder Bay, Ian Robert was hired to work under the Director of Economic Development, Jordan Hatton. Ian assisted Jordan by attending meetings and taking notes, assisting in day-to-day organizing and filing, and even completing funding applications (in which he was successful!) Some of the meetings included other First Nations, business and industry partners, funders and more. Through this work, Ian was provided with a well-rounded experience in what the work of economic development entails, as well as provide a hand to Jordan. Well done Ian!

New Economic Development Coordinator



In order to assist with the growing workload at BNA, and the multitude of projects that our community is currently undertaking, we successfully applied for funding through the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs for a new Economic Development Coordinator. The successful candidate was Katia Borjas, and she started with the community at the start of October. Katia is originally from Honduras, and has her Bachelor of Commerce and experience working with the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA). Katia will assist the Director of Economic Development in his work, and will assist in the enormous workload that is currently underway.

Please welcome Katia in her new role!

Off-Reserve Wind and Transmission Development

BNA has forged an alliance with its neighbouring communities: AZA, BZA and Red Rock Indian Band. The Chiefs and technicians of the four communities meet regularly in order to discuss regional economic development opportunities where we can collectively work together as one unit. Two of these areas are gaining significant momentum: wind and transmission.

| Economic Development Updates

For the wind project, there is significant wind potential south east of Lake Nipigon. Global wind data has shown that there may be hundreds of megawatts available for development. With the province's need for new energy procurement in the province, as well as the need to continue to provide green energy for the Ontario grid, wind projects have a unique opportunity to gain traction. BNA and its 3 neighbours have met with wind companies regarding this opportunity, and are supporting further data gathering by erecting test towers in the region. This is a project that could generate significant wealth for the 4 communities, who would share these opportunities on an equal basis.

In order to enable wind developments in the region, BNA, BZA, AZA, RRIB, Ginoogaming and Aroland First Nations are aligned in their desire to bring a new 230 kV transmission line into the Greenstone region. The weak A4L line currently is unreliable, with frequent black outs, but also unable to handle large loads that a large wind development would require, nor provide stable power to communities or mining operations. BNA will continue to work cooperatively with our neighbouring communities to make this project a reality. This will involve working with provincial leaders, as well as the IESO as it embarks on its energy planning for the province.

Commercial Zone – Hotel Study

During the last fiscal year, BNA worked with TBT and



MNP in order to develop a Commercial Zone feasibility study for a potential gas bar, hotel, restaurant and helipad. The hotel was not deemed feasible during this study, but several meetings since has led BNA to want a second opinion on this. It is difficult to find anywhere to stay in Beardmore or Nipigon, and a

fresh look at this option with a company that works in the hotel space is certainly warranted. We hope to embark on this new study very shortly.

BNA is located in a strategic location. With Beardmore struggling and the mining companies in the region continuing their exploration work, there could be an opportunity to capitalize on a serious gap in the region for accommodations. Of course our community would never proceed on a project that was deemed to be unfeasible, but we also do not want to miss out on a possible opportunity. We hope that this study will give us the answers that we need in order to make a truly informed decision.

Mining and Exploration

With our alliance in place with AZA, BZA and RRIB, BNA is moving forward with our First Nation neighbours as



one unit. This is especially important when it comes to matters around mining, where speaking with one voice is important when negotiating with proponents. We've been moving forward in several areas.

Firstly, with our alliance in place, multiple projects will now be including 4 First Nations, where before there may have only been 2 or 3 involved in a project. This is the case for both Rock Tech Lithium and Imagine Lithium, where the previously signed exploration agreements that were in place with BNA, BZA and RRIB have been opened up to include AZA First Nation. This does not mean a reduction of benefits to the original 3 communities, but rather having AZA come in as an equal partner, receiving the same benefits as the other communities have been receiving for several years. Moving forward, projects occurring within a defined geographic area will continue to include the 4 communities.

Secondly, we are working to change our joint BNA-BZA-RRIB corporation – 3-Nations Resources – to 4-Nations Resources, which will include AZA First Nation. Therefore partnerships that are currently in place through 3-Nations with Asiniikaa Mining, Dexterra, and Major Drilling, will all be opened up to bring AZA into the partnership. This will further solidify the partnership between our communities.

Finally, the 4 First Nations are working with a legal partner to strengthen our template Exploration

| **Economic Development Updates**

Agreement. This includes looking closely at the benefits portion to ensure we are asking for an appropriate amount from exploration companies, which come in many sizes. Also, we are working to ensure that future agreements have a stringent "consent clause", meaning that no company working in our joint area can move ahead to mining and production without an Impact Benefit Agreement being signed between the First Nations and the company in question. This will not only ensure that benefits are maximized and equally shared amongst the communities, but also that environmental protections are enshrined in any agreement.

Working together has many benefits, but in no other area is this more important than in the mining and exploration sector. BNA will continue to update the membership regarding our alliance, and the progress that we are making in the region with respect to joint projects and developments.

On-Reserve Aggregate Development

BNA has had a long-running dispute with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) regarding "Orient Bay #20", an aggregate quarry located just to the northeast of BNA's reserve land. This matter is being dealt with through our provincial Title negotiations, and BNA has argued that this site should be part of any final settlement with the community, and ultimately made into reserve land. However, while these discussions have been on-going, a temporary solution for aggregates has been found.

In working with the MTO, Papasay has provided a quote to general a contract which would finally see



the opening up of BNA's on-reserve aggregate site. This is located at the back end of 'Lot C' of the BNA Industrial Park, with a road in place going up to the site. The contract would have Papasay as the lead, with our partner, Asiniikaa Mining, taking on the blasting and crushing. Asiniikaa has also brought on Tom Rentz Contracting to work on the road, the tree clearing and the staging grounds for the production of aggregate material. While some of this material

will be for upcoming Hwy jobs, BNA will be looking to produce additional aggregate material both for its community development, and for sale to outside 3rd parties.

As we are very close now to the snow falling, we will likely commence this job in the Spring of 2025.

Chief Gladu – FPAC Award

BNA would like to congratulate our Chief, Paul Gladu, for receiving the "Jim Carr Forest Community Champion" award at the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) Conference this year, which was held on September 18th in Ottawa. Recipients of this award are passionate promoters of the social, environmental, and economic benefits of sustainable forest management, and who, through their actions, have empowered and supported forestry workers and communities over their lifetime.

Prior to his role as Councillor and then Chief of BNA, Paul worked for Abitibi for 36 years in the woodlands. This included working in the bush, as well as hauling timber throughout the region. In this capacity, our Chief has realized the importance of sustainable forestry to the region, and how it enables community growth and employment. This passion has led to the Chief's strong support of keeping the Lake Nipigon Forest in First Nation hands through Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc., as well as the development and support of our on-reserve Sawmill, and biomass developments.

BNA congratulates Chief Gladu on this amazing achievement.



Housing & Infrastructure

Exciting Update on Our Fourplexes!

We're thrilled to announce that our fourplexes are now complete! These new units will play a vital role in enhancing our community services and supporting our dedicated workers.

These developments mark a significant step forward in our commitment to supporting both families and workers. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these new units will have in our community! Stay tuned for more updates!

CMHC Homes Coming in 2026!

We're thrilled to announce that construction on our three CMHC homes is set to begin next year! As we embark on this exciting project, we want to share some important updates about our approach this year.



Rent-to-Own Program Update:

To streamline the process and align our budget and timelines with the builder and our First Nation housing program, we will be implementing a new strategy. If you're interested in our rent-to-own program, please note that we will advertise for those who expressed interest and assign lots to the successful applicants in 2025 once we reach the finishing stage of the build. This ensures that we can provide a seamless and prosperous experience for all involved.

We appreciate your understanding and look forward to keeping you updated on this exciting journey toward new housing opportunities in our community! Stay tuned for more information as we move forward.

Member Outreach: Your Feedback Needed on Housing Policies!

BNA has been hard at work developing comprehensive

housing policies to better serve our community. We are excited to announce that we have now reached the member outreach stage!

With both the Homeownership Policy and the Rental Housing Policy established, we want to hear from you. Your feedback is crucial in shaping policies that foster a healthy and vibrant community.

How to Get Involved:

- Visit Our Website: For reference to the existing housing policies, please visit BNA Housing Policy.
- Share Your Thoughts: We encourage all members to provide input. Please send your feedback to our housing coordinator, Paulette Facca, at pfacca@bnafn.ca by December 31, 2024.

Your voice matters in this important process, and we look forward to your valuable insights! Together, we can build a stronger community.

Addressing Concerns: Lease Agreements and Housing Policies

As we continue to develop our Housing Policies, we want to take a moment to address important concerns regarding our Lease Agreements, which encompass our Rent-to-Own and Rental agreements. We've received valuable feedback from many members regarding the language used in these agreements, particularly in relation to tenant's concerns.



| Housing & Infrastructure

Your Voice Matters:

We recognize that clear and fair agreements are essential for both parties involved. As we work on refining the language and addressing these concerns, we want to hear your thoughts and solutions.

How to Contribute:

- Share Your Insights: If you have suggestions or specific concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your feedback is vital in creating agreements that are transparent and equitable for everyone.

We are committed to fostering a supportive environment and ensuring that your voices are heard throughout this process. Together, we can enhance our housing policies and create a stronger community. Thank you for your continued engagement!

Important Update: Care and Maintenance Package for Our Homes

We are excited to announce that we are currently developing a Care and Maintenance package for all our homes. Maintaining the quality of our homes is crucial to ensuring a healthy and safe living environment for everyone in our community.

Your Role in Home Care:

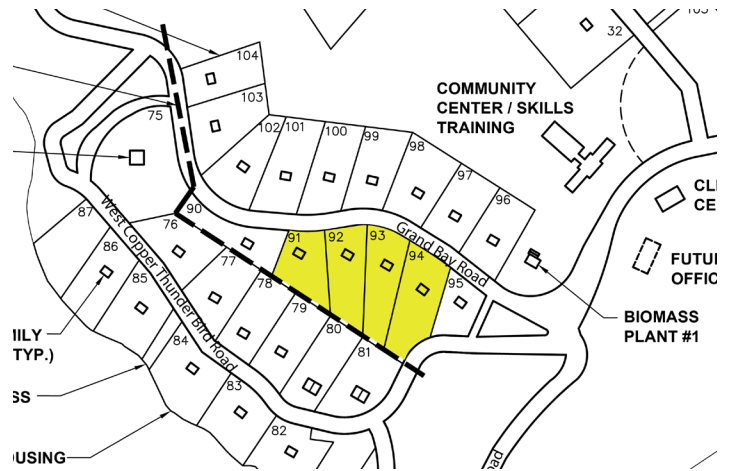
With your assistance, we can achieve and uphold these standards. As part of BNA's housing policies, our dedicated housing coordinator will be reaching out to tenants annually to address any housing issues and provide support.

During these annual walkthroughs, our housing coordinator will work with you to identify any necessary improvements and help bring your home up to the required standards in accordance with our housing policies.

We believe that together, we can create a thriving and well-maintained community. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining the quality of our homes! Stay tuned for more updates on this initiative.

Completion of New Homes

We're thrilled to announce the successful completion of lots 91, 92, 93, and 94! Our housing coordinator is hard at work supporting the new tenants as they prepare for their big move. This is a wonderful time for our community, and we are committed to ensuring that all residents feel comfortable and supported in their new homes. Stay tuned for updates and join us in welcoming our new neighbors!



New Housing Coordinator: Paulette Facca

Hello, My name is Paulette Facca, a proud member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek and a seasoned entrepreneur with extensive experience in leadership and creativity, shaped by my Indigenous background. Before becoming the Housing Coordinator for my community, I owned and operated a successful business in Kelowna, BC, for 20 years, turning it into a multi-award-winning interior design and renovation company. My expertise was in designing, building, project managing, and office administration. To see more of my portfolio, visit <https://www.creativetouchinteriors.ca>



My Last 20 Years Empowering a New Beginning in Kelowna BC...As a proud single mother navigating a fresh start in Kelowna, BC, I embraced the challenges of building a new life for my son and I. My journey was shaped by resilience, determination, and the strength of community. Leaving Thunder Bay wasn't easy, but it sparked an opportunity for growth and transformation. Dragon boating became my second family, providing not only a source of joy, movement, and camaraderie but also a reminder of the importance of teamwork and support. It's this spirit of unity that fueled my entrepreneurial endeavors, where I strived to create

| Housing & Infrastructure

a life that reflected my values of kindness, leadership, and creativity—gifts I attribute to my Indigenous heritage. Every day, I emphasized to my son the significance of being kind and staying true to oneself. Our values guide us through life's challenges and triumphs, reminding us that we are all in this together. I believe in the power of dreams and the importance of perseverance. My journey is a testament to the strength of community and the belief that with hard work and support, we can overcome any obstacle.

My Connection with the Land:

I cherish the time spent at Sand Point with my son all these years, immersing ourselves in family, fishing, and camping. This connection to the land and waters has shaped my life, offering profound meaning and inspiration. I aspire to eventually retire on our land, contributing to a beautiful community that will benefit future generations.

Holistic Wellness and My Spiritual Journey:

My journey embodies a profound commitment to holistic health and wellness, reflecting a deep connection to natural healing modalities. As I navigate this transformative chapter of my life, I prioritize not only my own mental well-being but also that of others, fostering a supportive environment that encourages collective growth. Returning to my roots has been a significant aspect of my spiritual path. The Creator has always resided within me, even when it was hidden. This journey has empowered me to emerge from my shell and embrace my true self. By listening to my inner voice and honoring my Indigenous instincts, I have found my place within my First Nation, a testament to my resilience and dedication to healing. This role I have embraced is more than just a job; it's a steppingstone towards a future filled with peace and prosperity. My heart knows that this path is one of healing—not just for myself, but for my community as well. As I continue to grow and inspire those around me, my journey reflects a beautiful interplay of spirit, nature, and the sacred bonds that unite us all.

My Vision:

I aim to create a legacy of connection, wellness, and community, ensuring that the beauty of our land and the spirit of togetherness continue to thrive for years to come.

You can reach me at pfacca@bnafan.ca or 807-623-2724 ext. 217

Miigwetch,
Paulette Facca
BNA Housing Coordinator



Kasper Transportation

The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) Infrastructure Department has successfully secured reliable transportation services for community members to and from the land, partnering with Kasper Transportation to meet a critical need. This strategic collaboration provides scheduled bus routes from Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek to Thunder Bay and return, making it easier for residents to access essential services, employment opportunities, and community events while also ensuring connection to nearby communities. Alongside passenger transportation, Kasper Transportation's parcel service offers same-day and next-day delivery options, which supports residents with efficient, cost-effective parcel shipping at rates well below traditional providers. This partnership underscores the Infrastructure Department's commitment to enhancing connectivity for BNA members, improving both mobility and access to vital services across Northern Ontario.

Bus Stop Details:

- Service Start Date: Wednesday
- Service Days: 7 days a week
- Stop Location: The Government Building
- Booking Options:
 - » Book tickets online at www.gokasper.com
 - » Call Kasper Bus Lines toll-free at 1-855-566-2378 or 807-699-7200 (regular phone charges apply).
 - » Passengers can also pay the driver directly.
 - » Customers can book over the phone with a credit card.



Waste Transfer Station

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is advancing its waste management capabilities with the development of a new waste transfer station (WTS), designed in partnership with TBT Engineering. Following a comprehensive geotechnical investigation conducted in 2022, the site along Copper Thunderbird Road, located approximately 1.8 kilometers from the highway, was selected as optimal for the facility. The WTS will serve as a critical hub where community waste is collected, sorted, and processed, ensuring safe transfer to larger vehicles for transport to recycling facilities, demolition sites, or landfills. With funding from Indigenous Services Canada, the design phase is on track for completion in the first quarter of 2025, with construction planned to begin mid-year. BNA has also secured a specialized waste transfer vehicle to streamline waste collection from within the community. By establishing this facility, BNA will enhance waste processing efficiency, reduce transport costs, and prioritize environmental stewardship, creating a long-term, sustainable waste management solution for the community.



Hydro One

This year, Hydro One completed the transfer of responsibilities for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's main transmission line, marking a significant milestone in enhancing reliable electricity distribution to the community. As Ontario's primary electricity transmission and distribution utility, Hydro One brings extensive expertise in managing and maintaining critical infrastructure, which will benefit BNA by ensuring consistent and dependable power access. This transition not only guarantees a higher standard of service for BNA residents but also reduces the community's operational costs by transferring the long-term maintenance responsibilities to Hydro One. Serving nearly 1.4 million customers across approximately 75 percent of Ontario, Hydro One's management of BNA's transmission line supports the community's infrastructure growth and stability, providing an essential foundation for future development and economic opportunities.



Community Drainage

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek recently completed essential ditching and drainage improvements along West Copper Thunderbird Road and Grand Bay Road, successfully addressing water flow and retention concerns in the residential area. The project, conducted in collaboration with TBT Engineering, aimed to enhance water management by creating a well-planned drainage system to channel runoff effectively, reducing erosion and mitigating potential flooding. This new system directs water flow away from residential zones, improving land usability and protecting property. By strategically placing and designing these ditches, BNA has strengthened the community's resilience against seasonal water issues, ensuring long-term sustainability for homes and community spaces.

Lot Development

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) has reached the final stages of its significant lot development project, completing preparations for 20 residential lots within the community. This undertaking involved essential site work, including surveying, lot clearing, partial driveway installation, and drainage improvements, all designed to support sustainable future residential construction. Through meticulous planning and engineering, BNA has established a foundation for housing expansion that aligns with community growth objectives, ensuring that infrastructure is in place to accommodate new residential builds. This milestone not only opens the door for housing development but also strengthens BNA's long-term vision for community-building on the land, creating opportunities for members to reside and thrive in their own territory.

| Housing & Infrastructure

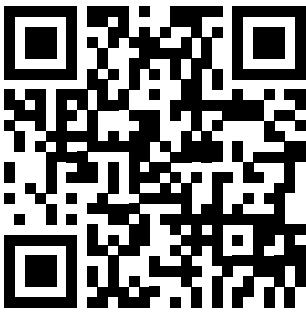
Homeownership Policy

BNA has developed a draft Homeownership Policy that is available for Member review. The Homeownership Policy outlines homeownership responsibilities and establishes rules and procedures for BNA members to build, buy, renovate, or refinance homes on BNA land.

Please provide any feedback on the Policy to Paulette Facca pfacca@bnafn.ca by January 6, 2025.

Members are encouraged to review the draft and provide feedback. Your input is invaluable in shaping a policy that reflects our collective goals and needs. For more information and to review the draft, please visit our website at www.bnafn.ca/homeownership-policy or by scanning the QR code below.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts!



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to review the draft and provide feedback.

BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK HOMEOWNERSHIP POLICY



Approved by Chief and Council effective
Date: _____

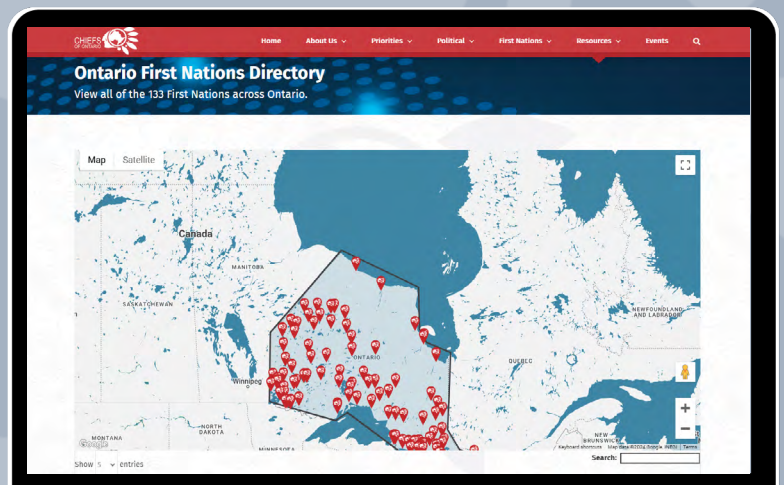
Revision: # _____

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Designed to showcase First Nations businesses. Featuring a user-friendly interface and advanced search capabilities



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Visit:
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For enquiries please email:
businessdirectory@coo.org

Scan to join



Lands and Environmental Coordinator

Background on Onshore Pipeline Consultations

The Canada Energy Regulator (CER) is a federal agency responsible for enforcing safety and environmental standards in the energy industry. As part of a nationwide consultation plan, which will be active until 2027, CER is collecting Indigenous input. BNA has been involved since 2022, consulting on the impacts of onshore pipelines in Canada. It is key to note that, at this time, there are no pipelines or planned operations on BNA reserve lands or in its traditional territory.

Stage 1 of these consultations were completed in 2022, and included a discussion paper, which BNA commented on. The input from across Canada and the reports are all public on the CER website, which is listed below. At this stage, the second stage in the process, the CER has published 14 topic papers, including the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples, environmental management, emergency management, safety, and human and organizational factors. BNA staff have met with CER officials and have ongoing conversations to submit our input. Our contact at the CER has also offered to do additional informational sessions if there is a specific topic that members would like a subject matter expert to review or to answer technical questions.

LOG-IN AND PROVIDE COMMENTS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

The Canadian Energy Regulator is seeking the input of BNA Members on their views on Onshore Pipelines. BNA Members are encouraged to use the QR code attached to go to the webpage and leave a comment on at least one (1) topic paper of your choosing. While you must leave your name and email when you comment, please note that neither your name nor your email will be published publicly. Once you receive the confirmation email after posting a comment, please forward that email to jhubbard@bnafn.ca for confirmation so you can enter the draw to win 1 of 3 \$250 VISA gift cards! Note that the deadline for submitting comments on the website is December 20th, 2024 (if you require assistance from BNA Staff, please reach out by December 17th to ensure you have submitted by December 20th). BNA will do the draw for the 3 gift cards in January 2025.

For further questions, please contact Jessica Hubbard (jhubbard@bnafn.ca) at the BNA office.



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to fill out a survey for your chance to win 1 of 3 \$250 VISA gift cards!

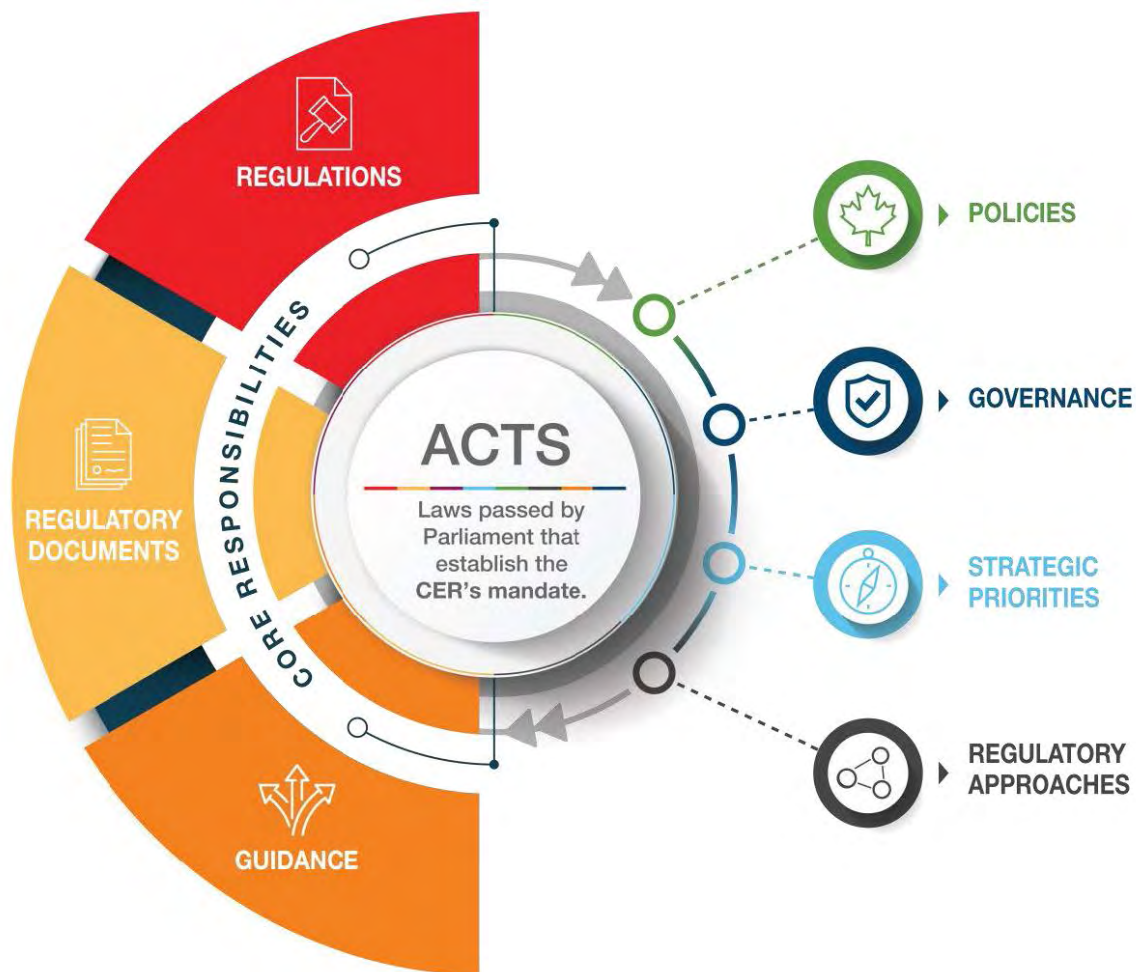




Fact Sheet

CER Regulatory Framework

The Regulatory Framework, depicted in the graphic below, provides the structure around which all our regulatory activities take place. The Regulations, Regulatory Documents and Guidance are the regulatory tools we use to execute our mandate, through our Core Responsibilities. The execution of our mandate is shaped by Government policy, our governance, strategic priorities, and our regulatory approaches.



Our Legal Foundations

At the center of the Regulatory Framework is the Canadian Energy Regulator Act (CER Act), the statute that created the CER, and other acts that give us our powers and set-out our responsibilities (e.g., the Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act). We are responsible for regulating the full lifecycle of international and inter provincial pipelines, international and designated inter provincial power lines and offshore renewable energy projects; import and export of certain energy products; oil and gas exploration and production in the offshore and frontier lands; and monitoring aspects of energy markets. See our acts and regulations page for more information.





Our Policy Context

We align with priorities established by the Government of Canada, under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister of Natural Resources. We adhere to directives set by central agencies, such as the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. We are governed through a structure with defined accountabilities for our Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer, Commission and Indigenous Advisory Committee.

Strategic Priorities

Guided by the Board of Directors, we produce a Strategic Plan that provides our areas of focus and improvement. It is a road map of what Canadians can expect from us in the years ahead.

Regulatory Approaches

We make deliberate choices about how we work as a regulator based on sound philosophies, such as: serving as a fair and impartial decision-maker on energy infrastructure projects within our mandate through our Commission; involving Indigenous peoples in the exercise of our mandate; applying a lens of harm prevention; opting for performance-based rules where possible; focusing on data-driven, risk-informed methods to do our work; and applying our technical expertise to influence the sector.

Regulatory Instruments

We use a variety of tools to watch-over energy infrastructure, development, and trade. Our tools include a mix of regulations, technical standards, regulatory documents – such as authorizations and orders, and guidance products.



Oversight

We conduct compliance verification activities like field inspections, emergency management drills and company audits to make sure the requirements laid-out in our Regulatory Framework are being followed.

Important things for you to know:

- Our aim is to achieve a Regulatory Framework that is robust, clear, transparent, coherent and consistent with our regulatory approaches and philosophies.
- Our Regulatory Framework is adjusted over time.
- Every year, we publish a Regulatory Framework Plan describing which regulations, guidance materials and other regulatory documents we intend to amend or develop over a three year period.

Community Energy Coordinator

Food Sovereignty Sea Can

BNA completed the Local Food infrastructure Fund project by purchasing a sea can and filled it with supplies such as a smoker, filleting knives, fish cleaning tables, etc. BNA to work with Family Well-Being (FWB) on future programming geared toward healthy food and how to use the equipment.

BNA ice shack project is complete and ready to use. It was awesome to hear feedback from members at the 2024 BNA AGM hosted on Saturday, September 7th, 2024.



Moose Crane Project

BNA was successful in getting funds from CORDA for a moose crane to help with the harvesting of moose. Next projects will be to apply for funding for construction dollars for a community butcher shop.



District Heating Project

BNA is finalizing funding for the construction of the district biomass heating facility. We have received funding for retrofitting, so that phase of the project will commence shortly.

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.

Fall energy savings tips

Don't forget to change the direction of your ceiling fans.

Nearly all ceiling fans have a switch located on the side of the fan base that lets you change the direction of the fan blades. *Setting your fan to spin clockwise at a low speed* in the fall and winter could save you as much as **15 percent on your heating bills.**

This happens by warm air (in this case caused by your furnace) naturally rises, and the gentle updraft created by this setting allows for the redistribution of air that tends to accumulate near the ceiling. This happens by warm air (in this case caused by your furnace) naturally rises, and the gentle updraft created by this setting allows for the redistribution of air that tends to accumulate near the ceiling.



Governance Coordinator

Summer Students

This year we had a record number of students working for BNA. We had 5 summer students working out on the land, one of them, pictured here is Amanda Clarke. She is part of the summer crew who maintained the landscape. It is so wonderful to see our young people getting involved and making such a positive impact at our various sites. It was quite the experience for our youth had the chance to work at our FWB, Grandview and satellite office on Court Street. It was so amazing that we look forward to next summer already!



UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

Hey there wonderful members! We'd love to stay connected with you. Please share your current mailing address, email address, and cell number with us. We have some really important news and events to send your way. Let's keep the communication flowing. Please send your current information to: lesquega@bnafn.ca

Bilingual Employee - Francophones

It's important to the Chief and Council to be able to communicate with every member and to assist whenever possible.

For this reason, please note that we do have a bilingual employee in our office who can assist our French speaking members. You can reach H el ene Demers via email: helene@bnafn.ca or call the office at 807-623-2724.

Il est important pour le chef et le conseil de pouvoir maintenir une bonne communication avec chaque membre et d'avoir l'opportunit e d'assister dans la mesure du possible.

Pour cette raison, veuillez noter que nous avons un employ e bilingue dans notre bureau qui peut aider nos membres francophones. Vous pouvez joindre H el ene Demers par courriel : hdemers@bnafn.ca ou appelez le bureau au 807-623-2724.

Communications Coordinator

Bozhoo everyone!! As we moved into a new fiscal, I am continuing the work on previously funded projects such as: Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) and Digital Heritage Project. Alongside that, I continue on with the Newsletters and maintenance of social media, website, mailing/e-mailing, and all other communication related work.

I have been enjoying going out to many of the family events and getting photos of everyone! Please do not ever feel shy to ask me to take yours or your family's pictures if you see me there.

If there are any other methods of communication or recommendations to best support members in receiving up-to-date information, please contact me at jalfieri@bnafn.ca or by cell (807) 228-3248.

Communications Committee

A new committee has been established. We had a notice mailed, e-mailed, and published on the website in 2023 requesting for people to contact if they would be interested in joining a committee for our Title and Annuities cases. With those responses we were able to contact and put together a committee by May 2024. All committee members were to sign confidentiality agreements, as staff working alongside our lawyers do too, and could provide input in how we should communicate this information to the community members best.

In our CCP it has been noted that communication and traditional knowledge should be heavily involved in our processes, therefore we felt it would be best to do so for these cases. The committee brings a wealth of knowledge from all different band members and provides incredible insight and support to our staff. These committee members include: Elder Margaret Grimard, Cheryl Bagnall, Cora McGuire-Cyrette, Henri Grimard, JP Gladu, Sandra Desmoulin, Cassandra Marques, and Adam Durbin.






On November 2, we had a Community Meeting solely for providing information to all band members on the Title Case and Annuity Case. This was hosted in Thunder Bay with Zoom available for those who do not live within the area or could not travel. It is important to us that we provide updates to all members.

Geh-zhe Naak-ko-ne-geh-ing:




Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)

Once our CCP was published, Jake handed out the full booklet to all staff members. At a staff meeting, information was provided on how to utilize the CCP in the work we are completing. As staff, it's our role to be monitoring the Action Items as we receive funding, write proposals, and take on new work to guide us towards the community's wants and needs as much as possible.

Below are the Priority Action Updates:

 Gi-Dakiiminaan (Traditional Lands)	
Community trapline approval/ finalization	<i>In-Progress</i> Imminent
Regional FN Partnership - formal recognition of FN Stewardship of Lake Nipigon	<i>Prep</i> In Progress
 Waakaa'igin (Housing)	
Review & Update Housing Policy	<i>In-Progress</i> Imminent
 Aki Machiitawin (Community Lands & Development)	
Complete Emergency Preparedness Plan	<i>In-Progress</i> Completed
 Tawin Meno-Ayawin (Health & Wellness)	
Strengthen Fire & EMS Response at Sand Point - est. Hub at BNA	<i>Prep</i> In-Progress
Cultural assets to be built in the community	<i>Prep</i> In-Progress
Grandview Property capital funding secured (2024) for expansion and upgrades planned for 2025-2029	<i>In-Progress</i> Imminent
Cultural assets to be built in the community	<i>Prep</i> In-Progress
 Weshkut Anishinaabe Biimadiziwin (History & Culture)	
Digital Heritage Project	<i>In-Progress</i> Completed
Develop Pow-Wow protocols & procedures to share	<i>Prep</i> In Progress

| Communications Coordinator

 Zhooniyaa Maachitawin (Economic Development)	
Commercial Zone Development - Opportunity Assessment	<i>Prep</i> In Progress
Hurkett Bioheat Plant Project (regional partnership) - move ahead to the construction phase	<i>In-Progress</i> Imminent
 Ogimah Naaknigewin Ogimah Ozhibiigewin (Governance & Admin)	
Bi-Annual staff gatherings	<i>Prep</i> In-Progress
Department work plans - update annually for all teams, standardize	<i>Prep</i> In-Progress
 Chikaapiigesii Chiigun (Energy & Infrastructure)	
Highway entrance - complete research and advocate MTO for improvements to address safety concerns	<i>Prep</i> In-Progress
Biomass energy systems in all homes: Feasibility Study, Break Ground for new plant in Industrial Park, and construction	<i>Prep</i> In Progress
Waste Transfer Facility - design completed, construction	<i>Prep</i> In Progress
Backup/emergency power system - complete installation	<i>In-Progress</i> On Hold

As we continue our rapid development, all Priority Action items will be updated accordingly. The Priority Action items not currently listed here are in the same state as mentioned in Geh-zhe Naak-ko-ne-geh-ing.



Communications Policy

Under the Ogimah Naaknigewin Ogimah Ozhibiigewin (Governance & Administration) section of Priority Action items, there is Communications Policy to be revised and updated as 'prep'. This year I plan to move that into 'in progress'.



Health Team

Our Health team kept very busy over the spring and summer making sure there was an exciting abundance of programs engaging the members in many fun and educational ways.

The Spring months got our brain and bodies re-energized with the physical Bounce classes, Chair Yoga and Zumba classes, and healthy mind building programs including Nutritional Bingo, Trivia fun, relaxing candlelight Symphony music and sleep hygiene education.

Jamie and Vierlyn also ensured the members got their hands busy in town and out on the Land, with busy bingo dabbling, hand drum making, ribbon skirt sewing classes, and paint night at the Creative.

The Summertime rolled in hot and buzzing with our team assisting in the ever-popular Youth, Juniors and Family camps, our summer Pow Wow and Unity Gathering where a deep connectedness to each other and the BNA Land was fostered.

Jamie was able to put on various health assessment clinics at Van Norman site and at the clinic at Sand Point including her Happy Feet Footcare services for many members in need. If you are a member in need of foot care, you can contact Jamie at the Family Well-Being office at 807-344-3055 ext 240.

Taking advantage of the great weather the health team squeaked in a few fun outdoor activities like Par 3 golf, family nights at the marina and Cedar planter building. Other activities to keep everyone alert and busy included a fun trivia night with DJ Chris Barstow, Aqua Jog and exercise classes at the Complex.

We enjoyed a busy spring and summer filled with laughter, fun, membership outreach care & health promotion, yummy food and much heart felt relationship building. We can't wait to keep growing, learning and making health & healing connections with everyone!



Child & Youth Programming

It was a very BUSY Spring / Summer at Family Well-Being. Our programming nights slowed down a bit in the early spring as we tried to focus on our bigger events coming up and getting some organizing done of our center. 5 of our Highschool ages Youth attended a conference in Ottawa called Soaring, run by Indspire. They attended to learn about Indigenous based careers and spent time meeting some inspirational people who have had success in their lives. They also got to do some exploring of Ottawa (as pictured below) and got to go to the Parliament building while they were there and had a tour with ISC Minister Patty Hajdu. Due to the early spring and amazing weather, we were able to do a lot of outside programming for the following months, Kid's night soccer baseball and a play at Jack Pine Community Center, Juniors had an Open House at Grandview and also spent a lot of the evening playing their usually games outside. Our adult youth went to the Smash room to get out some frustration, and we had our Kids and Junior's attend at night at the Art Gallery where they learned about indigenous painting, got to explore the exhibit, and created some of their own Indigenous paintings! Our Youth did a bowling night as well which brought us to the end of the school year!!! When school was finally at the end, we had our annual School's Out Bash! This year it was a Grandview again, we had a dunk tank, bouncy castle, water slide, a Velcro wall and of course Epic Cones! We started to gear up for our summer camps shortly after that and our planning for the Nokiiwin Unity Gathering was being held at Sand Point this year, so we had a lot of planning to do. Youth Camp was held out at Sand Point, we had 14 youth attends throughout the 4 days. This year we decided to switch up some of activities, offering Archery with Adrien from D&R, Kayaking with S.A.N.D Adventures at Poplar Lodge, we spent a day doing crafts and swimming, of course a few bonfires and ended with an awesome fireworks show!! For our Junior's we hosted a Science Camp with two days of Science North and a day trip to Panarama Amethyst Mine. We attempted a sleepover with our Junior's but were hit with a heat wave that week, so we made a trip to the water park, had the kids eat spaghetti with random utensils, made some necklaces and decided not to cook them in a tent all night. Our next camp was Family Camp and The Unity Gathering with Nokiiwin at Sand Point! It was a week of cultural teachings, cooking, and workshops. We had our separate area at The Land where we held our Family Camp, we made Tie Dye sweatshirts, swam, and enjoyed a bonfire at night together. Over the week at the Unity Gathering

we learned how to paint with Eugene Morriveau, made Moccasins, ribbon skirts and shirts, traditional cooking class making wild rice casserole with Roots to Harvest, and earrings. We took a ride on the BIG Canoe paddling along the shore of Lake Nipigon, we played BINGO, had a youth mingle, had a night with Eagle Blackbird and his white friend, and ended the week with a mini Pow Wow. It was a success and Nokiiwin did a fantastic job organizing and entertaining us for the week! We even had a BNA Youth Council member on the planning committee helping to organize and pull off this fantastic week. Dylan R did an awesome job roping in the kids and youth into the weeks events. The remainder of summer was spent planning for the AGM and for the end of summer bash at Boulevard lake. We had 4 summer employees at Family Well-Being this summer who did a great job getting involved in all of the activities over the busy months. They assisted in the planning of the summer, did a lot of heavy lifting and even did their own programming. We greatly appreciate all the hard work. Our regular evening programming will commence this fall! We have some exciting things lined up and can't wait to share them all with you!!

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for our calendar and posters!



EarlyON

The EarlyON Centre had a busy year, as we continue to offer a wide variety of programming to the community. We incorporated more cultural land-based learning through sweat lodge's, a fasting camp, and crafts such as rattle making. We had guests from various organizations come in and do presentations and teachings on liquid smudge and bear grease making. Our community garden fed several families as they helped in maintaining it throughout the year. We utilized more outdoor space within the community with our walking program and with our beach and splash pad summer fun days. We continue to participate in community events by setting up an information table and attending powwows, gatherings, BBQ's and picnics. Our centre drop-ins continue to grow as our activities to attract new families within the community.

Miigwetch
Karen and Sage



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

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.

Email: careycalder@nakanagis.ca

Phone: (343) 500-6474

Website: www.nakanagis.ca

Contact Jake with the following to have a feature in the Newsletter:

- Business Name
- Business Logo and brand identity (if applicable)
- Band Member Name/Title
- Contact Information
- Brief synopsis of business information

Jake Alfieri
jalfieri@bnafn.ca
(807) 228-3248



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