



CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023 - ALIKISI-PISIM

For the latest news, visit us online at chapleaucree.ca

Volume 15 Issue 1

Wachay, Fox Lake, Neyhweeneenowuk!

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Sikwan

Spring



REPORTS WITHIN

- 2: Okimah
- 4: Band Administrator
- 8: Membership
- 10: Education
- 16: Economic Development
- 20: Water Treatment
- 22: Public Works Garage
- 23: Health Coordinator
- 22: St. John's IRS Initiative
- 30: Life's Sacred Journey
- 32: Lands and Resources
- 38: Marine Conservation Project
- 40: Wahkohtowin
- 42: CCFN Community Trust

Okimah Report ᐅᐅᐅᐅ - *Chief Keeter Corston*

Wachay!

Pipon, or winter, has passed since we've had our last news update and summer, or nipin, is here and it brings growth along with it. We are one-year into the new term and have a lot of work to show for it. We are once again looking forward to progressing economic development, housing development, and returning to our cultural way of life.

Housing Development

Our housing development on the reserve has been in full bloom since the last newsletter, with more activity going on in the reserve than there's been in the last twenty years. Many new houses have sprouted on the reserve since we have last spoken, and we have welcomed returning, new, and young families to turn these houses into homes.

In addition to the new public works garage, the two houses, and the double triplexes at the end of Margaret Ann Road built last summer, we have worked closely alongside our contractors and have overseen three new houses on the reserve and all tenants will be in by the end of the summer.

It is all a part of the initiative of calling back our flock to the nest, of bringing our people home. It is my mission to see to more development on housing as the years go on to provide safe and affordable homes for more of our families to better foster the generations to come - and from that, the future itself.

Grassy Lake Campground & Racine

Another camping season is here and many of our fourteen campsites available for Chapleau Cree members have been filled. There is no cost to our members at either of the locations. If you are looking for a site for camping and to be on the land, which is in the middle of our Treaty Land Entitlement at Grassy Lake (Mushkwashewee Saakaaekaan), please contact the band office to find out the protocols on registration.

You do not have to be a band member or belonging to a First Nations for seasonal renting. Again, all inquiries can be answered by calling the band office.

The Porcupine-Wawa Transmission Line Update

The transmission line is a proposed project that is going from Wawa to Timmins and runs through six traditional territories, including ours, and we are engaged with four proponents that are bidding on it as a group. We have developed a memorandum of understanding and will be capitalizing on any economic development opportunities that this project will likely produce.

Pow-Wow & Cultural Harvest

After the success of last year's pow-wow after two years of pause due to COVID's presence, we are excited for August to bring us our twenty-eighth annual pow-wow and October to bring us our annual fall harvest. Unlike most years, we have a very dedicated committee that has assembled and is comprised of many of our staff and our band members to attribute to this year's gatherings.

Comprised of youth, adults, and elders, it is imperative that every generation has a voice to help build this vital cultural event. I encourage everyone reading this to come to the land and witness, learn, and be one with our people as we reconnect with our ancestors and reconnect as a nation itself.

The pow-wow will be held on August 12th to August 13th on our pow-wow grounds while the cultural harvest will be held from October 24th to October 27th at the Racine Lake Campground.

Tragedy of Indian Residential Schools

Although it has been known for generations of the trauma our people have suffered in the Indian Residential Schools, it has only been these last few years that it has been globally acknowledged. This is the first of many steps to bringing reconciliation, archiving, and healing to its survivors and fellow victims of the intergenerational trauma that these schools have inflicted.

Chapleau had two of these sites with St. John's Residential School. Some of our band members were sent to St. John's Indian Residential School, as well as Shingwauk Indian Residential School in Sault Ste. Marie.

I am happy to say that we have hired a Residential School Initiative Lead to assist in documenting, investigating, and organizing development in the ongoing battle for truth and healing. Our lead is working in close liaison with Treaty 1 consultant firm,

Narratives Inc., to obtain funding from the government to perform the necessary analysis required at these sites. Technical aspects such as penetrating radar mapping is vital to this process and that is what Narratives Inc. is helping us achieve.

This is a very important and sensitive project as the suffering, cruelty, and loss that occurred at these schools has shaped much of our identity today.

Please join us at St. John's Residential School burial site on Friday August 11, 2023, at 11:00 AM to give honour to the survivors and loved ones who attended the St. John's Residential School. There is a lunch following the ceremony at the band office directly afterwards.

Health Transformation

We have been partnering with Nishnawbe Aski Nation to transform our healthcare away from the current Ontario model as that been shown time and time again that it does not work for our people. The end goal is to have our own governing body for healthcare so that we can be in control of what it is we need for such. These meetings and their developments lead to the proposed self-governance.

Update on the Golden Route Package

Golden Route has been a long-haul and funding is always the issue. It's been a slow development coming in on the project as the goal is to have an 80% of this project funded with grants. We have purchased four package homes from Boreal Homes to be put together at the Sideburn Lake location along with the Hydro line from the highway, the mechanical aspects, and the water plant that is required for this operation to succeed.

Once that is complete, we will be putting it on hold until such a time as more funding comes in to do the eco-lodge which is considerably more of an undertaking than that of the four cabins. We are optimistic that the funding will come in as a new fiscal year approaches. We will keep band members posted on the progress of this endeavour.

Chi Miigwetch!

In closing, I would like to take the time to thank every band member for your continued support to the council and letting me continue to be your voice through our trials, our developments, and our triumphs.

I will always believe that we, as a people, must look to the past to provide us answers for the path that lay ahead. Every hardship has a footprint of an ancestor that we can follow, and it always leads us to an answer.

Walk with me.



Chief Keeter Corston

Band Administrator Report - *Edith Larocque*

“Walk gently in the spring. Mother Earth is giving life .”

Quoted below is Chapleau Cree First Nation's updated clear and concise Mission Statement as approved by Chief and Council.

“We are committed to responsible and accountable leadership carrying out the collective will of its members thereby improving their quality of life”.

“We are committed to protecting and preserving our treaty and aboriginal inherent rights”.

With COVID-19 being considered as an ongoing health concern and no longer a pandemic, we are opening up our meetings and events without the need of testing. Please feel free to come out and join us in our many activities being offered almost weekly.

We are now on summer hours at our offices and businesses operating from 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday to Thursday and 8:00AM to 12:00PM Friday. Gas Bar hours also have summer hours with their closing hours at 10:00PM seven days a week.

Year end is complete as we now wait for our Auditors to present our draft Audited Financial Statements to Chief and Council for review and approval.

The Public Works Department remains busy with road and housing maintenance along with assisting programs in every department when required. The Public Works team not only assists with programs and ensures the necessary supplies are available and ready but also ensure our assets on reserve are maintained and scheduled for any necessary work to ensure its use of life is extensive. Unknowingly to most, this team is a major part of the success of our department's programs running smoothly and efficiently for the benefit of all our members.

Our Economic Development Coordinator has had a busy year with housing and developing proposals for the economic benefit of our First Nation. Housing applications have increased in the past couple of years. This fiscal year, we had 8 units filled with an additional 3 units ready for occupancy this fiscal and five more units available for this fiscal year end.

The former Racine Campground owned and operated by Chapleau Cree has quite a few lots available for members free of charge. Please contact the office should you be interested in accessing one of the lots. Our newly developed sites adjacent to the Racine boat launch

are now ready for occupancy. We are looking for more members to create a committee in developing a policy for the benefits of all campers. Please submit letter of interest should you be interested.

The Lands Department continues working on protecting our aboriginal treaty rights on the land and reaching out to various agencies and governments and ensure they are providing meaningful consultation to our First Nation.

Chapleau Cree has had yet a few changes to our staff once again. We welcome Wayne Kapashesit as the Public Works Supervisor, Deanna Cachagee, Indian Residential School Lead and Chalias Caldwell has returned from Maternity Leave. Padraic Taaffe has returned and taken on a new role as Economic Development Officer. Also, Mary Piche joined as Indigenous Support Worker, Wolfgang Nakogee has begun as receptionist/Chief's Assistant, and Kyle Corston is our new Community Relations coordinator. A fond farewell to Cheryl Dupuis, Cultural Coordinator and Peggy Domingue. Cheryl Dupuis has returned to Kunuwanimano and is passionate about her career choice. After thirty plus years with Chapleau Cree First Nation, Peggy has chosen to move on and share her knowledge with Ontario First Nation Economic Developers Association. We celebrate in her career choice and acknowledge the contribution she has given to our First Nation in the various roles she held during her tenure and wish her the best of luck.

If you have any ideas of suggestions on changes or additions to our Newsletter, please feel free to contact me. For further information on any one of our projects, policies, or First Nation business, I can be reached by email at bandadmin@chapleaucree.ca or telephone (705) 864-0784 ext. 226.

Wishing everyone good health and spirit.

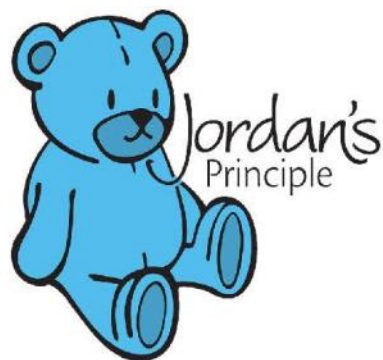
Mena kaa waa pah miten

Till we meet again

Edith Larocque



Jordan's Principle Virtual Presentation



Wednesday, July 12, 2023

13:00-14:00 EST



Delivered by Microsoft Teams

Want to know more about Jordan Principle and the services it has to offer? Our Prevention/Jordan's Principle Coordinator will be hosting a virtual gathering to present about Jordan's Principle. Presentation is open to all Chapleau Cree Band Members.



For Registrations or if you have any questions please contact:

Charnelle Kapashesit— Prevention/Jordan's Principle Coordinator

Telephone: 705-860-0001

E-mail: Prevention@lifessacredjourney.ca

In Memoriam



Ian Fortin

Feb 19, 1965 - Dec 19, 2022



Frank Byce

July 21, 1946 — Dec 20, 2022



Ken McAuley

1946 - Jan 29, 2023



Spencer Tangie

1982 — Feb 11, 2023

Our Sincerest Condolences



Robert Walker

1962 — May 2, 2023



Clara Louisa Vaillancourt

1934 — Mar 16, 2023



Norma Caldwell

Aug 23, 1938 — Mar 19, 2023

Membership Report - *Stephanie Scott*

Wachay!

Bill S-3 coming into effect in 2019 has increased our membership by an estimate of 200 individuals to date and growing currently at 599 on our Membership list. The consultation process for S-3 brought First Nations together to discuss other inequalities we see within status entitlement, the following are a few that the Federal Government will address through Bill C-38. Bill C-38 was introduced into the House of Commons in November 2021 and completed its 1st reading in December 2022.

These proposed changes will include:

- **Enfranchisement**

The proposed amendments would make sure that individuals with a family history of enfranchisement are treated equally to those without by repealing enfranchisement - related provisions of 6(1) (d) or (e) to transfer individuals entitled for registration provision 6(1) (a.1).

Entitling direct descendants of 6(1)(d) or (e) under the provisions of 6(1)(a.3) if they were born before April 17, 1985 or born after April 16, 1985 if parents were married to each other prior to April 17, 1985.

- **Deregistration**

Individuals might want to be removed from the Register to join other groups that do not allow those registered under the Indian Act to enroll, such as American Tribes or Metis.

- **Acquired rights to natal band Membership**

Ensure that women who lost the right to their natal band membership prior to 1985, and their children, would have the right to apply to have that membership restored.



The Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) wait period has increased due to the high demand the past year. If your card is due within 6 months, I highly advise you to submit the SCIS application and Guarantor form to ISC soon. You can access the forms for SCIS, Indian Status and Guarantor on Indigenous Services Canada website at <https://www.sacisc.gc.ca> or by opening your camera on your device to scan this QR Code to the webpage directly.

For the old-style laminate certificate of status, please call or email me ahead of time to book an appointment to assure you I'm available. Keep in mind, if you had a SCIS card, you're not able to receive the old-style card and must apply for a SCIS. I can assist with the application for SCIS and take the photo through photo app to send directly to the SCIS processing centre.

Chapleau Cree is a Section 10 First Nation, this means that we have control over our own Membership List through our own governed code. Individuals receiving status under the 221 number does not automatically grant CCFN membership. Individuals must apply through application and a letter reviewed by the membership committee and Chief and Council. If any of your family members need an Indian status application or CCFN membership application, please feel free to share my contact information at the end of this report.

Members are reminded to call or email in their change of address as soon as they are able. If a return notice is sent by the Post Office, your mailing address will be removed until the office receives the updated address. Please contact the band office **705-864-0784** for address changes or Indian status inquiries or email me at education@chapleaucree.ca or call my direct line **705-864-5082**.

Meegwetch,

Stephanie Scott, Membership Clerk

TREATY ANNUITY PAYMENT
JUNE 22, 2023
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
CHAPLEAU CREE BAND OFFICE
MUST SHOW STATUS CARD

Education Report - *Stephanie Scott*

Congratulations to all our 2023 Elementary/Secondary and Post-Secondary Graduates!

It has been a tough few years for our youth attending school with the many transitions from remote learning, hybrid set up and now finally back to in person classrooms. I am extremely proud of all the students determination and hard work!

Aboriginal Student Support Workers are collaborating with each local Provincial School with activities and lessons within the classrooms to continue building student capacity of multicultural understanding and empathy.

Chapleau Cree currently has full time workers in Chapleau Elementary/Secondary School and one full time worker at Our Lady of Fatima. The Conseil Scolaire schools, Sacre Coeur and Trillium are very welcoming to our ASW to visit and hold teachings in a library for Indigenous students and include Chapleau Cree on land-based activities outside for a class. The most recent activity was Birch tapping with Grade 7/8 and ribbon skirts with Sacre Coeur students.

Omushkego Education provides resources that our ASW's access and are available to the schools to bring our Culture and knowledge into the classrooms. Our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Stories Resource and Curriculum Documents embrace Omushkego cultural traditions while following current Ontario Ministry of Education initiatives. OE also developed Omushkego Language and Culture Curriculum, Early Learning – Grade 3, Grades 4 – 8, and Grades 9-10 that is currently being shared to be of the local schools resources.

Reminder, Band Members can access Mushkegowuk Employment and Training Services (METS) which provides funding for individual initiatives through a combination of programs and services with the goal to improve the applicants' employment skills and facilitate their entry into the labour market. Applications for funding are available at my office.

METS provides funding for:

- ⇒ **Programs, courses and training opportunity of one year or less;**
- ⇒ **Programs, courses and training that provide direct entry into the labour force;**
- ⇒ **Funding may include course costs & materials, books & supplies, income support, travel costs, accommodation costs;**
- ⇒ **Pre-Employment Support such as travel costs for interviews;**
- ⇒ **Mobility – relocation costs for employment;**
- ⇒ **Licences, certificates etc. needed for employment.**

Note that funding is limited, and the process may take six to eight weeks depending on the amount of funds requested.

Meegwetch,

Stephanie Scott, Education Clerk







CONGRATS TO ALL OUR GRADS!

Elementary Graduates:



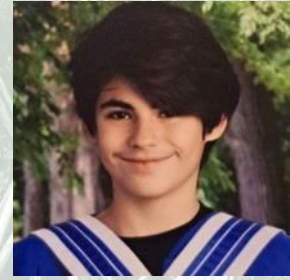
Kayden Caldwell



Tanner Moreau



Simon Barsalou



Jori Pellerin

Secondary Graduates:



Lacey Pilon



Evangeline Barsalou



James Murray



Skye Spence



Rehtaeh Kapashesit

Post-Secondary Graduates:



Deanna Cachagee

Bachelor of
Indigenous Social
Work



Livinna Pemmican

Paralegal Certificate



Michael McAuley

Heavy Duty
Mechanic Diploma



Newmont Gold has an estimated workforce of 221 including 41 First Nation from the 3 First Nations. When applying for a job at the mine please reach out to the IBA Coordinator, **David Courtois** at **705-904-4999** or email at **bordenfnc@wabun.on.ca**. Please check out the new QR codes for Newmont employment opportunities and for a candidate interest form!



Scan for more information on Newmont Employment Opportunities:



Economic Development Report - *Padraic Taaffe*

Greetings Band Members,

Padraic Taaffe has returned to serve the community of Chapleau Cree First Nation again, this time as the Economic Development Officer (EDO). Before he came to northern Ontario, Padraic spent 25 years working as a chef and manager in restaurants and hotels from Chicago and New York to Berlin, Nice and Dublin, with extensive experience on cruise ships along the way. He has the distinction of having been to every Caribbean Island but never spending the night on a single one of them.

Since coming to Chapleau, Padraic worked as a manager for Chapleau Health Services and then spent a year as Chapleau Cree's Healthcare Coordinator. He also completed a Master of Business Administration during that time, and since 2019 has been serving diverse clients in northern Ontario as a consultant in housing, health care services, business plan development and funding application. He is looking forward to serving the Chapleau Cree community again.

There have been major developments in housing that are planned to be finished in 2023, including:

Two apartment triplexes, a new duplex at Mukeso House, and ten new houses (some of these are already finished).

Three chalets at Sideburned Lake as part of the larger Ecolodge project.

This year's biggest task for the EDO will be to make sure that these projects are successfully completed.

What is Economic Development?

Community economic development is about promoting well-being and quality of life for a community and its members.



Building houses and public infrastructure is fundamental to enabling a community to grow and thrive, but there is more that we can work on:

- Strategic Planning
- Community Owned Enterprises
- Private Business Development
- Projects that support Culture and Traditional Values
- Human Resources – training and capacity building

But the single most important factor in economic development is ... **YOU!**

The EDO can help Band Members with planning, grant and loan applications, and background support, but it takes someone who is passionate about an idea for a business to make it work. If you have a dream but you're not sure how to make it real, we will do our best to help – come see the EDO any time.



The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, usually known as CMHC, is a major source of funding for housing construction – in the last few years CMCH has contributed funding for 15 new units at Fox Lake – but also helps fund home repairs, renovations, and retrofits through programs such as Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and Home Adaptations for Senior's Independence (HASI).

These programs can help fund:

- ◇ Roof replacement
- ◇ Damaged Flooring
- ◇ Cracked Foundation
- ◇ Septic Repair and Replacement
- ◇ Plumbing Repairs
- ◇ Furnaces and Water Heaters
- ◇ Attic Insulation
- ◇ Handrails and Grab Bars
- ◇ Walk In Showers

If you are a homeowner and would like more information about funding for home repairs, please get in touch with the EDO at edo@chapleaucree.ca or call me at 705-864-0784.

Meegwetch!

Padraic Taaffe

Economic Development Officer





**After 31+ plus years we say goodbye
and good luck to Peggy Domingue!**





Water Treatment Plant Report - *Allan Dupuis*

Hello, everyone!

Winter is over and the weather is finally warm. There is still some snow on the ground here and there but the sun is shining and everyone is making the most of it. The Water Treatment Plant winter was a busy one with Connor McAuley completing his mandatory renewal course which is provided by Walkerton and then passing his Operator in Training Certification. He also recently passed his probationary period and is proving himself as a dedicated and hard-working water operator that can be depended upon. During the early part of January, I also attended a training week and passed my Level III Water Treatment Certification exam for which I am very proud. I have not attended much training since before Covid and with the new exam and certification standards it was very challenging.



We have many upcoming projects scheduled for this summer. Just this week we are once again changing out our media to ensure we are providing the best quality drinking water we can to our community. Many new residences are

being built on the First Nation and with that comes ensuring each of them have access to water and ensuring all the new services are marked and tracked for future reference and maintenance. We also are beginning our annual flushing program and hydrant maintenance to ensure any issues are identified and repaired prior to the next winter. We have a couple of smaller storage buildings for safe keeping of used chemicals prior to disposal and another for small equipment such as for lawn and snow maintenance. Grassy Lake and Racine Lake Camp Ground also have some projects that we are helping to tackle as well. I'm sure the summer will go by as quickly as it always does and before long, we will be planning and prepared for winter but until then we continue to maintain and run the Water Treatment Plant as best we can everyday.





As many of you may or may not be aware prior to Christmas Ian Fortin our former Water Operator, Councillor, and a resident here at Chapleau Cree First Nation passed away unexpectedly. He was a member and chairperson of the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO). I attended this years Annual General Meeting and Training Conference at the beginning of May. It was a special event as they honored our friend and all the contributions he made to the organization and industry and to the many operators he helped along the way. Ian was a good friend, always willing to help and always had a smile on his face and he will be missed by many. I would like to acknowledge him and the many things he did for myself and the community as a band member, an employee and as a friend. He was truly a unique soul and I am grateful to have been his friend.

I look forward to updating you in the next newsletter.

**Water Treatment Plant Manager
Allan Dupuis**



Public Works Garage—Wayne Kapashesit

Good day, Wachay!

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Public Works Manager here at CCFN, Wayne Kapashesit. I've been hired as the public works team supervisor as of November 14, 2022. I'm affiliated with the Chapluea Cree First Nation as a band member. It's been a challenging and new experience but have worked in many different settings with public works from different organizations which I'm aware of and experience in it.

Public works has all different job tasks, which includes helping other departments within the CCFN. The major winter tasks are keeping the community open and business open during the winter storm months. With on-call put into place. Now as spring is in the air the public workers feel more at ease knowing that our on-call has come to an end. As summer approaches and other projects or activities come our way, we'll be more than willing to help in many safe ways. I'd like to acknowledge the public workers for the effort they put into their work in a safe manner, without any injuries.

I also look forward to summer as it approaches and our waterways open, for summer activities such as camping/fishing and spending time out on the land, with family and friends and enjoying the nice warm weather. So, I'd like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Meegwetch!

Wayne Kapashesit

Public Works Supervisor



Public Works Crew: Josh Raposo, Josh Boucher, Brandon Ruffo, Wayne Kapashesit, & C.J. Spence

Health Coordinator - *Marlene Kapashesit*

Wachay,

Our last six months of activities have been quite an experience and most of all an enjoyable teaching within our Chapleau Cree First Nation territory.

Within our Health department, they have continued with ongoing monthly activities and prevention workshops. We have collaborated with Maamwesying for our joint workshops. The staff have provided ongoing support to our elders and many hours of homecare services. As part of the prevention workshops, we aimed at a healthy lifestyle for all ages in our community. Many activities consisted of Weight Watcher's, Nutrition, Diabetes awareness and other health workshops.

The Cultural Coordinator position (vacant) has now been reclassified as Community Event Organizer, however; our cultural activities continued throughout with the help of all our Health Department, Water Plant and Public Works.

Many cultural activities occurred within the community such as beading, moccasins, ribbon skirts, ribbon shirts and tikinagun workshops. Our Winter Camp event involved ice fishing, with setting nets at Racine Lake. We had many youths, families and elders attend the Net Fishing Teaching by our facilitator, Wayne Kapashesit. The teaching of setting fish nets using tree poles, ice holes and a net. It was a beautiful experi-

ence to witness the teaching.

Our Cree Classes—L Dialect have begun in March 2023. The class style consists of online classes and scheduled in class sessions, facilitated by Norman Wesley of Moose Cree First Nation. Cree classes are for adults, and will be developing new sessions for our youth hopefully by fall-2023.

We are now constructing our two cooking tents at Pow wow grounds and Racine grounds. Once we are completed, future plans of our traditional cooking will take place for all community members & guests.

Our Youth Summer Camp will be held July 17- 19, 2023, as "Day camp at Racine Lake." We will be posting all details by end of June for registration & programs.

Our Elders program hosts weekly craft workshops at the Mukeso House for all seniors to join activities.

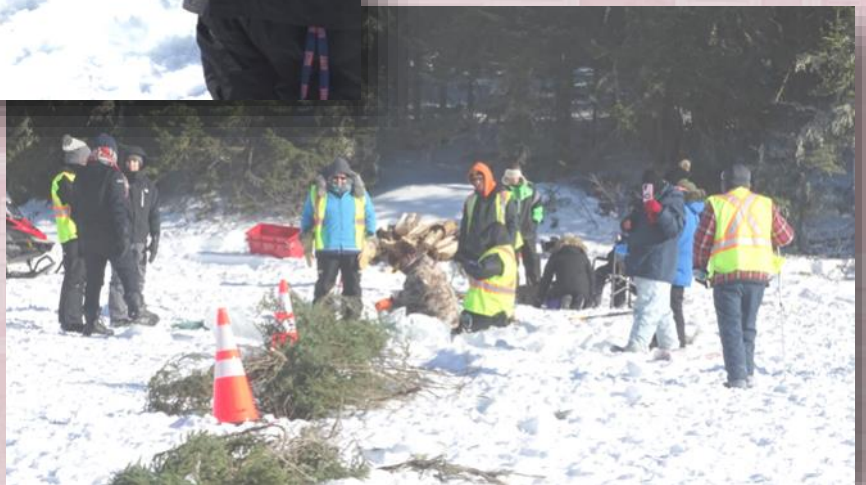
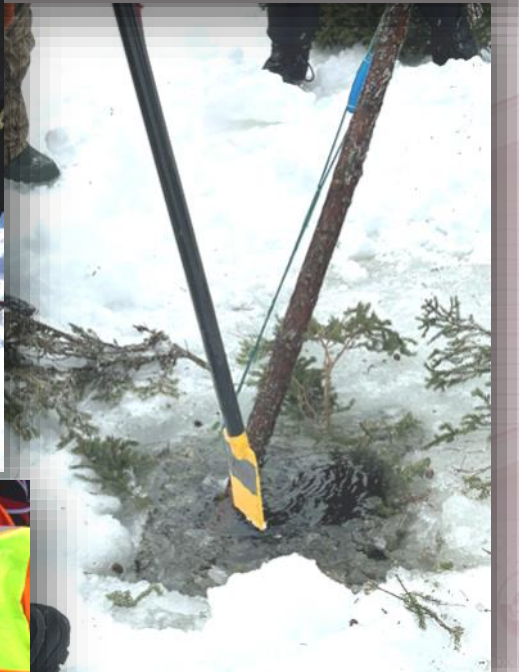
For all our Health Centre activities, kindly register with our admin: Debbie. As well, we provide weekly pamphlets on upcoming activities.

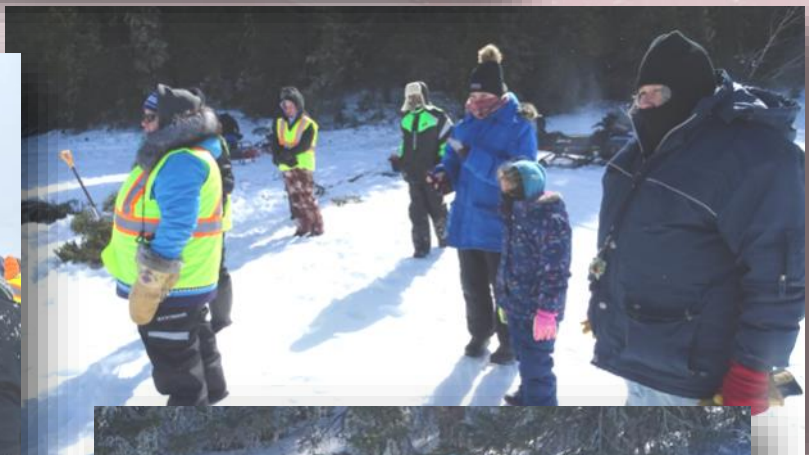
In closing, I look forward to our upcoming events and planning programs for our youth and community members.

Respectfully,

Marlene











St. John's IRS Initiative - Deanna Cachagee

Wachay!

I am most honoured to return to my home community of Chapleau Cree First Nation as the Residential School Initiative Lead. This Initiative is jointly led by Chapleau Ojibwe FN, Brunswick House FN, Chapleau Cree FN, with project management support from Narratives Inc.

The St. John's IRS Initiative seeks to document the stories and experiences of the Survivors and families of Survivors that attended St. John's Anglican Residential School to create a comprehensive record of the school, search the school grounds, and investigate on behalf of the children who never made it home.

This process will follow a trauma-informed, Survivor-led approach, with the goals of:

- **Bringing together cultural protocols and western protocols in seeking and uncovering the truth of what happened at St. Johns Anglican Residential School;**
- **Continue the journey of individual, family, and community healing; and**
- **Seeking closure for families of missing children, including memorialization and commemoration as guided by an established IRS Survivor's working group**

As CCFN's Initiative Lead, I am eager to navigate this Initiative with the patience, understanding, and sensitivity that is required of me to undertake this work in a good way. To further introduce myself, as of June 2023, I will be a graduate of the Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work and become a registered social worker. I am also a graduate of the Social Service Worker – Indigenous Specialization at Sault College. My special interests have been in learning from Indigenous knowledge systems as it pertains to social work because I truly believe in supporting the healing of our people through our own culture and practices. I am by no means an expert, but I understand that we all have special gifts and skills which can help to build up the community. That is what I will take into this Initiative. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to learn from the relentless community advocacy work as modeled by IRS Survivors, my grandfather Michael Cachagee Sr., and my great-aunt Marjorie Cachagee Lee. I have grown up here in CCFN, and in Sault Ste. Marie, where I have watched this work being done at the former Shingwauk IRS, now Algoma University. When it comes to supporting IRS Survivors, and their families, all of the work must be done with integrity, humility and reciprocity in mind.

The next steps of the St. John's Anglican Residential School Survivors Initiative are to bring the Technical Working Group (Initiative Leads, Community Coordinators, and the Band Administrators from CCFN, COFN and BHFN) together with former IRS Survivors and their families to establish the Survivors Working Circle. The Survivors Working Circle will help to inform the protocols for the duration of this Initiative. There is much groundwork to be done! The Survivors Working Circle will begin their work at our first anticipated gathering – the Opening Ceremony. Following this, there will be further gatherings hosted by our neighbouring First Nations communities COFN and BHFN as well. For up-to-date information on

this event, as well as all future St. John's Anglican Residential School Survivor's Initiative events, please check chapleaucree.ca/events

If you, or your family attended the St. John's Anglican Residential School – feel free to connect with me via e-mail at rsilead@chapleaucree.ca, or leave a message for me at the CCFN Band Office at 705-864-0784. If there are questions you may have about the Initiative, I will do my best to be available to you.

Miigwetch!

Deanna Cachagee



Life's Sacred Journey Report - Hilary Arsenault

Life's Sacred Journey (LSJ) enjoyed a busy winter and is excitedly looking ahead to a flourishing spring and summer providing events, programming, support and advocacy to the Community!

Shortly following our last newsletter update we had the pleasure of hosting a youth Christmas Party in December 2022 and a holly jolly time was had by all. Children and Youth came together for festive fun and food with friends. A poutine bar was served, holiday themed activities and games were played, and we had a very special guest! Santa Claus himself visited the party to hand out gifts to everyone came out for the fun and his helper elves at LSJ delivered to those who weren't able make it. It was a very merry time and a great way to wrap up 2022.

In fact, we had so much fun at the Christmas Party, we also hosted a Valentine's Day Party just a few months later. More geared to our younger children with cookie decorating, a mac and cheese meal and lots of sweet treats. The love (of chocolate) was definitely in the air for the youngsters who were able to attend.



We aren't the only ones who get to have all the fun. LSJ has also collaborated with CCFN Health Services for the Easter Egg Hunt that was hosted in April. More sweets



and some springtime fun prizes were hidden by the Easter Bunny and hunted by children and youth with 2 grand prize golden eggs being found! LSJ is looking forward to further collaborations and hosting more youth parties throughout 2023 and beyond.

Life's Sacred Journey has also held challenges for all ages with a well attended step challenge in the New Year. Members and Affiliates got up and moving and participants each accumulated over a quarter of a million steps over the course of a month! More recently those who signed up for our Seeding, Sowing and Growing activity were tasked with growing spring flowers with planting supplies provided. We are looking forward to enjoying the blooms. We aspire to engage all Members of the Community with activities that and welcome any suggestions or recommendations for programs or activities you would like to see. If you were unable to attend the Community Consultation Dinner, where the attendees were asked for their input of what types of programs they would like to see offered by Health and LSJ, please feel free to contact us directly and share your ideas!

Our Prevention/Jordan's Principle Worker has been very busy as well with many developments and successes with



the Jordan's Principle program. Staff attended an in-person training offered to the communities in Nishnawbe Aski Nation Territory and were able to gain valuable information and make beneficial networking connections while visiting Thunder Bay. Charnelle has made several presentations about the Jordan's Principle program helping to bring awareness to those who can benefit from the initiative and will be offering a virtual presentation via Microsoft Teams for our Members outside of the Community. Please contact **Charnelle at 705 860-0001 or prevention@lifessacredjourney.ca** for more information. She also celebrated "Bear Witness Day" with some of our young people to make Spirit Bear's favourite cookies while teaching about the reform that led to the Jordan's Principle Program.

We have quite a few programs, workshops and events planned for the upcoming months with the goal of increasing our presence in the community and engagement with families. Keep an eye out in the weekly pamphlets as we finalize details for baby socials, Sharing Circles, video game tournaments and more!

Life's Sacred Journey is nearly content with the set up of our newly constructed office space. This satisfaction was heavily influenced by the procurement of some special art pieces that will add some interest to our walls once hung. We had a

piece customized by our own Band Member Betty Albert, also known as Wabimeguil, depicting a family of geese flying together. We were also fortunate enough to receive a donation from the family of Eva Brenda Armstrong to celebrate her life, commemorate her contribution to the field of Child and Family Services and acknowledge her passion for supporting families and bringing our children home.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Spring and Summer seasons and beyond!

Meegwetch

Hilary Broomhead-Arsenault



Charlene Chakasim (band member) & Hilary Broomhead

Lands and Resources Report - *Lauryn Cachagee*

By Lauryn Cachagee, Lands & Resources Technician:

Wachay, Hello, Bonjour!

The Lands and Resources Department continues to work hard to ensure our Treaty rights are upheld on the land, proper consultation occurs, responding to notices from government, industry, and being the ***boots on the ground*** for our community.

Under the Relationship Agreement and Customized Consultation Agreement with MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) for forestry, we are working collaboratively on advancing ***herbicide alternatives*** into operational forestry within a five-year timeframe. Some of these alternatives include manual tending with gas or battery powered brush saws, and the mycorrhizal inoculation of tree seedlings which promote growth in trees and plants. Mycorrhizae is a type of white fuzzy, very tiny, and sometimes microscopic fungus that grows on tree roots. It connects all trees together in a network-like way underground. It has been shown to accelerate root growth in plants.



In January the Lands department hosted a forestry AWS – Annual Work Schedule open house to the community. Present were staff from MNR, Interfor, GreenFirst, and Wahkohtowin. The forest-

ry companies presented their AWS's which are maps that outline their predicted forestry operations for the year.

Rock and Roll

We are continuing conversations with the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) who are continuing their geophysical mapping project in the Swayze township. Their work consists of finding an outcrop of rocks, taking a very small sample, and using technology to obtain more geological data. Their work has very little impact on the land, they simply provide their geological expertise to other branches of government. The OGS will be in the Swayze area again this summer.



At the end of February, we attended the Indigenous Lands Symposium which was hosted by Wahkohtowin here in Chapleau. Topics discussed during the two-day event included: customized consultation approach, culture revitalization, emerging conservation technology, wetland & biodiversity monitoring, mycorrhizal inoculation, forest certification, and direct agreements.

Mining Act Amendments

On March 2nd 2023, at Queens Park, the Ministry of Mines (MINES), has proposed amendments to the Mining Act through Bill 71 – Building More Mines

Act, 2023. Many First Nations believe this will infringe on the Crown's duty to consult. CCFN was not properly consulted on these amendments, we were rather informed of them by MINES, and then told we could comment if we wish.



Through a stream of funding received from MNRF, we have purchased a Garmin GPS, Samsung tablet, and measuring tape to aid in the completion of surveys this upcoming summer as part of a **moose monitoring** initiative. This is a project in collaboration with MNRF, Brunswick House First Nation, and Missanabie Cree First Nation.

To continue building the Lands Department we will also be purchasing a plotter along with a few other items to grow our **GIS** – Geographic Information Systems capacity. This will allow us to print maps of all sizes which are great to use for community consultations, and any other mapping required.



One, Two, Tree

Missinaibi Forest Management Inc. (MFMI) which manages the Missinaibi Forest, holds a trust fund for First

Nation communities. We are looking to use these funds to plan a career fair targeted for high school students. Another activity looking to possibly be planned is the training of interested band members to acquire their Forest

Operations Compliance Inspector Certificate.



Mineral Matters

Since the start of the new year, we have received three early exploration permits within our traditional territory. Proponents are Rockridge Resources Inc. (Raney Gold Project), the Cree Lake Project, and Jean the Abigo Project. Thanks to the CreeGEO team at Mushkegowuk, they have overlaid our cultural values with the proposed projects and have found no overlaps of known CCFN values and early exploration activities.

It will be an exciting summer packed with fieldwork. Projects include: compliance inspection mentoring, moose pellet plot establishment surveys, water monitoring, manually tending/thinning forestry harvest blocks, vegetation index surveys, and anything else that may arise.

If you have any questions or concerns related to lands and resources, please do not hesitate to stop by our office or give us a call. If the door is open so are we!

Lauryn Cachagee

Lands And Resources Technician







Marine Conservation Project - Kyle Corston

Wachay!

This is Kyle Corston, your Land's Department Marine Research Assistant, with an update on the Mushkegowuk Marine Conservation Area project that we are participating in. For those of you who don't know, Mushkegowuk has begun the process to create an 'Indigenous-led National Marine Conservation Area that will protect Weeneebeg (James Bay) and Washaybeyoh (Hudson Bay), our Cree people, culture, lands and waters that sustain all life, and our interconnected eco-systems for all future generations.' And although we at CCFN are quite a distance from the coast, and our traditional territory lies outside of the proposed conservation area, we are still part of the Mushkegowuk community, and we are at the headwaters that flow down the Moose River into James Bay. So what happens here affects what happens on the coast, since it's all connected, and our people see the water systems and all that live within as a whole.

When we began this project last year, it started as a 'naming project. I initiated the process of interviewing Band Members trying to find the original place names (in Cree and Ojibwe) of the local lakes and rivers in the area that were renamed in the past century as survey crews came into the North to build the railroad, and exploit the natural resources, etc. Since then, this project has expanded, and I will begin to conduct general TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) values mapping of our entire Traditional Lands, interviewing members on their land usage, and plotting values into our database. Again, **this is where YOU come in:** I will be looking to interview ANY and ALL Band Members who would like to share their TEK knowledge with me and the Mushkegowuk Marine project. We are looking to map all traditional and culturally relevant places in our area, which would include historical camp sites, fishing and hunting areas, traplines, berry and medicine harvesting spots, etc. This data will be protected, but it will help Mushkegowuk in building and making the case for the creation of the National Marine Conservation Area. Any information (and you ALL have something relevant to share) is important to record, and **\$500 honourariums will be provided** for your participation.

So contact me at landsmra@chapleaucree.ca or 705-864-0784, or check out www.mushkegowukmarine.ca for more information, and come be part of this important process of documenting and mapping our traditional and cultural values!

Ninaskomitin!

Kyle Corston,

Lands Dept. Marine Research Assistant



Wahkohtowin - *David Flood*

Wacheyay, Boozhoo!

For those that may be new to Wahkohtowin Development, we are a social enterprise envisioned over seven years ago to find the pathways to ensure the three owner First Nations – Chapleau Cree FN, Brunswick House FN and Missanabie Cree FN become full participants in the forest sector and forest management. This has included becoming Shareholder members of the new Missanaibi Forest – Sustainable Forest Licence, creating ownership in the Hornepayne sawmill and co-gen, initiating a forest harvesting company – OPeeWin, establishing a Guardian Program, building a Birch Syrup – sugar shack, assisting the owner First Nations in building their respective Lands and Resources Depts, and establishing govt to govt pilots in resource revenue sharing and customized consultation approach in forestry. On Sept 30th, 2022 we launched a Cumulative Impacts Court Case against Ontario to ensure future generations will have a direct voice on the environment, conservation and climate action in an effort to counter Ontario's constant erosion of environmental protection legislation.

Over the last several months or through bibeon (winter), Wahkohtowin did not slow down as we continued to expand our work into priority areas of the Strategic Plan – also found at our website:

www.wahkohtowin.com.

We hired Christina Bekintis to help lead our Cultural Revitalization work and that sprung a number of bi-weekly drumming sessions along with monthly moon ceremony events held at the Turtle Lodge at CCFN. Our team was also able to hold various workshops on medicine making – 7 Pines, Star teachings and language and a moose hide – winter scrape. Special shout out to our Senior Project Manager – Shah Mohammed who has now completed a full year with Wahkohtowin Development. Shah has help stabilize our project and program delivery with staff and allowed our collective wings to spread to ensure ongoing success at Wahkohtowin. We are also initiating a not for profit –

www.OneBowl.org that is designed to assist our Nations and many others to solve the wicked housing problem through public –



private business agreements and looking at the full cycle of the supply chain of housing from the standing tree to the standing home in community using a unique technology – the Thermo Log. We have a refreshed website that makes topics and areas of interest easier to find for the visitors experience, don't forget to drop by the about us page and read up on all of our staff and Board members.



As February rolled around we collectively organized to host the first ever Indigenous Land Symposium held in Chapleau, ON – sponsored by the work through our Innovation Center at 40 Pine St. Chief Keeter Corston opened to a gathering of 60 first nation practitioners from 14 First Nations from the surrounding area. We also opened up the event to Industry and Gov't who we col-



laborate with on special projects; MNR – Moose Late Winter Habitat, Nature Conservancy Canada – Conservation planning, Plenty Canada – Bird Atlas project, Micro-tek – Forest Carbon, Greenfirst – Interfor – Herbicide Alternatives, MRNF – Center for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research – Large Landscape Modeling, NRCAN – Ecological Land Classification tool development and use, plus more – held over a 1.5 day event. We opened and closed in ceremony and kept a sacred fire going to bring in the ancestors. It was exciting to see a panel full of young women who are taking leadership roles in academics to assist with making change – Moose Late Winter Habitat and program development in their communities – such as food sovereignty and Guardians Program. The keynote speaker Peggy Smith who has over 30 years in Indigenous Forestry and Community participation through her tenure at Lakehead University provided her observations and excitement of where the work and opportunities are going for First Nations to take up their inherent rights and jurisdiction as we are face



with growing challenges of Climate Change and ongoing negative pressures from forestry on our collective territories.



We operate on a fiscal year end - March that requires us to finalize any outstanding project items for funders and make our final reports through March/April. We are now into our spring programming and have wrapped up the Birch Tap season – we produced over 13 liters of sap – at a ratio of 1 to 100; it does take more sap than maple syrup making. We have two Guardian (post secondary) new hires Jessica Pauze – Garden River and Alex Leyland – Mohawks that took the lead along with Andy Orton – Natural Resource Tech. Through the month of June we are collecting for our next Birch Bark Canoe Build and preparing for the seasonal Guardians (high school) to join in July and Aug.

New hires - We are happy to announce that we are also onboarding Alethea Pezzo of Missanabie Cree FN as our



Junior - Policy Researcher and Molly McKee – from the Abenaki Nation as our Guardian Program Assistant as we head into our busiest time of the year. We are also in the process of shortlisting our seasonal Guardians and anticipate hiring 8 students who you may see along the way at your upcoming Pow-Wow's or gatherings.

Come join us on July 28th for the launch of our third Birch Bark Canoe – the 10 days prior – also drop by to see the progress and how the canoe is built!

For more details about the Strategic Plan – please visit our website and click on About Wahkohtowin – 5 Goals and 44 Objectives, the plan is designed to be a living or rolling three year document with oversight provided by the BoD and the Chiefs who represent each FN as the Shareholders.

Along with our website we are also found on all social media platforms – facebook being the most popular is you want to track regular events or keep current on our activities.

Prepared by: David Flood, RPF – General Manager

Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc.

Miigwetch!

CCFN Community Trust - *Brian Ritchie*

From our Fall 2022 newsletter, you may remember that the CCFN Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) settlement was split into two parts; 1) a portion determined by membership to be used for Per-Capita Distribution and 2) a smaller portion which would be used to support Community projects to advance the Purposes of the Trust, namely, Health and Well-Being, Community Development, Culture and Heritage, Economic Development and Education.

We also reported last fall, that we have launched a new website, iamcree.ca, and we launched our first RFP where we called for proposals to document “Our Treaty Land Entitlement Journey”, from CCFN’s first signing of Treaty 9, to the establishment of the Fox Lake reserve, our TLE settlement, and through to present day.



The Trustees are very pleased to announce that we have awarded this RFP to a band member, **Jennifer David (nee Jennifer Swanson)**, to write this history for our Community. For the evaluation of the RFP, the Trustees solicited interest from Band members to join an evaluation committee. This resulted in an evaluation committee of 4 members who additionally certified that they had no direct conflict of interest with either the two RFP respondents.

The evaluation of the RFP, and the selection of Jennifer’s proposal, was unanimous, and it was in no way influenced or decided upon by the elected Trustees. The Trustees would like to thank the RFP evaluation committee for their dedication of time to review and evaluate the proposals received through the RFP process.

For those of you who don’t know Jennifer, she is the daughter of Bunny and Buddy Swanson. Jennifer has a degree in Journalism and English, and a Bachelor of Arts, both from Carleton University. She has already written 2 books; *Original People, Original Television: The Launching of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network*, and *Storykeepers: Conversations with Aboriginal Writers*.

Jennifer’s proposal was very strong, and it involves a team of people, two of whom are CCFN band members. She and her team plan to conduct interviews with band members, in addition to other research, and eventually produce an eBook that will be shared on our iamcree.ca website. We look forward to supporting Jennifer and her team towards this ambitious goal which will benefit our entire community.

P.S. We have done our best to communicate the new website to band members through email addresses that we have. If you have not received communication from us, please send an email to info@iamcree.ca and we will add you to our distribution list.

Brian Ritchie—CCFN Community Trust

Three Nations Development - *Brian Ritchie*

As you may remember, along with Brunswick House, and Chapleau Ojibwe First Nations, Chapleau Cree owns one third of Three Nations Development Limited Partnership, a business development entity that consolidates business opportunities around the Newmont mining operation at Borden Lake. The limited partnership is controlled a 'general partner' Three Nations Development GP Inc. (TND), and Brian Ritchie, a CCFN band member, currently sits on the TND board and manages CCFN's interest in the partnership with guidance from Chief and Council.

TND has three primary lines of business: 1) a large number of business partnerships with the companies that do business with Newmont- Borden Gold, 2) a trucking partnership whereby the partnership earns money on each tonne of gold ore that is trucked to Timmins for refining, and 3) a housing business which owns 14 two-bedroom apartments that are leased to Newmont for their operations staff, including some staff from Newmont's contractors.

The year-end for TND is like CCFN's with each fiscal year ending on March 31. Last year, ending March 31, 2022, TND made over \$2.5M in net earnings and it approved a distribution to its owners of \$750,000 per Community. At the time of this article, the year-end financial statements for TND have not yet been finalized, but at a meeting of the Directors in March of 2023, our preliminary view was that we were going to have another great year. At the same meeting, the Directors approved another \$1,500,000 distribution to its owners, meaning that CCFN will be gaining another \$500k return from this very profitable partnership which required no upfront investment from CCFN or its partner communities.

Brian Ritchie – TND Director for CCFN



CCFN History Project

Together, let's tell our community story

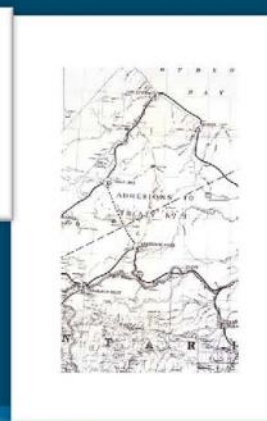


Wachay everyone. My name is Jennifer David (Swanson). I'm a fellow CCFN member. My dad is Buddy Swanson, my grandfather is Pat (Fred) Swanson; I'm related to the Corston, Turner and Saunders families.

I am the successful recipient of the CCFN Trust funding to tell our CCFN history—the history of the root families who travelled here from Moose Factory, and the history of our TLE Journey.

This is a year-long project that is just beginning. I hope to host a community meeting in late June (date and details TBD—including a zoom option) when I will provide more information on what it's all about and how you can participate and contribute.

For now, I created an email address for this project; feel free to message me to say hello.



**WE'LL NEED YOUR
PHOTOS, VIDEOS
AND STORIES!**

Want to help with research, interviewing, administration and project support? I'm looking for a CCFN band member who wants to help me on this project. \$25/hour for occasional work. Ideally, it's someone on the reserve or in Chapleau, but could be a university student or someone who goes home occasionally. If you're interested, please send me your CV and a note to the email address below. Miigwetch!

Email: CCFNhistory@gmail.com

"CELEBRATING THE CONNECTION OF LIFE"



28th Annual Pow Wow

 **Chapleau Cree First Nation Pow Wow**
Grounds 202 Margaret Ann Rd.

 **Friday August 11 - Sunday August 13 2023**

MC: Gabriel Herodier

Drummers: Thunder Creek Singers, Home Fire Works

Director: Gerald Chum

Head Dancers: TBD

Veteran: TBD

Open drum groups welcome

Friday, August 11

- St. John's Residential School Ceremony at the IRS cemetery, (time TBD)
- Registration (time TBD)
- Friday Night Social (time & location TBD)

Saturday, August 12

- Sunrise Ceremony at sunrise (time TBD)
- 12:00 Grand Entry

Sunday, August 13

- 11:00 Grand Entry
- Closing Ceremony (time TBD)
- Gift giveaway (time TBD)
- Feast (time TBD)

No fee for vendors. Please register with Health **705-864-0200**

Designated tent camping available

No pets on Pow Wow Grounds

For further information contact Marlene Kapashesit,
Health Director **705-864-0200 ext. 202**

ZERO DRUGS & ALCOHOL PERMITTED

Opening Ceremony

St. John's Anglican Residential School Survivors Initiative

**The St. John's Residential School Initiative
invites you to the Initiative Opening Ceremony.**

As part of this two-day event, Survivors from Chapleau Cree, Chapleau Ojibwe, and Brunswick House who attended St. John's (Anglican) Residential School, and Survivors from the three Nations who attended other Indian Residential Schools in Canada will gather to establish a Survivors Working Group. This event marks important first steps in the journey to uncover the truth, and to gain closure for families of children who never made it home.

Join us in attendance as we gather to lend our hearts, ears and support to the Survivors who will be guiding this important and difficult healing journey.

For more information
rsilead@chapleaucree.ca

Please RSVP to Deanna
Cachagee by June 6th



Led by Chapleau Cree First Nation, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, Brunswick House First Nation

Opening Ceremony

St. John's Anglican Residential School Survivors Initiative

Day One

June 13, Chapleau Cree FN Band Complex

- 2:30 - 4:30 PM **Elders Tea**
Open to Elders & IRS Survivors
- 4:30 PM **Opening Ceremony of the St. John's Initiative**
Open to all community members
- 5:00 PM **Dinner & Presentations**
- 7:00 PM **Music & Entertainment**

Day Two

June 14, Chapleau Cree Health Centre

- 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM **Establishing the Survivors Working Circle**
Open to Survivors of St. John's & Intergenerational Survivors
- 12:00 PM **Survivors Working Circle Lunch**

For more information
rsilead@chapleaucree.ca

Please **RSVP** to Deanna Cachagee
by **June 6th**



Led by Chapleau Cree First Nation, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, Brunswick House First Nation

Upcoming Events

Note: Dates and events listed below are tentative and subject to change.

June 13 & 14: St. John's IRS Initiative Opening

June 18: Father's Day

June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day

July 17-19: Youth Summer Camp

August 11: St. John's IRS Memorial Ceremony

August 11-13: CCFN 28th Annual Pow Wow

September 25-28: CCFN Fall Harvest (Grassy Lake)

September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Chapleau Cree First Nation

Fox Lake Reserve

P.O. Box 400

Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0

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FAX (705) 864-1760

communications@chapleaucree.ca

