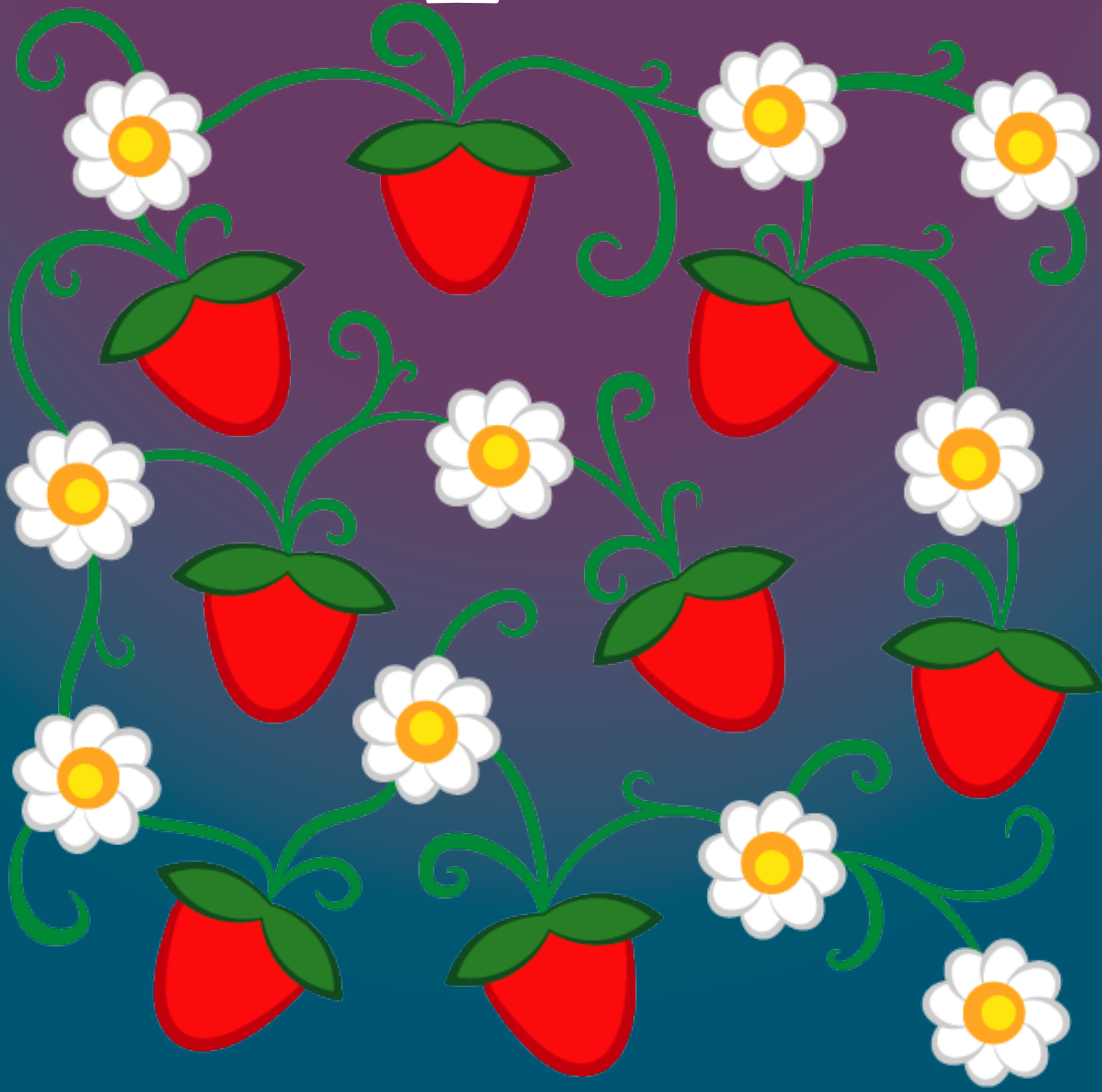




# Annual Report '24 '25



# Chief & Council

## 2024-2025

Chief Paul Gladu

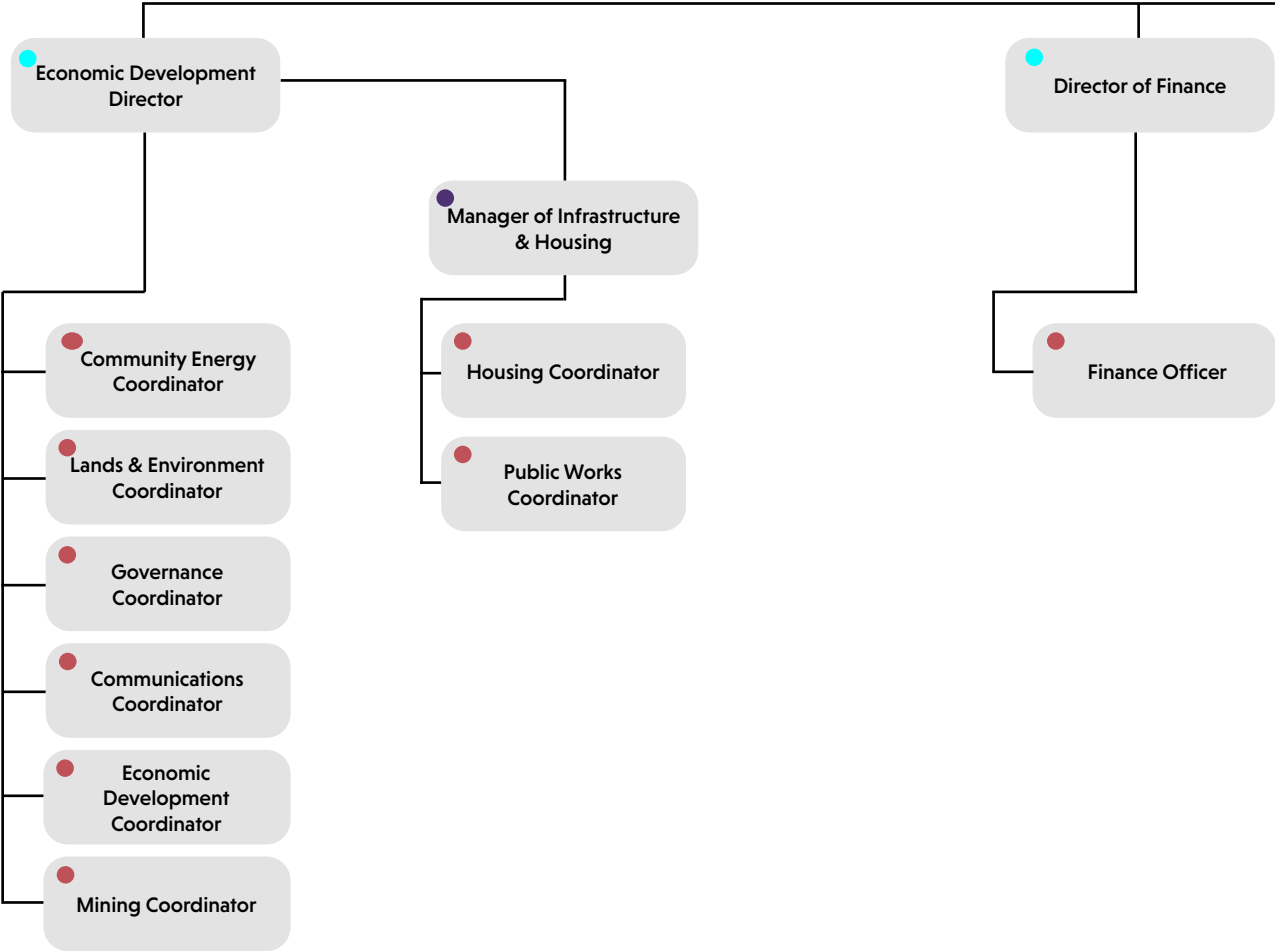
Councillor Tracy Gibson

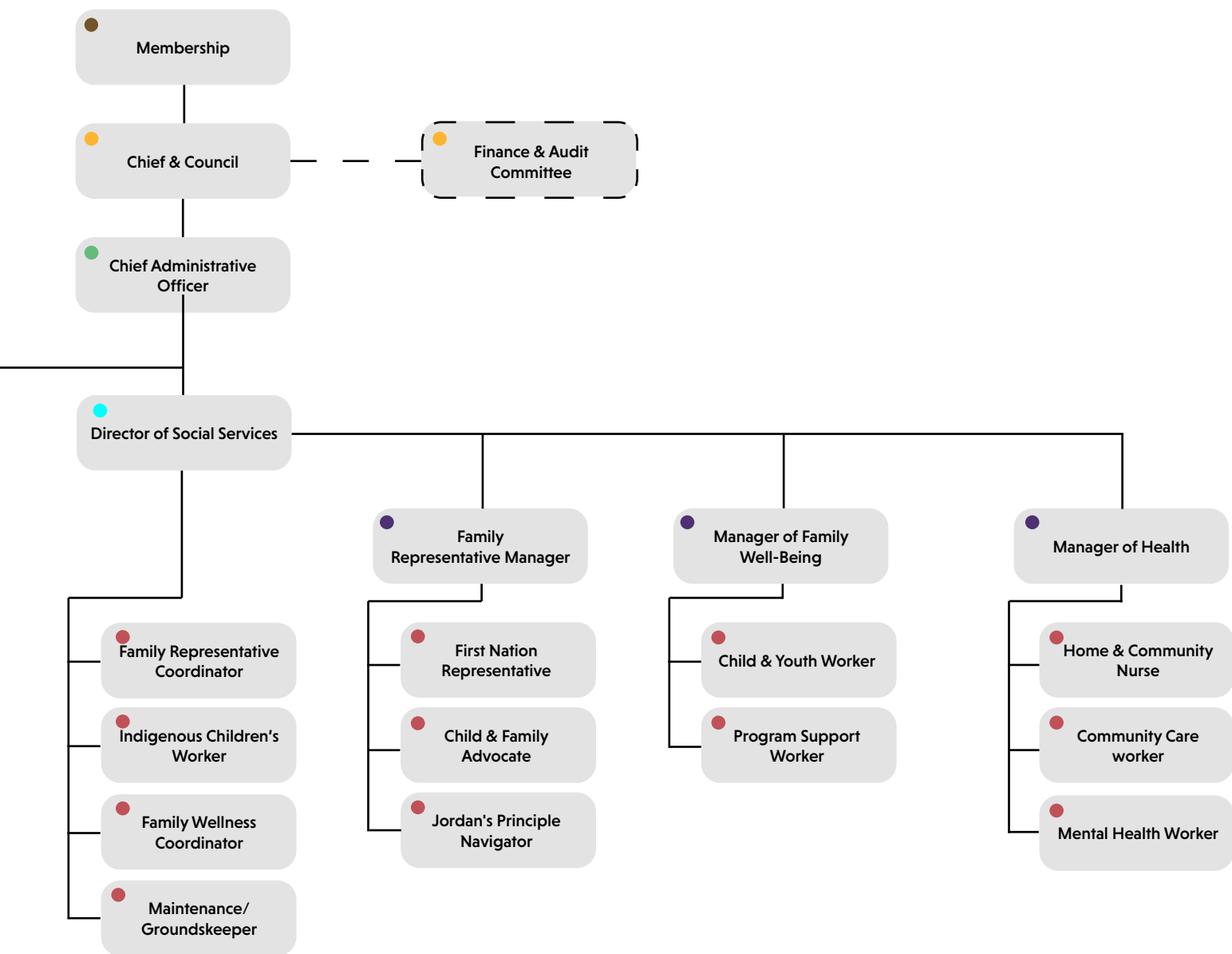
Councillor Lillian Calder



# Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

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# Our Background

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

BNA's community is located at Sand Point, on the southeast shores of Lake Nipigon, adjacent to the municipal boundaries of Greenstone, formerly occupied by the Lake Nipigon Provincial Park.

The Nation is led by Chief Paul Gladu and Councillors Lillian Calder and Tracy Gibson. BNA is a member of the Nokiiwin Tribal Council, a Regional Chiefs' Council, and a member of Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA).

## Vision

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

## Mission

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

## Values

### *Ambition*

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

### *Self-Sufficiency*

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

### *Fairness*

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

### *Continuous Improvement*

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

### *Collaboration*

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

### *7 Grandfather Teachings*

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



***We are pleased to present to you Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Annual Report for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, which reports back on our activities and progress that took place between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.***

This document is one of our communication tools for our First Nation, as it describes the goals we have set for ourselves as a Nation, and the work we have accomplished in reaching for those goals. This is our third Annual Report and we will continue to publish these on a yearly basis.

In this 2024/25 Annual Report, we will be outlining and describing all of our programs, projects, committees, achievements, and financial statements.

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



# A Message From Chief & Council

As BNA's 2024/2025 fiscal year concluded on March 31st, 2025, we take this opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments and milestones that marked another year of growth and progress on the land.

Four new homes were completed, and all tenants will be settled comfortably into their residences. Looking ahead, funding has been secured for the construction of three additional homes in 2025, continuing our commitment to expanding safe and sustainable housing for our members.

Chief Gladu, along with BNA's legal counsel, Bob Botsford of Carrell and Partners and Lucas Jewitt of Edwards Bell Jewitt LLP, remained actively engaged in the BNA Title and Robinson Superior Treaty Annuity cases. A community meeting held in November provided members with updates and, following the closing of the Robinson Superior Annuities litigation, Chief and Council will continue to share progress with the membership.



The BNA Annual General Meeting took place on September 7th, 2024, at BNA's Grandview location. MNP presented the audited financial statements for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. For those interested, previous audited financial reports are available on the Indigenous Services Canada website under First Nations Profiles.

All BNA community meetings are live streamed, ensuring members can participate, ask questions, and stay informed regardless of their location. Members attending virtually are also eligible to participate in any prize draws held during the meetings.

The annual community Christmas party was held on December 7th, 2024, at the Slovak Legion. Santa made an appearance. The event was, once again, very well attended, bringing warmth and celebration to our community.

A space capsule carrying BNA memorabilia landed on the moon, leaving a lasting imprint of BNA for future generations and space explorers to discover. This unique achievement symbolizes our enduring presence and pride. A letter from the Chief, BNA history, and some of Norval Morrisseau's art all in PDF form were included in the capsule.

BNA's Family Well-Being Team delivered programming for members of all age groups throughout the year, supporting community health, wellness, and connection.

The four-year term for the current Chief and Council ended on May 24, 2025. We welcome our new Chief & Council for the 2025-26 fiscal: Chief Paul Gladu, Councillor Tracy Gibson, and Councillor Marcel Donio.

Miigwetch for your support.

Chief and Council



# An Update from Finance

The finance team has continued to be as busy as ever throughout the last twelve months, courtesy of the many economic development projects, member activities, and supports that BNA provides to our members. We continue to work very closely with the various arms of BNA, including the Family Well-Being team, the Economic Development team, and Chief and Council. As the gatekeepers of the financial side of BNA, it is our job to work closely with everyone and not only ensure we are meeting our obligations but to also question everything and ensure all financial transactions are performed within the boundaries of our policies and procedures. We continue to do this on a daily basis, ensuring that we are maintaining the integrity of our Financial Management System (FMS) certification, which we received in May of 2024 from the First Nations Financial Management Board (FNFB), as well as ensuring that we will once again receive a clean, unqualified opinion on our upcoming year end audit. I am very proud of the work we have done and continue to do on behalf of the members.

## ***Financial Statement Audit***

The audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024 were approved by Council and membership at the AGM held in September 2024. Thanks to the hard work of our team, we were able to make sure that the audit was completed on time this year. I am happy to announce that the March 31, 2024 audited financial statements were prepared with an unqualified audit opinion, which means that BNA continues to meet its obligations under the Public Sector Accounting Standards with no deficiencies. In addition to this, for the first time in many years, BNA received a clean Letter to Management from the auditors. This letter typically outlines any deficiencies or process recommendations, but for this fiscal year the letter had no recommendations and no deficiencies to note. This is a huge testament to the hard work and dedication of the BNA finance team who continue to strive for excellence.

In addition, MNP LLP has been appointed as BNA's auditors once again. The audit for the year ending March 31, 2025 will begin in early June 2025 and will be completed in time for the financial statements to be approved and presented to the membership at the AGM.

As always, the final audited financial statements are available to our members upon request by contacting BNA's Communications Coordinator, Jake Alfieri, at [jalfieri@bnafrn.ca](mailto:jalfieri@bnafrn.ca) or at (807) 623-2724 ext 208. This includes financial statements up to the year ending March 31, 2024.

The financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2025 will be available once they are approved and presented to the membership.

## ***Member Information Changes***

We continue to encourage members to keep us up to date on their contact information. If you have changed your address, phone number, email address, or banking information, please ensure that you contact BNA's Governance Coordinator, Louise Esquega, at [lesquega@bnafrn.ca](mailto:lesquega@bnafrn.ca).





### ***Member Payments***

In an effort to continue to cut down the number of cheques we issue, BNA is requesting that all members provide our team with the banking information for direct deposit payments. If we do not already have your direct deposit information on file, or if you have recently changed your banking information, please send it to [finance@bnafn.ca](mailto:finance@bnafn.ca).

### ***Finance and Audit Committee***

The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) has continued to be a vital support to the finance team and to Chief and Council throughout the year. Their role is to receive quarterly updates from the Director of Finance, ask the tough questions, and make recommendations to Chief and Council on various items. The FAC complete confidentiality agreements annually as part of their role.

### ***Into the Future***

There are a lot of exciting things happening at BNA this year, from various economic development projects to member activities. I am thankful to be part of this continued journey at BNA and have enjoyed watching the community continue to grow.

Until next time,



Brandon Favel, CPA  
Director of Finance



# An Update from Economic Development

## FUNDED PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

*\*\* Further details for many of these Projects can be found within the BNA Annual Report.*

### **Title Claim Negotiations – Federal and Provincial**

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, BNA continued with its Title Claim negotiations with Canada and Ontario, and the five other First Nations involved in the process. Funding is received from both Canada and Ontario to enable BNA to participate in these negotiations. At the end of this process, in return for becoming a signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty, BNA would receive financial compensation from Canada, and land from Ontario. Funding is expected to continue into the 2025/26 fiscal year. BNA held a community meeting in November 2024 regarding its Title Case negotiations. Economist Dr. Lazar and Land specialist David Curruthers joined BNA's legal team to provide an update on the financial and land negotiations. The BNA "Communications Committee" was also formed in the last fiscal year. Made up of members from the community, this committee provided recommendations to Chief and Council regarding communications with members.

### **Annuities – Federal and Provincial**

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, BNA received both federal and provincial funding to assist with costs related to its Annuities case. This matter is being handled through the courts. Funding is expected to continue into the 2025/26 fiscal year. As with the Title Negotiations, the November 2024 community meeting also provided an update to the members regarding Annuities. The "Communications Committee" has also dealt with communications issues related to Annuities.

### **Governance Coordinator Initiatives – Cemetery Policies**

BNA received funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for the completion of the community's "Cemetery Policies". These policies are critical for the sustainable burials of BNA members in the community's cultural zone. The project was led by the BNA Governance

Coordinator, and work will continue into the 2025/26 fiscal year.

### **BNA-Papasay Cooperation and Service Agreement**

BNA received funding for the development of a "BNA-Papasay Cooperation Agreement" in the 2023/24 fiscal year, but this was fully deferred to the 2024/25 fiscal year. With the assistance of Edward Bell Jewitt (EBJ) Law, several meetings were held with both the Chief and Council of BNA as well as the Papasay Board of Directors in order to formulate a set of policies that will improve communication and cooperation between the two entities. Likewise, a "Service Agreement" template was created to ensure standard pricing for goods and services provided by Papasay for the First Nation. This work was completed on time and on-budget by March 31, 2025.

### **Housing**

Through the work of the BNA Housing Team, including the Manager of Infrastructure and Housing and the Housing Coordinator, BNA carried out multiple activities on the housing front in 2024/25, including:

- Completing the construction of two fourplexes. These are ISC-funded units, which will house contractors and part-time workers, as well as provide accommodations for Family Well-Being;
- Completed construction of four single-family dwellings in the community. These homes were completed with funding from CMHC;
- Continued with the Lot Servicing Project, preparing 20 BNA lots for housing in the community. Additional infrastructure work will be carried out in the Phase 4 "Build Your Own Homes" area in 2025/26.
- Continued development of BNA Housing Policies with the BNA Housing Committee;
- Maintenance and up-keep of homes with the hiring of an on-reserve Public Works Coordinator;
- Received funding from CMHC for 3 new single-family dwellings, which will be constructed in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

### ***New Hotel Feasibility Study***

While the last Commercial Zone feasibility study did not find a hotel to be feasible, BNA wanted to have a second look, as the demand in the region seems to support one along the hwy. BNA engaged with CRBE, a consulting group that specializes in hotel feasibility, for this new study, and had it funded by ISC CORP. As of March 31, 2025, the study was still underway, with completion expected early in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

### ***BNA Biomass District Heating Project***

In the 2024/25 fiscal year, BNA received all required funding from both the province and federal government related to its on-reserve District Heating project, which was to utilize wood residues from its current Sawmill operations to heat its homes and community buildings at Sand Point. TBT has been retained to provide project management services for this important community project. BNA also completed a "Wood Analysis Business Plan" with the support from NRCan. This was a prerequisite for receiving the funding for this Project.

With all studies now completed and funding now in place, BNA will be moving forward with several activities in 2025/26 and 2026/27 fiscal years, including retrofitting homes, tendering out and hiring contractors, building its plant and acquiring the biomass equipment, and trenching and providing piped services to all homes in the community.

### ***BNA Food Sovereignty Projects***

In 2024/25, BNA initiated several projects to continue to enhance its food sovereignty. Some of these included:

- Completion of the BNA Ice Shack, which now provide members with ice for fish and game harvested;
- Purchase of moose crane and other equipment with funding from CORDA;
- Purchase of tools and greenhouse materials.

### ***BNA Estates Project***

In 2024/25, BNA carried out its Wills and Estates Project which was deferred from the 2023/24 fiscal year. This included the Governance

Coordinator working with EBJ Law to complete the wills for at least 30 BNA members. BNA will continue to look for further resources in future fiscal years to complete more wills for members both on and off-reserve.

### ***ISC Economic Development Funding***

As part of the 10-year Grant, BNA receives funding for an Economic Development Officer. It is a small amount, and not enough to service the position. However, it is allocated to economic development activities throughout the fiscal year, and is part of the 10-year grant funding that BNA is a part of. As part of the 10-year grant, BNA is able to defer funding year to year, and utilize as required within the parameters of the agreement.

### ***Consultation Coordinator***

BNA, along with every Ontario First Nation, receives yearly funding from the Provincial Ministry of Indigenous Affairs' New Relationship Fund to assist with consultation-related activities throughout the fiscal year. Costs include salaries, engagement with membership, travel, and professional fees as required. The project is completed and fully expended every year by March 31st.

### ***Community Energy Champion***

BNA receives funding from the provincial Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) to provide funding for the Energy Coordinator position. This position works on energy projects on-reserve, including the BNA District Heating project, electric charging stations, and other energy and retrofit projects both on and off-reserve. The funding is fully expended yearly, and was again by March 31st, 2025.

BNA also receives a small amount of funding for IESO Capacity Building, which provides funding for the BNA Energy Coordinator to attend training and conferences for her role.

### ***Land Management***

Following the ratification of the original BNA Land Code in 2014, BNA began receiving Land Management funding from ISC. This provides support for BNA's land management activities on-reserve. This funding is received yearly, and is not

required to be spent on a fiscal basis.

### ***Infrastructure Funding***

As part of the 10-year grant, BNA receives small amounts of on-reserve infrastructure funding from ISC. This includes:

- First Nation Infrastructure Investment Program dollars
- ACRS funding for on-reserve maintenance
- Water and Wastewater
- Solid Waste Management

This funding is utilized year-to-year for various maintenance activities on-reserve, the salary for the BNA Public Works Coordinator, and various on-reserve infrastructure projects. Through the 10-year grant process, BNA is able to defer funding year to year, and utilize as required within the parameters of the agreement.

### ***BNA Drone Project***

In the 2024/25 fiscal year, BNA was approved for the purchase of a new drone. This drone is able to take pictures and videos of BNA's developments, as well as provide information on the landscape for the community's Title negotiations. In order to prepare for the drone work, BNA staff were trained in use of the drone, and Jake, BNA's Consultation Coordinator, became fully licensed to operate the drone. This project was fully completed in the 2025/26 fiscal year, and the drone will be utilized going forward.

### ***Greenhouse Feasibility Study***

In 2024/25, BNA received funding from the province to complete a greenhouse feasibility study in its Sawmill yard. Essentially, it was to look at how the greenhouse could operate by using by-product heat from the Sawmill operation. BNA worked with Northern Community Solutions for this project, and it included additional research on the industry which was undertaken by the BNA Economic Development Coordinator. The project deemed this to be unfeasible, but the research will be valuable for future work in the Industrial Park. Work was completed by March 31st, 2025.

### ***Ring of Fire Participation Funding***

In 2024/25, BNA received funding to participate

in the Ring of Fire studies that will be taking place over the coming years. BNA will have an opportunity to comment on various matters, with a focus on issues important to our region, including adequate transmission in the Greenstone region. No work was done on this project on BNA's end in 2024/25.

### ***OPG Capacity Funding (Little Jackfish River Project)***

In 2024/25, BNA along with its First Nation neighbours around Lake Nipigon received capacity funding from Ontario Power Generation for participating in discussions around the Little Jackfish Hydroelectric Project. The efforts were around re-launching the Environmental Assessment for this project, and working with the community to revive discussions around its potential development. However, by the end of 2024/25, this project had not yet embarked on the new EA.

### ***Fire Protection Strategy Fund***

Continuing in its work from the 2023/24 fiscal year, in 2024/25 BNA purchased new wild fire equipment for the community. This included a pump and other important equipment which will be necessary in case of community fires. Next steps will be to train members living on the land how to utilize this equipment.

### ***BNA Summer Students***

In 2024/25, BNA received funding from three sources to employ its summer students:

- Canada Summer Jobs (ESDC)
- First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES)
- Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS)

This year, BNA was able to hire summer students to work on the land and ensure that the land was maintained during the summer months. However, unlike previous years, in 2024/25, BNA hired 2 additional summer students to work in its offices in Thunder Bay – one at the Court Street office, and one at the Family Well-Being Office. All funding was expended on time and on budget by March 31st, 2025.

### ***BNA Economic Development Coordinator***

In 2024/25, BNA was successful in receiving funding from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs for the hiring of a new Economic Development Coordinator. This position would assist the Director of Economic Development in his various projects, and focus on funding and reporting. In late summer 2024, BNA hired Katia Borjas for this role. Katia has successfully applied to several funds in her role. While the project ended March 31, 2025, Katia will remain in her role, with her position being funded through her successful proposals.

### ***Capital Planning Study***

BNA received funding for a revamped Capital Planning Study several fiscal years ago, and this work continued in the 2024/25 fiscal year with the completion of the plans. The work was completed by TBT Engineering, and it includes an overall "Master Plan" for the community, as well as specified costing for on-reserve infrastructure requirements. BNA completed its Capital Planning Study by March 31, 2025.

### ***Waste Transfer Station***

In 2024/25, BNA received funding from ISC to complete the design of its Waste Transfer Station. A team was set up which includes the BNA Infrastructure Manager, Nokiiwin, and TBT Engineering to complete the studies. The next phase will be finalizing the design, and then the construction of the facility, which will be getting underway in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

### ***Nation Rebuild Project***

In the 2024/25 fiscal year, BNA continued its work with AZA and Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation on its efforts to push Canada into supporting infrastructure monetization in our communities. With the support of Minister Hajdu, a series of tables were set up with the 3 First Nations to look at how the communities can progress with their development. Funding was received by ISC through BNA to carry out this work.

### ***BNA Sawmill Expansion Project***

Several years ago, BNA received funding from both FedNor and Natural Resources Canada for its Sawmill Expansion project. This project was to

transform the Papasay Sawmill from one that is producing green lumber, to one that is producing kiln-dried and planed/moulded structural lumber. This project carried on through the 2024/25 fiscal year, with the purchase of several new pieces of equipment: A new loader, the retrofitting of the planer-moulder, and a new dust collection system.

### ***BNA Sawmill Insulation Project and Green Energy Retrofits***

BNA was unable to complete its Sawmill Insulation Project and building retrofits in 2024/25. This work was deferred to 2025/26. It will ensure additional biomass heating will be salvaged through this project, and will be able to heat the kiln chamber and other Sawmill assets within the BNA Industrial Park.

### ***New Sawmill Building Construction***

In 2024/25 fiscal year, BNA received funding from ICCGP, a provincial fund, toward the construction of the new Planer/Moulder building, which is to be located adjacent to the Papasay Sawmill. This building will be used for the value-added process, including a new planer/moulder. Additional funders are lining up to support the facility's construction. This funding will be deferred, with site prep being completed in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

### ***Ontario First Nations Economic Development Association (OFNEDA) Funding***

In 2024/25, every First Nation in Ontario, including BNA, received an economic development top-up from Ontario through OFNEDA. While not substantial, every dollar is critical for economic development, and BNA was able to utilize this funding for a variety of economic development activities during the fiscal year. We are expecting similar funding in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

### ***First Nation Roads Program***

In 2024/25, BNA was formally accepted into the MTO's First Nation Roads Program. To receive funding from MTO, BNA's roads had to meet certain standards, including width, crowning, ditching, etc., to the standards as set out in their criteria. In the fall of 2023, BNA completed a massive roads program with Teranorth, which



brought the roads to the required standards for the community to enter into the program. We will now be funded for some maintenance activities on the road every year.

## REGIONAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES (UNFUNDED)

Along with BNA's funded initiatives, the community is also working on multiple off-reserve initiatives that are not currently funded, but could result in very substantial revenue generation for BNA if they were to proceed.

### *Mining and Exploration*

During the 2024/24 fiscal year, BNA continued to work with its neighbours on joint dealings with regional exploration companies. BNA signed an alliance with BZA, AZA and Red Rock Indian Band to work on mining and other matters in their joint territory. Throughout the 2024/25 year, all four First Nations on the east side of Lake Nipigon worked collectively on mining permitting matters. In all cases, Nookiiwin's Mineral Development Advisor worked with the communities and proponents to move things forward.

Two new Exploration Agreements were signed during 2024/25 fiscal year. These include:

- Green Technology Metals (BNA, BZA)
- Laurion Minerals (BNA, BZA, AZA)

Other agreements in place from previous years include:

- Rock Tech Lithium (BNA, BZA, RRIB)
- Imagine Lithium (BNA, BZA, RRIB)
- Greenstone Goldmines (BNA)

For each of these agreements, benefits include employment and training, contracting preferences, revenue generation upon signing and through percentage of annual exploration agreements, scholarships, and share warrants.

Template exploration agreements have been sent to multiple companies operating in the region, and we expect to continue our work in signing new agreements during the 2025/26 year, with all First Nations working together as a collective. BNA also hired a new Mining Coordinator – Kim Rozon, formerly with Nookiiwin Tribal Council,

to assist on this file. While currently unfunded, Kim submitted for Mineral Development Advisor funding through the province, which would sustainably keep the position in place for BNA. The Mining Coordinator is also heavily involved in the BNA Title Case negotiations, and working with companies operating in the region to sign Exploration Agreements with the community.

### *Greenstone Transmission Project*

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is in the process of developing its Northern Connection Report. BNA, in partnership with the First Nations along the transmission route – Red Rock Indian Band, BZA, AZA, Long Lac #58, Ginoogaming and Aroland – are working with Hydro One to move the Greenstone Transmission Project forward. This involves the development of a new, double circuit 230kV Transmission Line from Nipigon Bay up to Aroland/Nakina. From there, the line can be brought to the far northern Matawa communities, and onto the Ring of Fire. But the Greenstone Project will be specific in its goal, which is to provide reliable power for Greenstone, and adequate power for community and industrial developments.

In November 2024, BNA and its neighbouring communities met with Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Energy Stephen Lecce, and Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford in Toronto to push for the designation for this transmission line. There are several next steps for this project, including:

- Getting the designation from the Minister;
- Working with IESO on their planning process;
- Forming a joint corporation among the 7 First Nations;
- Negotiating a commercial agreement with Hydro One;
- Setting up training programs for future employment opportunities;
- Completing the Environmental Assessment for the project;
- Finalizing routing;
- Embarking on community consultation;
- Preparing contracting and partnerships between the First Nations and companies.

BNA will be regularly updating the membership

on this incredibly important project for the community and the region as a whole.

### ***Wind Development***

BNA, BZA, RIB and AZA First Nations are working collectively on a wind development project southeast of BNA. There is the potential to develop several 100's of megawatts of wind in this region. The province is currently embarking on the largest procurement of power in its history, and this wind project could be a part of this mix. Currently the communities are in discussions with Innergex, a large renewable energy company from Quebec. Decisions will need to be made around the timing of project submissions, as the project is significantly more feasible when it is able to connect to the new 230kV transmission line. But

without this line in place, the wind development would need its own transmission line down to the east-west tie project.

As this project moves ahead in its maturity, it will be brought to the BNA membership for consultation and consideration.



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## **Economic Development Coordinator**



### ***On-Reserve Rental Spaces for BNA entrepreneurs***

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, there was a growing interest in office space among community businesses and entrepreneurs. In response, BNA applied for a grant to undertake the project of retrofitting these two underutilized bunkhouses, located in the commercial zone of BNA near the Papasay Sawmill, into functional office spaces. These upgraded facilities will provide a workspace for community businesses and contribute to the growth of our internal economy.

### ***Economic Development Strategic Plan***

With our Economic Development Coordinator in place, BNA kicked off its update of its "Apiichign'ng Waakaa'igan"- Growing our Home Economic Development Strategic Plan 2019-2024. This plan has been used for the past years as a guiding document and to direct decision-making and contribute to the successful completion of many priority actions.

In addition, with the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) in place, BNA aims to align both plans to strengthen coordination and impact. The review process will involve Chief and Council, community members, and staff, with meetings scheduled throughout the upcoming fiscal year. The goal is to complete the updated plan by the end of the 2025/2026 fiscal year.



## Mining Coordinator

With the hiring of our new Mining Coordinator in January 2025, Kim Rozon continues to work with Nookiwin Tribal Council and our neighbouring communities of Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (AZA), Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek, and Red Rock Indian Band on reviewing mineral exploration and development projects. Together, the four communities review exploration plans and permits, respond to government consultation requests, and negotiate agreements with proponents to share benefits equally. Benefits include employment and training, contracting preferences, revenue generation upon signing and through percentage of annual exploration agreements, scholarships, share warrants, better communication, and enhanced environmental protections.

In the fiscal year 2024/2025, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek was consulted on 13 exploration permits which the majority were submitted by proponents that we currently have signed exploration agreements with. We continue to work with the other proponents to have exploration agreements on all mineral projects within our territory.

Current agreements (in order of date signed):

- Equinox Gold (Greenstone Gold Mines) – Brookbank Project
  - » Signed September 2020 on their own.
- Rock Tech Lithium – Georgia Lake Project
  - » Signed in October 2021 with BZA and RRIB.
  - » AZA joined January 2025.
- Imagine Lithium – Jackpot Project
  - » Signed March 2022 with BZA, RRIB.
  - » AZA joined July 2024.
- Green Technology Metals – Seymour Lithium Project
  - » Signed December 2024 with BZA.
- Laurion Minerals – Ishkoday Project
  - » Signed March 2025 with AZA and BZA.



Photo: Signing of Laurion Minerals' Ishkoday Project March 2025,

*Left to right: Chief Gladys Thompson (BZA), Chief Paul Gladu (BNA), Cynthia Le Sueur-Aquin (Laurion - standing), Chief Yvette Metansinine (AZA)*





# Infrastructure

## ***Waste Transfer Station***

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA), in partnership with TBT Engineering, is proud to share an exciting update on the Waste Transfer Station project. The design phase is now 99% complete, with only minor revisions remaining before final approval. This marks a major milestone in our efforts to improve waste management services and environmental sustainability on the land.

Once the final design is approved in early 2025, BNA will issue a formal request for tenders to begin construction. With confirmed funding of \$1,014,913.00 from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), construction of the Waste Transfer Station is scheduled to begin in summer 2025, with full completion anticipated by the end of the year.

This state-of-the-art facility will provide the community with a reliable, modern waste disposal solution that supports long-term growth and environmental stewardship. It reflects BNA's ongoing commitment to building safe, sustainable infrastructure that meets the evolving needs of our members. We look forward to seeing this important project come to life and thank everyone involved for their continued support and collaboration.

## ***On-Reserve Internet Access***

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) initially committed to enhancing community connectivity by joining the Starlink program in partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure Ontario and SpaceX, as part of the Federal Government's broader initiative to bring high-speed internet to all First Nation communities. The project aimed to roll out Starlink internet services to all homes and businesses beginning in June 2025.

However, due to recent political tensions between the United States and Canada, along with the Ontario Government's cancellation of its Starlink contracts, this initiative has been placed on hold. As a result, BNA is currently unable to proceed with the Starlink deployment as originally planned. Despite this setback, BNA remains committed to securing reliable internet access

for the community and continues to engage with the Province to explore alternative connectivity solutions. Discussions are ongoing to identify other viable options to meet the digital needs of members and ensure progress toward long-term broadband infrastructure.

## ***Lot Development***

The Immediate Needs Lot Development Project for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is a critical initiative aimed at supporting the community's growing residential needs. With the development of 20 new lots nearing completion, key infrastructure components such as ditching improvements and partial driveway installations have already been successfully implemented.

The final and most essential stage involves the construction of Cedar Bay Road, which will provide direct access to Lots 1–6 designated for the Build Your Own Home program. This road work is scheduled to begin in the summer and is vital for enabling members to begin building homes on their allocated properties.

The completion of this project offers several important benefits. It addresses the immediate housing demand by equipping BNA with serviced, accessible residential lots ready for development. It also promotes community-driven homeownership through the Build Your Own Home program, empowering members to take part in shaping the future of their community.

Furthermore, this infrastructure investment supports long-term planning by improving connectivity, encouraging sustainable land use, and laying the groundwork for future expansion.

Overall, this project ensures BNA is well-prepared to meet the housing needs of its members while fostering independence, growth, and resilience on the land.

# Housing

## ***Key Achievements:***

- Fourplex – short-term rentals: BNA's new initiative is helping with accommodating workers and employment in the community.
- 4 New housing units completed making a total of 25 units since 2018: 2 Duplexes, 2 Fourplexes, and 15 Single Detached Homes.
- Home ownership policy in support of the Build Your Own Home Program; worked with BMO.
- Housing Maintenance and Training has been at the forefront as BNA works through the development of homes in the community.
- 3 CMHC upcoming homes are expected to help members and meet their financial needs.
- Data collection/strategic planning for future home builds; types of homes to suit members' needs.
- 6-unit building design; approved SEED funding for working on a design concept, package to submit for construction funding.
- 12 units are being retrofitted for biomass, a renewable energy source to heat homes.
- Building communities togetherness: this year, we focused on what matters most—people. Our housing isn't just about walls and roofs; it's about creating safe, supportive, and welcoming communities where everyone can grow and feel at home.

## ***Message from the Housing Department***

The 2024–2025 fiscal year was one of meaningful progress, innovative development, and strategic planning for the Housing Department of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA). As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we recognize that our work extends far beyond the physical construction of homes. We are laying the foundation for a thriving community—one where housing supports not only shelter but belonging, safety, and opportunity.

## ***Accomplishments***

Throughout the year, BNA successfully completed four new housing units, bringing the total number of homes constructed since 2018 to 25. This includes two duplexes, two fourplexes, and thirteen single detached homes. A total of seventeen of these builds have been developed

and managed directly by BNA, demonstrating our growing capacity in project management and housing delivery.

A major initiative this year was the completion of two new fourplex's designated for short-term rentals. This development is already proving to be a valuable asset to the community by accommodating essential workers and supporting employment.

The Housing Department also advanced its commitment to home ownership by implementing a new policy that aligns with the Build Your Own Home Program. Through a collaborative effort with BMO, we conducted a financial audit. This financial partnership has enhanced our ability to support members who are seeking homeownership and increased financial independence.

BNA's achievements have not gone unnoticed. The community received recognition through housing awards that help establish our First Nation as a respected and emerging leader in the First Nation housing market. This recognition reflects both the quality of our housing developments and the innovation embedded in our housing strategy.

Recognizing the importance of sustainability and long-term home care, the Housing Department prioritized maintenance and staff training. This investment in capacity building ensures that new and existing homes are maintained to high standards, safeguarding housing assets for generations to come.

BNA also embraced environmentally sustainable practices by launching a retrofit project for twelve existing units. These homes are being equipped with biomass heating systems, reinforcing our commitment to renewable energy and reducing reliance on non-renewable fuel sources.

Looking to address housing opportunities, the community has planned three new homes under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation



(CMHC) section 95 program. These homes are intended to support members with financial needs and will contribute to reducing housing waitlists.

Perhaps most significantly, the Housing Department continued to foster a sense of community through every project.

### **Challenges**

Despite our achievements, this year also brought a number of challenges. Rising construction costs, driven by inflation and global supply chain disruptions, placed pressure on project budgets. Additionally, delays in hydro connections and limited road access affected the timely completion of several home builds. These infrastructure issues, which had been factored into project timelines, ultimately slowed progress and delayed the move-in dates for new tenants.

Delays in securing external funding approvals presented additional obstacles, particularly for larger, multi-unit projects. Moreover, maintaining older housing units—especially during harsh seasonal conditions—created a backlog of maintenance tasks, which we continue to address proactively.

### **Looking Ahead: 2025–2026 Priorities**

In the coming fiscal year, BNA plans to begin construction on the six-unit residential complex, subject to funding approval. We will continue to support the Build Your Own Home Program, empowering more members to achieve homeownership through guided assistance and financial planning.

The three CMHC-supported homes will move into the construction phase, and our biomass retrofit project will expand to include six additional homes and two fourplex units. We also aim to strengthen partnerships with financial institutions to improve access to mortgages for members.

As part of our ongoing housing strategy, we will explore innovative housing models, including elder-specific homes and tiny home developments, to ensure that all community members can find housing suited to their needs.

In addition, the community will undertake a strategic data collection initiative to better understand the types of homes that best meet the needs of our members. The insights gathered will directly inform future design and development priorities. One of the first projects to be shaped by this approach is a proposed six-unit residential building. With design concepts already finalized and SEED funding secured, the next step will be the preparation of a comprehensive construction funding package to bring this initiative to life.

Finally, youth training initiatives in construction and maintenance will be expanded, creating long-term employment opportunities and fostering local expertise within the community.

### **Conclusion**

Housing is the cornerstone of community wellbeing. At Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, we believe that every home we build is an investment in our collective future. As we reflect on this past year and look to the next, we remain committed to building not only homes but a strong, inclusive, and supportive community where everyone has the opportunity to feel safe and thrive.

Miigwetch,  
BNA Housing Department



# Lands & Environment

## Freshwater monitoring Program

In collaboration with the Nokiiwin Tribal Council, BNA established 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 identifying changes to the wide range of metrics. 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. 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.

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.

Biotic Index for Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

Fallingers Creek

Sept 28, 2025

Common Name	Tolerance Value	Number Captured	T*X
Caddisfly nymph	2	1	2x1 = 2
Mayfly nymph	3	43	43x3 = 129
True bug adult (boatman, giant water bug, back swimmer)	5	14	14x5 = 70
Crayfish	6	1	1x6 = 6
Midge	7	23	23x7 = 161
Sum of invertebrates captured (N)		82	368
Biotic Index: TX/N			4.48

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Excellent

Very Good

Good

Fair

Fairly Poor

Poor

Very Poor



## NEW Compost program

As the population on the land 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 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 2025, BNA will launch a pilot project 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 waste transfer station team is assessing how best to support organic waste reduction with BNA's unique challenges.

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

# Energy

## ***Retrofit for Sawmill Insulation***

BNA received funding from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for electricity saving retrofits for commercial buildings within the First Nation. BNA used this funding opportunity to compete energy audits on 5 buildings within the community (Sawmill, Public Washroom, Health Center, Government Building, Maintenance Garage). Overall the benchmarking analysis confirmed best results for funding will be used for the insulation of the sawmill roof, with the rest of the funding for other energy saving opportunities within the community for commercial buildings such as lighting retrofits. As of today, the lighting retrofits have been completed, and the sawmill roof insulation is still to be completed.

## ***Forest Biomass Program (FBP)***

BNA received funding from a provincial funding program called the Forest Biomass Program (FBP). This funding was used to purchase more equipment such as a loader and storage tents. This funding was also used to create the sawmill license for Papasay and to complete a Wood Analysis Plan.

## ***Understanding Our Food Systems***

BNA is one of many First Nations that are a part of a collaboration called Understanding Our Food Systems (UOFS) through the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. The UOFS is a group that helps First Nation communities understand food sovereignty and the importance of healthy food. It also helps communities with healthy eating projects such as greenhouse construction, planting materials, etc. They host gatherings for members to attend and learn more from professionals and other communities.

## ***Ice Shack***

BNA received funding from the Indigenous Peoples Resiliency Fund (IPRF). BNA worked hard with hired contractors to install and construct an ice shack within the community for all members to use. The ice shack can be used all year round. The ice shack is needed as more members live on the land and will be needing ice for fishing and hunting to keep traditional foods fresh and

lasting longer. The construction of the project was completed in December 2024. The ice shack is located beside the public washrooms near the Government Building.

## ***District Heating Biomass Facility Project***

BNA will be installing a district biomass project within community. It is an energy efficient project and will be utilizing the residual wood from the Papasay sawmill. BNA is beginning the home retrofits that will be compatible with the future district heating system as of May 2025. BNA will be sending the project to tender for the construction portion of the project soon. The project has an estimated completion date of March 2027.

## ***Moose crane***

BNA received funding from the Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA) to purchase a hoist/crane system to hold a moose. This piece of equipment will make it easier to carve a moose. BNA also received funding from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit for other moose carving equipment such as tables, knives, cutting boards, etc. Once BNA builds a storage facility for this crane, members will be able to use the crane during hunting season.

## ***Food Sovereignty Projects***

BNA received funding from Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF) for the installation of a food sea-can. This sea-can will host fish cleaning equipment and provide a safe space that is sheltered to do so. Equipment included is table, smoker, tabletop ice machines, etc.

## ***Climate change drone project***

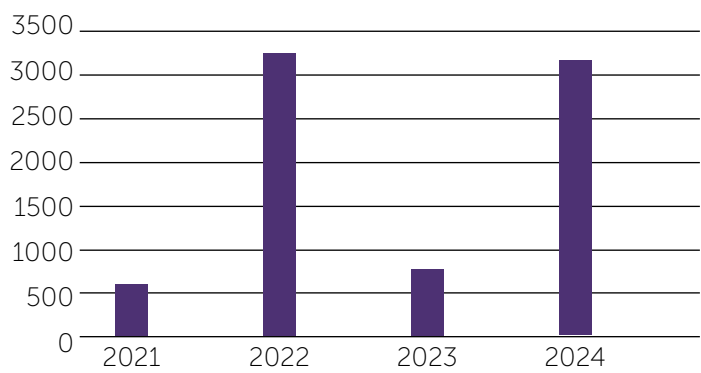
BNA received funding from the First Nation ADAPT Program to purchase a drone to capture videos and photos of the land to study the effects of climate change. We will collect data from the drone for soil erosion, health of the crowns of trees, and weather data. A final report will be written to explain what was seen through the course of the year.

# Governance

## Indian Registry Administration

As the Indian Registry Administrator for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, I have prepared 9 status cards for our members and 61 status cards for members from other First Nations across Canada. The chart below indicates how much funds were collected over the past 4 years. We are proud to have supported numerous Indigenous peoples across Canada in obtaining their status documentation.

Status Card Annual Chart



## Summer Students Employment Highlights

Last summer, we were proud to employ 10 summer students through our Summer Students Employment Program funded through Canada Summer Jobs, First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy, and Anishinaabek Employment and Training Services. Students were offered valuable life skills and experiences while supporting our communities growth. Last year, we hired: 4 students worked at the Family Well-Being Centre, 1 student was placed at our satellite office on Court Street, and 5 students worked on the land, contributing to important community and environmental initiatives.

## Estates and Management Program

Through the Estates Management Program, we successfully completed 31 legal documents. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek had an attorney come and meet individually with the members to have their Wills, POA's, and Powers of Care completed. Once the documents were finalized, they were signed and witnessed in accordance with the relevant legislation and given back to the member. We hope to have this program back in the future.

# Communications

Throughout the 2024/25 fiscal, we provided communications through Newsletters, Facebook, the bnafrn.ca website, the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek mobile app, and both physical and digital mailing systems.

## BNA Members only Facebook page

From April 2024 to March 31 2025, we had 78+ Facebook posts, 143+ reactions, and up to 126 Active Members in a single day.

## BNA Mobile App

This app can be found both in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching 'Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek' and is free to download. We recommend registering as a user to have full access to all content provided on the app. We update with news, events, internal and external job opportunities, documents, surveys, notices,

and any other important information. This app provides notifications to your device so you don't miss out on any new updates, and is perfect for individuals who are not on Facebook.

We currently have 69 registered users and 97 unregistered. Over the past year, we have had 2124 views from our registered and unregistered users.

## Mailing/Email


Through mailing and email, from April 2024 to March 2025, we sent 36 notices to members. In email form we have a total of 89 subscribers with an average of 60.7% emails opened.

Contact Louise at [lesquega@bnafrn.ca](mailto:lesquega@bnafrn.ca) to register for email updates.





## Comprehensive Community Plan Priority Actions 2024-25 Updated


Below you will find status updates to the CCP Priority Actions. Due to many completed items moving to archive within the year, more Priority Actions will be added in their place.


 <b>GI-DAKIIMINAAN (TRADITIONAL LANDS)</b>	
Community trapline approval/ finalization	Prep In Progress
Finalize exploration agreements with proponents in the mining sector	In-Progress Imminent
Regional FN Partnership - formal recognition of FN Stewardship of Lake Nipigon	Prep In Progress


 <b>WAAKAA'IGIN (HOUSING)</b>	
Review & Update Housing Policy	In-Progress Imminent


 <b>AKI MACHIITAWIN (COMMUNITY LANDS &amp; DEVELOPMENT)</b>	
Complete Emergency Preparedness Plan	Completed Archived
Complete lot allocations for six seasonal cottages	In-Progress Imminent
Cemetery Policy updated	In-Progress Imminent

 <b>TAWIN MENO-AYAWIN (HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS)</b>	
Strengthen Fire & EMS Response at Sand Point - est. Hub at BNA	In-Progress Imminent
Cultural assets to be built in the community	In-Progress Imminent
Grandview Property capital funding secured (2024) for expansion and upgrades planned for 2025-2029	In-Progress Imminent
Ensure all team members have MH First Aid Training, SAFE Training	Prep In-Progress

 <b>WESHKUT ANISHINAABE BIIMADIZIWIN (HISTORY &amp; CULTURE)</b>	
Digital Heritage Project	Completed Archived
Develop Pow-Wow protocols & procedures to share	In-Progress On Hold

 <b>ZHOONIYAA MAACHITAWIN (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)</b>	
Commercial Zone Development - Opportunity Assessment	Imminent Completed
PVAWP Sawmill Expansion	In-Progress Imminent
Finalize negotiations on IBAs with mining sector proponents	In-Progress Imminent
Hurkett Bioheat Plant Project (regional partnership) - move ahead to the construction phase	In-Progress Imminent

 <b>OGIMAH NAAKNIGEWIN OGIMAH OZHIBI'IGEWIN (GOVERNANCE &amp; ADMIN)</b>	
Bi-Annual staff gatherings	Prep In-Progress
Department work plans - update annually for all teams, standardize	In-progress Imminent
Communications Policy - revised and updated	In-Progress Imminent

 <b>CHIKAAPIIGESII CHIIGUN (ENERGY &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE)</b>	
Highway entrance - complete research and advocate MTO for improvements to address safety concerns	In-progress Imminent
Biomass energy systems in all homes: Feasibility Study, Break Ground for new plant in Industrial Park, and construction	In-progress Imminent
Waste Transfer Facility - design completed, construction	Prep In Progress
Backup/emergency power system - complete installation	In-Progress On Hold



# An Update from Family Well-Being

I hope you enjoy reading through this comprehensive Annual Report, hearing about our family centre, learning more about our Family Well-Being Team, all the BNA projects and programs as well as special events held for our community. As always, we want to extend a heart filled welcome and encourage all BNA members to participate in the programs we have to offer. We are very thankful for the members who have engaged and contributed to the success of our centre. We also like to take this opportunity to thank our leadership who have invested their time and support to our programs and services.

As the warmer months are upon us, I would like to wish you all a summer filled with adventure and connection to our culture and each other.

Miigwetch,  
Camille Borysewicz





Boozhoo, Aanii! This past year has been filled with meaningful connections, cultural learning, laughter, growth, and community healing. The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Family Well-Being Centre continues to grow in strength and heart, deepening our commitment to supporting families, children, youth, young adults, and Elders—across all stages of life. Each program, event, and gathering was thoughtfully created with the spirit of our community in mind.

Guided by Anishinaabe values, traditions, and the voices of our members, our work this year reflected a shared dedication to holistic wellness—supporting the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical well-being of all who walk through our doors. Over the past fiscal year, our team delivered 160 programs, with transportation and meals offered at nearly every gathering. We were honoured to provide 175 rides to support attendance at programs and appointments, and we shared 197 meals together—each one a chance to connect, nourish, and build community. We are proud to walk alongside our members on their healing and wellness journeys. Your participation, your voices, and your trust continue to guide our path forward.

Miigwetch-Aapiji for an incredible year of learning, laughter, and love.

- Gambling and Addictions
- Alzheimer's awareness and early signs
- Diabetes awareness
- Long Term Care, Assisted living and Advanced Care Planning
- Healthy Hydration
- Elder Abuse
- Ear Care Education
- Anti Human Trafficking
- Sleep Education
- Blood Pressure Clinic
- Blood Sugar Clinics
- Foot Care Clinics
- Chair Zumba
- Pow Wow Fitness
- Aqua Jog
- Traditional Tobacco Harvesting
- Medicine Pouches
- We Walk Wednesdays
- Mental Health Mondays
- Recognizing Blue Monday
- Grieving Workshop
- Moccasin Making
- Ribbon Skirt Making
- Noondaagotoon – TB Symphony and Mountain Singers
- Picnic at the Marina listening to Pipes & Drum band
- 55+ potluck
- Craft Nights
- Trivia Nights
- Bingos
- 55+ Christmas supper & visit from "Santa"
- Porch signs with Nini
- 55+ year in review and plans for 2025
- Family Bowling
- Honouring Anishinaabe Kwe Event
- Community Craft
- Fathers Day BBQ
- Pottery Nights at the Hive
- Book Club
- Snowed In Comedy Tour
- Auditorium Shows
- Outreach
- Educating members with the organizations in Thunder Bay and outlying areas that can address their needs for housing, assistance incomes and food security (food banks, free meals)
- Advocating when requested to agencies
- Assisting during medical appointments



# Community Highlights & Key Accomplishments

*Over the 2024–2025 year:*

Our Family Well-Being Centre was proud to host meaningful, inclusive, and culturally rich programming that brought our community together in celebration, learning, and healing. Here are just a few of the moments that stood out:



## ***Family Fun Weekend (April)***

In partnership with Band Rep and Elder Lambert, we kicked off the year with a weekend of laughter and connection.



## ***Honouring Anishinaabek Kwe Event (May)***

A beautiful evening of celebration with a “Roaring 20s” theme where everyone came dressed in their finest.



## ***4th Annual Pride Powwow (June)***

Held at 150 Grandview Rd, this powerful event welcomed over 300 attendees in a celebration of identity, pride, and belonging.



## ***Youth Camp & Junior Science Camp (July)***

Youth enjoyed time on the land, participating in archery, kayaking, and medicine walks, while our Juniors explored the wonders of science and exploring the Amethyst Mine.





### ***Unity Gathering: G'Baapimin (We Laugh) (August)***

A week-long celebration of culture and togetherness, bringing five communities together for traditional cooking, canoeing, hand drumming, comedy, and a mini powwow.



### ***Moccasin Workshop (November)***

Led by community members Henri and Shannon Grimard, this multi-week program taught participants to create their first pair of moccasins and explore bead work for the first time.



### ***Interactive AGM (September)***

With a creative spin on a traditional AGM, each department shared their programs through vibrant displays, games, and giveaways. It was one of our most well-attended and fun-filled AGMs yet!



### ***Annual Christmas Party (December)***

Our biggest holiday celebration yet, with over 200 people in attendance, hot meals, festive cheer, and a special visit from Santa with a gift for every child.



### ***Monster Mash Family Event (October)***

Over 30 families joined in for dancing, treats, and spooky fun in place of our usual Haunted House.



### ***Ice Safety Training (February)***

Hosted by Boreal River Rescue, held on Lake Nipigon, community members became certified in ice rescue—building vital skills for safe land-based living.





### **March Break: Giinawind Gathering (March)**

A week-long family retreat that brought 40+ families together for dog sledding, art workshops with Jackie Traverse, bingo, sweetgrass teachings, exotic animals, a drum social, and more!!

### **Looking Ahead to 2025–2026**

As we move into a new year, the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Family Well-Being Centre is excited to continue growing in response to our community's strengths, voices, and dreams. In the coming year, we look forward to: Expanding culturally grounded programming Growing land-based and language learning opportunities Hosting more family overnight gatherings and retreats Deepening partnerships to offer stronger wraparound supports Developing new and creative ways to serve all ages with love, safety, and inclusion. Our Centre is more than just a building—it's a place of laughter, learning, healing, and belonging. Every drumbeat, every story shared, and every meal together is a reminder of the strength and spirit of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek.

Miigwetch-Aapiji for walking alongside us, the BNA Family Well-Being Centre Team

## **Family Representation**

Over the 2024 fiscal year, the Family Representative Team has worked with multiple families, individuals, and community networks. We have been able to strengthen community bonds, family connections, provide food security, advocacy, and support. The Family Representative Team has been able to host a few movie nights, food bingo, baseball, Gammondale's, bowling, gingerbread contest, Maple tops for family fun day and assist Family Well-Being when able

with programs. The Family Representative Team has worked with multiple youth on developing life skills, future planning, and assistance with transportation. We have assisted families in reconnecting with the community and culture. The Family Representative Team has assisted with mental health resourcing as well as multiple avenues of outreach. We have assisted with child welfare court proceedings and assisted families in securing legal aid.

## **EarlyON Centre: (Ages 0–6)**

Our EarlyON Centre continues to offer inclusive, engaging, and culturally safe programming for families with children aged 0 to 6. We hosted monthly programming that supported early childhood development, cultural learning, and parent/guardian connection.

Key Highlights: Men's Group grew from 5 to 35 regular attendees with their children, fostering community bonding and male caregiver involvement.

Regalia Making for Children – completed 6 beautiful regalia outfits with families.

FASD Awareness Day – we held a walk at Waverly Park and had the Current River Bridge lit up red, symbolizing solidarity and awareness. Total reach: 336 community members (155 Adults, 127 Children, 54 Guests).

You can find our monthly programming calendar at [www.keyon.ca](http://www.keyon.ca) or follow us on our EarlyON Facebook Page.





## Child & Youth Programs (Ages 7–29)

Our Child and Youth team continues to nurture strong relationships and offer engaging, age-appropriate programming for Juniors (7–11), Youth (12–17), and Young Adults (18–29). Whether exploring the outdoors, learning new skills, or connecting through culture, each program is rooted in fun, learning, and identity-building.



### *Year at a Glance*

We kicked off the year in April with five Youth traveling to Ottawa for the Inspired SOARING Conference, an unforgettable opportunity for leadership and cultural connection.



Spring brought renewed energy with Soccer Baseball games, a scenic hike to the Cascades, and our annual Honouring Anishinaabe Kwe event—a celebration of strength and spirit.

Summer brought even more excitement. We visited the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, went bowling, and closed out the school year with our 'Schools Almost Out Bash!' In July, our Youth Camp and Science Camp kept young minds and hearts active. Highlights included a Harry Potter cooking class, a visit out to the Amethyst Mine, and hands-on science fun. In August, we held our Family Camp and the Unity Gathering, which were both incredible successes. Many families came out to participate in traditional cooking, canoeing, hand drumming, and more. It was a beautiful time of community laughter, learning, and togetherness. As fall arrived, we gently shifted into a slower pace while keeping things exciting. Teepee teachings, Cirque Musica outings, painting nights, and creative crafting sessions kept our juniors and youth involved and inspired. A sleepover added some extra fun and bonding.

Through the winter months, we stayed active and engaged. January featured our hide tanning workshop, followed by tubing adventures in February, and ice safety training out on Lake Nipigon—a valuable skill for living on the land.

We closed the year with our first-ever Giinawind Gathering during March Break. Over 40 families joined us for a week full of activities including dog sledding, sweetgrass teachings, live entertainment, art workshops, BINGO, and much more.

These programs reflect the voices of our young people and their families—designed to spark creativity, build cultural pride, and foster a strong sense of belonging. We are so proud of the friendships formed, the skills learned, and the memories made this year.

Miigwetch-Aapiji to every child, youth, young adult, and caregiver who joined us on this journey.



## Health & Wellness Programming (All Ages, Adults, 55+)

Our Health Team continues to provide wrap around care rooted in connection, compassion, and culture. Through workshops, clinics, traditional teachings, and outreach, we aim to support the emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being of every community member. Whether it's one-on-one advocacy, drop-in clinics, or group activities, our commitment to health equity and holistic support remains at the heart of all we do.

Meet Your Health Team Tashia – Registered Nurse (RN) Jamie – Registered Practical Nurse (RPN), Foot Care Nurse (FCN) Vierlyn – Recreation Therapist (R/TRO), Certified Community Worker (CCW) Leanne – Registered Social Service Worker (RSSW), Mental Health Worker (MHW).



### Programs & Services Offered

- Health Clinics
- Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar Checks
- Foot Care & Ear Care Clinics
- Movement & Physical Wellness
- Chair Zumba
- Pow Wow Fitness
- Aqua Jogging
- Cultural Wellness Programming
- Traditional Tobacco Harvesting
- Medicine Pouch Making
- Moccasin & Ribbon Skirt Workshops
- Mental Health Support
- Mental Health Mondays
- Grieving Workshops
- Sleep Education Awareness & Health Education
- Anti-Human Trafficking
- Elder Abuse Prevention
- Gambling & Addictions Awareness
- Alzheimer's and Diabetes Education
- Healthy Hydration

### 55+ Focused Programming

- Community Potlucks
- Trivia Nights
- Bingo
- Porch Sign Crafting
- Holiday Dinners (including a 55+ Christmas Supper with Santa!)
- 55+ Planning Session for 2025

### Family & Community Events

- Family Bowling Nights
- Community Crafting
- Father's Day BBQ
- Pottery Nights at The Hive
- Book Club with Ashley
- Comedy Nights (Snowed In Tour, Auditorium Shows)
- Outreach & Advocacy
- Supporting members during medical appointments
- Navigating housing applications and support services
- Connecting with local and regional resources for food security, income assistance, and more.

Each of these offerings is designed with intention—to reflect the needs, voices, and realities of our members. We are proud to walk alongside our community in wellness and continue to grow our programs in ways that honour culture, connection, and care.





# Papasay Annual Report 2024/25 Fiscal Year

Papasay is BNA's wholly-owned Economic Development entity. The entity partners with 3rd parties, owns equipment and properties, and runs the community's Sawmill, which is located in BNA's Industrial Park. This work ultimately benefits the membership through the creation of own-source revenues, employment and contracting opportunities for 3rd parties and member-owned businesses. Some of the key information for the last fiscal year for the Papasay entities are listed below.

## ***Papasay Management Corporation (PMC)***

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

- Guy Gladu (President)
- Linda Britt (Vice-President)
- Jordan Hatton (Treasurer)
- Mike Michon (Secretary)
- Marcel Donio

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

- Papasay Aggregate Pit Permit: PMC has a permitted pit located 3km north of the community road entrance, which was permitted to the corporation in 2016. In 2024, as per PMC's "TOARC" report, we utilized 1,342 tonnes of material on BNA on-reserve projects. Note that this pit is now nearly exhausted, and we will be moving forward with closing the pit once all material has been utilized.
- Blue Lake: PMC owns the Blue Lake property, located just outside of the town of Jellicoe. PMC pays yearly property taxes on this property to the Municipality of Greenstone. No work was carried out on this property in 2024/25.
- Big Virgin Island: In 2022, PMC purchased Big Virgin Island for \$325,000, which it received from BNA. No work was carried out on this Property in 2024/25 fiscal year.

## ***Papasay Management Limited Partnership (PMLP)***

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

- New Papasay Pit at BNA: BNA is in the process of opening its aggregate pit on-reserve, which is located in Lot C of the BNA Industrial Park. This is being done with the support of the MNR, and is the first time that an aggregate source has been opened on-reserve through and MTO contract anywhere in the Province. We are working with Asiniikaa as our partner, as we have a partnership with them through 3-Nations Resources. Asiniikaa hired Tom Rentz Contracting as a sub for the road building and clearing/grubbing of the site. Blasting and crushing at the pit will commence in June 2025. BNA will be looking to crush additional Granular A and B2 material for its own development and for sales to 3rd parties, as mobilization costs are already covered through the MTO contract. Papasay will be responsible for aggregate sales, both to the First Nation, and to outside 3rd parties.
- Papasay Equipment: PMLP has several pieces of equipment that it utilized in the 2024/25 fiscal year. Set rates are charged out for 3rd party uses. Currently Tom Rentz Contracting utilizes PMLP equipment and Papasay earns revenues from the rental. PMLP will be looking to purchase additional heavy equipment and gravel trucks in 2025/26 fiscal year in order to prepare for MTO and other regional opportunities. Additional equipment would only be purchased following an analysis of what PMLP could earn through contracts, which would cover the costs associated with the equipment purchase.
- Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (1/4 shareholder): Due to heavy activity in both the Lake Nipigon Forest and with our Char partnership on the Hurkett biochar plant project, the LNFMI Board began meeting

monthly in the 2024/25 fiscal year. LNFMI is responsible for managing the Lake Nipigon Forest activities. It is a partnership between the 4 First Nations on the east side of Lake Nipigon.

- **Lake Nipigon Forest Sustainable Energy Solutions (1/4 shareholder):** This new entity was created this fiscal year to manage the development of the Biochar facility in Hurkett. The Board will be made up of representatives from LNFMI and Char Technologies, who will come together in this new entity in order to jointly move the Project forward.
- **2-Nations Resources (50% shareholder):** 2-Nations was created by BNA and BZA First Nations in order to look at collectively benefiting from highway work occurring in the region. There are multiple jobs which MTO is looking at over the next 3 years in the collective territories of the 2 First Nations. Papasay will look to benefit from this partnership through revenues from our partner, Teranorth, equipment rental, aggregates, and accommodations.
- **3-Nations Resources (1/3rd shareholder):** 3-Nations was created by BNA, BZA and RRIIB to manage the partnerships involved in regional mining developments. Current partnerships through 3-Nations include Asiniikaa Mining (for mine construction and closure), Dexterra (for camps and catering), and Major Drilling (for mining exploration and diamond drilling). To-date, only our Major Drilling partnership has earned revenues for contracts on mining properties which the First Nations have agreements within the territory.
- **4-Nations Resources (1/4th shareholder):** In partnership with our neighbouring First Nations, the partners in 3-Nations Resources are changing our agreement to "4-Nations" in order to bring in our neighbour, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (AZA). This will strengthen the relationship with the communities on the east side of Lake Nipigon, and bring on partnerships currently in place with AZA and its partners to the east.
- **Papasay Bee-Clean LP (51% shareholder):** PMLP is the majority shareholder in the Papasay Bee-Clean partnership. Currently Papasay Bee-Clean is involved in several

contracts throughout Ontario, including TC Energy, and "Dream", a construction company located in southern Ontario. Currently, due to an increase in procurement opportunities at the Federal level, PBC is looking at a wide array of opportunities for janitorial and facilities maintenance, including with CN, and Canadian military bases in Ontario.

- **Papasay Turn-Key Communications LP (51% shareholder):** PMLP is the majority shareholder in the PTK partnership, which was set up to prepare for the regional mining boom. No revenues were made through this entity in the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- **Papasay-TBT Engineering Partnership:** PMLP receives revenues from work that TBT undertakes for various entities in the territory. PMLP did receive some revenues in the 2024/25 fiscal year for work TBT completed for mining companies in the region.

#### ***Papasay Value-Added Wood Products Limited Partnership (PVAWP LP)***

PVAWP continued to be an active entity in 2024/25 fiscal year, as the Sawmill continued to operate. The Sawmill was opened in 2017, and currently has four (4) employees who operate the facility, and two (2) additional employees running administration and marketing. Sales are made to Domtar, BNA, individual customers, and various forestry, mining and other companies throughout the region and beyond.

PVAWP has continued to proceed with the value-added expansion at the Sawmill. Through this work, it was decided that an additional Sawmill building was required for the site. This would allow the dried lumber to run through a value-added system, and a new planer-moulder, to become structural lumber to be utilized in home building, both at BNA and throughout the region. BNA has received funding from the province's ICCGP funding through the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs for \$600k for the construction of this new building, and we are awaiting word from FedNor and NOHFC. BNA will be proceeding with the construction of the pad this summer, with the building erection occurring soon after.

Following the completion of the value-added line

expansion, PVAWP will begin producing structural lumber. An additional 3-4 employees will be required for working at the site. In the meantime, PVAWP is preparing structural lumber for the 2025/26 building season by converting its planer/ moulder in the existing Sawmill, and preparing stamped lumber. This is a temporary process until the new building and new equipment can be utilized.

The PVAWP Sawmill is a project that will be continually advancing over the next few years. Members will be regularly updated as this expansion proceeds.









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

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, August 2025

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