



CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024 - KASKATINISIW-PISIM

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chapleaucree.ca

Volume 16 Issue 2

Wachay, Fox Lake, Ililiwak!

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Mikiskaw

Autumn

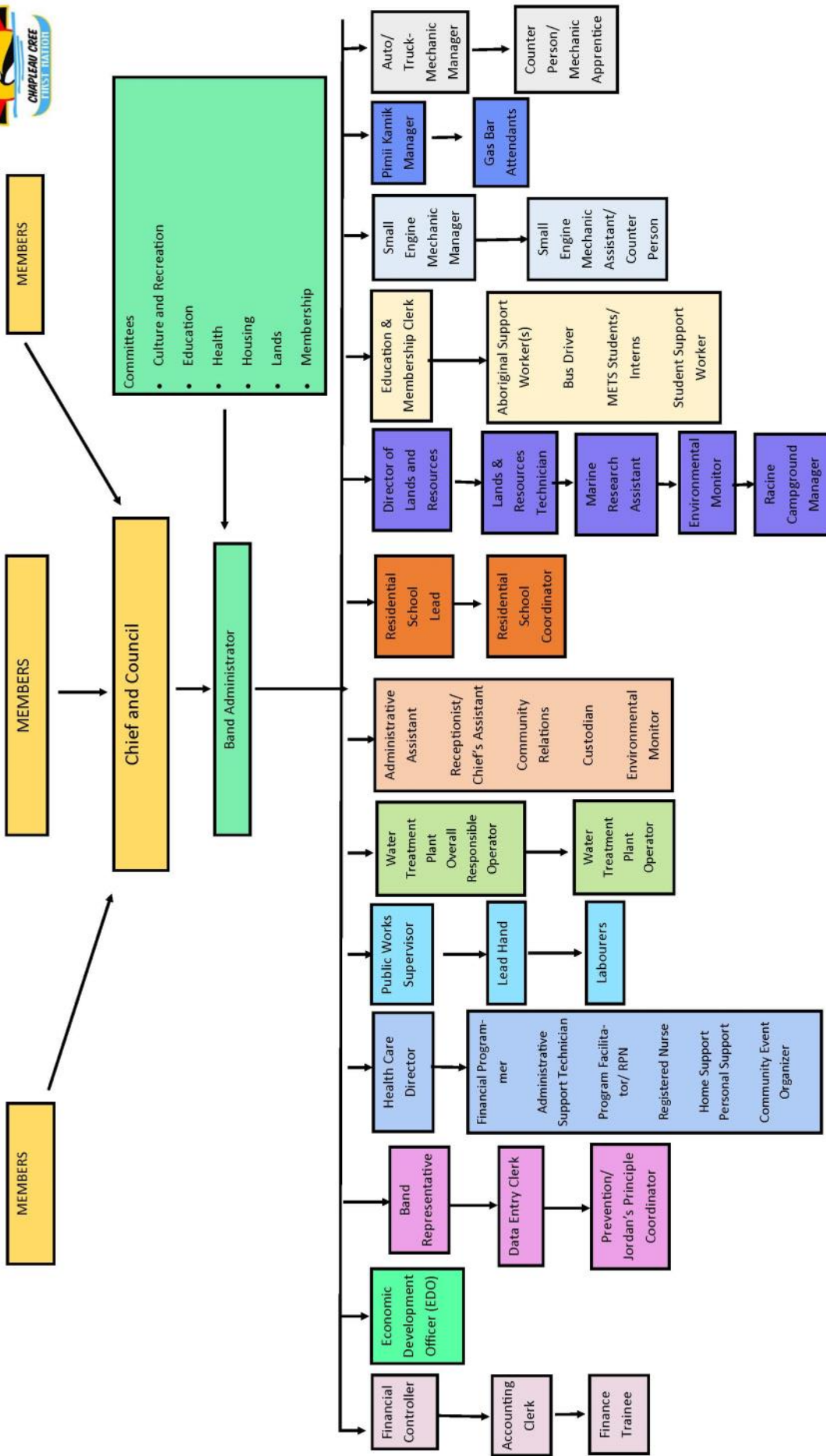
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Cover Photo Credit: Adrienne Beaupre



Chapleau Cree First Nation Organizational Chart



In Memoriam



Angela Joy McWatch

February 6, 1974 – July 3, 2024



Donald Fletcher

October 9, 1968 — August 5, 2024

Our Sincerest Condolences



Joshua Swanson-Dick

November 13, 1994 — November 14, 2024



Raymond Barty

April 18, 1927 — November 19, 2024

▷PLb^a Okimah Report - Chief Keeter Corston

Wachay my fellow Band Members:

Winter (Pipon) is fast approaching. Traditionally it has been that time of year when families would go out onto the land to trap and do other cultural activities. It is a time to reflect on the past six months (spring & summer) and the work that has been done. A lot of it is ongoing.

CULTURE:

Our 29th Annual Powwow was again held in August and had a great turnout. Again, it was the result of collaboration between the Health Director, Health Department, and all the staff at CCFN who did a great job at coordinating this event. These cultural activities are the backbone of our people's spirit. In the not-too-distant past, these gatherings and cultural events were forbidden by Indian Affairs. So it is very important that we continue this tradition, and rekindle our connections to our land and culture.

We also had a gathering in the fall with our people at Mushkwashewee Saakaaheekaan (Grassy Lake) to celebrate our culture and welcoming the passing of the seasons. The turnout was huge and keeps growing every year, with some 280 Band Members registered for this event. This was a four-day event and was catered by the Mercier Construction team, as well as traditional food at the Shapatwan (cooking tent), prepared by the Kapashesit/Small family. We were blessed with good weather and lots of great food, and we are already anticipating next years' harvest.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The proposed Wawa/Porcupine transmission line is still being negotiated as a significant portion will be going through our traditional territory. As reported earlier, the two proponents competing for the project were TIP9 and Hydro One, with TIP9 being our preferred choice. However the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), who determines the competition, has chosen Hydro One much to our dismay. Therefore, we will be entering negotiations with Hydro One to secure adequate funding to negotiate with them to secure a good deal for the benefit of our people. Our priority is as small a footprint as possible, and as huge a financial gain as possible.

SIDEBURNED LAKE (ECOTOURISM):

The chalets at Sideburned Lake are completed and furnished. They are truly beautiful. This completion marks the first step in a two-step endeavour. The next step is to secure funding for the main lodge itself. The goal is to target the European and Asian market, focusing strictly on business that does no harm to the land. Europeans and Asians love this concept and are willing to spend extravagantly for this type of invaluable experience. Also, because Kunuwanimano has contributed to a significant part of the funding, we will also be using this space for children and youth programming. It will also be a multi-use facility for women retreats, male retreats, as well as for some of our own community events.

LEGAL:

The ongoing cumulative impact case launched by CCFN, Missanable Cree and Brunswick House will be in the courts in the near future. We are modelling the Blueberry River case at the Supreme Court in BC. The case was successful and BC did not appeal and so therefore a precedence has been established, which is huge in British Rule of Law. Our law firm is First People's Law, a large and well established firm in Canada. Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and Mushkegowuk have continued support both monetarily and politically, and this case will establish that all companies will require our consent in our homelands, before any proponents will be allowed to do work in our territory.

Also the Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior communities have launched cases for the \$4/yr annual treaty payments. Those cases do not pertain to us in Treaty 9, however we will be launching our own case as those previously mentioned have set a precedence for other Treaty People everywhere. However, Missanable Cree have filed a class-action suit without consulting any of the Treaty 9 members. They have pre-picked the law firm to do this, which is unacceptable. We are not in favour of a class-action, as it is far too risky, and we cannot allow Missanable Cree or any other First Nation to advocate solely on our behalf. We recently had a meeting with the Mushkegowuk Chiefs over this matter, and we will definitely be filing a case. However, it should not be a class-action. We are in agreement on that. I am following this very closely and will keep membership informed of the ongoing process.

CLOSING REMARKS:

I want to say meegwetch to all the CCFN Band Members for their continued support and trust in my ability as Okimaw (Chief). We are only as strong as our weakest link.

In Truth and Honour,

Chief Keeter Corston



Band Administrator Report - *Edith Larocque*

Band Administrator Report - Edith Larocque

"PEOPLE ONLY SEE THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE, NOT THE CHOICES YOU WERE GIVEN"

"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".

Another season has come and gone, and winter is upon us. We have had an extremely busy season with firming up the 2023-2024 audit, our 9th Annual Cultural Harvest, Pow Wow and setting up EFT payments for band members.

To reduce paper and processing time and costs, Chapleau Cree First Nation is moving to direct deposit payments for the annual Per Capita Distributions scheduled annually each August. Going direct deposit will eliminate fraudulent activity, holds on payments from Financial Institutions and of recent, postal disruptions.

The Indian Residential School Initiative program continues with working closely with survivors and providing support as we discuss and look for solutions for all those who attended the school. Please see more information in the attached report provided by Deanna Cachagee, Indian Residential School Lead for Chapleau Cree First Nation.

The Public Works department remains constant with the maintenance of our community buildings, infrastructure and collaborating effectively with all departments. They are an integral part of our team and we cannot complete many programs and services without their contribution.

Our Economic Development Coordinator is quite busy pursuing and submitting applications for a variety of housing and economic ventures beneficial to our First Nation. We have seen quite a bit of growth in new housing developed with plans of more builds in the future. The Chalets at Sideburned Lake are beautifully designed and furnished with the anticipation of extremely satisfied guests.

Our Health Department continues planning, organizing, and hosting many activities and events for the community and its members. Please feel free to reach out to the Healthcare Director at hcd@chapleaucree.ca to inquire about any service or program that may be of interest to you and our members.

The Lands Department continues working on protecting our treaty and aboriginal inherent rights. Please feel free to reach out to Kyle Corston, Lands Director, for any concerns, ideas or questions you may have regarding land use and treaty issues.

Our water treatment department operators strive in providing safe water to our community members and ensure they are fully qualified in the specific training required for operators in First Nations communities. Allan Dupuis has attained Level II WT Operator. He has passed his Passed Level III but requires more training CEUs to upgrade his certification. Congratulations to Connor McAuley. He has successfully upgraded from an Operator in Training to a Level I Water Operator for Water Treatment and Distribution.

The Racine Campground has a few remaining waterfront and wooded lots available for members free of charge. Please contact the office should you be interested in accessing one of the lots. Our newly de-

veloped sites have all been assigned to members. Should anyone wish to be added to the wait list, please submit your name and interest to reception@chapleaucree.ca. We will contact you once a site has become available.

Life Sacred Journey continues to offer support the safety and well-being of First Nations children and families. Please review the report attached for more information and a great understanding of the services they offer.

Chapleau Cree has had a few staffing changes with employees transferring into new positions, voluntarily resigning for career growth or personal reasons, and future plans of retirement. We thank everyone for the contributions they have made to our First Nation and wish everyone success in their career and retirement goals.

Chapleau Cree First Nation could not accomplish everything we have achieved year over year without the knowledge, expertise, time and cooperation and the incredible efforts of all our employees.

My sincere gratitude to all the staff for their dedication, contribution, and willingness to providing the best possible service to our First Nation and members.

If you have any ideas or additions you would like to see, be included 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
Band Administrator



Membership Report - Stephanie Scott

Bill C-38 that will create change and ensure one who has a family history of enfranchisement will be treated the same as those without, is still in the House of Commons with the last update of 2nd reading in March 2024 session. I want to remind members, if you believe someone in your family can be affected by this upcoming change, to submit a status application now as Indigenous Services Canada will review based on received date once the Bill becomes law. I am available to assist any family members with their application or if they have any questions regarding Indian status process.

In 1985, Bill C-31 created two separate systems for the control of band membership under sections 10 and 11 of the Indian Act. Section 10 gives the opportunity for First Nations to take control of their band membership by creating membership rules/codes. These rules/codes must be approved by the Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations of Canada. Section 11 band membership lists are maintained by the Indian Registrar. Chapleau Cree First Nation created its own code and has had control over our own list since 1987. Indigenous Services Canada sends a letter of confirmation to the newly registered status individual informing them that Chapleau Cree maintains its own list and provides my contact info for application. Chapleau Cree Indian Registry Administrator does receive a letter of authority with the individual's name, registration, background on the entitlement but no contact information. You must contact our office for a membership application if you chose to become a member.

What is the difference between the Registry List and the Band Membership List?

Registry List	Band Membership List
<p>Administered by ISC; Added to Registry List when registered as a Status Indian; Entitled to all rights as defined under the Indian Act. (ie, Harvesting within Treaty), Education) and Health.</p>	<p>Administered by Chapleau Cree; Must apply to Chapleau Cree for acceptance into Membership if not registered at birth; Entitled to all rights as defined under the Indian Act; Eligible to vote in Chief and Council Elections; Eligible to vote in Referendums; Eligible for CCFN programming/activities CCFN per member capita distributions* Receive information packages, Newsletters etc from Chapleau Cree; Entitled to live/build on the Reserve.</p>

*Additional criteria may apply

Chapleau Cree First Nation is switching to direct deposit for the next registered status member distribution in Summer 2025. Please ensure that we have the EFT authorization form and a copy of your banking information with a void check or debit/credit authorization form from your banking institution.

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.

Stephanie Scott, Indian Registry Administrator





Meet Our **NEW** Staff

Wendy Frankow (nee Moreau) has joined the Chapleau Cree First Nation team as Administrative Support/Reception

Hello!

I am a proud member of Chapleau Cree First Nation. My mother's maiden name was Lila Linklater and I am great-granddaughter to William and Jane (nee McAuley) Linklater who were founding members of our Band.

I recently retired from nursing in Sault Ste. Marie and moved back home.

I enjoy nature, camping, fishing and hunting. I look forward to meeting all of my fellow band members.

If you're at the Band Office, stop by the reception desk and say hello!

Wendy Frankow can be reached by:

Phone: (705) 864-0784 ext. 221

Email: reception@chapleaucree.ca



Welcome

Education Report - *Stephanie Scott*

Wachay!

I'm happy to announce that we were able to sponsor all 25 applicants in their post-secondary studies. This would not have been possible without the support from the Chief and Council and Mushkegowuk Employment and Training. Indigenous Services Canada Post-Secondary Student Support funding is under funded and not able to accommodate the growth of First Nation communities. Throughout the year, additional allocations are provided due to the growth but still fall short for the number of students and the increase in costs.

In the 2017 budget, the federal government indicated they will be doing a review of post-secondary programs. Assembly of First Nations pushed to ensure this was done and in 2019 the government committed 7.5 million over 3 years for post-secondary engagement process. Chiefs of Ontario created a post-secondary education committee that consisted of representatives from First Nations, First Nation organizations, consultants, policy analysts and policy advisors. The PSE committee developed a Post-Secondary Engagement Report that included 41 recommendations as a starting point to better meet the needs of First Nations learners. The full report is available on the Chiefs of Ontario website.



This past Summer we had a couple students be acknowledged for their hard work and determination. Grace David received a scholarship from Ontario First Nation Technical Services Corporation and another student completed their Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology. Congratulations!

The provincial schools in Chapleau are continuing to work collaboratively with the First Nations in creating through cross culture teachings, build greater relationships and improve student achievements. This September in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day, the schools participated in a walk and Chapleau Elementary/Secondary School opened their outdoor cultural space.



Our Lady of Fatima school had a visit from a couple of parents who volunteered their time to assist with crafts. Inviting parents to partake in school activities and observe provides a positive impact for the students in social, emotional, and academic development. The students welcome their parents to showcase and share that part of their day with them and show pride in their work of accomplished.



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



Newmont Borden Gold Project has 45 workers from the 3 area First Nations. Over the past year 18 members/affiliates have received training for various future promotions. Please remember when applying for a job at the mine to reach out to the IBA Coordinator, David Courtois 705-904-4999 or email at bordenfnc@wabun.on.ca.

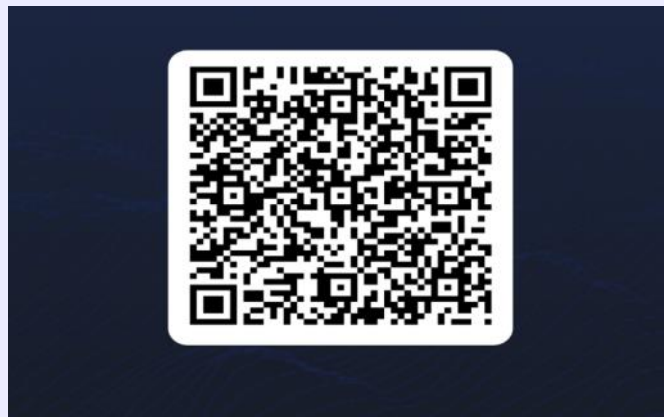
Check out the new QR codes for Newmont employment opportunities and for a candidate interest form!

Stephanie Scott
Education Clerk

Use your cellphone camera to scan for more information
on Newmont Employment Opportunities



Scan to Fill Out Candidate Interest Form



Economic Development Report - *Padraic Taaffe*

Hello Band Members,

There's never a dull moment in the Economic Development Office. There are projects that are close to completion, projects that are ongoing, and projects that are in the early planning stages. 2025 is shaping up to be a year of assessment and planning for the future, with plenty of opportunities for the community to help shape the direction that the band is going to move in. I am honoured and grateful to be able to help make all of this happen.

Sideburned Lake - Mamohitowekamik

Construction of the four lakeside Chalets is complete. There are further developments that are planned – a new fence and security gate on the highway and a dock next to the boat launch are already being worked on. Furniture and furnishings are being purchased and we are planning on hosting some events there soon.



Playground



New playground equipment is being installed on Margaret Ann Road. This was made possible by a small grant from Hydro One's Energizing Life Community Grant program, with the balance being provided by CCFN. As the community continues to grow, there will be a safe place for children to play that is close to their homes.

Strategic Plan and Community Energy Plan

I have been working on funding applications to Indigenous Services Canada and the Independent Electricity System Operator to renew and revise Chapleau Cree's old community strategic plans.

Up-to-date strategic plans, based on community engagement and participation, will help shape the future of Chapleau Cree First Nation, especially as the Treaty Land Entitlements are close to being formally added to the Reserve lands.

2025 will be a great opportunity for the Band Members to contribute to planning the future of the community in an integrated way – housing, energy, digital and online capacities, economic development, wellness, culture and heritage – all these things need to work together to make the lives of Chapleau Cree Band Members better. I have also applied for funding to improve the websites, adding new services for Band Members. There will be engagement sessions and community meetings once the project starts.

Micro-Subdivision Lot Development

I have been working closely with Indigenous Services Canada and Mushkegowuk Technical Services to implement a fully-funded lot development project on reserve. Almost 180 meters of new road, waterlines, and Hydro One lines will be constructed at the south end of Lindy Louttit Lane, potentially creating up to 20 new lots for housing development.



These new lots will be 10 meters (32 feet) wide. This denser style of development, called a Micro-Subdivision, allows more housing to be constructed for lower lot development costs, and will also make the maintenance and servicing cheaper for Chapleau Cree. Exactly what kind of houses will be built is up to Chapleau Cree to decide, based on availability of funds.. Options include small detached homes, duplexes or semi-detached homes, or townhouses. Chapleau Cree will have to access funding or financing to build any new homes – this project only funds the development of the lots.



There is also a great opportunity for the Community Strategic and Energy Plan to be a part of this project. There could be biomass district heating and solar panel installation included in the development plans that would make the new housing more affordable and energy efficient, and the community less dependent on fossil fuels like propane.

Wills and Estates

We have completed wills and estate planning for 50 on reserve and local band members. This is great for the individual band members, but also a benefit to the on-reserve community – when an Indigenous person living on reserve passes away without a will, the Federal government gets involved in managing the estate. By having wills in place for all those with Certificates of Possession, Chapleau Cree can avoid any issues with the Indian Act – this was not just a project for the wellbeing of on-reserve members, but also an assertion of Chapleau Cree First Nation’s sovereign right to manage its own affairs.

Community Safety Initiative

With the help of funding from Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, Chapleau Cree has been installing security cameras on public buildings, including the Band Office, Mukeso House, Life’s Sacred Journey, the Ice Rink, Pimii Kamik, the Health Centre, the Public Works and Auto Truck Garage, the Kunuwanimano Receiving House, and the Chalets at Sideburned Lake. This project is ongoing and aims to secure the safety and wellbeing of community members and publicly owned assets. Access to the camera recordings is restricted to authorized members and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect privacy.

Streetlights and Community Building Retrofits

The Independent Electricity System Operator has provided funding to install solar LED streetlights on Margaret Anne Road. The materials have been delivered and the installation is scheduled for the week of November 25th. All the old streetlights have already been retrofitted to LED, making them brighter, more energy efficient, and longer lasting. All of the lights on community buildings like the Band Office, Health Centre, Truck Garage, Water Plant and Arena have also been updated to LED.

Four Pillars



Chapleau Cree First Nation will receive a settlement in the Band Reparations Class Action, a lawsuit brought against the Government of Canada by representative plaintiff First Nations TKemlúps te Secwépmc and Shísháhl Nation, with the support of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee). The lawsuit is specifically due to the collective harm of lost language, culture, heritage, and well-being in Indigenous communities throughout Canada, not about harms suffered by individual survivors who attended Indian Residential Schools.

The settlement will be in the form of some initial funds, and then an annual payment for 20 years. To receive the funding, Chapleau Cree must submit a Community Plan on how they will use the money. The Chief and Council are developing this plan now, but the funding must be spent on programs and events that support Language, Culture, Heritage and Wellness at the community level.

More news will be coming as the Community Plan is completed and the funds become available for new projects. In the meantime, the Four Pillar Society website has more information for those who are interested: <https://fps-1chw.ca/> .

Road Resurfacing

Using Core Capital funds, the roads on reserve were resurfaced during the summer.

Blue Box Recycling

I have been working with the Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority and Mushkegowuk Tribal Council to get ready for the Blue Box recycling program that will be coming to Chapleau Cree in 2025. Every residence will have Blue Box collection of recyclable waste. There will be no cost to the community for this service. We will be planning some engagement sessions closer to the start date, which should be towards the end of 2025.



Projects in Development

Many projects are in the early stages: Indigenous Services Canada has a new Housing Gap Fund for which I am preparing an application. The Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund has funding to support improvements to drinking water systems on reserve. Ontario Broadband Solutions has received a proposal to install fibre optic cable to all the residences on reserve. CMHC financing for new on reserve housing may be available in 2025, and we continue to proactively pursue CMHC and ISC supports for repairs and renovations to on reserve houses.

Partnerships

Mushkegowuk Tribal Council is working with Chapleau Cree and other First Nations to develop a Regional Housing Organization that will work towards Indigenous people having more control over the funding for their housing programs.

Waukenagun Community Futures Development Corporation and Chapleau Cree have started working together on a regional Indigenous Tourism initiative which will involve the assets that CCFN has been investing in at Sideburned and Racine Lakes. If you are interested in Community Economic Development in northern Ontario, check out their website at <https://wakenagun.ca/> .

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in other departments for all the help that they have graciously given me. I have enjoyed collaborating with Public Works, the Water Treatment team, the Membership Clerk, the Lands Department, the Residential Schools project team, the Health Centre, and the Finance team on almost every project that I have been involved in. Chapleau Cree has great people working together!

Meegwetchi

Padraic Taaffe

Economic Development Officer



Water Treatment Plant & Public Works Report

- Allan Dupuis

Wachay,

The Water Treatment Plant at Chapleau Cree First Nation is a GUDI well plant. What is a GUDI well you might ask? This means that our wells are under the direct influence of surface water (ie. Fox Lake) which means it needs to be treated differently than a traditional non-GUDI well. It is also not run like a conventional Water Treatment Plant with a surface water intake. The challenge with GUDI wells (there are many, every water source has many different properties and must be treated differently according to these properties) we experience at Chapleau Cree is that our wells have a lot of organic content in the source water we take. If we don't treat the water effectively or manage and maintain the system it creates disinfection by-products such as THM/HAA's (Trihalomethanes, Haloacetic acids). These disinfection by-products are potential cancer-causing agents when consumed at high dosages over long periods of time. To prevent this, we monitor our system with quarterly testing specifically for these parameters and since our upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant we have been able to meet the guidelines under the MACs (Maximum Allowable Concentration) for these by-products. Some of the things that are done to bring down these levels are to flush the distribution system as part of our maintenance throughout the year and we change our media annually in our filter tanks. Organics in your source water; in our cause our wells also cause a well to "foul". This is when formations of biochemical incrustation happen that involves the creation of continuous or discontinuous biofilms which occurs down in the well and the cracks and paths that the natural aquifers take to replenish our Well. This means that overtime this organic buildup causes all the channels into the Well to fill up which limits the water available to the plant to take from. This isn't a new issue; it is one that we have been experiencing since our first wells were drilled and will be something that we must deal with as long as we are using wells to produce clean water for our community. Our currently production well was drilled and developed 5 years ago and is no longer producing as it once did. Last year we tried airlifting and cleaning the well, but it had no effect on increasing the capacity of the well. We do have another production well as a backup which yields great output but has a very high organic content, so our preference is to use it as a backup option only in case of failure on the primary production well.

Work, projects and planning at a Water Treatment Plant is never done and a plan was put into place for the interim and the future. The first solution is to drill up to three new wells, have them developed and tie viable wells into the Water Plant. Our concern is that we have drilled many wells here at Chapleau Cree and it isn't an easy task to find a Well location that will produce the volume required for the demands as well as meet the water conditions suitable for our plant to treat. This means that not every well you drill will meet the standard we require to use for our facility. In December, we will start drilling our first well in an area we have yet to test in the hopes of finding good water production with similar characteristics of the aquifer that we currently use. Remember, if the source water changes too much so will your treatment process which is both expensive and time consuming. The second part of this project is to update our past feasibility studies so we can present to the government that our current plant will no longer accommodate the growing needs of our community. With many new homes and families, we are nearing our limit with the current plant design with no room for growth and with the ongoing well issues that have been occurring since the beginning we believe that we should be seeking another solution that will take us long into the future with safe and clean drinking water.

Warm regards,

Allan Dupuis
Water Plant Supervisor / Interim Public Works Supervisor





Health Director - *Marlene Kapashesit*

Wachay,

Welcome to our latest edition of our CCFN Health Team newsletter. Our Health Team has offered programs and services to our CCFN members throughout the last six months and this has kept us all busy working with our community.

Our Health Care services are offered in many aspects of home visits, assisting elders with their shopping, medical transportation and many Health awareness presentations along with our Meals on Moccasins program to our elders.

Our cultural events that took place in the summer months, included a Youth Summer Camp at Grassy Campgrounds. This included family events and ongoing teachings.

On August 9, 2024, CCFN hosted the St. John Residential School memorial service. Our CCFN 29th Pow wow –August 10 & 11, 2024, was held at our grounds to share and honor our traditions.

The CCFN Fall Harvest – October 7-10, 2024, was held at Grassy/Racine Lake, as well over 200 members attended. We had a variety of activities and teachings over the few days. We continue to share our Cree values with our traditional cooking of food harvesting, such as goose, beaver and moose and a true tradition of our tasty Indian Donuts and Scone Dogs, all cooked in our Cooking Tent. During this event, the fall harvest focused on the process of the moose, from preparing the moose hide. As this takes a lot of time to prepare, the next process will be to smoke the moose-hide, at our upcoming Fall Harvest 2025.

As part of our upcoming initiative, we have built 3 traditional cabins to utilize for our culture programs and future activities. We look forward to going out on the land to rejuvenate our culture and traditions.

Our health department team welcomes you to drop by for a visit and attend our programs & presentations.

In closing, wishing you and your family a warm fall season as we embrace a winter season of a crispy cold weather.

Respectfully, Marlene Kapashesit

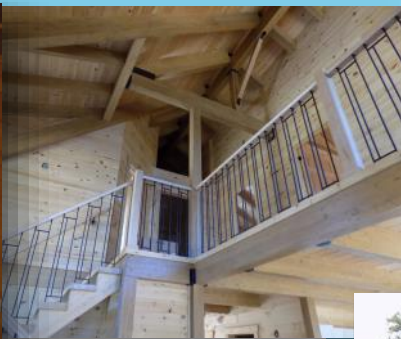
CCFN Health Director





29th Annual Pow Wow





Sideburned Lake Chalets



**Mushkegowuk AGA at
Grassy Lake**





9th Annual Community Fall Harvest @ Grassy Lake





St. John's IRS Initiative - *Deanna Cachagee*

We reflect on the strength and resilience of those who have been affected by St. John's Indian Residential School, as well as *all* Residential schools. As an Initiative, it is of the utmost importance to remain centred in the meaning behind this work. The journey of truth and healing continues, and with it, the necessary steps to uncover the history of this institution. The St. John's IRS Initiative has continued to learn about site search techniques and approaches to unmarked burials investigations. We strive to be guided by best practices taught to us by IRS survivors, elders and knowledge keepers, archaeologists, technicians, researchers, archivists, fellow community initiatives, and more.



In recounting the last several months of the Initiative's activities, there are many highlights. In June, all three community Leads and Coordinators from Chapeau Cree, Chapeau Ojibwe, and Brunswick House took part in a training developed by Narratives Inc. (the project management and consultant team that we have partnered with). The training that took place was an introduction to archival research processes, as well as how to use the data cloud storage software called Airtable. Additionally, the team reached out to the Archive team at Algoma University and were invited for an on-site tour. The Archive team pulled all physical files held on St. John's IRS and offered to copy and forward any materials. The NORDIK Institute team, who works out of Algoma University and are leading the Shingwauk Residential School site search Initiative, also joined us in the archives to share about their work. The Shingwauk IRS was similarly operated by the Anglican church. We have come to learn how valuable it is in having relationships to other community initiatives who were affected by similar institutions.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Reclamation and Healing team invited CCFN Lead + Community Coordinator to a quarterly meeting of all lead communities of residential schools unmarked burials initiatives in the NAN Territory. These meetings are a great networking opportunity to learn about best practices and barriers to site searches, as well as for sharing resources and support. These meetings are also guided by the "SAFE" committee - renamed Nikanigawbowin Council - which is comprised of Residential School survivors whose mission is to guide this work in a good way. Out of these quarterly meetings, now named the "We Are Connected" meetings, it was pointed out that there is a need for the delivery of hands-on technical training in site search technologies and methods. In August, this training came together through a partnership with Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (Wipazoka Wapka) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The training was titled "Wokiksuye Makoce - Sacred Children," with the goal of having participants learn to perform initial scene searches, site reconnaissance, geophysical surveying and data processing and interpretation. Community Coordinator Adrienne successfully completed this training, and as a result, now has her basic Small Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (ROAS) Pilot certificate.



Community Coordinator Adrienne and Lead Deanna took part in the annual St. John's IRS commemoration ceremony, which has been happening just before Chapeau Cree's community Pow Wow for many years. Commemoration efforts and ceremonies are significant ways to remember the children who did not make it home from IRS, as well as from other institutions. More Initiative activities included planning support for the event for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, hosted by Maamwesying and partnered with Weecheetowin Support Services, Mishkiki Chichakk Kamik, and Early On Child and Family Centre, on September 27th, 2024. This event had a Residential School Survivors' sharing panel, as well as an art therapy activity, a luncheon, and more. The invitation was open to anybody in the Chapeau area, and we saw over 100 attendees. Recently as well, a fall feast luncheon was hosted at Chapeau Ojibwe.

The St. John's IRS Initiative supported the COFN Community Coordinator in arranging for this meal, as well as a giveaway, which was held at the COFN Band Office on October 29th. The poster was advertised on the Initiative Facebook page and local IRS survivors were invited directly. Although, a Fall gathering was originally anticipated by the Initiative, national news broke regarding the pot of funding from the federal government. It was announced that a funding cap would be placed on our program, as well as all other IRS Initiatives. Although it was then later announced that this funding cap

would be taken off, it disrupted our plans for a gathering as well as other key activities. In the meantime, we have been awaiting news about this funding and will hope to hear an update once the deadline of November 15th, 2024, passes. The Initiative will continue with works including site search methods like GPR, LIDAR, Historic Human Remains Detection Dogs, as well as to support the community through these works with mental health and cultural supports, community information sessions, Initiative gatherings, and more. In closing, I would like to take the time to reiterate that our goal is to promote transparency, respect, and a commitment to honoring those who did not make it home from St. John's IRS. We hope to not only take the care and time in uncovering the past, but also to begin to share a space and dialogue for healing, understanding, and accountability. For real-time updates regarding the Initiative's work, please see [St. John's IRS Initiative's Facebook account](#). Give a follow to stay up to date on events and community notices!



Respectfully,
Deanna Cachagee, St. John's IRS Initiative Lead



Life's Sacred Journey Report - Hilary Arsenault

Greetings!

At Life's Sacred Journey, our workers' titles explain the roles we take on and offer insight into the services we provide.

Our Band Representative, Hilary Arsenault-Broomhead, is here to advocate and support families who may have child protection involvement. Acting on behalf of the First Nation, the Band Rep assures that all rights of Members and Affiliates are respected, no Agency acts intrusively, all interactions are Culturally appropriate and that all parties are included in any decision-making process.



The role of a Jordan's Principle Co-Ordinator is to assist families who apply for the funding First Nations children are entitled to in order to ensure no child's needs go unmet. We are here to assist with completing the application and obtaining supporting documentation for requests, contacting Indigenous Services Canada, processing payments and providing support throughout the process.

In the last two years we have seen a 100% increase in approvals through the initiative for our Members across the province and are thrilled to have been able to help so many children and families. The government has not met their timelines for approvals as they have seen a 6000% increase in urgent applications alone. ISC was recently brought before a Tribunal for this reason, and we are hoping to see their response times improve in the near future. In the meantime, LSJ continues to offer the same assistance to Members who are seeking to make requests through Jordan's Principle.

The role the Prevention Worker is to provide programming, activities and celebrations to keep our younger Members engaged in the community. By creating connections amongst families and friends we are able to encourage healthy dynamics thereby limiting the need for outside interventions.

Our Data Entry Clerk, Gordon Scott, maintains our files and records utilizing our specialized software ensuring confidentiality and quality are of the utmost importance.



We are here to assist families in any way we can, and beyond what our job titles explain and imply, there are also other services available through Life's Sacred Journey that we want Chapleau Cree families to be aware of.

With the current climate of inflation, food insecurity is a significant issue for many families. We offer a gift card program that provides funds to spend at our local grocery store to help households with children boost their monthly grocery budget. We will also be sending a survey to families in the Chapleau area in the coming months to gain a better understanding of how we can further provide nutritional support to local children.

We recognize that nobody expects to have to go through a court process, but with the many branches of the legal system, there are times that the unexpected unfortunately becomes inevitable. Our Band Rep offers direct court support through criminal, family and child protection court processes. From applying for Legal Aid to deciphering court documents, LSJ can help with navigating the system. We will also provide transportation to and support through appearances, for both the accused and the victims. We can offer technological



assistance for virtual court dates as well. Hilary is certified in supporting and advocating for survivors who are navigating the criminal justice system and is able to connect those in need with Nishnawbe-aski Legal Services for programs including Talking Together, Restorative Justice and the Community Legal Worker.

At Life's Sacred Journey, we are consistently striving to meet the needs of our Community and Families. If there is a service you would like to see us provide, please call, email or drop in and see us to discuss how we can implement additional supports.

Meegwetch,

Hilary Arsenatul-Broomhead
Band Representative/LSJ Manager



Lands and Resources Director - Kyle Corston

Wachay Band Members!

For those that don't know, my name is Kyle Corston (traditional name Pilesiw Mahihkan, or Thunderbird Wolf, I am Marten Clan and eldest son of Chief Corston) and I am pleased to announce that I have stepped into the role of Lands and Resources Director here at CCFN back in July. I was working previously on the Mushkegowuk Marine Conservation Area project, which has since gone into the next phase of development now that all the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) interviews and mapping have been collected. Our Lands Department has been without a director for two years now, so I am honoured to be in this position to help develop the department and grow capacity. And as a Sun Dancer, and someone who is trying to learn and follow our traditional Omushkego ways, I promise to ensure that we are working in accordance with the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties that our ancestors signed with the Crown, and to act in a way that is cognizant of our responsibilities to the land and the seven generations after us, and beyond.

Since starting, we have been meeting with several mining companies, in order to negotiate MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with them while they do activities on our traditional land. One is the Magris Talc site near Foleyet on the Nat River (which has been in operation there since 1976), as well as Richmond Minerals and ONGold, both of which are gold exploration companies. We are concerned with the negative impacts these activities have on the land, however until the courts recognize our right to "free prior and informed CONSENT" to industrial development in our territories, the best we can do is enter into agreements with these proponents, to ensure our First Nation will be accommodated appropriately and that damage done by these industries is minimized.

Regarding forestry, we are continuously voicing our concerns when it comes to herbicides, specifically glyphosate being sprayed on our territories. We meet with the Missinaibi Forest Management Inc. team regularly to work towards banning glyphosate from operational forestry within a five-year timeline, and we are already on year three. For these reasons, and the mismanagement of the Boreal Forest as a whole, on September 30th, 2022 Chapleau Cree, Brunswick House, and Missanable Cree First Nations launched our court case against the Crown. Although the courts are slow, we are hopeful because Blueberry River First Nation in British Columbia won their court case which is almost identical to ours. They won a few years ago and now the government or industry can't move forward until the First Nation gives permission.

Also of note, a BCR (Band Council Resolution) was recently signed from Chief Corston supporting Wahkohtowin to chase after conservation initiatives and programs. We are in the early stages of implementing an Ecological Corridor with Parks Canada which will be a conservation area. This conservation area will not affect our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights as Indigenous people. Community engagement for on and off reserve members are in the works. Off reserve sessions will be held at Missanable Cree First Nations Hub Offices in Timmins, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Sault Ste. Marie and Chapleau Cree members are welcome and encouraged to attend any of these sessions.

So in short, Lauryn and I are usually pretty busy here in the office. We are looking forward to the Indigenous Land Symposium in Sault Ste. Marie that Wahkohtowin is hosting in February 2025, and anyone interested that will be in the area at that time can register online on the Wahkohtowin website. There will be more community engagements coming up as well, and we will keep membership informed as to when and how they can get involved. Also, please feel free to come into the office at any time, or email me at landsdirector@chapleaucree.ca if there are any questions regarding our lands and territories, or what we are up to here. Coffee is usually on at the Band Office, so come in and say hello if you can!

Meegwetch!

Kyle Corston, Lands and Resources Director





Wahkohtowin - Wahkohtowin Team

Wachay!

Wahkohtowin Development is proud to share updates on our work supporting communities, protecting the land, and fostering sustainable futures. As an Indigenous-led initiative, we serve our owner Nations—Chapleau Cree, Missanabie Cree, and Brunswick House First Nations—through innovative programs, cultural revitalization, and economic growth.

Height of Land Ecological Corridors Project

The Height of Land Ecological Corridor Project is advancing efforts to protect 30% of our lands by 2030. The initiative focuses on engaging communities to refine corridor boundaries, establish governance, train members in conservation practices, and address ownership challenges in acquiring lands for conservation. This project will safeguard vital ecosystems, prevent habitat loss, and uphold the traditions of our Nations. To participate in engagement sessions and learn more, contact conservation@wahkohtowin.com

Indigenous Lands Symposium 2025 – 75 Days Away!

Scheduled for February 3–7, 2025, in Sault Ste. Marie, the Indigenous Lands Symposium will showcase Indigenous leadership in sustainable land management and cultural revitalization. The event promotes meaningful dialogue, innovation, and collaboration. This matters because empowering our leadership highlights Indigenous expertise in sustainability, creating economic opportunities that foster partnerships and attract investment, while youth engagement inspires the next generation to steward our lands, paving the way for a sustainable and inclusive future. To learn more, email Isabelle Allen at isabelle@wahkohtowin.com

Carbon Economy Collaboration with Mikro-Tek

The Carbon Economy Collaboration with Mikro-Tek is advancing carbon management through innovative applications of biochar and mycorrhizal fungi. Biochar is a sustainable soil enhancer that sequesters 3 tons of CO₂ per ton produced. The collaboration also involves carbon offset projects, which include planting trees and applying microbial technologies for carbon credits. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern technology, this partnership aims to combat climate change and support local economies.

Full Moon Ceremonies – Revitalizing Culture

On November 15, women gathered for a Beaver Moon Ceremony at Chapleau Elementary/High School's outdoor space. Facilitated by Stephanie Tangle, this event honored ancestral wisdom and community care. The ceremony also fostered emotional and spiritual well-being by healing together, provided an opportunity to share traditions across generations, and strengthened the bonds within the community. For details on future events, contact Darcie Piche at darcie@wahkohtowin.com

Wahkohtowin Guardian Program – Summer 2025

Join the Wahkohtowin Guardian Program for Summer 2025! Looking for a meaningful summer? Our Guardian Program combines cultural exploration, environmental stewardship, and adventure, where participants gain hands-on skills in conservation, silviculture, and cultural crafts like birch-bark canoe building. Why join? Skill development in land stewardship and resource management, cultural enrichment through community activities that connect with traditions, and career opportunities to build a foundation for roles in forestry and conservation. Stay tuned for announcements at www.wahkohtowin.com

Chii Miigwetch!

The Wahkohtowin Team





CCFN Community Trust - *Brian Ritchie*

Wachay CCFN Trust beneficiaries. The CCFN Community Trust (Trust) continues to be managed by your elected Trustees, Alden Barty, Off-Reserve Trustee, Sandra Ruffo, On-Reserve Trustee, and Brian Ritchie Trustee at Large. As of the Spring 2025, Sandra and Alden will have 3 years remaining on their term and the Trustee at Large position will be up for election. Those who wish to consider service with the Trust should watch for the election packages that will be coming to your regular mailboxes in Q1, 2025.

Financially, the Trust had a very good year in 2023. The main account which is designed to grow to support community projects increased by \$522k to finish the year at \$5,902,867 on December 31, 2023. This is a total return of 9.7% which is quite good for a balanced investment. Having stated this, there were also 3 new eligible members that emerged after long-standing ISC status applications who were entitled to receive TLE settlement distributions in 2024. This accounted a reduction in capital of approximately \$95k.

In case you are wondering, the Deed of Trust states that to be eligible for the TLE distribution, the application to ISC had to be before the ratification date of the TLE agreement, which is January 17, 2016. Then the application has to be approved by ISC, and the member has to be approved for membership into CCFN within one year of their status approval. If you feel you fall into this category, please discuss it with the Band's Membership Coordinator and they can assist you in submitting documentation to the Trust.

The Trustees continue to follow the progress of the Trust project awarded in 2023 to Jennifer (Swanson) David. She was awarded \$50,000 in funding from the Trust to develop an eBook documenting "Our TLE Journey". This project has largely completed the research phase, and Jennifer is now in the process of writing the eBook.

You may remember that that the Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in late 2023. This RFP was for (status) community members to propose a Culture and Heritage project that ranged from \$25,000 to \$150,000. The RFP was communicated via email (where we have valid opt-in email addresses), on the iamcree.ca website, and through social media posts by the Trustees. We also asked for volunteers for an Evaluation Committee for which we did see receive interest. Unfortunately, there were no proposals submitted through the RFP process, so there was no community project kicked off in 2024. Having said that, the Trust did have accumulated income of \$150,000 that we decided to distribute to the Band for purposes of community development and this was done this past September.

The Trust was also contacted by a University of BC professor who her master's research with Chapleau Cree in 2002. This work involved audio interviews with elders within our community. The professor, Christine Schreyer, now has another master's student that is offering to do transcriptions of these interviews so that we will have them available as digital heritage assets for our community. We will work with the Band to determine how best to share these heritage assets in some form of digital platform where we can both store and access them safely.

The Trustees are also discussing how we can do additional information sharing about responding to Trust RFPs and writing proposals prior to the next RFP in 2025. This way, we may be able to get more proposals and sponsor more community-based projects in pursuit of the Trust's Purposes shown below and documented on the iamcree.ca website.

Preserve and promote health and well-being



Promote Community Economic Development



Support Community Development initiatives



Purpose of the Trust as defined within the Deed of Trust

Promote the advancement of Education



Promote, protect and preserve Heritage and Culture



In the meantime, as we roll into the end of 2024, the Trustees would like to wish all our members and their families a very safe, healthy and happy holiday season and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to an exciting 2025 where we can continue to regain and share our culture and heritage and grow stronger as a healthy and thriving community!

Meegwetch!

Brian Ritchie





Chapleau Cree First Nation

would like to invite you to our

Community Christmas Dinner

December 14th, 2024

Doors open at 5:30 PM for appetizers

**Band Complex Hall
828 Fox Lake Road**

Please confirm your attendance by either calling

705-864-0784 ext 221 or emailing reception@chapleaucree.ca

Kris Kringle, please remember to bring gift(s) for the child(ren)

Joe Pete

A Novel by Chapleau Cree Author Ian McCulloch



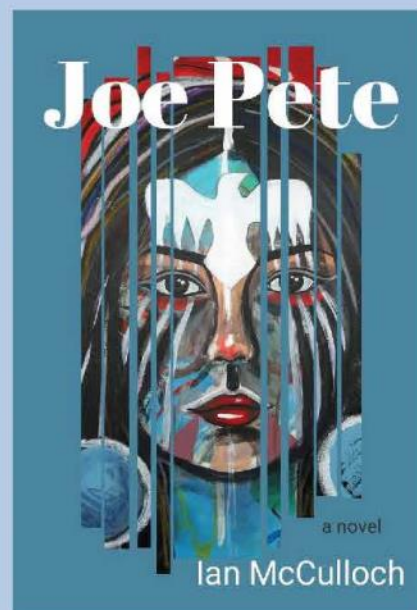
Ian McCulloch (1957-2019) was born in Comox, B.C. and was raised in Northern Ontario. Ian was a member of Chapleau Cree First Nation and the grandson of residential school survivors (Mabel Byce and Alexander “Sandy” McWatch). His writing was deeply influenced by family and his Indigenous heritage. His final novel, *Joe Pete*, was published posthumously in October 2023.

“Joe Pete is a wonderful story. It is enjoyable, educational, and a true page-turner. It is with sadness you will read the conclusion and wish the author could have added another volume to Joe Pete’s life. Nonetheless, the story of Joe Pete and her family will remain with you after the last page is read. I truly enjoyed Joe Pete and her family’s resilience, survivance, inter-connections, joy of living, and efforts to be the people that they wanted to be and felt their ancestors’ wanted them to be, despite hardship and loss. It is a wondrous tale tinged in sadness, loss, and grief while highlighting the importance of family, love, and a deep connection to the land and each other.”

Karl Hele, for Anishinabek News, August 2024

<https://anishinabeknews.ca/2024/08/23/book-review-joe-pete-a-novel/>

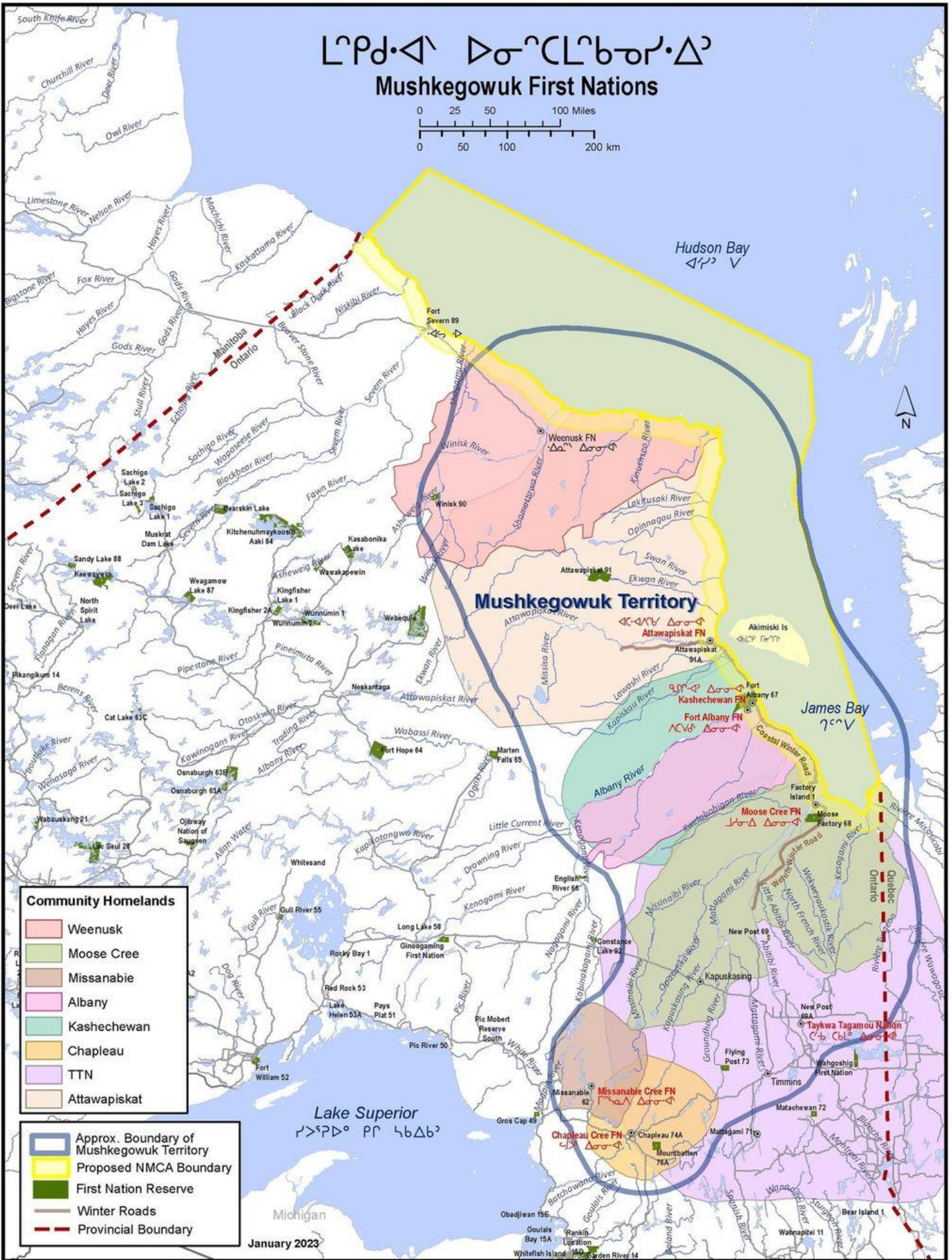
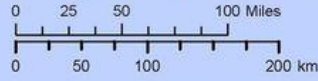
Sandy Mecowatch falls through the ice leaving behind his wife Louise and eleven year old daughter Alison “Joe Pete”. Joe Pete’s grief propels her to risk searching for her father in the same winter conditions that took him. Along with her cousin Simon, they embark on a journey where they will find more than they anticipated buried beneath the snow. Their journey will unlock the ancestors and spirits embedded in the present who call back to a past marked by war and kinship, by conflict and wisdom that continue to contour their trajectory towards the future.



LATITUDE 46
PUBLISHING



ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐ Mushkegowuk First Nations



Community Homelands

- Weenusk
- Moose Cree
- Missanabie
- Albany
- Kashechewan
- Chapleau
- TTN
- Attawapiskat

- Approx. Boundary of Mushkegowuk Territory
- Proposed NMCA Boundary
- First Nation Reserve
- Winter Roads
- Provincial Boundary

January 2023

Moose Cree Dialect WORDFIND!

Words can go in any direction. Words share letters as they cross each other. Good Luck!



amisk (beaver)

cikahikan (axe)

kon (snow)

masamekos (brook trout)

mikiskaw (late fall)

moso (moose)

nipiy (water)

paskisikan (gun)

sipiy (river)

apoy (paddle)

iskotew (fire)

mahihkan (wolf)

masko (bear)

mistik (tree)

mwako (loon)

niska (goose)

pilew (partridge)

sisip (duck)

atim (dog)

kahkakiw (raven)

mahkesiw (fox)

mikisiw (eagle)

mohkoman (knife)

namew (sturgeon)

okasis (walleye)

pisim (sun)

wapos (rabbit)

Upcoming 2025 Events

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

December 14, 2024: Community Christmas Dinner

(Semi-Formal Event. 5:30pm at CCFN Band Office Community Hall. Call 705-864-0784 for more info)

December 20, 2024 –January 6, 2025: Office Closure

February 17, 2025 : Family Day

April 5, 2025 (tentative): CCFN Election Nominations

April 18, 2025: Good Friday

April 21, 2025: Easter Monday

May 11, 2025: Mother's Day

May 19, 2025: Victoria Day

June 6, 2025: Advanced Polls CCFN Election

June 13, 2025: CCFN Elections

June 21, 2025: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Join us on Facebook for updates!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/118989737892773>



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