

Winter Newsletter



2024



Table of Contents

Chief & Council	01	Governance Coordinator	18
Finance Department Updates	03	Communications Coordinator	18
		<i>Communications Committee</i>	<i>18</i>
Economic Development Updates	05	<i>Geh-zeh Naak-ko-ne-geh-ing: CCP</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>On-Reserve Pit</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>Communications Policy</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>New Greenstone Transmission Line</i>	<i>05</i>		
<i>Wind</i>	<i>06</i>	Health Department Updates	19
<i>Papasay Sawmill Expansion</i>	<i>06</i>		
<i>New BNA Mining Coordinator</i>	<i>07</i>	Child & Youth Programming	21
<i>Title Case and Annuities</i>	<i>08</i>		
<i>BNA On-Reserve High-Speed Internet</i>	<i>08</i>	Band Representation	22
<i>On-Reserve Rental Spaces</i>	<i>09</i>		
<i>MTO Highway Projects</i>	<i>09</i>	BNA Member Business Listings	23
<i>Economic Development Coordinator</i>	<i>10</i>		
Housing	11	Chief & Council	
<i>FN Housing Awards Conference</i>	<i>11</i>	General Election	24
<i>Snow Removal Pilot Program</i>	<i>11</i>		
<i>Home Ownership Policy Survey</i>	<i>12</i>		
Infrastructure	13		
<i>Waste Transfer Station</i>	<i>13</i>		
<i>Kubota Equipment Purchase</i>	<i>13</i>		
<i>Lot Development</i>	<i>14</i>		
<i>Community Street Lighting</i>	<i>14</i>		
Lands & Environmental Coordinator	15		
<i>Freshwater monitoring Program</i>	<i>15</i>		
<i>NEW Compost program</i>	<i>16</i>		
Community Energy Coordinator	17		
<i>District Heating Project</i>	<i>17</i>		
<i>Winter energy savings tips</i>	<i>17</i>		
<i>Use light-emitting diode (LED)</i>	<i>17</i>		
<i>Drone project</i>	<i>17</i>		



A Message from Chief & Council

Greetings BNA Members,

As we embrace the arrival of a new year, Chief and Council would like to extend warm wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to each of you. With the start of 2025, we take this opportunity to reflect on recent events.



On October 21st, Chief and Council joined forces with Red Rock Indian Band, along with numerous Chiefs, Councillors and members from various First Nations in the region, in a peaceful protest. The protest was held in response to the discovery of 600-year-old ancestral remains during the construction of a visitor center in Nipigon by Parks Canada.

The construction activities led to the removal of approximately 60 unaccounted-for loads of dirt from the site, which are believed to contain some of the ancestral remains. These remains are a sacred connection to our heritage, history, and ancestors. The peaceful protest highlighted the urgency of finding and returning these remains to ensure they are treated with the respect and dignity.

Chief and Council stand firm in solidarity with our neighboring First Nations in advocating for accountability, transparency, and the preservation of our cultural heritage.

A community meeting was held on November 2nd, where BNA members had the opportunity to receive updates on critical legal matters from our legal counsel. Robert Botsford of Carrel and Partners and Lucas Jewitt of Edward Bell Jewitt LLP provided detailed updates on the ongoing BNA Title Case and the Robinson Superior Annuity Case.

These cases are of great importance to BNA, as they address key aspects of our rights, lands, and entitlements. Chief and Council are committed to keeping members informed as these cases progress. Your support and engagement are essential as we navigate these significant legal matters.



On November 4th Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs Ontario attended the Court Street satellite office to congratulate BNA on securing funding from the Indigenous Economic Development fund and to advise BNA of future funding opportunities. This funding has allowed BNA to hire Katia Borjas, Economic Development Coordinator standing next to Minister Rickford in the picture below. This funding is a step forward in creating sustainable opportunities and prosperity for our community.



The Annual Community Christmas Party was held on December 7, 2024, and was very well attended. Santa appeared with gifts for the children, and everyone enjoyed a hot festive meal. Out of town members were gifted with a monetary deposit to their accounts allowing them to purchase gifts for their children and purchase items for a festive meal. Members who have not supplied BNA with their banking information would have been mailed a cheque once the striking mail employees returned to work.

4 newly built homes and 2 four plexes are now complete and ready occupancy and funding has been secured for the construction of 3 more homes supporting the goal of bringing BNA members back to their homeland.

The current Chief and Council's 4 year term is nearing its end. We are excited about the upcoming election that will take place on Saturday, May 24, 2025, using our newly ratified Election Law that allows for a fair and transparent process. We encourage every BNA member that is 18 years of age and older to vote. Voting packages will be sent out to members 18 years of age and older, provided their address is up to date with BNA.

As we move forward into this new year, Chief and Council remain committed to advocating for our rights and ensuring the continued growth and well-being of BNA. Your support and participation in these efforts are invaluable, and we encourage all members to stay informed and engaged in the issues that impact our community.

Thank you for your continued trust and involvement. Together, we will navigate the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead while honouring and preserving our shared heritage.

Miigwetch,
Chief and Council



Finance Department Updates

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM!

I hope you all had an extraordinary holiday that was filled with love, laughter, and most importantly some relaxation and quality time with your families.

Since my last update, the finance team has been continuing to work diligently to meet the best interest of the First Nation so we can continue to accelerate forward. With the many ongoing projects that the different departments are undertaking, as more projects come up and as more programs are offered to members, the work of the finance team increases. Luckily, we have a knowledgeable and dedicated finance team who are able to meet these demands.

We are now running very smoothly with the issuing of EFT payments to members when required, running quite regularly on a two week timeline from when the paperwork is submitted to finance to when payments are issued.



It is expected that occasional delays will occur from time to time as issuing payment can be delayed due to staff vacations and the availability of our very busy Chief and Council to sign paperwork so that payments can be issued.

On November 20th I celebrated my one year anniversary with BNA. Our finance team has accomplished a lot during that time. Having one extra body to distribute the workload has made a world of difference in our team's ability to meet the demands placed on us as well as our ability to serve the membership and fulfill Chief and Council's vision for the community. I tip my hat to my team of Rachel, Sandra, Helene, and Michelle. These women have all been working with BNA for some time now and work extremely hard every day to ensure that the work is getting done. All of them are willing to help out when one person needs some assistance. I am honoured to have to such a dedicated team to work with.



Our finance team also attended the First Nations Management Board Leading the

Way conference from November 25 - 28, 2024 in Edmonton, AB. This conference brought together representatives from over 220 First Nations from across the country to hear their stories of what other nations are up to along with their programs, projects, struggles, and successes with the hopes of bringing back some helpful information that we can use to improve ourselves.



First Nations FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The payments for the 2024 turkey vouchers were issued on December 12, 2024. If we had your bank information on file then you would have received your payment via EFT. Due to the Canada Post strike, we were not able to issue payment to those members who either have not provided their banking information or for those members who have incorrect bank information on file. The Canada Post strike is a prime example of why having your correct bank information on file with our office is essential. In order to avoid delays in providing future payments, please contact Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator, at lesquega@bnafn.ca with your banking information so that we can issue your payment.

Based on the other reports in this

newsletter, you can see that there are a lot of exciting projects, programs, and opportunities awaiting us in the new year. I am excited and honoured to be a part of the management team as we continue to drive BNA forward on behalf of you, the members.

In closing, I once again, as I always do, want to thank Chief and Council for the opportunity to work for this community. I am honoured to continue in this fulfilling capacity while the management and staff of BNA work as a team to continue to move the community forward.

Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Favel', written in a cursive style.

Brandon Favel, CPA
Director of Finance



Economic Development Updates

On-Reserve Pit

BNA is currently working with the Ministry of Transportation and Asiniikaa Mining to open its on-reserve aggregate pit. The pit location at the back end of 'Lot C' of the BNA Industrial Park, and a road has already been build to access the site. The stockpile from the pit will initially provide material to the province for their upcoming highway jobs. However, BNA plans to crush additional material for its on-reserve development projects, as well as sell to third parties for additional revenues. The site has been cleared and grubbed. Fortunately, we had a long fall season, which allowed work to continue through November and December. The on-reserve blasting and crushing will commence in the Spring of 2025.

Papasay's currently permitted pit - located 3 kilometers from the Copper Thunderbird Road entrance - is nearly depleted, and we will be working on its rehabilitation as required by the Province.



New Greenstone Transmission Line

In the fall of 2024, BNA formed an alliance with its neighbouring First Nations along the Transmission route - including Red Rock Indian Band, BZA, AZA, Ginoogaming, and Aroland - to bring more reliable transmission to the region, with increased capacity for regional developments. Our collective goal is to vastly improve the current electricity system in the region by bringing in a new 230 kV transmission line. The current A4L line has issues with both reliability and capacity. The current line is unreliable, causing both brownouts and blackouts for the communities along its route, including BNA. Also, it lacks capacity and is unable to handle larger development projects, including community developments or critical mineral mining operations. The new line will follow the existing corridor on the east side of Lake Nipigon along Highway 11, which would minimize any environmental impacts. This line is critical for the region, as it will bring benefits to two newly building First Nations, BNA and AZA. Furthermore, as mining becomes prominent in the region, the need for a line with greater capacity will be required. With this project, the underserved community of Greenstone will have greater opportunities to grow and prosper.



The 6 First Nations met with Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford, and Energy Minister Stephen Lecce in Toronto on November 6, 2024, to advocate for this new transmission line. The Province supports this project, but along with the political push, we need to participate in the IESO's energy planning process currently underway. Regardless, BNA will continue to work cooperatively with our neighbouring communities to make this project a reality.



Wind

With the new transmission line project starting to get some momentum, BNA along with our neighbouring communities of BZA, AZA, and Red Rock Indian Band, are continuing their work regarding seeking out wind opportunities on the southeast side of Lake Nipigon. BNA and its partnering communities have met with Innergex, a Quebec-based renewable energy company, to discuss setting up met mast towers to test wind speed in the area.

BNA members may remember that we had previously worked with Innergex about a decade ago, and even had a partnership agreement in place. However, the project came to a halt

when the Green Energy Act was repealed. As this legislation included a "feed-in-tariff" (FIT) program, once this was lost the former project lost its economic viability. Also, the previous wind project had no high-capacity transmission line to connect to. With the construction of the East-West Tie line, and the new Greenstone Line soon to come to fruition, this issue will now be solved for the current Wind project.

The next step for this project will be for Innergex to set-up mobile wind readers to test the wind speeds in the area, which will provide necessary data to both Innergex and the communities for the IESO's current planning process. We also need to form a legally binding partnership agreement between Innergex and the 4 First Nation communities. There will be lots of work in 2025 on this Project.

Papasay Sawmill Expansion

The Papasay Sawmill Expansion project has been in progress for several years. While production has dramatically increased with the new equipment that has been added, the need for a new building has slowed our acquisition of our value-added line. BNA has been reluctant to order the new value-added line due to the limited space in the current building.

With the upcoming Federal election and ongoing discussions with our funders (Natural Resources Canada and FedNor), BNA needs to proceed with the equipment order and expenditure of the current funding. Therefore, we will be purchasing several pieces of new equipment, including a new dust collection system, additional attachments for our loader, and the automation of our current planer moulder unit. The latter will allow

Papasay to ensure it will have all the structural lumber needed for the next round of homes in the community. All remaining funding will go toward the purchase of the Carbotech value-added line, which we will be proceeding with once we receive its advance from the funders. BNA will continue to work with funders to ensure that a new building is in place before the new Carbotech line is delivered to the Industrial Park.



New BNA Mining Coordinator

As mining and exploration continues to grow in the east of Lake Nipigon region, the workload for BNA has increased as a result. Along with this increase in activity, BNA is faced with issues concerning mining claims, permits and the development of exploration agreements, negotiations of Impact Benefit Agreements with mining entities, and working with our neighbouring communities on

all of these processes. BNA can no longer depend solely on the Nookiiwin funded Mineral Development Advisor (MDA) position. The MDA has multiple responsibilities spread over multiple communities, which limits what BNA can accomplish on the mining front.

To assist with the growing workload and the various mining projects that our community is currently working on, BNA proceeded with the hiring of our own internal Mining Coordinator. We would like to welcome Kimberly Rozon as our new Mining Coordinator, starting at the end of January. Kim was formerly Nookiiwin's MDA, but will now assist BNA with its current workload and help us get more organized on the mining front. Kim is a member of the Red Rock Indian Band, and has a wealth of experience on mining-related matters. Please welcome Kim to her new role as the Mining Coordinator!





Title Case and Annuities

BNA has continued its Title Claim and Annuities negotiations with both Canada and Ontario, as both files are very active.

BNA held a community meeting in November to discuss both the Title Claim and Annuities with our members. In this meeting, our legal team, land specialist, and economist presented details of both processes to the community. Following this community meeting, the Chief, key staff and legal team also presented to the Quebec members in French on November 16th. BNA has established a Communications Committee that includes representatives from different BNA families, as well as the Chief and legal team. This Committee is in place to provide recommendations to the Chief and legal team, as well as communicate with the members' respective families regarding any updates.

January was a busy month for the Annuities file, as Chief Gladu is one of the main negotiating Chiefs on the file. As members know, we recieved an offer from Canada and the Province at the end of January.

While both processes are very confidential, BNA will do its best to provide as much information as possible to its members as it becomes

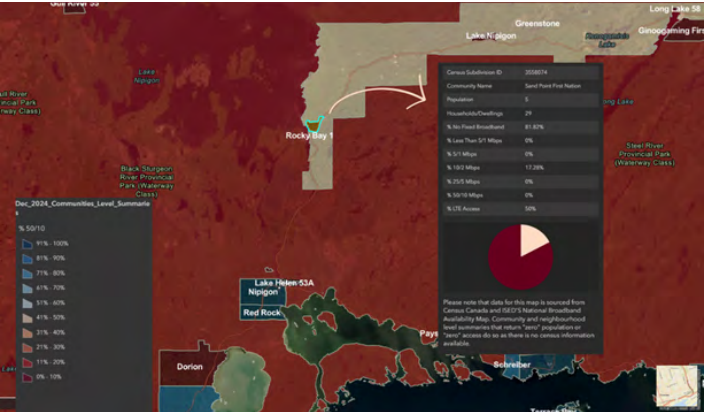
available. For more information and updates regarding the RST Annuities case, please see the website: <https://rstannuitylitigation.ca/>

BNA On-Reserve High-Speed Internet

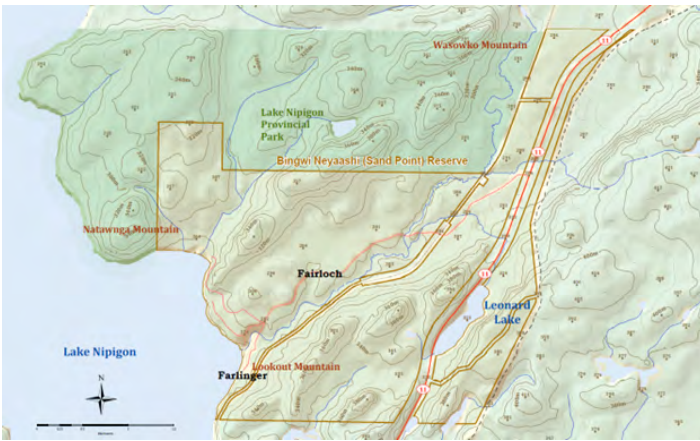
Internet connectivity is an on-going issue in Northwestern Ontario. As everyone knows, BNA has little to no data service on reserve. The Province has promised to connect every Ontarian to high-speed internet by the end of 2025. Nonetheless, the divide is still great, and many communities in Northern Ontario do not have the proper infrastructure in place for high-speed Internet.

BNA has been meeting with Infrastructure Ontario to find a communications solution to this problem. The Province has proposed a satellite solution for on-reserve high-speed Internet. We will be meeting with representatives from the Province to discuss the details of the new program, and how we can participate. We are eager to find a long-term solution to our on-reserve communications issues.

As we learn more about this new program, we will inform BNA members.



(Map and Information taken from: <https://connectednorth.ca/>)



aggregates from the new BNA pit, rental of Papasay heavy equipment, the rental of spaces for contractors or project managers, and potential laydown areas for rent in the Industrial Park. Through our new partnership, we have received an opportunity for a single-source culvert job, and will be looking at building internal capacity to take on larger projects along the Hwy.

On-Reserve Rental Spaces for BNA Entrepreneurs

BNA put out a notice to members this past fall regarding spaces on-reserve for member-owned businesses to have an on-reserve location and address. BNA wants to expand its internal economy, and to do so, the community wants to build office and rental spaces to house businesses for community entrepreneurs.

The response we received to this notice indicated that there was more demand than available spaces. Therefore, BNA will be renovating its bunks in order to provide additional rental spaces to member-w

We will provide more information as it becomes available.

MTO Highway Projects

BNA is working hard to improve its relationship with MTO so that it can maximize its opportunities for the highway work happening in the region. As previously reported, in the spirit of regional collaboration and partnership, BNA and BZA First Nations have formed "2-Nations Construction LP", which can partner with highway contractors to bid on projects occurring near their communal traditional territory. Along with the formation of the partnership, some additional benefits include selling



Members who are interested in working on these various contracts along the Hwy should contact Jordan at the BNA office at jhatton@bnafn.ca.



Economic Development Coordinator



Hello Everyone,

I am Katia Borjas, the new Economic Development Coordinator. Since this is my first article in the newsletter, I wanted to introduce myself to everyone. Originally from Honduras, Central America, I arrived in Canada almost five years ago to pursue my studies. I majored in international business and received an Honours Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from Lakehead University in 2023. I enjoy reading, crafts, and hanging out with my friends. I am very passionate about helping people and doing the best I can wherever I go.

I am excited to share a glimpse into the activities I have been up to since I began working here in October 2024. I've had the chance to work on several ongoing projects. Since I began working at BNA, some of the jobs I have completed include filling out funding applications, registering businesses, organizing the current project list, taking notes during meetings, and day-to-day administrative tasks. As previously stated, a portion of my job has involved creating and submitting funding applications. We have applied to several funding programs, including the Indigenous Transportation Initiative Fund, the

NOHFC People and Talents program, and the Indigenous Economic Development Fund-Economic Diversification Grant. I'm doing everything I can to apply for new grant applications that open up and fall under my purview! One of the highlights was visiting the BNA Land and attending the NAFA Conference.

I'm eager to see what more I can do to support BNA.



Housing



FIRST NATIONS HOUSING CONFERENCE AWARDS 2025

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation Receives Community Housing Recognition Award

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation (BNA) is thrilled to announce that it has been selected to receive the Community Housing Recognition Award at the 2025 First Nations Housing Conference! This is a significant achievement and a testament to the years of dedication, hard work, and collaborative effort invested in creating better housing solutions for our community.

The BNA team extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to this success—our community members, leaders, partners, and all those who have played a role in making this accomplishment possible. Your commitment and passion have been crucial in driving our vision forward, and this recognition is a reflection of the strength and unity we share. We look forward to celebrating this achievement together at the upcoming conference (February 4-6, 2025 in Thunder Bay) and continuing to build a brighter, more sustainable future for our community.

Miigwech to everyone for your continued support and efforts!

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Members on the land
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Infrastructure and Housing
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Family Well-Being
- TBT Engineering Thunder Bay
- Hydro One
- Got Wood Castle Geraldton
- Brook McIlroy Architects
- Thunder Bay Fireplaces
- NWO Well and Filtration Services
- Environmental 360 Solutions Ltd.
- Craigs Plumbing
- Tom Rentz Contracting
- National Resource Canada
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Papasay Sawmill
- ProGen
- Tom Rentz Contracting

SNOW REMOVAL PILOT PROGRAM

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Housing & Public Works Launches Snow Removal Program



The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Housing and Public Works Department is excited to announce the introduction of a new Snow Removal Program for all members living on the land. This initiative, in collaboration with both the Housing and Public Works Departments, is part of our ongoing commitment to improve efficiencies and enhance service delivery for our community.

Members who wish to be added to the snow removal program can contact Michael Lesperance at mlesperance@bnafn.ca. For any questions or further information regarding the program, please reach out to Paulette Facca, Housing Coordinator, at pfacca@bnafn.ca or (250) 878-9175.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our members have the support they need, and we look forward to working together to keep our community safe and accessible during the winter months.

Miigwech,
The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
Housing & Public Works Team



BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK HOMEOWNERSHIP POLICY



HOME OWNERSHIP POLICY SURVEY 2024

Homeownership Policy Survey Reminder
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) has developed a draft Homeownership Policy for member review. This important policy outlines the responsibilities of homeownership and establishes the rules and procedures for BNA members to build, buy, renovate, or refinance homes on BNA land.

We encourage all members to review the draft and provide feedback. Your input is essential in ensuring the policy reflects our community's collective goals and needs.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Paulette Facca at pfacca@bnafn.ca. To review the draft policy, visit our website at www.bnafn.ca.

Thank you for your participation in shaping a policy that serves and benefits us all.

[illegible]

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA), in collaboration with TBT Engineering, has initiated the design stage for a state-of-the-art Waste Transfer Station, marking a significant step in enhancing the community's waste management infrastructure. With 66% of the design completed and currently under review, this critical phase will guide the project into construction, which is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2025. The design is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2025, paving the way for a modern and efficient waste management solution. Once completed, the Waste Transfer Station will support the community's growth by providing sustainable and effective waste disposal services, reinforcing BNA's commitment to environmental stewardship and infrastructure development.



The Infrastructure Department of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) has invested in a new Kubota L6060 Tractor to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Works Department. This essential piece of equipment will play a key role in daily operations, including snow removal, road maintenance, and other vital public works functions.

Lot Development

The lot development project for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is progressing steadily, with the final stages of completion anticipated by 2025. To date, significant milestones have been achieved, including the development of 19 residential lots, community ditching improvements, and partial driveway access to each property.

The next critical step involves the construction of Cedar Bay Road, which will provide essential access to Lots 1-6, designated for the Build Your Own Home program. This final phase will not only enhance connectivity within the community but also support future residential growth, ensuring that BNA is well-positioned to meet the needs of its members and foster sustainable development.



Community Street Lighting

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA), in partnership with Nokiiwin Tribal Council, is actively preparing a Minor Capital Application (MCA) for submission to Indigenous Services Canada to address critical infrastructure needs in the community. Recognizing the importance of enhancing safety for residents and visitors, BNA is focusing on the installation of street lighting to improve visibility and security along community roadways. This initiative is a direct response to concerns about safe travel in and out of the community, as well as overall public safety. The completed application is scheduled for submission in the second quarter of 2025, reflecting BNA's commitment to fostering a safe and well-lit environment as the community continues to grow.

Lands & Environmental Coordinator

Freshwater monitoring Program

In collaboration with the Nokiiwin Tribal Council, BNA started an environmental monitoring program focused on assessing the health of Farlinger Creek (located by the greenhouse) chemically and biologically. Regular monitoring is critical for establishing a baseline throughout the seasonal fluctuations and if changes are occurring to the wide range of metrics. Changes to the creek can be caused directly by disturbances such as infrastructure, forestry, and mining or in line with broader pattern changes due to climate change. BNA is seeking funding to continue monitoring the creek for heavy metals, other contaminants, and biological sampling. While the monitoring program is still being established based on best research practices, the chemical sampling is planned to be done monthly from April to October, and the benthic sampling will be done yearly in the fall.



Field: Over the course of nine sessions, a team of environmental guardians and staff from Nokiiwin communities and Up North on Climate collected samples of insect larvae and other invertebrates using the kick and sweep method. They also recorded metrics, including water temperature, depth, and acidity.



In 2024, the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network certified several participants from this program. Having trained individuals also allows BNA to implement its program without the need for costly consultants both in the field and in the lab.





Lab- Once the three collections of a minimum of 100 samples were sorted from the sand and plant matter in the water, the samples were identified into 22 categories, including snails, dragonflies, mosquitoes, and crayfish. Each category has a score assigned to it, which is then used to calculate a weighted average. With this score, out of 10, changes in the health of the benthic community can be determined and charted over time.

For 2024, the creek's average score was 6.4 across the 3 samples, placing Speckled Creek in the "good" range based on the Hilsenhoff biotic index (fig 1)



If you have questions or feedback or would like to be involved in the freshwater monitoring program, please get in touch with Jessica Hubbard (jhubbard@bnafn.ca)

NEW Compost program

As the reserve population increases, so does the need for a customized waste management system to keep the community clean. A more mindful approach to organic waste can manage a significant amount of household on-reserve waste. The community composting program is expected to reduce household waste by about 40%. This will not only reduce the amount of sticky garbage bags being brought to the curb but also increase the nutrients added to the soil for the gardening projects on the land. BNA is also expecting to see a cost saving as it will reduce the overall weight in garbage collection reducing tipping fees.

Starting in the Spring of 2025, BNA will launch a pilot program in collaboration with the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre to determine how to deal with organic waste effectively. The goal is for this program to be a multi-year initiative to explore organic waste management options. The first step of this program is a feasibility study to determine what composting methods will best suit the on-reserve community. A small-scale program will be started based on this study and community input. With results collected from test households, the program will be refined and expanded to more households. While initially, this program will only be for on-reserve members, there is the potential for it to grow to off-reserve members. Some of the options being explored are as follows.

- Bokashi
- Electric counter top composters (lomi/ food saver)
- Outdoor Barrel units
- Vermicomposting (worms)

If you have questions or feedback or would like to be involved in waste management initiatives, please contact Jessica Hubbard (jhubbard@bnafn.ca)

Community Energy Coordinator



District Heating Project

BNA is currently finalizing funding for the construction of the district biomass heating facility. This project overall has an estimated cost of \$12 million. We have started the retrofitting process for 14 homes.

The project consists of using one small and one big boiler to provide heat for a large portion of the BNA community. The distribution lines will be buried underground and can last for approximately 30 years.

The residual wood that comes from Papasay will be chipped and utilized as the source of energy to heat the homes. This project will create job revenue for BNA in the upcoming years when construction is completed. BNA is one of the few First Nation communities within Northwestern Ontario to have a district heating system. The district biomass heating system is a clean and reliable way to heat homes.



Winter energy savings tips

Lower Holiday Lighting Costs

Use light-emitting diode (LED) holiday light strings to reduce the cost of decorating the home for the winter holidays.



Drone project

BNA was successful in receiving funding from CIRNAC to purchase our very own drone. This funding is to support continued climate change adaptation and clean energy work. Most importantly, the program is designed to increase the resilience of Indigenous and Northern communities by supporting the integration of climate information in decision-making. The drone has been purchased and collection of environmental, climate and other data will happen in the summer of 2025.

Governance Coordinator

This department had a busy and productive year, handling tasks such as processing status cards, registering new members, and assisting with various registrations.



We also achieved success in applying for 31 members to complete their Wills, Power of Attorney, and/or Power of Care through Edwards Bell Jewitt (EBJ) Law. While this initiative is still ongoing, we remain hopeful in facilitating the completion of even more Wills in the near future.



I would like to inform members that the Cemetery Policy was put on hold for a brief minute and it is currently being drafted again. This policy has been in the works for a little more than a year.

While we understand the importance of this policy to our community, we are taking the time necessary to review and address key considerations.

Updates will be shared as soon as progress is made.

Communications Coordinator

Communications Committee

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we have a new committee for our Title and Annuities cases. Due to our large french population, we have added bilingual members from Quebec to ensure information can be provided in both french and english. The members in our committee include: Stephan Binhate, Catherine Drouin-Vachon, Sylvain Gilbert, Bianca Drouin, Cheryl Bagnall, Adam Durbin, Cassandra Marques, JP Gladu, Henri Grimard, Elder Margaret Grimard, Cora McGuire-Cyrette, and Sandra Desmoulin.

Geh-zeh Naak-ko-ne-geh-ing: CCP

We have continued our work with Lisa

Heassler at Nokiiwin who has received funding for all 6 First Nations. She is coordinating with each nation to continue our work and meet as CCP Coordinators to learn from one another.

Our Priority Action Updates will follow in the Annual Report, summarizing our progress over the fiscal, and moving items into the Appendix.

Communications Policy

We have a draft Communications Policy. It is currently under review and will be shared with members in the upcoming months.

Health Department Updates

Our Health team focused on the well-being of our members, adding to our team a new Mental Health worker named Leanne Hashiguchi.



Leanne came to us with a background working in Addictions and Mental Health for the last 10+ years. She is a graduate from the Social Service Worker program at Confederation College and is currently in her second year of the Indigenous Social Work degree at Laurentian University. Leanne is a wife, mother of 3 and Koko to 2 grandchildren. We are so excited to have her on our team as she comes with a wealth of knowledge and transferable skills that will be beneficial to all our members.

Jamie has created a great working relationship with Mushkiki and has brought many different education topics the last Wednesday of the months. Mushkiki brings a team with resources about the topic we are focusing on for that month. These education evenings are streamed on Facebook Live so those

members living away from Thunder Bay or unable to attend can attend virtually.

Jamie continues to provide foot care to those who require it, both in Thunder Bay and at Sand Point and is currently working on her Pedorthology to further her education to provide more in depth foot care needs. If you are wanting to inquire about her Happy Feet Footcare services please reach out to the Family Well-Being Office at (807)-344-3055 ext 240.



Jamie, along with Vierlyn, have made multiple trips to Sand Point to bring programs and open time at the Health Clinic.

Please watch the Facebook page for upcoming Health Clinic visits and programs.

The Health team facilitated many programs that included health education, evening of social gatherings and crafting.

Some of these include classes at the Complex where the focus was on Pow Wow fitness, pot-luck meals with our 55+ that always includes great conversations and laughter, trivia's to keep all our minds sharp, and creating Porch Signs that were fall and winter themed.

During social gatherings we have welcomed sharing of stories about their family members, both past and present; cultural teachings; and how we can continue to keep BNA's history alive.

We look forward to providing more programs that incorporates many ideas brought forward by you.



Child & Youth Programming

Over the Winter Months we have tried to keep our Children and Youth busy with things related to the holiday season as well as have some fun doing winter activities! It has been a very busy, yet exciting season! We continue to try and focus on programming that provides new experiences, cultural teachings, physical activity, and positive mental health! We hope to continue this into the New Year and are always looking for suggestions and feedback to help us develop our future nights together.



October was very different for us this year as we didn't do our Annual Halloween Scare walkthrough, but we did take advantage of what Thunder Bay had to offer and provided those opportunities to the community. For our Kids group (0-6) we had pumpkin painting, Junior's (7-11) we brought them around the city to check out some of the community's houses that had

spooky displays and walk through's in their yards. The Youth and Young Adult groups were given the opportunity to attend Vampire Circus and Haunted Harbour. We also hosted a spooky Halloween BINGO out at Sand Point where folks dressed up in costumes to win some deadly prizes!

During November the Kids Group had an afternoon at Giant Gymnastics where they got to play in the foam pit, jump on the trampoline, balance beam, and learn some tumbling moves on the mats. Juniors attended the Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland Show at Thunder Bay Auditorium. The Youth had TeePee Teachings with Elder Jim Mishquart and Young Adults went to see Smile 2 in the Theatre! For our Family Based activities we had an evening at The Hive painting ceramics.

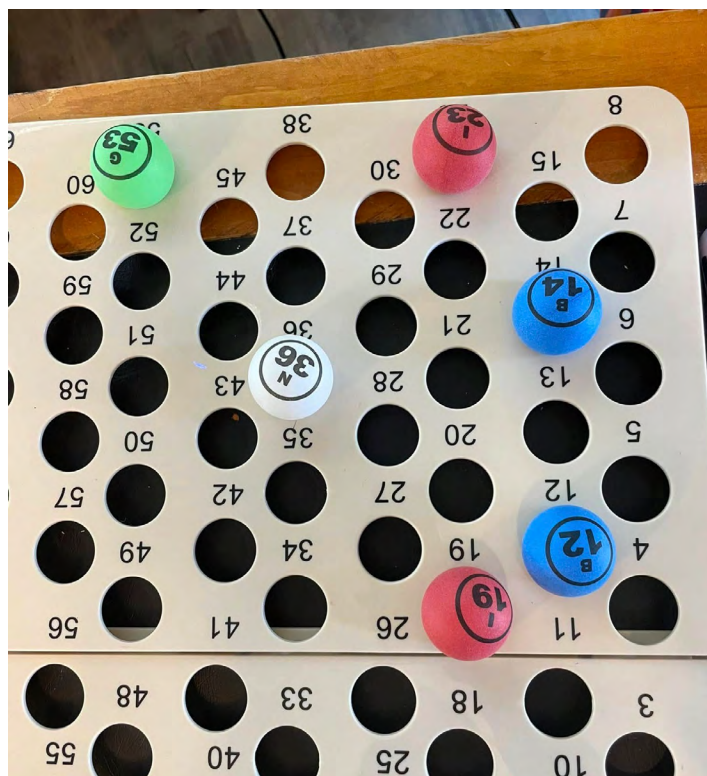


December, we focused on Family time during our Community Crafting Event and Community Christmas party! Both events were such a great time and gave us that little bit of extra spirit to bring us into our Holidays!!

We look forward to the New Year Together and creating new memories with the upcoming season!

Band Representation

Hello! Since the last newsletter the band representative team has been incredibly busy working with band members, affiliates, and community partners. We did have some neat programming that we were able to bring to the community. We were successful in ensuring that members received back to school funding as well as backpacks filled with school supplies for the children. This was provided for intown members as well as members out of town. We were also able to bring multiple families to pumpkin fest for the very last year at Gammondale. Families were able to enjoy many pumpkin related activities and eat lunch together and just connect with family and friends while in a safe space. We also did Halloween bowling which was a huge success. We were able to fill over half of the lanes at Mario's bowl. Everyone came in costumes and just had a great time together.



Another very successful program we were able to put on was our meat bingo which helped with food security for families and making sure that there was to meat in the freezers. Over the Christmas holidays we had our second annual gingerbread house making contest which had many entries and brought families together. This year again we were also able to ensure children had appropriate winter clothing and were adequately dressed for the weather. Behind the scenes the band representative team assisted many families with different versions of support that supported the family unit and plenty of advocacy to ensure empowerment of family units. If you or your family requires support of has questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Tylyn Silander, Family Representative Manager
C: 807-355-9731
tsilander@bnafn.ca



BNA Member Business Listings

It is important to highlight the success of our Band Members and create a network through our membership. If you wish to be included, please contact Jake at jalfieri@bnafn.ca with your business name, logo, website, email, or other additional information.



Carey Calder, MBA
Founder & Principal of
Nakanagis Consulting



NAKANAGIS
CONSULTING

Email: careycalder@nakanagis.ca

Phone: (343) 500-6474

Website: www.nakanagis.ca

Nakanagis Consulting is a proud Indigenous-owned consulting company in Canada providing tailored approaches and solutions to Indigenous businesses, not-for-profit (NFP) service delivery organizations, and corporate executives by understanding their unique needs.

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

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

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

- Name
- Draft synopsis of achievement
- Photos/videos

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



2025 CHIEF & COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION

Electoral Officer Appointed	Friday, December 27, 2024
Posting of Nomination Meeting	Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Nomination Meeting	Thursday, February 20, 2025
Posting of second Nomination Meeting	Monday, February 24, 2025
Second Nomination Meeting	Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Posting of Notice of Election	Friday, March 21, 2025
Voter Package Mail-out	Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Election Day	Saturday, May 24, 2025

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR MAILING ADDRESS
HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO US.**

To confirm your address, please contact Louise at:
lesquega@bnafn.ca
 (807) 623-2724 ext.203



Head Office

1 Copper Thunderbird Road
Sand Point FN, ON
P0T 2B0

Family Well-Being

150 Grandview Road
Thunder Bay, ON P7G 1P5

215 Van Norman St.
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4B6
Phone: (807) 344-3055

Satellite Office

292 Court Street S.
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6C6
Phone: (807) 623-2724