



# CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY, 2020 - PAYTAHITELIMEW

For the latest news, visit us online at [chapleaucree.ca](http://chapleaucree.ca)

Volume 13 Issue 1

*Wachay, Fox Lake, Neyhweeneenowuk!*

# WINTER PIPON



## REPORTS WITHIN

- 2: Okimah
- 6: Band Administrator
- 10: Membership
- 12: Education
- 14: Economic Development
- 16: Water Treatment
- 18: Health Coordinator
- 22: Culture & Family Well Being
- 30: Life's Sacred Journey
- 34: Lands and Resources
- 36: Wahkohtowin
- 39: Three Nations Development



# Okimah Report ▷PLb<sup>a</sup> - Chief Keeter Corston

Wachay,

**Winter season** is upon us, again, and with it brings time for reflection—time to dream. In this spirit, we have been taking great consideration determining our priorities and developing plans that address both near-term and *future* needs and aspirations for all our community members. We continue to view communication as key to a healthy environment, and critical to a healthy and vibrant community. Clear and consistent communication leads to better informed minds, more capable of greater decisions. With communications in mind, we have hired a Communications Coordinator, Matthew Dupuis, who we anticipate will do his best to keep our members far and wide abreast of the latest and most important articles.

I have been meeting with **Mushkegowuk Chiefs** to discuss the **paramount need for native representation** and great importance behind resources revenue sharing in the Forest Sustainability Act. It is imperative that we take action to protect the forestry and our role as guardians of nature. To not do so would very likely result in leaving little if nothing left for future generations within which to take pride. We must have an honored voice in the drafting and enactment of the Forestry Act to make the changes necessary to ensure our Aboriginal Rights are protected.


I was humbled that the **Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Financial Committee** has appointed me as one of the **Chiefs** for their committee. While I am proud to offer my assis-

tance with them, it is my hope that I honour our band members through representation.

Progress is being made in **augmenting the Chapleau Cree Health Services** with help from Dr. Boyer. Makwa Wise, Dr. Boyer's company, has conducted a Community Needs Assessment for Chapleau Cree First Nation to provide supports for a comprehensive Community Well-Being strategy. Our Health Centre is well positioned to take advantage of the different opportunities associated with upcoming provincial healthcare development, both design and resourcing, within the 101 Highway corridor. *We will need to position ourselves to have a strong voice expressing interest to be a leader in Healthcare Transformation in this region.* We expect this will increase job opportunities, service enhancements, and both on-and-off reserve healthcare services re-design to take advantage of our needs for better healthcare system services and supporting our local members' unique and complex health care needs.

In June, **I was privileged to welcome and help orient our returning and new Council;** Deputy Chief Helen White, Off-Reserve Councillor Margaret Coulter, and On-Reserve Councillors James Fletcher and William Cachagee. The Council and I made great work in developing a strategic plan within 45 days after election—charting a course of direction and priorities for the next 3 years.

**Mushkegowuk hosted a land-based event under the banner of Kitaskeynan**



ᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ (Our Land) at Mushkwaseewee Saakaaekaan ᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ (Grassy Lake). Attendance for their event was remarkable, well over 100 people celebrating the land and honouring our connection to it. The Crown/Federal Government have directed two centuries of effort toward pushing our people from the land; Despite this, it is critical that our people return to the land. Given our natural spirit as caretakers of the land, combined with our more modern skillsets, our people can inhabit the sharpest abilities from all worlds.

In August, **we commemorated the children and their families of the St. Johns Residential School.** In addition to our community members, Cree Knowledge Keepers Paul & Shem Wesley, John Saylor's, girl's drum group and a berry keeper attended the event sharing prayers, songs and berries. It is crucial to keep these children in our hearts and minds, remembering their suffering and the loss and disconnect to their families. To remind us to have strength in our convictions and our customs, to support each other and to be formidable together.

**Our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Gathering Pow Wow** was an incredible few days exemplifying our customs and our bond together. We were delighted with the First Nation comedy stylings from our registration night special guest Emery Burngrass, a character with their own YouTube channel. Our gathering brought in hundreds of visitors and family, traditional dancers, drummers, and vendors.

In October, **we gathered again for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Harvest** lasting four days.

Members hunted, gathered, shared knowledge, cooked, read, played and more. It was a significant success, in that we achieved our goals of engaging our members in exciting, memorable and traditional ways. Councillor Fletcher and I were delighted to harvest a moose early into the event and gifted the harvest to the community. Shortly after, another moose was harvested by our Band Administrator, Edith Larocque and her siblings. In both harvests, the youth were quick and excited to participate fully in preparing and dressing the animals. The youth prepped fishing nets, martin boxes, learned hunting safety tips, and helped ensure a clean and safe environment; They continue to make us proud, and hopeful towards the future. We are always thrilled to celebrate with our members, and actively encourage our members to join us often and always for such events.

**The Sideburned Lake (Golden Route)** is an initiative which Council and I continue to take great care to best ensure our decision is well-considered for our members. Our current plans are to convert the location into an inspirational Multi-Purpose Facility. Our vision includes multiple chalets by the lake. A place for thought and reflection—a place where gorgeous nature can help showcase our First Nation's traditional way of life.

**Newmont** (formerly Newmont-Goldcorp), another investment initiative, has proven to be very fruitful to the Three First Nations in the area. After the September 23<sup>rd</sup> ribbon cutting, Newmont Goldcorp exited the bulk exploration phase and became full-fledged organization. We have entered in-

to a new revenue sharing agreement. Three Nations Development will be providing a more comprehensive update with regards to these ventures later in this newsletter.

With respect to other ongoing investments, **Chapleau Cree First Nation is currently 10% owner of the Hornepayne Mill.** This investment has been helpful in highlighting wiser revenue share strategies. We continue to monitor this venture, gauging its value. We have been considering an option to exchange our shares over time with the current majority owner Frank Ditori. Of course, we will keep our members in the forefront of our consideration and keep you informed of any developments.

**In 2018, we responded to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's notice of consultation,** submitting a draft plan along with a budget. After just over a year, we have not received any confirmation of support or approval – meanwhile the planning process continued with little participation or representation from our First Nation. We – as a group of First Nations – including Missanabie Cree First Nation and Brunswick House First Nation have elevated the issue to the Minister's office and are awaiting the Regional Staffs response. Our commitment to these lands and working with the Government of Ontario and RYAM lumber regarding the 10-Year Forestry Plan for 2021-2030 progresses. To ensure more rapid progress and to help provide a better comprehension and respect for the rights of Aboriginals, I have personally attended ongoing discussions. RYAM Lumber's Native Liaison and I met

such that I could ensure the Memorandum of Understanding was appropriately respecting our people, honoring our customs, and adhering to the freedoms and laws as applied to Natives. I continue undertaking the holding of all participants accountable to Declaration Order 75 (condition 56) of the Environmental Assessment Act. Accordingly, Chapleau Cree First Nation has begun the development of a Lands & Resources department, headed by Janet Broomhead, to form the activities, staffing and budget. We are excited to share this news with our members, as the department is crucial to many components of our dealings with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) Ministry of Energy, and the Northern Development and Mines (MENDM) that wish to access traditional territory.

**Life's Sacred Journey and the Family Well Being Program and I have been working to enhance Child and Family services and programs.** Those departments will have more to enlighten our membership further in this newsletter.

**The Water Treatment Plant upgrade** for Chapleau Cree First Nation continues and has a new target for completion of spring 2020. While the contractors are responsible for delays, we are committed to ensuring that Chapleau Cree First Nation is getting the best upgrades to the plant with existing budget.

**We are nearing completion on three units of housing;** one duplex, and a Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) house.

The NAPS housing is entirely funded by NAPS. Both projects should be finalized in spring. Furthermore, we are planning on developing another few housing projects. We recognize that the housing shortage on the reserve is a real concern. Members have expressed interest in moving home to the reserve to capitalize on employment opportunities, add value to this community, and to be closer to their family.

**Renovations of the band office administration building have completed.** The renovations have given the office a much welcome rejuvenation that showcases our pride and sensibilities by way of blending naturally sourced materials and modern aesthetic. It is our hope that these changes address our needs and reflect the values of our people.

The Administration, Council and I are ambitious for upcoming months with continuing cooperation and respect for our membership.

**Meegwetch.**



# Band Administrator Report - *Edith Larocque*

*“And now we welcome the new year.  
Full of things that have never been”  
Rainer Maria Rilka*

Chapleau Cree First Nation continues to work with various areas of governments, businesses and agencies to **promote and advance the prosperity of our members while protecting their inherent rights and interest.** We are dedicated to providing quality, equitable, and accessible support to respond to the social, economic, health, cultural, educational, spiritual, and political needs of Chapleau Cree First Nation, thereby improving the quality of life of our members. Our priority is to do our very best to serve and meet the needs of our membership and to respond to and carry out the collective will of all Chapleau Cree First Nation members.

We **continue working diligently with First Nations Financial Administration Law** in developing all our policies for Chapleau Cree First Nation. Work continues on our Terms of Reference policy for our Resource Revenues. A meeting was held mid-January to review the final draft and make any necessary changes. A final draft has been prepared and will be reviewed in the near future. Resource Revenue Sharing in addition to any applicable funding relating to the proposed policy have been deferred until further direction from Chief and Council.

**Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has approved us for a feasibility study for a new Community Centre.** More news to follow as this project develops.

**First Nation Market Housing has approved the workplan** for Woodward Law to review our draft housing policy and make any adjustments required ensuring Chapleau Cree meets our legal obligations.

Our Multi-Unit 2-bedroom duplex will be ready for tenant occupancy on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

The Nishnawbe-Aski three-bedroom home construction has begun. Mushkegowuk Council has been working with their contractor and despite the cold weather and snow, the project is progressing well.

**Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Harvest was very well attended.** This year 99 participants were in attendance. We were successful in harvesting two moose this year. Our youth were extremely helpful and elated in being involved in retrieving the animal from the area and preparing the

moose for skinning. Members had the pleasure of observing our youth skin both of our harvested moose. The meat was shared and distributed to our interested elders on and off reserve. Our Cultural Harvest continues in the practice of our own band members sharing their knowledge and customs. Activities held this year included, setting a net, smoking fish, cooking bread pudding, partridge and moose hunting, Cree bingo, drumming and singing, traditional cultural games and so much more. Cultural Harvest 2020 is *tentatively* scheduled for October 5-9, 2020. We have prepared a survey for members input. Please feel free to make suggestions you would like to see or perhaps facilitate and share your knowledge.

**Chapleau Cree has had a few changes in our staff.** We have secured funding for a Child Prevention Services department and welcome J. Heather Murray and E. Brenda Armstrong and the experience they bring. Chapleau Cree has identified the need for a Lands Department and after being posted for almost one year, we recently hired Janet Broomhead as the Lands Director. We anticipate this department growing as we move forward in the development of our Lands Code Policy and entering into agreements in joint ventures in our Lands and Resources. Peggy Domingue has changed roles and is the Economic Development Coordinator. We welcome Peggy and look forward to working with her in her new role and thank her for the work she did in her previous role as Health Care Coordinator. Amanda Domingue has also changed roles and is now the Band Administrator Assistant. Cheryl MacDonald taken on the role of Receptionist and Kara Dupuis in the role of Senior Assistant to Chief Corston. Nicky Kasten

has returned to fill the position of Home Support Worker. Renee Caldwell is the Custodian for our Health Centre and Mukeso House Complex. Dylan Cachagee and Evangeline Barsalou have been hired as attendants at Pimii Kamik Gas Bar. Matthew Dupuis is our Communications Coordinator.

**Congratulations to Tracy Martin for the continued service of 15 years with Chapleau Cree First Nation.**

Our **Joint Health & Safety Committee continues to meet monthly** and provide monthly training to our employees promoting health & safety in the workplace.

A friendly reminder to our members. **Chief and Council minutes of monthly meetings are available online through our website.**

Please visit our website to register as this information is for membership only. For up to date information on daily, weekly and newsworthy information, please feel free to visit our website at [www.chapleaucree.ca](http://www.chapleaucree.ca).

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](mailto:bandadmin@chapleaucree.ca) or telephone (705) 864-0784 ext. 226.

Respectfully yours

Edith Larocque, Band Administrator

***“We can’t become who we want by remaining who we are.”***



P.O. Box 400 - Fox Lake Reserve - Chapleau, Ontario -  
POM 1K0

Phone (705) 864-0200 ~ Fax (705)864-0206



February 12, 2020

**Wachay, Chapleau Cree Band Members,**

**Chapleau Cree First Nation recently mailed out territorial maps, stickers and “Anishnabe 101” books to our band members.** Chapleau Cree is pleased to provide these materials in hopes of supporting you and your families in Anishnabe culture/indigenous spirituality. The published booklet “Anishnabe 101: the basics of what you need to know to begin your journey on the Red Road” publication was written for The Circle of Turtle Lodge with content written by Aimee Bailey, with contributions from Annie Parker, Laurie Amikons, Nancy Anderson and Norma Bailey. Aimee Bailey is Algonquin and has studied and experienced Aboriginal culture and traditions for over twenty-five (25) years. Annie Parker is Mohak and has been personally involved in Aboriginal Culture for over ten (10) years. Laurie Amikons is an Algonquin drummer and singer following the Traditional ways.

**The book has also become popular with people who have found it interesting and encouraging for the people on their journey to the Red Road.** The Anishnabe 101 was originally published in 2000 with its first edition and latest copyright in 2005 is their fourth edition.

It is also hoped, that the materials/resources provided, will **keep your family interested in learning** about Aboriginal culture, traditions and help guide you on beginning/continuing your journey “in a good way”. The Anishnabe 101 books provide traditions with teachings on the Seven Grandfathers, the Thirteen (13) moons, overview on Medicines, Common Ceremonies within Cleansing, Healing, Guiding and Thanking and a few Sacred Songs to “whet your whistle”.

For more information about Anishnabe 101 and other resources from The Circle of Turtle Lodge please refer to their website <https://thecircleofturtlelodge.ca/>.

Meegwetch,

Cheryl Dupuis  
Cultural & Family Well-Being Coordinator  
Chapleau Cree First Nation  
Tel: (705) 864-0200 ext. 217  
Email: [culture@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:culture@chapleaucree.ca)



# *To honor those we have lost*



**Lisa McAuley**  
**August 6, 2019**



**Joanne White**  
**September 1, 2019**



**Reginald Fletcher**  
**September 13, 2019**



**Ian McCulloch**  
**September 23, 2019**



**Nellie "Toy" McAuley**  
**October 28, 2019**



**Frederick "Chucky" Brunette**  
**February 1, 2020**

# Membership Report - *Stephanie Scott*

The recent **changes with Indian Registration, Bill S-3 and removal of 1951 cut-off, has added 34 individuals to Chapleau Cree First Nation's Registry List.** Discussion meetings are planned in February with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) on Indian Registration (Bill S-3). These discussions will be an opportunity to gather representatives from First Nations and First Nation groups across the country to advance the discussion on broader reform for First Nation citizenship and membership.

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 Chapleau Cree First Nation membership. Individual(s) must apply through an application along with a letter indicating their reasoning for membership. Once received, it is forwarded to the membership committee for review and recommendations are sent to Chief and Council for final approval.

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

Registry List	Band Membership List
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administered by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC);</li> <li>• Added to Registry List when registered as a Status Indian;</li> <li>• Entitled to all rights as defined under the Indian Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Administered by Chapleau Cree;</li> <li>◆ Must apply to Chapleau Cree for acceptance into Membership if not registered at birth; (both parents must be Chapleau Cree First Nation members)</li> <li>◆ Entitled to all rights as defined under the Indian Act;</li> <li>◆ Eligible to vote in Chief and Council Elections;</li> <li>◆ Eligible to vote in Referendums;</li> <li>◆ Receive information packages, Newsletters etc. from Chapleau Cree;</li> <li>◆ Entitled to live/build on the Reserve.</li> </ul>

For those that submitted a **Treaty Annuity Payment Claim to Indigenous Services** in Thunder Bay, the payments are processed annually every February-March.

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 ext. 227** for address changes or Indian status inquiries. I can also be reached by email at [education@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:education@chapleaucree.ca).



## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Harvest**

**(Above):** Youth participating in the Cultural Harvest, learning skills necessary for harvesting from the land.

**(Left):** Youth preparing and dressing the animal; Learning knowledge of how to tan a hide.

# Education Report - *Stephanie Scott*

The **Annual Summer Youth Trip** took place at the end of August 2019. Education and Health Department collaborated to bring the youth and parents to Sudbury for back-to-school shopping, a visit to Science North and Urban Air Trampoline Park. The youth enjoyed an afternoon of a rope obstacle course, wall climbing and trampolines.



The Chapleau Cree First Nation's **Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP)** is funded through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Our PSSSP Policy is based on the ISC guidelines. These guidelines changed over the last few years, therefore CCFN's Policy must be revised to reflect these changes. The CCFN Education Committee has begun revising our policy to meet the new ISC guidelines.

**Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School in Chapleau has provided a location to facilitate a cultural space for our students** to access support services. Educators can also use the space as a resource for culture awareness and understanding. Chapleau Cree recently hired a part time Aboriginal Student Support Worker to accommodate

our students at Our Lady of Fatima and work alongside Brunswick House First Nation Student Support Worker to promote respect for Indigenous culture.

Summer is around the corner and **Chapleau Cree does its best to secure employment funding for our students.**

Previous summer employment initiatives have been very successful as they provide the youth with the experience of the workforce and the opportunity to gain employment skills for future endeavors. Depending on funding, there can be employment training opportunities in all areas of the First Nation, Administration, Health, Maintenance and Customer Service. Applicants must be currently enrolled in school (full-time) and returning to school in September and be between the ages of 15 to 29.

A friendly 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. This funding is for available to First Nation affiliated organizations, interested businesses, and First Nations individuals. Applications for funding are available at my office or via **Clara Wheesk**, Community Development Officer at **(705)-268-1150**, via email at **clarawheesk@mushkegowuk.ca**.



### **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: Funding is limited and the process may take six to eight weeks depending on the amount of funds requested.**

Stephanie Scott, Education Clerk



### **Post-Secondary Student Support Program**

The funding **application deadline for September 2020 is June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed in a second round, funding dependent. Applications are available on the website [www.chapleaucree.ca](http://www.chapleaucree.ca).

# Economic Development Report - *Peggy Dominique*

## Greetings Band Members,

I write this report from my new office, as the new Economic Development Officer for our First Nation. I was slowly transitioned from my previous role beginning on December 16th and as of January 20th have now taken up full-time residence in my new office at the band complex. I am enjoying the learning curve and challenges as I get myself up to speed on what is in the works in this department.

Since this position had been vacant for some time, **I spent some time reviewing emails and responding and/or following up in various areas;** Additionally, I have spent some time familiarizing myself with the current projects. I will touch on a few of the ongoing projects below:

- Work continues on the **Framework Agreement for the First Nation Land Management Program – Land Code**, this is a project which will see the First Nation have governmental jurisdiction over their land and resources rather than Indigenous Services Canada. More information will be forthcoming as we prepare for the ratification vote before the end of 2020;
- **CCs Group has completed the business plan for the Multi-Purpose Facility** (on former Golden Route site). Application has also been submitted to Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) for up to 75% of the design cost; we anticipate a favourable response before the fiscal year end;

- **We have received \$50K funding from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)** for completion of the feasibility study on the **proposed development of a new Band Complex**. Council has awarded MNP LLC, an accounting firm headquartered in Alberta, and they will be commencing work immediately as the official engagement letter has been signed and returned;
- We continue our work with the **North Superior Regional Broadband Network (NSRBN) to provide full connectivity services to ten rural northern Ontario communities**. We are moving in a forward direction to meet the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) current definition of broadband wherein required bandwidth of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload speeds are provided for these severely underserved communities as soon as possible; Completion of outstanding Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) applications and review of the process for new intakes for the upcoming year;

**An application to the Canadian Heritage organization for a Cree Language Revitalization project for 2020-2021;** We will receive a response to our submission in the coming weeks; Other tasks since taking on this position have included updating the filing systems, requested extension for the Lands Code, completed required documentation for the New Relationship Fund, attended various meetings and compre-

hensive community planning training.

Upcoming in **March will be an information session with Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc. on the Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence (ESFL) Shareholder Agreement** and a separate recognition Dinner for the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant received in combination with an information update session on the proposed Multi-Purpose Facility.

I look forward to sharing additional updates on these exciting projects and on any others in the works in the coming months. Should you have any questions on these or ideas for other projects, please reach out to me at [\(705\)-864-0784](tel:(705)864-0784) Ext 231.

Regards,

Peggy Domingue

Economic Development Officer

# Water Treatment Plant Report - Allan Dupuis

Hello, everyone!

The **Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project is progressing**. Although we are nearing closer to completion, we did have some delays in the project. These delays are due to the delivery times on some key components by the contractor. The good news is these components are now installed and we will begin automated commissioning followed by the two-week testing period.



## What is auto commissioning?

Auto Commissioning is when the project has reached far enough along that all the new components and processes can be put online and tested one by one to ensure that everything is functioning and working as designed. This is typically a week-long process with all vendors and contractors on site to ensure their components are working well together. This is a very big step in the project because if everything goes well for auto commissioning then we

can move forward to a two-week testing period.



## What happens during the two-week testing period?

Once the new system has passed auto commissioning it will be deemed ready for testing. The new plant upgrades will be tested in real world conditions for a period of two weeks without the need for changes or shutdowns. During this time, we will





be running essentially two plants at once. The first plant is our existing plant which will run as normal and feed our reservoirs and distribution while the second plant is the upgraded system running off our new production well. The new system will run separate and independently and this water will be put to waste and not be used for consumption until deemed to be ready and working after the testing period.

**What if something goes wrong during the testing period?**

If we do have issues during the testing period they will need to be corrected and the process will restart until the plant functions for a two-week period without fail.

**What if everything goes great during the two-week testing period?**

Once the plant has ran for two weeks without any issues and it has been deemed ready and working, we can then begin the process of connecting it to our existing water reservoirs and it will begin feeding our distribution system. At this time, we will be able to complete the project on our existing building by changing out the remaining piping to stainless steel and finish upgrades to the Fire Piping System and the changeout of the old pressure tanks to new ones.

I know there have been issues and advisories during this time and we do our best not to inconvenience our community and our members. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for being so patient and understanding during this upgrade process. I look forward to updating everyone on the progress in the next newsletter.



Meegwetch,  
Allan Dupuis  
Water Plant Operator  
Public Works Manager

# Health Coordinator - *Peggy Domingue*

## Greetings Bandmembers,

I am pleased to be able to share some **highlights from our health programming** over the past several months; The calendar of events is posted on our website if there is an area in which you wish to participate, please call the Health Centre via **(705)-864-0200** directly to sign up.

## Highlights from 2019:

**Regular programming was offered throughout the year** with such programs as Nutrition Bingo, Snack & Yak, student lunch programs, seniors friendly visiting & home support programs, outdoor activities, drumming, footcare, crafts, lunch and learns on various health/educational topics, reflexology, flu immunization clinics, seniors' activities, and cultural activities.

**Completed a community needs assessment and asset mapping exercise** with Makawa Wise Consultants.

**Youth self-esteem building workshop** was held over a 12-week period.

Work continues towards the **transition to a Block Funding model**.

**Waa Zaa Zah Nourishing Souls workshop and self-care conference** hosted in our community was well received.

**Many applications under the Jordan's Principle program were submitted and funded successfully.**

**Proposal to Indigenous Services Canada was submitted for the development of the**

**Band Representative and Prevention services successful;**

Purchased and **implemented PATH DMS**, a database system to facilitate the capture of statistical data and reporting.

**Healing and cooling system** within the Health Centre were upgraded.

**Added clients to our Home & Community Care program** and continued to offer services designed to assist with independent living.

**Hosted two first year medical students from the Northern School of Medicine**, bringing the total number to 6 hosted students since we entered the program. The first placement students have now completed and graduated med school and are completing their residency.

**Community visit and dinner was held with NHL'er Jason Simon**, the youth and community received very powerful messages from him.

**Men's health presentations** were held throughout the year with valuable information shared in a fun environment.

**A sea-can was purchased to expand the storage capabilities** of the health centre and will assist greatly with storage concerns within the existing building.

**Youth cultural camp was a great success** with 21 youth participants.

**Hepatitis awareness** lunch and learn was well attended. Guest speaker Dr. Alkhatib was an amazing presenter, making the material

completely understandable by the average layperson;

**International Youth Day** was a fun filled day for youth and family members of all ages;

**New vans for various health programs** were purchased through various funding sources;

The **pregnancy and infant loss remembrance dinner and healing session** was held and was welcomed by the participants who experienced this loss. This activity will assist in the healing process for them.

Wesway Respite program provided us with **information on their youth respite program and application process**. There left our community with 5 referrals to their program and were very pleased with these numbers and will reach out to the families. They will also bring forward our concerns regarding the need for such a program for adults with special needs as well as Elders to have access to such a program.

**Orange Shirt Day on September 30<sup>th</sup>** was a day where staff and community united to spread the message that **“Every Child Matters”**. We are proud of the support from community and staff in sending support messages to our residential school survivors and families of those who didn’t make it home.

As a reminder, **if you require funding assistance under the First Nation Inuit Health Branch’s (FNIHB) long distance medication transportation program**, they will require a minimum of two weeks for application processing. For members within the Chapleau and surrounding area, please submit your requests directly to the Health Centre. For members outside our catchment area, please contact **FNIHB, Ontario Region** directly at **1-800-331-3921** for assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Domingue

Health Care Coordinator







# Culture & Family Well Being - Cheryl Dupuis

Hello/Wachay,

Happy New Year everyone! **Culture has been very active with many monthly cultural activities since last report.**

In June, **Indigenous Movie Night** was held at Mushkwashewee Saakaaekaan (Grassy Lake) featuring "The Jungle Book", which stressed the importance of nature and realization of how things have shifted during Kipling's time and now. "In Kipling's time, nature was something to be overcome. Now nature is something to be protected". It is hoped this movie will help the youth and families become aware or informed on the importance of our roles in caring for the environment, each other, and understand the child-mentor relationships.

**Continued monthly were programs** for our Drumming for Girls', Boys' and Women. Women's Sharing Circles, and **Cree Language Classes with Cree Knowledge Keeper, Annie Metat.**

**Cree Knowledge Keeper, Bea Echum** came to the community to teach Regalia making. It is an honour to sit along side the younger girls who have developed skills and show great interest in their regalia.

**Aboriginal Day Ceremonies** were held along with **NAN's Peer Mentorship** for two (2) days in our community on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>. We had Cree Knowledge Keepers from Kashechewan, NAN's Family Well-Being worker from Mattagami First Nation as well as Project Officers from Timmins and Thunder Bay,

ON attend and hold sweat lodge teachings, community breakfasts, cultural teachings, sharing circles, sweats and feasts, and a round dance to close the ceremonies. The boys' drum group also spent time with Cree Knowledge Keepers, **Paul & Shem Wesley** (father and son) and learned history of their dance and some chants and song. This began a relationship for our young boys as they now look up to these knowledge keepers and wish to maintain a connection with them. Overall it was a great opportunity of supporting our community as NAN covered all the costs associated for travel expenses and cost-shared the feast and giveaways.

During **Family Well-Being Week**, a "Community Fire" was hosted at a band members home where we roasted hotdogs and bannock on a stick which was held on one of the hottest days of July. Everyone attending was very appreciative of sharing and sitting in the host's garage where it was much cooler.

**Regalia Making continued in July** to allow those to continue working on their regalia for themselves or family in preparation for our Annual Traditional Gathering & Pow Wow in August.

**Youth Cultural Camp was held the second week of July** at Mushkwashewee Saakaaekaan (Grassy Lake). Participants created their own "natural laws", received feast bundles, were taught the seven grandfather teachings (humility, bravery, honesty, wisdom, truth, respect, and love) and several cultural activities. I am pleased

to report that the youth did an amazing job cleaning and washing their feast bundles and taking care of them to reduce garbage consumption and enhance their recycling skills. We were honoured to have our Cree Knowledge Keepers, Paul & Shem Wesley and Project Officer **Margaret Wesley** engage and provide cultural teachings to our youth and guests. The youth looked forward to going into their assigned cabins nightly as they were anxious to share with each other, especially the boys who quoted “we are waiting for Shem to come so he can tell us stories!” This is something that we will need to consider for all youth when planning for next year.

**Mushkegowuk Kitaskeynano Regional Land-Based Gathering of the Illiwuk/Inniniwuk** was held immediately following the Youth Cultural Camp at Mushkwashewee Saakaaekaan (Grassy Lake). This gathering took several weeks of planning/coordinating from Chapleau Cree First Nation Chief, Cultural & FWB Coordinator and the Public Works department and could not be done without everyone’s involvement. The goals of the regional gathering were to design a preliminary regional action plan, a Cree System of Care, integration and sustainability of programs and services and unification and focus on nation building. The proposed outcomes were to increase awareness of the healing power our ancestral lands offer, increase access to land-based healing models, work together to design a long-term sustainable Traditional Community and Regional Land-Based Healing Strategy. The targeted audience included Mushkegowuk community members, Chiefs, health services, chil-

dren and youth services, leaders, traditional healers and helpers, knowledge keepers, education and social services. The three (3) day gathering was the initial stepping-stone with the goal to move forward with the action plan and next steps of the discussions, circles, presentations on traditional detox, integrating the Western approach and traditional medicine, and community land-based models. Kitaskeynano is sacred, spiritual and has all the medicines we need, what are healing sharing circles, recovering our language, connections to the Elders and land and the roots of healing and water protection.

**Indigenous Movie “Bee Nation”** where students, parents and educators are followed before the first-ever First Nations Provincial Spelling Bee in Canada was offered.

**Michipicoten’s Youth and Elders Gathering** was attended by some of our seniors, adults and one (1) of our youth. Most participants attended the “Going Miles” workshop on drugs and alcohol with Dakota House and Scott Ward, and the Sweetgrass Picking and Braiding. Participants enjoyed the conversations, teachings, sharing with Michipicoten First Nation and shared a meal and learned the importance of having a feast bundle. It was a great day to be a part of this First Nation’s unification land-based activity.

In August, **the St. John’s Residential School Commemoration was held with a pipe ceremony** offered by Cree Knowledge Keepers Paul & Shem Wesley, **John Saylor, girls’ drum group** and **berry keeper**. Participants were able to share the

important history and experiences by our own band members and others attending. Afterwards there was a light lunch offered at Chapleau Cree First Nation's band office.

**Registration & Social Night with Emery Burninggrass** was held on August 9, 2019. I would like to report that though this event did not capture numbers from surrounding visitors, however, for a Chapleau Cree First Nation event it did capture **53 people**—which is probably one of the biggest events held this year to date other than the Pow Wow and Cultural Harvest.

**Chapleau Cree First Nation's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Gathering & Pow Wow** was held on Saturday, Aug 10 & Sunday, Aug 11, 2019. It was a great celebration with traditional drummers, dancers, vendors and visitors from Ontario. This year we were grateful for Home Hardware donating the table and chair patio set, which one of our own band members won and NAPA – Chapleau Auto Parts also donated a Pelican Paddle boat which a youth from Timmins area winning this prize.

**Wisdom & Creativity Sharing Lunch with Seniors & Elders** was held in the Shapatawan at Mushkwashewee Saakaaekaan (Grassy Lake). Although we were not able to capture as much stories or history as we hoped, we did receive some ideas on branding Chapleau Cree First Nation's items with our own logo that we may use/distribute/sell such as water bottles, bags, etc. Other ideas were to start making feast bundle bags, curtains for the Shapatawan and try to locate historical items that Chapleau Cree has already captured and

highlight them to be displayed and not forgotten about such as video tapes, pictures and books.

With the passing of one of our local band members, **I assisted the family and community with cultural and practices** for Fire Keeping, Pipe Ceremony, gathering sacred Cedar and the Celebration of Life Ceremony.

**Culture, Health and Life's Sacred Journey services partnered together for "Every Child Matters – Orange Shirt Day"** held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A pipe ceremony was held at the St. John's Residential School Cemetery with our Cree Knowledge Keepers, Paul and Shem Wesley, John Saylor, the Girls' Drum Group and staff and community members. We had a light lunch, sharing circle at the Turtle Lodge, Sweat Lodge held at the Pow Wow grounds and an Ancestral Feast honoring those who crossed over. Prayers went to Creator for those children who attended residential school as well as our families and communities for healing.

**Chapleau Cree First Nation's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Harvest** was held at Mushkwashewee Saakaaekaan from Oct 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Ninety-nine (99) people (Band and community members, staff and visitors) registered and attended throughout the harvest week. This year we were grateful that we were gifted with two (2) moose. Chief Corston gifted his towards the Martin/Raposo family, cultural programming and some of the local band elders/seniors. With the successful harvesting of moose there were teachings and great respect



given for the life and gifting of the moose. Lessons were learned from many in respect to helpers/leaders and skabe's roles within the harvesting. The schedule for events was affected as expected with the gift of the two (2) bulls and we shall consider this in future planning building on our strengths and developing areas for growth.

**A Nature Walk in Community with learning and using Cree Words** in Identifying Plants & Wildlife was offered.

**Full Moon ceremony** was held at the Turtle Lodge grounds.

**I attended the Association of Native Child & Family Services Association of Ontario 2019 Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Conference hosted by Kunuwanimano** from November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. I found the speaking engagements and workshops interesting and very informative on how our First Nations are developing within managing their own child protection prevention services to all their members/affiliates.

**Our last Cree Language Class with Annie Metat was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** and we look forward to continuing our language classes with Annie in the new year and bring interactive classes to the youth as well.

**REDress Violence Against Women Ceremony was held in partnership with Health.** A pipe ceremony was held with our Knowledge Keeper, John Saylor, a lunch and dresses and suits were placed around our community in honor.

In December, **the Boys' & Girls' Drum**

**Group went out for Christmas Dinner to a local restaurant.** The Girls' Drum Group sang at the Chapleau Cree First Nation Community Christmas Dinner. This was an opportunity for their families and community to experience the Girls' Drum Group. Christmas Caroling with the Girls' Drum Group was held at Mukeso.

**This year, our community started the Cloth Bag Cree Christmas Tradition.** The Boys' Drum Group was significant in learning the history of the cloth bags with our Cree people and were engaged in the distribution of the cloth bags to homes and sharing their knowledge. The cloth bags that were hand-made and donated from **Indigenous Neighbours Program, Mennonite Central Committee in Timmins.** This was a partnership with Life's Sacred Journey. We filled the cloth bags with nuts, fruit, candy and a family board game. It is hoped that next year the community can participate in filling items for the cloth bags and provide to their neighbors. The feedback received from band/community members is that they really enjoyed the Boys' Drum Group going to their homes with such a great gift. **Our Boys' Drum Group is a small group of 3-4 youth and it is important for the boy's to be acknowledged in our community** as they do not get as much exposure to community engagement as the Girls' Drum Group.

Currently, **we are preparing for the new year with more cultural programs for elders and seniors**, such as Seniors Sharing Circle with Luncheon, Seniors Drumming Circle and Games. We are also preparing to attend a Round Dance in Garden River, the 26th Annual Youth Fish Derby held to-

gether along with Family Day Festivities. Sharing circles, full moon ceremonies, sewing club, Moccasin Making, and partnering with Health Centre & Life's Sacred Journey staff in programming/events and family/community celebrations.

**Monthly drumming continues with the drum groups having more exposure to community.** Along with the many plans we have, we continue to organize and prepare for our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Pow Wow and 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Harvest. More details will follow requesting your valuable input/feedback.

Thank you/Meegwetch,

Cheryl Dupuis  
Cultural & Family Well-Being Coordinator  
Chapleau Cree First Nation  
Tel: (705)-864-0200 ext. 217  
Email: [culture@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:culture@chapleaucree.ca)









Let's eat now  
Mee chee soo tay ay ko  
ᠮᠡᠴᠡᠰᠤ ᠰᠤᠲᠠᠢ ᠠᠶᠤᠨ ᠬᠣ

Let's go hunting  
Taa wee taa mee laa oo t  
ᠲᠠᠠ ᠪᠡᠳᠡ ᠲᠠᠠ ᠮᠡᠢ ᠯᠠᠠ ᠣᠣ ᠲᠤ

Fire  
Ish ko tay ow  
ᠶᠢᠰᠬᠣ ᠲᠠᠢ ᠣᠪᠤ

Stove  
Ish ko tay kan  
ᠶᠢᠰᠬᠣ ᠲᠠᠢ ᠬᠠᠨ



# Life's Sacred Journey Report - J. Heather Murray

Waachay!!

I started working for Chapleau Cree First Nation as Band Representative (Rep) in July 2019.

After viewing the employment posting for the job, I was intrigued; Knowing that I have a strong sense of advocacy for all People and want them to be the best they can be, I felt this position was the next step in advocating for my First Nations children and their families. Ensuring our rights and values are taken into consideration in all child & family service matters.

With the funding secured, now it's time to get to work and build a program that suits the needs of our People from the ground up. There were several meetings with Chief Corston, Administration and the Finance department to ensure the vision of

Chapleau Cree is captured in the programming and services provided by myself as Band Rep and Brenda Armstrong Community Culture, Prevention & Wellness Worker.

With the help of Administration, we came up with a name that suits the program and called it Life's Sacred Journey. Our meaning behind the name is that Life itself is a sacred journey that we all take. We at times may stray off the road yet we can get back on it and continue living a good life. We are truly blessed to have this time on Mother Earth with one another sharing learning and growing to be the best we can be.



Tracy Martin submitted a logo she designed after conversing with staff about the program goals and how the program will enhance current programs and services provided by Chapleau Cree to its Membership. Tracy truly is a talented artist and was able to capture the essence of family.

Some administrative duties needed were the setting up of the office, ordering supplies, furniture, computers, telephone and internet services. We are currently working on a database that will capture the services we provide to individuals and their families and assist with reporting. It may seem like it has been taking time, yet we need to ensure we are getting the right statistical data. The data base will be able to show individual and group stats and show how the services are assisting people moving forward. Child welfare matters are highly confidential. To ensure privacy we have dedicated phone, fax and email services for all personnel.

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, we had a Meet & Greet where we encouraged Membership to come and see our new program and learn about the services available to them. It was a good turn out and refreshments were available to visitors. Participants were encouraged to put their names in a draw for a basket of items that included snacks, a movie, and games to play with family members. The lucky winner was Gail Murray.

## Group Events

**Building Our Bundle** is a program that I developed to bring light on the skills, abilities and teachings that we have and share that knowledge across generations. Many times, we look outside our home communities for teachings, yet we could possibly have the knowledge we seek right here among our Members. The hardest thing for many people to do is share their talents. Building our Bundle is just that looking inward and finding our skills, knowledge and

teachings and sharing them with others. So far, we have shared a few aspects of the Medicine Wheel, Feather Teachings, Individual strengths and empowering our People.

We are proud to have financially sponsored and partnered for the following programs:

**-Annual Christmas shopping trip to Sudbury:** This event allows time for community members to shop and socialize with one another. Social support not only helps improve a person's well-being, it affects the immune system as well, where the lack of social interaction can negatively lead to first signs of depression and anxiety. Social support and social interaction have a positive influence on human beings' physical and mental health. It proves to be instrumental in the winter season to bring community together and the growing number of participants speaks to why this is a successful annual event.



**-Family Christmas Dinner & Party:** We had several tables set up with different Christmas crafts, and cookie decorating activities for the children and their families to make together. Christmas dinner was a catered traditional Christmas dinner. We also provided children and their parents with a gift. It was truly a celebration for all who attended. We were given a donation of hats and scarves and it was nice to see the children picking out hats for their parents and caregivers even family members who couldn't attend.

**-Full Moon Ceremony**, in partnership with Cultural program. As women, we have a special connection with the Moon and it is a celebration—a gift to women, a time of healing, sharing and praying to the Creator to be thankful for what we have and ask for any guidance needed. Also, a time where we can leave those things, we no longer need in our lives such as addictions and unhealthy behaviours.

**- First Traditional Christmas Bags:** We bought games that families could play together and snacks to share. This is a tradition that is done in some of the James Bay coastal communities. We had decided to do it here in our community. The cloth bags we given to us from the Mennonite Central Committee of Timmins. We purchased games, fruit, chocolates and nuts and filled bags one for each household. With the feedback given to us, we are going to expand on the bags for next year.

Individually, on a case-by-case basis, Life's Sacred Journey's **Band Representative** will support and advocate for Chapleau Cree First Nation Band Members involved with child protection services and work with the child & family Service Agencies to ensure our Members and their families rights regarding protection and prevention services are being met. No two families' needs are the same.

I will act on behalf of Chapleau Cree First Nation to ensure the best interest of our children and their families are respected and that they are included in the planning for children deemed in need of protection while also ensuring the individual cultural and traditional beliefs are understood and honoured.

I will ensure each person involved with Child & Family Services knows their rights and has support available whether myself or another support of their choice to assist them in understanding the issues at hand. Chapleau Cree First Nation is in support of Customary Care Agreements to ensure the child in questions needs and family connections are intact whether residing on our First Nation or off. Chapleau Cree wants to ensure our customs and traditions are being honoured for our Members and their families involved with Child & Family Services.

I will provide support, advocate to maintain family structure, advocate for satisfactory solutions to family issues, liaison with related service agencies and explain the child and family service system to the family members. The goal is to support and help navigate families through the process.

We look forward to continuing to support, and advocate for Chapleau Cree First Nation's Members and their families.

Life's Sacred Journey is located at 801 Fox Lake Road in the rear of the Health Centre. You can access our service either through the Health Centre or the back door. We look forward to meeting you and discussing your need for services.

Should you have If you have any child welfare questions, please feel free to contact me, J. Heather Murray directly at **(705)-860-0003**.

Respectfully,

J. Heather Murray



## MARCH BREAK ACTIVITIES ~ MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Chapleau Cree Health, Cultural, Education & Life Sacred Journey Services are planning March Break Activities for our families with school aged youth. Parents/adult guardians will be required to attend with youth during our activities involved in travelling out of town.

### Monday, March 16, 2020

9:00 AM Meet at Health & Travel to Sault Ste. Marie, ON

5:00 PM Dinner & Movie ~ Station Mall, 293 Bay St, Sault Ste. Marie

### Tuesday, March 17, 2020

9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Travel to Searchmont Ski Resort ~ Skiing (please see below for more details)

5:30 PM Dinner at Giovanni's Restaurant, 516 Great Northern Rd, Sault Ste. Marie

7:30 PM Swimming at Motel

### Wednesday, March 18, 2020

9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Travel to Cultural Engagement with Missanabie Cree First Nation ~ Family Well-Being Team

12:00 PM Lunch @ McDonalds

1:00 PM Travel back to Chapleau

### Thursday, March 19, 2020

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Winter Games & Activities @ Fox Lake with Education & Life Sacred Journey

### Friday, March 20, 2020

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM March Break Activities Closing Sharing Circle, Outdoor Fire, Bannock/Scone Dogs Lunch (hot chocolate/beverages and roasting marshmallows/banana boats) with Culture and Life Sacred Journey at Turtle Lodge Grounds

For anyone who does not have ski equipment, arrangements will be made to rent the required equipment. There will be no cost to the families to participate in this event.

**Due to the limited accommodation and equipment rentals required, we are asking families to register for this event, no later than February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with no exceptions.**

When registering for event, please indicate the following for skiing:

1) shoe size    2) height    3) weight    4) food/diet restrictions

For more information/to register, please contact Tracy at Chapleau Cree Health Centre 705-864-0200.

### Outreach/Engagement: Building and Strengthening Relationships with Band Members

Chapleau Cree First Nation will be attending events and activities in Sault Ste. Marie, ON with the families and youth during the March break and would like to invite band members families with school aged children to join us for activities/events. If you would like more information about this activity or future engagements, please call Cheryl Dupuis at Health 705-864-0200 or email [culture@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:culture@chapleaucree.ca).

# Lands and Resources Report - Janet Broomhead

**The February newsletter highlights renewal and beginnings**, including the staffing of Chapleau Cree First Nation's new Lands and Resources department.

**Greetings, I am Janet Broomhead.** Many members of the community will know me. I was born and raised in Chapleau and have worked in several sectors here and further afield – in Ontario, Alberta and Ireland. I bring to the role 25 years of experience in education, international trade and diplomacy, economic development and health care, with 10 years in senior management.

**Chapleau Cree First Nation passed a Band Council Resolution in 2018 to form a Lands and Resources department.** The department protects and/or mitigates impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and upholds Chapleau Cree First Nation's inherent obligations as stewards of the land.

**As Director, I am responsible for building and staffing the department to oversee consultation requests by third parties and governments.** Processes and policies will be developed to give membership and leadership meaningful information to make effective decisions.

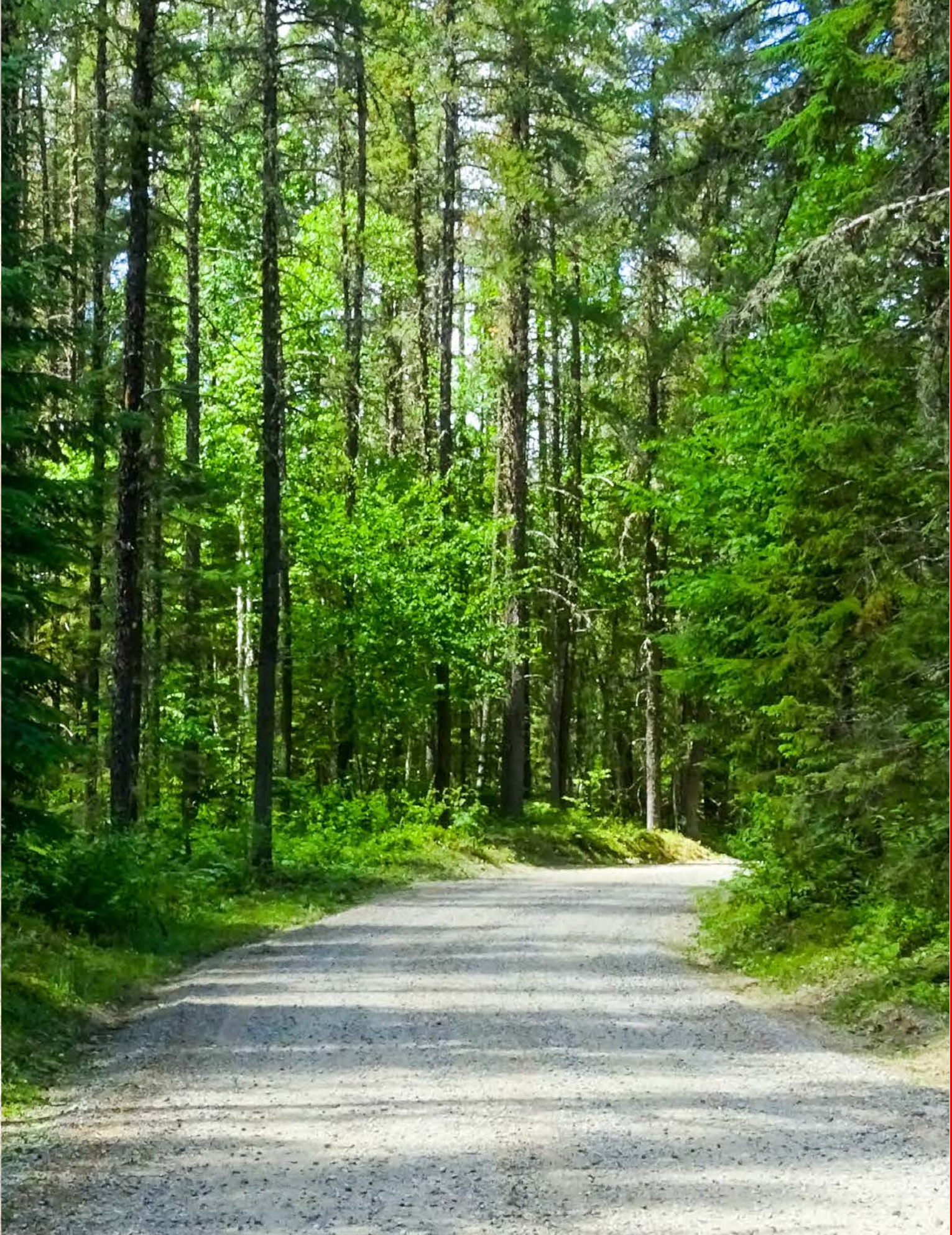
**Chapleau Cree First Nation continues to assert its occupation, rights and interests over its Traditional Territory.** Through the First Nation Land Management Act (FNLMA), First Nations are asserting their control over lands and resources. Completion of the Chapleau Cree First Nation Land Code is a priority in 2020 that will

ensure land management control resides with Chapleau Cree First Nation.

In the short time I have been in the role, **Chief Corston and I have attended Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy sessions.** Chapleau Cree First Nation has had no consultation into the draft strategy. Our concerns about forestry management communicated to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have been ignored. Our presence at the meetings brought these issues to the forefront as we, together with other First Nations, refused to consult on a strategy that has been drafted without our input. We will continue to hold MNR to its obligation to respect Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in order to ensure the new Forestry Plan is sustainable and environmentally sound.

Janet Broomhead

Director, Lands and Resources



# Wahkohtowin - David Flood



Wahkohtowin  
Development GP Inc.

Your First Nation owned  
Community Partner in  
Developing Sustainability

## Wacheyay, Ahnii from Wahkohtowin!

Over this last year, we have taken the time to continue to grow business partnership and professional services related to Forestry and business development. At the direction of the Shareholders and further supported by the Board of Directors there has been increased success in the following areas;

**NEW** Tree to Home – selected as 1 of 24 Indigenous Innovative Housing Initiatives;



Wahkohtowin with partner Boreal Produits have the opportunity bring and build thermology technology homes and buildings by completing a process of community engagement to develop and confirm housing

product design and needs combined with increased sales in Ontario leading to the establishment of manufacturing in the northeast superior region. <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/indigenous-homes/innovators>



**Ongoing** – Guardian Initiative (logo to right) – Steering Committee formation, partner with OUTLAND – Ontario Youth Employment Program to expand access to more camps 16 to 20yrs – if in-

terested contact [Chelsie Parayko](mailto:Chelsie.Parayko@wdgpi.gm@wahkohtowin.com) at [wdgpi.gm@wahkohtowin.com](mailto:wdgpi.gm@wahkohtowin.com) and she can put you in touch with the application intake process.

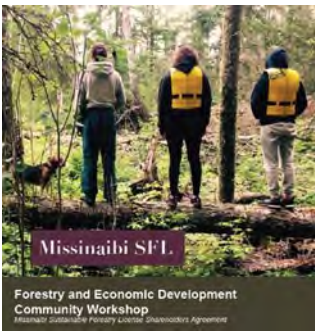
**Ongoing** – Wahkohtowin continues to assist First Nations in developing **Customized Consultation Approach agreements to support meaningful participation in Forest Management Planning** and ultimately as part of growing Lands and Resource Departments as passed under BCR by each respective First Nation leadership teams. The CCA's are designed to address ALL forest plans and annual works schedules affecting each First Nation territory.

**Ongoing** - Business start up – Harvesting Company 2680985 Ontario Corp. – launched March 2019 and set to harvest up to 130,000m<sup>3</sup>; currently employing people from the region and is looking to expand in the summer 2020 with more equipment as part of its business model.

**Ongoing** – the **Shareholder Agreement is signed** for the Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence and the **draft business plan is in circulation** to the OMNRF; the first Board of Directors meet-



ing was held Feb 4th, 2020. The amalgamation of the Martel/Maggie Forest is set to become the Missanabie Forest and finalized by April 1st, 2021. A single Forest Management Plan is currently under development for the two forests – and the name Missanabie Forest is being proposed for the ESFL. Up to five First Nations and three Municipalities will have access to a board roll and assist in the direction of management.



**NEW** – To build readiness for the First Nation Sustainability and Diversification Fund a series of community engagement sessions will occur to set priority project areas for the

First Nation Committee to consider as part of increasing Full Participation in the benefits derived from Forestry and Forest Management Planning. **Watch for Posters – or Notices.**

**Confirmed – Completion August 2020** - Wahkohtowin has purchased a house in Chapleau that will undergo a renovation to become an office that seeks to act as an Innovation Lab where a range of services can be sought from individuals, our First Nation Shareholder communities, other businesses, organizations and municipalities.



**Get Ready for the Birch Tap for 2020** - organizing and calls for volunteers is underway!! We look forward to hosting tours and making available Birch Water to communities and Elders. The

sale of the Birch Syrup will be reinvested into the Guardianship Program to stabilize uncertainty in funding to allow increased engagement in community initiatives and grow the youth as future stewards into jobs and careers.

**NEW** – Wahkohtowin will organize a submission for its shareholder First Nations to the current draft of the **Ontario Provincial Forest Strategy – Dec 2019** - open for comments. While the vision and indicators are aspirational and includes increasing Indigenous Peoples participation into its further development – the success of sustainable forest management, climate action and species at risk considerations for healthy ecosystems rests with our Full Participation and a clear plan, including resources for that to occur.

**NEW** – We have hired another staff person – **Dakota Souliere** of Missanabie Cree First Nation, who will serve as a Compliance Assessor Intern (NOHFC) and after 1 year become provincially accredited -this is part of the broader Monitoring and Guardian Development Strategy.

Chi-Miigwetch

David Flood, RPF  
General Manager





**Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Progress**



**Multi-Unit Housing Progress**



**NAPS House Development**

# Three Nations Development - *Brian Ritchie*

As you likely remember, **Chapleau Cree First Nation is one-third (1/3) owner of Three Nations Development (TND)**, which controls our commercial activities and investments in the Borden Gold mining operations and surrounding businesses.

**TND has over 100 partnerships with business** that supply products and services to the Borden Gold operations. Some of the most profitable partnerships are Redpath, that supplies underground mining services, Sandvick and McLean's Engineering that supply specialized, mostly electric, underground mining vehicles and Dumoulin Trucking.

**TND accumulates business revenues on behalf of its Chapleau Cree First Nation, Brunswick House First Nation, and Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation** Limited Partner owners and then either distributes earnings back to the partner communities or makes direct investments in other businesses on behalf of its owners. We are pleased to say that, to date, we have distributed \$1.5M (million dollars) back to the communities; This means that our First Nation has directly received ½ of a million dollars to date from TND.

While most of our partnerships are on a one-third (1/3) basis with the other communities, **our trucking business (currently with Dumoulin) provides us with 35% of the First Nation returns** flowing from that relationship. The distributions from the trucking business have been accumulating but we will begin quarterly distributions for the trucking business in the coming weeks.

In addition to distributions, you may also remember that **TND has also purchased a 12-plex which it rents primarily to Borden Gold** for housing of its shift workers. As of March, we will be up to 9 of the 12 units rented to Borden Gold and this relationship is very profitable for us. We are currently considering another real estate purchase in Chapleau to expand this line of business; However, that potential expansion will depend on the lodging requirements forecast for Borden Gold. More to come on that in the next update.

Lastly, **TND hosts an Annual General Meeting** that is open to all First Nation members of the partner communities. The date for this AGM is not set yet but it will likely be in the March or April timeframe. We hope that you can attend and hear more about our 2018-2019 business results and our plans for 2020; a notice of the meeting will be communicated through various channels.

Brian Ritchie – TND Director for CCFN

# Upcoming Events

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

## **February 28-29:** Winter Cultural Camp Teachings

*(Female Sweat, Male Sweat, Sharing Circle, Boys' Drumming, Preparing for Fasting Teaching, Family Snowshoeing/Cross Country Skiing, Snaring & Trapping Teachings with Cree Teachings, Open Fire Winter Solstice Feast)*

**March 16-20:** March Break Adventures for Families with School Aged Children

**March 22:** World Water Day with Water Teachings & Pipe Ceremony

**April 12:** Easter Egg Hunt

**May 31:** World No Tobacco Day

**June 21:** National Indigenous Peoples Day

**July 13-17:** Youth Cultural Camp

**August 7:** St. John's Residential School Commemoration

**August 8-9:** Chapleau Cree First Nation 27th Annual Traditional Gathering & Pow Wow

**Please call Health via (705)-864-0200 to inquire for more information/register before deadlines**

Chapleau Cree First Nation

Fox Lake Reserve

P.O. Box 400

Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0

PH (705) 864-0784

FAX (705) 864-1760

communications@chapleaucree.ca