



2013 Boundary Claim Trust Income Update

AS OF NOVEMBER 2023



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The budget figures referenced here are rough estimates for running Nipissing First Nation programs and services. In some cases, we’ve used funds from the Trust as a way to secure additional federal or provincial grant funding. To get the precise funding details, please speak with the appropriate Program Director.

1. Introduction

This document serves to update the Debendaagziwaad of the Nipissing First Nation on how we’re taking care of the 2013 Boundary Claim Trust Fund. It also explains how we’re investing the money earned from the fund to benefit our members and the nation as a whole. By managing the fund carefully and using its income wisely, we aim to enhance the standard of living for all Nipissing Debendaagziwaad. This moves us toward our vision that “Nipissing First Nation will be a well-balanced, healthy, politically and economically independent, culturally strong and self-governing nation.” This document will detail the strategies we’re using to protect the fund’s principal amount and increase its value, while also providing immediate advantages to our community from the earnings of the trust.

2. 2013 Boundary Claim Trust Update

In 2013, Nipissing membership voted to accept an offer of \$124 million as a land claim settlement with the Government of Canada recognizing that the reserve boundary was incorrectly surveyed after the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty, resulting in a smaller reserve than agreed upon. An initial Per Capita Distribution (PCD) occurred in 2013, and the remaining \$84 million were placed in trust to maximize the benefit to current and future citizens. The trust is designed to benefit the current generation by allowing Nipissing to use interest revenues to increase direct benefits to registered members, invest in community, social and economic development initiatives, while also preserving the wealth for future generations.

A Board of Trustees manages the 2013 Boundary Claim Trust. Members include Chief Scott McLeod, Deputy Chief Mike Sawyer, Donna Dodgson, Matthew J. McLeod, Joan McLeod Shabogesic, Mickey George,

as well as a Peace Hills Trust Corporate Trustee. Our investment portfolios are professionally managed by two separate investment management firms: Lincluden and Mawer.

3. Reinvestment of Trust Income

3.1 Direct Benefits

Christmas Distribution

Nipissing First Nation distributes Christmas shares to registered members from the Band Revenue account. Once a year, registered members can expect a distribution around the holiday season. Currently, all registered members up to age 64 receive \$250.00, and \$320.00 for registered members aged 65 and older. The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last ten years has been approximately \$1,780,400 to registered members on and off reserve.

Medical Health Fund

The Nipissing First Nation Medical Health Fund was established to provide financial assistance for health-related expenses not covered by other health benefit plans or funding sources. Approvals are subject to the availability of funds per fiscal year (April to March). Covered expenses can include medical supplies, prescription drugs, immunizations, treatments, foot and vision care, emergency travel support, and traditional healing. The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$645,000 distributed to Nipissing First Nation members on and off reserve.

Recreation Reimbursement

The Recreation Reimbursement Fund assists Nipissing First Nation families on and off reserve and encourages participation in recreational activities. The fund reimburses physical and recreational activities up to \$500.00 for each child per year. The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$233,000 distributed to Nipissing First Nation members on and off reserve.

Senior Supports (Snow Plowing)

Nipissing First Nation provides snow plowing services to seniors and members in emergencies to provide access to their residences.

The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$257,710.00 going towards Nipissing First Nation senior members on reserve.

Waste Sewer/Management

Facilities and Public Works manage water and wastewater treatment for the community, including waterline installations, well monitoring and pump house upgrades and maintenance. The staff also oversee operations and maintenance at our plants and pumphouses, repair hydrants, completes inspections, and adhere to Health Canada standards and practices.

The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$945,000 going towards water/sewer/waste management fees for Nipissing First Nation members living on reserve.

Kin Placements

The Kin Care Fund is in place to assist families who enter voluntary kin arrangements to care for children of Nipissing First Nation members involved in Children Aid Society cases. Nipissing First Nation supports kin agreements as a way of keeping children of Nipissing First Nation in familiar surroundings. Eligible expenses for this program include clothing, furniture, activities, health costs, childcare.

The budgeted amount, coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$22,000 to Nipissing First Nation members who participate in the Kin Placements Program.

Funeral Assistance

The Funeral Burial Assistance Fund and Interment Policy were established to assist Debendaagziwaad with funeral and burial costs and guide family members when making funeral arrangements.

The Funeral and Burial Assistance Fund is available to all Nipissing First Nation members for \$5000.00.

The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$426,000, going towards funeral assistance for Nipissing First Nation members on and off reserve.

3.2 Economic Development

Partner Development (Miller)

Nipissing First Nation continues to build on our strong business partnership with Miller Paving as a key element of Nipissing First Nation’s strategy to build a revenue stream that supports our vision of improving well-being and quality of life for Debendaagziwaad, and working together in a positive, progressive manner to be economically independent and self-governing.

Nipissing Miller has several major projects that are either in progress or upcoming, including:

- Construction of the Bineshii Business Park expansion project
- Rehabilitation of Highway 17
- Replacement of the Laronde Creek Bridge
- Yellek to Duchesnay Road extension
- Installation of traffic lights at Beaucage Park Road
- Paving in Duchesnay
- Environmental radon clean up in the Yellek area



Our partnership creates capacity to move community projects ahead while providing employment and training opportunities for Nipissing First Nation members and spinoff opportunities for private companies owned by Nipissing First Nation members.

A Nipissing Miller job fair hosted in Duchesnay on May 10, 2022, attracted 38 applicants, with 17 being NFN members, 4 affiliates, 9 non-members and 8 of unknown status. Six of the NFN applicants were hired and three turned down employment offers. We continue to track job applications and outcomes to maintain awareness and identify where there may be gaps that we can work to address. We also receive regular reporting on “local content” requirements, including the procurement of supplies and services from Nipissing First Nation member-owned businesses.



More recently, a Nipissing First Nation member was hired as Miller’s Indigenous Relations Coordinator to support project teams in managing agreements with Indigenous communities and to lead the development of trusting and strategic relationships that generate economic development, employment, and community benefits.

On June 28, 2022, a ceremony was held at the Miller Quarry to kick off the Highway 17 rehabilitation project in a good way. Elder Peter Beaucage provided opening remarks and prayers before passing the eagle feather and asking everyone to introduce themselves and say a few words. It was a very positive event that highlighted the strength of our partnership and helped our team members get to know each other, and the land they are working on.

Our partnership continues to grow and develop critical infrastructure while generating positive benefits for our nation and Debendaagziwaad. In September 2022, the partnership returned over \$850,000 in dividends to Nipissing First Nation.

The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$65,000.

Small Business Loans

The Nipissing First Nation Economic Development Department has updated its Small Business Loan Program. Changes include the requirement of a business licence if operating within Nipissing First Nation and the incorporation of a credit approval process. The maximum loan amount has been raised from \$15,000 to \$20,000, and the interest rates have been adjusted to either Bank of Canada Prime + 2% or a fixed rate of 5%, whichever is lower. In the future, there are plans to expand the program to incorporate a forgivable loan component, offering additional financial support to our member businesses. Since 2013, 16 loans have been issued to Nipissing First Nation business owners, which has generated \$18,457.32 in interest revenue. The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$75,000.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

In 2022, the Economic Development Department received funding from the Ontario Government to support the adoption of electric vehicle technology within Nipissing First Nation. The funds were used to construct four community and staff chargers at



Nipissing First Nation Administration buildings (70 Semo Road, 469 Couchie Memorial). The second component of this program offered Nipissing First Nation members the opportunity to have a level 2 EV charging station installed in their homes at no cost. The residential installations were completed in May 2023, and the administration chargers were up and running as of August 2023.

A second application was recently submitted for constructing 2 level 3 (fast charging) EV stations within the Bineshii Business Park. These stations will drive more traffic into the park, which should have a positive impact on the businesses operating there. The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$40,000.



Mnogin Greenhouse Facility

Nipissing First Nation has invested in three cold-climate, containerized greenhouses that will grow fresh and nutritious lettuces, leafy greens, and herbs for Nipissing First Nation members, as well as residents and businesses in the surrounding region (North Bay, West Nipissing). This will allow Nipissing First Nation to grow crops year-round thereby providing members of Nipissing First Nation and surrounding communities with a reliable healthy food source on a continual basis at consistent pricing.

Once all three farms are fully operational, the Mnogin Greenhouse will produce approximately 75,000 heads of lettuce per year, along with various herbs. We anticipate supplying Nipissing First Nation’s Good Food boxes and Diners’ Club with fresh produce and will explore other avenues to make our products easily accessible for community members. We have had several introductory meetings with potential restaurant customers, with positive feedback and strong interest in our fresh, locally grown products.

We also plan to explore partnerships with various Nipissing First Nation departments to build capacity

in the food production sector through education, curriculum development, outreach efforts and supporting food-related business start-ups.

Developing the capacity to grow our own fresh produce year-round is central to meeting our food security needs, especially during our more vulnerable winter months. We saw extreme volatility in the availability and pricing of fresh produce in 2022-2023 due to climate events and supply chain issues. This further points to the timeliness and importance of this project.

The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$371,000, which will be repaid over a 20-year term, with all interest paid back to Nipissing First Nation.

Bineshii Small Business Centre Expansion

This 7-million-dollar project was tendered in the fall of 2022 and awarded to the Nipissing Miller Partnership through a competitive bid process in January 2023. Construction commenced in March 2023 and the anticipated completion is scheduled for November 2023.

The project involves expanding infrastructure (roads, electricity, natural gas) to create 23 new commercial and light industrial lots that will be available to lease to NFN member and non-member owned businesses.

Nipissing First Nation has secured \$5 million in funding for the Bineshii Business Park expansion project, with NOHFC and FedNor each contributing \$1 million dollars, and Indigenous Services Canada contributing \$3 million dollars. NFN’s equity contribution to the project is just over \$500,000 with the remaining project costs being funded by revenues generated by other Ec Dev projects, such as solar and the Nipissing Miller Partnership.

The Bineshii Business Park project will create conditions for sustainable and diversified long-term economic activity by employing NFN members and businesses during the construction phase and providing NFN members with a prime area to locate or expand their businesses when the project is complete.

3.3 Social Development

Integrated After School Program – Formerly known as H.A.C.K.

The homework program started a long time ago in different forms. It was known as H.A.C.K. before it switched over to the Integrated Children’s Program in the last 7 years. The program runs from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Wednesday. At the program, the children are given a nutritional snack; once done, they start to do any homework they may have from school, if they don’t have any or when they are done, they will receive an educational worksheet or play educational games such as dice games, and games that strength their math and language development until 4:40 p.m. at that time we get ready and either go to the gym, outdoor rink or the playground to play structured games or just have free time.

The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$167,000.

Employment and Training

The goals of the Employment and Training program is to provide our membership with support and tools to attain their goals, such as client assessments, wage subsidies, training, workshops, career/job fairs, and resume writing that will enable our clients to be competitive in today’s labour market and that will assist the members and affiliated members on securing long term sustainable employment. The funds used from the Trust went to support individuals with training and potential employment with the Miller Group. In addition, individuals were supported for apprenticeships.

The budgeted amount for employment and training over the last 10 years was approximately \$133,000.

Education

Trust funds have been used strategically to completely eliminate any wait list for post-secondary funding for all NFN registered members. In addition to increasing funds to minimize the waitlist, a portion of these funds have been utilized to support student’s book allowances and tuition top ups.

The budgeted amount for education purposes has been approximately \$760,000 over the last 10 years.

3.4 Community Development

Forestry Program

Nipissing First Nation has a Forestry program for many years, which held the responsibility of managing and coordinating all forestry activities which occur on Nipissing First Nation land. Over the years, the forestry program has moved from the Lands Department, back to the Natural Resources Department, where it is now headed up by Nipissing First Nation’s Forestry Coordinator, who was hired in 2019 to revive the program. Nipissing First Nation’s Forestry Program can be split into 2 main focuses, which are on-reserve forestry and off-reserve forestry, which consist of different activities/duties.

On-Reserve Forestry Activities:

- Manage and Coordinate all Commercial forestry activities on Nipissing First Nation administrative lands.
- Manage and coordinate all non-commercial forestry activities on Nipissing First Nation administrative lands.
- Assign Forestry permits for NFN Band Members who are conducting forest activities on Nipissing First Nation lands.
- Plan and execute forest silvicultural prescriptions to enhance the health of the Nipissing First Nation Forest.
- Assist other Departments with forestry related skills.
- Conduct tree safety assessments for Nipissing First Nation Lessees and Band Members.
- Coordinate Tree removal on Nipissing First Nation Property

Off-Reserve Forestry Activities:

- Sit on the Nipissing Forest Resource Management INC. Board of Directors as an Nipissing First Nation representative to be a part of the decision-making process for the management of forests in the Nipissing Area.
- Seek Forestry Contractors to harvest our Crown land harvest allocations.
- Assist in the planning process of choosing appropriate harvest allocations for Nipissing First Nation.
- Generate revenue from harvest allocations to be used for enhancing the Nipissing First Nation Forest and Nipissing First Nation Forest Program.

The budgeted amount for the Forestry Program has been approximately \$410,000 over the last 10 years.

Seniors Repair Grant

In 2013, the Seniors Minor Repair Grant was created to ensure seniors residing in their homes meet their health and safety needs. Since its creation, we have been able to help over 193 seniors stay in their homes longer by assisting with upgrading roofs, ramps, and accessible washrooms, along with many other health and safety needs.

The budgeted amount coming out of the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$1,000,000.

Backyard Compost Program

Nipissing First Nation provides backyard compost bins free of charge to on-reserve community member’s households and aids community members in starting and maintaining their home composting. The Backyard Composting Program aims is to reduce organic waste from entering the Nipissing First Nation landfill site. These efforts are to assist with extending the lifespan of the Nipissing First Nation landfill site, reduce leachate to protect our water sources, and reduce greenhouse gases.

The budgeted amount from the Trust over the last 10 years has been approximately \$30,000.

Community Monuments and Cemetery Upgrades

There have been some recent repairs and restoration on current monuments within the community, which include the Past Chiefs’ Monument and a new cemetery columbarium added to the cemetery that allows for the storage of cremation urns.

The budgeted amount over the last 10 years is approximately \$119,000.

Parks and Recreation – Formerly Beautification

The Parks & Recreation program (previously known as Beautification) has been in place since 2007 to provide services to all Nipissing First Nation communities, which include the maintenance and repairs of public spaces, as well as providing lawn care and property maintenance for seniors who qualify. The objective of this program is to provide experience and employment opportunities to Nipissing First Nation band members who face employment challenges and prepare them for their future careers while learning new skills in the labour industry or an office setting. These workers are also given the opportunity to work in and for their community.

Funds have been allocated to cover the costs for the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Crew. In addition, this program has been very successful in addressing areas of concern and maintenance needs in all parts of the First Nation, which includes:

- Seniors’ lawn maintenance
- Enhancing park and beach areas, including the Residential School Monument
- Maintaining and improving the powwow grounds
- Addressing illegal dumping
- Community gardens
- Cemetery upgrades and maintenance

The budgeted amount for the Parks and Recreation program over the last 10 years has been approximately \$2,114,000.

General Infrastructure Updates and Equipment Purchases

Trust income funds have been allocated to address equipment deficiencies within the Public Works Department that will ensure safe operations for many years. Investments include a new loader, compactor, backhoe, and snow plow. Generators have been purchased to support the back up power of the Band Office. Updates to the Garden Village playground, updates to the Yellek swings, and a Zamboni were purchased to support the outdoor facilities for youth and their families.

In addition, the Trust has been utilized to support upgrades to roads, streetlights, shoulders, sidewalks, guide rails, and other infrastructures within Garden Village, Yellek, Duchesnay, Art’s Lane, and Serenity Lane. The following are some of the infrastructure updates:

- Roads in Art’s Lane
- Streetlights were installed in Garden Village and Commanda Crescent
- Sidewalks on Commanda Crescent
- Updates to guardrails and ditches in Garden Village
- The Duchesnay Yellek Connection
- Beaucage Road Subdivision updates
- Resurfacing and repaving in Duchesnay

The budgeted amount for the infrastructure updates and equipment purchases over the last 10 years has been approximately \$7,780,000.

3.5 Capital Purchases

Nipissing First Nation has taken out loans from the 2013 Boundary Claim Trust for the following purchases and buildings. The benefit of doing so is that the loan principal is paid back to the Trust, and, in addition, any interest paid on the loan goes back to the Trust. This increases the revenues paid back to Nipissing First Nation. Currently, we have a total of approximately \$10,218,014 out in loans, and the interest made over the terms of the loans will be approximately \$6,102,625. As of November 2023, approximately \$1.89 million has been paid in interest to the trust.

- Band Office Expansion
- Outdoor Covered Rink
- Duchesnay Day Care & Community Centre
- Sundown Ridge
- Nipissing First Nation Cold Climate Greenhouse

4. Future Projects

Through our RHT Past Annuities Consultations on Nipissing First Nation’s Path Forward sessions, Nipissing First Nation sought feedback from membership regarding future projects that members would like to see in the coming years. These were some of the top projects requested:

- Skateboard Park
- Splash Park
- Yellek Boat Launch
- Youth Drop-In Centre
- Multi-Purpose Building (Social, Cultural & Right Path)

5. Conclusion

Chief and Council invite Nipissing First Nation members to review this update and direct any questions to the respective Directors. Further discussions will be held in various communities within Nipissing First Nation; stay tuned for information to be released. This plan is adaptable and will be changed and updated based on the input of the Nipissing Debendaagziwaad. Your input and feedback are essential to shaping the future of Nipissing First Nation and the investments made for now and the future.



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