



Bingwi Neyaashi
Anishinaabek

AUTUMN 2023 NEWSLETTER



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A Message From Chief & Council



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Boozhoo fellow BNA Members,

We hope this message finds you well. As we transition into the fall season, Council would like to take this moment to update you on the recent developments and progress within our community.

Since the release of BNA’s Annual Report, several significant events have taken place. The rapid growth and positive change within our community is astounding, thanks to the collective efforts of our dedicated team and support of BNA’s members. Council is grateful for everyone’s contributions.

BNA’s growth is noticeable through the construction of new housing units on our land and the addition of new staff to our team both on the land and at our satellite offices. These developments signify our commitment to improving the quality of life for you, the members, and ensuring sustainable growth for future generations. The dedication and hard work of the BNA team has been instrumental in moving BNA forward at this rapid pace.

The financial audit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year has been successfully completed. The details of the audit were presented to BNA members during our Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was held in August on our land. This transparency is an essential part of our commitment to accountability and ensuring that our community members are informed about the financial health and sustainability of our nation.

The major upgrades to our main road into the community are now complete for this phase of the project. The main road serves as an important route for our community, connecting us to essential services and enabling smoother transportation for all members. The road is now better equipped to withstand the harshness of our changing seasons, providing longevity and resilience.

Our next community meeting is tentatively scheduled for late November. Updates on recent projects and partnerships will be provided during this meeting. Your participation and input are invaluable, and we value the diverse ideas and insights that you, our members, bring to the table. The meeting will be live streamed, allowing members unable to attend in person to join the meeting virtually.

Your voices, opinions and feedback are essential as we shape the future of our community together. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more positive updates with you in the new year.

Have a joyful holiday season, a very merry Christmas, and a happy new year!

Miigwetch,

Chief and Council

Finance

Well, it’s that time of the year again when “The Finance Department” must provide another update.

What can I say Chief and Council are working diligently for its members. As a result of this leadership, my peers, Camille, Jordan, and Art (and their teams) have been busy securing funding for multiple projects and programs for the wellbeing and continued growth of this First Nation Community. Hence, their hard work and dedication to you, our members, keep the Finance Department extremely busy.

To handle this growth, it’s understandable capacity will change and as a result we have had a turnover in staff ... some roles changed, some left us and others joined us. At this time, I would like to welcome ALL new staff to BNA, and we look forward to working with our new team members.

The administration and finance workload increases with exponential development. To support C&C, Members and Directors, this department handles an unprecedented volume of documents. To streamline workload and prioritize payments, a color code process was implemented to ensure that payments to members are paid within 10 days from the initial request date. Why 10 days you ask? An Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) / Direct Deposit (DD) is like a cheque and because we are withdrawing funds directly from the bank to disburse to a member, per BNA’s Finance Policy, the request must be signed by two authorized signing officers (C&C) prior to release. To maintain the daily workflow, EFT/DD’s are generated every Thursday. To expedite payment to a member, I am requesting that you (if you haven’t already done so), reach out to Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator, and she will relay your banking information to the Finance Department.

The Annual General Meeting was held August 26th, 2023, on the Land and MNP, our auditor, presented our financial position for the Fiscal Year 2022-23. The final audit should be available in the near future. While I know, some may be thinking that the audit should have been completed by end of July as in the past, but BNA had turn-over with its Finance Directors that slowed us down. I commend the Finance Team and MNP for having worked so diligently to try and meet the deadline. Unfortunately, we fell short this year; hence, the obvious conclusion and goal is to do better in the future.

To achieve our goal, BNA recruited a new Finance Director whose primary role will be to work with C&C and Directors on long term planning, cost analysis, review and provide new and improved processes and procedures. To review our IT requirement and build

networks and relationships with our funders and partners.

My role and title will change. Thus, I will work more closely with the Directors and their numerous budgets. We are a small First Nation growing in leaps and bounds with so many funded projects to secure and monitor. Truth be told, this is the finance piece that must be improved. Increasing the capacity of this department will enable us to better meet all future deadlines such as: reporting to C&C, Papasay Board and various Government entities such as: ISC, FMB, FAL, IFN, OFNLP, etc and of course, to our members with the year end audit.

Veillez noter que ma langue maternelle est le français. Alors à tous nos membres francophones, n’hésitez pas à me contacter personnellement. Je ferai de mon mieux pour vous aider.

As usual, I end my update with a quote related to the above:
“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure”.

- Hélène Demers, Director of Finance



Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) Update

The FAC has been working closely with Council and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's (BNA) administration. BNA places a strong emphasis on financial transparency and accountability, as well as making preparations to achieve certification through the Financial Management Board (FMB). Here is a few key items that the FAC and administration has been working on:

1. Audit Review and Approval: The FAC is actively involved in the audit review process. They had the opportunity to sit down with MNP and thoroughly review the 2022/2023 audit. This process allowed them to ask questions and provide suggestions for the next year's audit. The audit was subsequently recommended for approval by Chief and Council, and it was approved. This process enhances transparency and ensures financial accountability.

2. Transparency to Membership: BNA is committed to providing transparency to its membership. The 2022/2023 Audit was presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in August. Members who wish to receive a copy of the audit can connect with Jake Alfieri, whose email address is jalfieri@bnafn.ca.

3. Financial Administration Law (FAL) Update: As BNA moves closer to certification through the FMB, we are working on updating our Financial Administration Law (FAL). This updated FAL is necessary to approve amendments from the previous FAL and repeal the 2020 version, ensuring that our financial practices are in compliance with current standards.

4. Preparation for Certification: BNA is actively working with the Financial Management Board (FMB) to prepare for certification. This involves reviewing key policies, including Human Resources Policy, Information Management Policy, and Finance Policy, to ensure they align with the requirements for certification.

The FAC's actions reflect a strong commitment to sound financial governance and a dedication to ensuring that BNA is well-prepared for certification. The FAC and BNA leadership are working together to ensure financial responsibility and transparency for the benefit of the BNA membership. In the next couple of months, the FAC, along with Council and BNA administration, will be working on completing the planning process for the next fiscal year. This includes budgeting for next fiscal and completing BNA's multi-year financial plan.

- Laura Airns, Chief Executive Officer



Members Christmas Party

When?

Saturday,
December 2nd 2023

Where?

Victoria Inn,
Thunder Bay

Who?

Santa and his elves

More information to come at a
later date

Please ensure BNA has your banking
information and correct address on file.

Governance

Summer Students

Boozhoo my fellow band members. This has been a fabulous summer. As the Governance Coordinator, I had the pleasure of being successful in obtaining funding from Canada Summer Jobs and First Nations and Inuit Yes Employment Strategies.



This year our five summer students included the following youth: Robert Calder-Sawatzky, Devon Siver, Blake Esquega, Jack Smith, and Malachi Johnston. These funded programs are the Government's commitment to helping youth who are between the ages of 15 and 30 years of age. These five youth gained skills, abilities and experiences they will need to passage into their future careers.



Wills and Estates

We had a presentation on Estates and Wills in June 2023 at the Prince Arthur Hotel. This informative presentation was a collaboration between Lucas Jewitt (on the right) of Edwards Bell Jewitt LLP and Brenda Belmore (on the left) of First Nations Land Management Resource Center. Topics included Estate Planning, and what is Wills, Power of Attorneys, Power of Personal Care and how these may be affected under our Land Code. It was through this informative presentation that many band members have signed up for the next potential funding for members to get Free Wills and Power of Attorney. We will keep you up to date on this.



Cemetery Draft Policy

I am working on the DRAFT Cemetery Policy; this is an important and complex project with many factors to look at and research into before this is closer to completion. To date, a new cemetery area has been mapped by using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). We also had an opportunity to send an underwater drone which was in collaborating with Lisa Sonnenburg and Megan Hindman. Once we are satisfied with the valuable data and research for BNA's Draft Cemetery Policy, it will be reviewed by Council and available to our membership.

- Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator

Economic Development

Economic Development Officer of the Year: Jordan Hatton

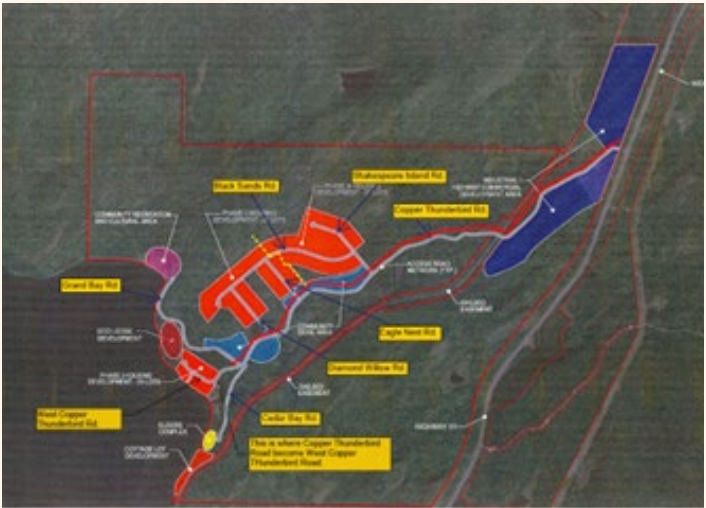
This Fall, Jordan Hatton was awarded the Economic Development Officer of the Year Award. This award is given to an outstanding Indigenous Economic Development Officer in Ontario. It rewards excellence within the context of social and economic contribution to First Nation communities and its people based on: extent of their economic impacts on the community; business skills, leadership, and innovation; involvement at the local, regional, and provincial level; and positive impacts on other practitioners in economic development. Thank you, Jordan, for all the hard work and dedication you have given to the community and its members for over 10 years with Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek.

Congratulations Jordan for this prestigious award!



BNA Land Code Re-Ratification

BNA first ratified its Land Code in March of 2014. This removed the community from 25% of the Indian Act in which all those sections related to the management of reserve lands. However, this version of the Land Code had many obstacles and challenging sections that were making its implementation difficult for the administration. Some of these included a high quorum for meetings of members voting on land laws, an "elected" lands committee rather than an appointed committee, and other items that have limited our ability to take over appropriate management of the reserve land base.



For nearly a year now, an Interim Lands Committee, made up of five (5) BNA members – Marcel Donio, Carey Calder, Leroy Clarke, Gloria Deans and John McCollum – have been working with the Lands Advisory Board on amending the BNA Land Code, and aligning it closer with the "Model" Land Code which has been perfected by communities in BC. This will see the BNA Land Code streamlined, and taking many of the prescriptive sections out and putting them into policies that can more easily be amended as required. The work of the committee is now largely complete. BNA would like to thank their hard work and dedication to this process.

Next Steps: BNA is working with the First Nation Market Housing Fund to have a lawyer, Holly Vear, review the newly amended BNA Land Code, and ensure it is ready for re-ratification. BNA will be presenting the new Land Code to the BNA community membership at our next Community Meeting, likely at the end of November. We will then proceed with the re-ratification process and look to have our New Land code in place in 2024.

Papasay

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark blue t-shirt and a high-visibility yellow and orange safety vest, is gesturing with his hands while speaking to a woman. The woman, seen from the back, has long dark hair and is also wearing a high-visibility safety vest. They are in a workshop or construction site with wooden framing and plastic sheeting in the background.

BNA and Papasay continue to work at the expansion of their Sawmill. However, we have come to a difficult reality: another building is required for our expansion. The new value-added planer/moulder line is too large for our existing building. There are challenges with expanding the footprint of the existing building, and there the operation may require additional space requirements in the future.

BNA, through Papasay, owns two pieces of property in the Greenstone region. Firstly, “Blue Lake” was purchased by BNA over a decade ago. This property is just outside of Jellicoe and could provide significant opportunities for lodging for the Greenstone Gold

With funding support from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), BNA launched its Commercial Zone Study this year. Working with TBT engineering on site design, business planning and costing, the community is looking at developing the reserve land at the furthest northern portion along the highway. BNA is looking at partnering with 3rd parties for the building of a gas station, restaurant, hotel and conference center, and a helipad. This would provide opportunities for both employment and revenue generation, as well as fill in niche voids, like a place to get a meal and accommodations for workers operating on projects throughout the region.



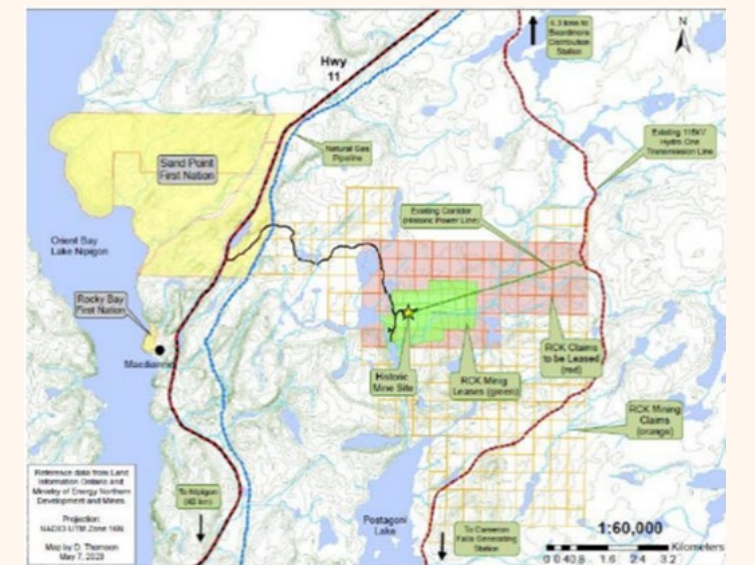
A gravel road curves through a forest with trees showing autumn foliage. The road is made of dark gravel and has visible tire tracks. The surrounding forest is dense with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange. The sky is overcast and grey.

The 2023 BNA roads project was the most significant roads project ever undertaken by the community. We will now have a safe and stable road entrance going forward. However, we will need to prevent heavy vehicle traffic from entering BNA during the spring thaw in order to protect these new roads. Signs will be erected, and BNA will be enforcing this next year.

There has been an explosion of mineral exploration activity on the east side of Lake Nipigon. The largest players have been lithium companies, which are positioning to take advantage of the federal and provincial critical minerals strategy, and transition to battery vehicles.

However, BNA is speaking with other companies as well that are operating in the region. MOUs have been signed with most of these entities, with Exploration Agreements at various stages of negotiations:

- BNA works incredibly closely with our neighbouring First Nation communities – BZA, AZA and RRIB – and meet with proponents collectively.



Regional Biomass Project

Through Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (LNFMI), a regional biomass plant is slowly coming to fruition. LNFMI CEO Scot Rubin has presented this opportunity to the BNA membership on a few occasions, most recently at the community’s August 26th meeting on the land. The plan is to construct a biogas facility in Hurkett, with easy access to the Hwy, power and the Trans Canada pipeline. Underutilized forest resources will be brought to the facility, gasified, and pumped into the pipeline as clean, renewable fuel. The remaining product will be shipped to the steal plants in southern Ontario to supplement coal production. LNFMI is working with CHAR on this initiative.

This plant will have multiple benefits for BNA and its neighbouring First Nation communities, including:

- Employment opportunities for members – both in the forest and at the plant
- Revenue generation for the First Nations
- Being part of a “scalable” project – the next site could be located on First Nation lands
- Cleaning up the forest, and preventing the burning of brush piles
- Becoming a part of the clean energy revolution, and assisting with the Climate Crisis



Monthly Tenant Meetings

BNA has commenced monthly “Tenant Meetings” for those residing on the land. Staff have been traveling down to hold these meetings and listen to the concerns of members so that they can be addressed in a more timely and streamlined way.

Many of the issues that have arisen are around community safety. Matters including:

- Drivers speeding through the community
- Non-member trespassers entering BNA
- Drinking and driving on-reserve
- The lack of a BNA Emergency Management Plan for the reserve
- Road safety issues and dust from developments



BNA is attempting to address the concerns of residents. This includes putting up signage for speeding and trespassing, addressing problem or illegal activities, and working with Nokiiwin on the development of an Emergency Management Plan. The completion of the road work will also go a long way in addressing some of these concerns, as well as the dust issues.

BNA Council and Staff take the concerns of members residing on the land seriously. They are the pioneers of the community, and communication with tenants is key. We will continue to do our best in this regard.



Community Energy Coordinator

Hello and Happy fall from BNA's Community Energy Coordinator. Below is the list of energy projects we have been working on.

Transmission Line Projects

All transmission line projects within the community have been completed (Copper Thunderbird, Middle Beach, Phase 4 housing Area, and Phase 1 Housing Loop). We are now working with the Indigenous Services representative from Hydro One to communicate when they will take over the transmission lines.



District Biomass Heating System Project

BNA has been working with TBT Engineering to complete the design to prepare for the construction proposal for the District Biomass Heating project. We have sent in a proposal to the provincial Forest Biomass Program to complete the geo technical and Feasibility Study. This portion of the project to begin in the fall if approved. We are currently waiting to hear back from Study for a District Biomass project for the community. 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.



Food Sovereignty Sea-Can

BNA has recently been successful in receiving funding for installation of a Sea-Can to clean and store traditional food such as moose meat, fish, etc. Equipment inside the Sea-Can will consist of folding tables, tabletop ice machines, shelving, smoker, vacuum sealing bags. The installation of the Sea-Can has an expected completion date of March 31st, 2024.



Housing & Infrastructure

BNA Maintenance Worker

BNA has hired a maintenance worker for the community in which he will be working with public works and housing departments. For housing items and deficiencies, BNA will determine if the work is warranty or non warranty. If the work is considered warranty, BNA will contact the contractor. If it is considered non warranty, the maintenance worker will address the items/deficiencies. Also, if the work can not be completed by the maintenance worker, and it is not a warranty item, BNA housing will coordinate and schedule to have a separate contractor assist with the work. The housing department will also be discussing when the tenant can directly contact the maintenance worker without contacting the housing department for immediate repairs (deficiencies) or other relevant needs.



Housing Policy

We are currently updating the housing policy and it is predicted to be completed before the years end. The changes will reflect the experiences in the housing program and administrative department. Some of the changes include: separating the rental application for rent to own and rental units, change wording in the rental agreements, and adding a new section to housing policy on BNA's build your own home program. (This program is under the First Nation Market Housing Fund Housing Loan Program and offered by BMO Bank of Montreal. More details will be made as we move forward).

Renewal of Rental Agreements

We have almost completed the annual rental renewal agreements for all rent to own and rental units. All tenants will receive a copy of their renewed rental agreements and BNA housing will keep all original documents on file. We strongly recommend each tenant review their rental agreements. These renewal rental agreements provide information to BNA housing department such as who is living in the unit, rental rates, and maintenance matters.

Unit Condition Report

We have completed the annual unit condition reports for all rent to own and rental units. These reports provide information on the condition of the unit. When deficiencies are identified, it will be determined if it is warranty or non warranty and will be forwarded to the contractor or BNA maintenance worker who will then address the deficiencies.

Family Well-Being Program

FWB is working with TBT Engineering to complete a Class D estimate to secure further funding for the renovation and design of the old school building. It is anticipated it will take one year to complete the renovation of the building. Once completed, FWB will have additional office spaces and specific program rooms.

Not only will FWB use the newly renovated building, BNA FN will also use the space for community gatherings such as pow wows, community activities, and general meetings. The footprint of the building will not increase but additional rooms will be added on the main floor as well in the basement. Also, recently, the Family Well-Being department was granted access to the middle beach on BNA land and plan to develop the ability to host programming on the land all year round.



| Housing & Infrastructure

Immediate Needs Lot Development

Certainly, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is making significant strides in their community's development with the initiation of the lot development project. This venture, encompassing the meticulous preparations of twenty (20) lots located along Grand Bay Road, Diamond Willow Road, and Cedar Bay Road, marks a pivotal step towards enhancing residential infrastructure. The project, which commenced in September 2023, includes essential tasks such as site clearing, ditching, hydro connection, and the construction of driveways and culverts. These lots, strategically situated in zones R1, R1.5, and R4, are being meticulously cleared and grubbed to pave the way for the construction of future single-family residential dwellings. This initiative aligns seamlessly with BNA's vision for community growth and prosperity, creating spaces where families can build their homes and establish roots. By ensuring that these lots are ready for residential construction by the end of 2023, BNA is not only meeting the immediate housing needs of its residents but also fostering a vibrant, sustainable future for the community. This endeavor underscores BNA's commitment to providing high-quality living spaces while preserving the natural beauty and integrity of their surroundings.



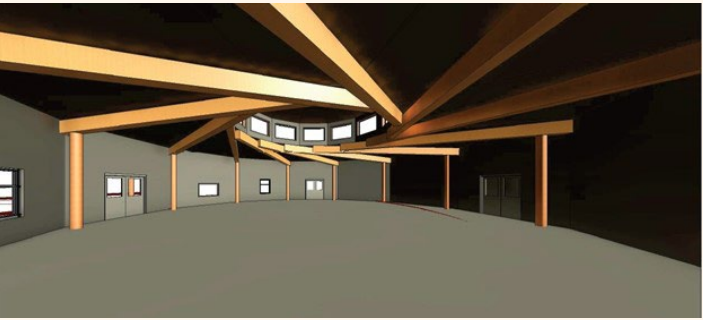
911 Emergency Mitigation & Mapping

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek submitted an application to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in the fall of 2023 for traffic and street signs in the community which was approved in the late summer of 2023. The 911 Emergency Mitigation and Mapping program will provide traffic signage, street signs and lot markers for the community to promote traffic safety and awareness as a preventative and proactive means of community safety. The street signs and lot markers will provide directional information to emergency service vehicles and responders when entering the community.



Roundhouse

Certainly, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) embarks on a culturally rich and meaningful endeavor in the design of a Roundhouse, guided by the wisdom of their Elders and the collective vision of the project team. The Roundhouse, deeply rooted in traditional architecture passed down through generations, is not merely a structure but a symbol of unity, family, and community. The nine sides of the Roundhouse stand as a testament to the interconnectedness of clans and the shared bonds within families, embodying the rich heritage of the people. In the heart of this circular space lies a profound belief: that all that is circular is good, reflecting the harmonious relationship between individuals and their environment. BNA's commitment to preserving and honoring their cultural legacy resonates in every aspect of the design process. From the initial consultation, where ideas are exchanged, to the meticulous craftsmanship in the state-of-the-art facility, every step is infused with reverence for tradition and dedication to creating a space that not only serves a practical purpose but also embodies the spirit and essence of the community. The Roundhouse project stands as a testament to BNA's unwavering commitment to their cultural heritage and the enduring strength of their community bonds.



Waste Transfer Vehicle

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is poised to revolutionize waste management on their lands with the introduction of their new waste transfer vehicle. This waste transfer vehicle, showcased at the Northern Ontario First Nations Environment Conference this year, represents a significant step forward in enhancing waste collection and transfer efficiency within the community. The vehicle, specially designed for the collection and transportation of community solid waste, is a testament to BNA's commitment to improving local infrastructure and environmental sustainability. Scheduled for delivery in October 2023 and set to be operational by November 2023, this waste transfer vehicle will play a vital role in streamlining the waste management process. Its implementation aligns with BNA's dedication to responsible environmental practices and signifies a proactive approach toward managing municipal expenses effectively. By investing in this advanced technology, BNA reaffirms its commitment to the well-being of the community, ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable environment for all residents.



Waste Transfer Station Design

In collaboration with Indigenous Service Canada (ISC), Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) envisions a state-of-the-art waste transfer station designed to meet the unique needs of the community and the environment. With the support of Indigenous Service Canada's funding, the transfer station's design focuses on sustainable practices, environmental conservation, and community engagement. The facility will be strategically located, considering factors such as easy access for waste disposal vehicles, minimal environmental impact, and proximity to the communities it serves. Special attention will be given to fostering positive relationships with nearby municipalities, ensuring smooth collaboration and mutually beneficial agreements. BNA's waste transfer station will prioritize safety, implementing comprehensive plans for emergency situations and employee well-being.

Moreover, the design will emphasize efficiency, incorporating cutting-edge technology for quick waste processing and maximizing recycling efforts. Transparency and collaboration will be the guiding principles throughout the design process, involving the community and stakeholders to create a facility that not only meets the immediate waste management needs but also stands as a sustainable, community-oriented model for the future. With the dedicated support from Indigenous Service Canada, this project aims to establish a waste transfer station that reflects BNA's commitment to environmental stewardship and community welfare.



Hydrogeological Study

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is proactively addressing their community's water needs through a comprehensive Hydrogeological study. With a focus on understanding the intricate dynamics of groundwater, this study encompasses crucial aspects such as recharge, subsurface flow through aquifers, and interactions between groundwater and the surrounding geological formations. BNA's initiative goes beyond theoretical understanding; it translates into practical applications that are vital for the community's well-being. By engaging in this study, BNA aims to design and construct efficient water wells, not only for drinking water supply but also for irrigation and other essential purposes. Moreover, the study delves into assessing the available water resources sustainably, ensuring that the community's water needs are met without compromising the environment, particularly vital river flows and wetland ecosystems. The study also emphasizes water quality, guaranteeing that the sourced water meets the required standards for its intended use. Additionally, BNA is exploring innovative solutions, including the possibility of communal wells, through rigorous testing programs and expert analyses. By undertaking this Hydrogeological study, BNA demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to securing reliable, clean, and sustainable water sources for their community's future. The study's findings, anticipated to be available by March 31, 2024, will undoubtedly pave the way for informed decision-making and the development of effective water management strategies in the community.

Circular Materials Recycling Program

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is taking a significant step towards environmental sustainability by joining Ontario's Blue Box program, a move that aligns with the community's commitment to responsible waste management. Under this program, BNA recognizes the importance of addressing packaging waste and enhancing recycling efforts. With the support of Circular Materials, BNA is poised to operate within the extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework, emphasizing the need for producers to take charge of end-of-life management for materials like paper and packaging. This initiative signifies a proactive approach, ensuring that the community's recycling needs are met effectively. By participating in the Blue Box program, BNA is not only contributing to improved recycling rates in Ontario but also actively advancing the principles of a circular economy. This transition underscores BNA's dedication to creating a more sustainable future for its residents while minimizing the environmental impact, marking a pivotal moment in the community's environmental stewardship efforts. Through their involvement, BNA is playing a vital role in fostering a recycling system that benefits both the people and the planet, setting a commendable example for responsible waste management practices.



Phase 4 Housing Program – Build Your Own Home

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

of their families. By rolling out this initiative in early 2024, BNA is not just constructing homes; they are constructing a brighter, more secure tomorrow for their community, one that is founded on self-reliance and the dream of homeownership. This program represents a significant step towards fulfilling the housing aspirations of BNA's members, embodying the spirit of self-determination and community-led development.



4 Plex Residential Units

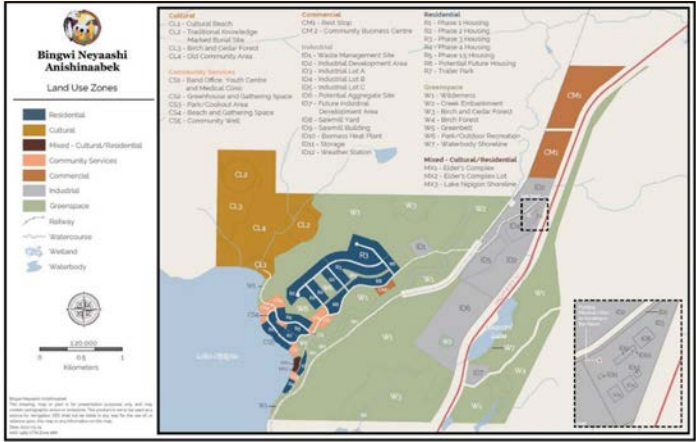
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) has taken a significant stride in community development with the construction of two detached single-story structure comprising of eight dwelling units, all conveniently located on the ground floor with shared or individual entries from Grand Bay Road. This multi-unit building, slated for completion in February 2023, stands as a testament to BNA's commitment to meeting the immediate housing needs of its community members. Securing funding through the On Reserve Housing Immediate Needs Program by Indigenous Services Canada underscores the collaborative efforts to create essential living spaces. These dwellings, strategically designed for short-term accommodations, will serve as a welcoming haven for both community members and workers engaged in land-based activities. By providing comfortable and accessible housing options, BNA not only addresses the housing requirements of its people but also fosters a sense of community and belonging, enhancing the overall quality of life for its residents. This initiative not only represents a practical solution to housing challenges but also exemplifies BNA's dedication to creating inclusive spaces for its community members.



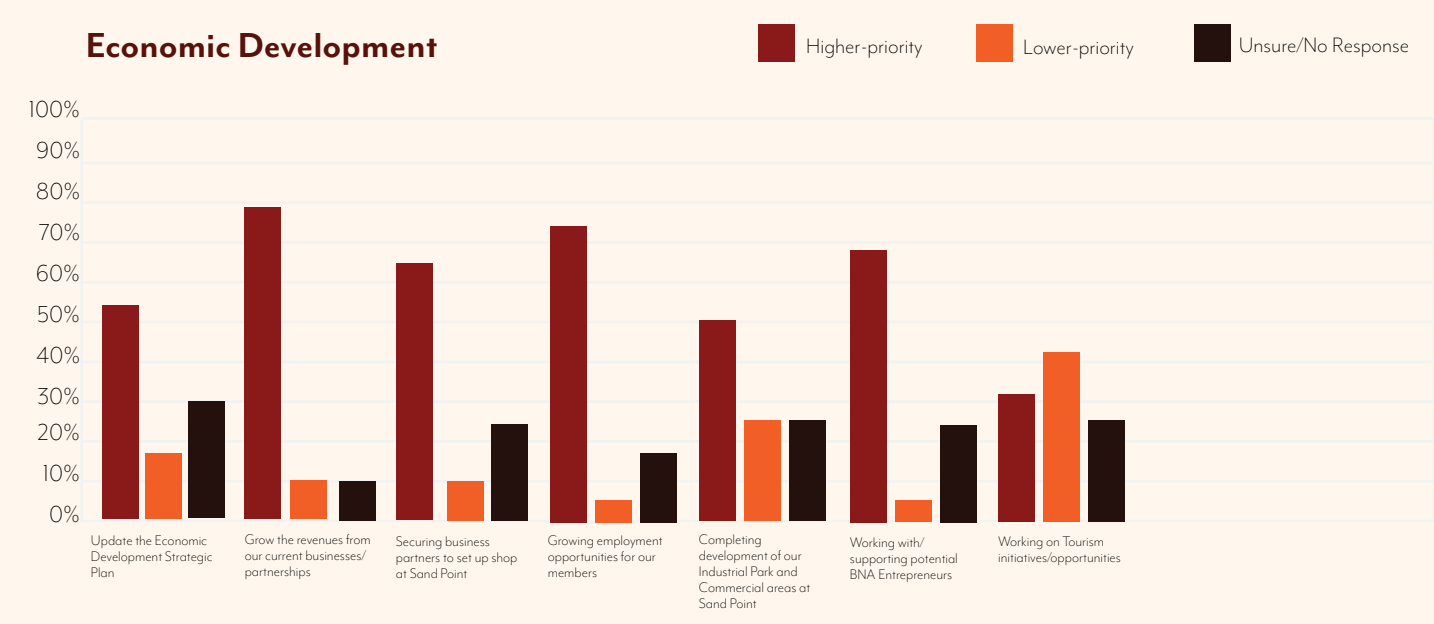
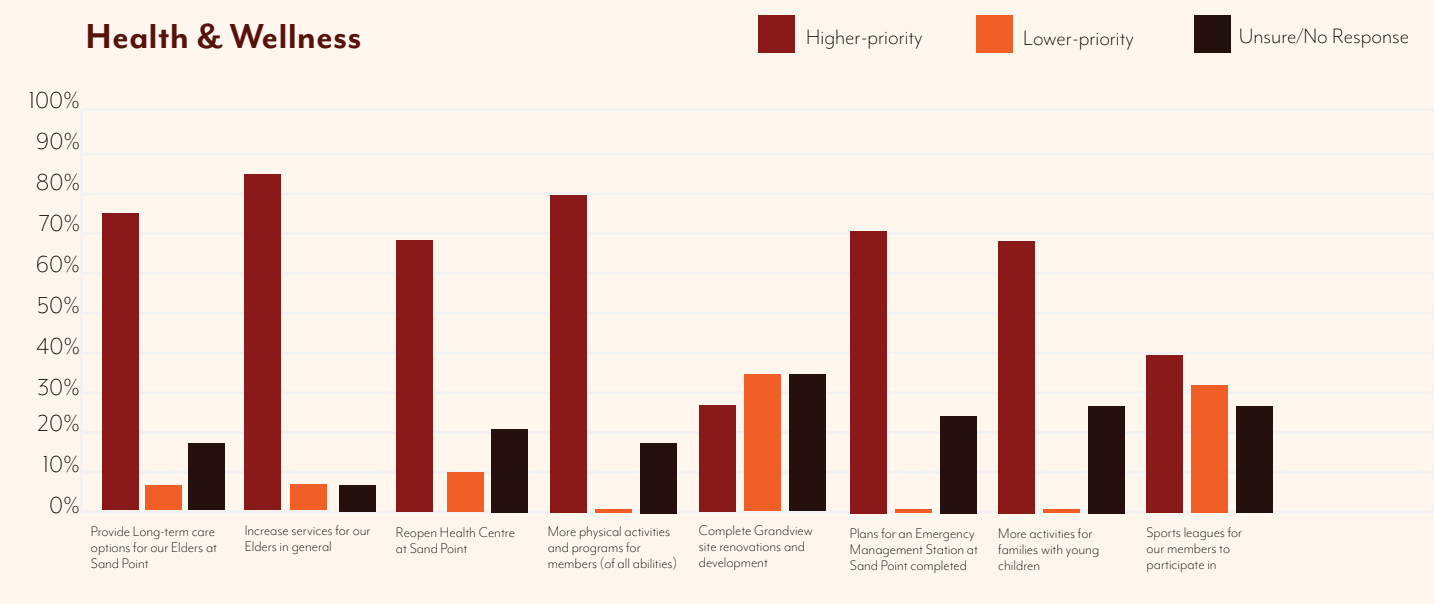
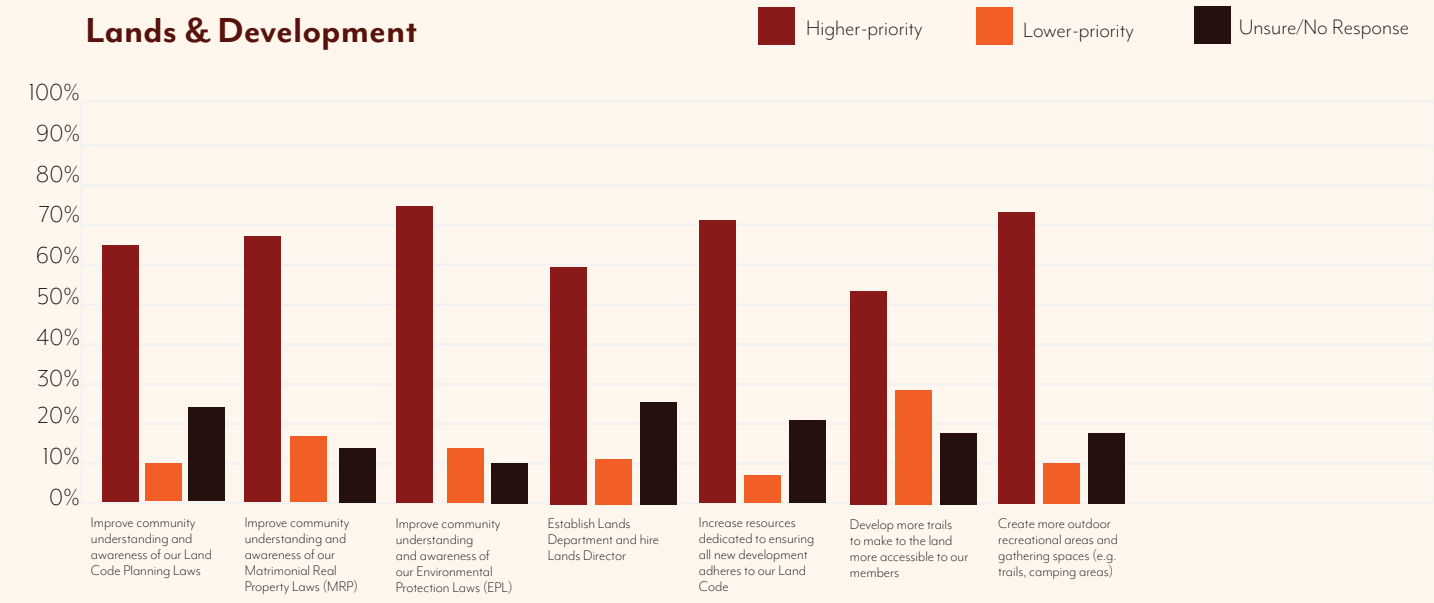
| Housing & Infrastructure

Capital Planning Study

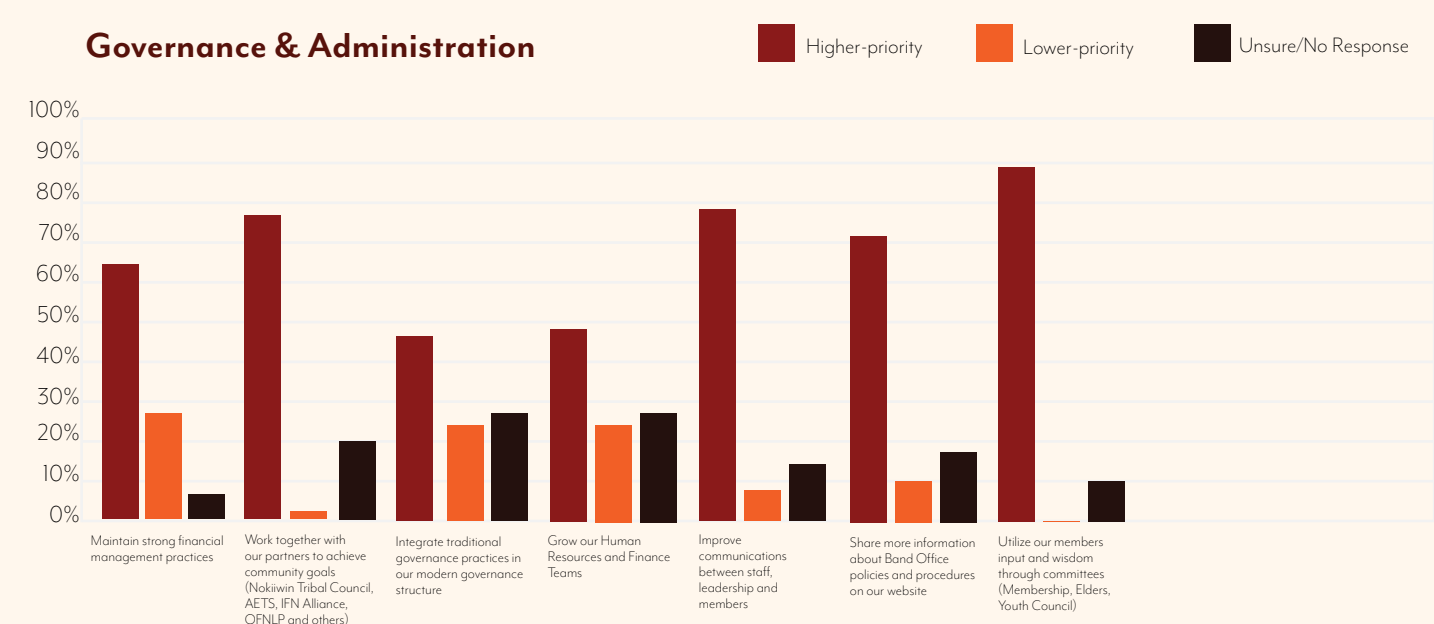
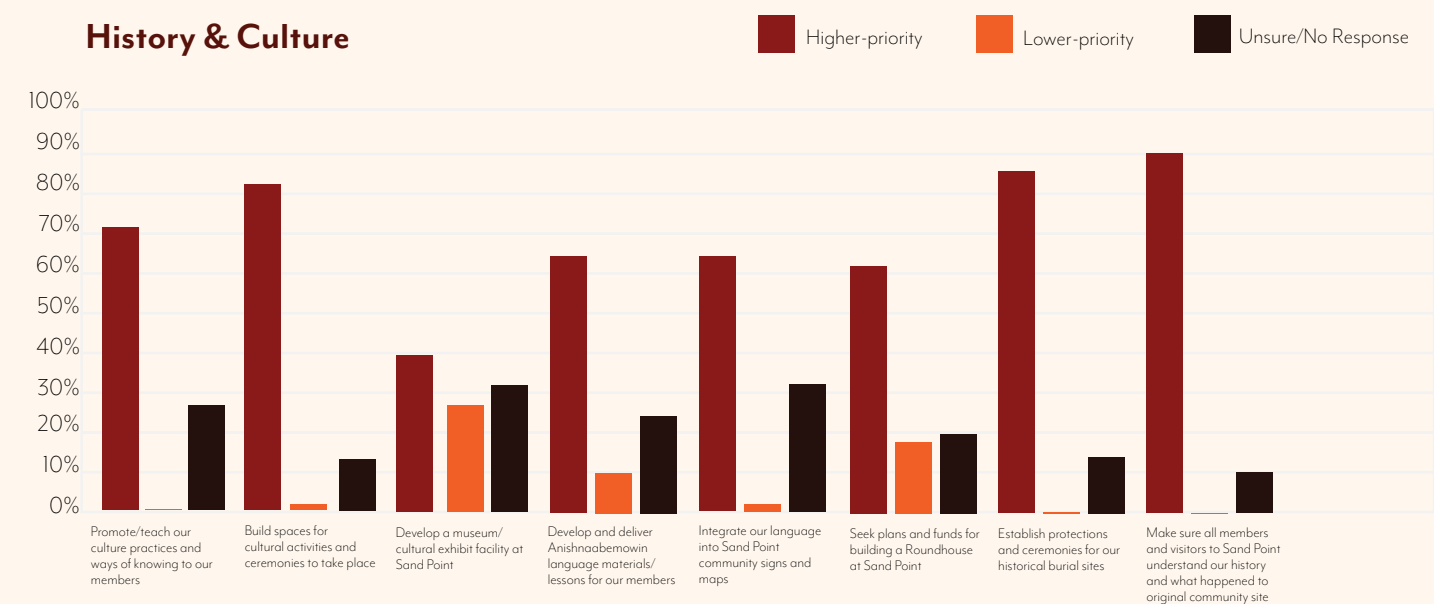
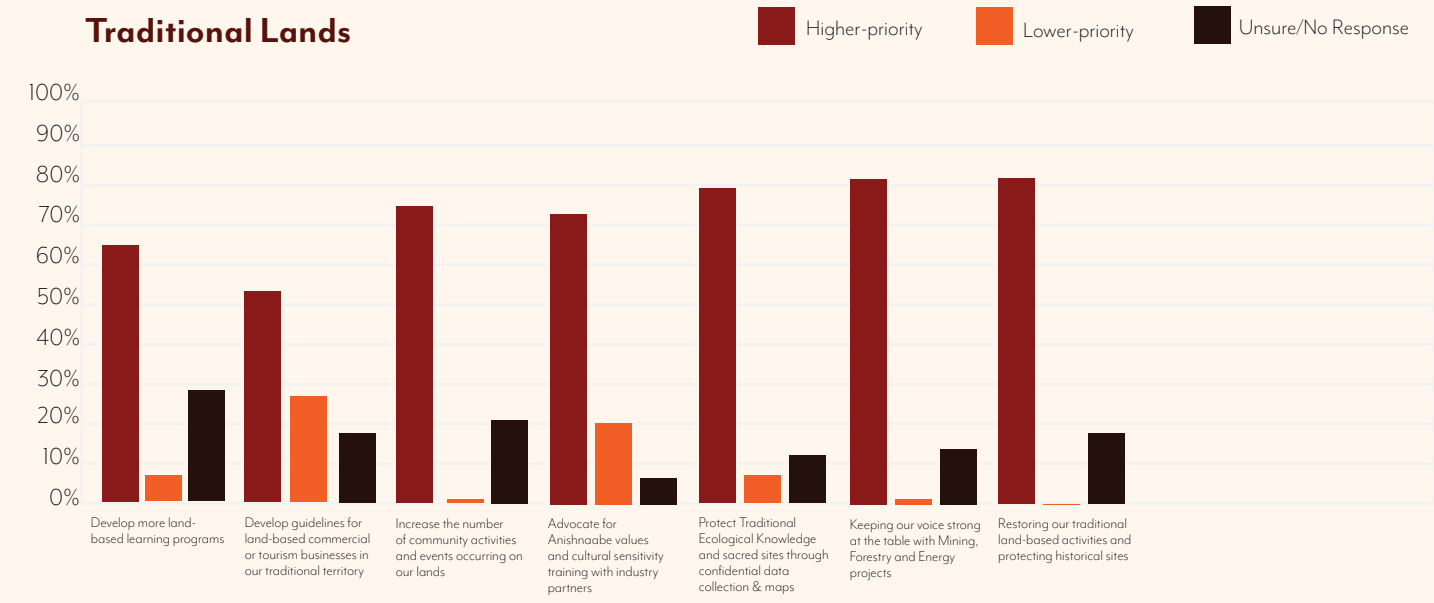
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is diligently engaged in a pivotal endeavor: the comprehensive Capital Planning Study, a vital road map that outlines the present and future needs of the community. In collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada, this study serves as the foundation for BNA's strategic planning and decision-making processes. What makes this initiative truly impactful is the deep involvement of the community itself. BNA recognizes that meaningful development must be crafted with the community, not just for it. Therefore, the study meticulously identifies current community requirements while forecasting future growth. It delves into essential aspects such as infrastructure, community facilities, housing, and the remediation of existing assets, laying out a clear vision for sustainable development. Led by TBT Engineering, the study is not merely an exercise in predictive analysis; it's a testament to BNA's dedication to ensuring that their growth aligns seamlessly with the community's aspirations and needs. This collaborative effort, scheduled for completion by March 31, 2024, signifies BNA's proactive approach in building a resilient, thriving community while fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment among its members.



Communications

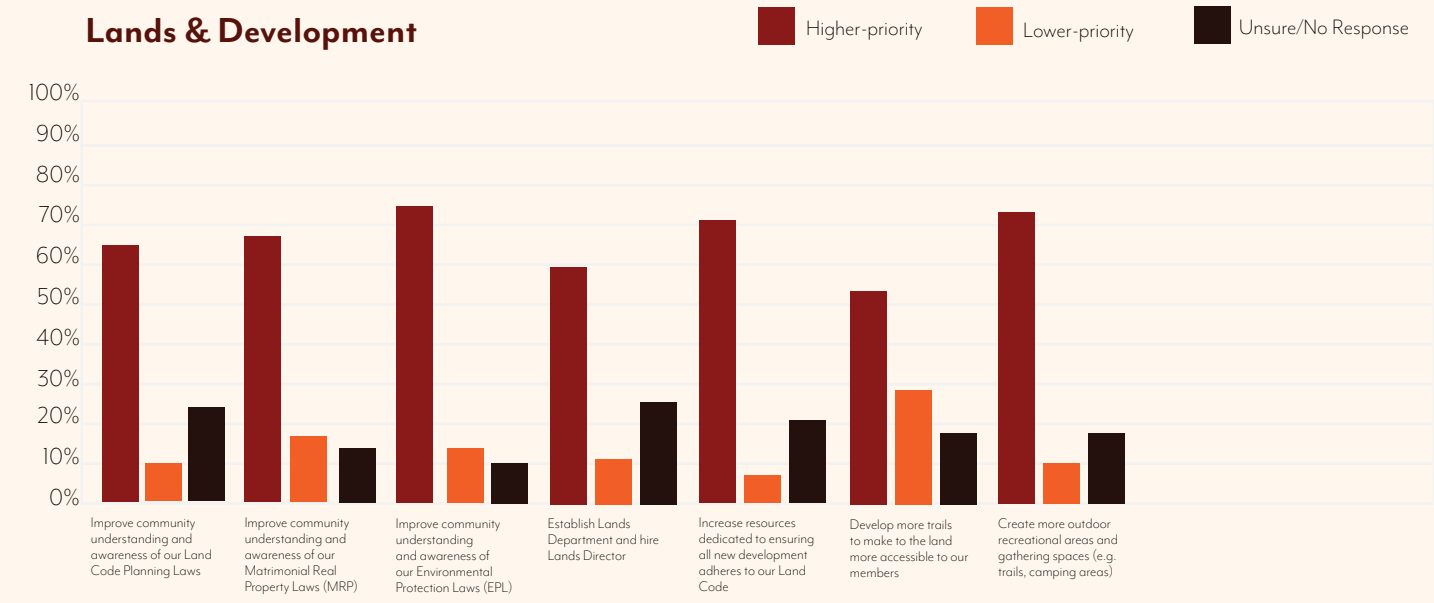


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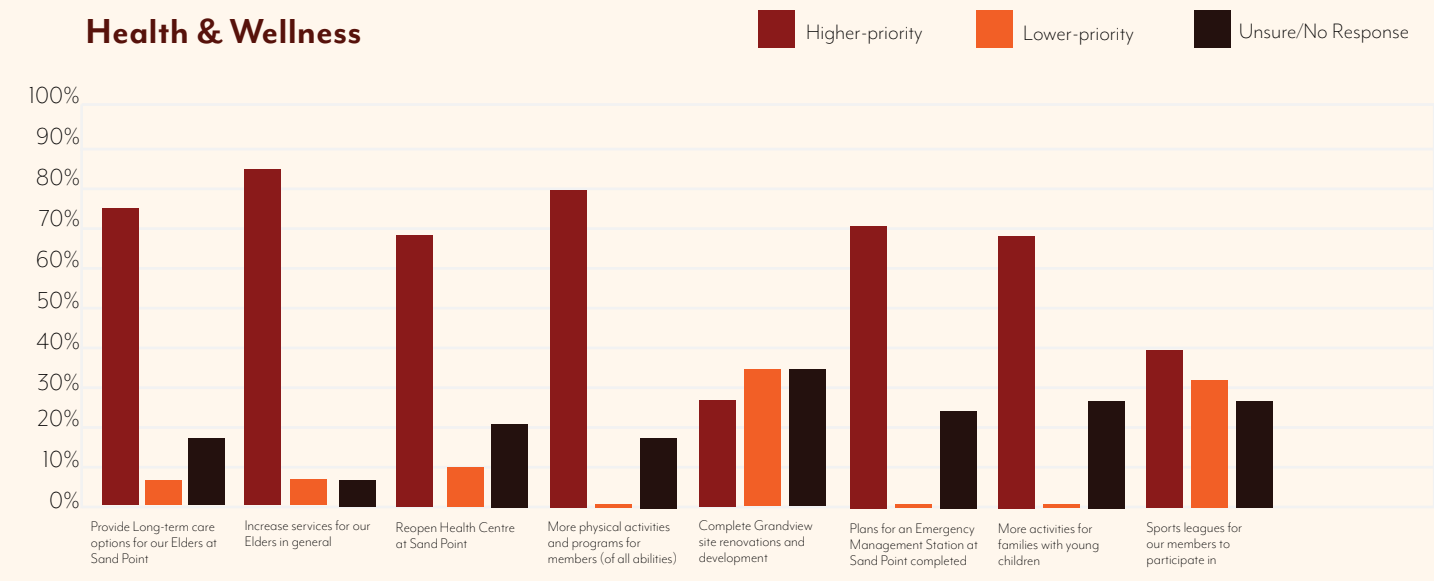


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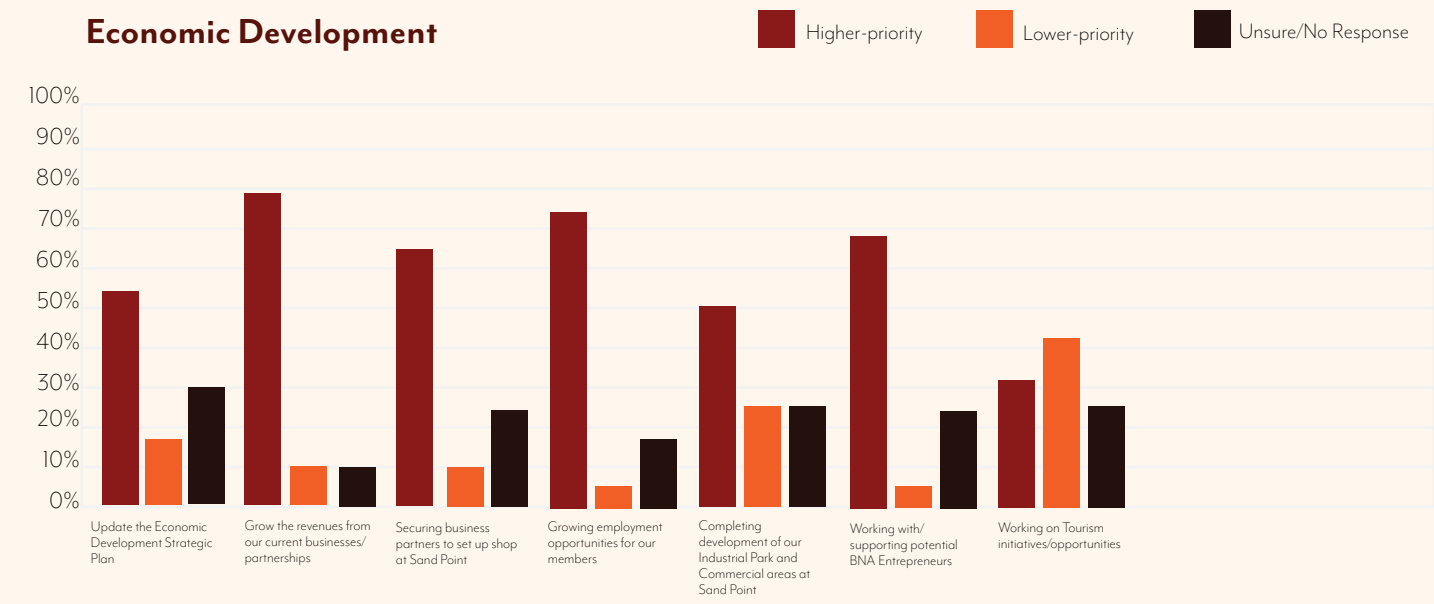
Lands & Development



Health & Wellness

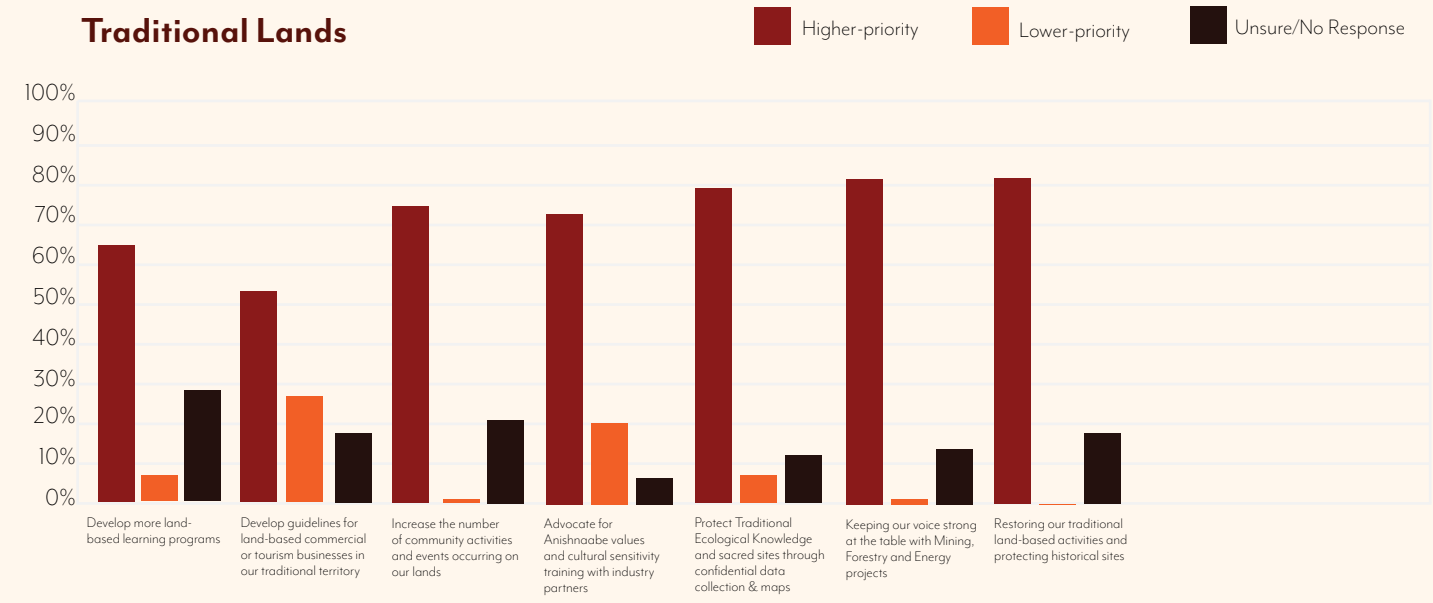


Economic Development

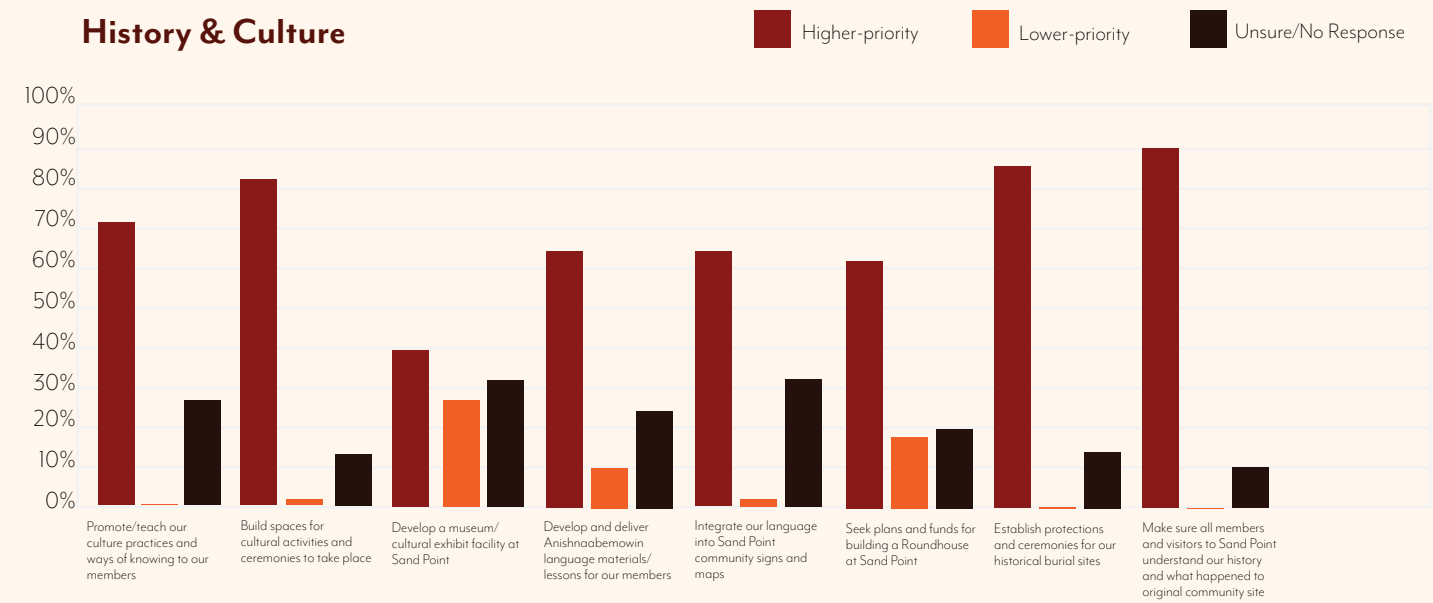


Communications

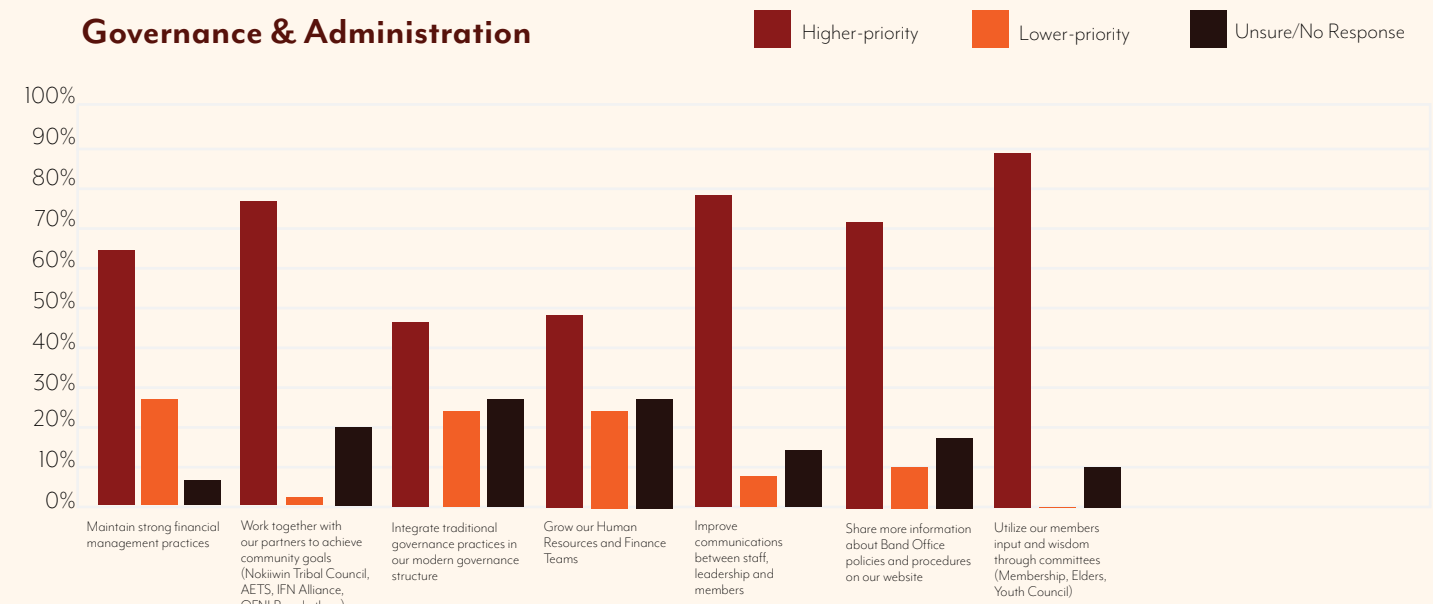
Traditional Lands



History & Culture



Governance & Administration



Community Photo Album

CE Strategies and BNA have been dedicated to the collection and scanning of historical photographs that capture BNA’s land, events, and community members. Our shared vision for this project is to create a community photo album, one that serves as a bridge between generations. We aim to empower the younger generation by connecting them with cherished memories and storytelling, generously shared by our Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

The database of photographs we’ve gathered thus far includes contributions from members who’ve already digitized their photographic archives and from those who’ve entrusted us with their cherished family albums for the purpose of scanning. Some of these older photos have come with minor blemishes and wear over years of memories. To ensure the safety of your delicate images during the scanning process, we have equipped ourselves with both a camera and a flatbed scanner. We have also been diligently working on repairing these imperfections. Below are example images from our current collection.



Before restoration



After restoration

This is an ongoing project, and we are extending a call to all members to partake. Please share your photographs, whether they are family portraits or snapshots from communal gatherings on the land. It is important to note that all original photographs will remain securely in your possession, and, in recognition of your invaluable contributions, you will receive an honorarium.

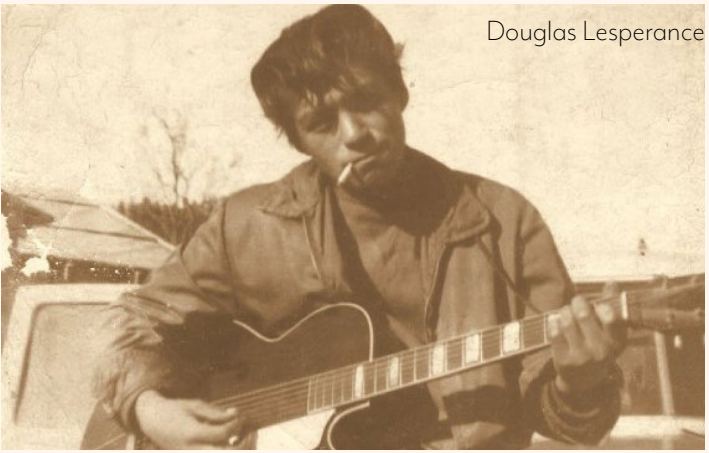
Whether you hold digital copies or the originals, we encourage you to reach out to Jake at jalfieri@bnafn.ca or by phone at 1 (807) 623-2724 ext. 208. Your participation is integral to preserving our community’s rich history for generations to come.



Sand Point FN, 1918



Blanch and Myrtle, 1957



Douglas Lesperance

PUT YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE!

As a band member, you could be featured in our Newsletter via advertisement!

You are required to include your copy, business name, and contact information.

You may also include:

Your logo

Brand identity

Working advertisement design (.ai or .indd ONLY)

High-quality images (copyright free or free-for-use)

**YOUR
LOGO**

Send all required pieces to Jake at jalfieri@bnafn.ca to be featured in the next newsletter.

Contact Jake for any questions or concerns.



FACILITATION AREAS

- Team Retreat & Staff Training
- Board of Directors Training
- Reconciliation Action Planning
- Indigenous Participation Plans



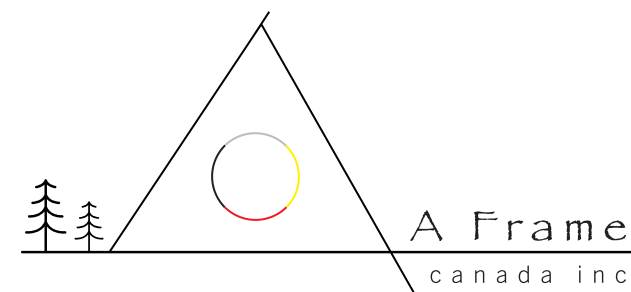
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"Our a-frame cabins are inspired by the design of the Zhaabondawaan, updated for modern simplicity. I am grateful to Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation and the community for the opportunity to build these homes on the land."

- Paulette Facca,
Community
Builder

Traditionally-inspired A-Frame
Cabins located on Lake Nipigon

Visit **AFrameCanadaInc.ca** to Learn More

Family Well-Being

The Family Well-Being team enjoyed hosting a delightful array of programs during the early spring months, which included activities like bowling, trips to the Cambrian and Magnus theaters to enjoy live performances. Our child and youth workers facilitated a youth moccasin workshop, family tubing nights, cross-country skiing, and the creation of beautiful hand-painted wood art throughout March and April.

May ushered in a series of culturally diverse experiences, starting with our Cinco de Mayo dinner for Adult Wellness. We honed our coordination skills and indulged in some friendly competition during Cornhole & games night with our 55+ group. Our juniors explored life skills and tried new cuisines at their Junior's Cooking Classes, where they got to show off their new skills by inviting a special guest to savour a delicious team-cooked meal. Meanwhile, our youth gained coordination and confidence through kick boxing. In May, we also celebrated and honoured women and mothers with a special event, uniting members, staff, and their moms over a delightful dinner at the Chantrelle. Fantastic food was eaten, mocktails were sipped and memories were captured by all.



During the beginning of the summer months, we enthusiastically welcomed new additions to the BNA Health team: Jamie MacDonald, our Home & Community Nurse and Vierlyn Lunn, our Community Care Worker. Both great additions to the Health Team. The Family Well-Being team also welcome Nathaniel Moses, our Community Cultural Coordinator; and Sean Morriseau, our new Child and Youth Worker. We're delighted to have them on board, knowing they will provide invaluable support to our members and their families. They all look forward to meeting you at upcoming programs, don't hesitate to say hello!



Summer arrived, bringing car shows, social mixers for the 55+, and the creation of ribbon skirts and shirts for all our adults. We ventured out to the majestic Kakabeka Falls Park and village, while our health team began making scheduled visits to Sand Point to offer health check-ins and broaden our outreach.

The warmer months also brought with it our grand events, such as the Annual POW WOW, where we had close to 300 people in attendance! Our end-of-school celebrations for students and parents was a big hit this year. Epic Cones, inflatables, a dunk tank and a HUGE waterslide were enjoyed by all.

Our family camp was another successful trip, we had 15 families in attendance. Families enjoyed fishing and swimming in beautiful Lake Nipigon, campfires, outdoor movie and of course land based activities, incorporating culture, teachings, traditions and fun.



This year our Child and Youth Workers shook things up a bit with our youth camp on the land. Youth Camp was a hybrid version this year, where we spent a week doing different activities both on The Land and within the City of Thunder Bay and surrounding areas. We had about 17 youth total attend youth camp throughout the various activities!! We started our week at Little Dog Lake where we learned to Paddle Board. The lake was the perfect setting, and it was so calm we were easily able to learn the skills and paddle all the way across the lake and back. The youth spent a lot of time paddling around and some time just swimming on the beach. We intended to go to The Splish Splash Water Park but due to the rainy weather that day we ended up doing some Virtual Reality activities at Thunder VR. The next two days were spent at The Land. We had 14 youth out to Sand Point for a sleepover in our Youth Campers. While there we went on a Charter Boat and the youth spent some time down rigging Lake Nipigon for Lake Trout! 5 fish were caught, and the youth were given an amazing opportunity to see how much effort it is to get a large fish into the boat! Our biggest fish was a 39" and took over 20 minutes for the youth to get it in! While back on land we spent time playing camp games around the bonfire, went exploring the Postagani (Jumbo Cove) Train Tunnel, had some fireworks and enjoyed some time swimming in the lake. All the youth who attended said they wish that they had more time out at The Land and so we will ensure that happens for next year. The following day the Youth spent the afternoon exploring Ouimet Canyon and Eagle Canyon swing bridges. Some of whom, needed to conquer their great fear of heights but everyone made it across both bridges! It was an amazing week watching BNA Youth get to know each other and make lasting memories.



The Family Well-Being team partnered up with the Health Team to host our very first Juniors camp held overnight at the Grandview Road site. The Junior's participated in outdoor activities bringing them closer to the land, sitting by the fire looking up at all the stars and ending the night with an outdoor movie and popcorn. They were all very brave sleeping in their tents, conquering their fears and gaining confidence in themselves. This event not only enhanced skills but also fostered a sense of care and bond, connecting us more deeply with each other, the land, and our culture.



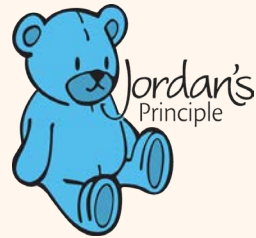
As we transitioned into autumn, we continued to enjoy remarkable warm weather, engaging in outdoor activities and maintaining our connection with the land and local community members. Our 55+ group had a blast during a 50s & 60s revival night at the Community Auditorium. The Adult wellness program honed creative abilities through Rock painting dot art.

A Truth and Reconciliation event at the Grandview Road site, where staff, members, and the public came together, was a day filled with emotions, drumming, and healing. Nathaniel began hosting sharing circles for women, and a children's sharing circle for our younger generation, infusing cultural elements into all the programs and events hosted by Family Well Being.

Looking back on the last few months Family Well Being has been very busy connecting to members, each other and strengthening the connection to the land. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs and events.

-Miigwetch, from Health and the Family Well-Being team.





Jordan's Principle

Aanii!! It's been a very rewarding to process Jordan's Principle applications over the past several months. Multiple families have been helped by Jordan's Principle to cover needs such as food security, clothing, back to school supplies, and winter gear. Upon approval of from the government, Jordan's Principle covers families/ caregivers with children aged 0-17 that have any needs spiritual, physical, mental and/or emotional to the bridge the gaps in lack of services. If you have any questions or would like to get a Jordan's Principle application started for your child please reach out!

Education Portfolio

From the education portfolio, BNA is very close to having an Education Service Agreement. Working in partnership with MNP we have been able to hammer out our ESA with Superior Greenstone School Board. We are currently awaiting our signing portion of the ESA with the school board. An Education Dinner and Dance was hosted on September 23 with the students in Thunder Bay and from the community. There was a good turn out and the kids enjoyed dancing and playing games.



Child Welfare

There are exciting announcements from the child welfare team! We have a full time with two family advocates and a manager. The working protocol with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care is very close to being completed. The child welfare team will be hosting Q&A sessions in the upcoming future. If there are any requests for information sessions, please do not hesitate to reach out! The child welfare team will be hosting a community engagement session to see what direction the community wishes child welfare to head in.



Welcoming New Staff

Home & Community Nurse

Boozhoo!

My name is Jamie MacDonald, a proud member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek. Recently I have joined the amazing BNA team as the Home and Community Nurse. I have been nursing for 16 years working in Mental Health/ Addiction and Geriatrics. I am excited to be working within my community and helping members. Outside of work, my home is filled with 2 amazing children (aged 8 and 20) and an amazing partner. Some of my hobbies include fishing, beadwork, skiing and anything to do with the outdoors and connecting to the land. I look forward to working with and getting to know everyone.

Jamie Macdonald,
jmacdonald@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 344-3055 ext. 240



Community Care Worker



Hi, my name is Vierlyn Lunn, you can call me Viera, and I'm the new Community Care Worker. I am a new member of the health team and I have been a Therapeutic Recreationist for over a decade. Outreach, programming and promoting quality of life are some of my roles for well-being at BNA.

Outside of work I have four sons, two grandchildren and two dogs. I enjoy volunteering and always finding a way to give back or pay it forward. My personal motto is "if you see someone without a smile, give them yours."

I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible and facilitating programs of interest with your input.

Vierlyn Lunn,
vlunn@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 344-3055 ext. 236

Child & Youth Worker

Sean Morriveau also known as Native Pool Boy is a content creator/influencer from Fort William First Nation Ontario. He focuses on healing through laughter and bringing light to topics that are most times hard to discuss. He is a hard-working father who puts his family, community and mental health first. Creating engaging videos, Sean has built a platform for himself to have his voice heard and plans to share that space for collaborative artists just like him. He also uses his platform to spread positive energy, awareness and humour and share stories about his life and experiences growing up on a reservation.

Sean Morriveau,
smorriveau@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 344-3055





Community Cultural Coordinator

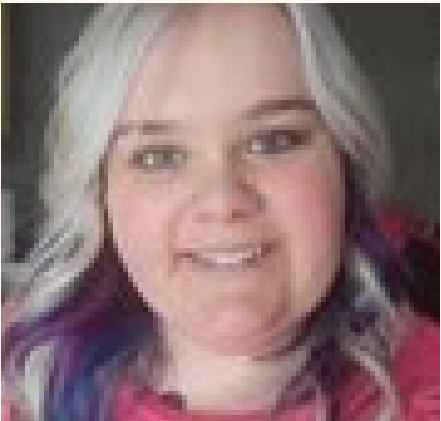
Hello Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek community! My name is Nathaniel Moses from a community of the Ojibway's of Pic River First Nation 1850 treaty. Proud Anishinaabek man, birthed with Cultural experiences in gaining more Knowledge in my heart and mind. Became a role model, mentor and to be one day an Elder as I have 50 years under me.

Powwow danced for 50 years. In the years I practice using the seven Grand Father Teachings (Love, Respect, Truth, Humility, Bravery, Honesty, and Wisdom) it brought to me into many ceremonies and helped myself with foundation. It gave me Self-pride and determination. Cultural supports that I had received brought a lot of goodness and great fortunes to who I become. I stand tall for my family as I am a father of 3 children and 1 wife. Together for 34 years. And very proud of the accomplishments of following our Traditions. Each person in the house my wife and I supported are College-University Graduates including the us as their parents. Role models is what people express to us with traditional ways as an addition. We are humble citizens in the community wherever we go and grow. We continue to learn. As the Elders say we never quit learning. Cultural Awareness/Experiences will make us understand ourselves, build all in stronger presence and making you a person Proud of your Anishinaabe Identity. Be Proud-Be Humble-Be you... AHO

Nathaniel Moses,
nmoses@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 344-3055 ext. 241

Family Representative Manager

Hello, I'm Tylyn Silander! I am the Family Representative Manager for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek with the Family Wellbeing Team. I also hold the Jordan's Principle portfolio and the Education portfolio. I grew up in Fort Frances and have lived in Thunder Bay for 6 years. I have extensive knowledge surrounding child welfare and have worked in the child welfare system for a little over 12 years I enjoy advocating for families and ensuring that their needs are met to keep family units together and connected to their communities.



I enjoy advocating for families and ensuring that their needs are met to keep family units together and connected to their communities. I'm an avid reader outside of work, a cat mom, and a (foster) mom. I am currently working on new child welfare protocols and developing our own child welfare laws for the community. Regarding Jordan's Principle I am working on group applications for the community as well as individual applications. When it comes to education, I have applied for start-up funding for adult education and funding for a language revitalization program as well as working on education service agreements. I look forward to working with the community and accomplishing many program goals!

Tylyn Silander,
tsilander@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 344-3055 ext. 230

Child & Family Advocate



A quick introduction for myself. My name is Cody Sitch, and I was born and raised in Thunder Bay, ON. I'm Metis, from Peguis First Nation. I'm a father of 2 girls and 1 boy. My fiancé and children are from Gull Bay First Nation.

In 2019 I decided to go back to school and study social work. I graduated from Native Child and Family services program in 2021 and became a registered social service worker. In my spare time I enjoy camping, hunting, fishing and being on the land. I look forward to working with Sand Point First Nation and building relationships with its members. Any questions feel free to reach out anytime!

Cody Sitch,
csitch@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 344-3055 ext. 232



EarlyON Centre

It was a fun busy summer for the EarlyON Centre. The Teddy Bear's Picnic was back this year, we made beaded bracelets and used bingo dabbers to paint on wood chips. Throughout the summer our families learned how to plant a garden and the children practiced patience as we watched our garden grow. We spent time at the Early Years Site at Intercity Mall. We took boot-camp training with TBDSSB. Our upcoming project for the Fall will be Dad's Night once a month. Parenting in November and December. Continue our Abinoojiinyens/baby group, kid's cooking and develop a language program suitable to our children's age group.

Miigwetch,
Karen Williams
kwilliams@bnafn.ca
1 (807) 345-4605 ext.228

Gardening





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