

Enkamgak

Miinan Giizis (Blueberry Moon) | July 2025



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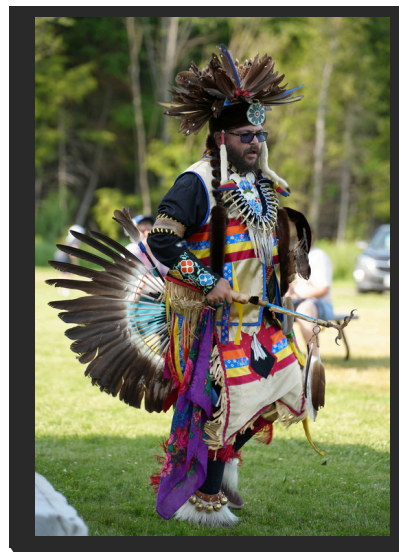
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**Celebrate NFN youth
athletic accomplishments on
page 7-9!**

Celebrating Culture and Community at Gnwaa Giizhgad (Summer Solstice)

On June 20, NFN hosted a community celebration in Garden Village for Gnwaa Giizhgad (Summer Solstice) and National Indigenous Peoples Day—a powerful time to honour our ancestors, cultures, and connection to the land. The event included a sunrise ceremony, a Pow Wow social, craft and food vendors, and activities for all ages. It was a day to celebrate the strength, beauty, and resilience of Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island. We

were also honoured to welcome and hear from a delegation from Mexico visiting as part of the One Water project, joining us in the spirit of shared learning and relationship-building.



*Antonio
DiNardo*

Special thanks to Brady Penasse, the Culture and Heritage team, the Governance department and all NFN staff who made this meaningful gathering possible. Miigwech to everyone who came together in joy, respect, and good spirit.



*Bella Fisher, Carra Fisher
and Jacie Martel*



Kinsley, Theo & Lexa



Ava Couchie

Connect with us!



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Nipissing First Nation

NFN Membership Portal

- **View confidential documents** (Robinson Huron Treaty Past Annuities Settlement, Chief & Council)
- Sign up to **receive Enkamgak / Newsletter** and/or **Job Postings by email**.
- **Student registration**

Register at
portal.nfn.ca or
scan the QR
code:



Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New APS Detachment in NFN

On May 23, 2025, Nipissing First Nation (NFN) and Anishinabek Police Services (APS) held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new APS detachment in Jocko Point. The event, held at Laronde Creek along Highway 17, marks the beginning of a key infrastructure project aimed at improving public safety for NFN and neighbouring communities, including Dokis and Wahnapiatae First Nations.



Councillor Priscilla Goulais, Adam Venasse, Steven Venasse, Councillor Jason Laronde, Elder Evelyn McLeod, Gimaa Cathy Stevens, APS Chief of Police Jeff Skye, and Officer Tyeler Commanda

The new facility will provide a modern, accessible workspace tailored to the growing needs of APS. Strategically located to reduce travel time and improve response efficiency, the detachment will enhance the delivery of timely and effective policing services. NFN is leading the design, tender, and construction process in close collaboration with APS to ensure the building meets operational needs while reflecting cultural values.

The detachment is expected to be completed by October 2025.



Councillor Jason Laronde, Gimaa Cathy Stevens, APS Chief of Police Jeff Skye, APS Nipissing Detachment Officer Tyeler Commanda

Smile Cookies



Bonnie Pearce, Healthy Living Manager and Melanie Young

Tim Hortons-Nipissing First Nation Smile Cookie Campaign is a heartwarming initiative that blends community spirit with sweet generosity. Held from April 28 to May 4, 2025, this campaign donates 100% of the proceeds from every Smile Cookie sold to support vital health and wellness programs within the Nipissing First Nation.

This year's campaign raised \$3,850 and featured the "Smiles for Health Art Challenge," inviting school-aged youth to express what healthy living means to them through art. Submissions were proudly displayed at the Wolves Den Tim Hortons, while participants were entered into a draw for a \$100 Visa gift card. Adding to the excitement, members of the Health Team, Chief and Council, NFN Fire and Emergency Services, and George Couchie helped decorate and deliver the cookies.

Lorie Young, the local Tim Hortons owner, emphasized that proceeds specifically benefit the Nipissing First Nation's health and wellness programs.

Through smiles, cookies, and community collaboration, the Tim Hortons-Nipissing First Nation Smile Cookie Campaign continues to make a lasting impact—one cookie at a time.



Grand Opening of the Garden Village Water Treatment Plant



Water Treatment Plant Operators: Riley Farrell, Dan Beaucage, Brittany Lariviere, Laura Mallinson & Aaron Beaucage

On June 12, 2025, Nipissing First Nation (NFN) celebrated the grand opening of its upgraded Garden Village Water Treatment Plant at 196 Gerald Crescent. This project has been over 12 years in the making and brings clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to every home in the community.

The celebration began with a traditional Water Ceremony led by Gokmis Evelyn McLeod, honouring the sacred relationship between water and Indigenous culture. Community members gathered for the ribbon cutting and shared the first sips of water from the new system, served in small brass cups—a powerful symbol of the journey.

The plant uses advanced technology, including a MIEX filtration system that removes harmful organic material. Before the upgrade, Trihalomethanes (THMs) reached levels as high as 400 parts per billion—far above Canadian safety limits. Now, THMs are down to about 50 parts per billion, improving both safety and taste.

Deputy Chief Brian Couchie shared: “The \$13.6 million investment from Indigenous Services Canada, combined with our own vision and determination, means children can fill their cups without worry, Elders can cook and bathe with confidence, and our community can keep growing strong. It means jobs for our operators and new opportunities for our youth who wish to follow in their footsteps.”

The new facility also improves fire protection and system reliability. Steve Doucette, Director of Infrastructure and Planning, said: “Residents will notice clearer water, less chlorine taste, and greater fire-flow protection. I want to thank our dedicated operations team whose hard work keeps the system running smoothly every day.”

NFN’s clean water investment is part of broader infrastructure growth. Interim CEO Donna Dodgson explained: “Today’s ribbon cutting is part of a larger story: steady, strategic investment in Nipissing First Nation’s infrastructure. In the past five years alone, we have modernized roads, expanded broadband, built new housing, and now delivered a state-of-the-art water treatment plant. Each project improves quality of life, supports economic growth, and demonstrates that our Nation leads by example.”

This new plant is more than a building—it reflects the community’s strength and commitment to the future. It ensures safe water for families now and for years to come. The Garden Village Water Treatment Plant is a proud NFN achievement and a clear example of how tradition and innovation can build a healthier community.



Cailen Hanzlik, Communications Assistant; Councillor Jason Laronde; Steve Doucette, Director of Community Infrastructure and Planning; Patrick Stevens, Former Director of Community Infrastructure; Deputy Chief Brian Couchie; Councillor Rick Stevens; and Angela McLeod, Office Administrator, Maintenance and Housing.

25th Annual Welcoming Babies Celebration

On April 27, 2025, NFN families gathered for the 25th Annual Welcoming Babies Celebration. This event honored babies born in 2024, bringing together families and community in a heartfelt ceremony that celebrated new life and cultural continuity. The event also served as a reminder of the strong bonds that unite the Nipissing First Nation, reinforcing the idea that raising a child is a communal effort. The celebration highlighted values of unity that defines Nipissing culture.



Group photo from Welcoming Babies Celebration

NFN Health Fair

On May 8, 2025, the Nipissing First Nation hosted its annual Health Fair at the Garden Village Outdoor Rink, bringing together departments and health and wellness organizations from across the region.



Melanie Mskwaabik-Twance, Angel Armstrong and Misty Arbour

As part of this initiative, community members were gifted fresh produce—an act that not only promotes healthy living but also reinforces the importance of self-sufficiency and access to traditional, nourishing foods. This gesture reflects NFN's commitment to reclaiming control over food systems and supporting the well-being of its people through culturally grounded practices. Once again, the Health Fair proved to be a resounding success.

Warriors Hall of Fame

The inaugural Nipissing Warriors Hall of Fame was held on May 3, 2025. There were a total of 35 inductees and they were honoured for playing on the first men's hockey team from Nipissing Nation, between the years 1965-1972. Our Nipissing Warriors won the 1972 All-Ontario Native Men's Hockey Championship in London, ON. Chief Cathy Stevens opened with a statement that had the crowd buzzing "our Nipissing Warriors excelled at a time when all odds were against them". The inductees were presented with awards as many smiles lit up the room as each inductee's name were called. It was a grand evening for all who attended.



Warriors Hall of Fame Committee: Melvin McLeod, Angela McLeod, Randy Penasse, Jeff Hanzlik and Karen Auger

Our Warrior Spirit Honours NFN Stories

Les Couchi's *Our Warrior Spirit*

is a heartfelt tribute to NFN, sharing stories of strength, identity, and perseverance. Featuring voices from over 50 community members, the book explores the impacts of colonialism and celebrates achievements in education, health, and cultural revitalization. Framed by traditional Nishinaabe stories, it honours Indigenous knowledge and storytelling. Les Couchi extends special thanks to Freda Martel and Lorie Restoule-Young for their support in bringing this important work to life. *Our Warrior Spirit* is more than a book—it's a celebration of identity, perseverance, and the unbreakable spirit of a community.



Nipissing First Nation Opposes Bill 5 (Ontario) and Bill C-5 (Canada)

On June 2, 2025, NFN members gathered outside MPP Vic Fedeli's North Bay office to peacefully but firmly oppose Ontario's Bill 5, *the Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*. This demonstration was part of a province-wide movement led by First Nations.

Bill 5 introduces major changes to environmental laws, including the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*. These amendments were made without proper consultation with Indigenous communities, violating the principle of free, prior, and informed consent. The bill prioritizes economic development over environmental and cultural responsibilities, threatening to erode vital protections and bypass Treaty obligations.

Gimaa Cathy Stevens stated, "The changes proposed in Bill 5 threaten not only our rights, but our identity. This Bill does not protect Ontario. It protects profit."

Bill 5 was passed in Ontario (MPPs voted in favour of it) but it is not law yet until it receives royal assent by the Lieutenant Governor.



NFN organizes rally in North Bay outside MPP Vic Fedeli's office

Since then, similar federal legislation called Bill C-5, *the One Canadian Economy Act*, passed in the House of Commons and is now with the Senate. It gives one minister power to fast-track projects without checking environmental impacts or consulting Indigenous communities. Indigenous leaders held a national protest on June 17, 2025, on Parliament Hill.

NFN Honours Leadership Transition Through Ceremony



Brendan Huston and Perry McLeod-Shabogesic



Elder Evelyn McLeod, Donna Dodgson Interim CEO, and Dot Beaucage-Kennedy

On May 30, 2025, NFN staff and community members gathered to honour Brendan Huston's dedicated leadership as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) over the past five years and to welcome Donna Dodgson as interim CEO. The event, guided by Laurie and Perry McLeod-Shabogesic, was a meaningful expression of Nishinaabe culture and tradition.

Brendan and Donna were each blanketed—a traditional gesture symbolizing respect, gratitude, and the passing of responsibility. Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues, the moment reflected both the accomplishments of the past and the hopes for the future. This leadership transition marks a new chapter for NFN, with a renewed focus on growth, innovation, and responsive governance. Donna's appointment ensures continuity and trusted leadership as the Nation continues to evolve.

The ceremony, held in a community-built lodge, included songs, stories, and reflections that honoured Brendan's humility, vision, and unwavering commitment to community well-being.

As NFN looks ahead, the gathering served as a powerful reminder of the importance of honouring those who lead and preparing the path for those who follow.

NFN Celebrates Nishnaabe Giizhgad with Nishnaabe Heritage Day

Heritage Day in Nipissing First Nation, known as Nishnaabe Giizhgad (Nishinaabe Heritage Day), is a meaningful celebration that honours the community's rich history, cultural identity, and the strength of its families. This year's event brought together generations of community members to reflect on their shared roots and celebrate the stories that continue to shape Nipissing's identity.



NFN history display board

A highlight of the day was a powerful and insightful presentation on Nipissing's traditional names, delivered by Glenna Beaucage and NFN Heritage Manager Jane Commanda. Their presentation explored the deep cultural significance of traditional Nishnaabe names, explaining how each name carries ancestral knowledge, connects individuals to the land, and preserves the Ojibwe language. Through storytelling and historical context, they emphasized the importance of reclaiming and revitalizing these names as a way to strengthen identity and honour the past.

Families proudly shared their own histories, displayed family trees and photographs, and engaged in conversations about lineage and legacy.

NFN Author Kelsey Borgford: What's In A Bead



Glenna Beaucage and Heritage Manager Jane Commanda

The event also featured traditional foods, cultural displays, and interactive activities for all ages, fostering a sense of unity and intergenerational learning.

Nishnaabe Giizhgad continues to be a powerful reminder of NFN's resilience, pride, and the enduring importance of names, stories, and traditions in keeping the spirit of the Nation alive for future generations.

Lands Department Takes Flight

On June 6, 2025, NFN leaders and staff took a helicopter tour to support land claim negotiations with Ontario, offering a visual assessment of key areas and showing NFN's commitment to land stewardship.



Pilot Harrison from Canada Helicopters; Interim CEO Donna Dodgson; Economic Development Manager Zack Lafleur; and Environment Manager Curtis Avery.

NFN Youth Athletic Accomplishments

Lily George

Lily spent the 2024–2025 season with the Leksands IF in the Swedish Women's Hockey League (SDHL), after a successful university career with the University of New Brunswick Reds. In her SDHL debut, she played 36 games, recording 5 goals and 5 assists for 10 points.

In Grade 12, Lily moved away from home to play in the Ontario Women's Hockey League (OWHL) U22 Elite division with the Barrie Jr. Sharks. Lily was selected to play for Team Ontario at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) from 2016 to 2018, earning two silver medals. She has also competed in the Fred Sasakamoose "Chief Thunderstick" National Hockey Championships in Saskatoon for four consecutive years, capturing a "Freddy" title with the Red Pheasant Lady Rebels of Saskatchewan.

In 2024, Lily declared for the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWL) Draft—an incredible milestone and testament to her talent and determination. Lily is not only a rising star in women's hockey but also a powerful role model for Indigenous youth across Turtle Island, showing that with hard work and heart, anything is possible.



Mylène Langlois



Mylène, an honours graduate from Franco-Cité, is set to study Human Kinetics at the University of Guelph this fall. She has also been invited to join the Guelph Gryphons women's hockey team tryouts this summer. She spent two years playing Junior hockey with the East Ottawa Stars, living away from home to pursue her goals, and earned a gold medal with Team Ontario at the 2024 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) in Alberta. Recently, she secured another gold at the U20 National Indigenous Junior Hockey Championships in Toronto. Her favourite hockey memories include playing for the Nipissing Warriors at the Little NHL tournament.



Peyton Losier
North Bay Jr. Lakers U11

Tessa McLeod
North Bay
Jr. Lakers
U15B

**Aubrey
Leclerc-Chartrand**
North Bay
Jr. Lakers U15B

Miley Fisher
North Bay
Jr. Lakers
U15B

Reese Auger
North Bay
Platoon
2019

Macy McLeod
North Bay
Jr. Lakers
U18B

Janick Arbour
North Bay
Jr. Lakers
U15HL

Olivia Primeau
North Bay
Jr. Lakers
U13A



NFN Youth Athletic Accomplishments

Congratulations NFN Athletes on signing with their respective teams for the 2025/26 season!



Reed Beaucage
West Nipissing Sting U13A



Owen Head
Powassan Voodooos Jr. A NOJHL



Ryerson Davis
West Nipissing Sting U13A



Wyatt Auger
West Nipissing Sting U11A



Dustin Primeau
North Bay Trappers U15AAA



**Tanner
Leclerc-Chartrand**
Franco-Cité Football



Ryerson Davis
North Bay Panthers 13U



Logan Tompkins, Xavier Beaucage, Trent Beaucage, Keaton Goulais and Ethan Leclerc-Chartrand
West Nipissing Sting U18A



If you would like to highlight an NFN youth, please contact communications@nfn.ca

NFN Youth Athletic Accomplishments

Nipissing Thunderbirds U19 Earn Bronze at 2025 Ontario Native Basketball Invitational

The Nipissing Thunderbirds U19 Basketball team made their community proud with a standout performance at the 2025 Ontario Native Basketball Invitational, hosted at Queen's University in Kingston. Facing off against top Indigenous youth teams from across the province, the Thunderbirds displayed exceptional skill, teamwork, and resilience—earning a well-deserved bronze medal.

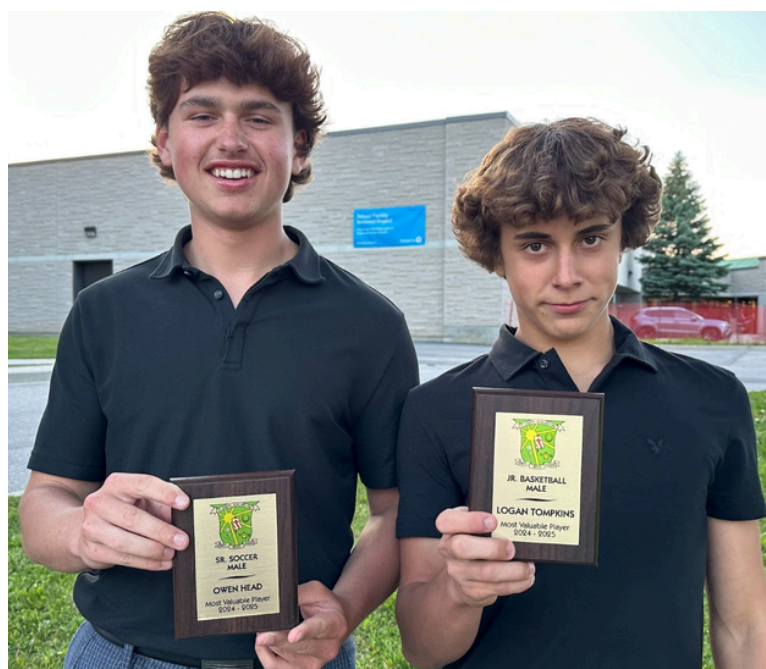
This achievement was made possible through the leadership of Rylan Fisher, who assembled the team and led fundraising efforts to ensure their participation. With generous support from Chief and Council, the team was able to travel and compete at this prestigious event. Under the guidance of Coach Ian Campeau, the Thunderbirds roster included: Rylan Fisher, Keziah Fry, Dawson Labelle, Logan Tompkins, Makaysho Grenier, Payton Bolan, Parker Weller, Nolan Harrison, Bryan Bailliache, Jacob McLeod, and Kris Adams Jr.

The tournament began with a demanding schedule—three games on the first day, resulting in two strong wins. Despite a tough loss early on day two, the team rebounded with a decisive victory to secure the bronze. Throughout the event, the Thunderbirds represented their community with pride, sportsmanship, and determination.



NFN Scollard Hall Student Athletes Receive Recognition

St. Joseph-Scollard Hall student athletes Owen Head and Logan Tompkins were recognized for their accomplishments this season. Owen received the Senior Boys Soccer MVP Award, Meanwhile, Logan was awarded the Junior Boys Basketball MVP, Both students exemplify the spirit of excellence in athletics at SJSH, and their achievements reflect the hard work they've put into their respective sports.



Owen Head and Logan Tompkins



Attend Chief and Council Meetings and Submit Requests

Council meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. NFN members can attend and keep informed through in-person or virtual attendance.

If you have a request for Council, complete the request form at nfn.ca/chief-council and submit by 4 p.m. the Wednesday prior to the meeting. These can be dropped off to the front reception at 36 Semo Rd, Garden Village or emailed to kaylal@nfn.ca.

Requests could also be made at the meeting. Due to the number of items for Council to deal with on the agenda, Requests from the Floor are limited to 10 minutes per request and only three will be dealt with at the meeting. It is important to note that depending on the request, the items may need to be deferred to the next meeting if additional information is needed.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact Kayla Lariviere at 705-753-2050 ext. 1223 or kaylal@nfn.ca.

**July 8 @ 7:30 p.m.
Garden Village**

JOIN IN PERSON:

Confirm your attendance with Kayla Lariviere at kaylal@nfn.ca or 705-753-2050 ext. 1223

WATCH THE LIVESTREAM:

NFN Membership Portal at Portal.NFN.ca

Recordings of past meetings are available for 30 days.

Help Improve Internet Service Across NFN!

The I.T. Department at Nipissing First Nation is seeking community feedback on current internet services throughout the Nation. Your input will help identify service gaps and improve connectivity.

As a thank-you, participants who complete the first four questions of this optional [survey](#) will be entered into a prize draw!

Draw Date: Friday, August 1, 2025



DON'T RUN. CALL 9-1-1.

Every drug poisoning is a medical emergency.

Recognize the signs and call 9-1-1 right away:

- choking, gurgling or snoring sounds
- extreme drowsiness, difficulty walking, talking, or staying awake
- inability to wake up, even when shaken or shouted at
- slow, weak, or no breathing
- cold and clammy skin
- blue lips or nails
- very small pupils
- dizziness and confusion

The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act can protect you.

Even if you've taken drugs or have some on you, the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* can protect you. This means those who seek emergency assistance during a drug overdose, including youth, will not be charged for offences such as simple possession.

APS officers and other first responders carry naloxone; we just want to assist.

Carry naloxone.

Naloxone is a safe, lifesaving medication that can temporarily reverse an opioid poisoning. Naloxone will not harm someone who does not have opioids in their system. When in doubt, use it.



2025 Graduates

UPDATES

Nbisiing Secondary School Graduates 2025

Talon-River Beaucage
Aiden Corbeil
Owen Couchie
Zander Elson
John Fisher Jr.
Reyen Goulais
Simyn Green
Kenneth Leighfield
CJ Makara
Owin McLeod
Quait Mattinas
Dakota Mckenzie-Ivins
Georgia Mianskum
Niibin Nakogee
Karson Pfoh
Keisha Stone
North Sutherland-Spence

Nipissing First Nation Grade 12 Graduates 2025

Bryan Bailliache
Elton Beaucage-McLeod
Ava Couchie
Avangeline Fryer
Ian Glass
Hunter Goulais
Melissa Goulais
Owen Head
Danika Hester
Mylène Langlois
Adalie Leclerc
Cole Penasse
Eden Quesnel
Peyton St. Louis
Remi St. Pierre
Tessa Tuulos

Nipissing First Nation Grade 8 Graduates 2025

Janick Arbour
Ira Avery
Arionna Beaucage
Leighton Beaucage
Autumn Chevrier
Aubrey Leclerc-Chartrand
Kieran Maradyn-Beaucage
Lexa Fisher
Miley Fisher
Jaedyn Goulais
Molly Livingston
Jillian-Rain McLeod
Tessa McLeod
Joseph Penasse
Dustin Primeau
Matthew Stevens
Ryder Goulais
Gavin Hughes



Graduating Class of 2025 from Nbisiing Secondary School



Tessa Tuulos

*Collaborative Contributor
Award Winner*

2025-2026 Education Department and Bussing Registration

Register your child with the NFN Education Department to take **Nbisiing Bus Lines (required)** and to be eligible for **start-up allowance, incentives and awards!**

Submit student registration online via the **NFN Membership Portal** or download the form at **NFN.ca/education**. For more information, contact the Education Department:



**NBISIING
BUS LINES**

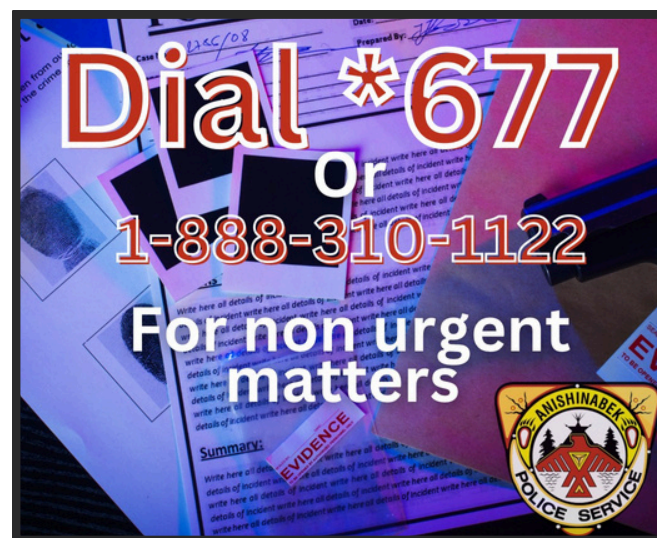
☎ 705-753-6995

📍 70 Semo Road
Garden Village
ON P2B 3K2

Look Before You Leave:

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species

Heading to the cottage or camping? You may be unintentionally transporting invasive species that threaten native ecosystems. Mud, seeds, and insects can hitchhike on bikes, pets, firewood, ATVs, boots, and even garden plants. Boats and bait also pose risks, introducing species like Zebra Mussels or European Earwigs. To help protect Ontario's natural habitats, clean all equipment and pets before traveling, buy firewood locally, garden with non-invasive plants, and dispose of bait properly. Even patio furniture can carry hidden pests. Be mindful and take action to stop invasive species from spreading. Visit ontarioinvasiveplants.ca for more tips.



Your Turtle Sightings Make a Difference!

Did you know all turtles in Ontario are considered a species at risk? Every turtle sighting within Nipissing First Nation helps us understand, protect, and recover their populations and vital habitats.

We need your eyes on the ground! If you spot a turtle, please report it with as much detail as possible.

This includes:

- **Photos:** These are incredibly helpful for identification.
- **Location:** Be as precise as you can (e.g., street name, GPS coordinates).
- **Your First and Last Name.**
- The **Date and Time** of the sighting.
- The **Species** of Turtle, if you know it. (*The three main turtles in Nipissing are the Blanding's Turtles, the Painted Turtle and the Snapping Turtle.*)
- The **Number** of Turtles observed.
- A **Description:** size, shell shape, colors, and any unique markings. Did you notice a long neck, yellow under the chin, or unusual shell patterns?

- Its **Behaviour:** Was it swimming in water, basking in the sun, actively travelling on land, crossing the road, nesting?
- Its **Condition:** Was it alive, injured, dead, or dead on road?
- The **Habitat:** Where did you see the turtle? (ex. beach, field, forest, marsh, pond, river, swamp, drainage ditch, shoreline, residential area, lawn.)

Please send all information to Nikki Commanda, Biologist, at nikkic@nfn.ca. Your contribution is vital to conservation efforts. Consider printing this page and keeping it handy for quick reference!



Mnogin Greenhouse Enters a New Chapter as a Community-Focused Initiative



After 18 months of operating as a commercial hydroponic business, Mnogin Greenhouse is shifting to a community-driven social enterprise model that more closely aligns with the original vision of supporting food security, wellness, and capacity building for NFN.

As part of this transition, bulk commercial sales to restaurants and retailers are being phased out, with final harvests scheduled for the week of June 30. That same week, we are pleased to welcome Tanya Stevens Langlois as our new Greenhouse Supervisor. Tanya is a proud member of NFN who has served in our maintenance department for the past 10 years, including the last six years as East End Maintenance Lead. We look forward to the energy and enthusiasm she brings to this new role with Mnogin.

During this pause in operations, we'll train staff and prepare for the next chapter, which will emphasize community programming, inter-departmental partnerships, and long-term sustainability.

This strategic shift reflects a thoughtful and necessary response to operational realities. Although the greenhouse consistently sold out each week, high labour and energy costs made the commercial model financially unsustainable.

Approved by NFN's leadership, this new direction positions Mnogin to support:

- **Access to fresh produce** for Elders, families and community programs
- **Food security partnerships** with Health, Education, Social Services, and Cultural departments

- **Training and employment opportunities** for youth and community members
- **New initiatives**, including community gardens, school programming, and food education workshops

"We're building capacity from the ground up—literally and figuratively," the team shared. "This next chapter is about growing food and growing opportunity."

While operations will be temporarily paused during the transition and training period, we expect to resume production by the end of July, with the first new harvests available in early September.

When we return to production, we plan to relaunch our online store and continue our popular Grow Well Produce Pack subscription program, with a renewed focus on community access and involvement.

We are deeply grateful to our customers and partners for their support during our commercial phase, and we look forward to this next phase.

Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved—whether through employment, volunteering, or accessing fresh produce.

If you have any questions or would like to provide input, please contact:

Gen Couchie, Business Operations Manager
705 753-2050 ext. 1243
genc@nfn.ca

Pick-up Day

Garden Village Band Office

Thurs., July 3 | 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for an announcement on when you can order your **Grow Well Produce Pack** subscription for September 2025!



Kendaaswin / Library



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Nishnaabemwin Lesson

Prepared By Blair Beaucage

Verbs	Na?	...wag	...daa	Gaawin or Gaan ...sii
(He/she is...) (3rd person)	Question indicator.	Plural They are...	Let's	No, is not, isn't
Wiisni (person is eating)	Wiisni na? Is person eating	Wiisniwag They are eating	Wiisnidaa Let's eat	Gaawin wiisnisii Person isn't eating
Nbaa person is sleeping	Nbaa na? Is person sleeping	Nbaawag They are sleeping	Nbaadaa Let's go to sleep	Gaawin nbaasii Person isn't eating
Niimi Person is dancing	Niimi na? Is person dancing	Niimwag They are dancing	Niimdaa Let's dance	Gaan niimsii Person isn't eating
Bmiptoos Person is running	Bmiptoos na? Is person running	Bmiptoowag They are running	Bmiptooodaa Let's run	Gaan bmiptoosii Person isn't eating
Giigoonke Person is fishing	Giigoonke na? Is person fishing	Giigoonkewag They are fishing	Giigoonkedaa Let's fish	Gaan giigoonhkesii Person isn't eating
Maadge Person is swimming	Maadge na? Is person swimming	Maadgewag They are swimming	Maadgedaa Let's swim	Gaan maadgesii Person isn't eating
Pkwezhganke Person is making bread	Pkwezhganke na? Is person making bread	pkwezhgankewag They are making bread	Pkwezhgankedaa Let's make bread	Gaan Pkwezhgankesii Person isn't eating
Nboobiike Person is making soup	Nboobiike na? Is person making soup	Nboobiikewag They are making soup	Nboobiikedaa Let's make soup	Gaan nboobiikesii Person isn't eating
Debaateke Person is making pie	Debaateke na? Is person making pie	Debaatekewag They are making pie	Debaatekedaa Let's make bread	Gaan debaatekesii Person isn't eating
Jiibaakwe Person is cooking	Jiibaakwe na? Is person cooking	Jiibaakwewag They are cooking	Jiibaakwedaa Let's cook	Gaawin jiibaakwesii Person isn't eating
Mnikwe Person is drinking	Mnikwe na? Is person drinking	Mnikwewag They are drinking	Mnikwedaa Let's drink	Gaawin mnikwesii Person isn't eating

NFN Walking Alongside Services: June at a Glance



In June, the NFN Walking Alongside Services held the following events:

- Youth Baking
- Youth Makeup Session
- Youth Dokis Pow Wow
- Pizza in park (Yellek & GV)
- Kids planting
- Puppet show
- Kids garden rock painting
- Duchesnay & Garden Village Drop-In
- Joe Pitawanakwat Session
- Pole Harvesting

See upcoming child, youth, and family events on pages 18-23.

Leadership for Life Promotion Grads

Congratulations to Lisa Hughes and Donna Tuulos for completing Feather Carriers - Leadership for Life Promotion and picking up their eagle feather.



Lisa Hughes and Donna Tuulos

Feather Carriers is a grassroots, Indigenous-led group that began through a shared vision. It was created in response to the need for something more around the issue of suicide. We focus on life promotion—lifting up Indigenous knowledge that supports life and well-being—while respecting the strength and independence of individuals and communities at every level.

NFN Food Bank Donations

Donations can be brought to the NFN Front Reception (36 Semo Rd., Garden Village) or to the NFN Food Bank (19 Philip Ave., Garden Village).

In June 2025, the NFN Food Bank received generous donations from the following individuals and organizations:

- Monthly Donation from Patrick and Samantha Stevens

Miigwech for your donations!

Harm Reduction Supplies

Every Friday from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., NFN members will have access to harm reduction supplies at the Duchesnay Community Hall. These supplies include:

- Hygiene & Snack Bags
- Safer Sex Supplies
- Drug Testing Kits
- Needle Exchange
- Naloxone Kits + Training
- Safer Injection & Smoking Supplies

For more information contact: **Giyak Moseng - The Right Path Counselling & Prevention Services** (316 Ted Commanda Dr. Garden Village ON P2B 3K2) or call 705-753-1375.

Summertime Photo Scavenger Hunt – Win a Nintendo Switch!



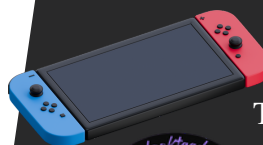
Explore nature with your loved ones and capture 12 fun photo challenges, including a pinecone, wildflower, bug, feather, cedar, animal tracks, bird, clouds, mushroom, maple leaf, birch bark, and your family looking for items!

How to Enter:

Take photos of all 12 listed items above.

Email your photos to lynq@nfn.ca

Draw Date: Friday, August 1, 2025



Air Quality and Heat Waves: Funding Available to Breathe Clean and Stay Cool

As wildfire smoke and extreme heat events become more frequent across Canada, it's important to take steps to protect your health and well-being.

Nipissing First Nation members can access support through the Medical Health Fund, which provides reimbursement for items like air purifiers, air conditioners, and fans to help manage poor air quality and extreme heat. These weather conditions can increase health risks—especially for young children, elders, people with chronic conditions, and those who work or exercise outdoors—so it's essential to be prepared and take precautions.

Health Risks of Wildfire Smoke and Poor Air Quality

Wildfire smoke can cause or worsen breathing problems, especially for young children, pregnant people, seniors, and individuals with heart or lung conditions. When the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is high, everyone—especially those at risk—should reduce or avoid strenuous outdoor activity. Visit airqualityontario.com for up-to-date AQHI information.

Health Risks of Extreme Heat

Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke, which is a medical emergency. Signs include heavy sweating, dizziness, nausea, confusion, and, in severe cases, hot, dry skin and loss of consciousness. Older adults, infants, people with chronic illnesses, and those who work or exercise outdoors are especially at risk.

How to Stay Safe

- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity when air quality is poor or temperatures are high.
- Stay cool by spending time in air-conditioned spaces, shaded outdoor areas, or taking cool showers.
- Drink plenty of water—hydration is key to preventing heat-related illness.
- Wear loose, light-coloured, breathable clothing.
- Check on others, including elders and neighbours, especially those who may be isolated or at higher risk.
- Never leave children or pets in parked vehicles.

Support from NFN Health Services

NFN members are eligible for reimbursement through the Medical Health Fund for:

- **Air purifiers**, which help improve indoor air quality during wildfire season.
- **Air conditioners and fans**, which support cooling during extreme heat events.

These purchases are considered part of the annual allocation per member, according to the [Medical Health Fund Policy](#).

How to apply

To submit an application, request an application, or to find out your Medical Health Fund balance, contact:

Eleanor McLeod
Medical Health Fund & Records Coordinator
 705-753-3312
eleanorm@nfn.ca

Medical Health Fund
 Nipissing First Nation Health Services
 58 Semo Road
 Garden Village, ON P2B 3K2
[Medical Health Fund Application](#)

WE'RE HIRING!

EMPLOYMENT

As per Nipissing First Nation hiring procedures, the following steps are used for screening and recruitment processes:

- 1st Round: Open to all NFN members.
- 2nd Round: Open to registered members of other First Nations and spouses and children of registered NFN members.
- 3rd Round: Open to all applicants (status and non-status).

Nipissing First Nation members are encouraged to apply to all rounds of employment postings. As per **Section 24(1)(a) of the Ontario Human Rights Code**, Nipissing First Nation gives preference to First Nation applicants for any employment opportunities.

Full postings and descriptions are available at nfn.ca/jobs

Medical Transportation Driver | Full-time / Permanent

1st Round closes Friday, June 27, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

2nd Round closes Friday, July 4, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

3rd Round closes Friday, July 11, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Independent Learning Coordinator | Full-time / Permanent

1st Round closes Friday, June 27, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

2nd Round closes Friday, July 4, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

3rd Round closes Friday, July 11, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Open to all qualified applicants until filled

Governance, Culture, Language & Heritage

Manager, Culture & Language

Full-time / Permanent

Environment

Environmental Technician

Full-time / Contract

Education

Intermediate Senior Teacher with Cooperative Education Qualifications

Full-Time / Permanent

Registered Early Childhood Educator

Full-Time / Permanent

Finance

Accounts Payable Officer

Full-Time / Permanent

Housing, Maintenance & Facilities

Maintenance/Custodian

Full-Time / Permanent

Health Services and Social Services

Full-Time / Permanent

Adult Mental Health Therapist

Program Assistant Home & Community Care

Elders' Lodge Caregiver

Social Cultural Coordinator

First Nation Representative

Transitional Housing Support Worker

Post Majority Support Coordinator

Frontline Worker - Ojibway Women's Lodge

Child and Youth Shelter Support

Full-Time / Permanent: *Open to Round 1 and 2 applicants only.*

Family Support Worker

Child and Youth Program Facilitator

WED

2,3

JULY

YOUTH SPA DAY

Meet at 65 Juniper Cres | 9 a.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24. Departure at 9 a.m.

Register: katiel@nfn.ca

WED

2, 9, 16,

23, 30

JULY

DUCHESNAY DROP-IN

Duchesnay Community Hall | 5 - 9 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Please note that July 9 is Pow Wow Prep Drop-In.Register: ianc@nfn.ca

THURS

3, 10, 17,

24, 31

JULY

GARDEN VILLAGE DROP-IN

65 Juniper Cres | 5 - 9 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Please note that July 10 is Pow Wow Prep Drop-In.Register: ianc@nfn.ca

FRI

4

JULY

YOUTH SWEAT

65 Juniper Cres | 4 - 10 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Register: ianc@nfn.ca

See NFN July 2025 Events calendars on last page of Enkamgak!
For updates on Walking Alongside Services events, follow [f @NFNWAS](https://www.facebook.com/NFNWAS)

SAT

5

JULY

NISHNAABEMWIN DINNER OUT

Meet at Garden Village Gym | 5 - 8 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24. Dinner will be in North Bay.

Register: ianc@nfn.ca

MON

7

JULY

FAMILY STRAWBERRY PICKING

Leisure Farms | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

No Transportation provided. Families are welcome to drop-in.
All costs are covered by the Walking Alongside Program.TUES &
WED

8, 9

JULY

YOUTH COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

65 Juniper Cres | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Register: katiel@nfn.ca

WED

9

JULY

DINER'S CLUB

Garden Village Gym | Noon.

For NFN seniors 55+. For more information, contact the LCHC at 705-753-3312.

See July 2025 Events calendars on last page of Enkamgak!

For updates on Walking Alongside Services events, follow [f @NFNWAS](https://www.facebook.com/NFNWAS)

THURS

10

JULY

FIRE KEEPING TEACHING FOR BOYS AND MEN & FULL MOON CEREMONY FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

Lodge behind The Right Path (316 Ted Commanda Dr.) | 7 p.m.

Fire Keeping Teaching starts at 7 p.m. , Full Moon Ceremony starts at 8:30 p.m. Women are asked to bring a drum or rattle, yellow cloth, and a small potluck dish to share if they are able.

Register for Fire Keeping Teaching : bradyp@nfn.caRegister for Full Moon Ceremony : juliec@nfn.ca

SAT & SUN

12, 13

JULY

TEMAGAMI POW WOW

Meet at Garden Village Gym | 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Register: ianc@nfn.ca

MON

14

JULY

BIRCH BARK & QUILL EARRINGS WORKSHOP

LCHC Boardroom | 5:30 - 8 p.m.

For girls and young women. Moms, aunties and grandmas are welcome to accompany and craft. Dinner provided.

Register: juliec@nfn.ca

TUES

15

JULY

YOUTH SCIENCE NORTH TRIP

Meet at Garden Village Gym | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Register: katiel@nfn.ca

See NFN July 2025 Events calendars on last page of Enkamgak!

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WED

16

JULY

KIDS CRICUT WORKSHOP

Church Basement | 1 - 4 p.m.

For NFN Youth aged 6-12.

Register: katiel@nfn.ca

FRI

18

JULY

STAR WARS IN NISHNAABEMWIN

Garden Village Gym | 7 - 10 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Register: ianc@nfn.ca

SAT

19

JULY

NISHNAABEMWIN SCAVENGER HUNT

Duchesnay Falls | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.

Register: ianc@nfn.ca

THURS

24

JULY

MAAMWI WIISNIDAA - LET'S EAT TOGETHER

Garden Village Gym | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join us at Maamwi Wiisnidaa, meaning "Let's eat together," for a delicious community meal.



See NFN July 2025 Events calendars on last page of Enkamgak!
 For updates on Walking Alongside Services events, follow [f @NFNWAS](https://www.facebook.com/NFNWAS)

THURS
24
JULY

TEA TALK & TECH SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

Duchesnay Community Hall | 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Join us for tea, conversation, games, crafts & learn about technology! Seniors are welcome to bring their tech devices (cellphones, tablets, laptops) to learn more about how to use technology!



Register: keonar@nfn.ca

FRI
25
JULY

LEARN NISHNAABEMWIN

65 Juniper Cres | 6 - 9 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.



Register: ianc@nfn.ca

SUN
27
JULY

FAMILY FUN DAY BBQ

ODR Garden Village | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For NFN families.

TUES
29
JULY

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION

65 Juniper Cres | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 13-24.



Register: katiel@nfn.ca

See NFN July 2025 Events calendars on last page of Enkamgak!
For updates on Walking Alongside Services events, follow [f @NFNWAS](https://www.facebook.com/NFNWAS)

THURS

29

JULY

PARENTS CIRCLE

Lodge Behind The Right Path Building (316 Ted Commanda Dr.) | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Dinner provided. Come receive support, teachings and resources. Topic is self-harm. Wellness kits will be provided.

Register: juliec@nfn.ca

WED

30

JULY

KIDS CAMPFIRE & WATER FUN

65 Juniper Cres | 5 - 7:30 p.m.

For NFN youth aged 6-12.

Register: katiel@nfn.ca

THURS

31

JULY

PARENTS CIRCLE

Duchesnay Hall | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Dinner provided. Come receive support, teachings and resources. Topic is self-harm. Wellness kits will be provided.

Register: juliec@nfn.ca**Save the Date OWL
40th Anniversary**

We invite community members, partners, and former staff for a meaningful day of connection, support and celebration.

For more information email: ofrc@nfn.ca**OJIBWAY WOMEN'S LODGE**
Respect, Security, Harmony**Wednesday, August 27, 2025**

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Duchesnay Community Hall

520A Couchie Memorial Dr. North Bay ON

See NFN July 2025 Events calendars on last page of Enkamgak!

For updates on Walking Alongside Services events, follow [@NFNWAS](https://www.facebook.com/NFNWAS)



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Tyler Beaucage
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Community Events



Miinan Giizis (Blueberry Moon) | July 2025

Namegiizhgaad Sunday	Nokiigiizhgaad Monday	Niizhgiizhgaad Tuesday	Aabtaawse Wednesday	Shpinganwang Thursday	Jiibiiatgogiizhgaad Friday	Maaniigiizhgaad Saturday
Mukwa Miikan Landfill Hours Saturday - Tuesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. <i>Closed during statutory holidays</i>		1 Canada Day 	2    East end	3	4	5
6	7  West end	8 Chief & Council Garden Village 7:30 p.m.  East end	9 Diner's Club GV Gym Noon - 1 p.m.	10  Fire Keeping & Full Moon Ceremony Right Path Lodge 7 p.m. 	11	12
13	14 Birch Bark & Quill Earrings Workshop LCHC 5:30 - 8 p.m.   West end	15 Chief & Council Duchesnay 7:30 p.m.   East end	16 	17	18	19
20	21  West end	22  East end	23	24 Maamwi Wiisnidaa GV Gym 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tea Talk & Tech Support Duchesnay 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. 	25	26
27	28   West end	29 Parents Circle Right Path Lodge 5:30 - 7 p.m.   East end	30	31 Parents Circle Duchesnay Hall 5:30 - 7 p.m. 		

Connect with us!



NFN Membership Portal

The Portal gives exclusive access for NFN members to:

- **View confidential documents** (Robinson Huron Treaty Past Annuities Settlement, Chief & Council)
- Sign up to **receive Enkamgak / Newsletter** and/or **Job Postings by email or mail**
- **Student registration**

Register at
portal.nfn.ca or
scan the QR
code:

