



ATIKAMEKSHENG ANISHNAWBEK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

baashkadodin giizis (freezing moon/November)



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Lands & Economic Development Update

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

- The department will be assisting with the Community Christmas Dinner again this year on December 5th. The deadline to reserve is November 17th. We look forward to seeing and serving everyone!
- The Chalet will be closing for the season on November 30th and will reopen on May 1, 2024. The Reserve Camp remains closed due to irreparable damage.
- The department hosted the Annual Community Harvest this year on October 2 – 5. The event was successful, and we will be ensuring that the input received from the attendees is considered for next year.
- Eight (8) band members successfully completed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course with instructor Vic Barriault.
- Twelve (12) band members attended the information session for Ontario Security Hub's Security Guard Course which will be running early 2024.
- The Lands Staff is currently working with Rolly Frappier from Micro Hatchery's Inc. to set up the Lands and Youth Centre micro-hatchery with Brooke Trout eggs.



- With the Invasive Species Action Fund (ISAF) project, “Reversing the Spread of Invasive Species in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek”, approximately 350m² of Japanese Knotweed has been cut and treated in the vicinity of the Panache lease lots this year to eradicate the invasive species in the long term. The Lands Staff will be removing the rest of the Japanese Knotweed in the new year.

- The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) fieldwork has been completed. There were two nights of bat capturing held in July and September. The Bat Nights in July were successful with a total of 11 bats being captured, 6 of which were tagged and tracked within Atikameksheng.
- Atikameksheng's Motus tower software has been updated to continue collecting and uploading data from radio tags. Data is collected to assist with our Bat Project and the International Motus Project which is run by Birds Canada.
- Fifteen (15) turtle nests were excavated from 5 different locations this year. 339 eggs were collected and placed in incubators in the department office and monitored daily by the Lands Team. 259 eggs successfully hatched, and the Annual Turtle Release was held on September 14th. The event was very successful as there were over 50 members in attendance.



- Monthly business development sessions were facilitated from May – November to assist small business owners and entrepreneurs in creating a business plan. These sessions were facilitated by the Sudbury Regional Business Center and were sponsored by Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS) and Naadmaadwiiuk.
- The Life Path Program has started its 3rd Cohort with 5 youth from the community participating in the program. The program has seen more applicants than in previous years and we hope to increase the number of spots available in 2024-25 due to increased demand.
- Two (2) new positions will be introduced to the department in November. An intern position through NOHFC and a Tourism Coordinator position through the Indigenous Economic Development Fund to assist with completing the Tourism Project and identifying film/TV initiatives.

Social Services Update

The Social Services Department has seen changes, growth, program successes and staffing changes along with some challenges during the 1st and 2nd Quarter of the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year.

The Director Social Services has attended and participated virtually in various meetings with partnering agencies and organizations including Nogdawindamin, Maamaawesying (North Shore Tribal Council), Anishnabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians).

Committees and Working Groups the Director Social Services participated in:

- Band Meetings
- Social Services Committee
- Emergency Response Team
- Director Meetings
- Nogdawindamin Quarterly Partnership Meetings

During the 2nd quarter the Director of Social Services, Darlene Shawbonquit due to personal illness and loss has taken a leave of absence. Family Advocacy Manger, Rachel Pattison is covering on the interim.

Family Advocacy (Band Representative) Program

The Family Advocacy Program (Band Representative's) continue to provide advocacy, support and service linkages to the members and children of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek on all child welfare matters with mandated child welfare agencies involving Atikameksheng families and children under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act.

The agencies include Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services, Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services; Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, and other agencies where our families and children may reside or become involved with.

Repatriation Activities to support our children in care include family visiting arrangements, baby cuddling supports, community back to school BBQ in collaboration with Nogdawindamin. Family finding, seeking family placements for children who are unable to be cared for by their parents.

Social Services Update

Family Advocacy Teams consists of:

3 Band Representatives

1 Case Aid

1 Administrative Clerk

Koognaasewin – Child Well-Being Law Development

The Social Service Director and Family Advocacy Manager continue to attend meetings for the Working Group and Technical Committee for the Child Well-Being Law Development.

Spring 2023 full overview and update was provided to the Health and Social Services staff which continued the Re-Imagining work to determine what the needs and wants are for Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Child Well-Being programs and supports.

Community Survey's and interviews were completed during the Spring and Summer by the Koognaasewin Group, due to the small samples of engagement for Atikameksheng Anishnawbek this Survey will be relaunched in 3rd Quarter to obtain.

Child & Youth Program

The Child & Youth Program is a community-based prevention program that offers holistic programs, activities, holiday/promotion/prevention events, seasonal land-based learning opportunities for children, youth, and families/extended families within Atikameksheng. We are an inclusive program that builds relationships with all Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and its community members.

The Child & Youth Program has 3 full-time workers being:

1)Child & Youth Worker (ages 7-12)

2)Child & Youth Worker (ages 13-21)

3)Community Physical Activities Programmer (ages 0-50+)

Social Services Update

April - June 2023

Programs/Activities:

Cultural Activities Included:

- Language incorporated during each program activity
- Smelt Fishing
- Minigin Making
- 7 Grandfather Teachings
- Arts & Crafts
- Traditional Cooking
- Fishing/Fiddle Head Harvesting

Prevention Program Activities Include:

- Life Skills Program
- Prevention Sessions
- Physical Activity
- Micro-Hatchery Program
- Fitness Centre
- Rookie League Baseball began in June 2023
- Youth Drop Ins

July - September 2023

Cultural Activities Included:

- Seasonal Harvesting
- Hiking
- Arts & Crafts
- Nature Walks
- Hand Drumming
- Traditional Teachings
- Fishing & Fileting

Prevention Activities Included:

- RTP Jays Care Rookie League Baseball
- Safety Sessions
- OPP Presentations & Visits
- Biking
- Field Games
- Basketball
- Baking & Cooking
- Self-Care Awareness & Practice
- Bullying Prevention
- Science North Outing
- Urban Air Outing (Children & Youth)
- Vision Boarding
- Recreation Water Testing & Result Readings
- Environmental Concerns research & awareness campaigns

Social Services Update

Events included:

- Annual Summer Program
- Annual Water Walk Ceremony & Feast
- Rookie League Tournament & Banquet

Summer Student Employment Opportunities:

- Summer Program (5)
- Green Plan Project (2)

Child & Youth Well-Being Team(CWBT)

The Child and Youth Well-Being Team provides programming and support to the children and youth of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek with the overall goal of minimizing and preventing child welfare involvement.

The following programs/services have been facilitated by four staff on the CWBT – Child Well-Being Worker, Youth Well-Being Worker, Oshkaabewis and Nokomis Kidwaa Worker during the first and second quarters:

Program Highlights and Activities:

- Quilting Group (x15)
- Big Drum Night (x15)
- Beaver Pelt Drum Bag (x1)
- Meet and Greet (x1)
- Feast It Up (x2)
- Wellness Kits (x2)
- Colouring Contest (x1)
- Healer Visit (x1)
- Tea and Conversation (x5)
- HBHC Craft Collab (x3)
- Creativitree (x2)
- Beavertail & Bannock (x2)
- Drum Social (x1)
- School and Community Pow Wow (x3)

Child & Family Services Team consists of:

2 Family Support Workers

1 Family Well-Being Worker

The Family Support Workers & Family Well-Being workers provide support & advocacy to the families they work with. They make referrals to other service providers and work in collaboration with Band Representatives to address child welfare concerns. When time permits, workers will offer to assist with programming being delivered to the community.

Social Services Update

FAMILY WELL-BEING PROGRAM

The Family Well-Being Program is prevention focused, community-led, and addresses the root cause of violence, trauma and over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in child welfare and youth justice system. Program is designed to support Indigenous families in crisis and help communities heal and recover from intergenerational violence and trauma.

Family Well-Being workers are the frontline staff who will be responsible for delivering a range of programming that responds to the needs of the community. Family Well-Being worker is supervised by the Child & Family Services Manager. Current Family Well-Being worker started employment June, 2023 and the previous worker left in January, 2023.

FAMILY WELL BEING WORKER

Family Well Being worker completed goals & objectives for probationary period. Worker was mentored by Family Support Worker. Worker read policies and procedures, completed HR assignments, completed 2023-2024 work plan, obtained an overview of Hub program & services, assisted with food security program & completed shopping for programming.

July - September 2023

The Family Well-Being Worker assisted or participated in the following:

- Aboriginal Day
- Debendaagziwaad Days
- MMWIG
- Summer Programming
- Medicine Making
- Water Walk
- Moccasin Making
- Making Center Pieces for Banquets
- Food Security Program

Social Services Update

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Family Support Program is a voluntary program and provides support and advocates on behalf of the children and families. Family Support Workers work in collaboration with internal and external agencies to address the issues that place children at risk. The team works to educate and empower families to make positive choices that will keep their children safe and strengthen their families.

April to June 2023

Prevention program activities include:

- 6 week Coffee & Conversation (Self-Care)

Cultural activities include:

- Aboriginal Day

July - September 2023

- Summer Camp (Mocassin Making)
- Annual PowWow (Jiingtamok)



Health Department Update

HEALTH PROGRAMS

“Collaboration with outreach for the sound baths was successful in April. 2 Youth groups were completed, in April and May and were well attended. Alex McPhee counselling supervision has been successful from April – Present.

In June collaborated with the Health Team for Treaty Day, attended Graphic Con to advertise Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Health Department. Attended the Indigenous Voices in OSP meeting from April -June on hold till September. In July assisted Chief in the Elder Boundary Claim Meeting, assisted adult day programmer, assisted health department in Debendaagziwaad days.

In August, all CPI NCI Trainings were completed, collaboration meetings with Nogdawindamin Mental Health Team to provide mental health circles. Ongoing program planning with other Atikameksheng Teams for groups and events are happening (MMIW Day), as well as ongoing clinical counselling with clients.”

Addictions & Traditional Health

During the months of April to June the Wellness Coordinator for Addictions and Traditional Health assisted 7 individuals with addiction related services, and 6 for Traditional Health visits. They work from the Atikameksheng Hub every Wednesday. We held 1 FASD Session for Planned Parenting, 1 Harm Reduction and 1 Anti—stigma presentation. They attended the Sacred Fire approximately 5 times, they had Arrole Lawrence, Energy Healer, in for a day, and Patricia Toulouse, Traditional Medicine Practitioner here monthly.

During the months of July and August the Wellness Coordinator for Addictions and Traditional Health assisted 7 individuals with addiction related services, 17 individuals for Traditional Health and 27 Staff were trained with the naloxone. We had Lorraine Hughes, Energy Healer in for 2-day online sessions, and a Healing Sweat Lodge with Julie and Frank Ozawagosh. The Addictions worker was scheduled for 2 Alex McPhee children’s Counseling Visits.

Health Department Update

Community Hub

OSR Funds were secured for the expansion of the Community Hub to provide more space for visiting professionals and services to be provided to on and off reserve community members.

The renovations have begun and should be completed by mid-September. We have been open only a year and the response to the community hub has been greater than imagined, therefore the need for expansion. Continued collaboration with community resources within the area. In the process of finalizing our Harm Reduction Supplies that will be available both at the Hub and the Health Centre and hoping to go live with this in the very near future.

- Stats from April-July 2023 for In-reach services at the hub:
 - Connections at the hub: 534 connections this quarter
 - Services provided at the hub: 876 services provided at the hub this quarter
 - Serviced off the street: 46 transports provided to and from the hub this quarter
 - Referrals provided: 651 referrals provided this quarter.
- Stats from April-July 2023 for Outreach services in the community:
 - Connections on outreach: 1234 connections this quarter
 - Services provided on outreach: 1954 services provided on outreach this quarter
 - Serviced off the street: 149 transports from outreach workers this quarter
 - Referrals provided: 1488 referrals provided from outreach workers this quarter.

Health Department Update

Outreach Team:

- Highlights this quarter April-July 2023:
 - Extended contract for 2nd Outreach Worker from April 1 to March 31, 2023.
 - Collaborating with Mental Health workers for the Alex Mcphee therapy sessions for our children and youth.
 - Eliminating barriers for transportation: Treaty Day, Debendaagziwaad, food security days, food bank transports for Walden food bank, sacred fire, to name a few this quarter.
 - Facilitating information booths at Graphic Con Sudbury, and “Support. Don’t punish. Global Day of Action” (Reseau Access Network)
 - Starting a men’s sharing circle which will re-start come the fall season.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE / GLADU

The Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Restorative Justice program (AARJP) has had many accomplishments throughout the first quarter of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. On April 21st, 2023, the AARJP successfully hosted cadet training for 9 of the Greater Sudbury Police Services (GSPS)- Police Cadets with excellent feedback with an average 9/10 feedback rating. Our program manager Amelia McComber was invited to and represented Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and the Justice program at the 15th National Justice Symposium in Alberta.

The Justice program was also successful in hiring a fulltime Restorative Justice Administrative Assistant Nicole Cadieux and a Community Wellness Worker Emily Kewais. The Justice Program had our first request for a Diversion Circle in May 2023, and have since then, have been able to successfully host three Diversion Circles out of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Community Hub and currently have five active clients.

Health Department Update

Gladue Program

The Gladue Program had six Gladue Report requests, which we were unable to fulfill due to not having the funding to do so. The Ministry of Attorney General Indigenous Division was made aware of the lack of services in the Greater City of Sudbury, it is anticipated we will be getting additional funding in the near future to provide these essential services.

Home & Community Care Program Updates

- Digital Health Proposal:

The Home & Community Care Program continues to receive funding from Health Canada for e-health funding. This funding assists in the implementation of an electronic medical record system, as well as to provide support for improved data collection, analysis, and reporting. We recently received the tablets for the home care staff to use for charting on the go. The equipment should be ready to use by September 2023.

- Virtual Care Access and Literacy Pilot Program:

First Nation Digital Health Ontario (FNDHO) provided four iPads to the Home & Community Care Program. Some of the benefits of having the IPAD include virtual visits with health care professionals, apps available for healthy lifestyle training, self-care, and education, exploring information on mental health and cognitive health, and traditional healing. A request was submitted to health Canada to add a couple of social apps to the iPad.

Health Department Update

- End of Life Funding

In July 2023, a proposal for end-of-life funding was submitted with Indigenous Services Canada. Our application was approved in the amount of 71, 527.76. We hired a PSW to work in this sector of services on Wednesday August 9, 2023, on a six-month contract. This is a one client application process. The PSW is working in the home full time with this client and family.

- CPP – Semaas for Atikameksheng

This is the third year that Home & Community care is growing semaa for community use. We use this medicine in the health centre for smudging at the health centre/band office and with the healers and traditional use. As well, we donate semaa to the community sacred fires. This picture was taken August 22, 2023, and will be ready for harvesting September 2023.

Education Department Update

The Education Department hired 7 new positions during the first quarter of the fiscal year. These positions were hired for the Education Services Team and include the following:

- 2 Education Support Workers (Elementary/Secondary Worker, Post-Secondary Worker) in addition to our 2 Education Support Workers for special education support.
- 2 Education Assistance placed at RH Murray Public School and St. James Catholic Elementary School to assist our students in the classroom.
- 2 Anishnaabemowin Program Workers.
- 1 Interim Librarian.

The Education Department has hired 2 Anishnaabemowin Program Worker, dedicated to revitalizing our language within the community. The Anishnaabemowin Team is currently working in collaboration with the Political Office assisting with the Elder's Oral History Project and translations. Community language programming will commence in the Fall.

Education Department staff attended the Ontario Native Education Counsellors Association (ONECA) Conference and the Ontario Library Services Annual Meeting this quarter to network with neighboring Indigenous communities and continue to improve the services our department offers.

The Education Department participated in Treaty Day, sharing a booth with the community highlighting the changes within the Education Department and answering inquiries of community members.

The Education Services Team coordinated activities for Education Week 2023 in May. The team hosted educational engagement sessions at the library to share information regarding tutoring supports, study tips, and transitions. The team also coordinated a traditional knowledge sharing session, sharing the history of plums being a native fruit on Atikameksheng land, planting plum tree seedlings at the Kendaasii-Gamik and Waasakwa Early Learning Centre.

Education Department Update

During the summer months, the Education Department collaborated and assisted with multiple programs & events within the community. The Education Services Team offered staff capacity to assist with the Summer Program coordinated by the Social Service Department. The Education Department also assisted with Debendaagziwaad Days, coordinating Nish Ball, Family Dance, and Art Show. Towards the end of the summer, the Education Services Team collaborated to support the Atikameksheng Trust in coordinating the Education Banquet to celebrate our students' accomplishments within the community.

Throughout the summer, the Education Department also prepared for the academic year ahead, completing back to school registration, school supplies gift card distribution, and school bus readiness.

Beginning in September, the Education Support Team commenced their work with our students back in the schools and classrooms. Additionally, our team has started the School Lunch Market, Snack & Homework Club, and PD Day activity programming that students can access on reserve. The Education Department held an open house in September for the community to be introduced to the new department employees and remind families of services available. St. Alberts Adult Learning and Tutor Doctor attended the event to network, and we had teachers and administrators from the school boards attend.

The Anishnaabemowin Team completed their objectives of the Indigenous Language & Cultures grant funding, including purchasing recording equipment, networking with language speakers, and developing a language resources and plans for immersion and second language programming. Language programming will be offered to the community soon.

Moving forward, the Education Department has hired a project manager to assist in the structural needs to open our licensed daycare on reserve. The project manager will be facilitating the requirement to meet the provincial regulations to obtain our license. The Education Department has made opening our daycare a priority in the community.

Welcome to the Team!!!



My name is Kaiya Nyabeze and I am excited to embark on this journey as the Tourism & Film Development Coordinator. I bring a passion for storytelling and community engagement. With a background in business administration, hospitality, and a love for cultural exchange, I'm dedicated to fostering vibrant tourism experiences and opportunities within our community!

My name is Ishaq Lodhi, and I am a band member of Atikameksheng Anishinabek. I worked as a Summer Student before I attained my new position as an Economic Development Intern. I'm very excited to be working for my home community again and I'm happy that I can learn about all the different departments that make Atikameksheng a positive environment.



Welcome to the Team!!!



Aanii, my name is Koreen Lewis. I am a Ojibwe from Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation. I'm a proud mother of five children and a grandmother .
à I have studied Aboriginal Community Development at George Brown College and Native Child and Family worker, also, Native Early Child Educator at Cambrian College

I was a Akwego Worker for 17 years, working with youth and families as I provided support and advocacy. Looking forward to working within your community

Happy Halloween!!!!



Indigenous Veterans Day

