

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



2025



Foot care Services

Are you having issues with your feet or trouble with doing your own foot care?

Services include:

- Nail trimming
- Reducing callouses
- Corn removal
- Ingrown toenail removal
- Help with fungal nails
- And more!

Contact Jamie for your foot assessment at jmcdonald@bnafn.ca



Table of Contents

An Update from the Finance Department

An Update from

Economic Development

Greenstone Transmission Line

Biohub Update

On-reserve quarry/crushing

MTO highway work

Planer Moulder Building

Economic Development Coordinator

Commercial Zone- Update

Strategic Planning

OFNEDA Conference

Community Energy Coordinator

District Heating Biomass Facility Project

Retrofit for sawmill (insulation)

Forest Biomass Program (FBP)

Indigenous Energy Project (IEP)

Infrastructure

Waste Transfer Station

Lot Development

Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation

Community Fiber Optic Line

Housing Coordinator

Fall Maintenance Reminders

Tips for Fall

Short-Term Rentals Supporting

Community Growth

Looking Ahead While Honouring the Past

Mining Coordinator

Mineral Exploration

4-Nations Resources

Community-Led Mineral Exploration

Mitigation and Rehabilitation Standards

– World Wildlife Fund

Other Supports

Governance Coordinator

Cemetery Policy

Summer Students

Membership Database

Communications Coordinator

Communications Policy

Mailing

CCP Panel at OFNEDA

Title & Annuity Cases

Lands

Source water protection plan

Wildfire Preparedness

Health's Sunny Summer Shares

June

July

August

Child & Youth Workers

Spotlight on BNA Members!

Congratulations to Audrey Gilbeau!

Congratulations to JP Gladu!

An Update from the Finance Department

The Finance team has been extremely busy since my last update. This is the result of the many projects that Chief and Council have undertaken on behalf of the membership along with certifications and the year end audit.

The audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 was completed early in August. It was presented to the Finance and Audit Committee, and approved by Council in early August 2025 and subsequently presented to the membership at the AGM. The auditors once again issued an unqualified opinion which means that, based on their testing, the financial statements are correct in accordance with the applicable accounting standards. I want to thank MNP for working so closely with me and the Finance team to get the audit completed.

We are now issuing the majority of payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT). If you are still receiving cheques and wish to sign up for direct deposit, please make sure to send your bank information to Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator, at lesquega@bnafn.ca. EFT is not only a more secure method of payment to the vendors and members, it also reduces the processing time for payments. Currently, cheques are processed weekly, but by the time they get signed, mailed, and delivered to the vendor, it could be two to three weeks before the payment is received. Moving to direct deposit payments cuts down on that lag time and allows us to reduce or eliminate service disruptions. It is incredibly important for you, the members, to make sure that we have the most up to date contact and bank information for you. If you change your address or change your bank account please make sure to contact Louise.

In the almost two years that I have been with BNA, our team has made extraordinary progress towards simpler processes to adapt to the changing landscape and increasing workload. We have accomplished a lot in a short amount of time, and I am very proud of each member of my team for all that they continue to do on behalf of you, the members.

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BF', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brandon Favel, CPA Director of Finance

An Update from Economic Development

Greenstone Transmission Line

The Greenstone Transmission Project is moving forward in partnership with Hydro One, Red Rock Indian Band, BZA, AZA, Long Lac #58, Ginoogaming and Aroland. The project consists of the development of a new 230 kV line to reinforce the existing A4L line. The line will run from the Nipigon area up to Aroland. The 230kV, possibly double circuit line is a necessity due to the frequent blackouts on the current A4L Line, and lack of capacity on the current 115kV line. Furthermore, from Aroland, the line can be brought to other far northern communities and onto the Ring of Fire. Nonetheless, the primary purpose of this project is to provide reliable and adequate power to the communities and their developments.

A designation was given by Ontario in 2025, making this project a priority and expediting the in-service timelines by 2 to 3 years. The in-service date for this transmission line is now 2032.

Biohub Update

Through Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (LNFMI), we are working with CHAR Technologies to develop a Biohub. The site is located in Hurkett and will serve as a primary place for sorting all wood harvested from the Lake Nipigon Forest and neighbouring forests. It will host a facility that will convert wood waste to a biocarbon product. The project focuses on producing biochar from underutilized tree species and wood residues, which will be shipped to southern Ontario to help reduce coal use in steel manufacturing and metal and mine processing, among other uses.

The initial civil work has been completed, making the site fully developed and prepared for construction. The construction of the forestry processing facility is expected to begin sometime in 2026. The project will be operated by a separate company, Lake Nipigon Sustainable Energy Solutions. Furthermore, once the facility starts producing biocarbon, syngas will also be generated to replace natural gas in the pipeline, supporting renewable natural gas production in the region.

On-reserve quarry/crushing

BNA is working with the Ministry of Transportation, Papasay, and Asiniikaa Mining to crush Granular A and B2 from Orient Bay and the new pit, located at the back end of 'Lot C' of the BNA Industrial Park. Additional Gran A and B2 will be crushed by BNA for future projects and for community use. The aggregates will be utilized for road work and other projects occurring at BNA through the fall.

As part of this project, Papasay has moved most of the material from its permitted pit– located 3 kilometers from the Copper Thunderbird Road entrance – to the BNA pit, to have better access for the projects that will take place in the fall. With Papasay's pit being depleted, we will now close the pit and rehabilitate it, which means we will no longer be paying royalties for material to be used off-site.

MTO highway work

2-Nations Constructions LP was formed by BNA and BZA First Nations to partner with highway contractors to bid on projects happening in the region. Currently, 2-Nations has a single source JV with the Ministry of Transportation. Through the partnership, we have received an opportunity for a single-source culvert job, and we will be looking at building internal capacity to take on larger projects along the highway.

Planer Moulder Building

BNA received funding from Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program (ICCGP) for the construction of our new Planer/moulder building that will house the new value-added line, which will be able to process wood logs more efficiently and increase customization opportunities for our clients and ultimately reduce some waste. It will produce dimensional lumber, tongue and groove, and other products. Giving PVAWP an opportunity to produce higher value products and help the sawmill differentiate itself from the market. The new line includes a baker saw line and a kiln chamber for wood drying. The kiln ensures that the wood dries evenly and enhances the sawmill's production quality. The pad is set to be poured first thing in the spring.

Economic Development Coordinator

Hello Everyone, Economic Development Coordinator here! These are some highlights of activities, projects, and things I have been involved in.

Commercial Zone- Update

In the 2023/24 fiscal year, BNA was approved by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Community Opportunity Readiness Program (CORP) to conduct a Feasibility Study for a hotel, gas bar, convenience store, and helipad in BNA's Commercial Zone.

With the positive outcome of the feasibility study, we are looking at a Business Plan for the Hotel. The Business Plan will consist of a marketing plan, a plan of operations and a financial plan, which will help us further understand the steps to take as we move forward with the Commercial Zone.

Strategic Planning



With our initial kick-off to update the Strategic Plan, we started working with Lisa Haessler (pictured with Katia Borjas above), Nokiwin Tribal Council's Comprehensive Community Planning Advisor, to help us and guide us through the process. We started by reviewing some of the previous priorities with the directors and prepared key information at the community's AGM. This included gathering feedback and providing an overview of where we currently stand. We began by collecting input on the relevance of existing priorities and identifying gaps or needs with directors.

Our next steps involved deeper engagement with community members, Chief and Council, directors and staff. We will be organizing group discussions and one-on-one discussions to ensure that we are doing the process in a holistic manner and gathering various opinions to help shape the updated plan. We aim for the strategic plan to be practical and set a path forward for our community's development in the short term and prepare for long-term projects. We want to engage with community members, so we will be creating opportunities for feedback throughout the process.



OFNEDA Conference

I was fortunate to be able to attend Ontario First Nations Economic Development Association's (OFNEDA) 14th annual First Nations Economic Advancement Conference. In general, this conference is an opportunity to connect with Indigenous leaders, entrepreneurs, government representatives, and corporate partners who are all dedicated to advancing economic growth in Ontario.

I had the opportunity to network, engage, and learn through conversation, various presentations and workshops throughout the conference. The conference brings together individuals from all experience levels, giving those who are just starting an opportunity to connect with more experienced individuals.

Community Energy Coordinator



District Heating Biomass Facility Project

BNA will be installing a district biomass plant within community. It is both energy efficient project and will be utilizing the residual wood from the Papasay sawmill. BNA has begun the home retrofits to be compatible with the district heating system. BNA has chosen a general contractor for the project and construction will begin in October 2025. The project has an estimated completion date of March 2027.

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 is using this funding opportunity to complete energy audits on 5 buildings within the community (Sawmill, public washroom, Health Center, Government Building, maintenance garage). Overall benchmarking analysis results 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. BNA is working with TBT Engineering on models for best results for heating solutions for the sawmill insulation.

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 complete a Facility Licence for the Papasay Sawmill and to complete a Wood Analysis Plan. Once our storage tents are erected the project will be complete.

Indigenous Energy Project (IEP)

BNA has funding from the Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) to complete the housing retrofits to be compatible for the district biomass heating project. The first 6 homes are almost complete. BNA is applying to this funding agency again through their IEP fund for additional 6 home retrofits.



Climate change drone project

BNA received funding from the First Nation Adapt (FNA) 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, weather data as well. A final report will be written to explain what was seen through the course of the year.

Infrastructure

Waste Transfer Station

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA), in partnership with TBT Engineering, is pleased to provide an update on the ongoing Waste Transfer Station Project. The project remains in the final stages of design, with the plans currently 99% complete. At this stage, BNA and TBT Engineering are working closely with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to review and approve a design cost overrun request before moving forward to the next phase.

Once this approval is secured, the final design will be completed, and a formal tender process will begin to select a contractor for construction. With funding of \$1,014,913.00 confirmed by ISC, BNA anticipates construction to begin in summer 2026, with completion targeted for late 2026.

This new Waste Transfer Station represents an important step forward in improving waste management services and promoting environmental sustainability for the community. The facility will provide a modern, reliable, and environmentally responsible solution to support BNA's continued growth.

We thank our partners and community members for their patience and ongoing support as we move closer to making this long-term vision a reality.

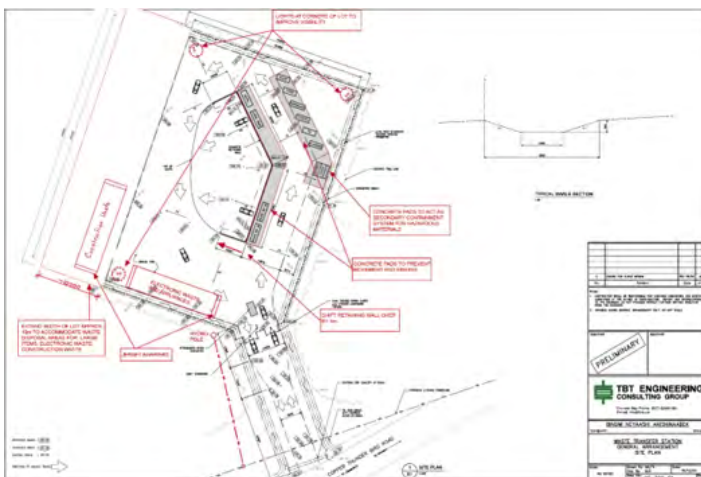


Lot Development

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is pleased to share that the Immediate Needs Lot Development Project is now in its final stages of completion. This important initiative supports the community's growing residential needs by preparing new serviced lots for future housing development.

Significant progress has already been achieved, with 20 new residential lots now developed and key infrastructure components—such as drainage improvements and partial driveway installations—successfully completed. The final phase of the project is currently underway and focuses on the construction of Cedar Bay Road, which will provide access to the six lots designated for BNA's Build Your Own Home Program.

Road construction began earlier this year and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Once finished, this new access road will open the area for housing construction, enabling members to begin building homes on their designated properties.



This milestone marks a major step toward addressing BNA's housing demand, supporting homeownership opportunities, and promoting sustainable community growth. Through strategic planning and steady progress, BNA continues to strengthen its infrastructure and create opportunities for members to return and build on the land.



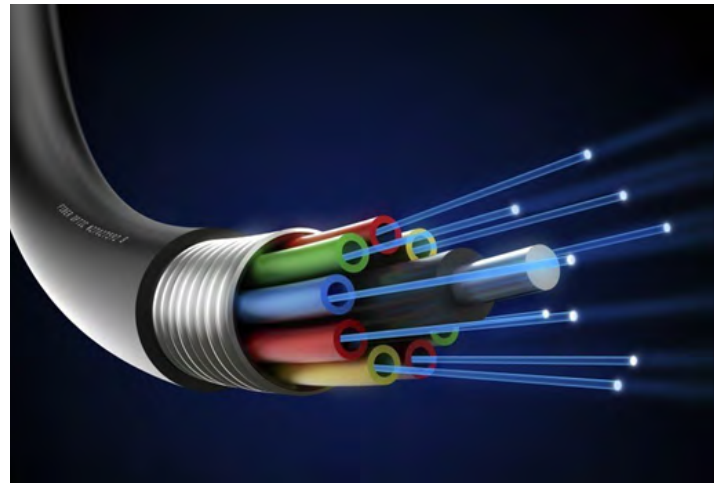
Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is pleased to announce that funding has been secured for the construction of three new single-family residential homes scheduled for 2026. These new homes represent an important step in continuing to meet the community's growing housing needs and supporting members returning to live on the land.

While the project has experienced some delays due to enhanced tendering policies, construction procedures, and rising material costs, these improvements are essential to ensuring strong governance, transparency, and long-term sustainability within BNA's housing program. The redesign of housing plans, combined with completed lot development and updated tendering guidelines, has placed BNA in an excellent position to move forward with confidence.

Construction of the three new homes is expected to begin in 2026, marking another milestone in BNA's ongoing commitment to building safe, high-quality housing and supporting community growth for future generations.

In addition to the construction of three homes, BNA will be seeking funding for an additional three residential dwellings in 2026 from CMHC.



Community Fiber Optic Line

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is taking an important step toward improving digital connectivity in the community through the development of an underground fiber optic line that will deliver reliable, high-speed internet to the First Nation. BNA is working with the Indigenous Engagement Advisor to establish a Memorandum of Intent that will initiate the formal approval process for the project. The consultant, Indigenous and Community Engagement (ICE), will act as the liaison between the First Nation and the Province to ensure that the project moves forward collaboratively and in alignment with community priorities. This initiative represents a significant investment in BNA's future—supporting education, communication, and economic development opportunities for all members.



Housing Coordinator

As the fall season sets in and temperatures begin to drop, it's time to make sure your home is ready for the months ahead. Proper seasonal maintenance can help keep your unit comfortable, safe, and in good condition throughout autumn and into winter. Below are a few important reminders.



Fall Maintenance Reminders

1. Heating Systems

If your heater isn't working or you're noticing inconsistent temperatures, call your service provider. Avoid using space heaters unless absolutely necessary and approved—they can be a fire hazard. Clean your filters to remove any summer dust, bugs, and debris.

2. Windows & Drafts

Report any broken or drafty windows to your landlord.

Weatherstripping or sealing may be applied where needed.

3. Pest Prevention

With colder weather, pests may try to enter homes. Keep food sealed and trash covered to prevent attracting pests.

4. Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Check and replace batteries in all detectors this fall.

5. Clogged Gutters & Outdoor Drainage

Falling leaves can clog gutters and drains and cause overflow or water pooling. Remember to clean these as well.

Tips for Fall

- Keep vents clear: Avoid blocking heaters or radiators with furniture.
- Report leaks early: A small drip can turn into a big problem.
- Stock Up on Winter Supplies (salt, shovels, car scraper).
- Inspect Emergency Kits (flashlights, batteries, blankets, non-perishable food).
- Clean Dryer Vents to reduce fire hazards.

We're excited to share that our Housing Department has completed a seasonal refresh of our older duplex units, originally built in 2018/2019...

Over the years, we've been fortunate to have wonderful tenants who've helped keep these homes in great shape. As part of our ongoing commitment to quality living, we felt it was the perfect time to give these units a little lipstick.

Our newest residents are already enjoying the refreshed spaces, and we're proud to continue maintaining and improving the homes that make up our vibrant community.

Thank you for being part of it!



Short-Term Rentals Supporting Community Growth

Our short-term rental units continue to serve as a valuable resource for the community. The one-bedroom fourplex units at 75A have been especially successful in accommodating contract workers contributing to local development projects.

Not only are these units meeting a vital housing need, but the increasing revenue also reflects positive growth and long-term sustainability within our community.

We're proud to see these efforts supporting both economic activity and neighborhood vitality.

Looking Ahead While Honouring the Past



We understand that moving forward isn't always easy—especially when past challenges still linger. Many of our residents have felt the weight of unfinished work and delays, and we want you to know: we hear you, and we're committed to making it right.

Living in a rural community brings its own set of challenges, particularly when it comes to construction and home warranty services. Internal transitions, limited resources, and communication gaps have all contributed to slower timelines. But change is happening.

Thanks to Cody Ladouceur, who has been working

evenings and weekends to address outstanding issues, showing what true commitment to community looks like. We're also deeply appreciative of Mike Lesperance, who continues to step up and support wherever he's needed.

Our housing team is growing stronger, and with support from management, we're building the foundation for a healthier, more responsive community.

Our goal is clear: resolve all outstanding deficiencies by the end of 2025 so we can begin 2026 with a fresh start and a renewed focus on the future.

To all our residents—thank you for your continued patience, resilience, and understanding. We're proud to have you as part of this community.



Mining Coordinator

Mineral Exploration

Mineral exploration has slowed down within our territory, with the First Nation receiving only five exploration permits since March 2025. This decrease is mainly due to a decline in demand for Lithium, a critical mineral that is needed to create lithium batteries. Although there is less new exploration, the Mining Coordinator continues to be busy working with the proponents who are currently operating within our territory. Keeping up to date on project status and plans, and ensuring agreements are adhered to, especially regarding environmental protections, communication among parties, and exploring economic opportunities. We continue to negotiate exploration agreements with proponents who we currently don't currently have an agreement with.

4-Nations Resources

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek works closely with our neighbouring communities of Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (AZA), Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (BZA), and Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB). The Mining Coordinator is coordinating the completion of the transition from "3-Nations Resources" (BNA, BZA, RRIB) to "4-Nations Resources" (BNA, BZA, RRIB, and AZA) and we hope to have this completed in the near future.

Community-Led Mineral Exploration Mitigation and Rehabilitation Standards – World Wildlife Fund

The Ministry of Energy and Mines considers early exploration to, "have only minimal impacts to lands", and the [Provincial Standards for mitigation and rehabilitation of Early Exploration are extremely limited because of this.](#)



Please scan the QR code to the left to access the link, or click above in the digital copy.

From the First Nation's perspective, early exploration can have significant adverse impacts to the environment and our rights, especially when considering cumulative impacts of the many projects throughout the territory. Because of this, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is beginning to develop Community-Led Mitigation and Rehabilitation Standards, that will hold companies working in our territory to a higher standard than the province. Working with the [World Wildlife Fund](#), we aim to create shared standards across the region.



Other Supports

In addition to supporting the community on mining and exploration projects, the Mining Coordinator supports various other projects for the community:

- Transmission Lines
- Wind Power
- Mining Mediation

If you would like any more information, please contact Kimberly Rozon, Mining Coordinator, at (krozon@bnafn.ca).

Governance Coordinator

Cemetery Policy

I have resumed work on the long-awaited Cemetery Policy, and I am researching practices in other communities to determine what will best serve our members. I recently received the Grave Site Mapping Report completed by CE Strategies. The report included radargram scans of both the Historical Graveyard and the Contemporary Graveyard, as well as the former Schoolhouse site. While no conclusive findings of unmarked graves were identified, a few irregularities were noted at the Contemporary Graveyard and Schoolhouse locations. This report provides a clearer mapping of existing sites, which will support the planning of future lots and plots for members who wish to bury their loved ones' ashes. Once the graveyard map is complete and the final draft of the Cemetery Policy has been approved, it will be available to all members. I greatly appreciate those who have patiently waited for this policy to be completed.



Our summer student pictured above is Ian Robert, who did his placement at BNA's satellite office. Ian worked under the supervision of our Director of Economic Development. He also worked alongside the Economic Development team supporting everyday administrations. Ian's job shadowed our Director of Economic Development, including attendance at high level meetings, and research to support proposals and projects.



Summer Students

This year, we hired summer students to work in three areas: on the land, with Family Well Being, and at our satellite office. While there were some challenges with the land-based placements, we were fortunate to have Pierson Facca step in and complete important land maintenance. Pierson worked under the supervision of our Public Works Coordinator. Pierson kept up and maintained the beautification of our lands and he did an excellent job, as pictured above.

Estates Management Update

Last year, we successfully secured funding to support 30 members in completing their Wills, Power of Attorney, and Power of Care documents. Building on that success, this year we have applied for funding to assist an additional 50 members with the same important legal preparations. I will continue to keep you updated on this proposal.

Membership Database

We are slowly transitioning from our outdated membership database to a new, advanced database system. I have received training to learn the many options, techniques, and resources the system provides. This upgrade will allow us to generate statistics and complete mail-outs much more efficiently. I am very excited about the improvements this will bring, which will save us time.

Communications Coordinator

Communications Policy

Our Communications Coordinator, Jake, and our Governance Coordinator, Louise, are collaborating to draft a Communications Policy. This policy aims to provide guidance to staff and Chief & Council on communication tools and will provide templates and checklists for seamless work planning. This is also to provide clarity and transparency to members on our communication tools.

Our current communication tools include: mail-out's, email, Facebook, the bnafn website, and the BNA app.

We are trying to provide a variety of forms of Communication to ensure all members have access to information. Although many use Facebook, not everyone has an account, therefore we have a BNA App for those who use mobile or tablet devices. For those who use a computer, the bnafn website provides comprehensive information. Those who prefer hard copies receive physical copies via the mail.

If you feel there is a tool we could be utilizing that would provide more access for members, contact Jake.

Mailing

At this time, we physically mail a copy of every Newsletter published to all members listed in the database with an address. If you are not receiving any mail, please contact Louise to ensure the address listed on file is your most current mailing address.

We are trying to move towards paperless as much as possible. If you would like to help us move towards a more sustainable mail-out, please provide Louise with your email and let her know you would like to be moved to the email-only list.

Louise Esquega, Governance Coordinator
lesquega@bnafn.ca

Emailing

If you have signed up for email and are not receiving anything, please contact Jake to ensure we have

the correct email on file. If it is correct and it is not entering your inbox, add communications@bnafn.ca as a contact to prevent it moving into your junk mail.



CCP Panel at OFNEDA

From the success of Geh-Zhe Naak-Ko-Ne-Gehing, BNA was asked to speak on a panel at the OFNEDA conference. Our Communications Coordinator Jake, alongside Nokiiwin CCP advisor Lisa Haessler, and Senior Community Planner Russel McLean, were panelists discussing CCP and answering questions from the crowd.

Title & Annuity Cases

We had previously planned a meeting to update members on October 4, 2025; however this had to be rescheduled to better accommodate participants from Ontario and Canada.

This meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at the Valhalla in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Joining us in-person will be representatives from both Ontario and Canada. There will be a Zoom link for those who cannot attend in person.

While the meeting will be recorded, due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the content, that recording will not be available post-meeting. However, to best accommodate those who cannot attend in-person or via Zoom, we will have a summary of key points in the meeting to share with membership following the meeting.

If there are any other ways we can best accommodate membership, please contact Jake.

Jake Alfieri, Communications Coordinator
jalferi@bnafn.ca
(807) 623-2724 ext. 208

Lands

Source water protection plan

After completing training with Ontario First Nations Technical Services (OFNTS), it became clear that BNA needed to develop a plan to create a holistic understanding of both the scientific and cultural aspects of water. Through support with OFNTS, a total amount of \$150,000 from Indigenous Services Canada was approved for the fiscal years 2025-2026 through 2027-2028. These funds will be allocated towards administration and staffing costs and hosting community sessions to educate participants on how to best protect and preserve our water sources for future generations.



As part of the source water protection plan, staff are continuing to survey Speckled Creek (near the green space in the community). Monthly water samples are collected and sent to Testmark for testing of chemical and mineral concentrations. In September, chest waders will be donned again to survey the creek for benthic sampling. As the water cools before winter, insect species burrow into the river's substrate, preparing to hibernate. They can then be accurately surveyed, which provides an indication of water health based on the abundance of different invertebrate types (e.g., dragonfly, worm, mosquito). If you are interested in becoming involved in environmental monitoring or discussing ecological issues, please get in touch with Jessica Hubbard at jhubbard@bnafn.ca

Wildfire Preparedness

Through funding from Indigenous Services Canada, the community was able to purchase essential equipment for dealing with wildfires. As part of the wildfire kit, there is a pump, hose, tools and a backpack pump. These purchases align with other goals to make the community more self-reliant in the face of emergencies and climate change. Moving forward is the goal to have a fully complete install attack set up with enough hoses to reach all homes in the community. If you are interested in training on the equipment or discussing emergency management activities, please contact Jessica Hubbard at jhubbard@bnafn.ca.



Health's Sunny Summer Shares

June

June was a month dedicated to wellness, connection, and honouring our community members. We continued our Weekly Walking program at Intercity Mall and various park locations throughout Thunder Bay, encouraging gentle movement and social engagement. In addition to physical wellness, mental well-being remained a focus through our "Let's Talk Tuesday" initiative, which created space for ongoing conversations and support. Leanne was also invited to participate in a new focus group for addictions and mental health through Confederation College, allowing her to provide input and suggestions on the needs of First Nations members and communities. The goal is to ensure the Social Service Worker and Concurrent Disorders programs are offering relevant and up-to-date information that reflects the unique needs of First Nations communities. To conclude the month, we honoured our Anishinaabe Inini with a special men's night at Grandview, where attendees enjoyed a catered steak supper and a lively meat bingo. It was a meaningful way to celebrate strength, brotherhood, and community spirit.



July

As summer settled in, July brought vibrant community gatherings and family-friendly activities. We began the month with Boulevard Family Day, hosted in partnership with the Band Rep, where families gathered at Boulevard Lake for a full day

of warm-weather fun. From the floating bouncer to sandcastle building and a sunny pizza party, the day was filled with laughter and connection. Building on that energy, youth camp participants enjoyed a refreshing Beach Day at Poplar Point, taking advantage of the beautiful weather. Later in the month, families joined our summer student, Shevaun, for an evening of fishing at Fisherman's Park. Although no fish were caught, the shared experience and time together made the outing memorable. To close out July, we offered a Human Trafficking Education session with Nokiiwin. While the topic was difficult, the conversation brought essential awareness to an issue impacting our community and city.

August

August continued the momentum of gathering, learning, and cultural sharing. The month began with a Meet & Greet with Josee Wright, providing community members an opportunity to connect and learn more about upcoming supports. Following the event, we were pleased to announce that Josee will be offering psychotherapy and traditional healing sessions at no cost to Members and staff, using an approach that integrates the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical dimensions of healing. The Health team also helped out at our annual Family Camp at Sand Point First Nation, which brought families together for a week of outdoor fun and quality time, including the happy return of one of our families who traveled all the way from Southern Ontario. Building on our commitment to inclusive programming, we partnered with the March of Dimes to introduce Indigenous teachings through a beading workshop led by our summer student Shevaun. Participants of all abilities created meaningful artwork through patience, focus, and encouragement. In addition to program delivery, the Health team hosted an engaging booth at the AGM featuring a medicine wheel roulette game, inviting members to test their knowledge and win gift bags. We wrapped up the month—and the summer—by assisting in the fun of our Back to School Bash, where families enjoyed a lively afternoon of barbecuing, games, and bouncy castles as they prepared for the upcoming school year.

Child & Youth Workers

Spring and Summer is always the best time of year for us as Child and Youth Workers! We get to watch the seasons get warmer and the kids get outside~! We did A LOT of being outside in the elements this year. For Junior's Group (ages 7-11) we did a Pot Painting night and planted wildflowers for spring and spent some time on the play equipment at Jack Pine Community Centre next door to get some energy out. We had a night at Grandview where they learned about Kindness and did Sweet Grass Teachings which taught them to be kind to ourselves as well as others and they painted kindness rocks for people to find their kind messages around Grandview throughout the summer. We went to the Boulevard Lake playground and enjoyed the beautiful spring weather and had a BBQ by the lake.



In July they had Science North Camp at Grandview for the week learning all about coding, electrical connections, played games and learned about neutrons and electrons! They also spent a lot of time soaking each other (and staff) with water guns in the hot sun. Some of the older Junior's and younger Youth completed the Babysitters course through St Johns Ambulance and are ready for all your babysitting needs! They also got to attend a community Bonfire at Grandview with their families, and various other Family activities throughout the summer.

This year some of our Youth (ages 12-18) got the opportunity to attend the SOARING conference again which was held in Vancouver BC this year! They had the opportunity to attend a job fair, listen to entrepreneurs and attend breakout rooms to listen to different job opportunities for their future all with Indigenous based careers! It was very inspiring to see so many young people doing great things with their lives and sharing it with other young people!!! They got to see the Ocean for the first time and explore a city that is so unique. We look forward to the next conference which will be held in Halifax NS this year! Please reach out if your High school aged Youth might be interested in attending. More programming for the Youth this summer consisted of a night on a sailboat, sailing Lake Superior, they had a swim night at the Complex and the brave ones went down the water slide and jumped off the first tower. They got to go to BNA Youth camp where we had 14 Youth spend 4 days and 3 nights camping on The Land. They went fishing on a commercial boat catching many gigantic Lake Trout, they learned how to cook, they learned how to build a fire, they completed a scavenger hunt involving the Medicine Wheel and they spent a lot of time getting to know each other through various activities, crafts, swim time and games. The bugs almost flew away with us, but it was so worth it to see them connecting to The Land (some for the first time) and getting to catch their big fish. Spending this time together allows the Youth to learn the history, experience the community and be together in the place their history all started.



Shortly after Youth Camp we had Family Camp where had about 12 Families (plus some visitors from The Land) stay at BNA for 4 days and 3 nights. We camped in Tents, and campers, ate amazing meals, watched an outdoor movie, went Fishing on the Commercial Boat, played BINGO, celebrated a special little man's birthday and spent our time making crafts, swimming and enjoying the beautiful weather. Everyone who came to this amazing week at BNA expressed how much fun they had connecting with The Land and each other. We hope to continue to do this throughout the years and hope many more of you will join us in the future!



This summer we had 2 AMAZING Summer Students at FWB who worked very hard throughout the summer entertaining your community, prepping for programs, running their own programming and spending time getting to know all of you! They are so valuable to our team in the summer, and it wouldn't have been as successful without them! We also want to recognize all the Youth Volunteers we had help us out at our Junior's Night and camps throughout the year!!! Having those extra eyes and hands are so helpful and all of you are so appreciated!! So Miigwetch to all the youth this summer who offered their own time to help out their community.

Youth Council continues to meet every 3 months when the schedules of our busy youth allow. We are learning more and more about our First Nation's

job aspects and how things are run. They are continuing to learn about each other and getting experience speaking in a group, asking questions and experiencing the uncomfortableness of having to talk about yourself in a room full of people. We continue to push these youth to express their feelings, thoughts, and ideas through questions they must answer, tasks they must complete and getting practice running a meeting, taking notes and presenting. At our second meeting this year they learned from Audrey Gilbeau about Governance and Elections. They reviewed First Nations Law, Governance Handbook, how a First Nation is powered, Chief and Council Orientation Presentation and much more.

Youth Council has expressed wanting to learn more about how meetings are run within a First Nation, about Financial Literacy, continue gaining knowledge on their culture and to gain an understanding about their roles in the future of BNA. We hope they continue to push themselves through the uncomfortable to gain an insight into themselves and gain confidence in what they have to say~ Their voices are our future so allowing them the space to do that is so valuable.

If any youth have an interest in joining Youth Council (you do not need to live in Thunder Bay) we would love you to reach out!

Looking Forward to getting back into the regular routine with our programming, so please come out and experience these two amazing groups of Young People! You all should be so proud.

Miigwetch~ Liz and Kaitlyn



Spotlight on BNA Members!

We would like to put a spotlight on two BNA members this fall for some prestigious achievements!

To be featured in the BNA member spotlight, please contact Jake at jalfieri@bnafrn.ca with your achievement, award, or announcement. Please include any images as attachments to the email to maintain high quality.

Congratulations to Audrey Gilbeau!

We are delighted to share some incredibly exciting news regarding one of our esteemed Members, Audrey Gilbeau!

Audrey has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal. This high honour is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and excellence within their communities, and Audrey's selection is a profound testament to the significant and positive impact she has made on those around her.

Out of numerous inspiring nominations from across the community, Audrey was chosen as one of only 35 medalists; a truly remarkable achievement that highlights her dedication and contributions.

Please join us in offering Audrey our deepest congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!



Congratulations to JP Gladu!

2024 and 2025 were a couple of exceptional years for BNA community member JP Gladu as he was awarded four prestigious national and provincial awards and recognitions. In April 2024, JP was recognized alongside seven other Canadians including late Astronaut Marc Garneau at the Canadian Public Policy Forum Testimonial Dinner for Distinguished Service to Canada as visionary leader who continues to inspire Indigenous communities and organizations, environmental non-government organizations, industry and governments.

In June 2024, JP was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, from Carleton University in recognition of his outstanding contribution as a champion of change who has promoted a renaissance of Indigenous business in Canada, built key bridges with the non-Indigenous Canadian and international business communities, and fostered awareness and change in support of economic reconciliation.



During the Ontario Premier Awards in November 2024 which recognizes the most influential college graduates, JP was one of 16 business nominees, ultimately finding his way to the top of the heap as the winner of the Ontario Premiers Award.



Finally, June 2025, JP was awarded his second honorary doctoral degree from Lakehead University in Commerce for his outstanding contributions to the Canadian economy.

Congratulations from the team and Council on all your hard work and success.

Viewing of his speeches:

[PPF Award](#)

[Carleton University Convocation](#)





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

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