



ATIKAMEKSHENG ANISHNAWBEK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

manido giisooohns – (little spirit moon/December)



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Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Community Support Hub Grand Opening



Lands and Economic Development

The Lands and Economic Development Department has some updates to share with the community

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry supplied the Lands Division with Brook Trout eggs in November. They will be placed in the hatcheries that are located in our Department Office and Youth Centre. The eggs will be monitored daily by the team.
- Thirty (30) trail cameras have been set up so far for the Eastern Wolf Project. Once the data has been collected, it will be analyzed with an expert to identify wolf species (Eastern Wolf or Gray Wolf) in our territory. This part of the project will take place from January – February of 2023.
- Reservations for the Community Christmas Dinner had closed on November 21st. The department is looking forward to seeing and serving the community on December 6th!
- The Reserve Camp and Chalet have closed for the season. Both rental facilities will reopen on May 1, 2023.



- The Lands Division currently has 6 residential lots available for allocation along Nora Road. Lot distribution will be conducted by a lottery process as outlined in the Home Lot Allocation Policy. If you wish to enter your name for the lottery, please submit a letter of interest and proof of financing to Courtney Corbiere-Wabegijig (Lands Registry Clerk). Application deadline is on January 20, 2023. Should you have any questions, please contact Courtney for further information at lands.clerk@wlfm.com
- The S-100 Wildland Firefighter Course was hosted in the community on October 31 – November 4. Nine (9) participants are now certified for S-100.
- The Economic Development Corporation (Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe) hosted its Board Orientation in November which included sessions for community members and business owners to meet the new Board of Directors.

Lands and Economic Development

- Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe hosted a Meet-and-Greet at the Community Centre on November 8th at 6:00 – 8:00PM. A virtual Meet-and-Greet will be planned in the new year.
- The Economic Development division hosted a 'Career Fair Week' on November 14 – 17. The event included facilitations on resume building, cover letter writing, and how to ace a behavioral interview, with a career fair including local partners. The event was well attended by the community! The fair seen over 60 community members, with 19 organizations in attendance.
- NATT Safety Services will be hosting a 6-week Indigenous Skilled Trades Preparation Certificate course beginning in January. Interested applicants may submit their resume and cover letter to Meghan at cdm@wlfm.com. An open house information session will be hosted on January 4, 2023.



Economic Development Corporation: Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS)

Board of Directors

The creation of an Economic Development Corporation was identified in the Community Comprehensive Plan as part of Chapter 4 – Prosperity Development. The goal of the Economic Development Corporation falls under Goal 2, to create significant sustainable wealth for our First Nation by acquiring the capabilities and institutional structures needed to effectively sustain, manage, and grow our wealth.

The development of the Economic Development Corporation began in October 2021 with Four Corners Management Consultants, and a name for the corporation was requested through a Community Call-out in November 2021. On March 7, 2022, “Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe – True Strength of Mother Earth” was recommended and approved by Gimaa & Council.

Throughout early 2021, multiple membership, administration, and leadership consultation sessions were held for the review of the corporation’s Mission, Vision, and Value Statements, as well as policies, procedures, and the Economic Development Strategy. Once finalized, the documents were presented and approved by Gimaa & Council.

The next steps for Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe was registration and recruitment. The corporation was officially incorporated on June 21, 2022, by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, and the recruitment process began shortly after.

The board structure is composed of three directors from the business community (non-members), one director from the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek community (on or off reserve member), and one representative from the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Economic Development Committee. The selection committee interviewed several candidates and had recommended five candidates which were presented and approved by Gimaa & Council on August 15, 2022.

Economic Development Corporation: Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS)

Board of Directors

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is pleased to introduce the official Board of Directors for Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe:



Aime Dimatteo
Board Director/Chair

A champion of Northern Ontario, Aime Dimatteo brings extensive knowledge of challenges and opportunities facing Northern Ontario communities.

Born in Sudbury and raised in Coniston, Aime has devoted his career to the public service at the provincial and federal level. Early in his career, Aime worked for Revenue Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada before transferring to the Province of Ontario to work with the Ministry of Northern Affairs. Since that time, he has worked in a number of positions promoting and delivering economic development activities throughout Northern Ontario.

Aime had served as the Executive Director of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation for eight years where he was responsible for overseeing the service agency that provides financial assistance to projects with the aim of helping diversify the economy and bolster economic growth in the region.

In June of 2010, Aime accepted a new challenge and was appointed the Director General of FedNor, Canada's economic development organization for Northern Ontario. His primary role was to ensure that FedNor, through its programs and services, delivered on its mandate to foster economic growth and diversification that leads to job creation and sustainable communities in Northern Ontario.

One of Aime's many accomplishments at FedNor was the development of the Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario (PGSNO). The PGSNO is intended to enhance and build on the ongoing federal and provincial programs and collaborations to address the needs of Northern Ontario's communities and its residents. Aime had recently retired from his position at FedNor in July of 2022.

Economic Development Corporation: Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS)

Board of Directors

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is pleased to introduce the official Board of Directors for Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe:



Don Clarke, B.A./B.ED.
Board Director

Don Clarke (B.A./B.Ed.) is a member of the Black River First Nation as well as a successful entrepreneur/business owner who has a professional social and educational background. Don has spent the past thirty years working in hundreds of First Nations and Indigenous communities in Canada, United States, Mexico, Bolivia, Panama, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and the Philippines.

Don is a goal focused professional with vast experience and expertise in building/optimizing education, training, communications, and sustainability programs in order to maximize community development success and business results worldwide.

At the same time, Don has worked with major forestry, mining, and energy companies throughout the Americas and Asia in the area of corporate capacity building with respect to building respectful relationships and working with companies for the inclusion of First Nations/Indigenous and marginalized peoples in their project areas.

Economic Development Corporation: Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS)

Board of Directors

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is pleased to introduce the official Board of Directors for Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe:



Tristan Smyth
Board Director

Recognizing their contribution to the not-for-profit sector, Tristan was named one of Canada's top 21 Young Impact Leaders in 2019 by Future of Good. As a queer, nonbinary person with living experience of disabilities, Tristan brings over a decade of community engagement and operations experience in the not-for-profit sector, having served as a senior executive at regional and national charities.

Currently, they are the Chief Impact & Strategy Officer with Warshield, an Indigenous full-service consulting firm, and advise First Nations governments on socio-economic development strategies and investment opportunities. In addition to their work with Warshield, Tristan teaches about responsible investing for Carleton University's School of Public Policy & Administration and serves on the boards of the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity, Living Wage Canada, Mount Royal University Alumni Association, and Table of Impact Investment Practitioners. They live with their spouse and dog in Gatineau, Quebec.

Economic Development Corporation: Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS)

Board of Directors

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is pleased to introduce the official Board of Directors for Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe:



Jeremy Bonhomme Board Director

Jeremy Bonhomme is a proud member of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and resides in the Syilx-Okanagan Territory in Kelowna, BC. Jeremy holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and General Management Degree from Lakehead University and is working towards his Emergency Management Certification at the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

Jeremy has worked predominately in First Nation land management for the past 10 years and has spent the past six (6) years working with the Lands Advisory Board Resource Centre (LABRC) as a Land Code Governance Advisor in Ontario, Atlantic Canada, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory. Prior to his time with the LABRC, Jeremy was the Director of Lands and Community Development at Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, a Land Code First Nation located on the southeast shore of Lake Nipigon in Northwestern Ontario. He feels honoured to provide support to communities who are taking back control of their reserve lands.

In addition to his experience working with First Nations on land management, Jeremy also worked as a Policy Analyst with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada on the additions to reserve policy reform, and in the area of First Nation Land Management (Land Code related work).

Jeremy is thrilled to sit on the Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe Board of Directors as it allows him to be more involved with the community and provides him with new experience in economic development.

Economic Development Corporation: Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS)

Board of Directors

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is pleased to introduce the official Board of Directors for Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe:



Kevin Greer
Board Director

Kevin Greer is a member of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and resides in the community.

Education Department

Aanii, Zhaabnakwe n'dizhnikaaz, Mong dodem, my English name is Kimberly Nootchtai, daughter of the late Daisy Burke and Henry Nootchtai. I am a proud mother and grandmother of 2 adult children, 1 teenager, 2 granddaughters, I have 5 siblings and I am an auntie to many nieces, and nephews. My employment began with our First Nation on November 20, 1996, where I worked for approximately 1.5 years initially as the Alternatives Coordinator and then in May 1998, I was the successful candidate for the Education Coordinator position. Since my 26 years of employment for our First Nation the Education program has grown significantly from being one person overseeing the entire education program to now having additional education staff providing educational supports for our students. In addition, on April 1, 2022, the organization went through structural changes by separating the Education & Social department into two separate departments. The Education Department currently consists of the Education Support Workers, Library/Language Coordinator, Daycare, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, and Child & Youth Workers programs.

Additionally, the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, is now supervised by the Waasakwa Early Learning Centre Manager, Tammy Naponse. Tammy is diligently working towards the daycare licensing and our goal is to have the Daycare in operation for September 2023. The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program remains the same; it is to establish relationships with families of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and provide them with wholistic programming, health, social and education services support, assessing their needs and eligibility for various types of internal and external agency supports. The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Worker will assist and guide families through processes that help strengthen their family unit. You are more than welcome to visit the new Early Years Centre which is located on the far-left side of the new Waasakwa Early Learning Centre building at 601 Gabode Drive.

Education Support Workers

The Education Support Workers continued to support Atikameksheng students in October by arranging tutoring services, specialized services and maintaining school visits.

ESWs attended a field trip to Cambrian College with multiple secondary schools who had the opportunity to visit with post-secondary institutions from across the province. It was great for our students to explore post-secondary opportunities. We would like to thank Cambrian College and their Wabnode Centre for being an exceptional host and arranging the day for our students.

In October, the ESWs also participated in developing materials for the Youth Initiatives Program workshop “Healthy Relationships, Consent, Setting Boundaries,” in collaboration with Jessica Seltzer (Family Well-being Worker) and Brandon Petahtegoose (Oshkaabewis). The Program was hosted by Saffiyah Briggs (Youth Mental Wellness Worker) and Megan Espaniel (Family Well-being Worker). Feedback was very positive, and we were happy to participate in this collaborative effort between various Atikameksheng frontline staff from the Social, Health and Education Departments.

Plans have been finalized for the up-coming ONECA Conference to be held in mid-November in Sault Ste Marie, ON. We are excited to bring over a dozen youth from Atikameksheng to join in the conference.

ESWs were also able to participate in Hide Camp in late October, hosted by Darlene Ackerland Child & Youth Worker, Brandon Petahtegoose, Oshkaabewis-Helper and Ashley Buzzell, Child & Youth Worker. We were able to teach skills to some of our students while learning ourselves how to harvest traditional tools from moose legs and hooves. It was a great opportunity for students who were able to attend to see how this work is done

Education Support Workers



Education Support Workers



Education Support Workers



Education Support Workers



Education Support Workers

Management Designation

We have a Designation within the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek organization. Amanda Jourdain successfully completed and received her Management Designation on November 3, 2022, through the First Nations Health Managers Association. Amanda began this certification and designation process while she was a part of the Health & Community Wellness Team.

What is Certified First Nations Health Manager (CFNHM)?

The First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) is committed to excellence in growing management capacity for First Nations organizations. FNHMA are responsible for providing training, certification, and professional development opportunities in health management in Canada as a national, professional association.

FNHMA provides leadership in management activities by developing and promoting quality standards, practices, research, certification, and professional development to expand capacity for members and First Nations organizations. Members can assist organizations to maximize their use of resources, strengthen decision-making, set strategic goals, successfully implement business plans, and deliver quality service programs. FNHMA and its members' success contribute to strengthening the management capabilities of First Nations organizations in Canada.

The CFNHM professional designation is supported by the following standards:

- Competency Standards
- Code of Ethics and Standards of Ethical Conduct
- Certification Standards
- Core Competencies
- Maintenance of Certification

Child and Youth Workers

Child & Youth Workers

The Child & Youth Worker will provide valuable, inclusive, creative, and safe programming for the children of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. The Child & Youth Worker will create and provide culturally appropriate social and community-based programs that supports children emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

In a wholistic approach, the Child & Youth Worker will work with a multi-disciplinary team that assists children build strengths and skills in living a life-long healthy and wholistic lifestyle.

Melissa Ross, and Stanley Maskell, Child & Youth Workers are continuing their program implementation through the Youth Centre. You can find their November calendars within this newsletter.

The Youth Centre will be open during the day, except when they are in meetings or have programming in the evenings. Look for the “OPEN” sign in the window! Visit the workers and get to know your Child & Youth Workers and your safe space.

Have a look at their calendars, take part in your program & see your Child & Youth Workers in person at the Youth Centre! Both Melissa and Stanley welcome suggestions of future program activities also. Go visit!

Child & Youth Program Team

Amanda Jourdain, Child & Youth Programs Manager, 249-879-1459,
healthpromo.manager@wlfm.com

Melissa Ross, 705-690-7513, childyouth.health2@wlfm.com

Stanley Maskell, 249-878-7826, childyouth.health1@wlfm.com

Housing and Infrastructure

Housing List Addition 2023

It's that time of year again! Please ensure you have an updated Housing List Addition Form submitted for the new year. Housing Rental Program Policy, Section 11.1.1, states that "A band member who is interested in applying to occupy a rental unit shall submit a letter of interest to the Housing Manager every year, after January 1st, in order to be considered when a Unit becomes available. The Housing List Addition Forms are available online at www.atikamekshengnawbek.ca. or can be pick-up at the Band Office Reception.

Canada Mortgage and Housing

The Residential Rehabilitation Assist Program (RRAP) and Repairs and Home Adaptations for Senior's Independence (HASI) is provided by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Letters of interest is required every year on January 1st to be considered. Assistance shall be granted to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis to the maximum of funding available.

Comprehensive Community Plan

Chapter Seven; Infrastructure Development and Management

Goal 4: To develop and 30-year housing Strategy/Plan

The 30 Year Housing Strategy has been identified in the Comprehensive Community Plan dated March 2020. Work has commenced to undertake a comprehensive housing review to include but not limited current housing conditions, demographic and housing market demands; identify critical housing gaps and funding issues, capacity development and training; performance of current subsidies for CMHC housing projects; Seniors

The housing strategy will provide Atikameksheng with a clear roadmap to build a comprehensive community- based housing program this is reflective of Atikameksheng's vision for a sustainable housing program.

The key objective of this project to undertake a Housing Needs Assessment in creating a comprehensive twenty (30) year housing plan through consultation with staff, community members, and off-reserve members to strengthen long-term capacity sustainable development and good governance with respect to housing.

Housing and Infrastructure

30-Year Housing Strategy Analysis Report

The ultimate goal of implementing a strategic plan for housing is the development of a sustainable housing program. Sustainable Housing means a housing program with lower life-cycle costs, better reliability, less maintenance, and sufficient revenues to cover operating cost. This would imply a “rental regime” where there are no, or little rental arrears and tenants are paying regularly and on-time. In addition, maintenance, annual inspections and the transfer of some basic maintenance responsibilities shall be prioritized in order to control cost. In order to control cost annual inspections would need to be carried out and incorporated into a five (5) year maintenance plan. A training session on tenant responsibilities and capacity development for basic maintenance will be required.

In conjunction with the strategic plan, a revised Housing Policy has also been developed that is in alignment with this strategy.

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek will develop a three-stage approach:

Stage 1

Consult, inform and educate the message of the cost of housing and promote sustainable housing. – Community engagement, and information sessions. Under this stage, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek will develop a presentation to show the true cost of housing to the general band membership. In order to build the capacity of members to pay rent, a presentation to educate members on personal finance would also be developed and presented.

Stage 2

Implement and enforce sustainable housing approach (housing policy); and

Stage 3

Continue to monitor stage 2 and make necessary adjustments.

Housing and Infrastructure

Market Based Housing Program -Home Ownership

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek's market-based housing program developed in conjunction with the First Nations Market Housing Fund. The objective of the program is to provide community members access to affordable and competitive mortgages and loans in order to build, purchase, renovate or refinance homes in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

Stage 1 – Pre-approval Mortgage and application process

Stage 2 – Approval and Construction/Renovation/Purchase/Refinance

If you are interested in homeownership/renovating your existing home or purchasing a home a Home and Ownership and you Outreach Session will be held on January 9 and 10, 2023.

Confidential one-on-one financial counselling is available on Zoom or by phone with Scott Flamand, Flamand Management Services.

Winter Maintenance – the Housing Asset Maintenance Worker will be checking on furnace filters in all rental units; tenants are asked to contact Housing Department if your furnace filter has not been changed so the Housing Department can follow-up on replacing the furnace filter.

Housing and Infrastructure

Winter Checklist

- o Check that smoke detectors are functioning properly.
- o Ensure air vents indoors & outside (intake, exhaust and forced air) are not blocked by snow or debris.
- o Check and clean kitchen stove range hood filter.
- o Vacuum bathroom fan grille, radiator grilles on back of refrigerator empty and clean any drip trays.
- o Monitor the home for excessive moisture levels- (i.e. condensation on windows) notify housing dept.
- o Check all faucets for signs of dripping.
- o If you have a plumbing fixture that you do not use frequently, such as a laundry tub or spare bathroom sink, run some water briefly to keep water in the trap.
- o Clean drains in sinks, bathtubs and shower stalls.
- o Check electrical cords, plugs and outlets for all indoor and outdoor seasonal lights to ensure fire safety; if worn replace immediately.

Christmas Office Closure:

December 19, 2022, to January 2, 2023

Housing will continue to monitor developments around COVID 19 so we can evaluate all measures taken to provide necessary housing support needed throughout this difficult period.

Housing and Infrastructure

Housing Committee Members

Diane Bob

Jennifer Nootchtai

Lorraine Naponse

Noella Nebonaionoquet

Candace Ozawagosh

Housing Staff

Vivian Naponse, Housing Manager

Housing.manager@wlfm.com 705-692-3651 extension 220

Michelle Elliott, Tenant Relations Officer

Tenant.relations@wlfm.com

705-229-4387

Jason Nebenionquit, Housing Asset Maintenance Worker

Housing.assetmtce@wlfm.com

705-665-4143

Amanda, On-the-Job Training Housing Assistant

OTJT.housing@wlfm.com

705-929-6972

*The Housing Department wishes you good health in the
New Year*

Debendaagziwaad Spotlight!

Cassandra Shawanda

Darlene Ackerland from the Education Department would like to give a shout out to Cassandra Shawanda

Congratulations Cassandra on completing the 4 week Hide Camp program. Her quiet enthusiasm and dedication to working with hides shines through. Keep up the awesome work! Her message of gratitude has deeply touched my heart and yes, my eyes teared up. This is why I do what I do, I'm so overwhelmed when I receive a message from people like Cassandra's that my cup overflows. Until next year, Miigwetch Cassandra ♥

Darlene CYWW



Christmas Shutdown and Key Contact List

ATIKAMEKSHENG
ANISHNAWBEK



THE BAND OFFICE IS
CLOSED

DECEMBER 19TH TO JANUARY 2ND

ESSENTIAL SERVICES STILL AVAILABLE

PLEASE SEE STAFF CONTACT LIST

*See you in
the new year!*

Christmas Shutdown and Key Contact List

KEY CONTACTS LIST

Name	Position	Email	Cell Phone
POLITICAL			
Gimaa Craig Nootchtai	Gimaa	gimaa@wfn.com	705.665.2157
OPERATIONS			
Paula Robinson	Chief Executive Officer	ceo@wfn.com	705.997.4832
GOVERNANCE AND SPECIAL PROJECTS			
John Valley	Director of Governance and Special Projects	director.governance@wfn.com	705.419.2617
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT			
Michelle Toulouse	Director of Resource Development	Director.resourcedev@wfn.com	
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION			
Cheryl Conway	Chief Financial Officer	cfo@wfn.com	705.670.8787
Teresa Migwans	Director of Finance	dof@wfn.com	705.562.4661
Dennis Cropper	Office Manager	Office.manager@wfn.com	705.918.4345
LANDS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
Curtis Assance	Director of Lands and Economic Development	Director.lands-ecdev@wfn.com	705.690.8679
Meagan Tarantini	Community Development Manager	Cdm@wfn.com	249.377.7371
Lori Richer	Lands Manager	Lands.manager@wfn.com	705.929.9085
HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE			
Gary Naponse	Director of Infrastructure and Housing	Director.housing-infra@wfn.com	705.741.6943
Vivian Naponse	Housing Manager	Housing.manager@wfn.com	705.596.2238
Darin Migwans	Public Works Manager	Pw.manager@wfn.com	705.688.4901
SOCIAL SERVICES			
Darlene Shawbonquit	Director of Social Services	dss@wfn.com	705.690.5470

Christmas Shutdown and Key Contact List

KEY CONTACTS LIST

Rachel Pattison	Family Advocacy Manager	Familyadvocacy.manager@wfn.com	705.919.4634
Janice Petahtegoose	Child and Family Services Manager	Childfamily.manager@wfn.com	705.665.2603
Kim Nootchtai	Director of Education	doe@wfn.com	705.919.7593
Amanda Wabegijig - Jourdain	Family Wellbeing Manager	Healthpromo.manager@wfn.com	249.879.1459
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS			
Carmen Wabegijig Nootchtai	Director of Health	Director.health-well@wfn.com	705.822.3462
Lisa Martin	Home and Community Care Manager	Homecare.manager@wfn.com	705.561.0338
Deborah Dumontelle	Health Programs Manager	Healthprograms.manager@wfn.com	249.377.6108
Rose Messina	Health Services Manager	Healthservices.manager@wfn.com	705.849.6496
Marina McComber	Community Health Nurse	Communityhealth.nurse@wfn.com	705.507.0134
Darlene Geauvreau	Health Services Clerk	Healthservices.clerk@wfn.com	705.698.6818
Kim Recollet	Clinical Care Coordinator	Kim.recollet@nmninoeyaa.ca	705.923.7161
Lindsay Fraser	Adult Day Worker	Adulday.programmer@wfn.com	705.690.7994