

# WAWATAY NEWS

Blending Tradition with Technology

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photo by David B. Fiddler, Facebook

Sandy Lake collecting donations for the food drive to go to Pikangikum. For more pictures visit: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10154689057528154&set=a.10153035297783154.1073741826.773798153&type=3&theater>

Willow Fiddler  
Wawatay News

A First Nations community in North-western Ontario is pitching in to help the people of Pikangikum who are reeling over the death of a family of nine killed in a deadly fire last week.

Sandy Lake, a fly-in community with more than 3,000 residents, raised nearly \$24,000 in just five hours.

Some of the people in Sandy Lake knew the victims.

The family, including three children, perished in the fire on March 29 in Pikangikum.

The Ojibway community of approximately 2,300 people has been plagued with ongoing crisis for years including epidemics of suicide.

When the news of the multiple fatalities reached Sandy Lake, welfare administrator David B. Fiddler spurred into action.

Fiddler said two of the adults who perished in the house fire late Tuesday night were colleagues working for social assistance in their own community.

"We needed to come together. We can only imagine how hard it must be to lose one of your fellow staff members like that," Fiddler said.

Fiddler said he reached out to

Pikangikum the morning after the deadly fire.

"I said, whatever you guys need just let us know."

Later that day, five Sandy Lake council members and the chief flew to Pikangikum to offer their support. The community was being referred to as "Ground Zero" to convey the enormous emotional impact that losing three generations of one family has had on the tight-knit residents.

Coun. Fabian Crowe said a lot of community members were waiting at the airport when they arrived and the magnitude of the tragedy that had just occurred was felt as soon as they landed.

"There were people crying already and they just came running to the plane. They wanted support, any kind of support."

Crowe said that scene played over and over again as planes began arriving that afternoon including from neighboring community Cat Lake First Nation, another carrying several special investigators and another with a victim's sister and her family from Sandy Lake.

"There was lots of people crying, even the chief. They didn't even know what to do," Crowe said.

The council members attended the

## Sandy Lake pulls together to help out after Pikangikum tragedy

scene of the house fire. The bodies of all nine family members were still inside. Crowe said the two O.P.P. officers guarding the scene were the only people around.

"People couldn't even go there because they couldn't even see the sight. We didn't see anybody just standing around, just only those two officers. That's how hard it was for them to go see it."

Crowe said he can't describe how it felt to be standing there looking at where a family of nine people lay dead, the youngest victim just eight-months old.

He said at that point, not even the chief of Pikangikum had been to the scene.

"It's hard for me, just imagine...how he must feel," said Crowe.

By Thursday morning, Fiddler had heard back from his colleagues in Pikangikum who said they were in need of food. Fiddler said it didn't take long for people to get moving.

"The response right from the get-go was tremendous," he said.

A food drive was started and donations were received in the Ontario Works office back in Sandy Lake. Fiddler said groceries, clothing, traditional food and even food that was already prepared to eat was collected over a period of about four hours - enough to fill the back of a pick-up truck.

"That's just how Sandy Lake is in times like this," he said.

Fiddler says staff members from the early childhood development office received and packaged all the donations as they came in. A local community member volunteered his truck to take the donations to the plane and another local donor provided the plane transportation to Pikangikum.

At the same time food donations were being coordinated, the local radio station collected cash donations being called in from community members.

Fiddler and Crowe arrived at the

radio station just before noon to promote the food drive. By that time, Fiddler said about \$2,000 in donations had been pledged by those who called in. When they left an hour later, the amount had multiplied reaching \$12,000.

Fiddler said it really picked up when Crowe got a call from local business Adowgamick Enterprises with a \$5,000 donation.

"Oh, I could just feel it in my back," said Crowe. "You just feel it."

"We were just getting hot, we had our jackets on and we had to take off our jackets," said Fiddler of the overwhelming support that was pouring in.

Fiddler said he's not necessarily surprised at the amount of money and donations that was raised in such a short time.

"Anybody that's in a group got together and did something. It was coming from everywhere," Fiddler said of the donations.

The Sandy Lake Riverhawks, the men's hockey team who just brought home the championship from the Northern Bands Hockey Tournament made a donation of \$600 and ladies broomball champions the Blazing Archers donated \$500.

"(It's) something to see," he said. "I'm glad I'm from Sandy Lake. I could cry but I don't usually cry easy. That's how I feel."

Sandy Lake Coun. John McKay said the chief of Pikangikum was moved to tears when a community member delivered the cheque to him in person on Friday.

"I think the community felt something when they knew we were trying to help them," he said.

Former chief of Sandy Lake Adam Fiddler offered prayers to Pikangikum in a Facebook post. He recounted his own experience of a fatal house fire during his time as chief when he and a volunteer firefighter crawled into a burning home where they found two bodies. He said he then had to go and inform the family

waiting outside.

"Community leaders take on many responsibilities that would never be expected of municipal mayors and councillors," Fiddler's post read.

Fiddler made note of the challenges facing First Nation communities like Pikangikum and Sandy Lake including, "limited resources, inadequate infrastructure and unsafe, overcrowded homes."

Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler echoed Fiddler's concerns stating that "overcrowding, unsafe building standards and a lack of basic fire-fighting equipment" puts peoples lives in danger.

The chief of Pikangikum, Dean Owen, told CBC in a recent interview that his community has no fire department and most of the community has no running water. He said the only fire truck in the community couldn't make it to the fire because of poor road conditions.

"Such tragedies are avoidable, and it is critical that our communities are resourced appropriately to address their needs to ensure their health and safety," said Grand Chief Fiddler.

On Saturday afternoon, the remains of the nine family members were transported to Toronto where they will be examined and identified. Pikangikum Coun. Ken King said he isn't sure how long it will take to identify each one.

"We really need prayers because there's a lot of pain right now," said King.

He said the funerals are going to be especially painful for the families because they won't get to see their loved ones one last time if the caskets are closed. He said the funerals have not been planned yet.

"It's going to take a long time to heal, for people to heal."

King said the community has been receiving a lot of support from surrounding communities, nearby towns, Manitoba and even from the Toronto area.

"It helps a lot," said King.

## NAN comments on the 2016 Federal Budget

Geoff Shields  
Wawatay News

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Government has released its first Budget to mixed reactions. Significantly, the First Nations People of Canada were awarded \$8.4 billion to be spread over a five-year period with a large proportion being allocated towards education. \$2.6 billion is to be spent over the next five years for primary and secondary schooling on reserves. Also included is \$2 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure; a need brought to light by the recent tragic developments in Kasechewan First Nation.

Wawatay News spoke to NAN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation) Grand Chief Alvin

Fiddler about what he thought the effect would be on NAN's First Nations communities.

Q. What are your views on the budget in relation to First Nations. Are you happy with it?

A. Overall I think the budget is promising and definitely better than what we have seen from past federal governments over the last decade, but we really need to watch how these commitments roll out. The most important test will be seeing how much of this funding actually reaches NAN First Nations and what progress is made in our communities.

It's easy to get distracted by big numbers in these funding announcements but I think \$8.4 billion over five years is a good start. We see commitments to

water quality, to capacity in our organizations and to education-all areas we have been advocating about for years. But the true value of these dollars will be in the fine print-we saw the last government put large sums of money toward certain issues, but if the funding gets tied up in the bureaucracy, if it is too restricted by policy to be useful, if it is spread too thinly, if it is too prescriptive, then it ends up being spent in ways that do not contribute to the actual alleviation of issues. You can make all the posters you want about ending violence against women, but at some point you need the capacity to go deeper. Under the last government, we got a lot of poster making money. We're hoping for a lot more this time.

I am also pleased that this govern-

ment kept its commitment to fund the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls with \$40 million over two years. The next critical step, of course is ensuring that our families are fully involved with the development of the scope of the inquest to ensure that the needs of our families and communities are adequately addressed.

I am disappointed there were no financial commitments to improving policing development in the Ring of Fire and the implementation of the 96 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which the Prime Minister promised to implement.

Q. Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day stated that no money was allocated to address child welfare in First Nations,

who were also not included in plan for new low carbon economy.

A. I am very disappointed that more funding wasn't allocated for First Nations child welfare, especially given the recent landmark Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision. It is estimated that \$200 million is needed this year alone to begin to close the gap, but only \$70 million was committed. Nothing is more important than the care and well being of our children.

I agree with Regional Chief Day about the exclusion. NAN territory is home to one of the nations largest carbon sinks; so to leave us out of planning for a new low carbon economy is incredibly unwise on the part of Canada.

Cont'd on page 2

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# Feature

## Kinna-aweya's Chantal Walterson wins award

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's Chantal Walterson recently received the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award from Governor General David Johnston at a special ceremony in Thunder Bay.

"I was very surprised but also very touched," says Walterson, Kinna-aweya's community legal worker/licensed paralegal. "I had never won anything before and to be recognized for all my volunteer work was truly touching and very much appreciated."

Walterson says she has been involved "quite a bit" with volunteering for a variety of causes in the Geraldton area.

"I started at our Royal Canadian Legion Branch here about 12 years ago," Walterson says. "I started off as just a regu-

lar volunteer helping out with special events and dances and suppers. And then I sat on the board of the Royal Canadian Legion and then I was actually appointed to the president position (for two years)."

Walterson also volunteers on the board of the Greenstone Harvest Centre, the area's local food bank.

"We collect food and we distribute food," Walterson says, noting the centre is open two nights per month. "I meet the people when they come in and I prepare food hampers. And we deliver food to the various communities around our area."

Walterson also volunteers with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, which is offered through the Canada Revenue Agency.

"What I really love about that program is it allows me to prepare these returns for indi-



Submitted photo

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's Chantal Walterson recently received the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award from Governor General David Johnston at a special ceremony in Thunder Bay.

viduals that I know can't afford to get their income taxes done, especially families on social assistance, seniors, people with disabilities," Walterson says. "It kind of fits into my work as

a community legal worker. I've been doing it for over 10 years now. It's very successful and I will be doing this (income tax) program for as long as I am employed with the Kinna-

aweya Legal Clinic and even possibly beyond retirement. If I am able to I will continue providing that service because it is so important. If you don't have the means to get your income tax return filed and completed, your benefits such as Child Tax (Benefits), (Ontario) Trillium (Benefit) and any other benefits will cease at the end of June."

Walterson began working at the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic about 18 years ago. She became a community legal worker in 2004 and a licensed paralegal in 2008.

"Our focus is on poverty law issues," Walterson says. "We organize and present community legal education workshops and we work with the community for organized, positive change. We handle issues on social assistance, Ontario disability support programs, landlord and tenant issues, employment insurance."

The Caring Canadian Award was established by the former Governor General Roméo LeBlanc to recognize individuals who volunteer their time to help others and to build a smart and caring nation.

Created in 1995, the award consists of a letter, certificate and a lapel pin presented to recipients by the governor general or by lieutenant-governors, territorial commissioners, mayors, members of the Order of Canada or partner organizations.

The maple leaf on the award symbolizes the people of Canada and their spirit; the heart depicts the open-heartedness of volunteers; and the outstretched hand portrays boundless generosity.

"I am truly touched," Walterson says. "This award doesn't just belong to me, it belongs to all of my clients and colleagues at the legal clinic."

The Caring Canadian Awards ceremony was held on March 29 at City Hall, with Johnston and Mayor Keith Hobbs in attendance.

## Federal Budget

from page 1

Q. Can you see the Budget alleviating the current health crisis in remote First Nations communities?

A. The terrible situation in Kashechewan is an example of why we were forced to declare a Health and Public Health Emergency last month. These children are the faces of a larger systemic crisis facing NAN First Nations.

Budget 2016 commits \$82 million a year for two years to improve health care, but this is only for infrastructure (which we need) but does not provide for much needed services, programming and other supports. What we need and what we are working towards with our federal and provincial Treaty partners, is a trilateral approach to appropriately address the health emergency and suicide crisis in our communities with strategies for immediate and long-term solutions. Getting the commitments we need from Ontario and Canada will be a huge first step to alleviating some of the health care issues in our communities. But there has to be dollars allocated toward this, otherwise its just talk.

Norman Shewaybick showed us that one person can make a difference by walking all the way from Thunder Bay to Webequie First Nation this winter to raise awareness about the lack of health services in remote First Nations. His remarkable journey was an inspiration and we are just as determined to succeed.

Q. Do you think enough has been given to First Nation education as in funding for Secondary Education.

A. Without knowing how the funding will be allocated and what factors will be used to determine funds for northern, remote and isolated First Nations, we can't yet provide an analysis of the funding. The education experts will monitor this closely across our territory and our priority will be to ensure that the unique needs of NAN First Nations are taken into consideration when the funding methodology is determined.



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# Sports

**Geoff Shields**  
Wawatay News

The 2016 Northern Bands Hockey tournament saw some high paced, competitive hockey played in a spirit of friendliness as 40 teams battled it out at the Dryden Memorial Centre.

Max Kakepetum from Sandy Lake who is founder of the event has been organizing it since its inception. He spoke about how it began, "This year is the 31st year, I guess I can basically say that I started it 30 years ago and I'm still running it and it's been a good run. We started off with four teams 31 years ago, but right now we have 40 teams that are playing and basically how this hockey tournament runs is that each Northern Community plays against each other. There was a time a long time ago when there were no arenas, no place to play hockey we used to scrape the ice on the lake and that's how we started playing hockey. So to make it fair for the hockey teams coming from up North we started this tournament based on you only played for your band membership and you could not have any pickups and you could not bring in good hockey players or hire any that's how it has always been. The first game was held in Sioux Lookout and we were there for about 22 years. We did try to develop it in Thunder Bay for awhile because it's a bigger center and we needed at least two arenas and there are more motels over there, but Sioux Lookout used to be the traditional place and people are used to it, however we switched to Dryden because there are two arenas side by side and once you get in you are in for the whole day or the whole weekend, so it's a lot better to do it that way and there are more motels there. We have really strict rules, you have to belong to a band and you have to have a status card with that band before you are allowed to play. Our age limit is 16 and over yeah we used to allow younger ones like 15 year olds because some of them are bigger than us as in big boys, but right now it's 16 and over, it's an adult tournament.

He added, "This year the tournament has been pretty good, like with 40 teams and they all arrived, I thought they were going to have some problems getting here because of the warmer weather that we had when it began this week but lo and behold everybody made it though I think a couple of them may have flown in they had to be safe. We are already planning for the next one and as long as there is interest in this we will continue to go on, most

of the communities have their own arena now although there is a couple who don't have one but everybody looks forward to coming out and it's also during the school break so families do come here and they bring their families and the guys play hockey here it's a good time to be out."

Elder and Committee Member Gordon Tait from Sachigo First Nation shared, "I have been involved with the team since the 1970s when it first started, I was asked to be involved in this hockey as I am considered as an elder, the Board is here and I enjoy it, basically I just walk around and help out where I'm needed and make sure everything goes well. Now and then some minor incident happens which I deal with the problem, talk about it with the people involved then we sit down and resolve it. We all come here to have a good time, its an annual tournament and we are all lucky to come back, some of us don't and we should be thankful for being here because we don't know what going to happen tomorrow."

Ken Goodman Jr. from Sandy Lake who is the second Director of the event and also sits on the Board said: "I love the tournament, like I love seeing the people happy and I wish I could play hockey myself but I can't play anymore, I wish I could be out there with them but it's good to see them enjoying themselves we have had hardly any incidents so far, I don't mean on ice but off ice because no one is complaining and that's the best thing."

The C-Side teams Webequie and Lac Seul Ice Devils played in the finals with Webequie winning 5-2. They were followed by the B Side players Keewaywin Hawks v Pikangikum Ice Bears with the Bears scoring a win 3-2.

The A-Side Teams match between the Michikan Bears and the Sandy Lake Riverhawks after some highly emotionally charged hockey playing the final siren was sounded and a huge roar from the many Sandy Lake supporters present announced the fact that the Hawks had won 1-0.

Captain of the team Elton Grow was ecstatic, "It was awesome man our first win, and we had it all." Jackie Rae the Hawks Manager concurred, "It's been a long wait for this but we did it, there were a lot of practices and we pulled the team together when we got here. I became the manager because I organized the team and it was fun. When I started, I was the driver but when we got here I became the manager. It was a tough game, I'm glad we won."



photo by Geoff Shields

A-side teams the Michikan Bears and the Sandy Lake Riverhawks faced off in the A-side finals. Sandy Lake won 1-0.



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# Education

## Oshki graduation held at Musselwhite

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Cat Lake's Kyra Wesley plans to attend Confederation College's Environmental Technician program after graduating from Oshki-Pimache-O-Win's Aboriginal Mining and Skilled Trades Entry Program (AMSTEP).

"My favourite subject (in high school) was science," Wesley says. "I wanted to pick between chemistry and the environment, and I thought there was enough chemists in the world, so I (chose to) go for something in the environment."

Kingfisher Lake's Kevin Winter enjoyed the Pre-Trades portion of the program.

"We built the sleds," says Winter, who delivered a graduate address along with Cat Lake's Peter Oombash during the graduation ceremony. "We welded steel together, did some carpentry, we did some computer work and some manual paper work."

Wesley, Winter and eight other AMSTEP students from Cat Lake and Kingfisher Lake graduated on March 10 at the Goldcorp Musselwhite Mine, after completing the five-month, 800-hour skills training and work experience program.

"It was good — at first I didn't like it," says Ty Oombash, who graduated along with his brother Peter. "Quite frankly, I only signed up for the money, but as time went by ... I just stopped caring about the money. I just liked the experi-

ence, the skills I was learning."

Ty says it took time to get used to getting up in the middle of the night for the early morning shift.

"It was a bit of a routine to get into," Ty says. "Waking up at 3:00 in the morning is hard, and working for 12 hours is even harder."

Ty plans to work on completing his education, including Mill Common Core training.

"I'll probably give it a shot with the millwrights," Ty says.

Ty's mother Delia Oombash was proud of her sons' accomplishments.

"It was a very proud moment," Delia says. "I know it has been hard for them for the last couple of months. I'm very proud of them."

Ray Augustine, Delia's partner, was also proud of Ty and Peter's accomplishments.

"I hope they can follow their dreams and accomplish what they set out in their life," Augustine says. "I wish them both the best."

The graduates were the second group to graduate from AMSTEP, which is a partnership between Oshki and Goldcorp. The program was created to bring Mining Essentials and skills training to Aboriginal youth in the First Nations signatory communities under the Musselwhite Agreement.

"This is an innovative program for expanding opportunities for Aboriginal youth and creating local workforces that meet industry workforce needs," says Rosie Mosquito,

Oshki's executive director.

Bill Gascon, mine general manager at the Musselwhite Mine, says the program has been life changing for many of the graduates.

"Having the students share their skills and their training alongside our own employees at Goldcorp is very valuable," Gascon says. "I look forward to hopefully seeing some of you in our workforce in the near future. Or if you've decided to take on post-secondary education, all the best to you in your future endeavours."

Kingfisher Lake Chief James Mamakwa congratulated Oshki and Goldcorp for providing the program to the graduates.

"We all need employment," Mamakwa says, noting there are "virtually no employment" opportunities in his community. "Hopefully these young grads will find employment in the community or elsewhere."

Cat Lake Chief Russell Wesley says the program provides youth with transferrable skills that they can use anywhere.

"That is what we have always strived for," Wesley says. "I am glad to see the youth happy and I wish them well."

The graduates received certificates from Oshki, and industry-recognized Mining Essentials certificates jointly issued by Oshki and the Mining Industry Human Resources Council. The graduates also received training certificates from Cambrian College, Windigo Catering and YES Employment Services.



photo by Rick Garrick

Oshki-Pimache-O-Win's Aboriginal Mining and Skilled Trades Entry Program graduates try out their new Musselwhite Mine jackets after graduation.



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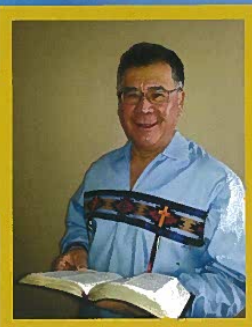
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Community Futures Development Program

# Land use planning group focused on traditions

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

The Taashikaywin land use planning group jointly developed by Mishkeegogamang and Eabametoong is one of Thunder Bay-based CE Strategies' larger projects.

"They (Mishkeegogamang and Eabametoong) are writing their draft plan, so they will take all of the information they have gathered (from) talking with community members, talking about the land, how they want to preserve the land, what areas are sacred to them, where there might be burial sites," says Brent Forsyth, co-owner of CE Strategies. "They will put it all into these plans and onto a map and we can start making plans on how they might want to use that land to protect certain areas based on those values or those traditions."

Once the draft plan is completed, Forsyth says the two First Nations will take it to their communities for approval.

"If the community members want to add anything, they can go ahead and do that," Forsyth says. "Once they are finished and the community is happy with it, the community will sign off. And then the minister will sign off as well."

Forsyth says the plan can include areas where only community-based forestry, such as fuel wood or community lumber, would be allowed.

"Maybe they want to put a one-kilometre buffer around a certain lake or a river because they hold that really dear and important to them for tradi-

tional usage," Forsyth says. "So for a kilometre around that lake there is no forestry or mining or whatever it might be."

Forsyth usually talks with the communities every week by phone and meets with them twice a month, alternating from one community to the other for the meetings.

"I enjoy it — I have a lot of fun," Forsyth says. "It's really enlightening at some of the meetings — you'll get some of the older Elders in there and they can tell stories all day if you want to sit there and listen. It's really interesting and really eye-opening to hear stories going back to the 1940s and 1950s."

Forsyth says his goal is to make sure the communities get all of the information they need to make informed decisions about their plan.

"Every meeting I will bring an updated version of the map," Forsyth says. "We'll overlay some of their traditional knowledge points on the maps and use that to help with our planning."

CE Strategies has worked with about 50 communities across northern Ontario, including Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Treaty #3 and Robinson Superior communities. Originally known as Northern GIS, the company initially provided GIS (Geographic Information System) and GPS (Global Positioning System) training.

"We did training for a lot of First Nation communities," Forsyth says. "They would request typically a three or four-day

training course."

The company changed its name to CE Strategies after it began offering a web-based GIS application, Map Aki, which enables communities to do all of their GIS and mapping work online, and some project management services.

"We work with communities for whatever they need," Forsyth says. "For example, we'll help find funding and write or assist in writing the applications, project management and training. This is the reason we changed our name to CE Strategies."

The company currently has five full-time staff and two part-time staff.

"(With Map Aki) they can do all of their GIS and mapping right from the community on any computer," Forsyth says. "They don't need any software. They just go online."

Forsyth says the communities' data is password protected and stored on a local CE Strategies server.

"We manage it for them," Forsyth says, noting CE Strategies staff will upload new data onto the server and have it available to the communities in a matter of hours. "They go out in the field and they collect new data, e-mail us the data and we can have it live to them right away. It's a good way to manage your information to have a quick overview look at what's going on in your community."

Forsyth can be reached at 807-707-2245 or brent@cestrategies.ca.



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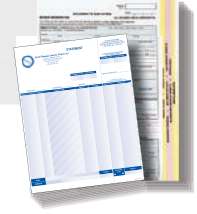
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# Chief For A Day essay winner inaugurated in Lac Seul

Geoff Shields  
Wawatay News

Nine-year-old student Jake Carpenter from Obishikokang Elementary School in Lac Seul started his day on March 24th by becoming Chief For A Day.

The idea was originated by Steven Korobanik, who teaches at the school.

He explained its origins, "Three years ago, I came up with the idea of Chief For A Day as an idea for promoting leadership and getting the kids to think about politics in the community and how basically the government works, because I feel like that is something that the kids here really need to know and be aware of. So I came up with this idea to happen right from grades three to eight and that was a 250 word essay about what the would do if they were the Chief of Lac Seul. So Lac Seul is of course made up of Whitefish Bay, Kejick Bay and Frenchmans Head, so it's a case where we have three different communities that the chief has to take care of, what they would do and why they would do it, so it gets them thinking about what they would do as a leader of the community. After the winning essay is selected, they end up travelling with the chief just on his daily routines, so they go with the chief to meetings; they take a tour of the communities. Last year the chief ended up

going on a plane trip with the winner just to check an overhead view of Lac Seul. I think that might be arranged today with Jake, it's a really exciting opportunity and gives a sense of pride to the person who takes the tour."

He concluded: "Yeah it's the only reserve that does this activity, it's course graded as a mark and of course it's good for the kids from Grade Three up to start thinking of how to write a proper essay and thinking about their community as a whole because it makes them realize not only what they do for themselves but for all the people in Lac Seul."

The event started with the arrival of current Chief Clifford Bull at the grade three/four classroom, young Carpenter was then invested with his regalia which included head-dress, a turtle shell rattle and a wampum belt that was handed down to him by the previous chief, he was invited to sit next to Bull who then gave to the enraptured students a brief rundown on the history of Lac Seul (Lonely Place) including an interesting story as to how it originally got its name.

The children were then invited to ask questions.

Bull spoke about the event and its effect on the children.

"I guess it teaches them the importance of governance, a structured governance, to insure that our community is

well run by a competent governance structure and good leadership if we don't have that then we are in deep trouble. So its very important that we have good leadership at the helm and how to react in very serious situations, how to handle yourself and correct those situations as best you can. What we did this morning was a presentation; we honored him by presenting him with the head-dress and some protocols we normally do and introduced him to the class. So we have done that and we did a little history of the Treaty and how governance works in Lac Seul and in the region. Today I will be taking him out to the schools, introducing him to his peers at the north end and maybe to some of the government buildings that we run here: Health, the Justice Buildings, there's all kinds of structures we have here, introduce him to people then I'm going to take him out for lunch." Then we are going to take a plane ride and observe the three communities from the air and look at just how big the community is in relation to the size and how much we have to govern in terms of land mass so he will look at all the land from up in the air and see the road connections and everyone's connected and then we will fly home and bring him home safely. That's the plan."

Carpenter commented on how he felt about winning the



Lac Seul Chief Clifford Bull and Chief For A Day winner, Jake Carpenter.

photo by Geoff Shields

competition. "It's pretty exciting, it feels well, I can't describe it but it feels pretty good."

When asked what he would do if you were Chief for a day he replied "Well I am Chief for

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# Notice of Class Action in Ontario known as the "Sixties Scoop" Claim

**ARE YOU AN INDIAN CHILD TAKEN FROM YOUR HOME ON A RESERVE IN ONTARIO BETWEEN DECEMBER 1, 1965 AND DECEMBER 31, 1984, PLACED IN THE CARE OF NON-ABORIGINAL FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENTS AND NOT RAISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR ABORIGINAL CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES?**

**If So, Please Read This Notice Carefully. A Class Action Lawsuit May Affect Your Rights.**

- You could be affected by a class action lawsuit between Marcia Brown as representative plaintiff on behalf of the Class, and the Government of Canada represented by The Attorney General of Canada. A Court has approved the lawsuit as a class action on behalf of those who fit the criteria above. The Honourable Justice Belobaba, of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, is currently overseeing this case. The case is known as *Marcia Brown v. The Attorney General of Canada*, Court File No. CV-09-372025-00CP.
- The Class represented by the plaintiff consists of "Indian children who were taken from their homes on reserves in Ontario between December 1, 1965 and December 31, 1984, and were placed in the care of non-Aboriginal foster or adoptive parents who did not raise the children in accordance with the Aboriginal person's customs, traditions and practices." The claim alleges that Canada has breached a fiduciary duty it owed to the members of the proposed Class, and breached a duty of care in negligence. Canada denies these claims and denies the allegations and defends all of the claims.
- The Court has not decided whether Canada did anything wrong, and the case is currently scheduled to go to trial. The lawyers for the plaintiff will have to prove the claims in Court. The Plaintiff is asking for money or other benefits for the Class. She is also asking for attorneys' costs, plus interest.
- There is no money available now and no guarantee there will be. However, if you fit the definition for the class, your rights are affected, and you have a choice to make now.

YOUR OPTIONS AT THIS STAGE	
DO NOTHING	<p><b>Stay in this lawsuit. Await the outcome. Share in possible money and benefits. Give up certain rights.</b></p> <p>Class members are automatically included in the class action and need not do anything. By doing nothing, you keep the possibility of getting money or other benefits that may come from a trial or settlement. But, you give up any rights to sue Canada on your own about the same legal claims in this lawsuit. You will also be bound by the judgment in this class action, whether good or bad.</p>
REMOVE YOURSELF (OPT OUT)	<p><b>Get out of this lawsuit. Get no money or benefits from it. May be able to keep certain rights.</b></p> <p>If you ask to be removed (opt out) and money or benefits are later awarded, you won't share in that money or benefits. But you may be eligible to sue Canada on your own about the same legal claims in this lawsuit. You cannot change your mind later and opt back into the class action.</p> <p><b>To be removed, you must act by April 22, 2016.</b></p>

**You can get more information about this case and opting out by contacting:**  
**Attention: Natalia Graham**  
 Wilson Christen LLP (lawyers for the plaintiff and the class)  
 137 Church Street  
 Toronto, Ontario M5B 1Y4  
 1.866.360.5952  
 thesixtiesscoopclaim@gmail.com  
 www.sixtiesscoopclaim.com  
 Twitter: @Ontario60sScoop

Any questions about this Notice should not be directed to the Court as its administrative structure is not designed to address this type of inquiry.



## Home and Community Care Nurse Supervisor

### SUMMARY

Reporting to the Health Director, the Home and Community Care (HCC) Nurse Supervisor develops, coordinates and implements in-home nursing services for clients, and supervise a team of HCC Coordinators and Personal Support Workers (PSWs). This individual also directly provides in-home, client-centered nursing services to KO clients. The H&CC Nurse Supervisor fulfills all responsibilities in accordance with the standards of practice and guidelines of the College of Nurses of Ontario.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Develops, coordinates and implements in-home nursing services under the direction of the KO Health Director, and in conjunction with community Health Directors and Boards.
2. Supervise a team of Home and Community Care Coordinators, Personal Support Workers (PSWs), unregulated healthcare providers, and other healthcare professionals in the program.
3. Provides in-home, client-centred nursing services to KO clients.
4. Networks and maintains relationships with medical professionals in the community, the Chief and Council, and other stakeholders.
5. Attends workshops, training and other professional development initiatives to ensure nursing skills remain current.
6. Prepares written quarterly and year-end reports for KO, Health Canada and other stakeholders (i.e. LHIN).
7. Perform other duties requested by KO Health Director.

### KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- a. A Registered Nurse in good standing with the College of Nurses of Ontario.
- b. 2 years experience delivering nursing care in the home or community setting.
- c. Minimum of one year of supervisory experience an asset.
- d. Knowledge on culture and tradition of remote First Nation communities.
- e. Diabetes footcare certificate an asset.
- f. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- g. Skills and experience in adult education training.
- h. Ability to prepare and submit reports.
- i. Basic computer skill.
- j. Able to speak Ojibway, Oji-Cree, or Cree an asset.
- k. Driver's license and access to a vehicle.

**Location:** Balmertown, Ontario. **Deadline for applications: April 25, 2016**

Please send cover letter, resume and three references to: [carmenmcfatridge@knet.ca](mailto:carmenmcfatridge@knet.ca)

## Elementary & Secondary Teaching Positions for 2016-2017 School Year

**Description:** Pikangikum Education Authority requires the following full time teaching positions to be filled for the 2016-2017 school year. We require dedicated, skilled and caring educators to make a difference with our student population.

### Available Positions:

- General Teaching Positions for Grades SK to 8
- Secondary Art Teacher (Media & Visual Arts)
- Secondary Physical Education Teacher (Like them to have an Outdoor Education background but not necessary)
- Secondary Science Teacher
- Secondary History/Geography Teacher
- Secondary Construction Technology Teacher
- Secondary Manufacturing Technology Teacher
- Elementary & Secondary Principal Required

### Qualification:

Candidates must be in "Good Standing" with the Ontario College of Teachers by the start date of the assignment or working towards becoming a member of the OCT. Training and experience at the appropriate grade level and good classroom management skills are required.

### Assets

- ESL, Special Education qualifications would be considered an asset.
- Knowledge of First Nation Culture/Traditions and Language would be an asset.

**Note:** We appreciate the interest of all applicants, but will only be interviewing candidates whose skills, experience and qualifications best meet the requirements of the position. Interested applicants are to email the following documentation of related qualifications and experience: Cover Letter, Resume, Practice Teaching Reports, if you are a new teacher to the profession, Criminal Reference Check and two professional reference letters.

**Mr. Kyle Peters, Director of Education**

Email: [kylepeters57@gmail.com](mailto:kylepeters57@gmail.com)

**Mr. Kurt MacRae, Principal**

Email: [kurtmacrae@hotmail.com](mailto:kurtmacrae@hotmail.com)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call at the school, and speak to the principal. The phone # at the school is **Phone: (807) 773-5561, Fax: (807) 773-5958**. You may visit the school website: [www.ebs-school.org](http://www.ebs-school.org). The community of Pikangikum has a brand new school facility opening in September of 2016.

## Obituary



**Matthew Beardy**

With sad news and blessed hope we announce the passing of Mathew Beardy, 86, in Thunder Bay on March 24, 2016 after a lengthy illness. He was born in Ponask near Sachigo Lake, Ontario to Philip and Hannah Beardy. His surviving siblings are Jake, Tom, Tilly, Margaret, Lucy, Sopena, Morley, Sarah and one late brother Caleb.

Mathew married Juliet nee Barkman in 1950 and they raised their family in Bearskin Lake, Ontario. His late wife, Juliet predeceased him on September 4, 2014. He is survived by his children Martha (Myles) Sturgeon, Selma (David) Poulin, Rosemary (Jack) McKay, Samson (Ruth) Beardy, Elizabeth Beardy and John (Malcy) Beardy. His 15 grandchildren will miss him deeply; Geoffrey (Ila) Beardy, Michelle (Craig) Dockeray, Jack McKay, Melanie (Steve) Cormier, Kevin McKay, Mike McKay, Jordan (Audrea) Sturgeon, Maxine Poulin, Margie (Levi) Cahoon, Krista Sturgeon, Matthew Poulin, Johnathan Beardy, Jewelle Kakegamic, Ethan Beardy and Mia Beardy. He leaves behind several great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mathew loved and lived off the land by being self-sufficient in every way in providing for his family. He also served his community in being a committed advisor and elder for the Chief and Council since their inception. He loved and served His Lord as a true prayer warrior and never stopped talking about the Lord and sharing from the Bible. He also gave Bible devotions on Wawatay Radio for many years. Throughout his lifetime he remained a humble and kind man.

He was an inspiration to many and passed on many life teachings to his family and community. Mathew enjoyed feasts whether it was in the family or community settings. He encouraged his children and grandchildren to excel in education, work and sports, in particular hockey.

A memorial service will be held at Harbourview Funeral Centre, Thunder Bay at 12:00 Noon on Monday, March 28th and the funeral in Bearskin Lake will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in Full Gospel Church presided by Pastor Tommy Fiddler of Christian Assembly Church, with the assistance of Pastor Wayne Brown.

His favourite verse was: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. We as his family are so grateful he is now in the Kingdom of God.

On-line condolences may be offered at [www.harbourviewfuneral.ca](http://www.harbourviewfuneral.ca)

# Feathers of Hope asks for increased funding

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is calling for increased funding for the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service after the Feathers of Hope Justice and Juries report was released on March 7.

"We all know that Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service and Treaty Three Police are all underfunded," says Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum. "And that is the main (reason) why they are unable to provide adequate services. They don't have the budget to provide services in the way they should be."

The first recommendation in the Feathers of Hope, Justice and Juries: A First Nations Youth Action Plan for Justice called for Aboriginal police services to be improved and strengthened by bringing their investigative powers and resources, training and systems of accountability in line with non-Aboriginal police services.

The second recommendation called for mandatory police college level training specific to the history of Aboriginal people and the legacy issues that increase their risk of coming into contact with the law.

The third recommendation called for police officers to focus on building positive working relationships with all community members as part of their duties.

"Much of the report is things that were quite obvious to us," Achneepineskum says. "We hope the report will make an

impression on the policing and the court system because the Provincial Advocate's office does have a high profile."

The fourth recommendation called for government to work with Aboriginal leadership, band councils and educators to develop legal rights education courses for Aboriginal youth at the primary, intermediate and senior high school levels.

"We're trying to find ways to introduce this to our chiefs," Achneepineskum says. "We have an Aboriginal Child and Youth Strategy Chiefs Committee, who are meeting in (May), so this is part of what we are going to be talking about."

The Justice and Juries report was released by the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth at Queen's Park in Toronto and Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

"From an early age, many Aboriginal youth view the justice system as a system that punishes and shames individuals, apprehends a disproportionately high number of children into care, and fails to protect those in need, especially Aboriginal women," says Irwin Elman, Ontario's provincial advocate for Children and Youth. "Unless fundamental changes are made to create a more inclusive and fair justice system we will continue to alienate future generations of Aboriginal people."

The report captured the voices of more than 150 Aboriginal youth from across Ontario who participated in the Feathers of Hope: Justice

and Juries youth forum, held Nov. 17-20, 2014 in Thunder Bay. The report is available online at: [http://provincialadvocate.on.ca/documents/en/JJ\\_En.pdf](http://provincialadvocate.on.ca/documents/en/JJ_En.pdf).

"As a champion, I've seen young people transform into leaders who are speaking openly and courageously on the changes needed for the justice system and how to build stronger ties with Aboriginal people," says Celina Reitberger, executive director of Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation and Feathers of Hope champion. "I commend them on their hard work and for staying true to reflecting the voices of youth who attended the Feathers of Hope forum."

The youth forum was held at the request of former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Frank Iacobucci, who authored a report on the under-representation of First Nations people on jury panels.

"The Aboriginal youth who participated in the forum and development of the report personified the seven Grandfather Teachings of wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth," says Mandy Wesley, an Aboriginal lawyer and Feathers of Hope champion. "It was upon this foundation that they collectively developed an action plan that fosters reconciliation and serves to advance access to justice for Aboriginal peoples."

OPACY previously released the Feathers of Hope: A First Nations Youth Action Plan in 2014.

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# Health

## NAN and NDP address health crisis in the north

Rick Garrick  
Wawatay News

New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath says health conditions in Nishnawbe Aski Nation are unacceptable after listening to stories from communities across the north.

"It is not something that can be ignored," Horwath says. "It has been in a crisis state for decades now and so the state of emergency that was called (by NAN) was absolutely necessary."

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and representatives of the Sioux Lookout Area Chiefs Committee on Health declared a Health and Public Health Emergency for First Nations in the Sioux Lookout region and across NAN territory.

Horwath and Kenora—Rainy River MPP Sarah Campbell met with a group of NAN representatives, including Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, James Morris, executive director of Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, Solomon Mamakwa, health director of Shibogama Health Authority, and former nurse Helen Cromarty, at the NAN office in Thunder Bay. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Chief James Cutfeet also attended the meeting.

"Sarah Campbell, the MPP for this region, and myself are committed to working closely with these communities and with the leadership to make sure that this discussion is not put on a back burner somewhere," Horwath says, "but

that we continue to be vocal and strong and loud and not let this state of emergency go unnoticed or un-responded to by at least our provincial government."

Horwath says most Ontarians are probably unaware of the health crisis situation in the NAN communities.

"I think that is shameful," Horwath says. "I think that there are perhaps folks in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario who are not aware of the crisis situation that exists, and that is not acceptable either. So we are going to make sure that doesn't remain the case by being loud and vocal at the legislative level."

Fox says NAN asked Horwath to focus attention on the health crisis situation across NAN territory, which covers two thirds of the province, with the provincial government.

"We need assistance, lobbying, anything to get us out of this crisis," Fox says. "I think it is an ongoing crisis that has been here for years. And it's not getting better; it's getting worse."

Fox says the first step required is a meeting with the provincial government.

"And the second step is to work together, work in partnership," Fox says.

Fox says the health crisis is frustrating because of the continuing loss of people.

"We continue to lose people, we lose people to a poor health care system, suicides," Fox says. "It's just a vast range of issues."



photo by Rick Garrick/Wawatay News  
New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath met with Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox and other NAN leaders over NAN's Health and Public Health Emergency declaration on in Thunder Bay.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Chief James Cutfeet says he has experienced discrepancies in health care between Thunder Bay and his community since being elected as chief seven months ago.

"What I have seen is inadequate facilities, staffing is below par," Cutfeet says. "For my community, the nursing station

should be staffed by six nurses. At the time I was there for an emergency, there were only three on staff."

Cutfeet says there is a lack of medical services in his community, noting he usually waits until he is in Thunder Bay on business to access optometry or dental services.

"I have been fortunate

enough to have been employed by the public service," Cutfeet says. "I have supplementary health benefits. I can't use them up north, up in my home community of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, because chiropractic care is non-existent, the registered dietician service is non-existent, and for me ... technically I can say I don't have

a doctor, I don't have an optometrist, I don't have a dentist."

NAN declared the Health and Public Health Emergency to address urgent and long-standing health issues caused by the inequality of health and health care services. The declaration called for immediate, intermediate and long-term action strategies.

Spring Chiefs Assembly  
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