



Mikmeg Giizis
Whitefish Moon

ENKAMGAK

November 2021

Translation from Nishnaabemwin: "The Happenings" or "What is Going on?"

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Council Meetings

November 2 & 16

@ 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

To attend livestreamed Council meetings, please register in advance with Kim Salvaneschi at 705-753-2050 or by

Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony

Zhimaagnishii Giizhgak - November 11th

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held virtually again this year and live streamed for community members to watch on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/NipissingFirstNation). This virtual event will feature pre-recorded content including a recitation of *In Flanders Fields* in Nishnaabemwin and a Spirit Plate teaching.

The ceremony is by invitation only and will take place at the Garden Village Cenotaph at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 11th. While the ceremony itself will not be open to the public, we invite community members to visit the sacred fire and the cenotaph throughout the day to lay semaa down for veterans and/or to lay a wreath. Wreaths are available to purchase from local Legion branches.

Miigwech to the 22 Wing Canadian Forces Base North Bay for being part of our ceremony again this year. We also extend our appreciation to Veterans Affairs Canada for their contribution toward honorariums for our Grandfather Drum, Elder and Firekeepers.

Miigwech also to our planning committee for coordinating this year's ceremony and livestream: Freda Martel, Steve Commanda, Patrick Stevens, Charlene Lalonde, Glenna Beaucauge, Melissa Penasse and Gen Couchie.



Nishnaabemwin Words of Remembrance

Bravery
Hope
Let's remember
Love
Pride
Reflect
Remembrance Day
Remembrance Day Procession
Respect
Procession
Soldier
Strength
Thankful
Veteran
World War
Wreath

zoongde'dewin
bgosenddiwin
Mikwendmaadaa
zaagidwin
gchi-piitendmowin
mikwendaamin
Zhimaagnishii Giizhgak
Zhimaagnishii Maawnidin
piitendim
maawnidwin
Zhimaagnish
mshkaawziwin
miigwechwimin
zhimaagnak
Gchi-miigaadin
waabogwaniin

Brought to you by our Culture & Heritage Centre



AGM

Join our **Annual General Meeting** Virtually or by Phone with **ZOOM**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

- ◆ Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Chief and Council (Chief Scott McLeod)
 - ◆ Strategic Plan Overview and Comments (Brendan Huston, CEO)
 - ◆ Strategic Plan Brief Updates by NFN Directors and Managers
 - ◆ Strategic Plan Questions and Answers Session
 - ◆ Trust Updates (Georgina Villeneuve, Peace Hills Trust)
 - ◆ Closing Remarks (Chief Scott McLeod)

FREE DRAWS

Prizes will be drawn throughout the NFN Annual General Meeting.

All registered NFN members will be entered automatically for a chance to win.

REGISTRATION

Please register by November 16, 2021 at 4:00 PM to receive your ZOOM virtual link or phone in details.

Simply call us at 705-753-2050 or email melissap@nfn.ca.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, November 20, 2021
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Committees 2021-2024

Culture & Language: Supports the implementation of NFN's culture & language strategic plan goals, including providing input on the design of community-based culture & language programming.

Economic Development: Reviews and develops the EcDev strategic plan and provides input on policies and initiatives.

Education: Reviews education reports and strategies from external boards such as AES/KEB and provides input on the Education Law.

Housing & Planning: Addresses community policy and/or advocacy matters and provides input into housing needs and projects on NFN.

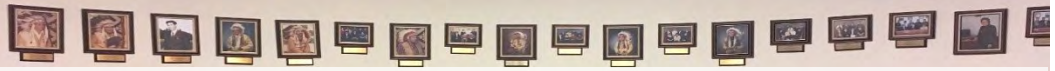
Lands & Bylaw: Addresses policy and/or advocacy matters about the occupation and use of NFN lands for fair and sustainable development.

Natural Resources: Addresses policy and/or advocacy on natural resources management or conservation matters.

Social & Wellness: Provides input into fitness and recreation programs and other community health issues.

Nishnaabemwin Translation: Translates documents into Nibisiing dialect and supports NFN teachers & staff.

Pow Wow: Assists with planning and executing our annual pow wow.



Council Connection

Keeping Our Community Informed about Key Issues



Call Out for Committee Members

Now Accepting Applications for Advisory Committees

Council is seeking NFN Debendaagziwaad to serve on advisory committees for a period of three years commencing in November or December 2021 to May 2024.

Members must be 18 years of age or older to participate on advisory committees. Meetings are held once per month; committee members will be paid an honourarium of \$100.00 for the meetings they attend.

Note: Applicants will be permitted to participate on a maximum of two committees. Committees will be comprised of youth, Elders and citizens at large, and each committee will have a maximum of seven members.

How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the committees listed on the left side of this page, please complete the **Advisory Committee Application form** and submit it no later than **Friday, November 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.** to:

Freda Martel, Director of Administration
Nipissing First Nation
36 Semo Road, Garden Village, ON P2B 3K2
Or by email to fredam@nfn.ca or by fax to 705-753-0207

The application and full committee descriptions are available on our website nfn.ca/committees and can be mailed or emailed to you by calling 705-753-2050 or by emailing genc@nfn.ca.

Please ensure you complete all information on the application and indicate which committee(s) you are applying for.

Committee members will be appointed at the November 16th Council meeting.

Your participation on NFN committees is important! Committee feedback and recommendations help inform decision-making processes and assist Chief and Council with meeting NFN's Governance Strategic Plan goals.

Chief and Council participated in a planning retreat in Duchesnay on October 23-24 to review NFN's Governance Strategic Plan.



2020-2021 Annual Report & Financial Audit

Our 2020-2021 Annual Report to the community will be available online and in print after the Annual Community Meeting on November 20th. Anyone who would like to receive a hard copy of the report is asked to contact Gen Couchie at 705-753-2050 ext. 1243 or genc@nfn.ca to request one.

The annual report includes our audited consolidated financial statements, which are also available on our website: nfn.ca/finance/audits and can be mailed by request.

If you have any questions about our annual financial audit, or to request a copy by mail, please contact Tammy Saulis, Chief Financial Officer, at 705-753-2050 ext. 1281 or tammys@nfn.ca.



Treaty Pay Distribution

With our annual meeting being held virtually this year, and with ISC staff still not visiting communities due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to distribute Treaty annuity payments in-person at this time.

You can wait until ISC is able to attend our community, or you can download and fill out the [Treaty Annuity Payment Request form](#) and mail it to your [ISC regional office](#) to receive your payment sooner. Treaty payments will be mailed as a cheque.

Christmas Distribution

The deadline to request Christmas Distribution shares by cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) was October 22 for payment on November 25-26. Requests received after October 22 may take up to 4 weeks to be processed.

Registered NFN members have until March 31, 2022 to request their shares. Shares must be requested each year and do not accumulate.

The request form was mailed to all members in mid-October and is also available on our website (nfn.ca/xmas-2021).



Santa Fund

All band member family units living on NFN who have an annual family income considered “low income” (as verified against the 2020 Low Income Cut-Off Chart) are encouraged to apply for the Santa Fund benefit **no later than Friday, November 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.** In your letter of request, please include the following information:

- Parent or legal guardian name(s)
- Child(ren)’s name, age and gender
- Address and phone number
- Proof of low income (OW, ODSP, income tax)
Special circumstances can be reviewed.



Please drop off your request at the Band Office (drop box outside of main entrance) in an envelope marked “Santa Fund” or mail it to 36 Semo Road, Garden Village ON P2B 3K2. If you have any questions, please call 705-753-2050 and ask for Debbie McLeod at ext. 1230 or Nick Fava at ext. 1329.

Status Card Requests

A reminder to please call the office to make an appointment to obtain new or replacement status cards while our offices remain closed to the public.

Please call 705-753-2922 to make an appointment with our Membership Clerk.

The following documents are needed to process requests:

- Recent photo
- Two (2) pieces of Identification, such as: birth certificate, health card, driver’s licence, passport, or old status card

Guaranteed Income Supplement

Service Canada reminds clients who have not yet submitted 2020 income information to do so as soon as possible.

Clients who do not submit their income information will not receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Allowance, or the Allowance for the Survivor in January 2022.

Contact Service Canada Outreach Support Centre at **1-877-355-2657**

Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Download or print your vaccine certificate

covid19.ontariohealth.ca

Get your COVID-19 Vaccine Record with QR Code

To access your record go to covid19.ontariohealth.ca

- You will need your health card, postal code & date of birth.
- You will need to print or save your record once you retrieve it.

If you have an urgent need for your COVaxON vaccine record, contact: Carole Lafantaisie Community Health Nurse 705-753-3312 ext. 2257

Ontario Lifts Capacity Limits

Based on continued improvements to public health and health care indicators, Ontario has lifted capacity limits in the majority of settings where proof of vaccination is required. Learn more here: bit.ly/3jFN7L7

Effective October 25, 12:01 a.m.

Lifting capacity limits in select settings where proof of vaccination is required:

- Restaurants and bars
- Sports and recreational facilities
- Casinos and bingo halls
- Meeting and event spaces

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Pre-Register NOW for Vaccines for Children (ages 5-11 years)

Our Health Centre is accepting pre-registrations for vaccines for children aged 5-11 years. We expect to receive further direction from the Ontario Ministry of Health in the coming weeks on vaccines for this age group. Once the vaccine is approved, our Health team will contact those who pre-registered to schedule appointments after school. **Please call the Health Centre at 705-753-3312 to pre-register children aged 5 to 11 years for a COVID-19 vaccine.**

Guidance around Adult & Youth Vaccines and Booster Shots

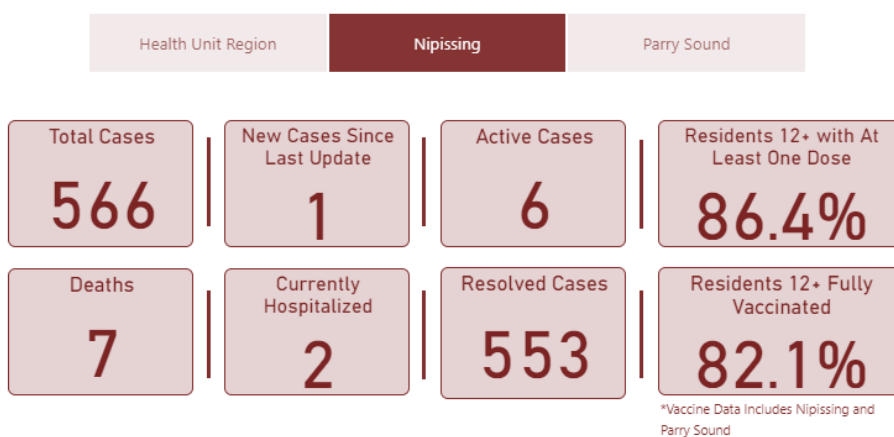
Our nursing team continues to administer the Moderna vaccine to individuals aged 18 years and up, and the Pfizer vaccine to youth aged 12-17 years.

Note that third doses (Booster Shots) of a COVID-19 vaccine are not available unless you have a note from your physician that will allow us to administer a third dose. Likewise, the Public Health Unit has advised that individuals eligible for a third dose can attend their mobile and walk-in clinics if they have the required documentation, as well as identification.

If you have any questions or to schedule an appointment for a first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, please call the Health Centre at 705-753-3312.

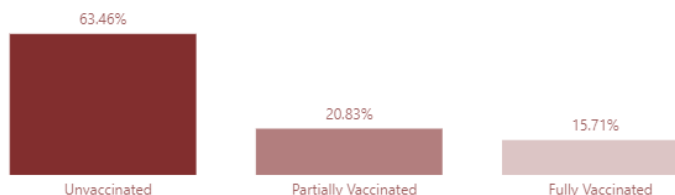
Public Health Dashboard

Below is the Health Unit's [COVID-19 status report dashboard](#) as of October 26th at 3:00 p.m. for the Nipissing District. There are **6** active cases in the Nipissing District and 8 in total for both the Nipissing & Parry Sound Districts.



Percentage of Cases by Vaccination Status (Reported June 1st, 2021 and Later)

*Data Includes cases in both Nipissing and Parry Sound districts



See page 15 for details about upcoming Flu Clinics!

Assessment of Former Duchesnay Daycare

We have received several inquiries from community members about using the former Couchie Memorial Daycare building in Duchesnay. Due to concerns about the safety of this building and to protect the health of community members, we are not in a position to accommodate requests for the rental of this facility at this time.

Council will be reviewing an assessment report of the building at their next meeting on November 2nd in order to determine future plans. NFN intends to continue using this land for community use and will keep the membership informed about future plans for the building and park space.

Beaucage Park Remains Closed

Beaucage Park was open for day use by members until the end of the 2019 season. The park was not open or maintained in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic and the current conditions pose a risk to the safety of our members.

A new gate is scheduled to be installed at the entrance of the park on October 29th, along with signage to deter unauthorized access. We ask our community members and groups for their cooperation in not accessing this area until it has been cleaned up and modified to accommodate long term community use. NFN assumes no liability for unauthorized access or use of Beaucage Park.

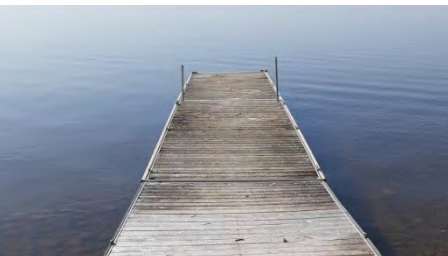
Beaucage Park is Nipissing Nation’s most important and highest value land within the reserve and traditional territory. It has been host to many important events in the history of Nipissing Nation and has served as a central gathering place for the Nipissing people for centuries.

We have surveyed the community in the past about what the best uses of this valuable land and its resources might be for current and future generations. This feedback provided a starting point for a community dialogue that we plan to revisit to discuss the most appropriate use of the land for the benefit of NFN members.

A number of possible uses for Beaucage Park have been suggested over the years will be presented to Council in the coming months. Following Council’s review and recommendations, we look forward to reinitiating the consultation with a targeted approach to move forward with making the best use of this valuable land.

Trespassing on CN Rail Bed

A reminder that use of the former CN rail bed within the Commanda, Beaucage and Pedley Townships and Nipissing First Nation lands by pedestrians or motorized vehicles is strictly prohibited. Trespassers will be prosecuted pursuant to the Trespass to Property Act. Miigwech for your cooperation.



HWY 17B access to Duchesnay reopened on October 9th. Congrats to the project team!

Public Works removed the dock in Yellek for the season on October 25th.

Seasonal Closure of Commercial Fishery

The commercial fishery closed for the 2021 season effective September 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The closure will remain in effect until the end of the spring 2022 moratorium.

Members who plan to fish for subsistence must follow our Fisheries Law and are asked to notify our Fisheries Office by calling (705) 753-6991.

Miigwech to registered commercial fishers and community members who respect the will of the community and follow our Fisheries Law and processes.

Anyone selling fish harvested under the pretense of subsistence or ceremonial fishing will be considered to be in violation of NFN’s fishing laws and will be subject to enforcement measures under our Fisheries Law.

To report compliance issues, please contact Jeff McLeod, Natural Resources Manager at 705-753-2050 ext. 1325 or jeffm@nfn.ca.

For more information, please visit nfn.ca/fisheries/.



Job Posting Mail-Out

Please note that the deadline to OPT-IN to the job posting mailing list has been EXTENDED to November 30th.

The mid-month mail-out we send to local members (and sometimes to our off-reserve members as well) often only included job postings.

This monthly mail-out is intended to capture urgent notices or political items that occur in between newsletters. However, job postings had been included for some time, and many members have asked to stop receiving our mailings as a result.

We will continue to mail important notices about community consultations, votes, business licenses, and issues that all members should be aware of.

Contact Julie Lambert at 705-753-2050 or email juliel@nfn.ca to continue receiving job postings by mail or email.

Job postings are always available at nfn.ca/jobs or connect with Tom Lambert, our Employment & Training Manager, to assist with your job search or career development. Tom can be reached at 705-753-6985 or email thomasl@nfn.ca.

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.

Communications Officer – One Year Contract – *2nd Round Posting*
Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Ojibway Women’s Lodge Transitional and Housing Support Worker – Permanent Full-Time - Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Nishnaabemwin Teacher (Beginner) – Contract Position
Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Nishnaabemwin Teacher (Novice) – Contract Position
Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Home and Community Care Nurse – Permanent Full-Time
Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Home and Community Care Indigenous Transitions Facilitator – Permanent Full-Time - Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Nbisiing Secondary School Graduation Coach – One Year Contract
Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Finance Clerk – Permanent Full-Time
Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Integrated Children’s Program – 1 Lead & 2 Assistants – 3 Contract Positions to June 2022 – *3rd Round Posting*. Apply by Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Culture & Heritage Manager – Permanent Full-Time
Apply by Friday, November 12, 2021

Open Postings & Casual Employment Opportunities

2021 Bus Drivers – Route #5: Duchesnay, Yellek & Serenity Lane
Open Posting – Contact Charlene Bellefeuille at 705-753-6995 or charleneb@nfn.ca for more information or to apply.

2021 Emergency/Relief Van Drivers – Nbisiing Bus Lines – All Areas
Open Posting – Contact Charlene Bellefeuille at 705-753-6995 or charleneb@nfn.ca for more information or to apply.

Personal Support Workers – Casual Employment (with paid sick days and mileage). Open to All Applicants – No Closing Date

Relief Workers: Various NFN Departments
Open Posting – No Closing Date

Relief Workers: Ojibway Women’s Lodge
Open Posting – No Closing Date

Relief Workers: Manual Labour Positions
Open Posting – No Closing Date

TO APPLY: Submit applications before the deadline to resumes@nfn.ca, or by fax to 705-753-0207, or mail to: Human Resources Department, Nipissing First Nation, 36 Semo Road, Garden Village ON P2B 3K2.

Success Story - Underground Mining

My name is Rick and I just successfully finished my underground hard rock mining certifications at NORCAT. I now have more opportunities in the mining industry and a better understanding of why gold, diamonds and other metals are so expensive after seeing how hard they are to extract.

I had worked in a few mines before and enjoyed it, but was always above ground and had no clue what went on underground. I called Tom Lambert in NFN's Employment & Training Unit to inquire about funding to pursue this training, and he got everything into place quickly. So quickly that I was a little nervous about going!

Underground mining is hard and dangerous work, but the training really engrains safety into every aspect. NORCAT has a great training program and excellent trainers. I'm grateful for the support from Tom and NORCAT and am pleased to have successfully completed this certification. *Miigwech from Rick Stevens Jr.*



Post-Secondary Engagement Survey

AN-KEB PSE SURVEY LINK: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CGFHQB6 Closing date: mid-November 2021

All eligible Participants may choose to receive a special edition AN \$25 Visa gift card and they may enter GRAND PRIZE Draws! (electronic Apple Products). We are seeking the truth so "Debwewin" has been set as the password.



Anishinabek
Education System



*Student Data Information Consent
Draw Prize Winner:*

JACOB COUCHIE

Congratulations Jacob! Miigwech to everyone who sent in their consent forms!



The Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin team has been planning some great sessions for Treaty Week (Nov 1-5, 2021)! Check out the full agenda here: waawiindamaagewin.com/treatyweek2021



Please visit our website www.nbisiing.com or Facebook Page for our calendar of events and other school-related information, or call (705) 497-9938.

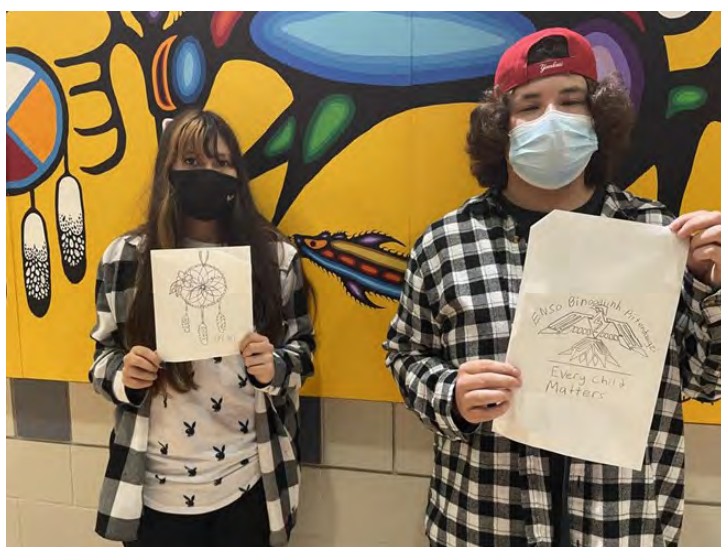
Orange Shirt Day

Nbisiing students and staff honoured Orange Shirt Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, in a school wide display of love and support. Chi-miigwech to June Commanda for joining us and sharing a piece of her story.



Orange Shirt Day T-Shirt Design Competition

Students in Visual Art competed in a logo design contest for Orange Shirt Day 2022. Congratulations to Olivia Miller and Cylas Paul who's designs were selected as the winners in a school wide vote. Both designs will be featured on Nbisiing's orange t-shirts in 2022.



Lake Nipissing Beading Project

Nbisiing's Grade 10 History class has had the opportunity to participate in the Lake Nipissing Beading Project. Each student has been given a section of Lake Nipissing and are learning local history alongside the project.

Kinoomaagegamik Aabjichkanan (school items)

mshimod	school bag
mzinigan	book
dbagan	ruler
gaasaabiigan	eraser
mzinigan	sheet of paper
waabmin	apple
zhibiiganaatig	pencil
tisganan	crayons
kookmaan	scissors
maandooschigan	stapler
zhibiiganak	pen
zhibiiganaatig	pencil
gokwasjigan	glue



MINO-BIMAADZIWIN

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS' JOURNEYS

Tyler Beaucage is a Grade 10 student at Nbisiiing Secondary School. His Post Secondary Goal is to become a Heavy Duty Mechanic.

This year, along with his scheduled courses, he is committed to building his Math skills in preparation for the high school and College courses he will take through the Co-op, Dual Credit and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program next year.

He began his experiential learning during his job this past summer at Young's Forestry and hopes to work there again and register in a Summer Co-Op placement for the Summer of 2022.

His goal is to Graduate in June 2024 with College credits and Apprenticeship hours already begun!

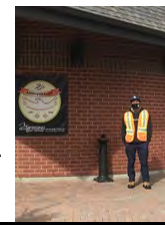


Dual Credit Programming and Cooperative Education

Another exciting semester has begun at Nbisiiing Secondary School. Ravin McLeod and Logan Lariviere are enrolled in the Canadore College Dual Credit for Electrical Techniques.

Alex Hummel and Dunigan Iqulik are learning many employability skills at their respective placements - LHD Equipment and NFN Administration. They are getting hands-on, real-life experience. As well, they are having fun while learning these relevant job skills and attributes.

Chi-miigwech to our employer sponsors for supporting our students on their career pathways!



NUSU Boardroom Dedication to Dr. Muriel Sawyer, Ban

On October 7th, Nipissing University's Student Union (NUSU) officially named their new boardroom in honour of former Nipissing First Nation Deputy Chief, Dr. Muriel Sawyer, who passed away earlier this year. In their news release, NUSU described Dr. Sawyer's extensive history with Nipissing University and how she worked with other elders to translate signage in the Student Centre to Nishnaabemwin.

In 2014, Dr. Muriel Sawyer was the recipient of an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Education from Nipissing University. She began teaching after earning her BA from Nipissing University in 1974 and continued to teach Junior Kindergarten through to post-secondary in her over 40-year career. She wrote, implemented, and taught the first Nishnaabemwin program for the Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic School board for 25 years. Dr. Sawyer was instrumental in the launch of Nbisiiing Secondary School, where she served as a teacher, Vice-Principal, and Principal until her retirement.

At Nipissing University, Muriel co-created the Teacher of a Second Language program (now known as Teacher of Indigenous Languages as a Second Language) and taught several courses in the program. She was an advocate, teacher, and mentor for her students and colleagues. She leaves behind a lasting legacy with the many Nishnaabemwin teachers who are now continuing her extensive work.

Muriel's son Michael, who was elected as Deputy Chief in July 2021, provided the opening prayer and closing remarks at the ceremony, while John Sawyer led the closing smudge. According to Michael, Muriel's spirit (and humour) was very much present that day and it was a memorable event.



Dr. Muriel Sawyer Boardroom Naming Ceremony - Oct 7, 2021



Sisters in Spirit Candlelight Vigil Reflections on an Important Awareness-Raising Event



October 4th is a day when we honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people (MMIWG2s+). The violence experienced by MMIWG2s+ people in Canada is a national tragedy. We take this day to give prayers to the families who have lost loved ones and to remember the ones who were taken from us.

Below are some images from the vigil that was held at the Ojibway Women's Lodge on October 4th.



True Self Debwewendizwin Receives Award

Congratulations to the True Self Debwewendizwin team on receiving the Ontario Peer Development Initiative (OPDI) Lighthouse Award in the *Community Builders* category. The award was presented on October 5th at the OPDI virtual award ceremony.

The criteria for the award includes building bridges to create more inclusive and resilient communities; working across organizations, sectors, neighbourhoods, regions, or identity/issue/social groups; caring about equity and social justice; amplifying silenced voices; and increasing capacity for peer involvement in decision-making.

This is well-deserved recognition of a caring and hard-working team that goes above and beyond to provide streamlined access to services that promote the safety, self-sufficiency and wellbeing of individuals and their families. As the nomination read, "True Self is a shining example of building community."

Visit our website to learn more about the True Self Debwewendizwin Employment & Training Program: nfn.ca/true-self/



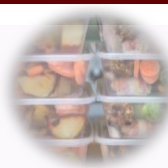
Back Row: John MacKenzie (Peer Bridger), Cassey Dolbeck (Employment Facilitator), Julia Roche (Outreach Worker), Gislain Ouellette (Outreach Support Service), Dave Stevenson (Outreach Peer Support Worker)

Front Row: Jocelyn Picard (Admin Assistant), Donna Forget (Program Manager), Maureen Lebeau (Support Service Counsellor)



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 Deadline

Order by November 3rd for a package on November 10th



world diabetes day

Drive-By Event

Friday, November 12th

**10am - 12pm @ Health Centre
Front Parking Lot**

THEME: ACCESS TO DIABETES CARE: IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

A century after its discovery, insulin and other fundamental components of diabetes care remains beyond the reach of many who need them. This must change.

Come by our drive-by event on November 12th and answer a true or false question about diabetes to win a prize and get information about diabetes prevention.

EVERYONE WELCOME! COVID-19 protocols will be in effect.

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day 2021

Virtual Event via Zoom

Thursday, November 18th from 6pm to 8pm

Facilitator: Perry McLeod – Shabogesic
Topic: Indigenous Teachings on Grief & Life Promotion

Please register with loriannm@nfn.ca by November 17th @ 4pm
Registrants will be sent a Zoom link.

2 Draws for Registered Participants
Gift Certificates for Carla's Kitchen Meals

Harm Reduction Services

Needle exchange & Naloxone kits are available **Monday to Friday** from 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Right Path (316 Ted Commanda Drive, Garden Village). Knock at the door and someone will assist OR call Lisa at 705-753-1375 to make arrangements to get your order to you. You can also email: lisal@nfn.ca.

The Suboxone Clinic is 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 & self-referrals are welcome. Client transportation is available.

The Culturally Defined Community Withdrawal Management Program also provides land based activities and cultural supports. Call 705-753-1375 for more information.

IF YOU SEE AN OVERDOSE, CALL 9-1-1 and give Naloxone.

Mental Health Resources

FOR ADULTS

ConnexOntario: 24/7 support to help you find local mental health and addiction services at 1-866-531-2600 or ConnexOntario.ca

Talk 4 Healing: 24/7 support and resources for Indigenous women in 14 languages by phone or text to 1-855-554-HEAL (4325) or online at talk4healing.com

FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Hands The Family Help Network: Counselling and therapy support for children, youth, and their families 1-800-668-8555 or visit thefamilyhelpnetwork.ca

Kids Help Phone: Free, confidential professional counselling, information, and referrals for mental health and addictions services.

Call 1-800-668-6868

Text: CONNECT to 686868

Live chat counselling:

kidshelpphone.ca

CRISIS INTERVENTION

North Bay Regional Health Centre: 1-800-352-1141
Available 24/7

Sturgeon Falls Alliance Centre: 705-753-3110 x 288
4pm - 11pm — 7 days/week

Canada Suicide Prevention
1-833-456-4566 - 24/7

Overdose Prevention Line
1-888-853-8542

Community Circles Summary Report

By: Tyler Dokis

This past summer, George Couchie put out a call on Facebook for Nipissing First Nation members to come together and offer suggestions and thoughts on how to combat substance use issues experienced by the community. Nipissing First Nation Administration facilitated the planning for 2 community circles, which were held on September 1st and 30th. Both circles took place in Garden Village at the ODR. Approximately 40 people attended these circles. Notably Elders joined the circle to offer guidance, and community leaders joined to listen and learn.

George Couchie facilitated both circles and guided the sessions from the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers Teachings. During both dates, many of those whom attended discussed strategies that they employ within their own homes to bring positivity to their own families and offered these as possible approaches to be implemented at a community level. Others offered suggestions that they saw used in other communities.

Ann Boissoneau was invited to speak during the September 30th circle, and she talked openly about her experience with losing a child to an overdose, the impact it had on the family and community, and how the impact lingers today. Ann's sharing was an opportunity for community members to think broadly about the needs of individuals, families and the broader community in addressing substance misuse.

A central theme to the discussion was the importance of culture and community led initiatives to addressing existing needs in the community including those struggling with substance use issues. The following is a collection of the feedback, ideas, and discussions identified over the 2 community circles that occur along the continuum of care, (engagement/prevention/early intervention/intervention/ aftercare):

Engagement

- Ask youth for their suggestions on solutions to substance use issues we are facing
- Ask youth what types of programming they are interested in
- Whatever strategies or activities are decided upon we should start small/simple, and slowly build on them
- Create taskforce; elders council; list of volunteers
- Any ideas that are carried forward through these discussions should be made accessible throughout all of NFN
- Build relationships, (for example we could all connect with more with family members, community members who seem to be in need)

Prevention

- More youth programs with consideration for parameters to increase success and engagement: evenings; open door approach; seasonal activities; culturally driven; offered throughout NFN territory.
- Reinforcing and building family unity (responsibility of all members)
- Big Sisters/Brother program
- Parenting programs
- More gatherings
- Focus on eliminating stigma; this includes spending time with others (i.e. sharing a meal)
- More concerted security services throughout the night

Continued on next page

Community Circles Summary Report Continued

- Promote/support family wellbeing such as: discussion about the 7 Grandfather Teachings; connect with family every day; keep dialogue open about substance use and possible struggles.

Early Intervention and Intervention

- Peer support groups;
- Men's and women's groups, and don't cancel them, even if only one person is attending
- Implement Restorative Justice Circles as an alternative to punitive action against those whom break the law

The information gathered and discussed during these 2 meetings will be used to help design an approach or strategy to address community needs including those related to substance misuse. Some reflections to consider in the design of an approach or strategy on community wellness:

1. Consider the review, approach, and planning from a wellness continuum of care lens.
2. Create programming to meet needs across children, youth, adults and families.
3. The approach should consider attending to the 4 pillars identified by the North Bay and Area Drug Strategy Committee, which NFN participates in. These pillars are: prevention, harm reduction, enforcement, treatment.
4. Consider continuation of monthly circles that seek to learn more in targeted areas such as needs of different populations and gaps in services.
5. Future circles need to engage a broader community voice including youth, those with lived and living experience, family members of those living with substance use issues, family/friends who have lost loved ones to overdose death to better understand barriers, challenges, gaps and needs. These circles need ensure the spaces are safe for inclusion of their voices.
6. Share details of the meeting with departments to assist in addressing programming gaps in NFN.

Honouring our Survivors

First National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
September 30, 2021



Miigwech to Natalie Payette-Chevrier, Michelle Séguin and everyone who helped make beautiful quilts to gift to our residential school survivors in a heartfelt presentation on Sept 30th.

Ksinaa gwajing - It's cold outside!

❄️ One Warm Coat! ❄️

Accepting Applications for the purchase of a new coat for NFN Members

Contact the Family Well-Being Program to request an application at 705-753-1375 or karenm@nfn.ca



Nipissing First Nation Health Services

58 Semo Road, Garden Village, Ontario P2B 3K2 · Phone (705) 753-3312 · Fax (705) 753-5087

Drive-In Influenza Immunization Clinics 2021

GARDEN VILLAGE CLINIC DATES

Location: Lawrence Commanda Health
Centre Parking Lot

Tuesday, Nov 2, 10am-6pm

Wednesday, Nov 10, 10am-6pm

DUCHESNAY CLINIC DATES

Location: Couchie Memorial Daycare
Parking Lot

Wednesday, Nov 3, 10am-8pm

Monday, Nov 8, 2pm-8pm

How the Drive-In Influenza Clinic works:

- Please put on a mask, remain in your vehicle and wait for a nurse to come see you.
- If you are walking to the clinic, have a seat in the designated area and a nurse will come see you.
- Ensure you have appropriate clothing (t-shirt).
- Appointments can be booked during regular work hours if needed with LCHC nurses.



CLINIC WILL REMAIN OPEN AS LONG AS WE HAVE SUPPLIES ON HAND

**Any child 2 years and under should be given the flu shot in clinic
due to the area of injection.**

People with reactions in the past to any vaccine should call to book an appointment.

For more information or to make an appointment, please call 705-753-3312:

Carole Lafantaisie, Community Health Nurse at extension **2257** or

Misty Arbour, Maternal Child Health Nurse at extension **2227**

Nbisiing Nishnaabemwin

November - Mtikmeg Giizis (Whitefish Moon)

We are now in the season of dwaagi (fall). Soon the snow will be coming to put the earth to sleep. Closing of the earth to shut down for hibernation. By now, snowshoes have been made in preparation for the winter, medicines are being collected, food is being preserved, winter wood is now being piled, in preparation for the long winter ahead.

At one time, it was detrimental to not have this work all done, as there was no refrigeration, no hydro, no snowplows. You had to be ready. Families would be moving to their winter camps. Not being prepared for biboon (winter) would mean death for the family who is not prepared. They would not last the winter. Many people still prepare in these ways for the long winter months.

Fall ceremonies including fasting are happening during this season. People would do these themselves, with a relative, when the first cold weather would come. In September, October, when plant life has ebbed away, and the medicine goes to the roots. This is where we sit down, give up water, food and friends to be alone and watch the season close down.

In the fall, the sap leaves the top of the trees and goes into the root system below frost level.

During this season, we Honour the Ancestors – Spirits by conducting Feast of the Dead ceremonies. This can be a family event. That is how the serpent mounds came to be. There is evidence. There are some all down the French River and towards Sault Ste Marie. There is a place on the way to Sault Ste Marie, a smoked fish place along the lakeside. I think the place is called Two Lights Flashing or Two Thunders Flashing. There are about 75-80 of those burial cairns. You won't find skulls because the bodies were burned in a ceremonial fire.

Mitgmeg are spawning during this time, following their natural instructions from creator, following their natural law. Using the whole animal is also natural law. People tan fish skins, and the fish scales can be collected, dyed and used to make cultural arts objects, as seen in these photos, as well, of course, cooking the whitefish over an open fire and enjoyed.

Here's a little recipe Gookmis Evelyn shared with us at one of our language camps:

Mtigmeg Nboob: White Fish Soup

Shared by Evelyn McLeod

Bezhik kikwabkoons	1 can tomatoes	Cream bezhik kiwaabkoons	Cream 1 can
Kaadaakoon niizh-waatik	Carrots 2 sticks	Pidakan niizh	potatoes 2
Shkaangwash niizh	Onion 2 medium size	Giigoonh	fish
Celery newaatik	Celery 4 sticks	Zhiiwtaagan mina Pweban	salt and pepper
Mndaamnag niizh-kikwaabkoons	Corn Niblets 2 cans		

Sauté the diced vegetables in butter slowly for approximately 5 minutes. Add chunks of giigoon. Cook another 3 minutes. Add some water to slightly cover. Cook only another 10 minutes. Turn heat down and add the cream. Enjoy.

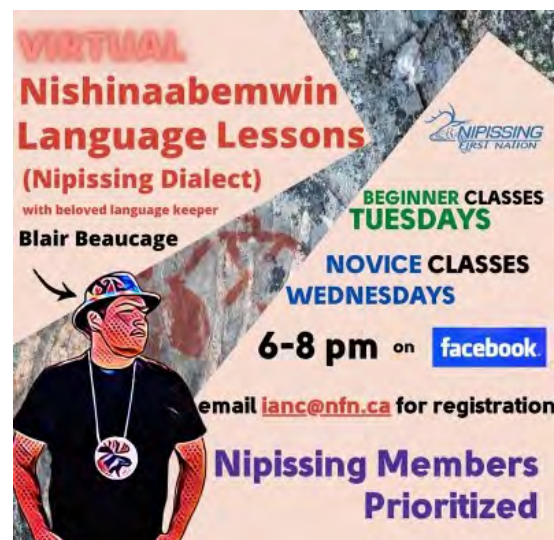
Nishnaabemwin Language Classes & Recordings

Nishnaabemwin Kinoomaagewin (language learning) with Blair Beaucage as our teacher started at the end of September.

Two 1 hour classes per week are offered for beginner and novice learners. The classes are also recorded and will be posted to YouTube for those who cannot join at the scheduled time.

Sign up for Nibisiing Nishnaabemwin Kinoomaagewin by calling 705-753-2050 or emailing ianc@nfn.ca for further information.

To access **recordings** of these language classes, please visit our YouTube channel: youtube.com/NipissingFirstNation



VIRTUAL Nishnaabemwin Language Lessons
(Nipissing Dialect)
with beloved language keeper
Blair Beaucage

BEGINNER CLASSES TUESDAYS
NOVICE CLASSES WEDNESDAYS

6-8 pm on **facebook**

email ianc@nfn.ca for registration

Nipissing Members Prioritized

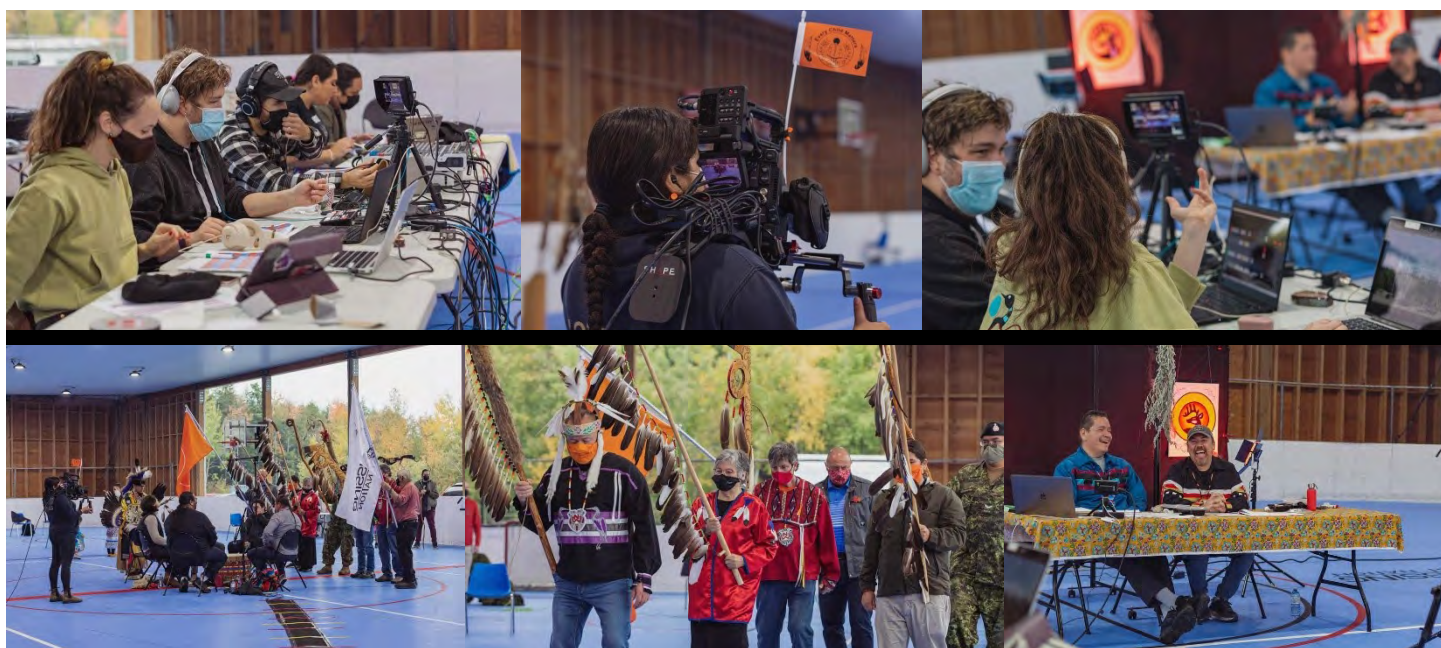
Our Annual (Virtual) Pow Wow

Watch it here: youtu.be/L_2NCsVHEzY

In the words of our videographer, the talented Sara Cornthwaite, “virtual is less than ideal, but to spend a day laughing and connecting with family and friends was so much fun. To be able to take what we’ve learned in the world and apply it at home... a feeling I can’t describe.

I am so proud of the Nipissing team that showed up for their roles and delivered. Our technical director, audio lead, and our camera ops, our fearless Mindy helping to keep us on track and pow wow teachings at the forefront. Ob our MC and my uncle Perry for sharing so many stories and laughter. To the incredibly talented Burning Plains Singers and our head dancers Tory and Tamara. All the dancers that pre-recorded. To the Culture team and NFN staff, our flag carriers and volunteers... and to the community that joined in the sharing online.”

Enjoy this behind the scenes look at how our annual virtual pow wow was created. Here’s to hoping we’re back to hosting an in-person pow wow next year!



Virtual Event



All ages Family Event

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION



Nishnaabemwin



SATURDAY Dec 11 10:30-5:00pm

NFN BAND MEMBERS & AFFILIATES

EMAIL: BRADYP@NFN.CA

Secret Giveaway for early Registrants

Must Include Name, Age and Address Per Individual



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY





Fish Scale Art

Fish scaled art is another use for the fish.

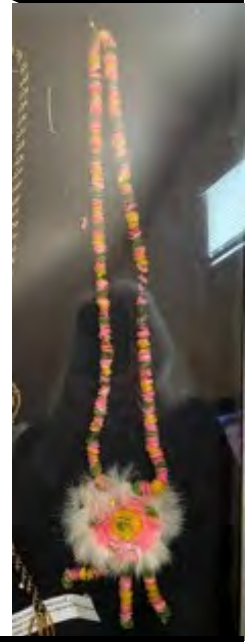
Cleaning the scales and dyeing the scales to create art and jewelry. Here are some examples of fish scale art.

This fish scale necklace on the right was purchased in Garden Village by Marianna Couchie. Artist unknown.

Do you have any fish scale art pieces that you would want to share with us?

Please send pictures to glennab@nfn.ca.

Miigwech!



Nbisiing Guides

As part of our important work in reclaiming our true history, we are presently working on our Guides. Many of our people worked in tourist camps in the summer and winter on Lake Nbisiing and the French River: Kervins, Memquisite, Keystone, Casa Blanca, Lift A Latch, Chaudiere, Lunge, Meadowside, etc. We are looking for photos and stories of our NFN people who worked in these camps as guides, including the women that worked behind the scenes as dish washers, cabin cleaners, etc.



We would like photos of shore lunches, fishing, any photos of our people while working at the camps. Include any stories that go with the photos. Your experiences while working there, who owned the camps, etc. This is an opportunity, similar to our work on The Nipissing Warriors, to share your stories and of your family members. **We can only know what you share with us.**

Please send any photos and stories to glennab@nfn.ca OR we can pick up your photos, scan and return the same day. If you would like to be interviewed, please contact me also. Please share your part of NFN history.

Stay tuned to updates on the Nbisiing Nishnaabemdaa Facebook page for fluent speaker stories every second Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Next dates: November 2nd, 16th and 30th. Contact ianc@nfn.ca for more information.

On November 25th,
our Culture Centre will have
“Dwaagi wellness packages”
available to NFN families,
one per family.

Please contact gailm@nfn.ca to
reserve your wellness package for
pick up on November 25th.

Mno Bimaadiwin.

**RIBBON SKIRT
MAKING - WITH
POCKETS**

With Tracey Larochelle

Registration Required with mindyl@nfn.ca
**Participants need to have their own sewing
machine**

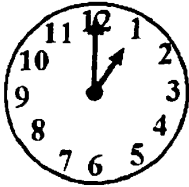
November 20th 2021 9AM-1PM
\$30 registration fee
Classes will be offered through Zoom
Limited Spots available
NFN membership are priority
Miigwech!

TIME

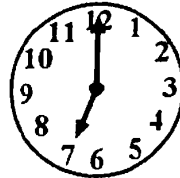
Dibagiiswaan – Dibagiiswaanens

aabta – half; shi-aabta – half hour; dbagan – hour; dbaganens - minute

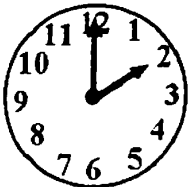
Aandi enso-dabganeg?



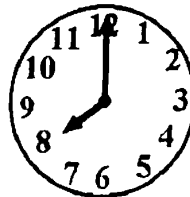
Ningo-dibagane



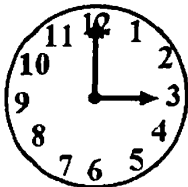
Niizhwaaso-dibagane



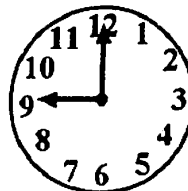
Niizho-dibagane



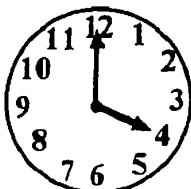
Nshwaaso-dibagane



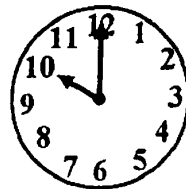
Nso-dibagane



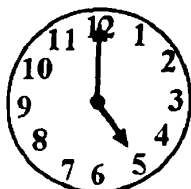
Zhaango-dibagane



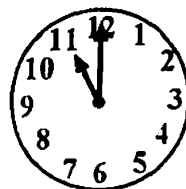
Newi-dibagane



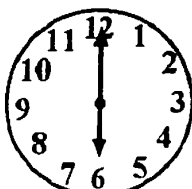
Mtaaso-dibagane



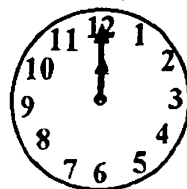
Naano-dibagane



Mtaaso-shi-bezhig-dibagane



Ningodwaaso-dibagane



Naawkweg or Aabta-dbikad

Nipissing Feast of the Dead

By: Joan McLeod Shabogesic

Morris Brezinski, attempts to determine the location of where on Lake Nipissing the Feast of the Dead may have taken place and provides the description by Lalemant of a large bay with a sandy beach. Brezinski states that only 4 large bays would fit this description: the Frank, Cache, South or Callander Bays. He concluded that there was a 25% chance that this ceremony could have been at Frank's Bay.

He suggested that the archaeological culture material dating to 1640 is interesting and could be interpreted as belonging to that cultural event. This cultural event could very well have taken place on many locations. The Frank's Bay site provides evidence that this site was one location of the Nipissing and this cultural may very well have taken place at this site.

One of four historical accounting of the Feast of the Dead, Father Lalemant, S.J. relating has been cited by Harold Hickerson as the *"most detailed, and is the only one in which the rites were recorded in the order they occurred."*

To answer questions as to the re-occurring timeframe of this cultural event, Hickerson provides that an analysis of the Huron ceremony in the writings of Champlain in 1615 (Biggar 1929 11:160-163), Sagard in 1623-1624 (Wrong 1939: 211-214), and Brébeuf in 1636 (JR 10:279-311) the ceremony took place every ten (10) to twelve (12) years. In regards to the seasonal occurrence, Lalemant provided that the rites held by the Nipissing were in September of 1641.

Father Lalemant further reported that the feast was by special envoy and an invitation to all the Nipissing Confederates. These special envoy invitations were to Nations as far as 414 miles (120 leagues).

Lalemant was present at the 1641 ceremony where the Nipissing hosted the Huron and Saulteur as guests at Georgian Bay in eastern Lake Huron. He estimated about 2,000 persons were at this gathering. This Nipissing hosted ceremony which took place on Georgian Bay has no definite precise location. The writer is hypothesizing but has no evidence that the remains of deceased persons in the care of the Chicago Museum could have been the remains interred at that 1642 ritual. It is mentioned here to ensure historical evidence requires closer study on those museum holdings.

The 1642 Feast of the Dead was not the only recorded Feast that the Nipissing participated in. In 1683, Beschefer's account provided that the four 'tribes' of Nipissing and the Achilligouan were the only participants.

In 1642, Lalemant observed that the Nipissing were as hosts the only tribe that took part in the interring and the conducting of the pre-burial rites for their deceased. Guest Nations were spectators in this part of the ceremony.

Lalemant observations of the 1642 ceremony provided a description of the activities of this cultural event. The activities for this ceremony began with the invited guests positioning

their canoes in a line then awaited their hosts greetings. The host Chief meets them in his canoe and standing in middle of his canoe and states why he has brought the invited guests to the gathering. Each Chief, then tosses some of his goods he has brought to the ceremony for gift giving, out of his canoe, some landing on land others in the water for the gathered to scramble for. Some of the gifts being distributed in this manner were described by Lalemant were mats somewhat like the tapestries seen in France. These may have been weaved matts with designs. He also described beaver skins, hatchet(s), and porcelain beads.

Each of the Nations who were invited were seated in their own areas and displayed their trade good which included beaver robes, skins of otter, caribou, wild cats and moose, hatchets, kettles, porcelain beads are exhibited or displayed. Gifts were presented to the hosting Nation, and dancing and contests for prizes followed the presentation.

Lalemant attempts to describe the singing and dancing that followed this gift giving. He wrote of *"a Ballet danced by forty persons, to the sound the of voices and of a sort of drum; in such harmonious accord that they rendered all the tones that are most agreeable in Music."*

He observed the dancing that were a part of the ceremony. The dance consisted of three parts. The first a depicting a combat of which he 'he finally overcomes his antagonist, and returns victorious'...Immediately after the first dance, the second dance grows from eight dancers and in increments to twelve, to sixteen, *"ever increasing in proportion, who quicken or checked their steps according to the voices that gave the measure."* The Women suddenly appear and join the dancing as *"the Third Part of this Ball"*.

Of the games played Lalemant described *'a pole of considerable height'* stripped of its bark and set in the ground. The pole was very smooth and greased up to make *'it more difficult to grasp'*. He goes on to describe two prizes, a kettle and a deerskin were tied to the top of the pole. It was a game of agility.

The election of Nipissing Chiefs was a prominent part of this ceremony. Chiefs were bestowed beaver skins and moose hides were distributed to newly elected chiefs. Lalemant relates that *'the election of the Nipissirien Chiefs took place. When the votes were taken, the Chief Captain arose, and called them each by name. They made their appearance, clothed in their finest robes.'*

Prior to the imposition of the Indian Act in 1867 Nipissing selected its Chiefs by headmen of families. These head men who were reaffirmed by their families (doodem) then chose or reaffirmed their head Chief. Shabogesic was probably the last Chief selected in this manner by the Nipissing headmen.

Continued on next page

Internment of the Nipissing deceased was a part of these ceremonies. A ritual or ceremony takes place where those of importance who died since the last Feast had their names transferred to living relatives as *“to perpetuate their memory”*.

On the following day, the women were occupied in *“fitting up a Cabin with an arched roof, about 100 paces”* (76 metres; 250 feet) *“with height proportionate”*. A gift giving on this day by the Nipissings to other Nations *“alone would have cost in France forty or even fifty thousand francs.”*

The women prepared the placed the remains in bark caskets covered with new robes of beaver skins and ‘enriched collars and scarfs’ of porcelain beads. The women seated themselves in two opposing lines facing each other among the caskets and were served a feast by the ‘Captains who acted as Stewarts’. Lalemant wrote that *“this Feast is for the Women only, because they evince a deeper feeling of mourning.”*

There was singing. *“...about a dozen men with carefully selected voices entered the middle of the Cabin, (lodge?) and began to sing a most lugubrious (mournful) chant, which being seconded by the women in the refrains, was very sweet and sad”*. Fires were set up at either end of the lodge. Most attendees were silent.

On the next morning the women who prepared the deceased for burial *‘distributed corn, moccasins and other small articles that were within their means and products of their industry’*. They chanted and cried and sped the Souls of the deceased on their way by *“continually waving branches that they held in their hands.”*Lalemant described a mock battle with ‘frightful cries and yells, running around at first in a circle, then in an oval; and, at last, after a thousand other figures they rush upon the Cabin” and take control of the lodge *“the women having yielded the place to the Warriors”*. *“These warriors became the dancers after this victory.”* After the dancing, the Algonquin Captains entered and prepared a feast for the Hurons guests. The Algonquins seated themselves separately from the Huron as their language was entirely different.

Two meetings were held after the internment feast ceremony. The Algonquin guests invited to the Feast were given presents of precious robes and collars of porcelain beads *‘according to the extent of the Alliance that existed between the Nipissiriniens and them’*.

The second meeting was the Huron Nation whom the Nipissiriniens gave *‘the highest seat, the first titles of honour’* consideration for their Confederacy with the Nipissing. The Hurons were lavished with gifts *‘that not a single Captain withdrew empty-handed.’*

The Feast of the Dead ended with more contests where men and women competed for prizes given for agility, physical strength, and skill. The description of activities within the Nipissing Feast of the Dead ceremony provides a small glimpse of the life of our ancestors during the 17th century. Political affirmations, ceremonial rituals surrounding interment, immemoration through the naming ceremony, the

gift giving, games, singing and dancing were of equal importance.

On the actual Feast of the Dead preparation of the deceased. On the inset is an artist’s depiction of the Huron Feast of the Dead. The Nipissing ceremony would in all probability be the same. The writer must make another assumption here. We must remember depictions by artists at that time in our history were sometimes embellished. His practice by an artist was a result of dependence on patronage funding. Patrons were probably requiring their artists to provide interesting depictions so some embellishment may have been a probability.

It has been written that the possible reason for the loss of this important cultural event was the disruption of the trade and our encounter with the Haudenosaunee. After the Haudenosaunee, the thirty years of not controlling our Nipissing Territory most likely pushed our Feast of the Dead ceremonies outside of our Territory. The European trade takeover of our trade as middlemen also changed our Nation’s trade economy. Upon returning to prominence on Lake Nipissing and our territory our reliance on fur trade and European goods caused our economy of the pre-contact days never to recover. The Nipissing became the supplier and were removed from our superiority as the middleman trader. The colonizer became entrenched and the Nipissing not returning to prominence in trade forever changed the alliances between Nations.

In present day, Nipissing is known as a generous Nation for gift giving. Some of the remnants of the Feast of the Dead still exist today. Funeral feasting is a part of our culture. In the last century, food provision to grieving families was an important part of our grieving process. Traditional revivals honouring our ancestors and following the teachings of our ancestors and cultural and heritage revitalization are important tenets for our Nation.

It is important to attempt to translate the Feast of the Dead into our language. We must remember the teaching provided by our fluent linguist Muriel Sawyer, Ban. She provided an interpretation for the word ‘history’ into our language, ‘Nbisiing Mii yi edebwetmaang’ which translates to *‘This is what we believe’*.

The following suggestions are provided to our fluent speakers as a challenge to translate Feast of the Dead into Nbisiing Nishnaabemwin. The writer provides the following definitions from Ojibway language dictionaries for our fluent speakers review and discussion.

The Barraga dictionary provides ‘magoshewin’ for ‘religious feast’; Barraga also provides ‘nibo’ for ‘dead’; the Eastern Ojibway dictionary provides ‘maawnjidwaad’ and maawndooshkaawaad’ for ‘gather as a crowd’; Eastern Ojibwa Dictionary provides ‘pagigendamowin’ for ‘burial’. It would be of great assistance that a translation for Feast of the Dead be provided.

Visit nfn.ca/culture-heritage to download this document with sources cited, as well as other publications.

I Am Not A Number author gives back

By Kelly Anne Smith

NIPISSING FIRST NATION— *I Am Not A Number* author gives back to help others tell stories of truth.

During Truth and Reconciliation Week, Jenny Kay Dupuis was the featured author at the Anishinabek Nation Orange Shirt Day Meet the Author workshop on Sept. 27.

A member of Nipissing First Nation, Dupuis was candidly talking about the process of writing *I Am Not a Number* during the live-streamed event.

She talked about sharing her Granny's truth while discussing the concepts of her children's storybook. Dupuis drives to inspire youth and writers of all ages to tell their truths.

"That is something more recent that I've been doing. I'm currently in the process of finishing up my second book. I've been using this particular time to really reflect on the different teachings or the different skills to think about when it comes to writing," she explains. "It's been a big period of reflections and what I can do in terms of passing some of that messaging to young people that have an interest in building their writing skills."

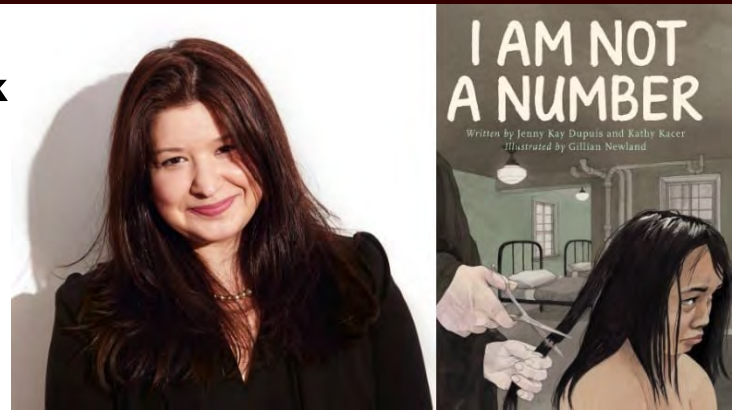
Dupuis devotes time to mentorships with young people. She wants youth to have tools for their future.

"It's a feeling of 'I should give back' – in helping to build self-confidence – especially to young people. I really didn't have that growing up. I think it's important for young people to see what a real-world experience might look like. Or to get some insight into what a real-world experience would look like, to see outside of the classroom. And have some of the thinking that an author or writer has to go through," she says. "And I think it's also important to see that as you are writing, it's not just a one-time draft. You have to work through many, many revisions and also work with many, many different people to develop that story."

Sharing the experience of Irene Couchie Dupuis, her own granny, has been transforming.

"It opens me up to the reality that was around me in terms of histories, and in terms of realizing the impact that it had on people's lives, through many generations – not just one," she tells. "It also made me think about the value of truth and the importance of listening to truth and also sharing truth and what that can mean for future generations as well."

Dupuis explains the importance of the community in sharing stories. "To realize that writing a book is really a community experience, whatever that community experience looks like for you, whoever those are that are involved, they are really a part of your community in helping



to support you. I think that message is really important for young people and it's important for all people to realize that you are not in isolation. You have mentors around you. You have support people around you to guide you, whether it's editors as well too. There are many people taking a role in creating a book."

Nipissing First Nation language keepers translated *I Am Not a Number* into Anishinaabemwin.

"That book really helped me to connect to Muriel (Sawyer) and to Geraldine (McLeod) and to Tory (Fisher) and to have that experience of bringing the book home in the community dialect. That was really important. Especially when you look at a story with the intent to take away culture and language. And take away other rights as well," she shares. "It's important that we brought that home to the community in the language especially. I think of the people in the high schools or other places that they can now experience it in the dual language form."

There has been a positive shift towards truth-seeking since *I am Not A Number* was first published in 2016, says Dupuis.

"Talking to young people and people in communities across Canada, and the US, one thing I noticed is when you ask the question about what they know about [the Indian] Residential School system, you got a lot of people shaking their heads. They didn't know very much. Five years later, now very young children, very recently five years old, put up their hands and tell me many stories that they have heard," she explains. "What I'm finding is that there is a change in the discussions. Older people are attaching words to it. It's not just a story. Is it a genocide? People are starting to question things."

"What happened after once they heard the story realizing the impact on communities, culture and language? There has been a lot of loss from the impact it's had. And attaching other words to it. What does healing look like? What does reconciliation look like? Is that even happening? So, I'm finding there are more conversations now," she continues.

Continued on next page

I Am Not A Number author gives back (continued)

“I’m also thinking about that idea of action and what people’s responsibilities are as they are hearing the stories and learning.

The conversations that I’ve been part of as a result of the book are definitely shifting in a different way.”

Dupuis has a passion for writing meaningful children’s books.

“My next one coming up I anticipate in 2023. It’s going to be coming out in Canada, the US and the UK. I can’t really say what it is but it’s something in the *Indian Act* that’s really important that people need to talk about.”

The author is now working with the illustrator for illustrations in the story.

“I just finished it so I’m really excited about that. I’ve been working on it for the past two years writing it. It’s a reflection of some of my own experiences that I’ve drawn on through my own life that I’ve drawn on to build into a story of a young little girl named Maggie.”

Dupuis’ other passion is for art.

“I’m also spending a lot of time working on art – [woodland pop art](#). I’ll be coming out with some limited edition prints

in the next month and some original works around that. I’m professionally trained in art and years ago I was a high school art teacher. I have experience of working with various artists across Canada as well.”

She doesn’t think she is making art for her children’s books though.

“I think it’s a good opportunity for other artists out there, especially with this new one coming out. The artist is really well known for her paintings and her illustration work. It’s an opportunity to get them some exposure too.”

***I Am Not A Number* can be purchased online or visit Supplies for the Soul at 132 Osprey Miikan, which stocks a variety of books by Indigenous authors, including 6 Nipissing First Nation authors!**



Ontario Women in Law Enforcement

On October 19th, **Sergeant Chantal Larocque** was recognized by Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE), along with 34 other female employees of the Anishinabek Police Service (APS). Sgt. Larocque is the first ever Media/Recruiting Officer for the APS.

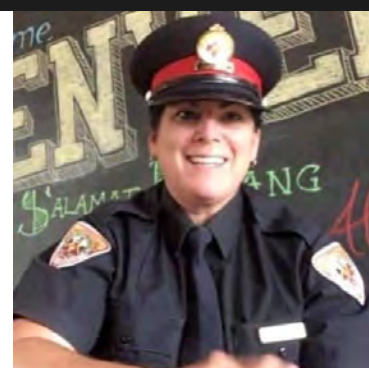
In 2018, the OPP requested Sgt Larocque take part in a virtual video initiative. This was the beginning of her ride along videos. Anyone who has seen these videos knows how entertaining they are! If you haven’t seen them, head over to the [APS Facebook page](#) to check them out. We especially encourage you to check out the video she made for the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Social media was the key to opening up doors for the communities. The videos showcased things she did on a daily basis, but few people outside of her community knew about.

Sgt Larocque found creative ways to stay connected to her communities throughout covid. One such example is duct taping a box of freezies to the front of her scout car and delivering them to children “contactless”.


OWLE welcomes Sergeant Larocque and the 34 other female employees of the Anishinabek Police Service. With the support of Chief Marc LeSage, all females sworn and civilian of the Service, became OWLE members in October. A first in OWLE history!

[#WomensHistoryMonth](#) [#WomenofImpact](#) [#WomenMakingHistoryNow](#)
[#APS](#) [#recruiting](#) [#socialmedia](#)





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in the Spotlight

Patrick Stevens Jr. Appointed as Indigenous Advisor

On October 4, 2021, Patrick Stevens Jr., son of Pat and Marie Stevens of Garden Village, was appointed as the Indigenous Advisor to the Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

This appointment follows his promotion to Chief Petty Officer Second Class earlier this year and is the culmination of 20 years of military service, experience, and advocacy on the behalf of Indigenous CAF members.

In 2001, Patrick joined the Primary Reserves after completing a Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program (CFAEP). Two years later, he joined the regular force as a sonar operator and began his career onboard HMCS Halifax.

During a Great Lakes sail, the HMCS Halifax made a port visit to Thunder Bay, Ontario. It was here that Patrick was presented with an eagle feather during a ceremony honouring Indigenous sailors.

This moment would come to define his career, as it started him on the path to discovering his Anishinaabe culture and roots.

Patrick began volunteering with CFAEP courses in CFB Halifax, first working as a mentor and then as an instructor. In 2014, he was posted to the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School (CFLRS) in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec where he worked with new recruits and continued his work with the CFAEP.

After receiving the teachings and becoming an eagle staff carrier, he participated in ceremonies and worked as a guest lecturer for the CFAEP course.

During his time at the recruit school, Patrick was appointed the Quebec military co-chair for the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG). Through his work with the DAAG, he became a strong advocate for male Indigenous members who wanted to grow their hair. It was also during this time that Patrick began his own journey of growing his hair, fully embodying an Anishinaabe man. Also, during his time with the DAAG, Patrick advised on the construction of a cultural centre for the recruit school where Indigenous members could conduct ceremonies and have a designated space for their spiritual practices.

In 2016, Patrick was invited to be the head veteran at the Nipissing First Nation's Annual Powwow and during Nipissing's Remembrance Day ceremony at the community's cenotaph. The Remembrance Day ceremony stands out as an integral moment that he was able to bring home the teachings he had learned during his service.

In 2018, Patrick returned to the east coast onboard HMCS Halifax and deployed overseas to sail off the coasts of Iceland and Norway. He also spent several months in the Mediterranean Sea. During these trips, he led spiritual smudges for onboard Indigenous members, and upon his return home in early 2020, Patrick was posted to Ottawa.

After filling two positions around Ottawa, Patrick was appointed as the second Indigenous advisor to the Chaplain General in October 2021. In this position, he is honoured to have the chance to continue his advocacy work while supporting Indigenous members.



Isabella Coderre Receives 2021 Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award

Isabella (Bella) Coderre is a proud member of NFN and daughter of Aimee Coderre (nee Goulais) and Bob Coderre. She is the granddaughter of Linda Goulais (nee Beaucage) and Jerry Goulais Ban.

Bella is 14 years of age and is a big sister to three-year-old Gerard. She helps Mom and Dad as much as she can around home with daily chores and taking care of Gerard.

Bella was born and raised in the City of Calgary, and she has made every effort to keep in contact with her extended family at home at Nipissing. With the pandemic hampering everyone's life, Bella tries to speak regularly with her friends and family as she realizes the importance of family and is very active within her community.

Bella received the 2021 Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (CAUAC) Youth Achievement Award on September 16, 2021 in a ceremony in the City of Calgary. The award recognizes Indigenous youth who:

- Are leaders in their community and among their peers
- Display a strong commitment to achieving their educational goals
- Support and encourage others to pursue their education
- Encourage and participate in cross-cultural activities involving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities

This is not Bella's first recognition. In 2019, she received the Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award from the Alberta School Board Association for her exceptional

leadership, courage and commitment to her culture and education.

The recipients of the Spirit Award are nominated by their teachers. Bella was nominated by her Grade 5 and 6 teachers so you can see that Bella's wonderful qualities have been observed while she attended school. Bella received a beautiful Star blanket which she cherishes dearly.

Bella is a natural leader and very intelligent and always excelled in her academia. Bella was able to keep up with her studies and assignments throughout these difficult pandemic school years and this year she has graduated from Grade 8 and passed her classes with marks in the 80's and 90's!

Now entering high school, no doubt Bella welcomes this challenge with the way she faces everything else, with hard work, honesty, truth and not to forget, a good sense of humour. Bella continues to grow in all aspects of her life's journey and enjoys learning about her Indigenous culture.

With guidance from her parents, Bella continues to be raised in a balanced way and follows the Seven Grandfather teachings. Bella is a very kind individual who treats everyone with respect, humility, and love.

Bella has demonstrated pride and confidence in herself and her heritage by participating in various traditional ceremonies with her family and friends.

Congratulations Bella!

Susan Aglukark Coming to Capitol Centre

Susan Aglukark is Canada's first Inuk artist to win a Juno (3), a Governor General's Performing Arts Award for lifetime artistic achievement, and she is an officer of the Order of Canada. Susan holds several Honorary Doctorate degrees and has held command performances.

During a career that has spanned more than 25 years, Susan's journey as a singer-songwriter has led her to reflect on who she is, where she comes from and the importance of discovery – discovery of history, culture and self, this time of reflection, writing and song writing has Susan coming back to one area of profound knowing, the Inuit are an extraordinary people deeply grounded in a culture forged by their Ancestors, their journey is what shaped them.

Regular tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for students. For tickets and more information: capitolcentre.org/events/susan-aglukark, call 705-474-4747 or contact tickets@capitolcentre.org.





Calling all Arts/Craft Vendors & Home-Based Sales Reps!

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For more details, or to provide your business and contact information, please contact: Gen Couchie at 705-753-2050 x 1243 or genc@nfn.ca.

LNHL 2022 FUNDRAISING DRAW POSTPONED UNTIL DEC 20th

1st PRIZE

Custom Made
Warriors Jersey

2nd PRIZE

Custom Made
Warriors Jersey

3rd PRIZE

Custom Made
Warriors Jersey

3 Prizes to be won!

1st Custom Made Warriors Jersey - 2nd Warriors Beaded Medallion - 3rd Warriors Leather Mitts

Draw will be held at the Annual Community Meeting and streamed live via Nipissing First Nation Administration Facebook Page



RAFFLE TICKET



To purchase tickets,
contact Sabrina at
705-753-2050 or
sabrinawm@nfn.ca
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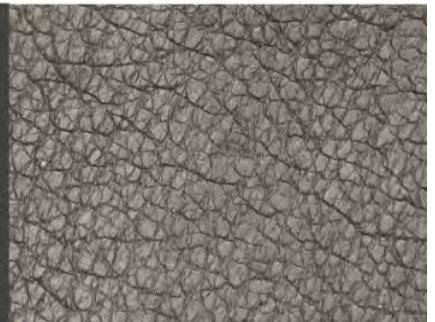
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COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR



November 2021

Mtikmeg Giizis (Whitefish Moon)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Treaty Week (Nov 1-5) – Visit waawiindamaagewin.com/treatyweek2021 for daily sessions!						
REMINDERS: Entrepreneur Workshops every Wednesday at noon until Nov 17 Speaker Stories on Nbisiiing Nishnaabemdaa FB page on Nov 2, 16 & 30 @ 9am	1 Get Your Flu Shot! 10am – 6pm on Tues, Nov 2 @ LCHC Parking Lot	2 Council Mtg @ 7:30pm Speaker Story @ 9am on FB Nishnaabemwin Beginner Class @ 6pm every Tues → Flu Clinic GV	 Deadline to order Seniors Meal Package Nishnaabemwin Novice Class @ 6pm every Wednesday ← Flu Clinic DV	 Get Your Flu Shot! 10am – 8pm on Wed, Nov 3 @ Couchie Memorial Daycare Parking Lot	DEADLINE Job Postings: Communications Officer, OWL Transitional Support Worker, Nishnaabemwin Teachers, HCC Nurse, HCC Facilitator, Grad Coach, Finance Clerk	6
	7	 Get Your Flu Shot! 2pm – 8pm @ Couchie Memorial Daycare Parking Lot	 Get Your Flu Shot! 10am – 6pm on Wed, Nov 10 @ LCHC Parking Lot	10 Seniors Meal Packages Entrepreneur Workshop 12-1pm → Flu Clinic GV	11 OFFICES CLOSED REMEMBRANCE DAY Virtual Ceremony @ 11am (YouTube)	DEADLINE Council Advisory Committees Diabetes Day Drive-By Event 10-12 @ LCHC
14	15	16 Council Mtg @ 7:30pm Speaker Story @ 9am on Facebook	 Entrepreneur Workshop 12-1pm <i>Last workshop</i>	18 Survivors of Suicide Loss 6-8pm on Zoom	19 APPLICATION DEADLINE Santa Fund	20 Join our Annual General Meeting online or by phone w/ Zoom 9am – noon
21	22	23	24 → Deadline to Register For Bingo on Dec 11th	25 Xmas Distribution Cheques Mailed for requests rec'd by October 22nd → Deadline to Register For Bingo on Dec 11th	26 Xmas Distribution Direct Deposits for requests rec'd by October 22nd	27
28	29	30 Speaker Story @ 9am on Nbisiiing Nishnaabemdaa				



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