



Bingwi Neyaashi  
Anishinaabek

2023

# SPRING NEWSLETTER





# Table of Contents

## **1 A Message From Chief & Council**

## **3 Governance**

## **4 A Message From Finance**

THE FINANCIAL AUDIT

## **5 Lands & Economic Development Updates**

LAND CODE

REGIONAL BIOMASS PROJECT

MINING UPDATE

LITTLE JACKFISH RIVER PROJECT UPDATE

SAWMILL EXPANSION UPDATE

## **10 Community Energy Coordinator**

TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS

TESLA CHARGER FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

BNA ELECTRIC VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT

BIO-HEAT STUDY

## **12 Infrastructure & Housing**

LOT DEVELOPMENT

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

WASTE TRANSFER VEHICLE

CAPITAL PLANNING STUDY

BNA HOUSING

GRANDVIEW - FAMILY WELL-BEING PROGRAM

## **15 Communications**

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

DRONE TRAINING

DIGITAL HERITAGE PROJECT

## **20 Family Well-Being**

FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

DONATIONS TO BNA

A HEALTH FOLLOW UP

## **26 EarlyON**

WHO AND WHAT ARE WE?

FAMILY-CENTERED

COME & PLAY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

DAD'S NIGHT

OTHER PROGRAMMING

## **29 Job Postings**

FAMILY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC WORKS COORDINATOR

PUBLIC WORKS COORDINATOR

## **32 Welcoming New Staff**

HOUSING ADMINISTRATOR & PROJECT

COORDINATOR

FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

COORDINATOR

FINANCE P/T

FINANCE P/T

FINANCE OFFICER



# A Message From Chief & Council

Greetings BNA members,

We would like to start by saying that we stand in solidarity with our Elder Leroy and his wife Line in their time of need following the devastation that happened to their home in Beardmore. Council sent a news release out the next day demanding that the Beardmore EMS remain in place due to possible accidents like this that occur so frequently and could have ended in tragedy. BNA will be there to assist its members in their time of need, and we wish both Line and Leroy all the best during this difficult time.

As we enter the Spring season, we are approaching another busy year for the development of BNA. Many initiatives are underway, and members will continue to see the community develop at a fast pace, yet in an organized fashion, with our many plans in place. 2023 will see a significant move forward on the housing front. BNA was approved for four new CMHC single dwelling rent-to-own housing units for this year, which will be constructed in its Phase 1.5 Housing Area, in the loop behind the current housing homes. A lottery process was undertaken for these homes, and they have all been allocated. We will continue to move ahead year-by-year with our housing construction, and members will continue to have opportunities to apply to move themselves and their families down to Sand Point.

Also in 2023, we will be moving forward with the construction of two new 4-plexes in Lot 75, the large lot near middle beach. BNA was successful in its application for these units, which will provide much needed housing options for members looking to work at the land. And BNA will also be looking to construct new buildings in Lot A of its Industrial Park, both for the storage of our growing heavy equipment fleet, but also for the addition of the value-added line for the Sawmill. We are also proceeding with the lot servicing for 20 new lots in both the Phase 1.5 and Phase 4 Housing Areas, which will ensure that they are construction-ready when the opportunity comes to move forward with new building on these lots. We will soon be launching the Housing Lottery for the Phase 4 Housing Area past the maintenance garage, where members will be able to move ahead with constructing their own homes. Unlike the prior Phases, Phase 4 will allow members to build a seasonal home if they choose but will be responsible for all costs and timelines associated with that choice. Other activities on the land in 2023 include the engineering and design for a new Roundhouse, looking at the feasibility of developing a hotel and gas station in our Commercial Zone along the Hwy, and additional infrastructure work, such as the road into Phase 4 Housing. It will be an incredibly busy year for the community.

BNA is also moving ahead with the re-ratification of our Land Code. The Lands Committee has been working away at finalizing the changes which would allow for a more streamlined process for passing of community land laws, and ensure that BNA's Land Use Plan, Environmental Laws and other important governance matters can be passed through the Land Code. We will be taking this to the community membership soon and will then launch the re-ratification process with the support of the Lands Advisory Board and the First Nation Market Housing Fund, which will be supporting us in our work. BNA will also be re-opening our Matrimonial Real Property Law up for amendment to provide the security for non-members residing on BNA's lands. We have said before that we will not be removing non-members from the reserve because of the death of a spouse. It is now time to ensure that our laws reflect this desire.



## | A Message From Chief & Council

Our Family Well-Being and Early-On centre have continued to provide excellent programming and supports to our members, from food programs to gatherings. We would like to commend the staff at FWB for some wonderful events over the winter season, including Winter Carnival at the new Grandview site, as well as the Ice Fishing event held down at the land in early March. Providing exciting opportunities for our members to gather and enjoy their time together is so important, especially after several years of COVID lockdowns. We look forward to future events both on and off the land that are organized by our FWB department.

There are too many other items to mention. From our continuing work on the Sawmill expansion, to the new agreements forthcoming with exploration and drilling companies, to new regional projects with our neighbouring communities for biomass, and on and on. Some of these items are further described in this Newsletter. However, it is important to note that Council has ramped-up our communications with our membership substantially, with a new website that is continuously updated, an active community Facebook page, quarterly newsletters, multiple Committees, and regular community meetings to ensure all are informed of our developments. We encourage members to get in touch with the office for any questions or concerns that you have, our door is always open.

To all BNA members: Thank you for your continued support of our Council, staff, projects, and developments. We are focused and determined to continue to grow this community, both on and off-reserve, and cannot do it without you.

Miigwetch everyone,  
Chief and Council



Elder Marcel Donio, National Chief RoseAnne Archibald, Chief Paul Gladu, Councillor Tracy Gibson, and Councillor Lillian Calder

# Governance

Boozhoo my fellow members. I hope you have had a wonderful winter, stayed safe and warm. As you are aware, I can make the red and pink status cards free for our members and support our newest members to obtain their first status card. I can assist or point you in the right direction of getting your Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS). I can also make status cards for those from other First Nations, for a fee of fifty dollars.



It is that time of year again where we begin to ask our young members to submit their resumes for a chance to work on the land and earn some spending cash. We have two programs running this summer. For the first program we are looking for 5 youth, between the ages of 15 to 18 years old, and returning to high school. The deadline to submit your resumes for this program is:

JUNE 9, 2023 at 4:30pm

For the second program we are looking for 6 youth, between the ages of 18 to 30 years old, and returning to college or university. This program requires the youth to be First Nation or Inuit. The deadline to submit your resumes for this program is: APRIL 14th at 4:30pm

If you have a friend who is interested in have them submit their resumes to: [lesquega@bnafn.ca](mailto:lesquega@bnafn.ca)

There will be an upcoming workshop on Estates and Wills. This particularly pertains to those living on the land or members who are young adults. We will be having a presentation from our lawyer and special guest. A mail out with more information will follow.



We are in the process of preparing a draft of BNA's first Cemetery Policy. There are so many researchable elements that go into drafting this cemetery policy. We have put together a survey questionnaire to get some input from our members, this will be available on our website and Facebook pages. Once we have finalized our draft, we will submit this to Chief and Council for their opinion, which we will then share a copy of this with our membership.

you in the spring.

Until next time, I hope you were able to enjoy this winter and I will see

- Louise Esquega

# A Message From Finance

Here's hoping everyone had a great Holiday Season. We recently finalized the 2021-22 audit and MNP, our auditor, attended the Community Meeting and made a great presentation to the members who attended the function.

During the past three years BNA has grown and there's still much more to do in the years ahead. The Finance Department during these years has had a turnover of Directors; thus, we have experienced a few bumps in the road. Currently, I wish to thank the Chief and Council for supporting my request to bring on board a few new finance staff. I want to welcome back our summer student, Michelle Donio-King as our Full time Finance Assistant. With her great organizational skills and contagious laugh, she'll support the finance team and help keep the department running more smoothly.

Rachel Stenlund, our part-time Finance officer comes to BNA with much knowledge and experience working for a First Nation entity, thus is a great asset to the finance team. She's calm and smiles all the time. One feels good just being in her presence.

We welcome Kerry Goodwin, part-time Finance Assistant who has been assigned to assist with special projects such as assisting in developing and implementing an Asset Management Process.

And, we also have Sandra Roshan, full time Finance Officer who has been with us since August 2022. Sandra's been assigned to the Papasay subsidiaries, the Ont. Ltd Corporation and the CMHC portfolio (rent and utilities). Sandra will also work as my assistant and together we will work closely with each Director.

I, Hélène Demers, Director of Finance, originally started as a Finance Officer back in September 2019. I accepted the position of Director back in October 2022 and have since been trying to reorganize the Finance Department to better support Chief and Council and all the management team. Our primary function is to always work in the best interest of our members under the direction of the Chief and Council.

Speaking of our members, on Dec 7, 2022, the finance team (per Chief and Council instructions) issued Christmas payments to the members (via cheque and EFT). If you, a member of BNA, have yet to receive your Christmas payment, please reach out to Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator and she will relay your information to the Finance Department.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this quote: *Every success story is a tale of constant adaption, revision, and change.*

## THE FINANCIAL AUDIT

At the community meeting held on January 28, 2023, the members were able to make a unanimous decision on passing the audit. At that same meeting, the appointment of auditors for the upcoming year was also passed unanimously.



Band member Gloria Deans motioning to agree at the January Community Meeting



# Lands & Economic Development Updates

## LAND CODE

At its core, a Land Code aims to reinstate decision-making power for BNA to govern their lands. By signing the Framework Agreement (FA) in 2012, BNA is no longer bound to 32 sections of the Indian Act. Being a signatory to the FA means that the Government of Canada no longer has authority over how BNA manages its lands. After two years of community consultation, BNA ratified its first Land Code in 2014. As the community grows and its needs change, the Land Code adapts. Updating the Land Code has been over two years of painstakingly detailed work by the Lands Committee. They went line by line over the previous Land Code, tailoring it to BNA's current needs.

Moving forward BNA members will ratify the updated Land Code. The Lands Committee and BNA staff encourage all members to come forward with their questions and concerns. The goal is for this to be a guiding document built by BNA for BNA. Once ratified, the new Land Code will have several land laws enforced under it, such as our Environmental Protection Law and other by-laws relating to the use of land, community development and the activities on it.

As part of the Land Code process, the Lands Committee released BNA's Land Use Plan in 2022. The LUP is the guiding document for how operations on the land run, including zoning, housing, wilderness areas, and other community facilities.

For questions about any land management activities or policies please contact Jessica Hubbard, Lands and Environmental Coordinator at [jhubbard@bnafn.ca](mailto:jhubbard@bnafn.ca).





# REGIONAL BIOMASS PROJECT



Over the last several months, BNA and its neighbours have been working on a regional biomass initiative, that is quickly moving forward. Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (LNFMI), which is jointly managed by Papasay and the economic development corporations of BZA, AZA and Red Rock Indian Band, has been working with the Township of Nipigon to purchase the old mill site. On this site, a biomass facility would be constructed that would utilize the wood residue and waste wood throughout the Lake Nipigon Forest. This can be turned into clean natural gas, with the residue from the biomass operation being sold to the steel companies in southern Ontario to supplement their use of coal. This project would clean up the forest, create employment both at the plant and in the forest, and assist in the reduction of green house gas emissions by supplementing natural gas. This project has tremendous support both from government and industry.

An open house was held in January in Nipigon, where a favourable response was received by the local residents towards this project. The next step is for LNFMI to purchase the Nipigon property, and to then proceed with construction of the facility. Other sites are being contemplated upon successful construction of the first facility.

This project is moving along quickly, and the BNA membership will be updated on its progression at our next community meeting.



### MINING UPDATE

Mining continues to be a major file for BNA. At the community meeting on January 28th, Rock Tech Lithium provided an update on their project for the BNA membership. Rock Tech has initiated a new drilling program at the site. BNA, BZA and RRIB have initiated discussions with Major Drilling, who have won the contract for this work. This will ensure employment opportunities for BNA members interested in being a diamond drill helper, and revenue generation for Papasay. BNA will continue to work with its neighbours on other matters related to the Rock Tech project, including the development of the access road.



Rock Tech Lithium presentation at the January Community Meeting

BNA, BZA and RRIB are also finalizing their negotiations with Ultra Lithium, and hope to sign an Exploration Agreement with the company soon. BNA, BZA and AZA are also working to finalize their agreement with Laurion Minerals. We hope to sign agreements with both companies very soon, and will update the membership on the progress of all of the regional mining projects as they progress.



Rock Tech Lithium's diagram for mining exploration



## LITTLE JACKFISH RIVER PROJECT UPDATE



Recently, the Ministry of Energy released a report which identified the Little Jackfish River Hydroelectric Project as a project of interest for development. As members are aware, this Project was discussed at great length with the membership over a decade ago. It was shelved by OPG as the Province was not in need of the additional power at the time. However, with the increase in mining activity, and with the upcoming refurbishments of the southern Ontario nuclear facilities, this Project is now being given another look. The media recently ran a story to this effect. This proposed development is an 80 MW hydroelectric project on the Little Jackfish River on the north end of Lake Nipigon.

Over the past few months, OPG has been meeting with the Lake Nipigon Chiefs regarding this Project. These are preliminary conversations. Nothing has been decided neither between the six communities, nor between the communities and OPG. BNA will update the membership as these conversations continue between all parties involved.





### SAWMILL EXPANSION UPDATE

BNA is continuing to expand the Sawmill operation as per our NRCan and FedNor funding agreements. The new Baker line is now being utilized, and production is up significantly from when we were using the smaller sawline. Our Kiln Chamber has also been operationalized. However, we have learned that the new sawline is going to require significantly more space than the current building can provide. Therefore, we are looking at a new “planer-moulder” building, likely slightly smaller than the current facility. This new building would be located near the current Sawmill building, in Lot A of the BNA Industrial Park. The idea will be to maximize the wood flow from process-to-process, so locating the building in the appropriate spot is of the most importance.



Papasay is hiring workers for the Sawmill, and interested members should contact Art Gladu at [agladu@bnafn.ca](mailto:agladu@bnafn.ca) if they are interested in applying for a Sawmill Worker position.





# Community Energy Coordinator



Hello from BNA's Community Energy Coordinator, Aysha McNally. Below I will be giving brief summaries of the different energy projects that are on the final stages of being completed or that are just beginning within the BNA community.

## TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS

BNA has been continuing to work with Pro Gen Inc (PGI) and Hydro One Networks Inc for the below areas to bring electricity into the community. The transmission projects are soon to be complete or have been completed.

- ▶ Copper Thunderbird Road and into the community
- ▶ Phase 1 Housing Loop
- ▶ Middle Beach
- ▶ Phase 4 Subdivision



## TESLA CHARGER FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES



BNA won a Tesla charger for the community, and it has been set up and ready for use. It is located on the BNA Health Center in Lot A (near Papasay Sawmill).

This is only for electric vehicles and is only for BNA community members and staff. In the future BNA would like to install more electric vehicle chargers both within the community and for the future commercial development area.

## BNA ELECTRIC VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT

BNA is approaching completion of the pilot electric vehicle project. The IESO has provided funding through the Indigenous Energy Program (IEP). This funding has given BNA the opportunity to install solar powered lithium battery charging stations located at the BNA Health Centre. The variety of electric vehicles that were used during the testing of this project were a ride on lawn mower, 2 trikes, 2 boat motors, and 3 golf carts. BNA is working with NCS throughout the duration of this project and for the final report. BNA and NCS will also be working with Hydro One Networks Inc for the connection of the 10kw solar panel system.



## BIO-HEAT STUDY

BNA has been working with Northern Community Solutions (NCS) and TBT Engineering for a Business Study for a District Biomass project for the community. The Business Study has been completed, BNA will continue to work on a proposal to secure funding for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the district heating project. The project consists of using 1 small and 1 big boiler to provide heat for a large portion of the BNA community. The distribution lines will be buried underground and can last for an approx. 30 years. The district biomass heating system is a clean and reliable way to heat homes.



# Infrastructure & Housing

## LOT DEVELOPMENT



The lot development is expected to commence in March of 2023 with the date of completion being November 2023.

The 20-lot development and pre-construction activities will provide BNA with future residential development locations.

Lot development will include selection, clearing and site preparation. Drainage, ditching and roadway access along with engineering costs.

TBT Engineering will be managing the project and keeping the project within budget and the critical time frame for completion.

## WASTE TRANSFER STATION

BNA has submitted a Minor Capital Application to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for the design of a Waste Transfer Station (WTS).

The WST, also referred to as a Material Recycling Facility, Waste Transfer Stations are where waste is taken once it is collected. While at the station, waste is sorted and separated before being transferred again to another area or facility. Often waste is moved on after the Waste Transfer Station for recycling, demolition, or landfill.





### WASTE TRANSFER VEHICLE

BNA has secured funding for a Waste Transfer Vehicle. The vehicle is in the early stages of construction and will be completed and shipped to the community in the fall of 2023.

The waste transfer vehicle will play an integral role in collecting and disposing of waste generated by the community to a solid waste facility.



### CAPITAL PLANNING STUDY

TBT Engineering had been retained by Sand Point First Nation in order to provide engineering services required for the completion of a Capital Planning Study that will form the basis of the planning needs for the community for the next twenty years.

The study would form the basis of the planning needs for the Community as well as the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in determining capital needs requirements for Sand Point First Nation. The Community's involvement was essential in the development of the Capital Planning Study document because the document is only useful if developed with the community, not just for the community.



- Travis Duncan  
Manager of Infrastructure and Housing



## | Infrastructure & Housing

### BNA HOUSING

BNA is continuing with its strong housing program. In a very short few years, housing demand on BNA lands has increased. This year, three (3) new homes will be completed and occupied by early spring and the start of construction for four (4) new homes will begin. During the construction of each new home, tenants can choose the colour of the roof, siding and upgrade certain interior finishes. Phase 1 of BNA housing plan is completed, all LOTS are full. Phase 1.5 now begins. BNA members are encouraged to apply for a new home and to reapply if not successful during the review, selection and awarding processes.



### GRANDVIEW - FAMILY WELL-BEING PROGRAM

The old Grandview school on Oliver Road, Grandview property, is undergoing an environmental abatement project. It is the removal of hazardous materials within the building to ensure it is safe. Also, the septic field and systems will be upgraded. Once all work is completed, the Family Well-Being Grandview location will welcome all members and non members to participate in program activities in a safe and friendly environment.

# Communications

## COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN



At our January community meeting, Lisa from Nokiiwin and Jake were able to set up a booth and meet with community members to go over the CCP, have a naming event, and set some more goals towards the next 10 - 50 years in the community. We had a survey available on the website for a month for those unable to attend the Community Meeting to still participate in the naming of the CCP.

Jake has been working closely with ISC and was able to successfully get funding for the implementation stage of the CCP. This means we are able to continue the workshops and will be presenting the community with a finalized CCP in the upcoming fiscal year. Jake will be planning events with the Youth Council and Elders to seek more input from a variety of generations and see their specific needs for the community.

If you were previously on the CCP Committee, Jake will be contacting you soon to begin meetings again.

In the upcoming months, Lisa and Jake would love to continue to meet with different groups to ensure the finalized CCP is what our community sees as BNA's future. Jake wants to thank the CCP Committee for all their hard work and dedication they gave to the CCP and acknowledge their input as we jump onto the finalization of this plan!

If you have any input or questions regarding the CCP, please reach out Jake at [jalfieri@bnafn.ca](mailto:jalfieri@bnafn.ca) or 623-2724 ext. 208

## DRONE TRAINING

Nokiiwin was able to fund the TP15263 Drone Training Course with CE strategies for three off our staff to attend. Over four days, Jess, Chris, and Jake were able to successfully partake in the training and pass the Advanced Operations Exam. This will allow Jess and Chris to be able to work towards topographic surveying and mapping to collect our land data. Jake will be utilizing this skill to be able to take aerial footage and photography of the land over time.

With this training, Nokiiwin is working alongside staff to try and secure funding to buy a Hindman M300 drone for our certified drone pilots to utilize. If we are fortunate to be approved for this, the Hindman M300 has the capability to work in a variety of different situations including firefighting, search & rescue, power-line inspection, geomatics, and more!



### DIGITAL HERITAGE PROJECT

Alongside CE Strategies (CES), BNA will be working towards digitizing our history. We have received funding to support a web portal where we will be able to store our photos, oral histories, and other historical pieces that can be digitized and accessed by members only to ensure our history is preserved for our future generations. Jake will be the Digital Liaison who will be working towards collecting and preserving original photocopies, scanning, and digitizing them, and then managing them on the web portal. Alongside the photos, he will be conducting interviews and filming them to preserve oral history that we do not want to lose.

All original copies will be given back to the original owner once scanned and copied and will be kept in a secure place where no images can be lost, stolen, or damaged during its time in our hands. We will be working with museum liaisons to better understand the proper storage for photos that will maintain its quality.

With all of this in mind, Jake and CES will also be working with our BNA Youth Council to teach them how to scan, digitize, and maintain the web portal. Our youth should be a large part in maintaining our history and can begin to learn about their ancestors in this process.

To ensure the information collected is accurate, our genealogist Aandeg will be working alongside Jake, the Youth Council, and CES. With her extensive knowledge and research, she can fact-check any stories and possibly be able to give more information otherwise unknown by our current members oral stories.

Over the next year, we will be working towards completing this project. Please keep an eye out for any requests to submit photos or videos, and requests for interviews. If you have any questions regarding this project, please reach out to Jake.

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





# DOWNLOAD BNA'S NEW APP!

Get updates from BNA right on your phone or tablet about new jobs, community updates, surveys, events and more within minutes!

**WINNERS TO BE  
ANNOUNCED BY  
END OF JUNE**



**SIGN-UP  
FOR A  
CHANCE  
TO WIN A  
TABLET**

If you download and register an account for the BNA App before June 1st 2023, you'll automatically be entered to win a tablet!



# **BNA FAMILY WELL-BEING** *Summer Camps*



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**YOUTH CAMP**  
**JULY 31 - AUG 4**

**FAMILY CAMP**  
**JULY 17 - 21**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL  
BRENDA AT [BDELUDE@BNAFN.CA](mailto:bdelude@bnafn.ca)

**TRANSPORTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE**

# PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

## General Carpentry 403A Level 1

### Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program

#### Cohort 1

Start date: May 9th  
End date: August 18th  
Location: Carpenters  
union Local 1669  
Includes: Drywall as a  
secondary trade

#### Cohort 2

Start date: June 20th  
End date: October  
20th Location:  
Confederation College  
Includes: Plumbing  
and Welding as a  
secondary trade

#### Cohort 3

Start date: July 18th  
End date: October  
27th Location:  
Carpenters Union  
Local 1669  
Includes: Drywall as a  
secondary trade

#### Eligibility:

- ✓ 18 years or older
- ✓ Proof of grade 10 math

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, is pleased to offer a Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program in the General Carpentry (403A) Level 1 trade. It is our intention that upon completion of this program, all participants will have the opportunity to become registered apprentices, gain employment in the sector and/ or enter related post-secondary training.

#### WE DELIVER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO THE FOLLOWING 9 FIRST NATIONS:

• Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek • Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek • Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek • Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek • Michipicoten First Nation • Biigtigong Nishnaabeg • Pays Plat First Nation • Pic Mobert First Nation • Red Rock Indian Band



### Program Includes

#### Hands on training, including:

- Health & Safety/Continuous Learning
- Plumbing and/or Drywall as a secondary trade
- Level One General Carpentry
- Work supports provided, Transportation, Tools and Work Gear
- Up to 12 week subsidized Work Placement

#### For more information about Anishinabek Employment and Training Services

Project Coordinator  
Jordan Rousselle  
jordan.rousselle@aets.org  
Tel: (807) 346-0307 ext 216  
Cell: (807) 630-5986

285 Red River Road Thunder  
Bay, ON, P7B 1A9  
Email: aets@aets.org  
Website: www.aets.org Toll  
Free: (866) 870-2387

Proudly Funded by





# Family Well-Being

Boozhoo,

It has been a busy time of year at BNA's Family Well-Being centre.

I am happy to announce that through the securing of funding we have been able to hire more staff, finalize renovations at our EarlyON centre and provide a variety of resources to our membership. Also, with the renovations to our EarlyON centre completed, our EarlyON centre has doubled in size, as well have a new wheelchair accessible entrance to support an inclusive space for all parents/caregivers and children wishing to attend.

We encourage BNA parents/caregivers with children 0-6 to participate in our EarlyON centre. At the BNA EarlyON Child and Family Centre, parents, caregivers, and children can take part in a range of cultural programs and activities, receive information about programs and services that are available for young children, and talk to Early Years professionals as well as other parents and caregivers. From infant programs to parenting programs, staff are there to support parents and caregivers. If you are curious about what programs and services they offer please do not hesitate to reach out to our EarlyON staff.

Finally, for those of you who may not be aware BNA's Family well-being centre offers our community wrap around services and support from infant to Elder. You will find a variety of supports to promote health and well-being for you and your family. If you would like to learn more about upcoming programs and services please feel free to contact or keep up to date and connect with our Facebook page.

As always, we wish to extend a big thank you to the members who have been actively participating with our centre and each other, as we make our way to Spring we hope to see more of you enjoying what the centre has to offer.

Miigwetch  
Camille Borysewicz  
Director of Social Services



150 Grandview Road.

### SEPTEMBER

September was a busy month. Members were able to come together at Grandview and test out their sewing skill (and learn new ones) and made regalia just in time for the first BNA Pow wow that took place out at Grandview.

Our Juniors group partnered up with the EarlyON program and had a pizza and a movie night. Fun was had by all.

The youth were to go on a hike in September, but the weather was not in our favour, so to make the most out of a wet situation... we went bowling where we got lots of strikes and spares.

Members also got the chance to go to Wake the Giant and listen to Our Lady Peace, Steve Aoki, Neon Dreams and of course every one's favorite 90's band Aqua!

During one of our drum socials, members had a chance to make an orange shirt for Orange Shirt Day. The shirts turned out well and we were able to show our support to Every Child Matters.



### OCTOBER



October is FWB's most favourite time of year. Most of you know that we are crazy for Halloween. We started off October with pumpkin carving. There were some great traditional pumpkin faces as well as some good spooky and silly faced pumpkins.

Old Fort William did not disappoint for their Haunted Fort Night. There was lots of screams and giggles and wondering if we were going to survive the night.

The house at 150 Grandview was transformed into the House of Oddities. Family's who were brave enough to come visit the house were in for a surprise. Little did they know they were not able to leave unless they found the key to get out....If the families could not find a key they then become part of the collection of oddities.

### NOVEMBER

The youth participated in a hike at Kamview where we walked up to the lookout and almost got blown away. It was a bit of an adventure walking back down in the dark.

The juniors were able to attend the DIY Studio where they were able to show their artistic skills on pottery. Some of the juniors were taking this opportunity to make a Christmas gift for someone they loved, or they were able to make something special for themselves.

At the end of November and 25 days until Christmas it was time to pull those ugly sweaters out of the closet and show them off at bowling. There were so many crazy ugly sweaters. It was great to see everyone enjoying their time and getting ready to enjoy the Christmas spirit.



## | Family Well-Being DECEMBER

December was a short month for FWB elves. We were able to gather at St. Michaels church to make some beautiful wooden gnomes, Christmas key chains and pens and pine cone gnomes. The solo cup ordainments were a huge hit with the children that attended, and they all turned out beautifully!

And of course, we can't forget to mention the youth council! The work they are doing on behalf of the community is so inspiring and everyone should be so proud of them. They are a much-needed voice in the future of BNA, and they represent the children and youth of this community with such integrity and commitment. Keep up the great work!

Love, the Family Well-Being Team!

## FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

Hello from Natalia and Shaeanne! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to the new year! For those who may not know, Natalia is the Child & Family Advocate and Shae is the Family Representative from the Band Representative Program. The Band Representative program allows for both our roles to support community members when children, youth, young adults, and families that are either involved or at risk of involvement with the Child Welfare system. Overall, we provide support, advocate to maintain family unity, advocate and voice solutions to family problems, link families with relative community links and explain the process of the Child Welfare system according to a child, youth, young adult or family's involvement.

Over the past few months, we have been relatively busy with continual professional development, providing ongoing supporting and advocacy to community members throughout their Child Welfare involvement while ensuring a child(ren)s best interest are always taken into account throughout the process.

Most recently, we have paired up with Ashley Stevenson – Program Support Worker and Katie Borysewicz – Jordan's Principle Navigator, in partnership with the "Good Food Box Program". BNA has become a host site for community members, which occurs every third Wednesday of each month.

Additionally, we have joined the "Aboriginal Women's Committee – Ingodewizi", working amongst a number of women from various organizations within the city. Together we have created a year long calendar of events tailored to the needs of First Nations people.

We have been actively involved in a number of community events and programming; its so great to see such a wonderful First Nation community coming together and supporting one and other. Its been a pleasure getting to know you all and seeing familiar faces at various events hosted by the Family Well-Being Center. As always, we look forward to further building and strengthening our relationships with community members.

Chi-Miigwetch,

Natalia Benincasa  
Child & Family Advocate  
807-630-4899  
nbenincasa@bnafn.ca

Shaeanne Flewelling  
Family Representative  
807-621-4724  
sflewelling@bnafn.ca

BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK  
in partnership with Jordan's Principle



Good Food Boxes will be available on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Recipients must sign up for corresponding programming by the 2nd Monday of each month. Each box contains fresh fruits, garden vegetables, and fresh herbs.

**Good Food Box will require the following information:**  
Number of children, adults, and seniors in the household  
Contact information (phone/email)

**Contact Ashley Stevenson at [astevenson@bnafn.ca](mailto:astevenson@bnafn.ca)**

## DONATIONS TO BNA

Throughout the year, BNA held several events and programming with the membership which were assisted by individuals and companies alike. Whether it is the BNA Powwow last fall or the BNA Christmas Party, we have received thoughtful donations to make these events the best that they can be for our members. These donations give us an opportunity to enhance our programs which gives back to our members overall.

We would like to issue a thank you to JP Gladu for several generous donations. When invited to speaking engagements, such as the EHRC Awards of Excellence, JP has been directing the donations to BNA. These donations from JP have been specifically donated for Family Well-Being activities for the youth, which has allowed BNA to have more enhanced programming for our members.

If you would like to donate to the community to help support events or programming, please contact us!



Chief Paul Gladu and Noah Airns at BNA's Community Meeting



# A HEALTH FALL-OW UP

The Fall months were full of beautiful colors & cozy memories made with the members through all the fun activities and events we did together.

October had many frights & cackles as we bravely adventured through the BNA Haunted House of Oddities & Curiosities and all its amazing monsters within!

Adult Wellness and 55+ programs both attended sessions to get their creativity and inspirations ready I attended sessions at DIY Pottery where many beautiful projects were made and decorated to the nines.

In November the 55+ members also worked on small wooden rounds to make unique hand crafted ornaments using wood burning tools & paints to kick off the holiday season.

December brought everyone together again with Community crafting for all and the Family Christmas party where we celebrated love, laughter, Santa, good food and lots of festive fun!

Other health news reports both members and staff catching up on booster dose vaccinations for COVID and the Flu, Foot and circulation health check ups, Finally being able to make important in person doctor check up appointments, and reviewing winter safety tips & tools for outdoor playing, walking and driving for the start of our long local snow & ice season.

Stay warm and safe for the rest of our winter wonder months!

~Warm wishes from Tashia & the Health Department



DIY Studio Pottery Classes



DIY Studio Pottery Classes

# EarlyON

## WHO AND WHAT ARE WE?

EarlyON Centre is designed to promote and support the healthy development of children 0-6 years and their families in the area of child health and development, positive parenting, promoting and building life skills and providing access to information, resources and referrals to additional support services with an overall goal to promote the health and wellbeing of families in our area.

## FAMILY-CENTERED

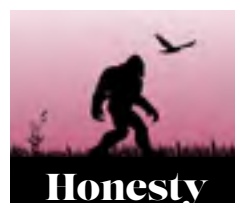
We believe in families and that the family knows their child/ren best, it is our duty and responsibility to help families grow in strength, love and knowledge based on the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

*"A beautiful,  
comfortable, inviting  
place to meet moms  
and caregivers while  
children play"*

*Elizabeth*



## THE 7 GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS





## COME & PLAY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Tuesday Mornings 9:30 to 11:30, an interactive play group for families with children 0 to 36 months, where you can connect and share ideas and resources during this stage of your child's development.

## DAD'S NIGHT

Once a month we welcome all the dad's, uncles, grandpas, or other male caregivers to come and spend time with their children from 5 to 7PM. Come out and have some fun with your child/children.

## OTHER PROGRAMMING

- ▶ Sensory Play
- ▶ Ojibwe Language
- ▶ Storytime
- ▶ Odamino Play Group
- ▶ Kid's Crafting





**CALI W.**  
Environmental Science Student and  
TC Energy Scholarship Recipient

# Financial freedom to pursue your passions

**Apply for a TC Energy scholarship**



STEM



Indigenous  
Legacy



Trades



Online application deadline:

**May 5, 2023**

[TCScholarships.com](https://TCScholarships.com)

# Job Postings

## FAMILY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

The BNA Family Representative Manager oversees BNA's Child and Family Advocacy Services Department (Band Rep and Jordan's Principal) ensuring that the best interests of all concerns pertaining to BNA children and youth is undertaken. The Family Representative Manager is responsible for providing direction, coaching and case supervision in all matters pertaining to child welfare protection and Jordan Principal services ensuring alignment to Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek policies and procedures as well as the legal framework of the Child and Family Services Act.

### QUALIFICATIONS

1. Master of Social Work degree is preferred.
2. Honours of Bachelor work degree, or degree in related field;
3. 5 years management experience in child welfare protection or social service agency
4. Experience working in Family Law court proceedings and with court system within a First Nation's community.
5. Expert knowledge of the Child and Family Services Act, Child Protection Standards, Ministry of Children and Youth Services Regulations, Guidelines and Policy Directives;
6. Knowledge of relevant legislative framework and policies reflecting current child welfare practice
7. Knowledge of Indigenous service delivery, customs and tradition in responding to child welfare, transitional youth and Jordan's Principle concerns
8. Strong leadership and management skills;
9. Strong interpersonal and communication skills;
10. Excellent negotiating skills;
11. Strong planning, organizational and time management skills;
12. Skilled in conflict resolution, mediation and problem solving; Ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with clients, First Nations service partners, colleagues, other relevant organizations and management;
13. Ability to work well within a team environment and able to develop strong, effective teams;
14. Ability to meet deadlines and work flexible hours;
15. Ability to adapt to and manage change;
16. Ability to work effectively with confidential and sensitive information;
17. Ability to work in stressful conditions with high demands;
18. Copy of University Degree and other educational/training documentation in related discipline.

### CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- CPIC Required, vulnerable sector within last 6 months
- 3 References from previous employer including most recent supervisor
- Must possess a valid driver's license and have reliable transportation and valid insurance

### MANDATORY DOCUMENTATION

1. Cover letter, resume, three (3) supervisory references (names & telephone numbers only)  
Attention: Camille Borysewicz Email: [cborysewicz@bnafn.ca](mailto:cborysewicz@bnafn.ca)

Wages will be negotiated commensurate with experience.

Miigwetch to all who apply. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

# PUBLIC WORKS COORDINATOR

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA), formally known as Sand Point First Nation, is a progressive, rapidly growing community. We are seeking a Public Works Coordinator that will work from the BNA reserve lands. The Public Works Coordinator will be responsible for managing and coordinating all of the work and activities occurring on the BNA lands. This position is accountable to the Director of Economic Development and will work under their supervision.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

Manage and coordinate the maintenance and enhancement of BNA reserve lands, including:

1. Attend BNA's senior management meetings as required;
2. Coordinate works with BNA management and staff for development projects;
3. Coordination with any and all contractors continually working on BNA reserve land (housing development, hydro pole installation, etc.);
4. Garbage collection as scheduled weekly, and removal to dump site north of community;
5. Emergency management coordination;
6. Continual communication of issues with Chief and Council;
7. Provide asset management services for BNA's infrastructure, housing, roads, building and equipment including:
  - a. Coordinating repairs and maintenance for BNA-owned houses and other band-owned buildings located at Sand Point;
  - b. Coordinate safety and security at Sand Point;
  - c. Coordinating repairs and maintenance for public roadways; and,
  - d. Oversee campsite and other public areas.

### KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

**Qualifications and Professional Certifications** The Public Works Coordinator would normally attain the required knowledge, skills and attributes through completion of a degree/ or a related trade in a significant operational area (eg. Public works/Infrastructure, construction, heavy equipment operation, gravel pit operations) in conjunction with at least 10 years related work experience of which a minimum of 5 years must be management experience at a senior level. A valid driver's license is also required.

**Knowledge** The Public Works Coordinator must have proficient knowledge in the following areas:

- Extensive understanding of the public works, general construction, maintenance, heavy equipment and gravel operations
- Practical understanding effective work planning, financial reporting, contracts/agreements and operational matters that impact BNA

**Skills** The Public Works Coordinator must demonstrate the following administrative skills:

- Outstanding organizational skills and ability to lead and work with a team
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills with demonstrated ability to make sound decisions, delegate tasks and meet established/critical deadlines
- Effective communication skills including preparation of meeting notes, reports, decision documents and political correspondence
- Confident public speaking in a variety of forums
- Ability to clearly define and communicate vision and direction to staff and stakeholders
- Ability to understand and interpret legislation, policies, reports, agreements and contracts
- Ability to manage staff effectively, as required
- Can travel as required for meetings and supplies in Thunder Bay

**Personal Attributes** The Public Works Coordinator must also demonstrate the following personal attributes:

- be honest, tactful, trustworthy and respectful
- be pro-active, hardworking and direct
- possess cultural awareness and sensitivity
- maintain strict confidentiality



## | Job Postings

### PUBLIC WORKS COORDINATOR

Salary will be commensurate with skill-set, education and certifications, and work history.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a Cover Letter and Resume, we appreciate all applications for this position, only successful candidates chosen for an interview will be notified.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek looks to its membership to fulfill job positions; however, if a qualified candidate cannot be found within our community, BNA will further look to a First Nation person outside of our community and finally if need be will be open to the public.

Please submit resume with three (3) references:

Attention: Laura Airns Email: [lairns@bnafn.ca](mailto:lairns@bnafn.ca)

Position Open Until Filled



# Welcoming New Staff

## HOUSING ADMINISTRATOR & PROJECT COORDINATOR

As BNA's Housing Administrator/Project Coordinator, Chris reports to the Manager of Infrastructure and Housing with overall accountability to the Director of Economic Development and ultimately to the Chief and Council of BNA. His roles and activities include housing administration, project coordination and providing administrative and technical support to BNA's initiatives. Before Chris's role at BNA, he was a technical unit advisor in a Tribal Council that serves remote First Nations north of Thunder Bay. His role included advising in Housing, Water and wastewater, emergency services and other infrastructure projects. Chris graduated from Confederation College with an advanced Diploma in Civil Engineering and a one year Mining Techniques Certificate.

Chris Tait  
807 623-2724 ext. 217  
ctait@bnafn.ca



## FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE COORDINATOR

Boozhoo,

I am Brenda Dulude. Having started on November 22, 2022, My official title is Family Representative Coordinator, my duties are administrative in nature. With 20 years of experience in various administrative positions and 15+ of that for various Indigenous organizations, it is my privilege and pleasure to bring a large cornucopia of skills to Family Wellness in particular, and BNA in general. I was born and raised in the Okanagan valley of British Columbia, and I began my administrative career track shortly before graduating from high school. I left BC and came to Thunder Bay in 1993. I did take a left hand turn into front line human services as a home maker for the Red Cross, and in Early Childhood Education for about 6 years. I returned to my administrative roots in 2004 as a casual in the administrative pool for Dilico, and within a year was cross trained in 4 different departments, then becoming permanent full time in 2006 as the Administrative Assistant for the Adult Residential Treatment Centre. Going on to be the Property and Purchasing Clerk, and Admin for ABTRS, finally leaving Dilico in 2019. I continued my career with the Ontario Native Women's Association for 3 years, the last year and a half as an HR Clerk before taking some time off at the tail end of covid, and then coming to BNA and Family Wellness.

Brenda Delude  
807 623-2724 ext. 224  
bdelude@bnafn.ca

## | Welcoming New Staff

### FINANCE P/T

Rachel Stenlund is our morning part-time Finance Officer. She graduated from Entrepreneurship at Confederation College as well as obtained a Degree in Business Accounting at Lakehead University. Her previous experience includes working at a public accounting firm for five years and working as a Senior Finance Officer at Fort William First Nation band office for eight years. Over a period of five years, Rachel also opened/operated her own accounting business.

For three years she moved out of the country. Now, back in Thunder Bay, she comes to BNA as our part-time Finance Officer.

Rachel Stenlund  
807 623-2724 ext. 210  
rstenlund@bnafn.ca

### FINANCE P/T

Kerry Goodwin is our afternoon part-time Finance Assistant. She has been assigned to assist with special projects such as assisting in developing and implementing an Asset Management Process. She can be contacted on the same office line as Rachel after 1pm.

Kerry Goodwin  
807 623-2724 ext. 210  
rstenlund@bnafn.ca

### FINANCE OFFICER

I Graduated / completed Business Fundamentals certificate program at Confederation College in 2022. Over the Summer of 2022, I was a placement student at BNA and have now returned to full-time!

I belong to Red Rock Band / Lake Helen First Nation and was raised in Greenstone (Jellicoe and Geraldton).

Proud mother of 1 son (1 granddaughter) and 2 cats!

I love camping, fishing, hunting, and traveling.

Michelle Donio-King  
807 623-2724 ext.204  
michelle@bnafn.ca



# STOP THE SPREAD

A reminder for all who may be attending programming to please screen yourself and your family for any symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID

If any symptoms are present, we ask that you please do not attend programming and stay home to recover

**Please contact the Family Well-Being team member associated to the program for further questions!**



## Measles... *Not just a thing of the past*

- Measles is a very contagious virus that spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- It can also spread when a person touches a surface with measles virus on it
- Measles symptoms include:
  - Rash
  - Fever
  - Runny Nose
  - Cough
  - Red eyes
  - Sleepiness
  - Irritability
  - Small white spots in the mouth
- If you have measles symptoms, stay home and contact your health care provider for assessment
- Immunization is the best way to prevent measles



\*Example of measles symptoms

*Protect yourself, your family, and your community by making sure your immunizations are up to date!*

### Questions?

Contact your primary care provider, health centre, or nursing station for more information.











#### SATELLITE OFFICE

292 South Court St., Thunder  
Bay, ON, P7B 6C6

Phone: (807) 623-2724

Fax: (807) 623-2764

Toll Free: 1-877-623-2724

#### HEAD OFFICE

1 Copper Thunderbird Road,  
Sand Point FN, ON, PoT 2Bo

#### FAMILY WELL-BEING

150 Grandview Rd, Thunder Bay,  
ON, P7G 1P5

215 Van Norman St. Thunder  
Bay, ON, P7A 4B6

Phone: (807) 344-3055

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