

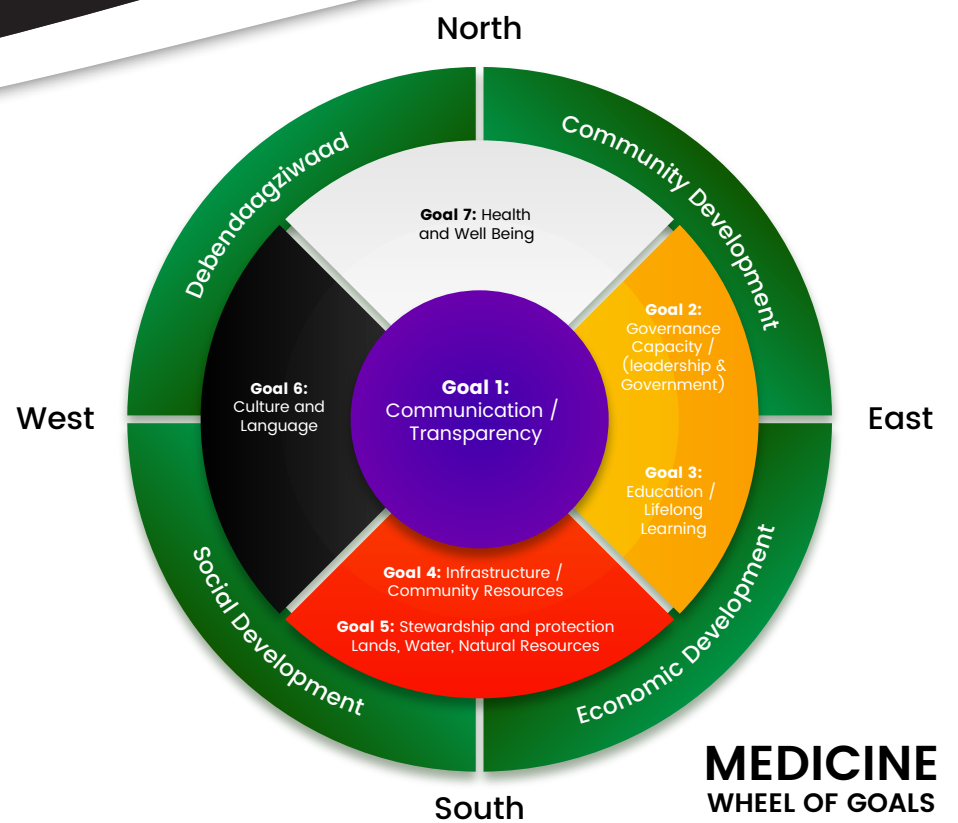
Strategic Plan 2025-2026

Vision

Nipissing First Nation will be a well-balanced, healthy, politically and economically independent, culturally strong, and self-governing nation.

Mission

Nipissing First Nation will be a well-balanced, healthy, politically and economically independent, culturally strong, and self-governing nation. Our mission is to continue to protect our Nation's inherent rights and to empower the membership of Nipissing First Nation to work together in a positive, progressive manner to improve well-being and quality of life, to be socially and economically independent, culturally strong, and self-governing.



Goal #1: Foster Transparent Communication

This goal is about making sure that communication is open, honest, and accessible to all Debendaagziwaad, as well as outside groups.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Priscilla Goulais

- 1.1 **Use analytics to support engagement with citizens** – Developing a better understanding of on- and off-reserve citizens' concerns.
- 1.2 **Enhance NFN's reputation by reinforcing the NFN vision and mission** – Learning how our communications efforts are being received and ensuring they align with NFN's vision and mission.
- 1.3 **Make investments in internet infrastructure to support communications** – Addressing current communications service gaps.

Goal #2: Strengthen Governance and Capacity

This goal is about empowering NFN to control its future by defining citizen roles through NFN's Chi-Naaknigewin and the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, enhancing decision-making accountability, and improving financial administration for greater efficiency, transparency, and resource management.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Joan McLeod-Shabogesic

- 2.1 **Citizenship** – Ensuring NFN has the authority to determine who belongs to the community.
- 2.2 **Appeals and redress** – Providing a mechanism for community members to challenge decisions and seek resolution.
- 2.3 **Enforce NFN laws** – Ensuring community safety and well-being.
- 2.4 **Financial governance and administration** – Ensuring strong financial governance rooted in traditional values to benefit all community members.
- 2.5 **Increase governance capacity** – Building capacity among community members and staff to ensure effective self-governance.

Goal #3: Excellence in Education and Lifelong Learning

This goal is about fostering excellence in education and lifelong learning by creating a supportive environment for individual gifts to flourish, while strengthening both traditional and contemporary knowledge to build a resilient community rooted in Nishnaabe identity.

Portfolio Holder: Deputy Chief Brian Couchie

- 3.1 **Decide between a special needs school and an elementary school** – Providing the best learning environment for our children to foster growth and development among all learners.
- 3.2 **Education governance** – Ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective decision-making.
- 3.3 **Funding supports** – Providing high-quality, culturally relevant education programs.

Goal #4: Develop Sustainable Infrastructure

This goal is about developing sustainable infrastructure that meets essential needs, strengthens self-reliance, and creates local employment. It focuses on community-driven projects that provide clean water, safe housing, and recreational spaces, all guided by Nishnaabe values and long-term sustainability.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jason Laronde

- 4.1 Duchesnay water and wastewater** – Addressing current concerns and providing a long-term solution to drinking water challenges.
- 4.2 Develop new subdivision for Yellek and Garden Village** – Addressing housing needs and ensuring all community members have access to appropriate housing.
- 4.3 Enhance recreational areas** – Promoting holistic health and well-being.
- 4.4 Fund infrastructure development through property taxation for lessees** – Ensuring long-term sustainability and quality of infrastructure in the Jocko Point and Beaucage subdivisions.
- 4.5 Increase affordable housing** – Providing housing security and increasing stability among all members.
- 4.6 Increase mortgage supports and alternative funding models to enhance home ownership** – Providing additional housing supports, enhancing well-being and contributing to the Nation's economic and social fabrics.
- 4.7 Develop a rent-to-own program** – Addressing gaps in traditional mortgage systems and enabling more members to establish roots in the community.

Goal #5: Responsible Stewardship of Lands and Natural Resources

This goal is about fulfilling NFN's responsibility to care for the land and natural resources, guided by reciprocity. It emphasizes taking only what is needed, giving back in equal measure, and protecting the natural world for the well-being of all creation, now and in the future.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ric Stevens

- 5.1 Create land-based camps for membership** – Passing along traditional knowledge and providing structured opportunities for youth.
- 5.2 Develop Beaucage Park** – Creating a space that nurtures the well-being of our families and the continuation of our Nishnaabe culture.
- 5.3 Explore opportunities to develop wind power in NFN's traditional territory** – Becoming involved in wind power projects and taking advantage of incentives provided through tender processes.
- 5.4 Develop a comprehensive environmental monitoring program** – Tracking changes in our ecosystem, identifying potential threats, and deciding how to protect and manage our natural resources.

Goal #6: Reclaim Nishnaabe Identity by Revitalizing Language and Culture

This goal is about revitalizing Nishnaabemwin and preserving cultural heritage by making resources accessible and creating new learning opportunities. Strengthening language and cultural practices today ensures a vibrant, resilient future where Nishnaabe identity thrives for generations.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Samantha Stevens

- 6.1 Develop digital strategy for Nishnaabemwin resources** – Increasing language accessibility for on- and off-reserve members.
- 6.2 Prioritize language and culture with resources to build capacity** – Ensuring Nishnaabemwin thrives for future generations by providing necessary resources, support, and training to build capacity within the community.
- 6.3 Explore creation of law to reinforce use of Nishnaabemwin in Nipissing** – Promoting and protecting our language to create an environment where it is integrated in all domains of community life.
- 6.4 Implement the NFN Culture and Language Strategic Plan** – Respecting the community's voice and empowering members to take ownership of their cultural revitalization journey.

Goal #7: Promote Holistic Health and Well-Being

This goal is about strengthening the well-being of all NFN members across generations by addressing health disparities, promoting healing, and building a strong foundation for future health. It emphasizes Nishnaabe principles, family, community, and accessible, culturally safe services for holistic well-being.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Yvette Bellefeuille

- 7.1 Address substance use and treatment in the community** – Providing comprehensive support services that integrate Nishnaabe healing practices and promote harm reduction.
- 7.2 Establish community-based child protection services** – Protecting our children from harm and nurturing their connection to their Nishnaabe identity, language, and culture.
- 7.3 Enhance family support and prevention services** – Providing culturally relevant resources, programs, and services.
- 7.4 Elders supports and services** – Strengthening support systems, advocating for improved services, and raising awareness about Elders' rights and needs.
- 7.5 Harm reduction** – Engaging the community to help educate each other and provide support to members in crisis.
- 7.6 Autonomy and sovereignty** – Providing space for community-driven wellness initiatives.