



# CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2025 - OPASKOWI-PISIM

**SPECIAL ELECTION  
SUMMER EDITION!**

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

Volume 17 Issue 1

# *Wachay, Fox Lake, Ililiwak!*

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Nipin

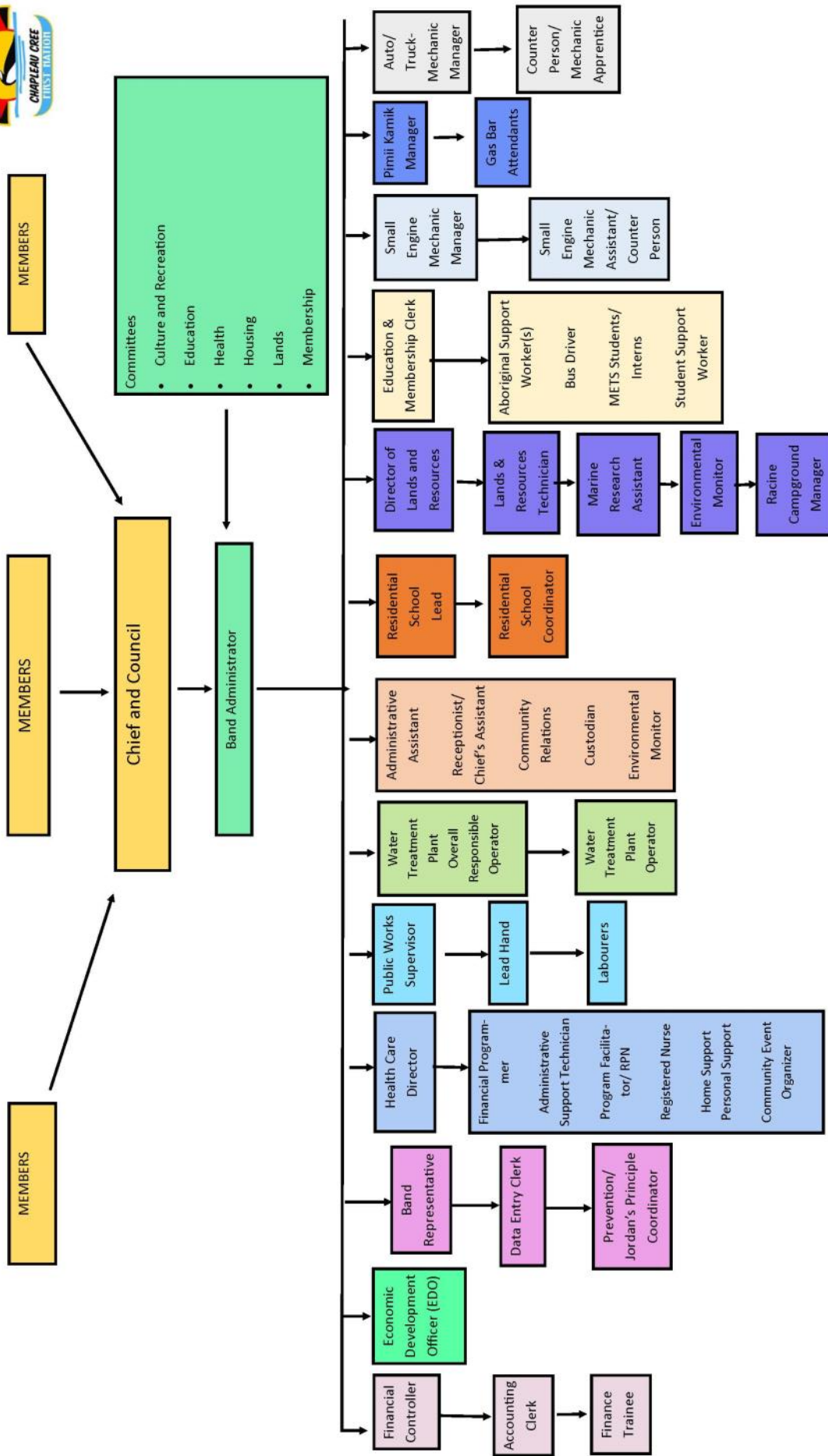
Summer

## REPORTS WITHIN

- 4: Okimah
- 8: Band Administrator
- 12: Membership
- 14: Education
- 20: Economic Development
- 24: Water Treatment
- 26: Public Works Garage
- 28: Health Director
- 38: St. John's IRS Initiative
- 42: Life's Sacred Journey
- 44: Lands and Resources
- 46: Wahkohtowin
- 48: CCFN Community Trust

Photo Credit: David Courtois

# Chapleau Cree First Nation Organizational Chart





# *In Memoriam*



**Cheryl Cachagee**

**December 21, 1963 – December 27, 2024**

*Our Sincerest Condolences*



**Maurice Edward Carson Quinn**

**November 12, 1931—May 26, 2025**

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

## **WACHAY, MY FELLOW BAND MEMBERS!**

Winter has come to an end and with the snow gone. We welcome the warmth and renewal that Spring brings. Here in the Nation, the change in seasons brings with it a renewed sense of energy and purpose. This year is all about moving forward, building on the work we began last year and seeing it through to completion. Our focus remains on economic development and as the days grow longer and brighter, we're also turning our attention back to culture, connection and community progress. We're excited about what is ahead and looking forward to sharing each step of the journey with you.

We have recently come through another election, and I want to sincerely say Meegwetch to the people of Chapleau Cree for placing your trust in me once again. I am humbled, honored and committed to serving the Nation with truth and respect and to the best of my ability. Meegwetch.

## **HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE**

We are currently constructing two new duplexes to help meet the growing demand for housing. It is clear that many of our band members wish to return home, and we are proud to share that the population of Chapleau Cree has doubled in recent years.

We continue to receive new housing applications—over a dozen currently—and are doing our best to accommodate everyone as we move forward.

## **GRASSY LAKE CAMPGROUND & RACINE**

Now open for the Season!

Camping season is here, and the Grassy Lake Campground is open and ready to welcome visitors. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or looking for a seasonal site, we're here to help!

The campground offers a range of amenities including:

- Showers located at the main house, a paid-use laundry room, ice available for purchase, a mini and basic convenience store, propane and more.



For seasonal camping or to inquire about booking a lot at the Mushkwaseewee Saakaaeeakaan (Grassy Lake), please contact our Campground Manager, James (Jim) Apsey:

Call 1-705-465-1629

Email: [campmanager@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:campmanager@chapleaucree.ca)



## **WATER PLANT**

We secured \$6 million to upgrade the water plant and have addressed the Trihalomethanes (THM) issue. However, this does not resolve our ongoing water volume challenges. While we've managed to get by with our current capacity, it's clear that more needs to be done. I will be advocating to Indigenous Services Canada for a new water plant that can meet our growing needs. We recently received reports from our consulting engineers which will support a stronger case as we move forward on this critical issue.

## **WAWA-PORCUPINE TRANSMISSION LINE**

The Wawa- Porcupine transmission line is in the early stages of consultation. Chapleau Cree First Nation has requested a tailored consultation process to reflect our community's specific needs. The previously considered coalition has not moved forward. As a result, we are now being consulted independently, with the goal of forming a meaningful partnership with other First Nations in the future.

We have secured \$840,000 from Hydro One to support negotiations for a fair and beneficial agreement. This includes discussions on the proposed route, equity opportunities, and a potential buy-in to the project. Any buy-in would be structured to ensure very low or no financial risk, ideally backed by government-guaranteed loans.

To assist in this process, we have engaged a professional company. We will continue to keep our membership informed as the project progresses.

## **ST. JOHN'S RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

Our people carry the stories of St. John's Anglican Residential School. The St. John's IRS Initiative walks with survivors and families to honor these stories—to speak the truth, to share pain and to find strength in each other's voices.

# ►PŁb<sup>a</sup> Okimah Report - *Chief Keeter Corston*

This work is done in circle with Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, Brunswick House First Nation and Narratives Inc. Together we move as one—bringing forward the teachings, the healing and the truths from our communities.

In April, Phase 2 Site Search, a gathering took place at the Moore Arena in Chapleau, and many people attended the event. Each gathering is sacred—a time to connect hearts, to guide the work with spirit and to remind us that our stories are not forgotten. Together, we carry the knowledge forward for our future generations. The next phase of this initiative is to commence ground searching.

## **ANNUITY**

The Robinson-Huron Treaty case recently set a strong precedent with the government ordered to pay \$10 billion in compensation. This landmark decision strengthens our collective Treaty by Treaty negotiations and individual rights to seek restitution for lost revenues on our traditional lands.

Inspired by this outcome, Missanabie Cree has initiated a class action lawsuit and is now exploring a similar legal path under Treaty Nine, which has been in place since 1905. I will be meeting next week with representatives from the Maurice Law Firm to discuss our next steps.

We are in the early stages of this important initiative to address the long-standing issue of annuity. Our goal is to pursue legal action to seek justice and fair compensation for our people.

I will continue to keep membership informed as developments unfold.

## **CULTURAL**

We are honored to announce that our Nation will be hosting this year's CreeFest, taking place July 22-24, 2025.

CreeFest is an annual gathering of the Mushkegowuk people, rotating among the seven First Nations. This year, it is our turn to welcome everyone home. We encourage all band members, especially those living away, to return and be part of this meaningful event.

There will be live entertainment, cultural activities, traditional food, and community celebrations throughout the festival. Let's come together to share, reconnect and celebrate who we are.

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Powwow will be held here on Chapleau Cree territory on August 9-10, 2025. It lifts our spirits to return to our ways—dancing, singing and being together. It is a time to honor the footsteps of our ancestors and celebrate life through our traditions at the sacred



grounds where our drums echo the heartbeat of our Nation.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Harvest will take place from October 6-9, 2025. This gathering is a time for us to grow stronger in unity and presence. It is more than just an event—it is a way to honor and carry forward our cultural ways. Fall Harvest brings us together, just as our ancestors came together before the freeze-up, before returning to the traplines.

As Cree People, it is important we continue these traditions and remember where we came from. Through these gatherings, we keep our identity alive and pass on the teachings to the next generation.

We especially invite you to join us at Grassy Lake (Mushkwashewee Saakaaeekaan), a cherished place of tradition, water and land.

## CLOSING REMARKS

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every band member for your continued support of Chief and Council and for allowing me the honor of being your guiding voice through each challenge and success we encounter. Your trust and guidance remain vital as we navigate the challenges and achievements that shape our path forward.

There is strength in unity. Alone, we may struggle—but together, we are resilient. When people stand side by side, support one another and move forward as one, we become stronger than any challenge we face.

With one heart and many hands, we rise like the morning sun, we endure like the stones of the earth, and we succeed by walking together in the footsteps of our ancestors.

**Meegwetch,**  
**Chief Keeter Corston**



# Band Administrator Report - *Edith Larocque*

**"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE GOOD AT EVERYTHING, BUT WE ALL HAVE GIFTS, LARGE AND SMALL"**

*"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".*

Wishes of good health and a warm summer to everyone who survived the long cold winter. It is time now to complain about the heat as we gear up for long summer nights.

To ensure everyone is receiving accurate up to date information, please visit our website at <https://chapleaucree.ca> or visit our Facebook page.

The Indian Residential School Initiative program is ongoing. Our Lead, Deanna Cachagee has provided an update contained with this Newsletter. Please review her report and follow up with her for further information or just to connect and say hello.

The Public Works department remains an integral part of our team. We cannot complete many programs and services without their contribution. Their constant reliability and willingness to perform the tasks required so diligently contribute to our programs being offered through various departments to become the successes they are.

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 newly hired, Kevin Drynan Healthcare Director at [hcd@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:hcd@chapleaucree.ca) to inquire about any service or program that may be of interest to you and our members.

Our Economic Development Coordinator remains constant in applications required allowing growth of our First Nation. We have been approved for infrastructure funding in preparation for future housing. We also have a newly constructed playground on Margaret Ann Road ready for our children to enjoy.

The Lands Department continues working on protecting our treaty and aboriginal inherent rights. The lands department 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 provide safe water to our community members while following the requirements as licensed Operator. They continually take the required training and ongoing courses to ensure they are well versed in any changes in guidelines. Allan and Connor



offer activities in a fun and interactive way to promote the importance of safe drinking water making the learning enjoyable and engaging for all who attend.

The Racine Campground has been growing in members accessing the lots free of charge. Should you be interested in one of the lots please contact the office or reach out to **James Apsey, Campground Manager** on his cell at **705-465-1629**.

Life Sacred Journey continues to offer support for the safety and well-being of First Nations children and families. Please review the report included in our Newsletter for the most recent updates on Jordan's Principle funding.

Chapleau Cree has had a few staffing changes with employees transferring into different positions, voluntarily resigning for career growth or personal reasons, and the recruitment of new employees. We welcome all our new employees and a heartfelt thank you to 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 from the former employees to the newly hired, our accomplishments are your accomplishments. Thank you

Please remember to register for our members only page for up-to-date annual Audited Financial Statements, Chief and Council along with Managers monthly reports and policies relating to the activities of our First Nation.

For more for information please click the following links to access information on:

Governance Election results:

[https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNGovernance.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=221&lang=eng](https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNGovernance.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=221&lang=eng)

Audited Financial Statements:

[https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FederalFundingMain.aspx?BAND\\_NUMBER=221&lang=eng](https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FederalFundingMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=221&lang=eng)

# Band Administrator Report - *Edith Larocque*

Registered population:

[https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?  
BAND\\_NUMBER=221&lang=eng](https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNRegPopulation.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=221&lang=eng)

General information available for Chapleau Cree First Nation:

[https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?  
BAND\\_NUMBER=221&lang=eng](https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/FNMain.aspx?BAND_NUMBER=221&lang=eng)

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](mailto: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**





# CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POWWOW

## “REFLECTING ON OUR RESILIENCE, EMBRACING OUR CULTURE”



**SATURDAY AUG. 9<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY AUG. 10<sup>TH</sup> 2025**



**POWWOW GROUNDS – 202 MARGARET ANN ROAD**

### FRIDAY AUG. 8

- St. John's Indian Residential School Ceremony at the cemetery - time TBD
- Pow Wow Registration and Friday Family Night Social - Band Office, time TBD

### SATURDAY AUG. 9

- 12:00 PM Grand Entry

### SUNDAY AUG. 10

- 11:00 AM - Grand Entry
- Closing Ceremony - time TBD
- Gift giveaway - time TBD
- Feast - Powwow Grounds, time TBD

**AD:** Craig Trudeau

**MC:** Dustin Hollings

**Host Drum:** Thunder Creek Singers

**Co-Host Drum:** Giigidoo Nimkii (Rolling Thunder)

**Invited Drum:** Singing Spirit

### Head Dancers:

- John Saylor - head male elder
- Marjorie Lee - head female elder
- Clarence Trapper - veteran dancer
- Charlie Kioke - head male
- Emma Morrisson - head female
- Keenan Domingue - male youth
- Keenya Murray - female youth

NO FEE FOR  
VENDORS PLEASE  
REGISTER WITH  
HEALTH  
705-864-0200 EXT.  
201

OPEN DRUM  
GROUPS  
WELCOME!

PLEASE, NO  
PETS ON  
POWWOW  
GROUNDS

DESIGNATED  
TENT  
CAMPING  
AVAILABLE!

**ZERO  
DRUGS AND  
ALCOHOL  
PERMITTED**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT NATHALIE  
BARSALOU AT 705-864-0200 EXT. 203**





# Membership Report - Stephanie Scott

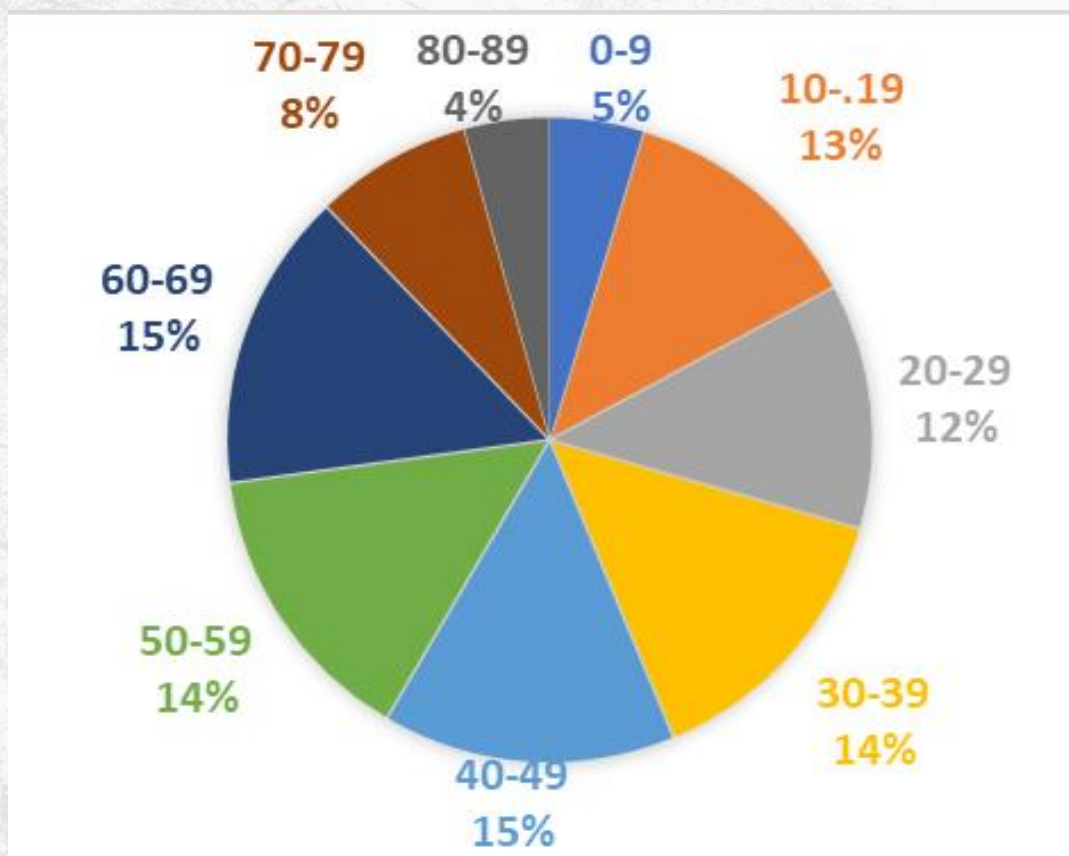
Wachay!

Bill C-38 was terminated this past winter due to the federal government election. The current legislative session reintroduced the act to amend the Indian act as Bill S-2. The Bill will address four main areas: enfranchisement, voluntary deregistration, natal band reaffiliation, and the removal of outdated and offensive language related to dependent persons.

Further, the work on Action Plan Measure 2.8 of the *United Nations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* is underway with the Collaborative Process on the Second-Generation Cut-off and Section 10 Voting Thresholds. The difference between Section 10 and Section 11 bands under the Indian Act is regarding how First Nations govern their membership. Section 10 of the Indian Act allows a First Nation to take control over its own membership, decide for itself who belongs to the First Nation, rather than having the federal government make that decision.

Chapleau Cree First Nation became a section 10 band in 1987 after developing its own membership and was approved by majority of the band members. Our membership is currently at 701 members. Chapleau Cree membership has been on a steady increase for the past several years since Bill S-3 in December of 2017.

## CHAPLEAU CREE AGE DEMOGRAPHICS





Indigenous Services Canada will be holding Treaty annuity Payment dates for the following urban areas.

- **August 27, Toronto, Location to be determined, 11am to 5pm**
- **September 9, Sudbury, Location to be determined, 11am to 4pm**
- **September 10, Thunder Bay, Location to be determined 11am to 5 pm**
- 



For those requiring mail in, please find the Treaty annuity payment request form by scanning the QR code to direct you to ISC form page. OR visit, <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html> and click on “forms” under most requested.

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



# Education Report - *Stephanie Scott*

I'm happy to announce that we were able to sponsor all 30 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.

This spring, Chapleau Cree celebrates the post-secondary graduates in, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Education, Early Childhood Education, Resource Drilling Technician, Heavy Equipment Techniques and Personal Support Worker!

The provincial schools in Chapleau are continuing to work collaboratively with the First Nations to improve student achievement, bring more awareness, cross culture teachings and build relationships. Chapleau Elementary/Secondary School's Northern Indigenous Youth Council received a grant for a school pow wow this year. Chapleau Cree Education team sat on the planning committee along with representatives from other First Nation partners, Wahkohtowin and Huron Superior Catholic School. "Empowering student voice" Pow Wow was vibrant celebration and brought culture and joy to the students. It was a day of unity and pride for the entire community.



The indigenous rooms continue to bring; lessons into the classroom, crafts for our youth and support for one on one to ensure student success. On a warm winter day our students were able to go outside and make maple syrup taffy. This past Winter, CCFN Indigenous Student worker organized a water ceremony. All of Our Lady of Fatima and Sacre Coeur students came out to honour the water and learn that is not just a resource but a living spirit that sustains life and the responsibility to protect it.









**Use your cellphone camera to scan for more information  
on Discovery's Employment Opportunities**



**Discovery Borden Gold Project** has an estimated 37 First Nation workers for Redpath from the 3 First Nations. 5 members were hired this past year from October 2024 to March 2025.

Please remember when applying for a job at the mine to reach out to the **Impact Benefit Agreement Coordinator, David Courtois 705-904-4999** or email at [bordenfnc@wabun.on.ca](mailto:bordenfnc@wabun.on.ca)

Chapleau Cree Health Services is Hiring!



Casual Contract

# Medical Drivers

*to assist with medical transports*

## ● REQUIREMENTS

Valid Class G Driver's Licence  
Vulnerable Sector Check  
Driver's Abstract

## ● Compensation

- Flat rate per trip
- Vehicle Provided
- Meal Allowance



*If you're reliable, professional  
and looking for flexible work,  
we'd love to hear from you!*



Please send resume to [hcd@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:hcd@chapleaucree.ca)



(705) 864-0200





Rehtaeh Kapashesit  
Early Childhood Education

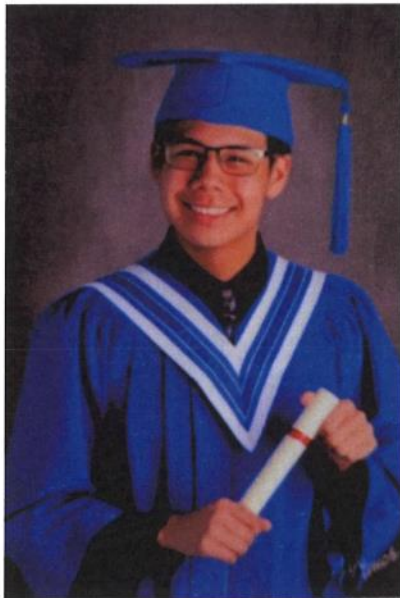


Joel Armstrong  
Secondary School



Logan Armstrong  
Secondary School

## CONGRATULATIONS



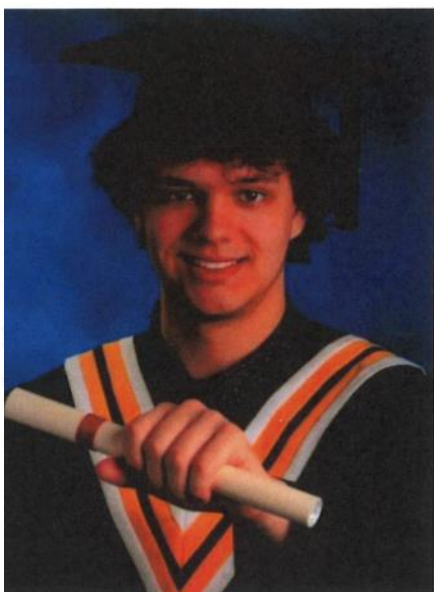
Isaiah Cachagee  
Elementary School



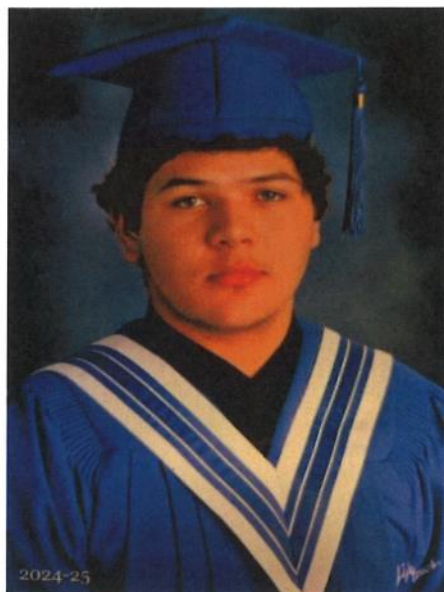
Ryen Dupuis  
Elementary School







Rylie Cachagee Carter  
Secondary School

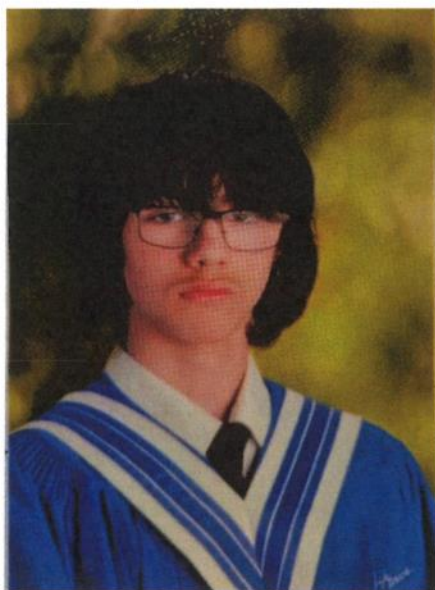


Mark Raposo  
Secondary School

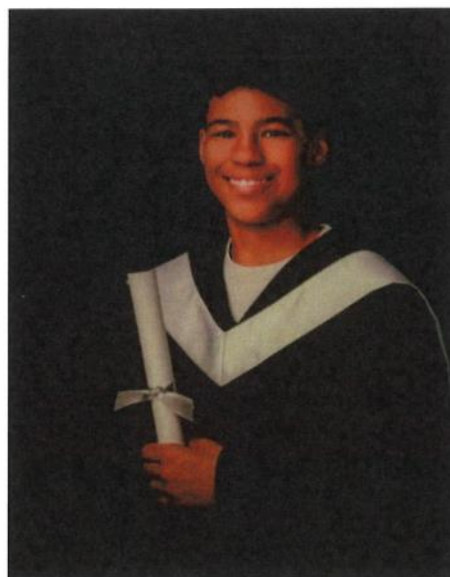


Martina Raposo  
Secondary School

## 2025 GRADUATES!



Logan Tangie  
Elementary School



Everett Scott  
Elementary School



# Economic Development Report - *Padraic Taaffe*

**Hello Band Members,**

2025 is going to be a busy year of planning and preparing for the future of Chapleau Cree First Nation – the new term for Chief and Council will have plenty of work to do!

## **Community Planning**



In a project funded by Indigenous Services Canada, MNP Consultants will be assisting the EDO in renewing the Community Economic Development Plan, last done in 2019. At the same time, Jazz Solar will be working on an update to the Community Energy Plan, positioning Chapleau Cree for future opportunities in renewable energy projects that will help support the sovereignty and economic development of the reserve. The timing couldn't be better as Canada moves towards a carbon-neutral economy – CCFN needs to be ready to take advantage of new programs and sources of funding.

The Energy Plan is funded by IESO – the Independent Electricity System Operator, who have also provided funding for a Community Energy Champion and engagement program. Not only is this direct job creation but will also build the capacity within Chapleau Cree to develop its own renewable energy projects with less reliance on consultants.

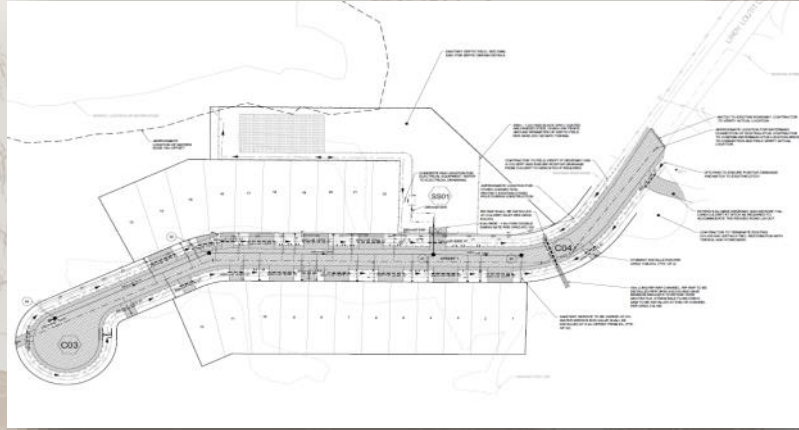
So expect lots of engagement sessions soon! MNP will be reaching out to stakeholders and focus groups over the summer and fall – they have been specifically told to seek the involvement of Band Members wherever they are and not just those who live locally. If you want to contribute, feel free to send your ideas to [edo@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:edo@chapleaucree.ca) at any time.

## **EDAC Waterloo**

I have been taking advantage of the support of OFNEDA (Ontario First Nations Economic Development Association) to pursue professional development at the University of Waterloo's Economic Development program, in partnership with EDAC (Economic Developers Association of Canada). I have completed year two in the classroom – it's been a great opportunity to learn and grow, and I have been able to connect with EDOs from many other First Nations, as well as professional peers from municipalities all over Canada. I am looking forward to finishing the capstone project and exploring an Economic Development fellowship with the University of Waterloo.



## Micro-Subdivision Lot Development



The first two phases of the development of a new 22 lot subdivision on reserve are complete and we are moving to the final phase of construction. The tender for construction will be issued by the end of June if not sooner.

This is a long-term development – there is other infrastructure, especially water supply, that needs to be expanded before 22 new houses can be built.

The project does not include the building of any houses – these will still need to be funded in the usual way, either with mortgages from CMHC or one-time funding from ISC and other sources. The lots range from 30 to 50 feet wide, giving a variety of options for housing types. It will be up to CCFN to decide how to use the developed lots – there are no requirements to build any particular type of housing.

The total value of this work is at least \$4 million, at no cost to CCFN. It has been funded by Indigenous Services Canada through Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, who have been instrumental in moving the project along.

When construction is complete, Chapleau Cree will have 22 fully serviced lots, including a paved road, watermains, streetlights, and a communal septic field fed by sewer mains from each lot.



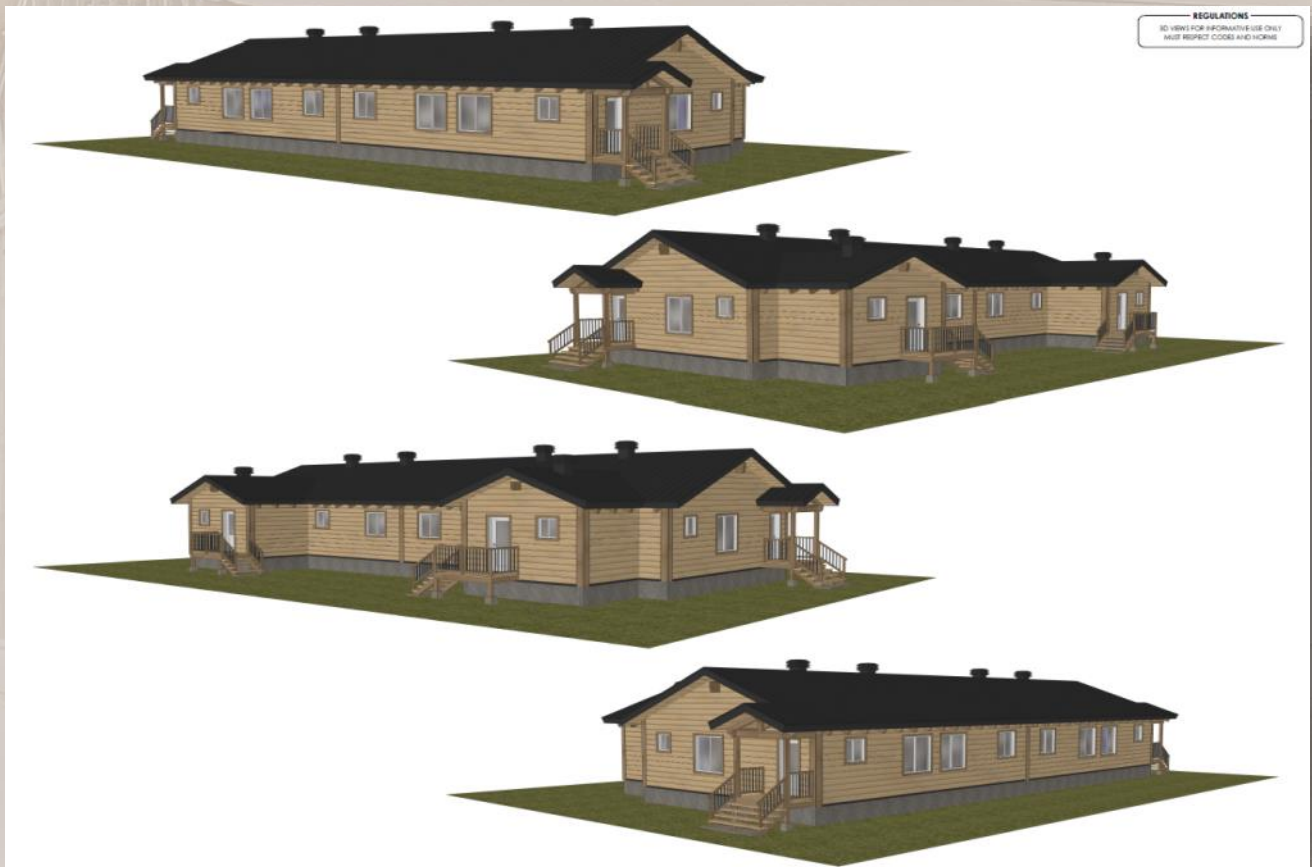


# Economic Development Report - *Padraic Taaffe*

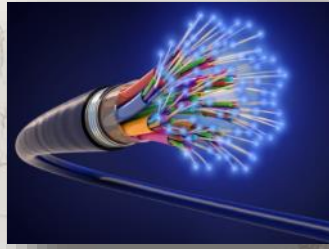
## New Housing



Two new duplexes are being built on Margaret Ann Road in partnership with One Bowl, using the Thermolog technology that went into the beautiful chalets on Sideburned Lake. This project is partly funded by Indigenous Services Canada's Housing Gap Fund - \$1.4 million will be received to support construction and CMHC has contributed \$18,000 for technical services. One Bowl, partly owned by CCFN, has also donated \$200,000 worth of materials to the project. The four two bedroom apartments will help house Band Members who want to return home.



## Vianet Fibre Optic Cable



This summer will see fibre optic cable being connected to every building on reserve, both band-owned and private homes. This will give homeowners and tenants more choice in their internet, phone, and television services. High speed connections at reasonable rates will make a huge difference to the ability of Band Members to participate in the digital economy, enjoy online entertainment, and receive critical telemedicine services in their own homes.

The project consists of:

- **6,750 meters of new underground backbone/distribution fibre network**
- **16 underground road crossings for drop connections**
- **40 cable vaults**
- **63 drop cable connections to buildings in the community (fibre NID attached to the side of the building, ready to connect to inside cabling)**
- **1 passive FDH (Fibre Distribution Hub)**

The project is worth close to \$1 million but is being paid for by the province of Ontario. Vianet plans on being finished by October 2025 and will make every effort to minimize the disruption to the community. The engagement dinner on June 4<sup>th</sup> was very well attended, and the on-reserve community is excited to see these services come to Chapleau Cree!

### Partnerships

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in other CCFN departments for all the help that they have graciously given me, as well as other organizations such as Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and the Ontario First Nations Economic Development Association. Chapleau Cree has great people working for its future!

**Meegwetch!**

**Padraic Taaffe**

**Community Economic Development Officer**





# Water Treatment Plant Report - Allan Dupuis

With the spring season well underway and warmer days upon us, we're taking this opportunity to share updates from the Water Treatment Plant. Our team remains committed to ensuring safe, clean drinking water for all community members, and we thank you for your continued support.



## Water Quality Monitoring

We continue to submit weekly bacteriological samples to Near North Labs. All bacteriological sampling in 2025 thus far has come back satisfactory, with no adverse findings. All samples have reached the lab without delays.

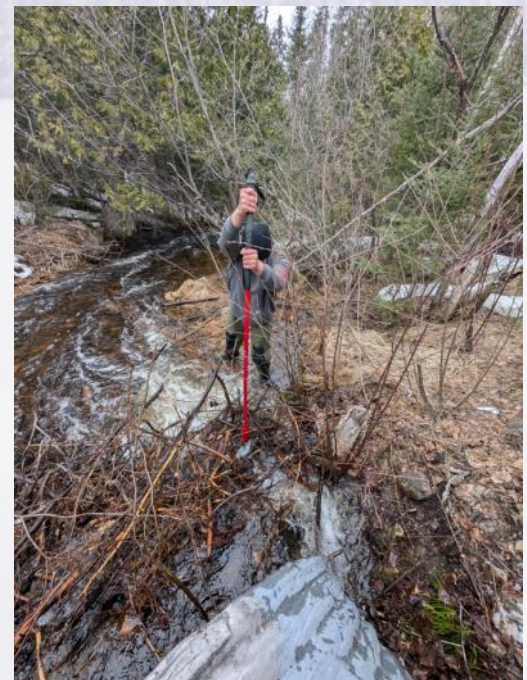
In addition, quarterly THM/HAA (Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids) testing was completed in March. The current quarterly average continues to meet safety standards.



## Well Drilling Update

Northland Well Drilling was on-site May 12–13 and completed drilling on three new test well locations. While water was encountered at each site, none of the wells were viable due to high silt content or low pumping rates. A deeper test well was attempted at the second location to access bedrock, but unfortunately, no water-bearing fractures were found.

Historically, wells in our area have been prone to fouling due to high organic content in the groundwater. This continues to pose challenges for well development and long-term water source reliability.



As a result, we are now moving on to the next phase of the project: updating the Chapleau Cree First Nation Water Feasibility Study. This update will ensure that all current and future community water needs are fully considered as we plan upgrades or changes to the Water Treatment Plant and the broader water distribution systems. This project will be led by First Nation Engineering Limited, the same firm that completed the original feasibility study. Their previous work

was highly thorough and reliable, having accurately anticipated the community's growth rates and water needs that we are experiencing today.

## System Maintenance & Upgrades

Spring is also the time for routine system checks and preventative maintenance. Our team will be:

- Flushing several lines to prevent buildup.
- Checking chlorine dosing systems to ensure consistent disinfection.
- Completing calibration of monitoring instruments.
- Changing filter media to ensure favorable results with THM/HAA testing



If you notice any discolouration or changes in water pressure during this time, it's likely related to maintenance work. Please contact us if the issue lasts more than a day.

## Meet Your Water Treatment Team

Our certified operators are on-site daily, keeping a close watch on our water system. We are proud of the dedication and professionalism we bring to this vital work further strengthening our ability in serving our community effectively while ensuring safe, high-quality water services.

### Contact Us

**Water Treatment Plant**

**Chapleau Cree First Nation**

**Phone: 705-864-2655**

**Summer Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday; Friday 8:00 – 12:00**

**Winter Hours: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday**

***Water is Life. Clean water is our shared responsibility.***





# Public Works Manager Report - Lou Martin

Hello!

Our Public Works team are happy to see the warmer weather after such a long winter. Now, we are trying to survive the black flies.

I started this position in December and had to learn quickly as we were very busy with snow removal and equipment issues. The public works guys were very helpful, and I am glad we have these hard-working fellas on our staff. A special shut-out to Joshua Boucher who reached his 5-year milestone last year.

Our department has acquired some new equipment over the past few months. We have purchased a new F250 Ford truck, pusher plow for front-end loader or backhoe, and a heavy-duty dump trailer. These purchases will greatly assist our team with various projects.

Along with our regular day-to-day activities we have been kept busy helping with various community events and projects. We have helped prepare the Sideburn Lake site, assisted with the Kid's Fish Derby in February, opened the road to Grassy Lake and cleared fallen trees, prepared for Youth Camps in March and May, prepared for the opening of Racine Campground, assisted with preparations for the RSI event in April, set-up docks at Grassy Lake, and completed the Community Spring Clean-Up in May.

We wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy summer! Please feel free to contact me for any public works related questions @ **705-864-0784 ext. 264**.





*Josh Boucher being awarded for his 5-Year Milestone working with PWG*





# Health Director - *Kevin Drynan*

## Message from the New Health Director

My name is Kevin Drynan, and I am honoured to step into the role of Health Director for the Chapleau Cree First Nation. I bring with me nearly 20 years of experience in law enforcement, with a strong focus on mental health. As a founding member of a Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team, I've had the privilege of working closely with individuals and families during some of their most challenging moments; experiences that have shaped my commitment to compassionate, community-centered care.

In addition to my frontline work, I have extensive leadership experience, having served as President of a 150-member association where I was responsible for labour relations and financial oversight. I also hold a formal education in Human Resources Management, equipping me with tools to support both staff and strategic planning.

I am excited to lead our health centre forward with a focus on collaboration, cultural respect, and continuous improvement. I look forward to working alongside staff, leadership, and community members to strengthen health and wellness services and to making a meaningful, lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

## Welcoming New Team Members

The Health Centre is pleased to welcome several new team members who are already making excellent contributions to our services and community atmosphere.

**Nathalie Barsalou, our new Cultural Coordinator** (joined September 2024) brings a deep passion for Cree culture and traditions, helping to strengthen cultural programming and promote community wellness through a traditional lens.

**Pamela Drynan, RN** (joined January 2025), is a dedicated and experienced nurse who brings a wealth of knowledge from her work in fast-paced urban healthcare settings. Her clinical skills and compassionate approach have been a great asset to our team.

**Chantal Gravel, Health Administrative Support** (joined March 2025), offers outstanding customer service and administrative support, helping clients and staff navigate the health centre with ease and professionalism.

**Darren Byce, Custodian** (joined May 2025), is a thorough and hardworking team member who takes great pride in maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for all.

We're excited to have each of them on board and look forward to the continued positive impact they will have on our programs and services.

## Program Impact & Community Feedback

•**Consistent Service Delivery:** With an average of 140+ client contacts per month from December 2024 to May 2025, our team has kept pace with the growing needs of the people we serve.

•**High Event Attendance:** Nearly all wellness sessions—reflexology, massage, nutrition-focused “Bingo,” Chiropractic clinics, and Lunch & Learns—drew enthusiastic participation (often exceeding 20 adults per session).

•**Positive Cultural Engagement:** Cultural events such as the Youth Spring Cultural Camp, Red Dress Day, and traditional craft workshops have fostered pride, knowledge transfer, and intergenerational bonding.

- Strong Collaborative Partnerships:**

- ◊Mushkegowuk Health Services for chiropractic and community nursing collaboration
- ◊NAN (for overdose prevention training)
- ◊Maamwesying (for mental health/palliative education)

## Closing Remarks

Over the last six months, our Health and Wellness team has remained steadfast in delivering quality nursing care, innovative health promotion, and culturally resonant community events. From the first Ladies Parka Workshop in the Fall to the Youth Spring Cultural Camp in May 2025, our collaboration with local partners and volunteer champions has made a tangible difference in everyone's well-being. We extend heartfelt thanks to community members for attending clinics, workshops, and cultural gatherings. Your engagement fuels our commitment to continuous improvement. As we move into the summer months, we look forward to new programs—especially Indigenous People's Day and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PowWow—that will strengthen health equity, celebrate Indigenous identity, and create lasting memories.

Stay tuned for details on upcoming events and clinic schedules. Together, we will continue to nurture a healthier, more connected community.

**Miigwetch,  
Kevin Drynan  
Healthcare Director  
Chapleau Cree Health Centre**











LEFT: Winter craft activities at CCFN Health Centre

TOP: CCFN Youth Fish Derby

RIGHT: Randy Corston roasts a couple of rabbits over an open fire.



LIFES SACRED JOURNEY EASTER EGG HUNT!















LEFT: Chapleau Public School Pow Wow

TOP: Traditional Community Spring Feast

RIGHT: New Playground equipment on Margaret Ann Road!

Photo credit: Marlene Kapashesit













# St. John's IRS Initiative - Deanna Dixon

## Wachay to our fellow community members,

In our shared journey of searching for the truth, we reflect on the legacy of this work with deep care and responsibility. We are thankful to provide these updates and insights into our program - *Our Children Who Never Came Home: St. John's IRS Initiative*.

## Funding Challenges & Adjustments

This past fall and winter brought funding challenges unlike those in previous years. The project management consultants that we have partnered with, Narratives Inc., had advised us to slow down on community engagement and outreach activities, but as a team, we knew these events were too vital to pause. Our strong commitment to community-led healing and truth-telling remains.



The Initiative's *Phase II* workplan, developed by the Technical Working Group (with Leads and Community Coordinators from Chapleau Cree FN, Chapleau Ojibwe FN, and Brunswick House FN) during a Summer 2024 re-search training workshop had to be considerably revised. In August 2024, CIRNAC (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada) announced a sudden \$500,000 funding cap—an 83% reduction from the originally promised \$3 million. While this cap was later lifted, we received no communication from CIRNAC until January 2025—ten months into the fiscal year. Additionally, our application for

funding from Indigenous Affairs Ontario for 2024–2025 remains unapproved. We are currently operating on deferred funds from the previous year. Despite these uncertainties, we remain confident in the strength and importance of this work, and we continue forward in a good way.

## Community Engagement Highlights

As mentioned, we shifted to hosting a few more focused Survivors' Working Circle meetings rather than to have one larger community-wide Fall Gathering as was once planned. In October 2024 we hosted a Fall Elders' Feast with approximately 35 attendees, where we invited IRS Survivors and their families and supports to attend. This Feast ended with a small giveaway as well.

Furthermore, the Initiative was approved for a one-time commemoration fund of \$25,000 from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to create a memorial plaque for the children of the first St. John's Indian Residential School site, to preserve their memory as well as ensure that the history of site 1 is not lost to time. A hybrid meeting was hosted on March 25, 2025, to launch a survey to the Survivors' Working Circle to gain necessary and valuable feedback to shape this plaque as well as future plans for memorialization and commemoration of site 1.

## Search & Research Efforts

Additionally, over the fall and winter months we continued to coordinate with our technical search team members in the areas of archeology, LiDAR, GPR, and Historic Human Remains



Detection Dogs to narrow down the areas in which these services will search. Best practice is to use a layered approach of searching methods and capture a full picture of the landscape. Best practice is also to gather as much historic and first-person research as possible, by way of collecting archival records, records from IRS Survivors, and interviews with Survivors and their families.

Notices of Initiative works will go out to community via the weekly pamphlet, CCFN's Facebook page, and the Initiative Facebook page, as to what and when these pieces are scheduled. Any data generated will also be presented to the Survivors'

Working Circle, Chief and Council, and the wider community of CCFN. These are referred to as findings.

Andrew Hinshelwood and Jonathan Haxell from Northwest Archeological Associations, had a



site visit November 2024 and April 2025. Currently, a report of their initial scan of this work was released to both Chief and Council and to the Survivors Working Circle as of April 2025. Along with this report, CCFN Lead requested a summary in a concise point form document to be able to better communicate among our channels. To date, Andrew and Jonathan will come back to our community several more times. Balko Technology completed one of their drone LiDAR sessions late April 2025 and will be working with the



Initiative to gather more drone imagery. The Historic Human Remains Detection Teams have also indicated they will be here in Summer 2025, so stay up to date with us for further news. Additionally, as always, the team will ensure that community supports will be available surrounding the work as things progress.

## Phase II Site Search Spring Gathering

Most recently, we hosted the **Phase II Site Search Spring Gathering** at the Chapleau Arena, with around **130 attendees**, including IRS Survivors, families, support groups, surrounding First Nation leadership, and community members. The two-and-a-half-day event featured powerful storytelling from Survivors of Shingwauk and other IRS sites, presentations on search methodologies, and showcases of community projects like **Quilts for Survivors**.

We extend our deepest thanks to the fire keepers, drummers, facilitators, mental health and cultural support workers, mindfulness and Reiki practitioners, and Resolution Health Support Workers who made this gathering possible. Above all, we thank the Survivors and their families for being with us—for their courage, strength, and continued presence in this sacred work.

**Meegwetch,**

**Deanna Dixon, RSW**

Initiative Lead

*Our Children Who Never Came Home*

St. John's IRS Initiative

*kic awāšimišinawak ekā kā ohci-peci-kīwecik*







# Life's Sacred Journey Report

## - Hilary Arsenault-Broomhead

### Welcoming a New Team Member

We are excited to have Mary-Katherine Piche join the department as our Jordan's Principle Co-Ordinator/Prevention Worker. She has brought a genuine excitement to be part of the team and a strong commitment to supporting our mission. Her eagerness to get involved and have purposeful interactions with both colleagues and families has already made quite an impact. We're excited to see the passion she brings to this role continue to grow. Please join us in extending a warm welcome as she integrates into our team and begins working closely with the families we serve. She can be reached at 705 860-0001 or [prevention@lifessacredjourney.ca](mailto:prevention@lifessacredjourney.ca)

### Building Stronger Connections through Collaboration

Over the past few months, we've had the pleasure of teaming up with the Chapleau Cree Health Centre for some community-building events. Our Community Christmas party was a joyful celebration filled with games, gifts, laughter, and meaningful connection. March Break brought the opportunity for adventure memory making trips that gave families a chance to relax and recharge. Most recently, our Easter Egg Hunt was a tremendous success, bringing smiles to children and adults alike and reinforcing the importance of togetherness and community spirit.

### Navigating Changes in Jordan's Principle

There have been some recent updates to how Jordan's Principle requests are being processed, based on new guidelines from the February 2025 Operational Bulletin from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), new procedures for processing requests have been introduced. These changes are meant to help make sure that resources are used fairly and that First Nations children continue to get the help they need in a way that supports equality.

Key updates include:

**Documentation Requirements:** All requests must clearly demonstrate how the requested service meets the distinct needs of the child and specifically how it will help the child. Requests also must explain how your child has experienced gaps or delays in getting services or was denied because of their First Nations identity. Supporting documentation from a professional, such as letter or note from a professional (like a doctor, teacher, or social worker) is required to support your request.

**Limits on What Can Be Funded:** Certain types of requests will no longer be approved unless they are necessary to achieve substantive equality. This means that some requests will only be approved if they are considered necessary to make sure your child is treated equally.

These include:

- Buying, building, or renovating a home
- Paying for competitive sports or sports training (unless it's clearly tied to your child's health or education needs)
- International travel (unless it's for urgent medical care)
- Non-medical supports like travel costs, childcare, clothing, furniture, or vehicles — unless a professional confirms the child needs them for health, education, or well-being

**Case-by-Case Evaluation:** Every request will be reviewed on its own. Just because something was approved before doesn't mean a similar request will be approved again.

These changes are part of ISC's efforts to manage the significant increase in the number of requests and to make sure Jordan's Principle can continue to support families into the future. Even with these changes, our department is still here to help you through the process and make sure your child gets the support they need.

## **Bi-Weekly Counselling Support in the Community**

In addition to our regular programming, we are also pleased to let you know that Patrick Champagne, a registered social worker has been visiting the Community on a bi-weekly basis to provide counselling services to our Members. With extensive experience supporting First Nation individuals in areas such as grief, addiction, and trauma, Patrick offers a compassionate and culturally-informed approach to healing. This service is here to provide a safe space for individuals who may need someone to talk to or who are seeking support on their healing journey. For more information or to access this service, please reach out to our department directly at **705 860-0003** or **bandrep@lifessacredjourney.ca**.

## **Here for Families—Always**

Despite these changes, our department remains dedicated to supporting families through every season of life. Whether you're navigating a complex application, facing an unexpected challenge, or simply need someone to talk to, our doors are always open. We're here to listen, to help, and to walk alongside you during difficult times and moments of joy alike.

Thank you for being part of this community.

**With gratitude,**

***Hilary Arsenault-Broomhead***  
***Band Representative/LSJ Manager***





# Lands and Resources Director - Kyle Corston



## Wachay Chapleau Cree!

Well, we've finally made it to summer after what seemed like an endlessly freezing winter, and an unseasonably cold wet spring. Since our last update, our department has shrunk down a bit somewhat, as Lauryn Cachagee has moved on to the Mushkegowuk Lands Department where she is employing her talents as their GIS Education Specialist (we wish you good luck Lauryn!). So it's just me here in the Lands Department, sharing the office with the ladies running the St. John's IRS Initiative, until we can find someone to fill the Lands Technician position!

As mineral and forestry extraction continue in our traditional territory, and with HydroOne about to build a transmission line through our lands that will serve the mining operations in North Western Ontario (ie Ring of Fire), the biggest issue we are anticipating since the last newsletter update (that connects all of these issues together) is Bill 5, that was just passed by the Ford Government on June 4<sup>th</sup>. "*Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*" is the recent contentious bill passed by the provincial government, without First Nations consultation or consent, which empowers the government to create 'special economic zones' where cabinet can exempt companies and projects from having to comply with provincial laws and regulations, or municipal bylaws. This is all in reaction to the recent tariff war with United States, and with similar bills being passed in provinces across Canada, and the Feds pushing Bill C-5, the "*One Canadian Economy: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act*", even newly elected Prime Minister Mark Carney is talking about how accessing Canada's 'critical minerals' will help increase NATO defense spending and build up Canada "big bold and better". This is a serious concern to our Lands and Treaty rights, and the fate of our rivers, lakes and forests, and all the living creatures who depend on this earth to live. We are anticipating peaceful resistance and political organization in reaction to all this from First Nations and allies across the province and country, so don't be surprised if the summer of 2025 is a hot one! We will be keeping an eye on things here at CCFN and will be responding appropriately to make sure our lands and resources are being protected as much as we can, in spirit and honour of our ancestors and the treaties they made with the crown.

An initiative that we started in collaboration with Mushkegowuk and Wahkohtowin, is the "**CCFN TEK CHALLENGE**" using the SIKU phone app, to help record and map Traditional Ecological Knowledge in CCFN's traditional territory. **SIKU: The Indigenous Knowledge Social Network** is a mobile app and web platform *by and for* Indigenous people, that allows users to post photos and notes about wildlife and plant sightings, track hunting trips, share weather and





environmental information and map them for others to see. **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)** is defined as a cumulative body of knowledge, practices and beliefs developed by Indigenous People over generations through direct interaction with the environment. This includes our traditional Oral History and Traditions, contemporary hunting, trapping, camping and medicine picking practices, and traditional ways that we still use the land. Mushkegowuk Tribal Council currently keeps all of our mapped TEK data and values points that have been collected through the years in interviews with elders, land users, and other band members over the decades, stored on their computers in their Timmins office since they have more capacity and capabilities to carefully store this important information for us. These points on the map have protected buffer prescriptions, meaning when forestry companies consult with us about cutting or spraying a forest block, for instance, we will give them the points on the map that have been recorded as TEK values, and forest companies will respect the buffers and not cut or spray these locations. ***This is where you guys come in:*** download the SIKU phone app, create a profile, and join the “**CCFN TEK Challenge**” in the ‘projects’ section. Land Users and Band Members can use this phone app (which works offline while you’re in the bush) to take pics and record cultural values on the land, which we here in the Lands Departments at CCFN and Mushkegowuk will take and add them as TEK values in our database. Band Members who use the app and record the most TEK values in our traditional territory will **win a cash prize at the end of this year’s Fall Harvest**, in order to create an incentive to participate. This will be a fun way for members to get involved on the land and help put more TEK values on the map to create more buffers that won’t get cut or sprayed with glyphosate. So download the **SIKU** app now, get on the **CCFN TEK Challenge project**, and help us defend our lands, while recording your traditional knowledge! Call Kyle at the band office for more details on the contest, at **705-864-0784**.



That’s it for now. We will continue to keep people posted about events and happenings in the territory on the Chapleau Cree First Nation Facebook page and in our regular mailouts. We’ve also been updating those who live locally with dinner engagements here at the Band Office that have had some pretty good turnouts and interest (with some great food catered!) which we’ll continue to hold regularly since it’s usually a good place for members to share concerns and ask questions as well. And I’m usually here in the office if you’d like to call or stop in for a cup of coffee or tea, so come in and say hello anytime!

**Meegwetch!**

**Kyle Corston, Lands & Resources Director**





# Wahkohtowin - Sara Bilodeau

**Wacheyay, Boozhoo!**

## **Kicking Off the 2025 Guardian Program**

The 2025 season of the Wahkohtowin Guardian Program is officially underway. Guardians from across our owner First Nations are beginning their training and preparing for a season of land-based monitoring, cultural revitalization, and community engagement. This marks another step in Wahkohtowin's continued commitment to supporting Nation-led stewardship — work that is rooted in Indigenous knowledge, values, and governance.

Throughout the upcoming months, Guardians will be on the land, gathering data, protecting cultural and ecological values, and strengthening connections between community and territory. Their presence is not only about environmental monitoring — it is about restoring relationships and responsibilities to the land.

We are excited to see what this year's team will accomplish and how their efforts will contribute to long-term Nation building.



## **Welcoming New Team Members**

With the new season comes new energy, and we're thrilled to welcome three new members to the Wahkohtowin team in 2025.

Julie Servant joins us as Guardian Program Manager, bringing a strong background in land-based work and field coordination. Her leadership and on-the-ground experience make her a valuable guide for our Guardians as they carry out meaningful and sometimes challenging work across vast territories. Julie's commitment to community and to upholding the values of Indigenous stewardship will help grow and strengthen the program in important ways.

We also welcome Tristan Flood as our new Forestry & Guardian Coordinator. Tristan's role is a key link between forestry planning and Guardian work, helping ensure that Indigenous voices, rights, and knowledge systems are integrated into land management strategies. His coordination will support Guardians in navigating the technical aspects of land use plan-





ning, while maintaining a strong cultural lens.

Finally, Sara Bilodeau joins us as Communications and Marketing Coordinator. With a passion for visual storytelling and a deep respect for the work being done in the field, Sara will help amplify the voices of our communities and promote the important work happening on the ground. From highlighting the successes of our Guardians to sharing updates on our collaborative projects, Sara's role is about building meaningful connections through story.

We are grateful to have all three on board as we continue building a strong, community-driven organization rooted in Indigenous self-determination.



### A Note on the Height of Land Initiative

The Height of Land conservation project continues to grow and evolve. This ambitious and deeply collaborative initiative is centered on returning land to Indigenous governance, affirming stewardship responsibilities, and protecting vital ecosystems for generations to come.

Led by Wahkohtowin in partnership with our owner First Nations, the project is not only about conservation — it's about reclaiming space for Indigenous law, knowledge, and leadership. As we move forward with new phases of mapping and community outreach in 2025, the work is guided by the voices and priorities of the Nations we serve.

We're grateful for the leadership of our partner communities, the support of our collaborators, and the many individuals working to ensure the land is cared for with respect, love, and responsibility.

To stay connected with the journey and learn more about the project as it unfolds, be sure to follow **@heightoflandproject** on social media for the latest updates, visuals, and stories from the land.

**Meegwetch!**  
**The Wahkohtowin Team!**





# CCFN Community Trust - *Brian Ritchie*

## Wachay CCFN Trust Beneficiaries, aka Members!

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, who was just elected for a new 6-year term. At the next election in 2028, there will be the On-Reserve Trustee and Off- Reserve Trustee will be open for election.

Financially, the Trust continues to perform well with our investments managed by BMO Trust. Our 2024 financial results will be presented in the Fall Newsletter. There are two different accounts within the Trust; one is the Treaty Land Entitlement Per Capita Distribution holdings for minors that is distributed to them the year after they turn 18. The larger part of the Trust holdings, about six million dollars, is invested for projects to support the Purposes of the Trust but it is also used to provide TLE PCD payments for new Members that become eligible for distribution. There have been some changes to the Indian Act in recent years which allow people that were not previously eligible for status to gain their status, and these new status persons can be eligible for CCFN Membership and possibly be entitled to a TLE PCD payment.

The requirements for TLE PCD payment under the Deed of Trust is very particular and very clear. It states that to be eligible for the TLE PCD payment, a person's earliest application to ISC for status must be before the TLE Agreement Ratification Date of January 17, 2016. **For complete clarity, anyone who gains status under any updates to the Indian Act, that does not have an application for status to Indigenous Services Canada dated before January 17, will NOT be eligible for a TLE PCD payment.** Following this requirement, their application must be approved by ISC (timing is not critical here) and the person has to apply to become a CCFN Member within one year their status approval by ISC. If you feel you fall into this category, please discuss it with the Band's Indian Registry Administrator and they can assist you in submitting documentation to the Trust.

Besides funding any additional PCD eligibility payments, the larger fund of the Trust is used fund projects to advance community interests for all Members, on and off Reserve.

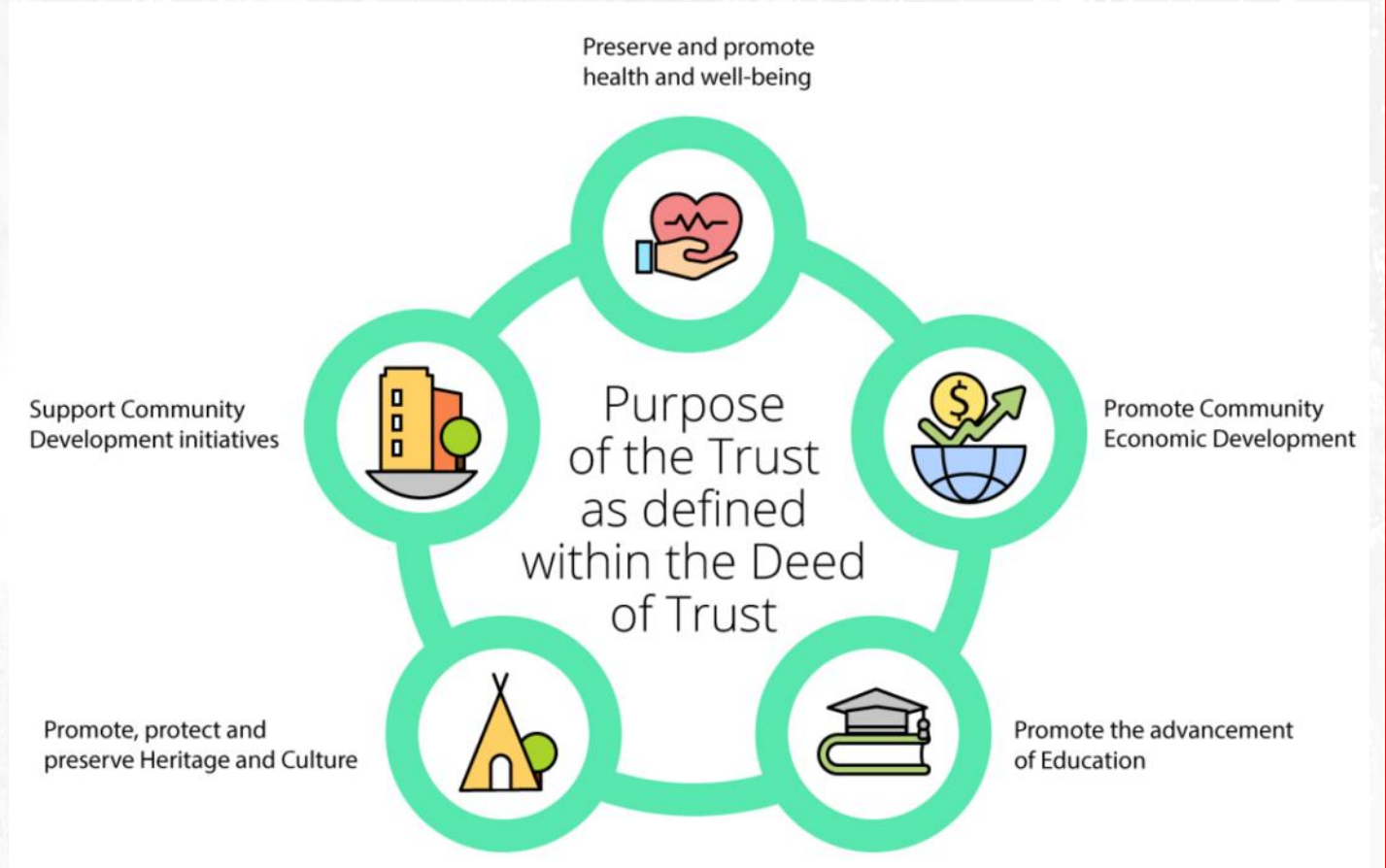
To this end, the Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in late 2023. This RFP was for (status) Members to propose a Culture and Heritage project that ranged from \$25,000 to \$150,000. The RFP was communicated via email (where we have valid opt-in email addresses), on the iamcree.ca website, and 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 economic development and

this was done in September 2024. New project funding of an additional \$150,000 is available for a Trust project for 2025. **For this project we will re-run the RFP for Culture and Heritage in September 2025.**

To this end, and because we did not receive any proposals to our RFP in 2023, the Trust recently advertised and conducted a RFP training workshop for Members through a webinar on June 11, 2025. If you did not attend this webinar, but you are interested in learning about the Trust RFP Process proposals prior to the next RFP in 2025, the webinar session recording will be available on the iamcree.ca website in early July.

If you would like to participate in the September RFP for Culture and Heritage, you are highly encouraged to review RFP training webinar on the iamcree.ca website and start your proposal and project planning this summer. There are coaching and tools presented in the webinar to support you on this. In addition, when the RFP is underway, the Trust is also funding several hours of one-on-one coaching support with our partner Mokwateh while you are developing your proposal.

As a reminder, while the next RFP in September 2025 will again focus on promoting and preserving CCFN’s Culture and Heritage, funding in future RFPs can support any of the Purposes of the Trust as shown in the diagram below.





Separate from RFPs, the Trust was contacted by a University of BC (UBC) professor who did her master's research with Chapleau Cree in 2002. This work involved audio interviews with elders within our community and these cultural assets are being digitized and will be made available for Members through the iamcree.ca website later this year.

There is now another master's student from UBC that is conducting research with CCFN membership about what it means to regain and preserve our Culture and Heritage. You may have received an email about this from the Trust. If you did not receive an email, and you would like to be considered for participation in the research, you can register at this location:

**[https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cl3eWB1qMeCHsfs](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cl3eWB1qMeCHsfs).**

In the meantime, as we cross over the Summer Solstice, the Trustees would like to wish all our members and their families a very safe, healthy and happy summer and vacation season. We look forward to our work together where we can continue to regain and share our culture and heritage and grow stronger as a healthy and thriving community!

**Meegwetch,**

**Brian Ritchie**



# EFT PAYMENTS

If you recently:

- ✓ Changed Bank Accounts or Institutions
- ✓ Moved to a new Residential Address
- ✓ Created a new email address

Please complete and return the **updated EFT Form** to ensure all payments are properly processed.



705-864-0784 X 225  
Lorelei Moreau - [finance@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:finance@chapleaucree.ca)



# CREEFEST

JULY 22-24  
2025



Vern Cheechoo &  
Lawrence Martin  
The Swamp Rockers  
The Poets  
Don Burnstick  
Drezus

Fiddler, Traditional Food Tent, Business & Artisan  
Vendors, Cultural Workshops & CCFN Bingo  
- Program Updates & Daily Schedule Upcoming...



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

Canada



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien



Chapleau  
Chapleau Recreation Centre

4 Maple St. Chapleau, ON

Contact:

CCFN Coordinators:

Dakota Souliere [dakotasouliere@gmail.com](mailto:dakotasouliere@gmail.com) &

Ian Mercier [ianmercier35@gmail.com](mailto:ianmercier35@gmail.com)

Tel: (705) 989-6691

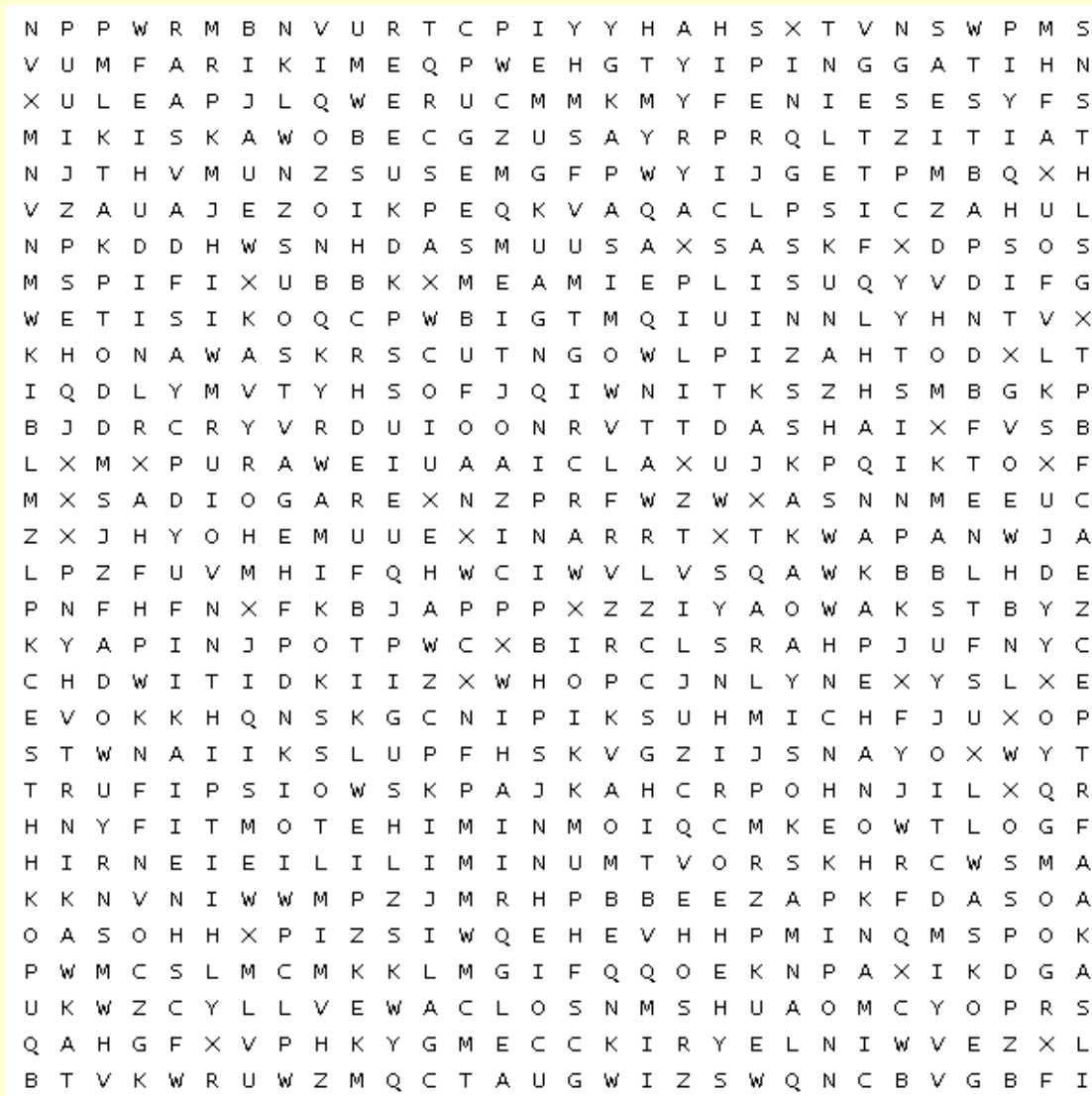
Mushkegowuk Coordinator:

Rich Hunter [rich@gunnerriverrecords.com](mailto:rich@gunnerriverrecords.com)



# MOOSE CREE DIALECT WORDFIND!

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



Ciman (canoe)

Micim (food)

Otehimin (strawberry)

Wapanohk (east)

Cistapason (anchor)

Mikiskaw (late autumn)

Pemawasinahikew (to vote)

Wasko (cloud)

Ililimin (blueberry)

Miloskamin (late spring)

Pipon (winter)

Wastepaliw (lightning)

Iskotehkan (stove)

Nakapehanohk (west)

Piwapisk (motor)

Kapasimow (to swim)

Nipin (summer)

Sawanohk (south)

Kapesiw (to camp)

Nipiy (water)

Sikwan (early spring)

Kisitew (hot)

Notamesewin (fishing)

Takwakin (early autumn)

Kiwetinothk (north)

Okimaw (chief)

Tipiskipisim (moon)

Maskosiya (grass)

Onimiskiw (thunder)

Wapan (dawn)





# Meet Our **NEW** Staff

Darren Byce has joined the Chapleau Cree First Nation team as Health Custodian!

After 29 seasons with the Ontario Fire Program and the Manitoba Wildfire Service, Darren made the decision to return home to Chapleau to be closer to family and friends. As a proud member of C.C.F.N., he is grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community in any way he can.

Born and raised in Chapleau, he has strong ties to the area, with many relatives living both in town and at C.C.F.N. He brings with him a wide range of skills and experience gained from nearly three decades in forest fire management, including leadership, emergency response, and teamwork under high-pressure conditions. He enjoys spending time outdoors and is a dedicated Toronto Maple Leafs fan. 🍁

Darren Byce can be reached by:

Phone: (705) 864-0200

Email: [h.janitor@chapleaucree.ca](mailto:h.janitor@chapleaucree.ca)

# Welcome



**CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION**

# **10TH ANNUAL CULTURAL HARVEST**

**OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup>  
ALL DAY EVENTS**



**ART & CRAFTS WORKSHOPS**

**TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**OUTDOOR GAMES**

**FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED**

**MORE DETAILS TO COME.  
PLEASE FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK GROUP  
FOR UPDATED INFORMATION  
“CHAPLEAU CREE FIRST NATION”**





# Upcoming Events

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

**July 22-24, 2025:** CreeFest 2025

**August 8, 2025:** St. John's IRS Memorial Ceremony

**August 9-10, 2025:** CCFN 28th Annual Pow Wow

**September 30, 2025:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

**October 6-9, 2025:** 10th Annual CCFN Fall Harvest (Grassy Lake)

**Join us on Facebook for updates!**



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

**Chapleau Cree First Nation**

**Fox Lake Reserve**

**P.O. Box 400**

**Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0**

**PH (705) 864-0784**

**FAX (705) 864-1760**

**communityrelations@chapleaucree.ca**

