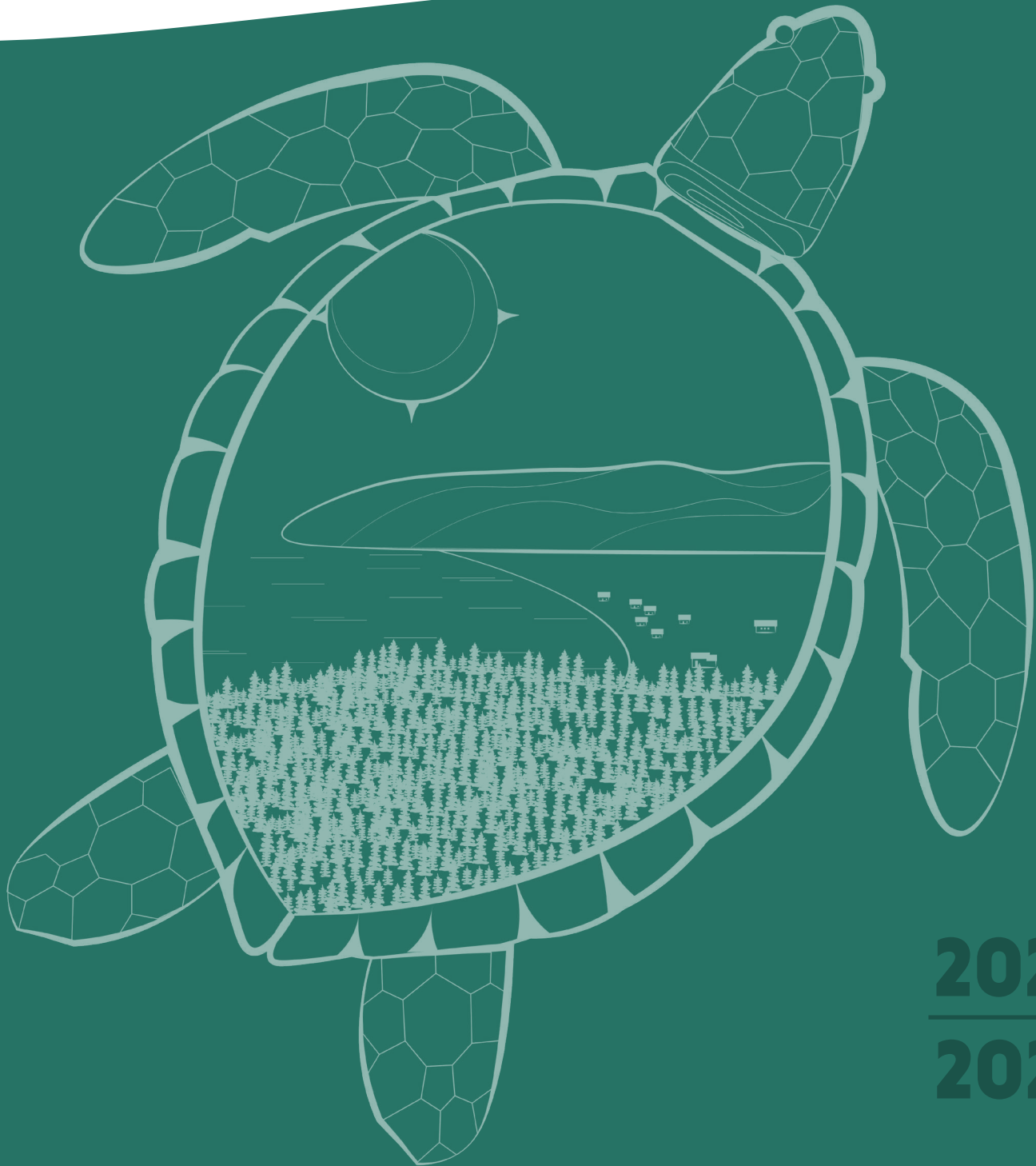




Bingwi Neyaashi
Anishinaabek

ANNUAL REPORT



2022

2023

BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Photo by Jake Alfieri
2023 BNA Powwow





Photo by Jake Alfieri
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek - Lake Nipigon, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE

Vision	01
Mission	01
Values	01
Organizational Chart	03

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

HOUSING

Infrastructure Update	07
Two 4-Plexes	07

INFRASTRUCTURE

New Capital Planning Study	08
Waste Transfer Station	08
Community Greenspace	08
BNA Trail Project	09
Roundhouse Study	09
Commercial Zone Study	09
Garbage Truck	09
Asset Management Plan	09
Greenhouse Project	09

ENERGY

Community Energy Champion/Coordinator	10
Education and Capacity Building	10
Installation of Electric Vehicle Charger	10
Bioheat study	11
Transmission Project	12
Indigenous Energy Project	12

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sawmill Expansion	13
Aggregate Study	13
Kayak Project	13
UNDRIP	13

LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT

Flood Vulnerability Study	14
Greenstone Waste Management Committee	14
Land Code	14
Waste Management	14
CORDA	15
Policing	15
Onshore Pipeline	15

GOVERNANCE

Indian Registration Administrator	16
Indian Land Registry System	16
BNA Cemetery Policy	16
BNA Estates	17
Comprehensive Community Plan	17

COMMUNICATIONS

Website	18
Newsletters	18
Digital Access to Heritage Program	19
Community Meetings	19

A MESSAGE FROM FAMILY WELL-BEING

FAMILY WELL-BEING PROGRAMMING

Vision	22
Highlights	22
List of 2022/2023 Programs	22
Anishinaabe Kwe	23
School's Out Summer Bash	23
Summer Camps	23
BNA Powwow	24
Halloween House	24
Community Christmas Party	24
Ice Fishing Event	25
Food Security	25
Transportation	25

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Program Supports	26
Outreach and Service Coordination	26
Community Paramedic Program Initiation	26
Family Representative Program	27
Jordan's Principle Program	27

PAPASAY ANNUAL REPORT: 2022/23

Papasay Management Corporation	29
Papasay Management Limited Partnership	30
Papasay Value-Added Wood Products Limited Partnership	31

A MESSAGE FROM FINANCE

Financial Audit Committee	34
Annual Financial Statements	34

Who We Are

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

Their traditional territory is the Sand Point, located on the south east shores of Lake Nipigon, in Greenstone near Fairloch, formerly occupied by the Lake Nipigon Provincial Park.

The Nation is led by Chief Paul Gladu and Councillor's Lillian Calder and Tracy Gibson. The council is a member of Nokiiwin Tribal Council, a Regional Chiefs' Council, and a member of Independent First Nations.

VISION

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

MISSION

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

VALUES

Ambition

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

Self-Sufficiency

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

Fairness

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

Continuous Improvement

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

Collaboration

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

7 Grandfather Teachings

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



Photo by Jake Alfieri
Sand Point, FN 2022

We are pleased to present to you Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation's Annual Report for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, which reports back on our activities and progress that took place between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

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

In this 2022/2023 Annual Report, we will be outlining and describing all of our programs, projects, committees, achievements, and financial statements.

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

Chief Paul Gladu

Councillor Lillian Calder

Councillor Tracy Gibson

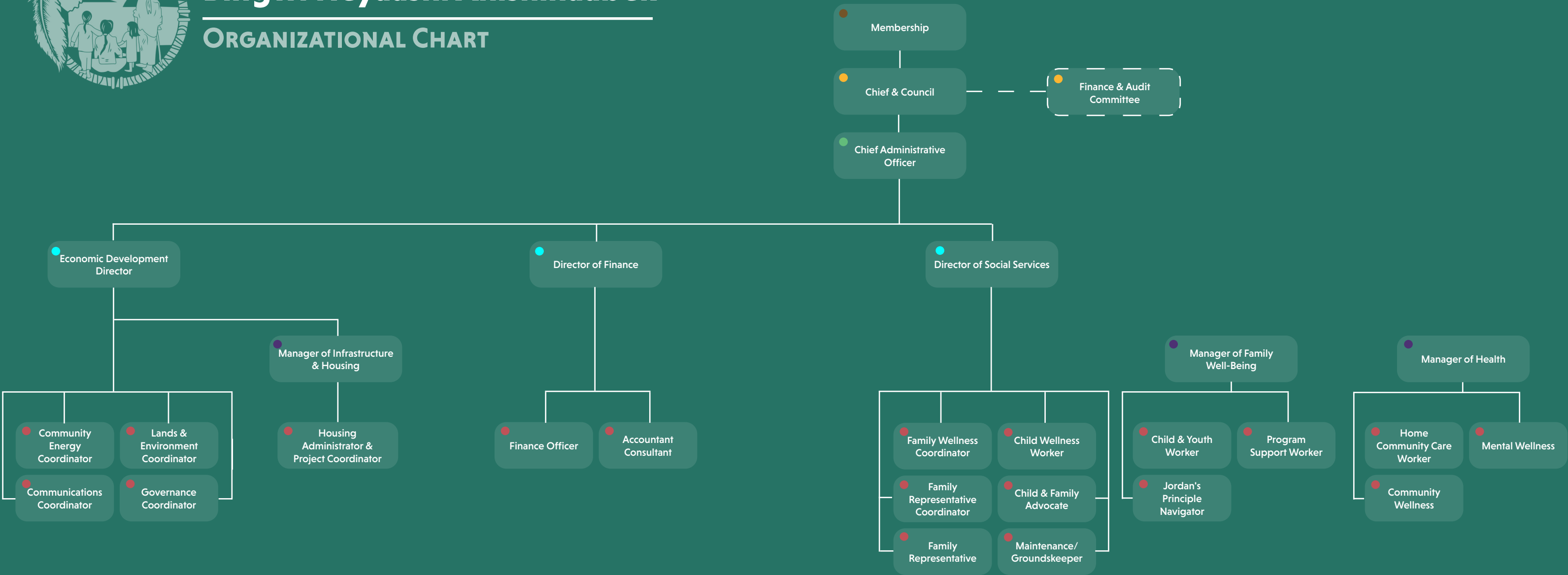
Total Members (March 2022)

358



Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



A Message From Chief & Council



From left to right: Councillor Lillian Calder, Councillor Tracy Gibson, Chief Paul Gladu

"Boozhoo BNA Members,

The 2022/2023 fiscal year has been incredibly busy as BNA continues to move forward with the development of our community. Between our administrative office, Family Well-Being, and EarlyON Centre we had over 200 active projects throughout the year.

On the housing front, three new single detached homes were constructed and should be complete in the very near future and six lots were cleared for preparation of BNA's Phase 4 housing project.

Through the hard work and dedication of BNA staff in the 2022/2023-year, funding was granted towards the Sawmill expansion, completing a study for the development of a Round House, support consultation regarding policing for Sand Point, preparation for 20 more lots for future development, green space development, and construction on four more single family dwellings and two fourplexes.

In 2022, BNA's Land Use Plan was completed with a published book and the digitized version uploaded to the website for members to access and review. Work continued with the Transmission Line project bringing electricity into the community. Members were consulted and a vote was held regarding the purchase of Big Virgin Island. Members voted in favor and the Island was purchased.

"3 Nations Resources" was formed consisting of BNA, BZA and Red Rock Indian band and partnerships with mining companies in the area were developed. These agreements will bring resources into our communities, including scholarships for youth. A Tesla charger was won by BNA and installed at the Health Centre for use by BNA Members.

BNA's Family Well Being and Early ON centers provided members with numerous programs and supports throughout this past year. A Pow Wow took place in September, the Members Christmas party in December, and an Ice Fishing event in March were just a few annual events that Family Well Being and EarlyON staff organized and hosted. Watch for their monthly calendars outlining programming that will take place each month.

These are just some of the projects and initiatives that took place over the past year. There were too many to mention them all.

Several new employees were added to the BNA Team last year to help fill our growing needs and we are so happy to have them working diligently to ensure the needs are met for our members.

Miigwetch for your continued support and patience as we continue to grow. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at any time.

Council and Staff wish you a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends."

- Chief & Council



Housing

In December 2022, BNA hired Chris Tait as its new “Housing Administrator and Project Coordinator”. This position will work under the Management of Travis Duncan, BNA’s Manager of Housing and Infrastructure, who was hired in the summer of 2022. Chris will be responsible for the following:

- Day-to-Day contact with member tenants residing on the land;
- Amending BNA’s Housing Policies;
- Conducting the housing allocation process for new housing and lot allocations;
- Working with Project Managers to ensure housing remains on-schedule and on-budget;
- Being the go-between for BNA and the contractor, the Project Manager, the funder, and the members.

In 2022/23, BNA continued with the development of its housing program. Three (3) more single-family dwelling units commenced construction and were near their completion by the end of March 2023. BNA utilized Castle Building out of Geraldton again for its housing contractor and had TBT Engineering as the Project Managers for these new units. All were ‘Section 95’ CMHC subsidized homes, as was the case of its previous home construction to-date. A housing allocation process was held early in the fiscal year, and three (3) BNA members were selected by the Housing Committee to acquire a home. These are rent-to-own homes, and each tenant must pay the full cost of their rent every month to be eligible to own their home.

With the addition of these three new homes, BNA’s housing fleet includes:

Year	# Of Units Constructed
2019 - 2020	2 duplexes (4 units)
2020 - 2021	3 single-family dwellings
2021 - 2022	3 single-family dwellings
2022 - 2023	3 single-family dwellings

CURRENT HOUSING FLEET: 13 Units

BNA has “Operational Budgets” from its newly built units that it manages on a yearly basis. These can assist BNA with the costs of maintaining the units.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

In the 2022/23 fiscal year, BNA was approved for a lot servicing project to prepare for its housing projects. Through this funding, BNA will service 20 lots to prepare for their eventual development, including lot clearing, driveways, power connection, and other infrastructure requirements. BNA will commence and complete this project in the 2023/24 fiscal year

TWO 4-PLEXES

In the 2022/23 fiscal year, BNA was approved for the construction of two 4-plexes on Lot 75 of its reserve. The units will assist in solving the housing crisis for BNA workers residing on the land. This project will move forward during the 2023/24 fiscal year.

Infrastructure

In the summer of 2022, BNA hired Travis Duncan as BNA’s new Manager of Housing and Infrastructure. As a Manager, Travis works under Jordan Hatton, Director of Economic Development, and supervises Chris Tait, also hired last year.

Some of the key Infrastructure Projects that BNA initiated, worked on, and completed in 2022/23 includes:

NEW CAPITAL PLANNING STUDY

In 2022, BNA kicked off its new Capital Planning Study, which will replace the first study that was undertaken in 2012. TBT Engineering is leading the Project, which will see the development of both a Master and Capital Plan for the reserve. TBT came to two community meetings during the fiscal year to explain their work to the membership. The project is multi-year, with its finalization expected March 31st, 2024.

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

In 2022, TBT – BNA’s consultants on this project – completed the Geotech study associated with the BNA Waste Transfer Station. The next step is to complete the engineering and detailed design of the facility and site, and to apply for the construction dollars in order to develop the facility.

COMMUNITY GREENSPACE

In March 2023, BNA received the substantial completion for its Greenspace Project, which was supported by FedNor. TBT Engineering project managed this initiative, and prepared a tender package for the work. Unfortunately, due to COVID-related cost increases with the returned bids, BNA’s Economic Development Corporation, Papasay, was forced to be the lead on the Project. Civil was subbed out to Tom Rentz Construction, electrical was completed by Akawe, and Got Wood/Castle Building completed the privy and pergola. The design for the Project was completed by BNA member Paulette Facca, and the architecture by BNA member Ryan Gorrie. This Project was completed March 31st, 2023.



Design example of Greenspace

BNA TRAIL PROJECT

In the summer of 2022, BNA completed a trail project with the support of CORDA. New Leaf Forestry was hired to clear the pathway, and wood for the bridging was provided by the Papasay Sawmill. BNA had workers remain past the summer work program in order to complete the project utilizing brushsaws and chainsaws, both of which BNA was able to acquire for future use. The trail completed is from the large cemetery back to Copper Thunderbird lookout. It will be maintained regularly in order to prevent significant overgrowth.

ROUNDHOUSE STUDY

In 2022, BNA received notification that it had received funding for the completion of a feasibility and design of an on-reserve Roundhouse. The Roundhouse would be built where the Maintenance Garage is currently located. All funding was deferred to the 2023/24 fiscal year. The study will be completed for March 31st, 2024.

COMMERCIAL ZONE STUDY

In 2022, BNA received notification that it had received funding for the completion of a feasibility and design for its Commercial Zone. This Commercial Zone would be located at the north end of the BNA reserve, north of the entrance to Copper Thunderbird Road. All funding was deferred to the 2023/24 fiscal year. The study will be completed for March 31st, 2024.

GARBAGE TRUCK

In 2022, BNA received notification that it was successful in the funding for a new garbage truck. BNA will then be able to transport the community garbage to the Beardmore landfill, as the Macdiarmid landfill is closing. The truck purchase will take place in the 2023/24 fiscal year. With a growing community, this significantly increases the efficiency of waste pick-up by the ground's staff workers. In addition to waste management, the vehicle will aid in other grounds and landscaping work in the community



Image to the right is an example of the type of vehicle BNA will be purchasing.

The purchased vehicle may differ in size, colour, and equipment.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the 2022/23 fiscal year, BNA completed the majority of its Asset Management Plan with funding from ISC. This project saw the recording of the community's assets in an overall plan, with details on yearly maintenance of assets. The plan will allow for BNA to track its on-reserve assets, and ensure they are properly maintained going forward.

GREENHOUSE PROJECT

BNA received funding through the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) for its Greenhouse Project. The community worked with BNA's Family Well-Being (FWB) staff to purchase a variety of vegetable seeds, garden gloves, and gardening tools for the community greenhouse located on reserve for anyone to use.

Energy

COMMUNITY ENERGY CHAMPION/COORDINATOR (CEC)

The current CEC, Aysha McNally, has been with BNA for four (4) years. The CEC will continue to investigate, recommend, implement, and monitor energy infrastructures, strategies, and practices for all community developments according to their conformance with BNA's strategic vision. Environmental sustainability, economic feasibility, cultural relevance, geographic limitations, and community feedback have and will continue to determine the appropriateness of a given option. The community's involvement in establishing these criteria was used by the current CEC to complete the BNA Community Energy Plan - a framework to work with individual homeowners on conservation and energy options, with the Sawmill and other industries on-reserve for the proper implementation of the CEP. The CEP will continue to guide both the development of BNA's energy infrastructure and the evaluation of regional energy development plans. The CEP will continue to assist Chief and Council in making decisions which secure BNA's sustainable development.

The current Energy Champion will continue to benefit BNA by helping the FN to properly evaluate, plan and implement energy options. Specific projects that the champion will continue to manage are:

- Exploration of energy options
- Community engagement
- Review of energy opportunities in BNA's region
- Updating and implementing BNA's Community Energy Plan

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

BNA received funding from the IESO for energy skills building, project training and certification to provide capacity and develop tangible skills for BNA's Community Energy Champion (CEC). The type of training and certificates to be completed are:

- Technical capital project training
- Energy efficiency technical training
- Energy project management certification
- Operation and maintenance
- Energy financial modeling
- Certified Energy Manager (CEM) training

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGER

In the fall of 2022, BNA installed a Tesla charger for the community through funding from Indigenous Clean Energy. It is located on the BNA Health Center in Lot A (near the Papasay Sawmill) and is only for electric vehicles for use by BNA community members and staff. In the late fall /early winter, BNA received funding through an EV program through NRCan. This program will create an opportunity for BNA members to drive EVs for approximately 4 months. We will also have 4 EV chargers installed within the BNA Health Center lot. The EV NRCan program will not begin until late summer of 2023.

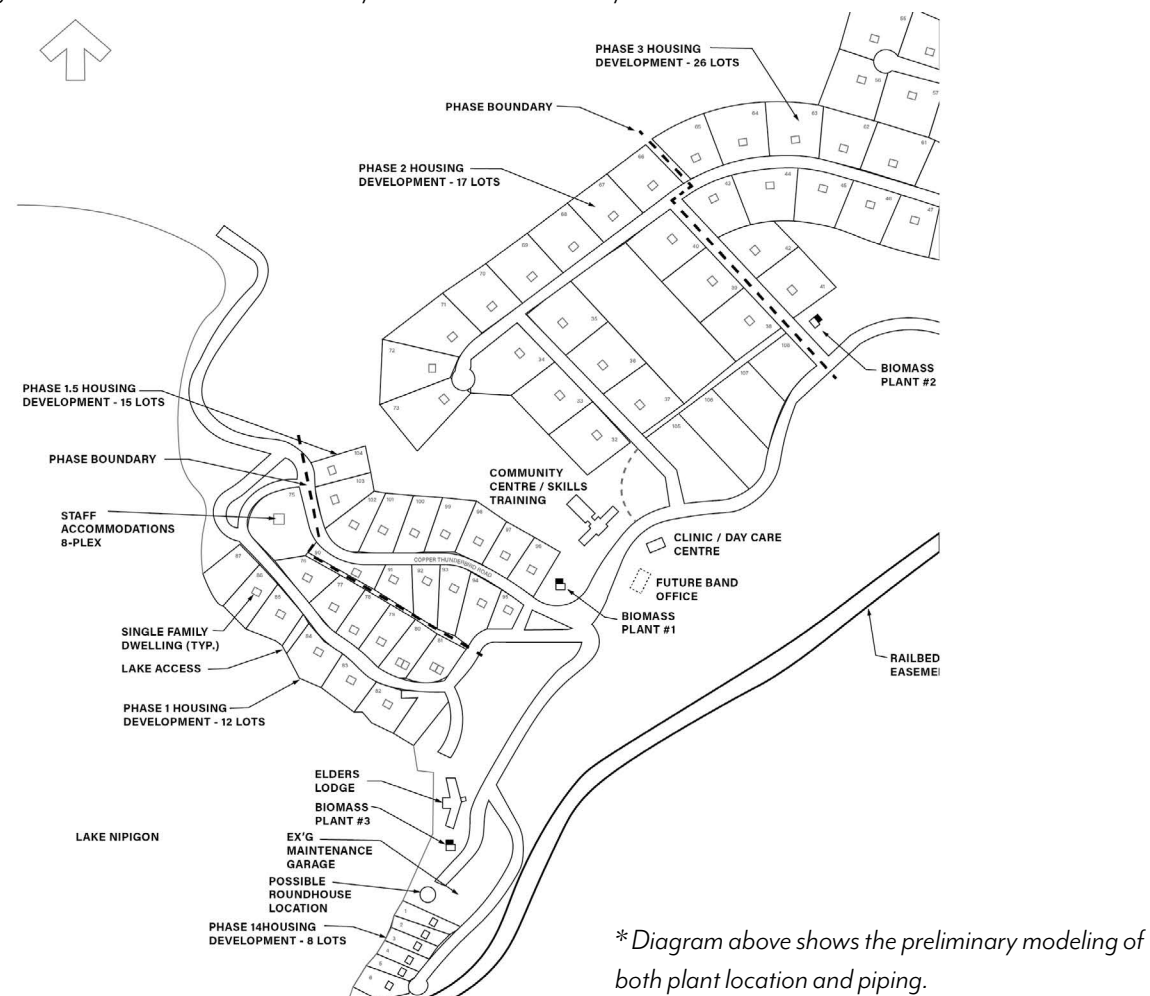
BIOHEAT STUDY

In 2022/23, BNA continued work on its Bioheat Study initiative with both Northern Community Solutions, and TBT Engineering. In 2021/22, BNA received funding from Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to complete a District Heating Business Case, as well as design and engineering of a unit and piping. The objective of the Business Case document is to assess the opportunities for BNA to develop and implement a sustainable business model for a biomass district heating network. Also, it will support the community's goal of energy (and subsequent, heat) sovereignty by using equipment and processes which maximize available wood residue resources from the Sawmill, while respecting the community's values of pursuing a net-zero carbon energy supply.

The business model is based on upgrading residual wood generated by the community-owned Sawmill into high-quality and competitively priced wood chips. BNA plans on using those chips to provide heat energy to community buildings and residences through a small-scale biomass district heating system. The costs of this would be less than current spending on household energy, while keeping the savings and expenditures in the community. Site evaluations were based on energy efficiency (heat requirements, piping distances for various buildings) as well as a financial analysis that evaluated the feasibility of each case for both the capital and operating expenditures.

The key parameters that were considered when modeling included: pricing of the biomass supply from PVAWP, ensuring a fair and affordable pricing model for residents, and creating a long-term sustainable system that considers the future replacement costs. The preferred configuration included servicing Phase 1, 1.5 and 4 housing developments, the Elders complex, band office and community/public buildings.

The sustainable Business Case Development will address the following topics: detailed business case description and objectives, ownership of utility and operational model, boiler size and placement, updated wood supply availability and costs, including logistics and other operational costs, financial analysis (12-year projections), and sustainable expansion strategy/ business case. BNA plans on applying for full construction of this facility in the 2023/24 fiscal year.



TRANSMISSION PROJECT

BNA finalized its Transmission work in 2022/23 fiscal year. This included installing a transmission line down the main road, Copper Thunderbird Road, into the community. BNA worked with a local electrical contractor, Pro-Gen Inc. (PGI) to install the hydro line work as per HONI's design drawings and specifications. BNA worked with PGI to complete several additional electrification projects within the community. BNA has completed the below electrification projects throughout the community:

- Main line (Copper Thunderbird Road) – This was the originally proposed scope of work for the 3-phase power line expansion proposed under this project
- Phase 1 Housing Loop
- Middle Beach
- Phase 4 Housing
- Metering Nursing Station
- C-Can Hook-Up
- Running Transmission to Maintenance Garage
- Power to washrooms and middle beach areas

The new 3-phase power line will allow BNA to access a lower rate of electricity, with proper metering and billing. The expanded pole line infrastructure now in place will allow the community to continue growing, including new housing and other community buildings and infrastructure.



INDIGENOUS ENERGY PROJECT (IEP)

In November 2021, BNA received funding from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for a solar and battery project. This Project was completed during the 2022/23 Fiscal Year. For this project, BNA worked with Northern Community Solutions (NCS). The purpose of this Project is to improve the life of BNA residents and contribute to a cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable transportation system by providing alternatives to fossil fuels with batteries powered through solar power. This was done through the installation of a roof-top solar energy station that was installed on the roof of the BNA Health Center in the Industrial Park of the community. The project included the purchase of several Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV's), such as a riding lawnmower, and several BEV land/water transportation options were made available for BNA community members to test and use as a replacement to their current fossil fuel-based vehicles. BNA worked with Powertec Solar Inc. to install the 10kW solar panel system.

BNA community members were involved in the testing and use of the solar powered batteries in electric equipment and vehicles during the beginning stages of the pilot project. These community members were provided with a survey with questions asking for when the machinery or vehicle is used, for how long, and how well the machinery worked. These community members were also in charge of charging the batteries when needed. Surveys were shared via mail-out, BNA's website and/or BNA's Facebook page. The survey requested input on whether the pilot project is a good/ interesting project, if they would use electric machinery or vehicles on and/or off the land, and whether this project should be implemented in other regions and in far north First Nations. This project is near completion, as the solar system passed inspection and BNA is awaiting Hydro One finalize. BNA must still receive its final report from NCS. The last milestone/ request for funding report has a due date of June 30th, 2023.

SAWMILL EXPANSION

BNA continued with the Papasay Sawmill Expansion in 2022/23. With funding from both FedNor and NRCan, the First Nation was able to proceed with the purchase and set up of its Baker Sawline, set up its dry kiln, and commence its Market Study. The Sawmill Expansion is a large project and will be multi-year.

AGGREGATE STUDY

With the support from FedNor, BNA completed its Aggregate Study on its Papasay Pit in 2022/23 fiscal year. The Papasay Pit is located approximately 3km north of the entrance to BNA and has been permitted to the corporation since 2016. The Aggregate Study was undertaken in order to see what the feasibility was to further open the pit with the required crusher, or whether was better to commence its closure. BNA requires significant aggregates for its own development, as well as regional developments in the mining, forestry, and highway construction projects. The final conclusions stated that it was feasible to work with a third party contractor to further open the pit, but not to purchase the community's own crusher and other equipment due to the high costs.

KAYAK PROJECT

In 2022/23, through the Indigenous People's Resilience Fund, BNA was able to purchase new kayaks and associated storage for the community. The boats and all equipment will be stored in the new Green Space. Consideration was given to making kayaking as accessible as possible so that most community members could enjoy the activity. Stable beginner kayaks were chosen, and the sit-on-top design allows various abilities and bodies to enjoy getting out on the water. Double kayaks that accommodate two adults and a child will allow families to be active together. A trailer and structure to protect the kayaks were also purchased with all required equipment. Information will be posted with the kayaks in the storage shed. Safety kits must be taken with the boats, and life jackets must be carried for every person on board. There were a variety of sizes of life jackets purchased so children as small as 20 lbs could play on the water. Members will be able to use these recreationally. Eventually, BNA envisions utilizing the kayaks for tourism purposes.

UNDRIP

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is unique in that it addresses many facets of life where there are injustices for Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Education, employment, government, and environmental concerns are all included in the document. The strength of this policy is that it can be interpreted in different ways to aid those affected by it. Assessing how the policy can best serve Indigenous Peoples is why consultation is taking place.

In May of 2022, BNA was approved by Justice Canada to receive funding to review and comment on UNDRIP. The goals of this consultation were to create an actable plan to achieve the objectives of the declaration. An international policy does not have legal power without federal laws, so part of this process was assessing how federal laws can be consistent with the declaration for positive change in the lives of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

BNA members were first consulted with a presentation and the lively question session at the 2022 Unity Gathering hosted by Nookiiwin in September 2022. BNA engaging in these more extensive conversations about policies improves BNA's image as experts in their lands and the ability to work with industry and government. Through surveys and additional consultation with community members, two clear themes stood out: sustainable economic development balanced with the conservation of the environment. Aided by our legal counsel, BNA and Nookiiwin conducted an in-depth review of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. In May 2023, the report was submitted to the Indigenous Rights and Relations Portfolio at Justice Canada. The report included suggestions to strengthen the UNDRIP Act and make it more relevant to BNA's specific needs regarding the engagement and implementation of UNDRIP in Canada. Many comments highlighted the need for more Indigenous voices and members on committees and more significant consultation on matters which affect Indigenous Peoples on their lands.

FLOOD VULNERABILITY STUDY

In 2022/23, BNA completed its Flood Vulnerability Study. With support from CIRNAC, BNA worked with CE Strategies to conduct mapping and future planning for potential Lake Nipigon flooding. This included drone footage, community meetings, interviews with Elders and community land users, and the use and development of "MapAki" software. The MapAki software is integrated into the current BNA website for member access.

GREENSTONE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (GWMC)

In 2022/23, BNA continued to participate on the GWMC with its neighbouring First Nations. The Municipality of Greenstone is commencing the Environmental Assessment process to create a long-term plan to manage and dispose of the region's solid waste and recycling. The GWMC is made up of representatives from six neighbouring First Nations, including BNA, the Municipality of Greenstone, Matawa First Nation Management, Nookiiwin Tribal Council, and the Provincial and Federal Departments. The Committee formed in 2019 to plan the long-term regional waste management as most waste sites were nearing capacity and the potential need for new and/or expanded facilities became apparent. Engineering firms have been hired by the Municipality of Greenstone to assist with the project and they will be leading the project management, studies and analysis, and community engagement.

LAND CODE

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

BNA members will ratify the updated Land Code at a community meeting in the summer of the 2023/2024 fiscal year. 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 BNA's Environmental Protection Law and other by-laws relating to the use of land, community development and the activities on it.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

In the summer of 2022, the city of Thunder Bay made massive changes in what materials were eligible for recycling. The changes mean that BNA can recycle more items as our recycling contractor, GFL, brings the recycling to the Thunder Bay depots. Those on reserve have been given new home-use recycling bins from a grant led by Nookiiwin Tribal Council. BNA residents can now recycle glass, plastic (#1-7), cans and paper products. Handouts were given to residents as a recourse to which specific items can be recycled. In 2022/2023, new programs were implemented in the BNA office to reduce better waste, such as the battery recycling program, writing utensils and K-cup recycling.

In collaboration with TBT Engineering, a waste transfer station will be designed on BNA lands in 2023/2024; this will allow for the sorting of garbage and recycling before it is brought to Thunder Bay. The geotechnical research will be reviewed to ensure that there are no adverse environmental impacts from the site. BNA will also explore waste reduction initiatives such as composting and a reuse/upcycling program.

CORDA

In 2022/2023 BNA received the Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement grant that BNA has been awarded several times over the last 10 years. For 2022 the goal was greater access to the wilderness areas of the reserve. The trail to Thunderbird Lookout was in serious need of a clean-up. When BNA's land base was appropriated as Blacksand Provincial Park, it was a hiking trail, but over the years had been neglected, and sections had become densely overgrown.

First, Nokiiwin organized a litter clean-up to remove garbage. BNA grounds crews then brushed the trail, and several boardwalks were installed to make for the easier crossing of creeks and other wet areas. The boardwalks are constructed from pine from BNA land and were milled by the Papasay sawmill. Significant clearing, removing hazardous trees and construction of the boardwalks were done by New Leaf Forestry, partially owned by Papasay.

The grant also included chainsaws and brush saws to assist in clearing the trails. This equipment will continue to be used to maintain not only the trail but other areas of the land base. It is the hope that community members now have the confidence to take the hike to see BNA from a new height. In addition to hiking, there is the opportunity to gather traditional foods and medicinal plants.



View from Thunderbird Lookout
Sand Point, FN 2022



Boardwalk Installed
Sand Point, FN 2022

POLICING

In 2022/2023, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) provided funding to support consultation on the need for policing for BNA. A committee of BNA members involved in the enforcement field has been engaged in discussions with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on the unique and specific concerns of the community. The first meeting was in July 2022. Two further follow-up meetings were held in December 2022 and February 2023, where the conversation with OPP leadership was expanded upon, and BNA's goals were discussed for their growing community. In March of 2023, a Report was presented to the AFN, Public Safety Canada and Chiefs of Ontario, including key policy areas, legislative options, and recommendations. These discussions will continue in 2023/24.

ONSHORE PIPELINE

The Canadian Energy Regulator requested BNA's input regarding the onshore pipeline regulations. BNA's environmental staff completed a detailed review. The first phase was finished in April 2022, which included comments by former BNA staff Brian Petrie on how the discussion paper "Onshore Pipeline Regulation" affects BNA. While there have been delays in additional consultation, the next phase is projected to be up for review later this year.

Governance

INDIAN REGISTRATION ADMINISTRATOR (IRA)

Since becoming certified as an IRA nearly 2 years ago, BNA's Governance Coordinator, Louise Esquega, has done 155 Status Cards for status individuals throughout Canada, with the majority coming from Ontario. For BNA members specifically, 42 Status Cards have been completed. To compliment the Governance Coordinator's IRA Certification, Louise also completed training as a Certified Integrity Document Officer (CIDO), allowing BNA to detect fraudulent identification documents or money.

INDIAN LAND REGISTRY SYSTEM (ILRS)

In 2022/23, BNA's Governance Coordinator had the opportunity to participate in a training workshop through the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre for the Indian Land Registry System (ILRS). This is a secure government web site where trainees navigate through the application process to register land parcels on BNA lands. This training will be on-going.

BNA CEMETERY POLICY

In 2022/23, BNA prepared a Cemetery Survey for members. Opinions that were provided help to shape the guidelines for this draft policy. All the cemetery survey results were compiled for each question, with responses summarized below:

Question 1. Are you interested in eventually being buried in BNA's Cemetery in the community?

Collective answer: Members were mostly interested in being buried at BNA's cemetery.

Question 2. Do you agree that a non-member spouse should be buried beside their member spouse in BNA Cemetery if they so desire?

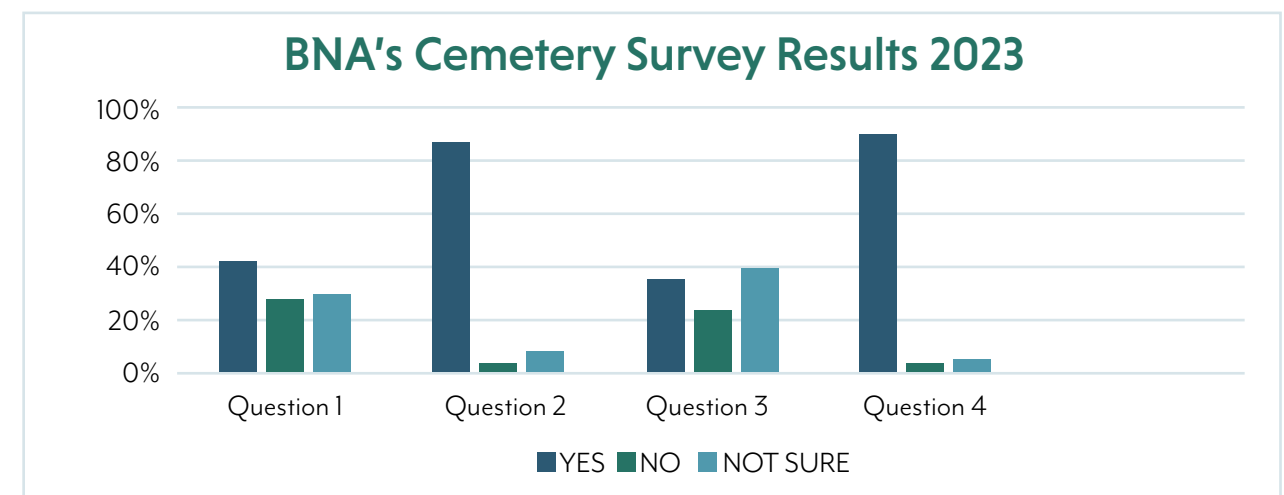
Collective answer: Majority of members felt strongly that spouses should not be separated.

Question 3. Due to limited space at the BNA Cemetery, at this time BNA is only able to accommodate cremations. Based on this fact, are you still interested in buried at Sand Point when you pass away?

Collective answer: Most members said yes wanted to be cremated and would like their partners buried alongside them, while members who said no already had family plots elsewhere.

Question 4. In order to further understand the available room left in BNA's Cemeteries, studies will need to be undertaken on the land. This work includes ground penetrating radar, as well as further drone work. Are you okay with this work being undertaken in and around BNA's historic Cemeteries?

Collective answer: Most members agreed that as long as GPR would be done in a respectful manor, while a few members thought the cemeteries be left as is.



We are currently working on a draft Cemetery Policy which we hope to have completed within the next fiscal year. However, due to lidar scanning and other ground penetrating radar, this policy may take more time to complete. Once all these steps are fulfilled, we will submit to Chief and Council for final remarks and then it will be available to the Membership.



BNA ESTATES

BNA received funding from ISC in 2022/23 to engage the membership on Wills and Estates. All funding was deferred to the 2023/24 fiscal year. BNA will engage its membership at a community meeting to discuss these important matters for the First Nation.

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN (CCP)

BNA received funding in the 2019/2020 fiscal year to implement its Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) within three years, which was drafted by the end of the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

CCP is a process which looks at the holistic development of community and ensures that the membership is involved in decision making for the overall direction of the First Nation. For BNA, eight topics were created to better categorize the priorities and needs of the community into each topic. These topics included: Housing, Energy & Infrastructure, Community Lands & Development, Economic Development, Health & Wellness, Traditional Lands, History & Culture, and Governance & Administration. Information about the CCP and what it entails was shared on Facebook, in the Newsletters, and on the website for band members to better understand their role and what the CCP will do for them.

Throughout this process, a CCP Committee consisting of five band members: Jennifer Davis, Ashley Stevens, Joe Ladouceur Jr., Ryan Gorrie, and Jeff Fuller held virtual meetings to have more in-depth discussions on the eight topics based on the general feedback provided at the workshops. This committee allowed for a direct community insight into the draft of the plan and to reflect the voices of the community.

In 2023, BNA was granted more funding for the implementation of the CCP for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Once approved by Chief & Council, it will be published as a living document that the staff and community can utilize long-term to guide them in their planning process and community development. This will be completed to allow funding received by ISC for implementation of the CCP by the end of 2024. It will involve significant community engagement, and will be led by Jake Alfieri, BNA's Communications Coordinator.

Communications

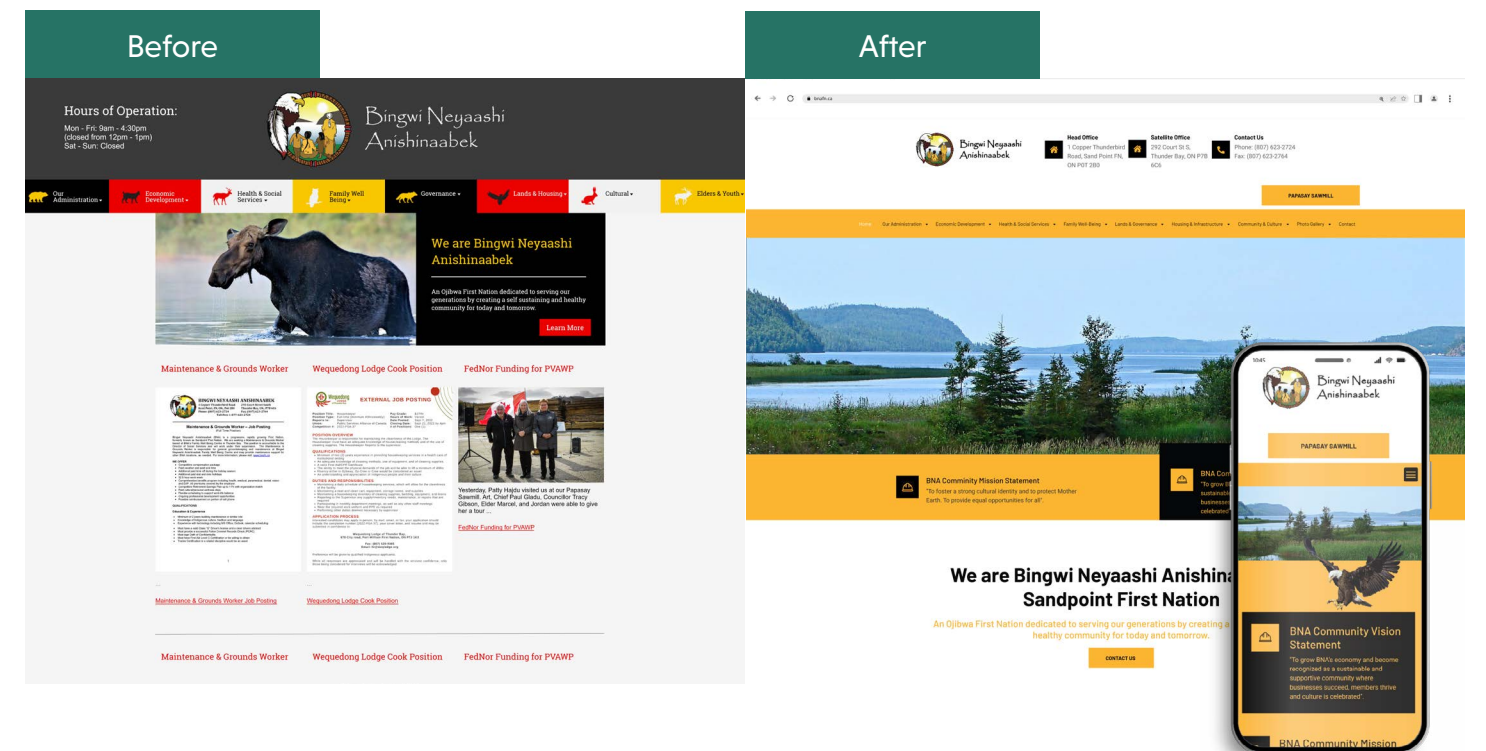
WEBSITE

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has been successfully utilizing a website known as bnafn.ca to update their members online. This website was originally designed by Sencia in 2012 and had gone through two design changes throughout the next ten years. By 2022, Chief & Council felt it would be appropriate to re-design again and move to a new web content management system (CMS).

Up until November 2022, the website was managed through Sencia's own CMS, but in the new website it was decided to move over to the more commonly used and known system of WordPress. This allows for the BNA website to be more customizable and allow for staff to easily maintain the website on their own.

BNA staff worked alongside ACO to curate a new look that fit with their target audience and was mobile friendly. Staff managers worked with the Communications Coordinator, Jake Alfieri to enhance the navigation and ensure the website content was up to date. With staff being trained in WordPress, BNA can continuously keep the website updated in a timely manner internally, allowing for members to be kept up to date promptly.

In 2023/2024, the Communications Coordinator will be making some changes to the website to include a members only portal to be able to have pages and content available only to band members.



NEWSLETTERS

In 2022/2023, two Newsletters were published on the website and printed for mail-out to all band members with a mailing address listed. The Newsletters were sent out Spring 2022 and Winter 2022 which included updates from Chief & Council, Housing & Infrastructure, Lands & Environment, Energy, Economic Development, Governance, Communications, Family Well-Being, Health & Wellness, and the EarlyON departments.

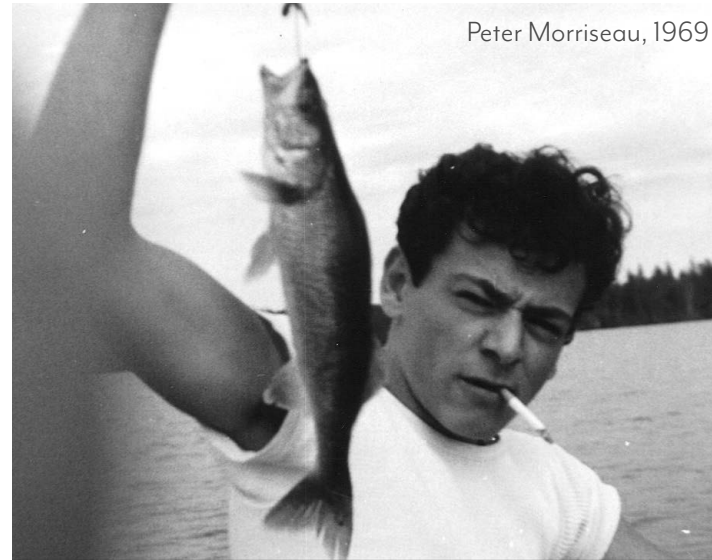
In 2023/2024 we will publish three Newsletters in Spring 2023, Fall 2023, and Winter 2023/2024. Our Annual Report is being published in the Summer of 2023 in place of a quarterly Newsletter.

DIGITAL ACCESS TO HERITAGE PROGRAM

In 2023 BNA received funding for a Digital Access to Heritage program through the Indigenous Heritage Fund which will be deferred until the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Jake Alfieri, Communications Coordinator, will be the lead on this project in collaboration with CE Strategies. The project will include the development of a web portal and a community photo album to hold our pictures, stories, and history. This is an opportunity to help connect our youth with memories and stories from on the land, as shared by our Elders and Knowledge keepers.



Sandra & Chris Lesperance, 1960



Peter Morriseau, 1969

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

In 2022/23, BNA held two meetings, one in the Fall of 2022 and the beginning of the 2023 New Year. Both meetings were held in Thunder Bay due to weather. The fall meeting consisted of presentations by Imagine Lithium, a ceremony with LU on the purchase of Big Virgin Island, and the announcement of BNA's Capital Plan Project. In the new year BNA informed members of departmental updates, Rock Tech Lithium gave a presentation, and the majority of the meeting was the presentation of the Audit.



Community Meeting, January 2022

FAMILY WELL-BEING



Photo by Chondon Photography
Community Christmas Party, 2022

A Message From Family Well-Being

“The ability of BNA’s Family Well-Being centre to meaningfully respond to our community’s evolving needs would not be feasible without the dedication of our passionate and creative staff, our BNA community members, partners, generous donors, and last but certainly not least our leadership who have been instrumental in supporting the work we do.

I am especially thankful to Lindsey Gladu, Family Well-Being Manager, for her willingness to always go above and beyond for our community; Tashia Smith-Ennis, Manager of Health, who continues to provide outreach, resources, and her time to so many of our members with healthcare needs; and Karen Williams, EarlyON centre Coordinator, who has built a successful early learning centre for children 0-6 and their parents/caregivers to learn and grow together. I also want to recognize our incredible staff for their professionalism and daily devotion to our community, increasing our capacity, and helping to build caring relationships with each other and our community members near and far.

I recognize how important it is to have a friendly, safe, and supportive place for BNA community members. This was one of the reasons why I dedicated over 20 years combined to formal education, volunteering, and working with children and families. It is additionally why I was so excited to have the opportunity to work for BNA in the Family Well-being Program. This past year marked our Family Well-Being centre’s 5th year in operation. Since March of 2017 we have grown from 3 programs and 2 staff to over 30 programs and 15 full time staff. BNA’s Family Well-Being Centre as it continues to run the existing programs is always in expanding and exploring new programming opportunities that will help and support BNA members and the overall well-being of our community as we continue to journey together and grow.

As always it has been a real pleasure spending time with our community members and hearing how they enjoy coming to programs where they can socialize, get support when needed, learn new skills, and connect with each other on a regular basis. We have a lot of new initiatives and activities planned for our community this upcoming year; I look forward to seeing you soon at our BNA Family Well-Being Centre!”



Camille Borysewicz
Director of Social Services

Photo by Chondon Photography
Community Christmas Party, 2022

Family Well-Being Programming

VISION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

This past year we have had members and their families participate in family programs over 2000 times. Our team strives to provide programming, workshops and activities that help to support overall well-being and cultural connection. On behalf of the Family team, we would like to give a big Miigwetch to everyone for participating in our programs, events, and gatherings.

LIST OF 2022/2023 PROGRAMS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Kid’s Night | Roots to Harvest Virtual Kitchen |
| Junior’s Group | Adult Wellness Nights |
| Youth Group | Winter Carnival |
| Monthly 55+ Group | Tubing Nights at Mt. Baldy |
| Family/Youth Outings | EarlyON Grand Opening |
| Father’s Day Bowling | Junior’s Cooking Classes |
| Honouring our Anishinaabe Kwe Event | Good Food Box |
| Youth and Family Camps | Father’s Day Fishing Event |
| Volunteer Pool Swim Program | Ice Fishing Derby |
| BNA Powwow | Wake The Giant Festival |
| Schools Out!! Summer Bash | Kid’s Night |
| Wellness Wednesdays | Syrup Tapping |
| Family Fun Day | Paint Nights |
| Junior’s Group | Family Bowling Nights |
| Halloween Haunted House Party | Community Connection Nights |
| Community Christmas Party | Haunted Fort Nights at Old Fort William Historical Park |
| Family Sleigh Ride | Virtual Family Nights |
| Trivia Nights | Cross Country Skiing |
| Drum Socials | Bingo |
| Ziigwan Community Kitchen | Easter Feast |
| Community Crafting | Family Skating |
| Family Engagement Nights | Drum Workshop |
| Drumming | Moccasin Workshop |
| Ribbon Skirt Workshop | Silvercity Theatre Outings |
| Magnus Theatre Productions | 55+ Socials |
| Regalia | Drop In Programs |

In the 2022/2023 fiscal, Family Well-Being (FWB) has hosted close to 200 programs. The FWB team strives to ensure all ages have options for programming throughout each month. Kid's Night focuses on children 0-6, Junior's Group is ages 7-11, and Youth Group ranges from 12-21. For our adults, Adult Wellness Nights are geared for everyone above the age of 18 and 55+ Groups are hosted for our seniors and Elders. Family Nights are very successful in which we have had roughly 53 families participate in at least one activity in the 2022/2023 year.

ANISHINAABE KWE

Family Well-Being loves to plan and host events for the BNA members. Looking back on the 2022/2023 year they have hosted some extravagant events. The 3rd Annual Women's Event was held at the Delta Marriot Hotel, where the Anishinaabe Kwe were honoured. Thunder and Light Entertainment and Mackinley's Delusions had everyone entertained and amazed with music and a magic show. The mothers, aunties, sisters, daughters, and grandmothers enjoyed a fun filled evening.

In 2023/2024, Family Well-Being will be hosting the 4th Annual Anishinaabe Kwe event.

SCHOOL'S OUT SUMMER BASH

Each year FWB appreciates the dedication and hard work that the students have made throughout their school year by hosting a Schools Out Summer Bash. In 22/23, FWB had Fun-Tastic Castles, Epic Cones, our Hilly Billy Slip and Slide and our DJ Chris Sugarman Barstow there to help celebrate. It was a great way to end the school year and say hello to summer.

SUMMER CAMPS

Over the 2022 summer, Family Well-Being hosted two summer camps. The 3rd annual Youth Camp out on the land lasted four and a half days with 10 youth ages 12-24 hosted on the traditional lands of Sand Point First Nation. This three-night, four-and-a-half-day event provided some much-needed time on The Land together. The young members were able to create lasting memories with each other and the traditional lands BNA once occupied as a nation. They swam on the beach with Family Well-Being's inflatable unicorn Sally, played bonfire and lawn games, paddle boarded, went fishing on a commercial size boat where they barbequed their catch, learned to fillet trout, and jumped and swam off the boat into the warm waters of the river that enters Lake Nipigon. The youth were educated on the land, themselves, our staff members, and their community. Youth Camp provided them with a connection to the land and to each other.

The 2022 summer 3rd Annual Family Camp was also a success within the community. Fifteen families participated in the camping experience on the traditional lands. The week included activities such as fishing, swimming, tie-dying, paddle boarding, fireworks, and an outdoor movie. It was vital to see all the children connecting with one another, exploring, and connecting to the land. In the summer of 2023, Family Well-Being will be hosting the Annual Youth Camp and Annual Family Camp again.



Photo by Lindsey Gladu
2022 Family Camp on Lake Nipigon

BNA POWWOW

In September 2022, Family Well-Being hosted BNA's first powwow at the Grandview Rd property, where the new tipi was unveiled to the community. A fire-keeper, George, was excellent in being able to practice hosting a social fire within the tipi, allowing our BNA members to experience the teachings by a Knowledge holder. Throughout the day, there were close to 200 people in attendance. Chief and Council and our Elders led the Grand Opening. There were two drum hosts, over thirty dancers in regalia and common clothing, and many vendors involved.

Family Well-Being plans to host another powwow in 2023/2024.

HALLOWEEN HOUSE

In 2022/2023, Family Well-Being transformed the house on the Grandview property into a house of Curiosities and Oddities. Families came in one by one to explore the house, hoping that they would eventually be able to find their way out. They were greeted by Miss. Deadly who warned them to keep an eye on her collection. The broken doll, the Siamese twins, the lovely spider, and the voodoo mama who loved to collect shrunken heads.

Family Well-Being will be hosting another Halloween House at the Grandview property in 2023/2024 pending the finalization of the renovations to be completed before October 2023.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2022/2023 Community Christmas Party was filled with Christmas joy and laughter. After two years of virtual gatherings due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Family Well-Being was able to safely host this Christmas Party in-person at the Valhalla Inn. Thunder and Light Entertainment provided lights, bubbles, and music to enjoy throughout the evening and Robyn Fraser from Balloon Stylings transformed the space into a beautiful Christmas wonderland. Santa provided the children with gifts for the season. Patrick Chondon from Chondon Photography was there to capture so many amazing moments and offered family portraits for all families. It was a great day for the community to come together and celebrate once again.

Family Well-Being will be hosting a Community Christmas Party in December of 2023.



Photo by Chondon Photography
Community Christmas Party, 2022

ICE FISHING EVENT

The 3rd annual Ice Fishing Event was held at Sand Point on March 4th, 2023, where families and youth ages 3 to 22 participated in teaching and learning how to Ice Fish. Tents, rods, and bait were supplied to those who did not have their own. Meals were provided by Bon Appetit Beardmore, staff helped where needed by drilling the ice holes, and a fire was provided on the beach. Prizes were given to those for biggest fish caught, the most fish caught, and a sunken prize category for child, youth, and adults. Providing cultural practices on the traditional lands of Sand Point is essential to Family Well-Being for the members who reside on the land as well as those who can travel to the land and participate. The 4th Annual Ice Fishing event will be held in the Spring of 2024.



Photo by Jake Alfieri
3rd Annual Ice Fishing Event, Sand Point FN

FOOD SECURITY

At each program, event, or gathering Family Well Being always ensures that a healthy nutritious meal was being offered. Over the 2022/2023 year, FWB provided 148 meals, in which 3,450 members were served. The Child and Youth Workers hosted Junior's cooking classes where 9 of our Juniors created some delicious meals and gained new skills for in the kitchen. Virtual Kitchens were hosted online for all members to enjoy and learn with close to 40 families joining in to cook with us. Out of those 40 families, 7 families resided out of the Thunder Bay area and across Canada. Beginning in early 2023, Family Well Being partnered up with The Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre to be begin a Good Food Box program for members who reside in Thunder Bay and in the surrounding area. From January 2023 – April 2023, 163 Good Food Boxes were distributed to over 45 families in Thunder Bay and the surrounding area.

In 2022/2023, Family Well-Being will be continuing the Good Food Box program following the success of the previous fiscal year.

TRANSPORTATION

In 2018, Family Well Being was able to secure funding to purchase a 15-seater van to assist in transporting members to and from programming. In the 2022/2023 year, close to 1000 rides were provided for members coming to and from programming. It is vital to eliminate any barriers a family may feel when trying to attend programs, especially when programs are hosted on the property on Grandview Road which does not have bus line access. FWB strives to ensure there is always transportation offered for our programming and will continue to ensure transportation is provided in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Health & Wellness

The BNA's Health team works to offer holistic and inclusive mental and physical supports to members of all ages. With COVID-19 infection numbers slowly receding and provincial restrictions lifting we were able to return to in person activities and allow a reduction in strictly virtual programs.

PROGRAM SUPPORTS

The Health and Wellness programs operating through Adult Wellness and 55+ programming have brought membership energizing and engaging activities through a variety of venues and projects in house and out in the community with local vendors and events including bowling, cross country skiing, trivia, bingo, pottery, games nights, paint nights, in house; in theatre and on-stage movies, plays and comedy shows, and natural healing salve, and beeswax candle making. The teams made certain to also keep tummies full and minds alert with warm nutritious meals and snacks provided with all programs and activities for all participants.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE COORDINATION

The BNA Health team has worked diligently to ensure that both mental and physical health supports have been accessible and connected to the membership through intake and outreach virtually and in person. We have worked successfully in cooperation with many community health organizations to ensure access to health care and providers, foot care, funding assistance, food security, mental health and grief healing services, COVID care supports and PPE, and emergency housing needs.

We have happily serviced over 45 members directly with various in-person outreach; visits and calls; health care access supports; equipment; and health related referrals in the city, on reserve, and out of town as appropriate.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM INITIATION

In 2022, the unfortunate closure of the Greenstone Paramedic center occurred, leaving the First Nation communities along the Highway 11 corridor without local and prompt emergency services. Thankfully a proposal to establish the Community Paramedic Program (CPP) was brought forward to BNA, AZA, BZA and Beardmore residents.

The CP program brings paramedics on shifts for day-to-day outreach, symptom and health monitoring, remote connected communications between registered clients health care providers, referrals and related client specific health supports for those who are referred and enrolled in the Community Paramedic program. The paramedics on shift will have a medical ambulance type vehicle equipped with live-saving equipment and supplies enabling them to be the first response and emergency service to the community members along the Highway 11 corridor. Although the CPP vehicle will not have the capacity to transport a patient to hospital the program works in collaboration with the allied local emergency ambulance services from Geraldton or Nipigon for any 911 emergency transportation needs.

Through March of 2023 the affiliated Communities were able to establish parameters and a plan alongside the Thunder Bay Paramedic center, a designated Doctor, and the Beardmore Health Clinic Nurse Practitioner to come up with a strategic service plan to ensure the program would run smoothly with the multiple community's best interests. By the middle of March 2023, the move to initiate the hiring process had begun and further planning and roll out was anticipated in the following months.

Regular touch-in meetings and discussions between all parties involved, continue, with an engagement session to be planned with Chief and Council and subsequently at Sand Point to further educate membership about all that the Community Paramedic Program provides.

FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

In 2022/2023, the Family Representative Program has assisted 19 families with prevention and child protection matters. This program has been able to advocate for children, youth, and families while navigating the child welfare system. Through the program, community link referrals have been established to avoid the opening of child welfare files and provide prevention services to mitigate risk for child protection concerns.

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE PROGRAM

In 2022/2023, the Jordan's Principle Program assisted 33 individuals with applications for assistance ranging from tutoring to clothing to food security to mental health services. Many families and individuals attended programming planned or co-planned by Jordan's Principle to strengthen the connection between families and community.



Photo by Jake Alfieri
BNA Powwow, 2022

PAPASAY



Photo by Jake Alfieri
Papasay Sawmill, 2023

Papasay Annual Report: 2022/23

The 2022/23 Fiscal Year continued to be a busy year for Papasay. As BNA's wholly owned Economic Development entity, Papasay is responsible for the business and partnerships that ultimately benefit the membership through the creation of own-source revenues, employment, and contracting opportunities. Papasay has several entities, which are laid out below.

PAPASAY MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PMC)

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

- Guy Gladu, *President*
- Linda Britt, *Vice-President*
- Jordan Hatton, *Treasurer*
- Mike Michon, *Secretary*
- Joe Ladouceur Jr.

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

- **Papasay Aggregate Pit Permit:** PMC has a permitted pit located 3km north of the community road entrance, which was permitted to the corporation in 2016. Through BNA, PMC had Tera North crush 20,000 tonnes of Granular A, and 10,000 tonnes of Granular B2. In 2022, as per PMC's "TOARC" report, we utilized 1,977 tonnes of material on BNA on-reserve projects. No sales were made to entities or projects off-reserve.
- **Blue Lake:** PMC owns the Blue Lake property, located just outside Jellicoe. PMC pays yearly property taxes on this property to the Municipality of Greenstone. No work was carried out on this property in 2022/23.
- **Big Virgin Island:** In 2022, PMC purchased Big Virgin Island for \$325,000, which it received from BNA. No work was carried out on this Property in 2022/23 fiscal year.



Vince Mirabelli REMAX footage
Big Virgin Island, 2018

PAPASAY MANAGEMENT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (PMLP)

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



PMLP has several pieces of equipment that it utilized in the 2022/23 fiscal year. Set rates are charged out for 3rd party uses. Currently, Tom Rentz Contracting utilizes our equipment and Papasay adds a percentage on to the rental.



Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc.

(1/4 shareholder)

LNFM Board met quarterly during 2022/23 fiscal year. LNFM is responsible for managing the Lake Nipigon Forest activities. It is a partnership between the 4 First Nation's on the east side of Lake Nipigon. PMLP received dividends of \$80,000 for the 2022/23 fiscal year.

3-Nations Recourses LP

(1/3rd shareholder)

3-Nations was created by BNA, BZA and RRIB to manage the partnerships involved in regional mining developments. No revenues have been made through this entity in the 2022/23 fiscal year.



(51% shareholder)

PMLP is the majority shareholder in the Papasay Bee-Clean partnership. No revenues were made through this entity in the 2022/23 fiscal year.



(51% shareholder)

PMLP is the majority shareholder in the PTK partnership. No revenues were made through this entity in the 2022/23 fiscal year.



PMLP receives revenues from work that TBT undertakes for various entities in the territory. PMLP did receive some revenues in the 2022/23 fiscal year for work TBT did on the Rock Tech property.

PAPASAY VALUE-ADDED WOOD PRODUCTS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (PVAWP LP)

PVAWP is Papasay's most active entity, as it runs the Papasay Sawmill. The Sawmill was opened in 2017, and currently has two (2) employees who run the operation. Sales are made to BNA, individual customers, and various forestry, mining and other companies throughout the region and beyond.

In 2022/23 fiscal year, BNA was approved for funding for the expansion of the PVAWP Sawmill, including \$1 million from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and \$1.7 million from FedNor. The FedNor announcement was made by Minister Patty Hajdu at an event at the Sawmill in the fall of 2022.



Chief Paul Gladu, Minister Patty Hajdu, Councillor Tracy Gibson
FedNor Announcement, 2022

In 2022, PVAWP installed its Baker Sawline, quadrupling its production from 2,000 board feet/day to 8,000 board feet per/day. PVAWP also built its kiln chamber, and had it connected to the biomass unit. PVAWP spent much of 2022/23 fiscal year building up inventory for future housing units. This lumber will need to be dried and planed/moulded for use in structural building.



Baker Sawline
Papasay, 2023

FINANCIAL REPORTS



Photo by Jake Allert
Anishinaabe Kwe, 2023

A Message From Finance

“I want to take this opportunity to provide an update on the past year as well as inform membership of our next project in the Finance Department.

The most challenging part of 2022/2023 was the turnover of the Director of Finance. First, it was the departure of Angela Maltese in March 2022 just as we were approaching the year end. This left Kelly Hicks to assume the leadership role and together we tried to get the year end done. Unfortunately, this proved to be extremely difficult and time consuming for only two Finance Officers. C&C supported our request to hire another Finance Officer, Sandra Roshan. Having to train new staff, maintain the daily workload, working with FMB (Financial Management Board) and the FAL (Financial Administration Law) and trying to meet the year-end deadline proved to be too much.

Upon Kelly’s departure in October 2022, we hired Linda Baca, CPA and she came on board as a freelance accountant who worked closely with MNP and me. The year end was completed and MNP was able to present the Financial Statement to the membership in January 2023.

Being that I had been with BNA since September 2019, C&C approached me to be Director of Finance. After much consideration, I accepted the position. Knowing that Linda Baca was working with us temporarily, I requested that we hire a part-time Finance Officer, Rachel Stenlund which C&C immediately supported. Rachel formerly worked with Fort William First Nation and her knowledge, experience, and wonderful personality has been a great addition to our finance team. Thereafter, Michelle Donio-King, our summer student, returned to a full-time position of Assistant Finance Officer. We also hired another part-time Finance Officer, Kerry Goodwin. She worked on a three-month special project, gathering & creating the Asset Management portfolio. Kerry has agreed to be available to cover summer holidays and work whenever the workload deems it necessary.

I’m extremely excited and fortunate to be working with this finance team. Together, we have revamped processes, undertaken specific tasks and responsibilities and we worked diligently with our primary focus being the 2022/2023 year-end preparations to be completed for MNP for mid-June. The auditor, MNP has committed to deliver our Financial Statements for July 29, 2023. Our members have helped us get more streamlined by sending us your banking information, and all payment transactions going forward will be processed via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If you haven’t already done so, please provide us with your banking details by reaching out to Louise Esquega (email: lesquega@bnafn.ca). In addition, whenever a member experiences a change (relocate, phone number, banking etc.) We urge our membership to always update your contact and banking information with BNA so that all correspondence and payments can be received by you.

The next project on the horizon is extremely important and must be a priority. Our server is more than fifteen years old and our service provider, TBXI, urges us to upgrade our system as we are operating on borrowed time. This is a big undertaking and one that requires a consultant. With so many options available, it’s in BNA’s best interest to have a consultant assess our needs and recommend to us a long-term solution that will be beneficial, user friendly, and economical to operate. Finance is a vital part of rebuilding the community; hence, upgrading its operating system would be a sound investment.

In addition to the above, BNA’s officers (directors & managers) will be working closely with C&C, Laura Airns ,and FMB to prepare BNA for certification. We must revise, update, and create mandatory policies (Financial, Risk Management, Human Resources, etc) as well as create and submit monthly, quarterly, and annual reports required for the FAL.

In closing, I leave you with a quote from Henry Ford: Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Hélène Demers, Director of Finance

FINANCIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) has continued to work alongside with Finance and Chief and Council. The FAC completed their Terms of Reference (TOR), which details the scope, responsibilities, and role of the Committee. The FAC meets quarterly to review BNA financial's to ensure that BNA is being fiscally responsible and accountable to the BNA membership. Having a Finance and Audit Committee is a requirement of the Financial Administration Law but it also helps to protect BNA and helps facilitate transparency to membership.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BNA has completed the Annual Financial Statements for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year. If you are a band member and wish to receive a digital or paper copy of these financial statements, please contact Communications Coordinator Jake Alfieri at jalfieri@bnafn.ca or by phone at 1 (807) 623-2724 ext. 208.





Photo by Jake Alfieri
BNA Powwow, 2023



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

© Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, July 2023

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