



Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

'The people of Sand Point'



Spring Newsletter

2008, Issue 1

CONTACT INFORMATION

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BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK'S TEAM:

Paul Gladu	Chief
Leona Clarke	Councillor
Laura Airns	Councillor
Kelly Banning	Finance Director/ Assistant to Chief & Council
Jessica Stewardson	Assistant to Chief & Council
Grace Podolchuk	Community Wellness Worker/AHBHC
Katie Borysewicz	Secretary/ Receptionist

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

This has been a very busy and exciting time for Chief and Council.

We would like to thank all the members and their spouses for attending our Community Planning Meeting, which was held on March 15, 2008. Our consultant, Edward Hoshizaki was very impressed of how many members attended. We are still waiting for more surveys to be mailed back to the office. If you did not receive a survey, please contact our office and we will mail you one as the closing date for returned surveys is April 30th. Please continue to update us of new mailing addresses so you can still receive any newsletters or updates from us.

The signing of the land is coming closer to being finalized. The land will be set-aside in the upcoming months and we are pushing hard to ensure that everything happens as quickly as possible.

Recently, the Chief had a meeting with Minister Strahl from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada that was extremely positive. Minister Strahl has assured Chief and Council that we are to receive an update every two weeks regarding our land. Our next conference call with the Implementation Committee is on May 6, 2008. We will have more information on the land status after the meeting.

We would like to congratulate Animiigoo Zaagiigan Anishinaabek with their lands being set aside for reserve. Animiigoo Zaagiigan Anishinaabek plans to have an official land signing ceremony in the upcoming months. It has been a very long process for both Animiigoo Zaagiigan Anishinaabek and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek.

We are asking band members who are interested in being a part of our Corporation as a Trustee or Director to call the office and speak with either Laura or Leona. The only qualifications that are required is that you must have graduated from High School and a criminal reference check must be done.

We are currently looking for band members to participate on a number of different committees. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Lastly, just a reminder that if any members have any questions or concerns, to please feel free to come in and speak with us.

LAND UPDATE

Next Steps

Transfer Lands: (currently in progress)

1. Upon receipt of the federal confirming OIC, Ontario will seek approval to transfer the lands through a Minister's Order; which will be prepared and upon approval sent to the Land Registry Office in Thunder Bay. (approx. 1 month for registration)

Ministerial Approval in Principle:

2. Upon INAC's receipt of Ontario's registered Minister's Order, the federal Ministerial Approval in Principle (AIP) package will be prepared and submitted into regional/headquarters review/approvals with a recommendation to the Minister to approve in principle the transfer and acceptance of the lands from Ontario.

Acceptance of Lands:

3. Upon receipt of the Ministerial AIP, INAC will request that the Department of Justice (DOJ) move forward with the acceptance of the lands from Ontario. DOJ will prepare the Federal Real Property and Federal Immoveables Act (FRPFIA) documents accepting the lands and advise the INAC Regional Office once the transfer has been completed.

Order in Council (OIC):

4. Once Canada has accepted the lands from Ontario, the final OIC package will be prepared and submitted for regional/headquarters review and approvals with a recommendation to the Minister to recommend to the Governor General in Council (Privy Council) that these lands be set aside as reserve.

5. Privy Council approves or rejects the recommendation - upon approval of the OIC to set aside the lands as reserve, the OIC will be registered in the Indian Lands Registry and the First Nation and other parties will be advised that these lands are reserve lands.



YOUTH INTERNSHIP

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

Who is eligible? Unemployed or underemployed youth (under the age of 30) who have graduated with a degree or diploma from a post secondary institution within the last three years, are legally entitled to work in Canada, and are not previously employed under a FedNor Youth Internship funding Agreement, or other Federal or Provincial Internship with pay for a period of six months or more.

Candidates must have reliable transportation.

Job Duties:

- Being the key liaison between our engineer, Chief and Council, and the membership
- Integrally involved in the development of a comprehensive community planning process, which will be inclusive of developing a model-house program
- Updating the First Nation profile and skills inventory
- Updating the Economic Development Strategy
- Activities including partnerships in hydro development, tourism, value added forestry and commercial side development
- Assistance to the members in the development of business initiatives by providing technical support, resource information, business development tools and referrals to agencies providing financial support for business initiatives
- Developing communication and statistical tools to assist Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek in measuring its success and enhancing decision-making processes
- Assisting with community presentations
- Ensuring communication between the membership and the Consultant during the Community Planning phase
- Performing INAC EDO responsibilities

Exploring various funding sources and proposal writing

Salary: This full-time position is partially funded by FedNor's Youth Internship Program.

Qualified applicants must possess leadership qualities and great organizational skills. Strong verbal and written communication skills are essential for this position. Must possess strong problem solving abilities and also possess excellent time management skills. Having an understanding of Microsoft Office software such as Microsoft Excel and Word is an asset. The ideal candidate will have a degree or diploma in Business, Economics, Marketing or a related field. Applicants must include current resume.

Deadline for applications is **May 9, 2008 by 12:00PM**. Please mail or fax applications to:

**Youth Intern Position
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
146 South Court Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 2X6**

We thank all applicants in advance, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Youth, if you're wondering what you're going to do this summer... why not consider a Canada Summer Job? Our AHRD Program has funding available to assist with placements that are related to your future goals to create meaningful work experiences. If you're interested... give me a call and I can help with your application.



If you've not received your Highschool Diploma and you've always considered wanting to get back to that and complete it... I can help. You'd be surprised but there are many opportunities available to help you accomplish this. Give me a call and I can help guide you in the right direction. It really is very achievable and you can work at your own pace.



We are proceeding with training in relation to Sawmill operations... if you're interested give me a call and I'll fill you in on the details.

Kelly Banning

Employment & Training Counsellor

POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT

Community Liaison Person for the Little Jackfish River project – to assist OPG and SENES in carrying out the Environmental Assessment studies and helping the Project Team to communicate results and concerns to and from their community. Previous education or experience would be beneficial.

⇒ Aboriginal Fisheries Technicians from the Lake Nipigon First Nations

⇒ Archaeological Research – to work and camp in the field for two weeks and who preferably have knowledge of historic and current First Nations use all along the Little Jackfish River. Previous education, training or experience with archaeological or native values projects would be a definite asset. This project will take place in 2009.

⇒ Geophysical Survey – clearing access trails and survey line cutting.

If you are interested in any of these listings please contact Jessica at 623-2724.



The new gaming revenue and sharing arrangement between First Nations and the Province of Ontario has been finalized. With this new arrangement, the province released funds to compliant First Nations. Bingwi Neyaashi was compliant therefore a distribution was received from the \$201 million transfer from the province. Of course the distribution was based on a formula and we are happy to say that this revenue has put the First Nation in a very favourable position.

Kelly Banning

Finance Director

Announcement!

.....Forestry Update

J.P. Gladu



A number of significant milestones have been achieved in our bid to secure a value added cedar sawmill. As you are most likely aware, the Elders had given their blessing over five years ago to explore the idea of developing the cedar resources within our traditional territory. Here we are today, and we are close to bringing this concept to reality.

Our business plan has been completed and more importantly accepted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The Nipigon District Manager is in the process of issuing a Facility License for 6,000 cubic meters (150 truck loads/year). This is just the start; our goal is to reach a minimum of 12,000 cubic meters in the region with the hopes of achieving 20,000 cubic meters annually - that's nearly 500 trucks of cedar a year to be processed into cedar products such as fencing, tongue and groove boards and dimensional lumber to name a few.

We have been at the table negotiating on our behalf in addition to a couple other First Nation communities in the region to ensure that our business interests in the forest sector are meaningfully and well represented. As the Forestry Cooperative negotiations begin to wrap up, we find ourselves at the Board of Facility Directors as a legitimate mill. There are also a number of sections within the Shareholders Agreement which will ensure that the First Nations around the lake have first right of refusals for silviculture work (tree planting, tree thinning, site preparation). This means economic opportunities for our 'budding' entrepreneurs.

The Chief and I have met with Minister Donna Cansfield of the Ministry of Natural Resources on a couple occasions and have had conversations with Minister Gravelle of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and have gained their support for our project. We have also been able to obtain support from neighboring companies such as Domtar, Bowater, Buchanan and Greenmantle in the form of support letters.

What does this all mean?

We as a community have secured the cedar resources in the Lake Nipigon district and will be the main player in the region for cedar resources. There will be meaningful employment for our community members. And this is just the start. There are a number of phases that we will be developing over the next few years which will include value added Tamarack opportunities for hard wood flooring and spin-off opportunities for cedar essential oil and mulch development as well as potential forest fuels.

Please do not hesitate to contact the band office or myself if you have any questions or concerns. I will be more than happy to discuss these issues with you.

JP Gladu, BScF
Economic Development and Environment

Chief and Council want YOU to share your Success Stories!! We would love to showcase your achievements, endeavors, adventures etc. in our quarterly newsletter. See page 6-7 to read some stories sent to us by our members!

Don't have a story to share yet? Let us help guide you to creating a success story of your own! We are open to hearing your business ideas, goals, and aspirations. We would like you to achieve your dream! Call the office to book an appointment with us today!

BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK HEALTH DEPARTMENT

'For Your Health'

Out-Of-Town Medical Travel Information:

As you are aware, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek currently does not have land status. Because of this, we do not receive any health dollars for our band members in regards for medical travel. For those band members who require out-of town medical travel, there are two agencies that may provide assistance.

#1 – First Nations Inuit Health Branch Canada (Non-Insured Health Benefits):

This program is available to eligible First Nation members, both off and on reserve, and recognized Inuit. This program is designed to assist eligible recipients to access medically required health services that cannot be obtained on the reserve or in the community of residence.

What is covered?

Provides assistance with transportation, the cost of meals and accommodation when the client is required to be out of the community overnight or for an extended period of time. Assistance with the cost of meals may also be provided where the person is away from home more than 6 hours or less if there is a medical reason.

Also, the Program allows for medical or non-medical escorts to travel with clients who are unable to travel alone for medical or legal reasons.

The most efficient and economical mode of transportation, depending on the urgency of the situation and the client's medical condition, must always be used.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to receive assistance from First Nations Inuit Health:

- Client has used up all transportation benefits they may be eligible for from other federal, provincial/territorial or private programs;
- Travel is to the nearest appropriate health facility;
- First Nations Inuit Health has determined that medically required health services are not available on the reserve or in the community of residence;
- Transportation to health services is coordinated to ensure maximum cost-effectiveness;
- Benefits are approved ahead of time by First Nations Inuit Health

Service is not available in the community of residence

Contact numbers for more information:

Thunder Bay Zone – 1-807-343-5310 British Columbia – 1-800-317-7878
 Manitoba – 1-800-665-8507 Nova Scotia: 1-800-565-3294
 Alberta: 1-800-232-7301 Yukon: 1-867-667-3942
 Saskatchewan: 1-877-780-5458 Quebec: 1-877-483-1575

Call the Branch in your province and they will direct you to the proper Office.

The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Health Department objective is to provide advocacy and referral to the membership, serve as a link by connecting individuals with resources and to generate and maintain professional helping relationships, and to promote healthy living lifestyle choices through prevention and awareness.

Funding is provided by the Union of Ontario Indians. Programming: Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Federal Family Violence, HIV/AIDS, MOH-LTC Diabetes Education, Problem Gambling Strategy and Community Wellness Program.

#2 – Northern Health Travel Grant:

- Northern Health Travel Grant helps cover some transportation cost of northern Ontario residents traveling long distance for medically necessary services not available locally.
- You will be reimbursed a portion of the kilometers traveled but no meals, accommodation, or taxi's will be covered.
- Must be referred by a northern physician, dentist, optometrist, chiropractor, midwife or nurse practitioner.
- Must be referred to the nearest physician specialist or designated health facility at least 100 kilometres away in Northern Ontario or Manitoba, or at least 200 kilometres in Southern Ontario.

Client escort can travel with client if under 16

For more information please call the Ministry **INFOline** at 1-866-532-3161
 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

FOR INFORMATION ON HEALTH RELATED ISSUES PLEASE CALL 623-2724

OR EMAIL TO: gracep@bingwi.com

Until next time, enjoy this beautiful spring weather and be in health,

Grace T. Podolchuk

thestar.com

Extending a helping hand

April 03, 2008
TERRENCE BELFORD
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Member Success Stories!
Rachel Dean

Bank program takes aim at recruiting, mentoring aboriginal employees

Four years ago, Rachel Dean had never even thought about a career in banking. She was working as a server in a high-end Edmonton restaurant.

But Dean – bright, cheerful and intent on doing her best – caught the eye of a regular customer, Judy Bain, an assistant vice-president and branch manager at HSBC Bank's south Edmonton branch.

"I liked her; I was impressed with her personality," says Bain. "The bank had just introduced a new program focused on one element of diversity and I thought Rachel would be perfect for both the bank and the program."

That new program was aimed at recruiting, and then mentoring, Canadian aboriginals. The bank had set aside a budget to recruit 10 young men or women of aboriginal descent, over and above its normal annual recruitment drive.

It had also worked internally with middle managers to create a program where those managers would take a continuing interest in each of the new recruits and act as informal mentors for up to three years.

When Bain suggested Dean apply, she jumped at the chance.

"It has really changed my life," the 23-year-old says. "Since I joined, I have been promoted several times, have worked in Saskatoon and two Edmonton branches and now am a premier customer representative, a personal banker for high-net-worth individuals, at Judy's branch. This is definitely the career for me."

The mentoring program is just one aspect of HSBC's nation-wide outreach program into Canada's native community.

The bank also recruits from community colleges throughout Western Canada. And, each year, it brings two or three Grade 12 students from the Nishanwbe Nation in Northern Ontario to Toronto for a week of job shadowing.

"For many, it is their first experience with a bank and with the big city," says Pat Brosseau, vice-president of human resources at HSBC. "It gives them a sense that their future may reach well beyond traditional jobs."

"In 2005, we took a look to see what was needed to make the bank better reflect the makeup of Canada and its diversity of cultures, and this is one of the programs we invested in. To us, diversity just made good business sense."

Today, Brosseau says the bank has 82 men and women who identify themselves as aboriginals.

"The programs are run on the basis of self-identification. We actually have a higher percentage of aboriginals among our 8,000 employees across Canada than statistics show are available in the workforce. It is something we are quite proud of."

Those employees are mainly concentrated throughout the West, in communities such as Edmonton, Saskatoon and Vancouver, where the bank has a higher percentage of aboriginal customers.

"To us, it just made sense to have the bank's staff reflect the makeup of the communities we serve," says Brosseau. "We are great believers in inclusion and diversity."

That belief extends to creating a website listing job opportunities, courses and special networking events for aboriginal employees, and working with native groups such as the Aboriginal Human Resources Council to post job openings on the site.

Dean says the institutionalized approach HSBC has taken to foster banking careers for aboriginals has been an enormous opportunity for her – and a great learning experience. Her boss, Bain, says she has informally adopted Rachel and worked with her to develop leadership skills, as well as the technical ones she needs to be a banker.

"I have acted as her mentor since she joined the bank and plan to continue to do so all through her career," Bain says. "What we want to do is overcome that sense of exclusion that so many minorities have felt in the workplace in the past."

"Sometimes, when people get promoted to the managerial level, they may have the technical skills but not the vital leadership ones. I want to ensure that Rachel has the complete package."





Member Success Stories! Paulette Facca

108 Wyndham Cres.
KELOWNA BC
Phone: 250-801-6700
paulette@creativetouchinteriors.ca
www.creativetouchinteriors.ca

October 30, 2007

Chief & Council
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
146 Court St S
Thunder Bay ON P7B 2X6

Dear Chief & Council:

Thank you for your assistance in my recent endeavors; your support has truly helped me reach my immediate goals. I am now the proud owner of Creative Touch Interiors, an Interior Decorating and Home Staging company.

Starting my life over in a new city has been challenging; without your support it would have been a more significant challenge to reach my goals. After receiving Certificates in Interior Decorating, Professional Staging and Business Entrepreneurship, these accomplishments along with my confidence and courage has helped me advance to further my career in starting my own small business. Besides having my son, this has been the biggest life changing experience for me, which I consider a success in its own right. I've always felt very blessed and grateful of my Native Heritage which will be heightened upon realization of becoming a successful Aboriginal Business Woman.

A special thank you to Jessica Stewardson, for all her guidance and support when I needed it during those difficult times.

I also would also appreciate the opportunity to share my success story with other members in our community through the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Newsletter. "No matter how hard life gets, with support, determination and drive, you can do anything you set your mind to."

Attached is my business card for your records, it also provides a link to my website. Please feel free to explore my portfolio of designs through my site that I have completed through my journey of Interior Decorating.

Miigwech Debwaytawaywin
(Thank you for Believing in me)

Sincerely

Paulette Facca
Owner; Creative Touch Interiors



COMMUNITY SURVEY

April 30th, 2008 is the last day to hand in your survey! If you have not received a community survey, please contact the band office. You and your spouse/partner are eligible to each complete a survey and receive a \$20.00 honorarium. This survey will assist the development in our community planning and we need your help.

A copy of the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure power point presentation is available upon request.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Leona at 623-2724.



YOU MUST PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR SURVEY IF YOU HAVE MAILED IT, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE YOUR CHEQUE

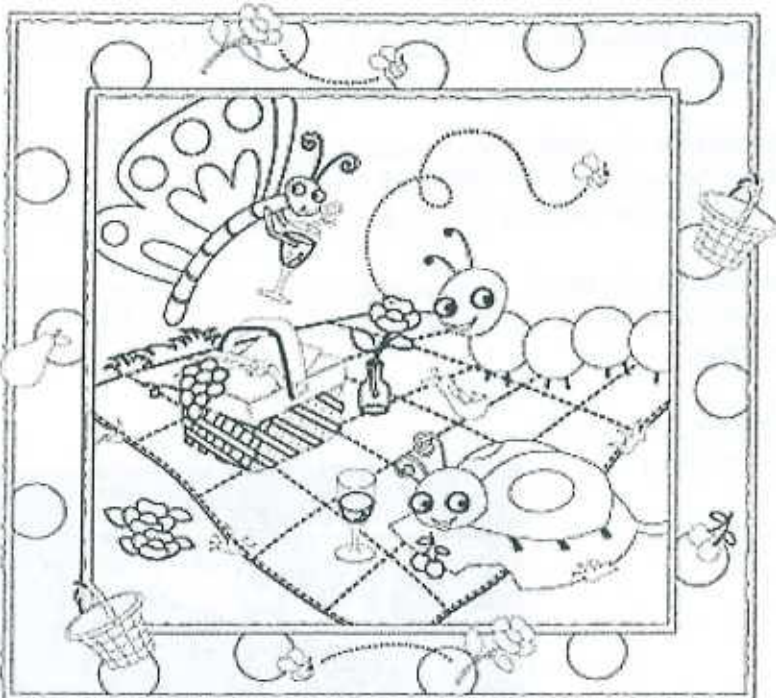
**SEVEN GENERATIONS EDUCATION INSTITUTE -
www.7generations.org**

If you are interested in enrolling in a University program or a College program, please contact Seven Generations.

Apply to Seven Generations at 807-622-1711 or visit them at 409 George Street, Thunder Bay, P7E 5Y9.

Kids, have fun coloring this spring picture!

It's a perfect picnic day and spring is here to stay!



Birthday Greetings!

**Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday dear...**

April

- Laura Airns
- Brian Dow
- Steve Podolchuk
- Louise Esquega
- Camille Borysewicz
- Terrance Clarke
- Eugene LeFrancois
- Sarah Airns
- Joseph LeClaire
- Valkoinen Esquega
- Pamela McGuire

May

- Vincent McGuire
- Martin Koronkiewicz
- Iris Dow
- John Noel
- Joseph Drovinn
- Hilda Legarde
- Eugene Lefrancois
- Gloria Esquega
- Russell McGuire
- Jean Dow
- Jean Paul Gladu
- Elise Hagar
- Grace Podolchuk
- Benjamin Gladu
- Daniel McGuire
- Jon Dow
- John Johnson
- Sherry-Anne Podolchuk
- Bernard Morriseau

June

- William Gibson
- Lyle Gladu
- Nathan Koronkiewicz
- Leslie Podolchuk
- June Gladu
- Amber McGuire
- Albert Gladu
- Hunter Stewardson

**HAVE WE FORGOTTEN YOU? Sorry!!
Please call the office and let us know...**

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCED IN THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE FORWARD AN EMAIL OR LETTER TO CHIEF & COUNCIL.