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Good Friday: April 2nd, Easter Monday: April 5th & Nipissing Day: April 12th

Council Meetings

April 6th & 20th

@ 7:00 p.m.

via Microsoft Teams

Submit agenda items by 4pm on the Thursday prior to the Council meeting to: Freda Martel, Director of Administration, by email to fredam@nfn.ca.

Update on NFN's COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

First mass shipment received March 8th; second shipment expected soon

As of March 29th, 827 community members have received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine, and all 10 residents of our Seniors' Complex have received their second dose, along with staff working closely with these Elders or providing direct care.

Our team is relieved to know that we are one step closer to protecting our most at-risk population, but we are also anxiously awaiting word on when we can expect to receive our next mass shipment of vaccines and how many doses we will receive.

With the threat of a third wave looming and with limited supplies of vaccine from a handful of companies, we continue to be in regular contact with our local Health Unit, which is in turn advocating to the province for an increase in vaccine supply for our region in order to complete Phase One of vaccinations, in which Indigenous communities are a priority.

While we wait for the next shipment to arrive, we encourage anyone who wants to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to register now (if you haven't already). Vaccine appointments will be given according to priority level based on age, and the date/time of registration.

You must register in advance and will then be called for a vaccine appointment based on priority and the time at which you registered. *If you have already registered for a vaccine, someone from the Health Centre will call you to book an appointment.*

Everyone eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Nipissing First Nation will be offered one as long as they meet the criteria below.

You can put your name on the NFN COVID-19 Vaccine Registration List if you meet the following criteria:

- You are over 16 years old; and
- You live in Nipissing First Nation; or
- You are a Nipissing First Nation member living off-reserve who can attend a vaccine clinic in Garden Village or Duchesnay; or
- You are employed by Nipissing First Nation, or by a business located on NFN.

If you meet the criteria and would like to get the COVID-19 Vaccine, please call NFN Health Services at 705-753-3312 to register as soon as possible. You should not wait until the vaccines arrive. Please only call once (and leave a message with your full name and phone number) and allow up to 48 hours for our team to return your call.

PLEASE NOTE: The North Bay Indigenous Hub will be hosting vaccine clinics for the urban Indigenous community of the Nipissing-Parry Sound Districts and can be reached at 705-995-0060 for more information.

Please see [page 2](#) for details about NFN's Vaccine Roll-Out Stats & Supply Challenges.

Please see [page 4](#) for more information about our district's current level in the provincial framework (Yellow Zone) and restrictions as of March 22nd.

NFN COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Stats

As of March 25th, NFN Health Services reports that 1,275 people have registered for a COVID-19 vaccine. 827 of the registrants have received their first dose, while 33 elders and their caregivers have received their first and second doses. 415 registrants are on the wait list for a first dose and will be called as soon as we have an appointment for them.

Public Health Update

As of March 29th, there have been 289 positive cases of COVID-19 in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit), with 279 listed as resolved (recovered) and four deaths. There are six active cases (all in Nipissing District) and of the 110,922 tests done to date, the positivity rate for our district is 0.26% [total number of cases to date (289) divided by the number of tests done to date in our district (110,922) multiplied by 100].

In a [news release](#) issued on March 25th, the Health Unit said it continues to advocate with the province for greater access to COVID-19 vaccines as the Health Unit does not have adequate vaccine to open up vaccinations beyond the Phase One priorities.

Andrea McLellan, Director of COVID-19 Immunization, stated: “Without an increase in our Health Unit’s allotted COVID-19 vaccine supply, we aren’t able to do this. Though we understand that vaccine allocation was targeted at hot spots earlier this year, we are hopeful the provincial government will increase supply to our region in order to make up for the earlier disparity.”

Ontario advised in a [news release](#) on March 28th that as vaccine supply is delivered across the province, vaccine administration rates may differ based on local context. Rollout and timing has been further impacted by the latest delay in shipment of the Moderna vaccine, initially planned for March 30th but now delayed until April 7th.

Ontario continues to work with public health units to vaccinate remaining Phase One populations, including First Nation, Metis, and Inuit adults, health care workers, adult chronic home care recipients, and residents and staff in seniors’ congregate care settings.

Individuals who have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine are reminded that they must still follow public health measures including:

- Staying home as much as possible;
- Practicing physical distancing – staying two (2) metres from others who do not reside in your home or where you are living, and if you live alone physically distancing from anyone outside your unique close contact home;
- Wearing a face covering indoors and whenever physical distancing is difficult;
- Washing or sanitizing your hands often;
- Coughing and sneezing into your sleeve;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Cleaning high touch objects and surfaces often.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, first self-isolate and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to seek testing or further care. If you need further assistance, call your health care provider or the Health Unit at [1-800-563-2808](tel:1-800-563-2808). If you have severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, you should call 911 and mention your symptoms if you are able. For more information, please visit myhealthunit.ca/COVID-19.

Public Health Information

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

(updated Monday at 10am & 3pm and Tues - Friday at 3pm)
www.myhealthunit.ca/

Cases in Ontario (updated daily at 10:30am)
covid-19.ontario.ca/

COVID-19 cases in schools & child care centres (updated weekdays at 10:30am)
ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres

More info/medical advice:

- Telehealth Ontario for medical advice at **1-866-797-0000**
- Local Health Unit at **1-800-563-2808 ext. 5229**
- Your primary health care provider (i.e. Family Doctor)

Do not call 911 unless it is an emergency.

Think you have COVID-19 symptoms?

Call Telehealth Ontario: **1-866-797-0000** **OR** use this self-assessment tool to help determine how to seek further care: covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/

To book a COVID-19 test, contact:

West Nipissing Assessment Centre
705-580-2186
Open 10am - 4pm
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

North Bay Regional Health Centre
705-474-8600 ext. 4110

Positive Case of COVID-19 at Local Business

On March 28th, we issued a media release to advise the public that an employee of *Green Medicine* in Duchesnay had tested positive for COVID-19. The potential exposure dates include:

- March 12 - 13
- March 15 - 20
- March 22 - 27

Close contacts were advised to immediately self-isolate, self-monitor and to get tested for COVID-19 if symptoms arise or on day 10 of exposure.

Only individuals identified as a close contact were contacted by Nipissing First Nation Health Services. Self-isolation means individuals are to remain on their property and avoid contact with others for a minimum of 14 days even if you receive a negative COVID-19 test result. This includes self-isolating from others in your home.

Community Health Nurses will be conducting regular follow-up with close contacts for the duration of the isolation period. Customers using curbside or delivery services are considered a low-risk exposure and are not required to self-isolate.

Green Medicine will be closed from March 29th to April 10th as an added precautionary measure, and will re-open April 12th.

A Message about Spring Break

March Break looks very different this year... and not just because it was postponed until April. While our district is still seeing relatively low COVID-19 case numbers overall, other areas of the province are experiencing a surge. This has prompted our local Health Unit to issue the following message that contains some valuable tips to keep our community safe.

In many parts of northern Ontario, COVID-19 infection rates have been at some of the highest levels since the pandemic began. COVID-19 activity is rising again across the province, and the rapid spread of variants of concern (VOCs) is causing aggressive outbreaks, and in some cases, more severe illness, even in younger people.

We know that everyone has made tremendous sacrifices for over a year. And there is ongoing hope, as more vaccine becomes available, week by week. At this very moment in time, however, the vast majority of our community members are not yet immunized. This means risky activities like gatherings and travel must still be avoided by all.

Top 3 Actions for All Families and Households

1. Stay 2 metres apart from anyone you don't live with.

- Staying connected is important for wellbeing. The safest ways to connect are by phone or online.
- Being outdoors is less risky than indoors, and everyone should still be 2 metres apart.
- Closed, indoor spaces are risky. Keep time spent indoors brief, and stay masked and distanced at all times. In the grey-lockdown zone, it is illegal to gather indoors with anyone you do not live with.

Avoid gatherings, shared meals or carools outside your household - these are common ways that COVID-19 spreads from one family to another. A person infected with COVID-19 can spread the virus to others 48 hours before they even feel sick.

2. Have symptoms? Get tested straight away, and until you have results, you and everyone else you live with must stay home.

- Because the variants spread so aggressively, when one person in the home is sick, the entire household must stay home until test results are available.
- Mild symptoms, even a runny nose can be COVID-19. Only testing can tell.

Do not go to work or school, or visit anyone if you have symptoms.

3. Avoid non-essential travel or receiving visitors, especially between different colour zones.

- Postpone non-essential trips to avoid the risk of exposure.
- For essential trips, such as for work or medical care, plan ahead. If possible, stay in accommodations where you have a separate bedroom and bathroom. Wear a mask and stay distanced from others at all times.

If a student is returning home from college or university, plan ahead. Avoid risky close contact exposures 14 days before travel. Postpone travel if sick. In case of a need to quarantine or isolate because of exposure or illness, arrange a safe space to do so, ideally with a separate bedroom and bathroom.

Read the full [media release](#), including tips for businesses, on the Health Unit's website.

Our Region Moves to Yellow Zone

A Snapshot of what that means...

Organized public events, social gatherings and wedding, funeral and religious services, rites and ceremonies

- Limits for certain organized public events and social gatherings such as functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, barbecues or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, or parks, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 10 people indoors
 - 25 people outdoors
- Limits for organized public events and gatherings in staffed businesses and facilities, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 50 people indoors
 - 100 people outdoors
- Limits for religious services rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, where physical distancing can be maintained (applies in any venue other than a private dwelling):
 - 30% capacity of the room indoors
 - 100 people outdoors

Retail

New for Yellow-Protect as of February 2021:

- Stores must have passive screening for patrons (for example, posting signs outside the store front about not entering if you have COVID-19 symptoms)
 - This does not apply to indoor malls, which are required to actively screen their customers before they enter the mall. Malls can use the [patron screening tool](#) to help meet this requirement.
- A safety plan is required to be prepared and made available upon request

Sports and recreational fitness facilities

- Maintain 2 metres physical distancing, unless engaged in a sport
- Increase spacing between patrons to 3 metres for areas of a sport or recreational facility where there are weights or exercise equipment and in exercise and fitness classes
- Capacity limits per venue, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 50 people in indoor classes, however each indoor fitness or exercise class can only have a maximum of 10 people and must take place in a separate room or
 - 100 people in outdoor classes, however each outdoor fitness or exercise class can only have a maximum of 25 people
 - 50 people indoors in areas with weights or exercise equipment
 - 50 spectators indoors or 100 outdoors

Learn more about the public health measures and restrictions in the Yellow level: [COVID-19 response framework: keeping Ontario safe and open | Ontario.ca](#)

COVID-19

**Got symptoms?
Stay home and
get tested.**

You can get a test if:

- You are worried you may have COVID-19
- You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
- You are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through your employment
- You are experiencing **symptoms of COVID-19** (someone without symptoms or voluntarily testing is no longer a priority)
- You do not need a referral to get a test
- You do not need a health card to get a test

There are two testing centres in the area:

West Nipissing Assessment Centre

705-580-2186
Open 10am - 4pm
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

North Bay Regional Health Centre

705-474-8600 ext. 4110
Open 9am - 5pm (7 days a week) - Assessment Centre in parking lot #9 – for symptomatic patients or children 8 years & under
Drive thru options near Emergency entrance is also available for asymptomatic people.

Please note: public health officials do not recommend getting tested for COVID-19 if you don't have any symptoms.

Yellow - Protect



Office Closure Extended

We are taking a cautionary approach to reopening our offices to staff as our district progresses to less restrictive measures. The majority of our staff will continue to work remotely until **April 19th** (subject to change).

Our offices remain closed to the public until further notice. Please visit nfn.ca/covid19 for regular updates about our operations and for a complete list of contacts.



FOOD BANK ACCESS

The Food Bank will be open on **Wednesday, April 7 & 21 (1st & 3rd Wednesday)**

Download the order form for the current month at nfn.ca/food-bank or call 753-6972.

PUBLIC WORKS

ESSENTIAL SERVICES & EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Essential services provided by Public Works continue without interruption, including road maintenance, garbage/recycling collection and infrastructure services.

In case of emergency, please contact:

Steve Doucette, Public Works Manager at 705-840-3626.



Council Connection

Keeping Our Community Informed about Key Issues

Community Outreach Program Update

We invite community members to join us for virtual community consultations about our new Community Outreach Program at the end of April (dates to be announced soon). Learn more about how this program will help address mental health and addictions issues in our community by meeting people where they are and supporting our most vulnerable members. We have already completed consultations with Right Path clients and staff to determine immediate needs, and now wish to engage with citizens to talk about the plan and how we can move forward together to build a healthier and stronger community.

Nipissing Ratifies Anishinaabe Governance Agreement

The official results of our second vote on the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (ANGA) were 314 'yes' votes and 173 'no' votes, with 6 spoiled ballots for a total of 493 votes (only one vote shy of the number of votes in February 2020 when we held in-person voting). This second vote required a simply majority threshold set by Canada, which was met with the community speaking nearly two-to-one in favour of the agreement.

The ANGA represents another step towards getting out from under the *Indian Act* by recognizing Nipissing's legal authority in four key areas of governance and by providing long-term, sustainable funding for work we are already doing in the areas of: Citizenship, Elections, Language & Culture and Management & Operations.

The ANGA will be implemented on April 1, 2022 and we will continue to provide updates as we move forward. We are pleased that we will now have enhanced, stable funding that we control based on our nation's priorities, as determined by our citizens through our democratic processes, not by the *Indian Act*. To be clear, Nipissing will continue to be sovereign and no rights have been surrendered by signing this agreement. We have simply agreed to take on full responsibility for these four areas, so the only 'con' is that we will (continue to) be accountable to our citizens for how we govern ourselves.

Chi-Miigwech to our dedicated Health Services team and nurses for working tirelessly through this pandemic for over a year to keep our community safe.

Our first mass immunization clinics in March were executed seamlessly and saw a large number of community members vaccinated thanks to our team's skill and expertise. Miigwech!



Employment Opportunities

To view the complete job posting, please click on the position titles below, visit nfn.ca/jobs, or call 705-753-2050 to request a copy by mail, fax or email.

Human Resources Manager – Permanent Full-Time – *2nd Round Posting*
Apply by Friday, April 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Shuttle Service Drivers – Contract to July 2021
Apply by Friday, April 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Nbisiing School Teacher – Contract – *3rd Round Posting*
Apply by Friday, April 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

LNHL Office Support / Fundraising Coordinator – Contract to March 2022
Apply by Friday, April 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Right Path Admin Assistant – Permanent Full-Time – *2nd Round Posting*
Apply by Friday, April 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Please submit applications to resumes@nfn.ca, or by fax to 705-753-0207, or mail to: Human Resources, Nipissing First Nation, 36 Semo Road, Garden Village ON P2B 3K2

Retirements & Best Wishes

Juliette McLeod is retiring April 1st after serving almost 37 years with NFN. She began working for NFN on November 12, 1984 as Receptionist/Secretary and later was assigned Membership duties and staff HR forms. As the population grew through Bill C31 she was made full time Membership Clerk to be able to concentrate on providing services to on and off reserve membership.

The highlight of Juliette’s career was organizing the very first Veteran’s Day Celebration here at Nipissing Nation. Besides making all arrangements for the celebration, she had to fundraise to get the very first Cenotaph and for the meals for the Veteran’s and the community that followed the Ceremony.

She will be missed by her colleagues and the membership. We wish Juliette a retirement filled with lots of everything she loves most!

Suzanne Goulais-Deering is retiring after 33 years with the Ojibway Women’s Lodge (formerly the Family Resource Centre). Suzanne worked as a Frontline Supervisor for many years before accepting the role of Shelter Director. Her commitment to women and families was always at the forefront of all of her work.

Over the years, Suzanne incorporated her strong knowledge and teachings of our Culture in many aspects of the Vision of the Ojibway Women’s Lodge. Some of the many successes that Suzanne contributed to include the Shelter’s name change to Ojibway Women’s Lodge. The meaning of the Lodge being a place of healing and wellness, a safe place where seeds are planted and care and compassion are at the core of that vision.

For these commitments to our community and beyond, we wish to say Chi-Miigwech and congratulations Suzanne on all of your amazing accomplishments, hard work and your commitment to OWL. We know you will continue on that good path with your teachings and knowledge of our Culture. Best Wishes to your new adventures. Baamaapii.



A Message from True Self Debwewendizwin

True Self-Debwewendizwin Program welcomes **Gislain Ouellette**, our new Outreach Support Services Worker, to our team.

Gislain will be traveling to offer mobile community street outreach weekly to North Bay, Mattawa, Rutherglen, Bonfield and Sturgeon Falls and bi-weekly to Redbridge and Eldee to provide peer support services and distribute mask and hand sanitizer packages.

For more information our to request an appointment please email us at: info@trueself.ca or call our main line at 705-474-4058 ext 200.

We are now offering free 2-hour Women’s Healing Workshops online from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm four day a week.

If you or someone you know would like to participate please visit our Eventbrite page to view and register for individual workshops.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/true-self-debwewendizwin-womens-healing-workshops-32457997597>. Miigwech.



Funding Announced for VLA Water Plant

We are happy to report NFN has secured funding through Infrastructure Canada to help us address significant issues with the pump house and water quality in our Veterans' Lane community.

A recent water feasibility study determined that the pumphouse needs to be replaced with a full water treatment system. We have identified a new well to service the community and are grateful for this investment in our nation's infrastructure needs.

This funding will cover the majority of the cost of these needed enhancements that will result in better supply and quality of the water our residents and businesses receive.

Read the [media release](#) and [backgrounder](#).

Spring Watermain Flushing

NFN Public Works will be flushing the watermain for a few days in late April or early May. Watch for notice to be posted on social media and our digital signs closer to this maintenance work starting.

The purpose of this work is to maintain good water quality. While flushing is occurring, residents can expect periods of low pressure and may see some discoloration of the water. If this happens, run taps for about 5 minutes until the water clears.

Spring Moratorium Begins April 1st

Annual gillnet moratorium in effect from April 1st- May 22nd

Temporary moratorium on spear fishing remains in effect

In accordance with NFN's Fisheries Law, the spring moratorium is in effect as of **Thursday, April 1st** and will remain in effect until the 2021 fishing season begins on **Saturday, May 22nd**.

The temporary moratorium on the cultural practice of spear fishing remains in effect this year. Our enforcement officers will be monitoring for compliance regularly.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will be offering online registration for commercial fishers again this year.

To register as a commercial fisher, please complete the following application form:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/elChms>

Please note: This is an application only. You must receive a Commercial Fishing Card from the Natural Resources Department in order to be registered to fish commercially.

Online Catch Reporting Form: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/9VCh3O>

The current seasonal closure does not affect our members' inherent and treaty-protected rights to harvest fish for subsistence or ceremonial purposes.

Members who plan to fish for subsistence or ceremony must follow our [Fisheries Law](#) and are asked to notify our Fisheries Office in advance by calling 705-753-6991. Anyone selling fish under the pretense of subsistence or ceremonial fishing will be considered to be in violation of and subject to enforcement measures under NFN's [Fisheries Law](#).

For compliance/enforcement issues, contact:

Tyler Couchie, Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Office: 705-753-2050 ext. 1224 | Cell: 705-498-2506

Clayton Goulais, Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Office: 705-753-2050 ext. 1236 | Cell: 705-498-3823



Crown Ward Settlement

A proposed settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit against the Province of Ontario on behalf of Crown Wards who were victims of crime but did not receive compensatory benefits. In Ontario, permanent wards were called Crown Wards and, since April 30, 2018, are referred to as children in extended society care.

The class consists of persons who were alive as of January 22, 2012, who were Crown Wards in Ontario at any time from the period on or after January 1, 1966 until March 30, 2017 and suffered physical or sexual assault before or while a Crown Ward.

If the proposed Settlement is approved, it will provide eligible class members up to \$3,600.00. The Court will hold a Settlement Approval Hearing on May 12, 2021 where the Court will decide whether to approve the proposed settlement (as fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class) and the request for Plaintiffs' counsel's legal fees, disbursements and taxes. Learn more here: <https://ontariocrownwardclassaction.ca/>



Meal Program for Seniors

Orders must be placed every month



Must be a registered NFN member aged 65 years or older

Program provides a package of frozen prepared meals once a month

Call Stella Solomon at the Health Centre at 705-753-3312 to place your order for pick up or local delivery.

Monthly Order Deadlines

Order by April 7th for a meal package on April 14th

Order by May 5th for a meal package on May 12th

Harm Reduction Services (needle exchange and naloxone kits) are available every **THURSDAY** afternoon from 1pm to 4:30pm at 316 Ted Commanda Drive, Garden Village during our extended office closure. Knock at the door and someone will assist OR call Lisa at (705) 753-1375 and leave a message on the general voice mail and arrangements will be made to get your order to you. You can also reach us by email: lisal@nfn.ca.

The Suboxone clinic is still available **Monday to Friday** from 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Health Centre (58 Semo Road, Garden Village). You can also call 705-753-1375 to make pick-up or delivery arrangements. New referrals and self-referrals are welcome.

The CDWMP also provides land based activities and cultural supports.

CBC New Indigenous Voices is a full-time, 14-week online training program for up to nine Indigenous creators **aged 18 to 35** to learn the essential elements of working in the film, TV and digital media industries. The curriculum is designed with traditional and spiritual elements. Minimum wage is paid throughout.

**New
Indigenous Voices**

Apply by:
April 23

Build your career and learn the essential elements of working in the film, TV and digital media industries with online training and hands-on experience.

**CBC NEW
INDIGENOUS VOICES**

nsi national screen institute | nsi-canada.ca



N I P I S S I N G S E C O N D A R Y S C H O O L

Stay Connected with Us - Please visit our website www.nbisiing.com or [Nbisiing Secondary School Facebook page](#) for our calendar of events and other school-related information, or call (705) 497-9938 for more information.



In light of March Break being postponed to April this year, Nbisiing students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor activities that allowed them to get outside and take a break from their computer screens while practicing mindfulness and completing challenges.



A Week in the Sugar Bush

Nbisiing students went to the Sugar Bush the week of March 23rd. Elder Larry Mcleod agreed to host small groups of Nbisiing students at the Sugar Bush in Yellek.

Over the years we have gone to see the harvest of maple sap, listen to Nbisiing history, and hear a *teaching* on the “new year”. This year we will be visiting in small groups over multiple days to follow the COVID-19 protocols of Nipissing First Nation.

The Health Unit reviewed our proposal and supported the initiative as we respected the health and safety measures that are currently in place. This was be a welcomed opportunity for some land-based education after a winter of remote learning.



Theme Days at Nbisiing

This past month, Nbisiing had 2 theme days: Wacky hat/hair day, and Superhero/movie character dress up day! Students (and even staff) showed off their creativity with their wacky hats and costumes!





DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION VACANCY

On March 5, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) issued a letter to Participating First Nations (PFNs) announcing the resignation of Bryon Brisard from the position of Director of Education. The KEB Board of Directors is in the process of engaging a new Director of Education. During this period of transition, an interim leadership plan is in place, consisting of support from Elizabeth Bigwin, Andrea Crawford and Tracey O'Donnell. The interim plan will ensure the continuation of daily operations of the KEB and support to the PFNs.

The KEB is now accepting applications for the position of Director of Education until April 1, 2021. Please feel free to share the employment opportunity in your community. The job posting can be found on the Anishinabek Education System (AES) website at www.aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities/.

2021-2022 EDUCATION FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Participating First Nations will receive their Education Funding Allocation Agreements from the KEB before the end of March 2021. The agreement sets out education funding for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as per the terms of the Anishinabek Nation Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement with Canada. This includes funding for Kindergarten-Grade 12 education and for post-secondary education.

The KEB will work directly with each PFN over the coming weeks to finalize the signing of the agreements. The initial transfer payment for signed funding agreements will be distributed in April 2021. If you have questions regarding your 2021-2022 Education Funding Allocation Agreement, please contact Claire Scanlan, Finance Manager, by email at claire.scanlan@a-e-s.ca.

AES LEARNING SERIES

On February 25, the KEB hosted an open online session focussed on increasing awareness and knowledge of the AES. The one-hour event was the first in a series of virtual learning sessions intended to take place over several months. A second session took place on March 18 and focussed on the [Consent Forms for AES student data and information sharing](#). Each session in the learning series has a different learning topic. Participating First Nations are invited to attend the sessions, which are shared by email invitation and advertised on the AES facebook page.

Next Session

April 15, 2021

Learning Topic

Curriculum Resources

STUDENT DATA AND INFORMATION CONSENT FORMS

Electronic consent form packages were shared with PFNs on March 1, 2021. Each community is asked to share the consent form packages with parents/guardians and students who reside on-reserve and off-reserve. The consent forms are a requirement for collecting data and information about AES students, which in turn supports informed program and service planning, reporting and statistics, and system evaluation. All of these things eventually support the overall learning experiences and well-being of AES students.

A virtual information session was held on March 18 for parents, students and educators to learn more about the consents and ask questions. Individual community presentations can be arranged by request with Darren Renaud, KEB Data Management Officer, at darren.renaud@a-e-s.ca

NIIGAAAN GDIZHAAMI FORUM 2021

The 6th annual Niigaan Gdizhaami “We Are Moving Forward Together” Forum will take place from May 4-7, 2021, via Zoom. Participating First Nations and District School Boards taking part in the event can expect a variety of engaging sessions, with speakers and content that reflect the overall theme of student well-being.

SNEAK PEAK AGENDA

| Tuesday, May 4 | Wednesday, May 5 | Thursday, May 6 | Friday, May 7 |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Opening Ceremony | Anishinaabemowin Session | Racism and Inequity in Schools | Youth Session |
| Keynote Speaker | Guest Speaker: James Vukelich | | Keynote Speaker: Dr. Brenda Restoule |
| Evaluation of the AES: Learning As We Go | Ezhi Kendmang Anishinaabe Naadziwin (cultural competency program) | Graduation Coach Program | Regional Networking Sessions |
| Special Education Guideline | Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Learning Circle | Sharing Best Practices: First Nation and School Board Engagement Framework | Closing Ceremony Prize Draws |

Detailed agenda and registration information to come soon!

AES SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Special Education Committee has created a Draft Special Education Guide, founded on community input and Anishinaabe principles, that supports communities in developing local Special Education Plans. The guide will be shared with PFNs and partner District School Boards in two ways: first, through a series of information sessions in March/April and second, through a mass distribution planned for the Fall of 2021.

The information sessions will focus on specific areas of Special Education that were selected from priority lists created by communities during the 2020 Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum and Fall Regional Meetings. The first information session took place on March 11. Three more sessions are scheduled on the following dates:

March 25 ~ April 8 ~ April 22

For more information, please contact Tammy Moreau by email at tammy.moreau@a-e-s.ca

AES UPDATES AT ANISHINABEK NATION EVENTS

The KEB is mandated to provide annual updates to the Anishinabek First Nations at each Grand Council Assembly of the Anishinabek Nation. In advance of the June 2021 assembly, representatives of the KEB will also be attending the Anishinabek Nation’s Regional Meetings in April. Brief updates on major AES initiatives and implementation progress will be offered at each of the following regional meetings:

- April 7 - Southeast Regional Meeting
- April 14 - Southwest Regional Meeting
- April 20 - Northern Superior Regional Meeting
- April 29 - Lake Huron Regional Meeting

On May 20-21, the KEB will also be facilitating a session with Anishinabek youth at the Maada’ookiin g’mingwewzinaan “Share Your Gifts” youth gathering on well-being. This virtual event is an opportunity for Anishinabek students to learn more about the AES and share ideas about their involvement in AES initiatives.



AES Learning Series

Gaagiigidowag



Welcoming all parents and community members of the AES

LIVE INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Data Consent Forms
- What parents need to know
- Live Q&A session

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Session 1 2:00-3:00pm

Session 2 6:00-7:00pm

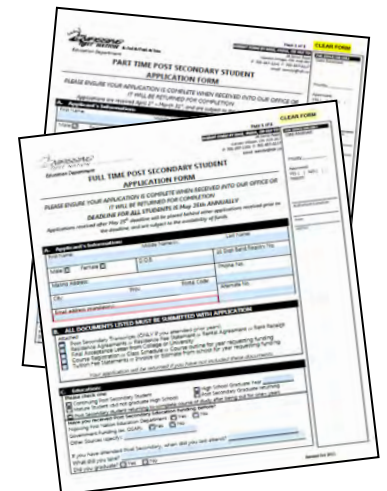
For more information contact:
nancy.o'donnell@a-e-s.ca

**Full Time Application Deadline
May 15th @ 4pm**



The Post Secondary Educational Assistance Program

Applications for Full Time and Part Time studies are available on our website at www.nfn.ca, or Questions can be addressed to Geraldeana by phone or email at gerryg@nfn.ca



Education Office

70 Semo Rd.

Garden Village

Ph. 705-753-6995

Fx. 705-753-5827



Anishinabek Education System Wellness Portal

The Anishinabek Education System (AES) Wellness Portal is a digital health network designed to support students, parents, educators, and health care providers in Participating First Nations and partner District School Boards.

With a comprehensive inventory of health and social services to explore, users can search for specific resources and supports available locally, regionally, and provincially.

Developed in partnership by the Participating First Nations and the Kinooamaadziwin Education Body, the wellness portal is a multi-functional tool that enables users to access various services that support the health and well-being of students throughout the AES.

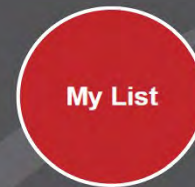
www.aeswellnessportal.ca



Nine customized search categories that contain hundreds of accessible services



Community Profiles that highlight on-Reserve services and local Indigenous services



Features that enable users to build, save and print unique service lists for sharing with others



Anyone interested in registering should contact Dr. Katrina Srigley at katrinas@nipissingu.ca. You do not need to be a current Nipissing University student to take this course.

HIST 3147 - Canada's Forgotten War: Obwandiyag's Defence of Turtle Island



Historians agree: having defeated the French, the British easily overcame a rag tag insurrection of Great lakes First Nations led by an Odawa warrior called Pontiac.

Except they didn't.

In the summer of 1763, as the French departed the Great Lakes, thirteen indigenous nations launched coordinated attacks against eleven British forts in the region. The warriors destroyed eight, laid siege to two, and caused another to be abandoned. Reduced to a footnote in history, Obwandiyag's War achieved nearly all of the First Nations alliances' war aims and forced the Treaty of Niagara which has stood as a diplomatic blockade against British, later Canadian, political supremacy in the region for 257 years.

Modern Canadian colonialism rests, in part, on the spectacular forgetting of this victory.

We will remember.

Dr. Murton Stoehr
Spring Session
May 24 - June
11, 2021

History. Now.

Skills, knowledge and experience for modern leaders.

Nbisiing Nishnaabemwin

Nmebin Giizis

*Nmebin Giisiz, semaa nga-bgidnaa noongom giizhgak,
Gookmis nmiinik miigwechwianan ebi-jibaamgak
gmiskwiimnaan pii maa zhichkaaged maa Kiing.*

*Nga-zhichke iw nake'ii GZhemnidoo gaa-kidod waa
zhichkeng iw-pii.*

*Gookmis, nda-kwedwe wii-biintamaagooyaan nwiiwoyo, ndi-
nenmowin mina epiichi-piitendaagwag nbii wii-
aabchitoong, mii dash geniin ji-debnamaan miigwewin
Nmebin Giizis.*

*Nkwedwe maa, mii dash jiiigbiik ni-dgoshnaan,
ji kendaagwag etemgag n'deying.*

Baamaa pii minwa, Nmebin Giizis, Miigwech

Nmebin Giizis (Sucker Moon): It is the time when the sucker fish makes its journey through the waters of Anishinabek territory. The sucker has been given the responsibility of purifying the life-giving water that we drink. For our communities in our history, the suckers also provided our nation with food when food was scarce after a long difficult winter.

Nmebin deserves much respect for taking care of the people. For some reason nmebin has been wrongly discounted as a junk fish. Many people in Canada enjoy this tasty fish. When you can sucker with the skin and bones, it tastes like canned salmon. As always, before you harvest your fish, or any living animal, plants or trees, please don't forget to offer thanksgiving to creator for using some of the gifts provided by mother earth.

We take only what we need

Sucker Moon (April)

Sucker Moon, I offer my tobacco and humble myself to you at this time, when Gookmis leaves with you the gifts of the blood of Creation.

I do this in a way that the Creator has instructed.

Gookmis, I ask that I may cleanse my body, mind and spirit, with the spirits of the water, so that I too can receive the gifts of purification and understanding of the Sucker Moon.

I ask this so that when I come to the water's edge they will know me as I am in my heart.

Until the next time we meet, Sucker Moon,
Miigwech

During this time, the smelts also run. Please see the next page for a couple of recipes to help you enjoy your harvest...



Nishnaabemwin Storytelling with Fluent Speakers

Thursday, April 8th @ 6pm

Contact glennab@nfn.ca for the Zoom link on the day of the event.

Recipes for Nmebin

Fresh Sucker cakes:

2 lbs of boneless sucker, partially frozen for coarse grinding
 1 medium raw potato
 1 small onion
 2 tbsp your choice of flour or bread crumbs salt and pepper
 1 tbs lemon juice
 1 tbsp mayonnaise
 3 tbsp red pepper, diced
 1 tbsp parmesan cheese
 Dash of cayenne pepper
 Dash of pepper and salt
 Panko bread crumbs



Form these into small patties. Pat liberally into bread crumbs.
 Cook in hot butter. Serve with sliced lemons. Serve with a side of roasted asparagus.

Smelts:

Smelts are so small that the whole fish is edible. Some people do cut the heads off and make a slit to gut the little fish.

3 dozen smelts
 1 cup of flour of your choice (whole wheat, almond, coconut...)
 Mixture of salt, pepper, dash of cayenne, garlic powder and mustard powder

Dredge the fish in flour and mixed seasonings.

Cook until crispy in hot butter, seasoned with parsley.

Garnish with fresh lemon slices.

Lay on a bed of sauteed swiss chard.



Some Geography: Places

We are working towards finding out the original names of places within our traditional territory.
If your family elders can shed any light on this, contact glennab@nfn.ca and please share!

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| Mskwaawaabikaag | Beaucage | mchi-giing | West Bay (village enclosed by Cliffs) |
| Neyaabaa'aakwaang | Duchesnay | chi-aazhwayiing | Providence Bay (where the beach curves around the water) |
| Ktigaaning | Garden Village | kaagewang | Kagawang (where the mist rise from fall... water) |
| Nkinziing | Goose Islands | pashkdinong | Gore Bay |
| Gete waakaa'iganishing | Goulais Point | mndimooyenh | Mindemoya (the good old lady) |
| Neganshiing | Jocko Point | shiishiigwaaning | Sheshegwaning |
| Giiwedino wiikwed | North Bay | giibiingwe ziibiing | Blind River |
| Mnidoongong | Manitou Islands | wiigwaasi mnis | Birch Island (waagaaskingaa) |
| Timaagamii | Temagami | nsowaakmok | Sudbury (3 roads) (cross roads) |
| Mko Mnising | Bear Island | moonyaang | Montreal (a native who doesn't know culture) |
| | | baawting | Sault Ste. Marie (rapids in the river) |
| | | zhiibaawnaaning | Killarney (narrows) |
| | | ktigaan ziibiing | Garden River |
| | | gidwaajwang | Northern Shore |
| | | niisaajwang | Southern Shore |
| | | kchi- mookmaanking | United States (land of big knives) |
| | | kchi-gaaming | Over Seas (across the ocean) |
| | | deshkan ziibiing | London (the horn river) |
| | | kchi-giidjiwang | Niagara (the great falls) |
| mziwe zaagdawaang | (large river mouth) - Mississauga | | |
| webjiwang | Little Current | | |
| mnidoowaaning | Manitowaaning (cave of the spirit – under the cave) | | |
| wiikwemkoong | Wiikwemkong – manito island (bay of beavers) | | |
| zaagdawaang | South Bay Mouth (the outlet) | | |

AMBE GWAAJIING ZHAADAA

“Come Play Outside” is a series of learnings in a land-based setting, allowing Indigenous children & youth the opportunity to learn through experience, while developing their sense of belonging & increasing their self-worth. “Ambe Gwaajiiing Zhaadaa”, in essence is to move from fear to freedom, & will make a positive difference in supporting our First Nation children & youth to evolve through a range of cultural, spiritual, inter-generational, recreational, land-based, wellness, & language revitalization projects.

Sponsored by Ntam Nishnabeg Jiibiig Mental Wellness Team

LIST OF ZOOM SESSIONS

Make Your Own Medicine Bag

April 11, 2021
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Dog Sled Mushing

April 12, 2021
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Values for Success

April 14, 2021
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

N'doonjibaa: Where My Spirit Sleeps

April 16, 2021
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Good Mental Wellness & the Land

Video Submissions
Due on April 20, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Our Relationship with Creation *

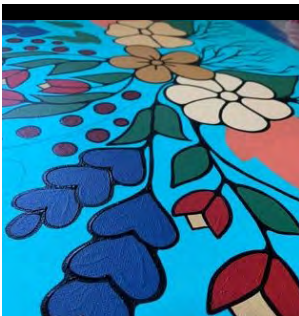
April 21, 2021
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
with Perry McLeod-Shabogesic
** See the flyer on the next page for details.*

These sessions are open to members from Nipissing, Dokis, Henvey Inlet, Magnetawan, Wahnapiatae & Wasauksing First Nations who are between the ages of 8 - 16 years.

Prizes to be won at each Zoom session!

Attend all eight (8) Ambe Gwaajiiing Zhaadaa sessions and your name will be entered into the Grand Prize draw for a chance at two (2) \$ 1,000.00 gift certificates for outdoor gear, at the end of April!

To register for any of the sessions, please contact Sally Dokis at mwtn@wasauksing.ca.



Painting Night with Jules

NFN membership a priority. Participant fee of \$10.00 is payable to NFN via electronic money transfer (emt) to payments@nfn.ca. Please include a message to indicate what the payment is for. Limited Space for 15 participants.

Please register by contacting mindym@nfn.ca.

NTAM NISHNABEG JIIBIG MENTAL WELLNESS
TEAM PRESENTS...

OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH CREATION

With Perry McLeod-Shabogesic

Ambe Gwaajing Zhaadaa...

Come Play Outside is a series of learnings in a land-based setting, allowing Indigenous children & youth the opportunity to learn through experience, while developing their sense of belonging & increasing their self-worth. "Ambe Gwaajing Zhaadaa", in essence is to move from fear to freedom, & will make a positive difference in supporting our First Nation children & youth to evolve through a range of cultural, spiritual, inter-generational, recreational, land-based, wellness, & language revitalization projects.

Topics of Discussion

Our Relationship with Creation
Traditional Roles & Responsibilities
Medicine & Harvesting



Zoom Session

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

For children & youth
ages 8 - 16 years

Two \$ 100.00 draws
towards outdoor
equipment. Attend four (4)
Ambe Gwaajing Zhaadaa
sessions, your name will be
entered into a \$ 1,000 draw
at the end of April

Open to Dokis, Henvey Inlet,
Magnetawan, Nipissing,
Wahnapiitae & Wasauksing
First Nations

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT SALLY DOKIS AT MWTN@WASAUKSING.CA

Lake Nipissing Beading Project

On Saturday, March 6th, the *Lake Nipissing Beading Project during a Global Pandemic* commenced offering a series of seven digital presentations. This project is a relationship building process between Nipissing Nation, Dokis First Nation and Nipissing University and participants from other Nations.

The project is dedicated to the late Muriel Sawyer, Ph.D. (Nipissing First Nation Deputy Chief and language keeper) who was a custodian of language and culture and an irreplaceable advocate for Indigenous education.

There are seven social media presentations that form the series. Participants include knowledgeable speakers who present on historical background and our Nations' Member advocacy for the beading cultural artform.

In the first presentation a Nipissing Nation member, Mrs. Josephine Commanda Beaucage, Ban, was highlighted for her advocacy for native teachers and her own teaching of the beading artform to retain and ensure that this artform continued into the future. The artist and beadwork project organizer on this project described her former exhibits connections with her *nêhiyaw/cree, Métis, and European identity*.

A second presentation on young artists from Kitigan Zibi and Wikwemikong provided knowledge on their different styles of beadwork and the artform ties with their communities.

The third speaker series centred on an academic discussion by individuals from Brandon University and University of Manitoba who utilize beading as a part of their academic research.

The fourth series presentation was by two Nipissing Nation and one Dokis Nation beadwork artisans. These three artisans utilize their beadwork accretion to assist them in their professional field. One is a trader in beadwork utilizing social media, the second speaker advocates the use of this artistry in her teachings focusing her young students on mental health and addictions through a cultural lens. The third speaker is a social worker, language teacher, elder advisor who will give perspective on beadwork knowledge handed down by family and community members.

The fifth of this series is an upcoming presentation by persons with knowledge on the traditional teachings for this art form.

The final episode of this series will be a discussion on research ties with the Nation communities involved.

The dates for the next beading series are Saturday April 10th, 17th & 24th. Watch the [NFN Administration or Lake Nipissing Beading Project Facebook pages for details about how to join the Zoom session.](#)

The completion of this project will be a truly inter-Nations and education institute collaboration. Over the next few pandemic months, it is anticipated that the beadwork provided by the participants will produce a piece of art that can be handed down to future generations for viewing as an exhibit. Future generations will be able to see the art exhibit provided to them from our generation to theirs.

The final product will be an estimated 5 metre beaded model exhibiting the features of Lake Nipissing and its waterways. Nipissing Nation, Dokis Nation, Nipissing University are presently taking the names of those individuals who may wish to receive a beading kit to take part in this project. All materials required will be provided in the kit along with instructions. It is hoped that this project will generate interest in beadwork, both professionals as well as beginners.

Contact Carrie at lakenipissingbeadingproject@gmail.com to request beading kits to participate in this project.

This is a project that contemplates individuals and their immediate family participating in a project during the upcoming months of the pandemic. It is with good thoughts that all who participate will do so to be acknowledged as an individual who participated in providing a final display exhibit for that future time when the pandemic becomes a part of our past.

The earlier series have been recorded and will be posted on YouTube channel and shared on social media as seen below. Future series will also be provided for viewing in the same manner.

Email: lakenipissingbeadingproject@gmail.com Facebook: [Lake Nipissing Beading Project](#)
Instagram [@lakenipissingbeadingproject](#).

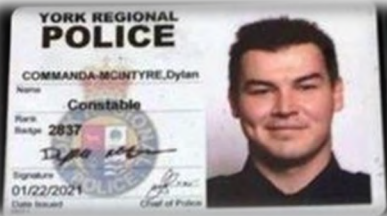
in the Spotlight



Georgian Bay Biosphere - GBB

March 16 at 10:45 AM

We are so excited to have Briana Chevrier, Fisheries Technician with the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre, give a presentation at the Lake Sturgeon Knowledge Sharing Webinar on March 31. Briana will share information about lake sturgeon studies that the A/OFRCC has conducted in partnership with First Nation communities on Lake Huron tributaries, and next steps for future assessments. We can't wait!



Elizabeth Commanda Pawis is proud to announce that her grandson Dylan McIntyre Commanda has been accepted at the York Regional Police Department. Dylan's family is very excited about his ongoing success and this great achievement. Congratulations Dylan!



The Power of Style

A reminder that *The Power of Style* by Christian Allaire will be available for \$19.95 at bookstores and online on Tuesday, April 27:

<https://www.annickpress.com/>

Click [here](#) to read a recent write-up about Christian's book in the Globe and Mail.

Fashion is a form of storytelling, says Christian Allaire. "The choices you make when you're getting dressed in the morning can really inform people about yourself." Allaire urges readers of all ages to consider how style can express their own stories and think about it for a larger purpose. "I hope people open their eyes and see how fashion can be more."

**GRADUATION PHOTOS
CAP AND GOWN
STUDIO STYLE OR OUTDOOR**

VickyLaforge.ca
613-809-0903
vlaforge@gmail.com





CLEAN UP DAYS NOTICE

Springtime is here! Time to start getting ready for Clean Up Days starting **May 5th to 7th** for our Nipissing First Nation members.

Wednesday, May 5th – Garden Village, Veterans Lane, and Mosquito Creek area

Thursday, May 6th – Jocko Point and Beaucage areas

Friday, May 7th – Yellek, Art's Lane and Duchesnay areas

Unacceptable Items for Clean Up Days

These items will **NOT** be picked up from your driveways. Please dispose of these items appropriately!

Freon appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, water coolers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers.

Organic waste such as grass, leaves, brush, branches, and trees.

Household hazardous waste such as cleaning products, automotive fluids, paints, aerosol cans.

Freon Appliances can be disposed of at the **NFN Landfill Site** for a fee. Please clean out all contents.

Organic Waste can be disposed of at one of the three **Organic Waste Depot** located in Garden Village, Jocko Point, and Yellek. Please contact Public Works at 705-753-4167 to request a free permit.

Household Hazardous Waste can be disposed of at the **North Bay Household Hazardous Waste Depot** for free at 112 Patton Street, North Bay.

Clean Up Day Event Notice with NFN Waste & Recycling App and Find Your Disposal location with Waste Wizard

Don't miss upcoming events or pickup days! Also, receive delay updates due to mechanical issues, weather, and schedule changes. Download your Waste and Recycling App today on **Google Play** or **Apple App Store**.



[NFN Waste and Recycling - Apps on Google Play](#)

[NFN Waste and Recycling on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)

You can also visit nfn.ca/public-works/garbage-and-recycling/ to sign up for garbage and recycling notifications through the app, text message, or automated phone calls.

If you're uncertain about whether your waste should go in a Blue Bin, be delivered to our Landfill Site or to the North Bay Household Hazardous Waste Depot, check out our **Waste Wizard**, located on the NFN website under Garbage and Recycling nfn.ca/public-works/garbage-and-recycling/. Simply enter your search item to find out.

For more information, contact Grant Stevens, Waste Diversion Coordinator at 705-753-2050 ext. 1269.



RECYCLING NOTICE

Was Your Recycling Not Picked Up?

If your recycling has been left at the end of your driveway, it could be because of sorting issues, such as:

- Placing paper and cardboard in a plastic bag.
- Leaving packing materials inside boxes like Styrofoam and plastic.
- Mixing paper/cardboard with plastic/metals/glass.
- Recyclables placed in black garbage bags that you cannot see through.

Sorting Tips

- Paper/cardboard should be broken down and placed in recycling bins or bundled with twin.
- All packing materials need to be removed from cardboard boxes.
- Plastics/metals/glass should be rinsed and placed in recycling bin or in clear transparent plastic bags.
- Place garbage and recyclables on road side.
- Use Waste Wizard to find where your waste should go!

Free NFN Waste and Recycling App & Waste Wizard

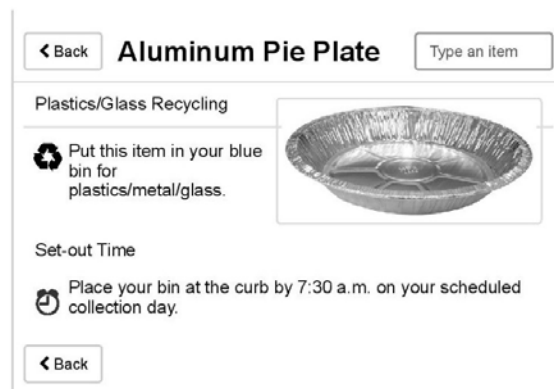
Don't miss upcoming events or pickup days! Also, receive delay updates due to mechanical issues, weather, and schedule changes. Download your Waste and Recycling App today on **Google Play** or **Apple App Store**.



[NFN Waste and Recycling - Apps on Google Play](#)

[NFN Waste and Recycling on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)

Check out our **Waste Wizard**, located on the NFN website under Garbage and Recycling nfn.ca/public-works/garbage-and-recycling/. Simply enter your search item to find out how to dispose of it.



For more information, contact Grant Stevens, Waste Diversion Coordinator at 705-753-2050 ext. 1269.


ADVERTISING & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Health Food & Organic Grocery Store
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