

# BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK

Economic Development!

Updates

Economic  
Development

Jordan Hatton

Director of Economic  
Development

# HOUSING

- **BNA will not be building this year, but are planning to build next year**
- **Working on deficiencies in existing homes on the land**
- **Continue working on solving the water issues on the land**
- **Will be working with CMHC and ISC to increase funding for housing at BNA, and have applied for next year's housing**



# WASTE TRANSFER STATION

- **BNA has identified and cleared an area to the north after the tracks for a waste transfer station**
- **BNA has been working with TBT Engineering and the Nokiiwin Tribal Council on the design of the WTS**
- **In 2026, TBT will be carrying out a tender for the construction of the WTS, and we are planning to complete the project this year**



# SAWMILL EXPANSION

- **BNA has been working on the expansion of its Sawmill to move it to value-added for several years**
- **This year we will be erecting our new Sawmill building, and purchasing value-added equipment needed to make structural lumber**
- **We are actively working with NOHFC and other key funders to finalize the expansion.**
- **Sawmill residue will feed bioheat plant – critically important**
- **Roof to be insulated this summer**



# HURKETT BIOHUB PROJECT

- **BNA, BZA, AZA and RRIB are developing a biohub near Hurkett**
- **All wood from the region will go there for sorting, with new businesses set up.**
- **All wood residue not used for any other value will go into the biochar plant. Biochar is a coal substitute.**
- **Biochar will commence in 2027**
- **Next phase: Renewable Natural Gas**
  - **12 new full-time jobs**



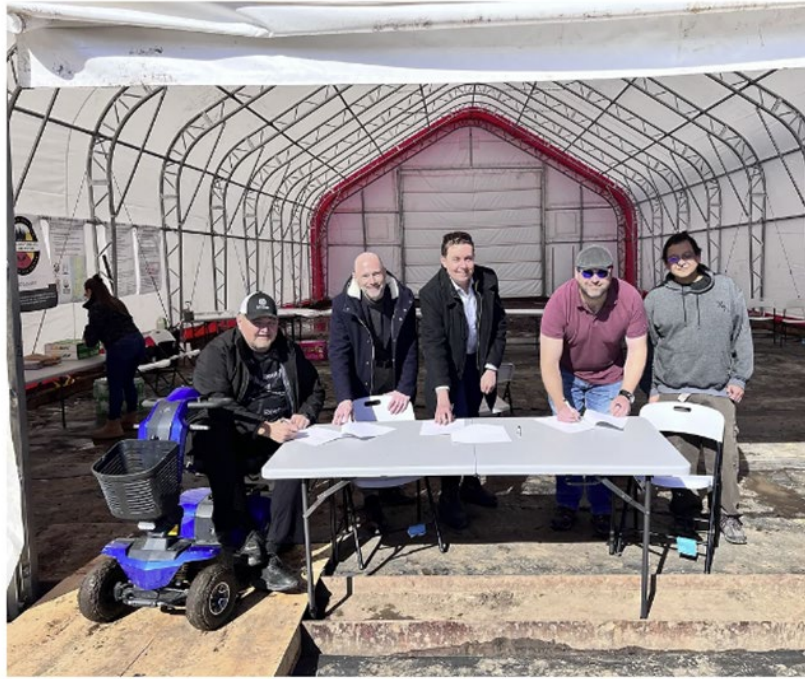
# HURKETT BIOHUB PROJECT

## Lake Nipigon Forest Sustainable Energy Solutions – A partnership between LNFMI (51%) and CHAR Technologies (49%)



Mar 13 • 3 min read

### CHAR Tech and Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. Sign Partnership Agreement



### Lake Nipigon could be the place for a woody biomass conversion plant

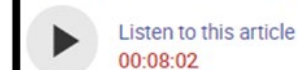
Bioenergy company, Indigenous forest managers collaborating on renewable gas, biocoal facility

Ian Ross

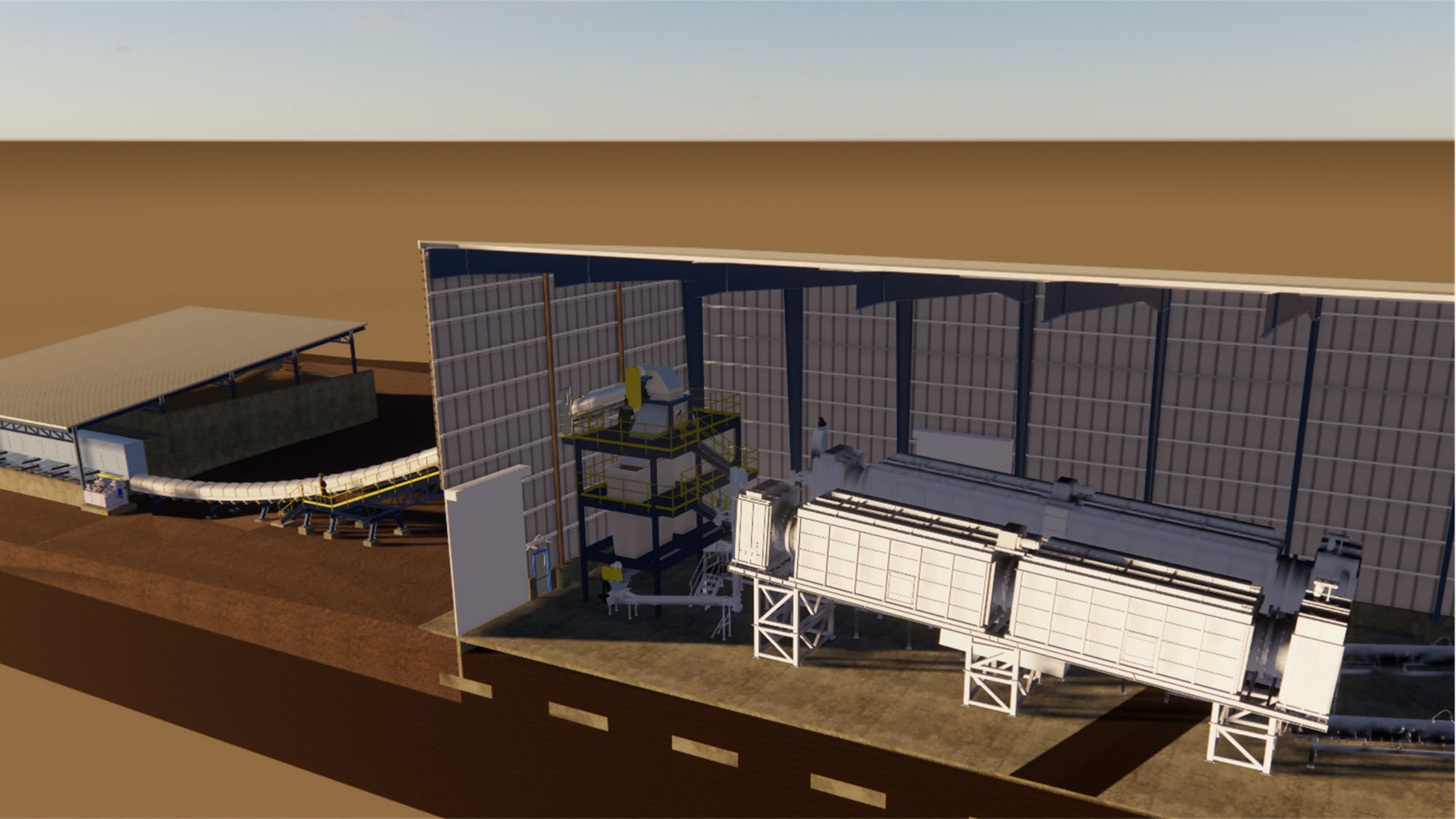
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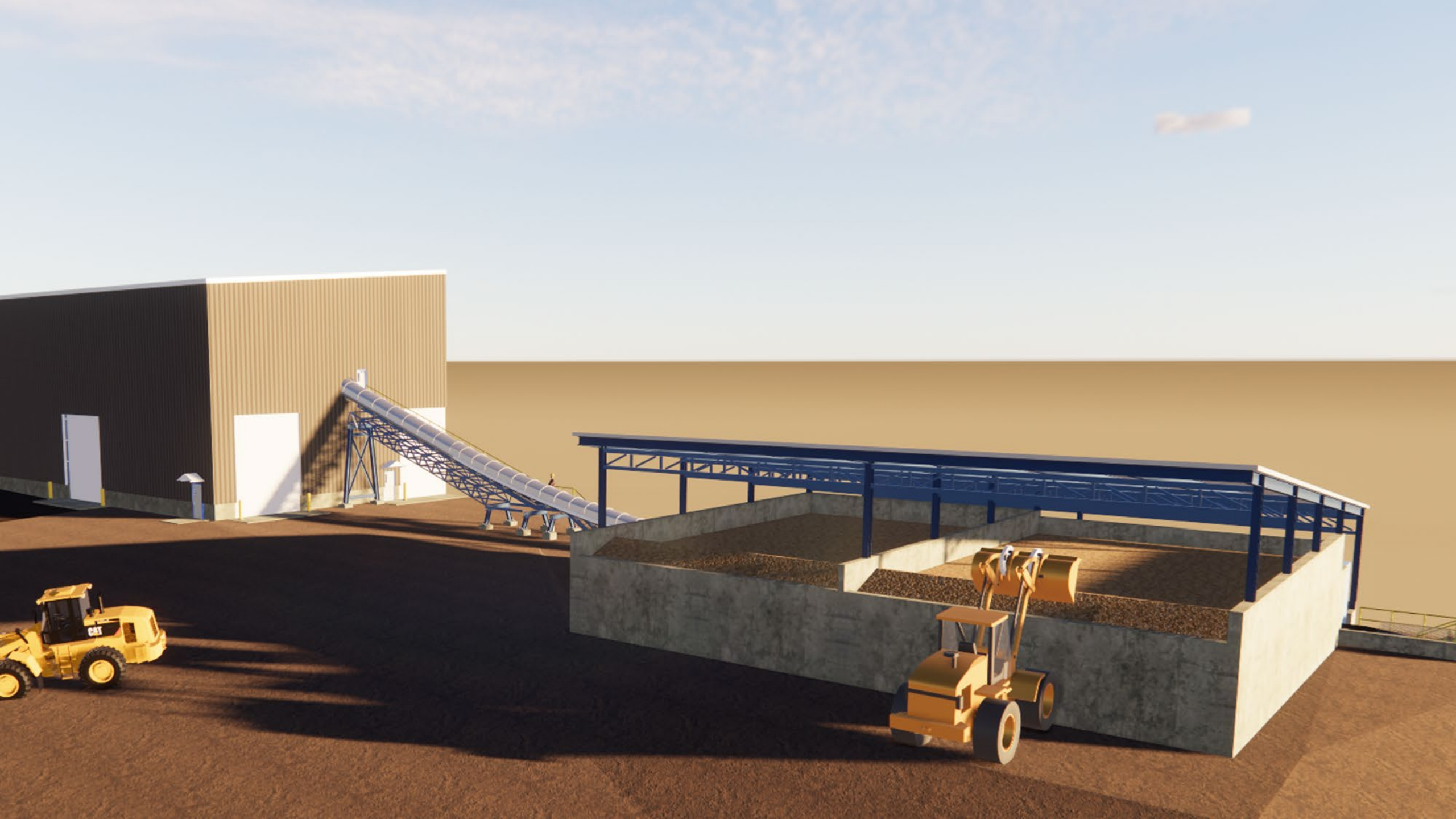


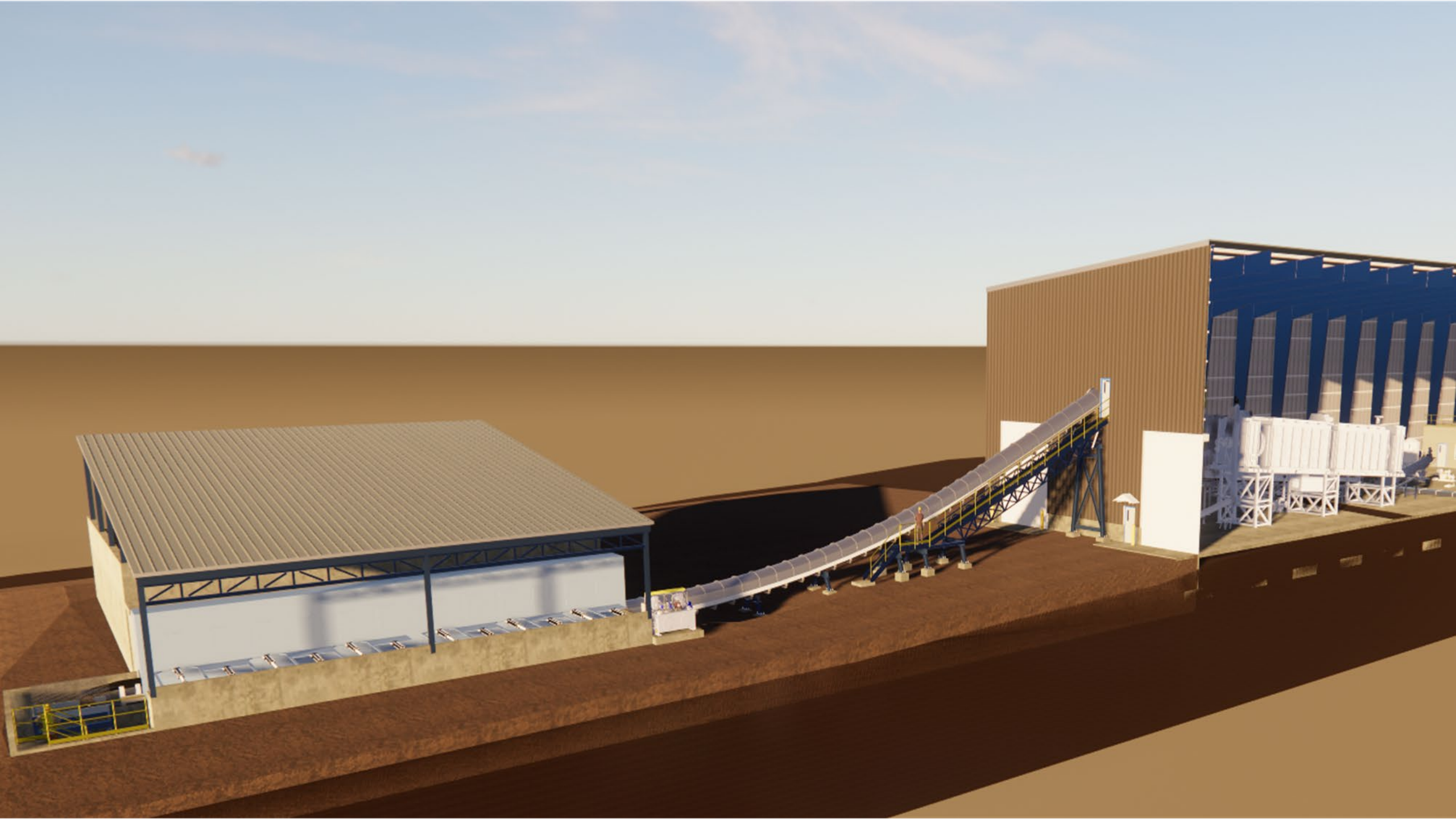
(Lake Nipigon Forest Management photo)



An expansion-minded southern Ontario biochar company is teaming up with a group of northwestern Ontario First Nations to propose placing a renewable natural gas







# HURKETT BIOHUB PROJECT

∞ Land purchase - Spring 2024

∞ Partnership signing - Spring 2024

∞ Initial site development - Summer 2024

∞ Front-end Engineering - Fall/Winter 2024

∞ Cont'd Site development - Summer 2025 to Winter 2026

∞ Detailed Engineering - Winter 2025/Spring 2026

∞ RFPs for construction & procurement of major components - Spring 2026

∞ Building construction, biocarbon line received & installed - Summer 2026 to Spring 2027

∞ Biocarbon equipment commissioned - Spring/Summer 2027

∞ Renewable gas line commercial operation - Summer 2028

# AGGREGATES AND HWY WORK

- **BNA and BZA have a partnership called "2-Nations Construction" for working together on MTO contracts on the Hwy**
- **We had a single-source contract for Angle Creek Culvert, and are looking forward to upcoming contracts south of BNA (Omer/Postagani)**
- **We have also sold significant aggregates from our on-reserve quarry to these projects, and our own developments**



Economic  
Development

Katia Borjas

Economic Development  
Coordinator

## Commercial Zone

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### Commercial Zone

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As a follow-up to our Feasibility Study, BNA applied through the ISC Community Opportunity Readiness Program (CORP) for a Commercial Zone Business Plan. We are working with Northern Community Solutions (NCS), who have worked with us on various projects. Furthermore, we are having preliminary conversations with MTO and other proponents to understand all the requirements to move forward with this development.

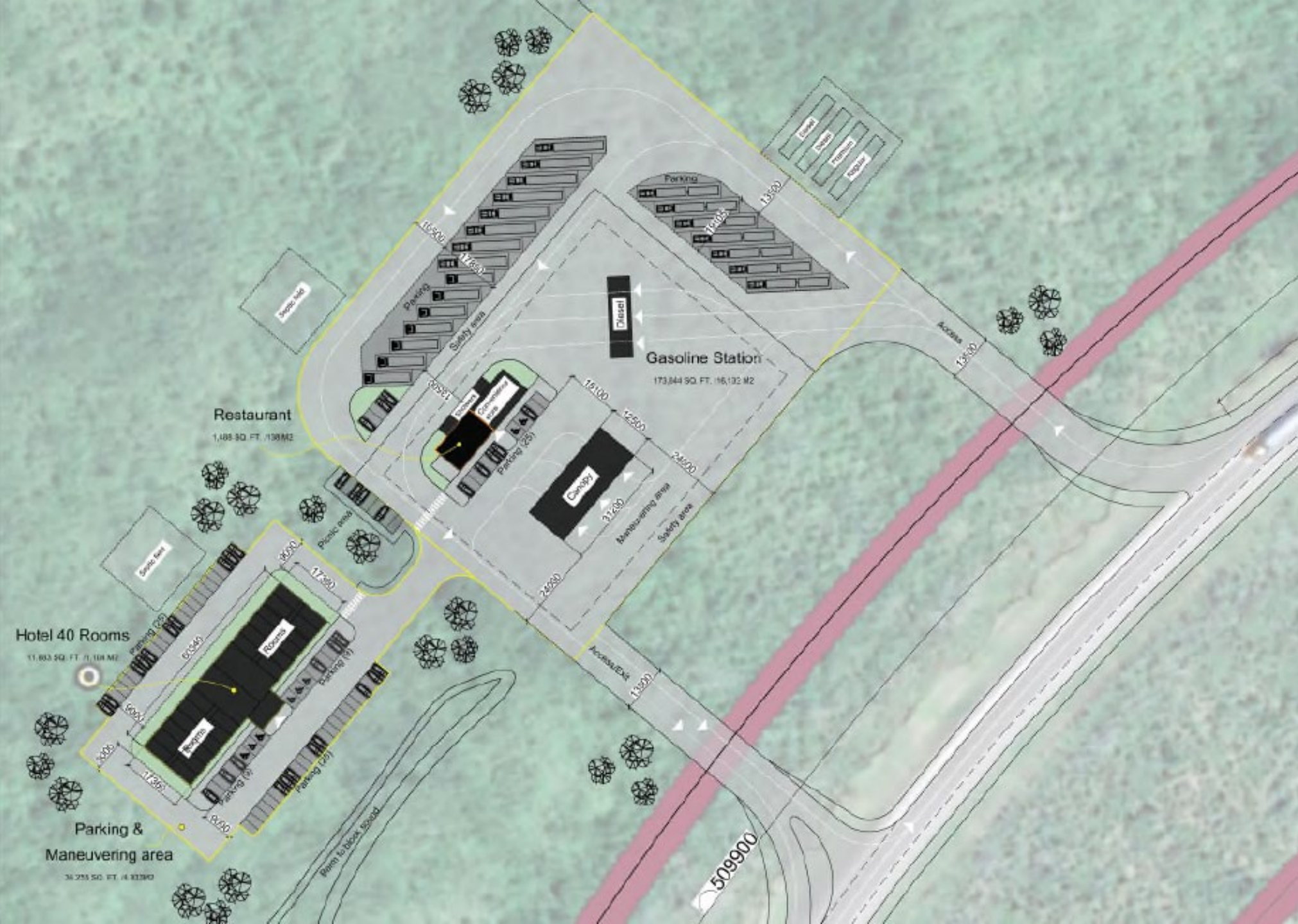
- Status: Currently **in Development**

### Hotel

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BNA applied through the ISC Community Opportunity Readiness Program (CORP) for a Hotel Business Plan. We are working with Atmacinta, a consulting firm that specializes in supporting remote and Indigenous communities with economic development. They also bring strong experience in preparing ISC-compliant business plans, including market analysis and financial planning. Furthermore, they reached out to individuals in the industry to talk about possible models and what benefits BNA and our long-term goals.

Status: Completed



# Commercial Zone Initial Design

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## Guardrails

BNA was successful in its application to the Indigenous Transportation Initiatives Fund for the installation of guardrails on its road network. This will occur in 3 places: on 2 areas along Copper Thunderbird Road, and most importantly on the area by the steep cliff on the way to the Big Beach. This will help in keeping our residents and visitors safe in the community.

- Status: Currently **in Development**



# Economic Development

Jessica Hubbard  
Lands and Environmental  
Coordinator



## Land Code

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Ratification of the Land Code is scheduled for late 2026. Since implementing the Framework Agreement in 2014 the community has undergone many changes. By updating our land code policies, it gives BNA the ability to move at the speed of business while still being accountable to members.

Status: Currently **in Development**



**BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK LAND CODE  
AMENDMENT #1**

**DRAFT FOR MEMBER APPROVAL**

August 30, 2024

## Guiding Documents

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### Environmental Management Plan (EMP)

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Under our Land code, we are creating our 2nd EMP with funding from the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre.

- By-law and enforcement of land laws
- Wild fish/game consumption & human health
- Derelict vehicles and equipment
- Invasive species (terrestrial and aquatic)

Currently **in Development**

### Source Water Protection Plan

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Building on current water quality monitoring practices we are creating a holistic plan to manage the source and ground water and all that relies on these water sources. Funding was granted from Indigenous Services Canada as part of the Lands and Economic Development Services Program

**Status:** Currently **in Development**



## Food Sovereignty

Through 2026, we will be expanding the food and garden programs with the Local Food Infrastructure Fund by updating the garden at Green Space and building a food Dome. Ec. Dev. is working with FWB to support programming to teach skills associated with growing, preserving and cooking local foods.

Status: Currently **in Development**





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Kim Rozon

Mining Coordinator

## Mineral Development Advisor Funding

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- BNA is receiving funding for this position through the Ministry of Mines Indigenous Participation Fund.
  - Funding currently goes until June 30, 2029



Photo: Drill pad at Imagine Lithium Jackpot Property (2024)

## Key Responsibilities

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- Review and respond to exploration plan and permit applications sent by the Ministry of Mines
- Review and respond to Closure Plans and Closure Plan Amendments
- Meet with proponents to better understand projects and to address any concerns with proposed work
  - Negotiate Exploration Agreements and potential Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs)
- Review changes in legislation related to mining and exploration
  - Conduct site visits when required.

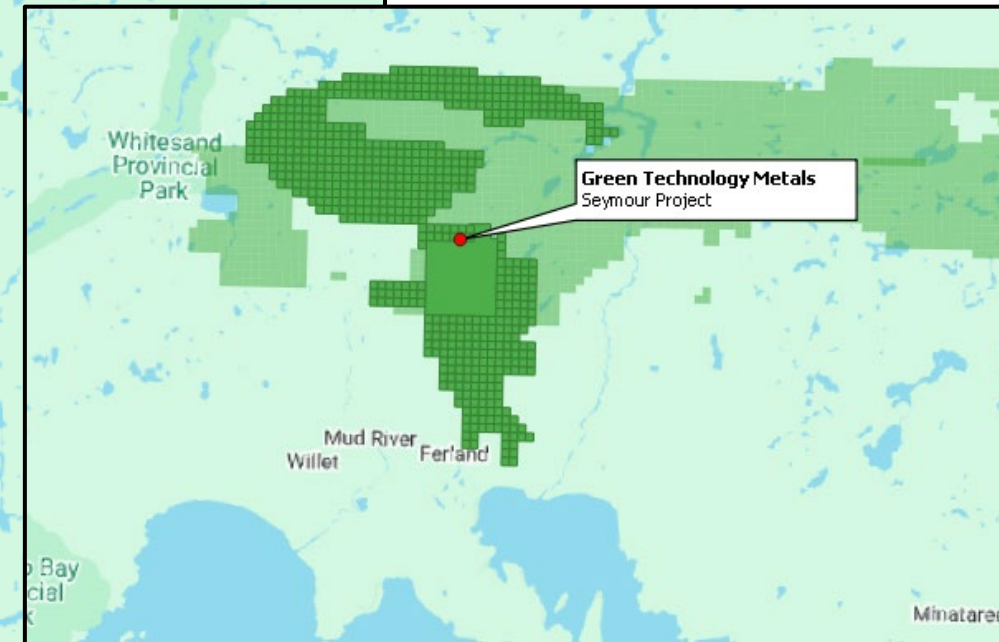
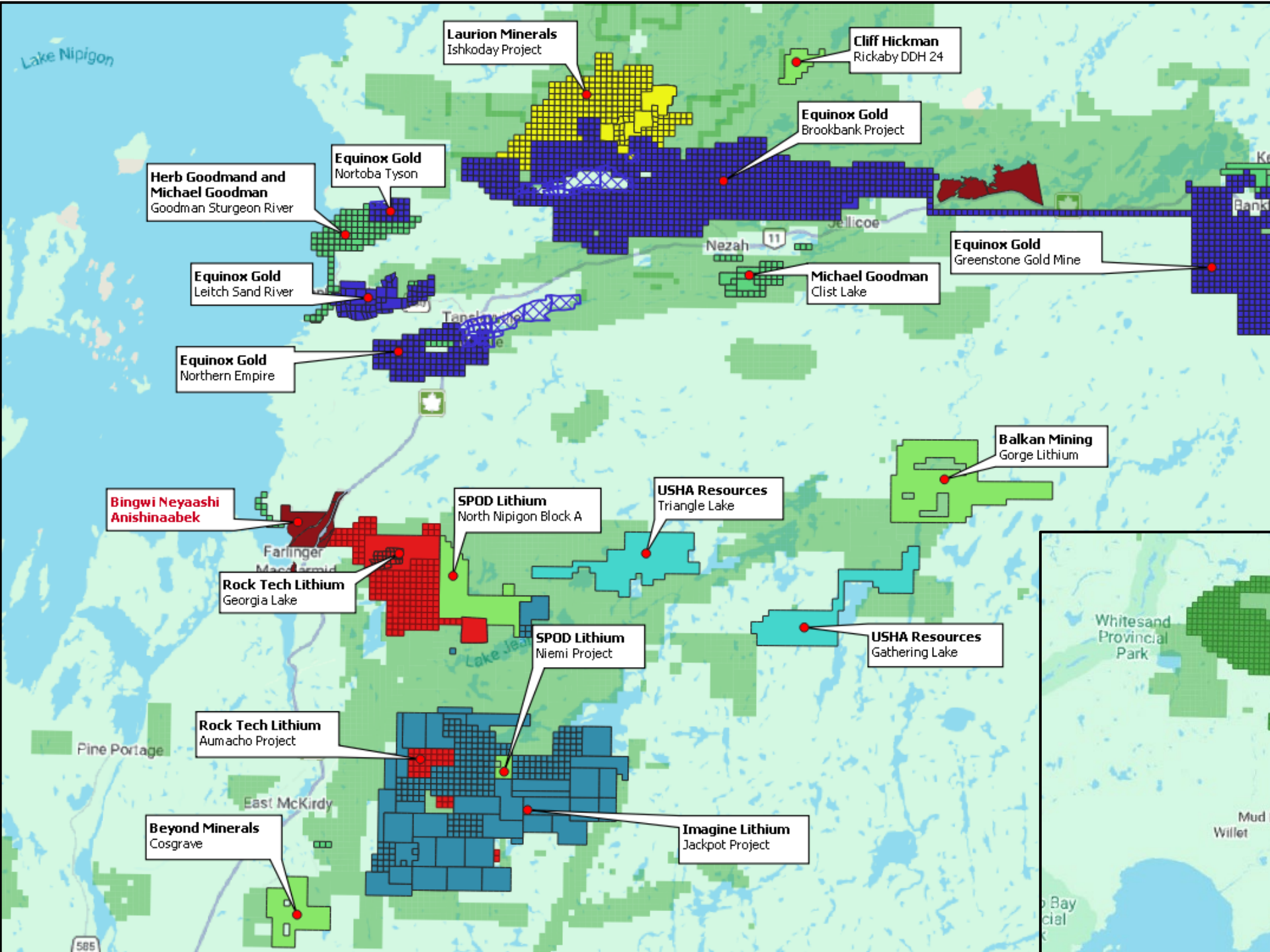
If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Rozon, Mining Coordinator, [krozon@bnafn.ca](mailto:krozon@bnafn.ca) or (807) 358-5151

# Mineral Projects within Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Territory



\*Please note that some smaller inactive claims and projects may not be indicated on this map.

Claims layer downloaded April 17, 2026  
from Geology Ontario  
<https://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/ogsearch.html>



## Community-Led Mineral Exploration Mitigation and Rehabilitation Standards

### Provincial Standards for Early Exploration

Effective April 10, 2018

#### Introduction

These Provincial Standards have been developed as part of the implementation of the graduated regulatory regime for early exploration under the *Mining Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.14 as amended by Bill 173, the *Mining Amendment Act*, 2009, S.O. 2009, c. 21 (the "Mining Act"), and the *Exploration Plans and Exploration Permits* regulation under the Mining Act, [O. Reg. 308/12].

There are three Parts to these Provincial Standards:

- I) Requirements for Carrying Out Exploration Plan Activities;
- II) Requirements for Carrying Out Exploration Permit Activities; and
- III) Requirements for Rehabilitation of Exploration Plan and Exploration Permit Activities.

The requirements of Parts I and II apply when the respective early exploration activities are being carried out, while Part III Rehabilitation applies when the early exploration activities have been completed. In the event there is any conflict between the content of this document and the requirements in the *Mining Act* or its regulations, the requirements in the legislation will prevail.

Part I and II have unique lists of early exploration activities identified in Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 of the *Exploration Plans and Exploration Permit Regulations* under the *Mining Act*. The Early Exploration Proponent ("Proponent") will refer to the appropriate categories depending on the type of undertaking being contemplated. Part III Standards apply to both Exploration Plan and Exploration Permit Activities.

These Provincial Standards are mandatory minimum requirements. Proponents are encouraged to adopt industry best practices such as those set out in the Excellence in Environmental Stewardship for Responsible Exploration (E3) guideline published by the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada.

#### 1.0 Definitions and Terminology

"Contained" means to take preventative measures to ensure that early exploration materials do not make contact with a water body.

"Early Exploration" has the same meaning as in the *Exploration Plans and Exploration Permits* regulation under the Mining Act, [O. Reg. 308/12].

"Exploration Permit Activities" means those activities that fall within Schedule 2 of the *Exploration Plans and Exploration Permits* regulation under the Mining Act, [O. Reg. 308/12].

"Exploration Plan Activities" means those activities that fall within Schedule 1 of the *Exploration Plans and Exploration Permits* regulation under the Mining Act, [O. Reg. 308/12].

"Early Exploration Proponent" has the same meaning as in the *Exploration Plans and Exploration Permits* regulation under the Mining Act, [O. Reg. 308/12].

## Ontario Provincial Standards for Early Exploration

Current standards for mineral exploration in Ontario are minimal for mitigating impacts during exploration and rehabilitating the land after the program is completed.

Requirements include:

- Posting signs for safety
- Types of tools that can be used
- Capping, sealing, marking drill holes
- Storing drill core, overburden, fluids
- Leaving holes and piles of dirt/rock in a safe and stable manner

[https://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/mining-sequence/provincial\\_standards\\_for\\_early\\_exploration\\_en.pdf](https://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/mining-sequence/provincial_standards_for_early_exploration_en.pdf)

## World Wildlife Fund

Working with World Wildlife Fund to developing Community-Led Minera Exploration Mitigation and Rehabilitation Standards

Tentative Upcoming Work:

- Conducting research on the impacts of exploration and best practices for mitigation and rehabilitation
- Meeting with community members to learn what is important to them regarding developing the standards.

## 4-Nations Resources Inc.

- 3-Nations Resources has now officially changed to 4-Nations Resources, to include:
  1. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
  2. Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (AZA)
  3. Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (BZA)
  4. Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB)
- Kim Rozon sits on the Board of Directors
- Looking at economic opportunities that can be shared with the four communities.



## Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI)



### CEDI

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In January 2026, BNA and the Municipality of Greenstone committed to participating in the First Nation-Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI).

- Commitment to improved community-to-community relationship through the establishment of a joint Working Group.
- Commitment to provide regular updates to our communities on the progress we make through this initiative.



### Workshop in May

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Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek and the Municipality of Greenstone will be participating in our first workshop together this May, focusing on understanding each others' histories and goals, and discuss potential shared economic opportunities.

## Waaskoneh Yaabiik

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Kim Rozon, Jordan Hatton, and Chief Gladu are Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's representatives who work with the six other First Nations on the Greenstone Transmission line, together as the newly formed Waaskoneh Yaabiik.

We meet regularly with the other six First Nations to discuss and move forward the Project.

## Upcoming Opportunities

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**May 6, 7, 8, 2026** Indigenous Field Monitor Training Program at Lakehead University. Offered through Hydro One and WSP.

Free training, with reimbursement for travel, accommodation, and meals provided

Potential Monitor employment opportunity starting the following week.

**\* Let Kim know if you have interest in training or future job opportunities.**

## Recent Training Opportunities

### Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC)

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Kim attended the PDAC Convention in Toronto this past March. Here, we had the opportunity to meet with many of the companies that work in our territory. Attended sessions related to best practices of First Nations working with mining companies.



PROSPECTORS &  
DEVELOPERS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA

### Lake Nipigon Summit

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Inaugural event this week for the First Nations situated around Lake Nipigon to come together and discuss ways to protect the Lake. First Nations have committed to continue to work together on this important project.

## Future Community Opportunities

### BNA Mining Day

Kim is gauging interest for a mining event that community members can come to learn about mineral exploration generally and the projects within the territory. Focus on hands-on activities for all ages, presentations and booths of companies in the territory.

### Community Feedback/Participation

How do you want to receive information regarding mineral exploration and mining in your territory?

How do you want to participate?

### Thunder Bay Mining Day

June 13, 2026, 10am-4pm

Thunder Bay Mining Day hosts an annual Mining Day held at Marina Park.  
A free, family event.

<https://thunderbayminingday.com/>



Economic  
Development

Aysha McNally

Community Energy  
Coordinator

# District Biomass Heating Project

**-BNA envisions a clean,  
green community that  
runs on renewable  
energy, using its wood  
residue from its  
economic driver – the  
Papasey Sawmill - to  
heat its homes and  
buildings**



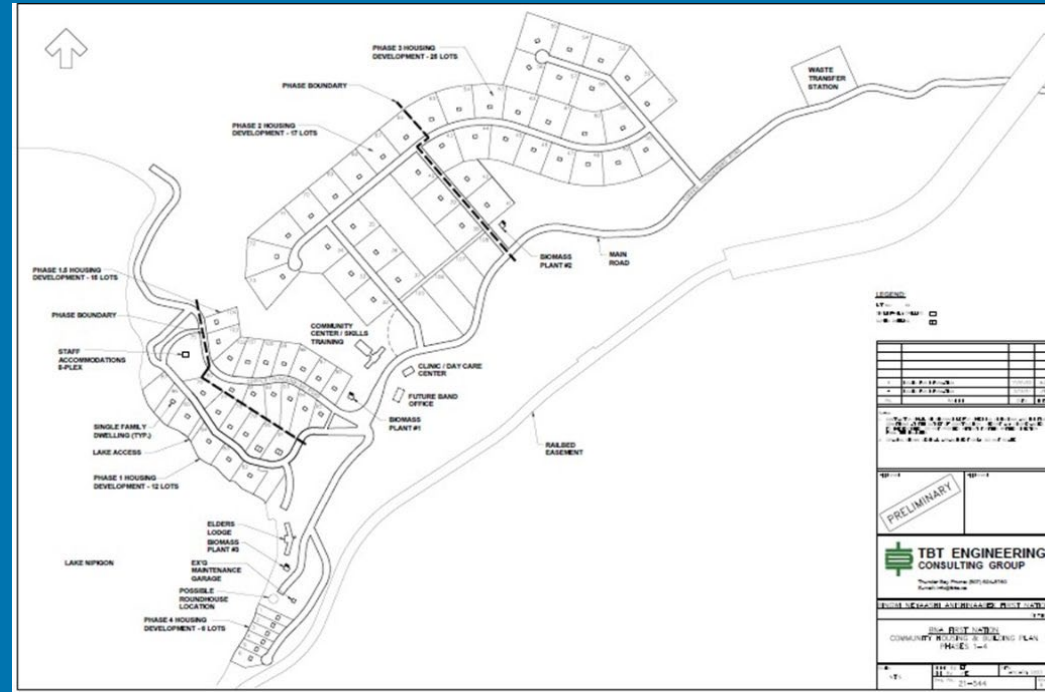
# District Biomass Heating Project

-We now have a “critical mass” of homes and infrastructure at BNA which can hook into a District Heating System

-Regular supply of fuel from Sawmill wood residue on-reserve. New boiler has been certified to use both wood chips and sawdust –meaning less wood waste going to the landfill

-Chipping at Sawmill, delivered to a central plant within the community via trailer.

-Equipment for this project will be stored in the 2 white storage tents both found at the sawmill yard and the district biomass project site



# District biomass Heating Project: Equipment

-BNA's Community Energy Coordinator (CEC) applied to and received funding from the FEDNOR, Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities (CERRC Program), Ministry of Natural Resources Forestry Forest Biomass Program (MNRF FBP Program) for construction and equipment.



# Construction Commenced

## -Home Conversions:

Currently converting the homes in the community to become biomass compatible with Contractor (Lakehead Burner Service LTD). This includes the 2 4-plex units and 6 homes with current funding. -BNA has received additional funding from the IESO to complete an added 6 home retrofits.



Figure 1 – Air Handling Units Installed



Figure 2 – Ductwork Mains Installed

# District Biomass Heating Project: Retrofits

- Retrofits that have completed to date are all the units in 4 plex's 75 A and 75 B
- Have started working on retrofitting Lot 94, 93 and 92.
- Retrofitting work consists of sheet metal, plumbing, and electrical work.
- Crawl spaces with have HVAC units to move the hot air throughout the house, creating less dependency on electric baseboards.
- Next steps for retrofits is continue to other homes and have underground piping trenched and ready to be hooked up to each home from the central biomass plant.



# District Biomass Heating Project: Retrofits

-BNA's Community Energy Coordinator (CEC) applied to and received funding from the Independent Electricity System Operator Indigenous Energy Projects (IESO IEP project stream) and the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to complete housing retrofits.

-Retrofits needed for the homes to be compatible for the district heating system (Piping, HVAC, etc.).



Figure 3 – Ductwork Mains Installed (2)



Figure 4 – Piping Manifold Installed



Figure 5 – PEX Supply and Return Piping Started

# Construction Has Commenced

-Drying wood slabs in Sawmill Yard to be Biomass-Ready

-Construction work has commenced, site prep, storage tent erected.

-Equipment is being ordered, piping has been delivered- Mbuilds was selected as Contractor

-Weekly Mtgs with BNA Team and Project Managers



# District Heating Biomass Project Continued

**-With additional funding from NRCAN, BNA was able to complete the Wood Supply Plan and complete a facility license for the Papasay sawmill.**



# Next Steps: District Biomass Heating Project

- Construct Plant
- Order all remaining equipment: Boilers, automation equipment, glycol, etc.
- Complete home renovations to ensure all buildings at BNA are biomass-compatible
- Trenching and piping to all buildings
- Training of operator (BNA Public Works Coordinator)
- Commence System – Work with Other First Nations to replicate our success
- Goal: Project to be completed and switched on by March 31, 2027



# Drone Project

-BNA received funding from the First Nation ADAPT program through CIRNAC for a climate change monitoring project.

-With this funding BNA bought a drone to capture crown health of trees and erosion levels within the big beach area.

-This project is complete but will be continuing to use the drone for other purposes such as capturing footage of the project development within the community.



# Drone Project

- Finding from the drone footage was crown health was within normal range. No evidence of invasive species within the area surveyed.
- There was little erosion of the beach as well.
- If funding becomes available again, would like to monitor in other parts of the community once accessible.



# Economic Development

Louise Esquega  
Governance Coordinator

**Summer Students**  
**Jiibegamigoong Policy**  
**Communications Policy**  
**Custom Election Law**



# Summer Students

We are looking to hire one Economic Development Assistant to support operations at our 292 S. Court street office. This position will be working for 18 weeks.

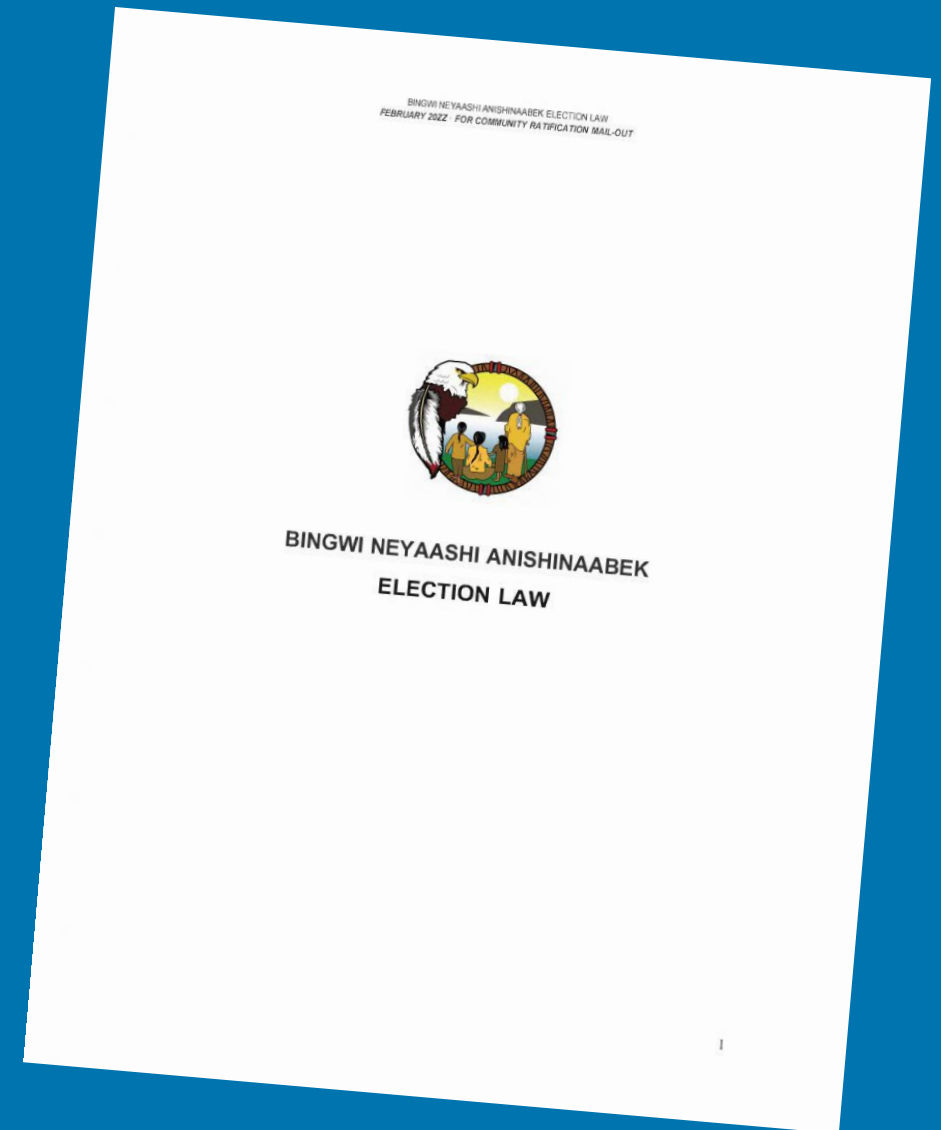
Deadline for ALL Applications: Monday April 27, 2026  
Start Date for all Jobs: Monday May 4, 2026  
End Date for all Jobs: Thursday August 27, 2026  
SUBMIT RESUMES TO:  
[humanres@bnafn.ca](mailto:humanres@bnafn.ca)



# BNA's Custom Election Law

I will be working on our Custom Election Law throughout this year.

If you have any suggestions, feedback, or would like to contribute, please feel free to email me.



# Jiibegamigoong Policy

Special thanks to Marcel Donio and Aandeg Skelly for sharing their extensive historical knowledge, which provided a strong foundation for this work. Their contributions supported CES Strategies in conducting Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations on the land, while Lisa Sonnenburg and Megan Hindman of Nokiiwin Tribal Council carried out the underwater drone search.

I would also like to acknowledge Jessica Hubbard for her guidance in ensuring that all work remained aligned with the Land Code. Appreciation is extended to Kim Rozon for her GIS expertise and for developing a draft map to support this presentation.

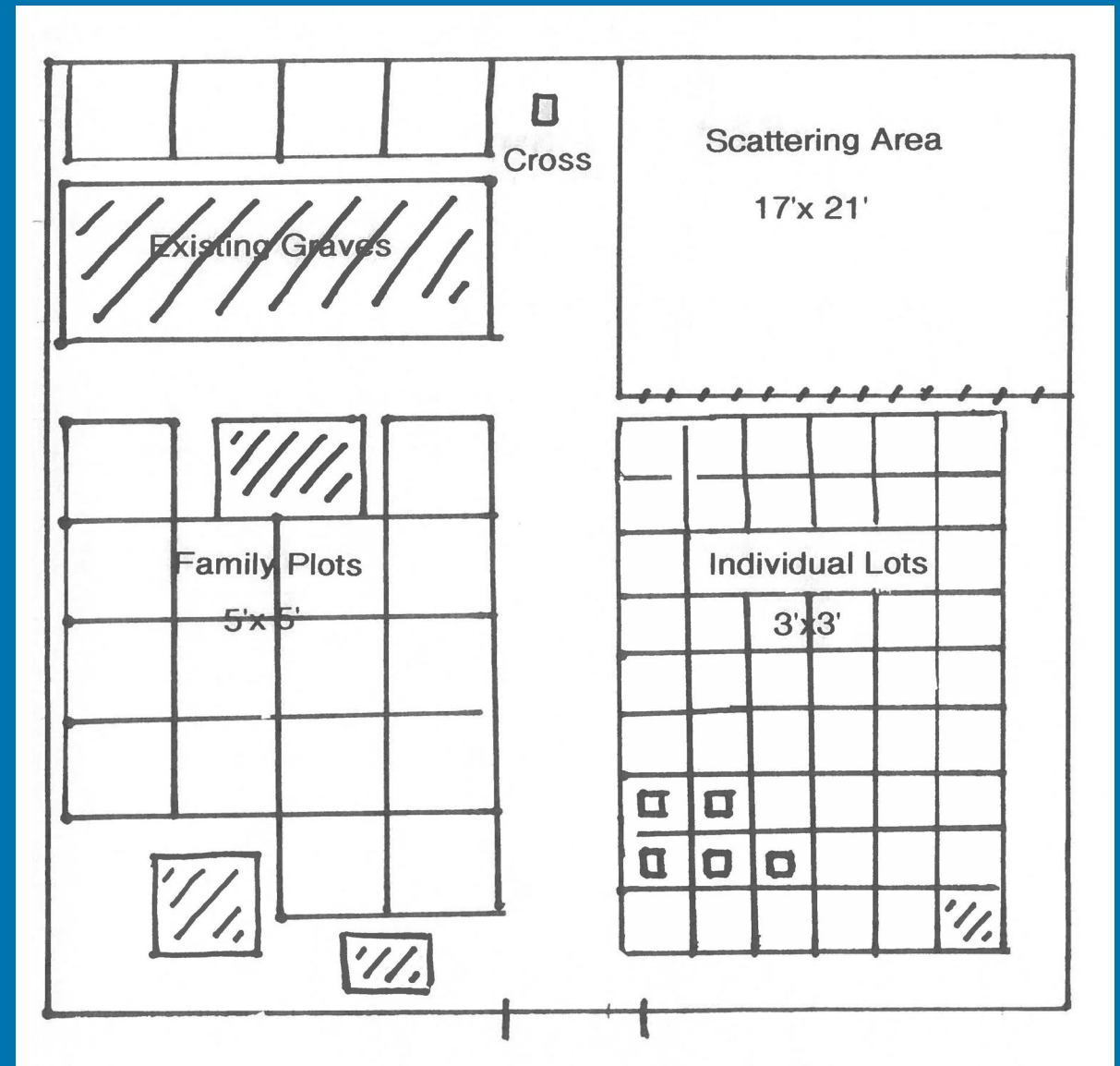
This work is expected to be finalized by the end of the month and will be made available online and upon request through my office.

Lot selection map, this cemetery lot selection map is for urns and cremains only.

The cemetery will have one side for family plots and one side for individual lots.

There will be a scattering area within the cemetery.

## Lot Selection



# Communications Policy

I will be working on the development of this policy over the course of this year. This policy will serve as an onboarding tool for new employees, providing clear guidance as they begin their roles within the organization.

The policy will outline job roles and responsibilities, establish goals and objectives, and support overall strategic planning. It is intended to ensure consistency, clarity, and alignment across departments while helping new staff understand expectations and organizational priorities from the outset.



Economic  
Development

Jake Alfieri

Communications  
Coordinator

## Communications Policy

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Jake is working alongside Louise to develop the Communications Policy. This policy is highlighted as an action item in the CCP. It will provide a bridge to membership, administration, and Chief & Council to provide accurate, timely, and ample information.

Louise was successful in acquiring funding for this policy.

Next Steps:

- Draft Copy in review internally
- Present to Community

## Strategic Planning

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Katia and Jake have been working alongside Nokiiwin to develop a Strategic Plan. This is highlighted as an action item in the CCP.

Steps completed:

- Collected information from CCP as a guideline
- Held meetings with directors to develop further action items
- Held an all-staff session to collect data
- Formulated and collected data from staff survey

Next Steps:

- Second All-Staff meeting to fill gaps
- Develop a draft copy
- Present draft to Chief & Council for review
- Finalize a polished copy
- Implement in the workplace

**MIIGWETCH**

**AAPIJI!**

Thank you very much