



A-Kii, Bemaadzijk, E-Niigaanwang
The Land, the People, the Future

Bi-biingeyok maa Nbisiing

Welcome to Nipissing First Nation



First Contact

“Each man’s and woman’s liberty was absolute and inviolable. A Nipissing came as near as possible to Rousseau’s perfect and “ideal man.” He was untainted by civilization, did what he liked, and was moved only by natural impulses. According to the French deist, “L’homme qui relechiot est un animal deprave” (the man who meditates is a brute), so if the Nipissing was not a free and independent man, then there was no absolute freedom or independence on earth”.

- From Dr. R.B. Orr’s report “The Nipissing, Coming of the White man”, 29th Archaeological Report, which quoted the primary source writings of Jean Recollet in the Jesuit Relations to describe the Nipissing people at first contact.

To the descendants of the Nipissing, this description may only instill pride in their ancestors’ basic principle of personal freedom and independence.

But this principle is the cornerstone of the present day Nipissing in their governance, as freedom and independence is as important today as it was in the past.





About Nipissing First Nation

The Land

Nipissing First Nation (NFN) is classified as an urban reserve and is located between the City of North Bay to the east and the Municipality of West Nipissing to the west, about 320 kilometers north of Toronto. Nestled on the north shore of Lake Nipissing, our nation's land base includes several small settlements spanning over 30 kilometers, and is approximately 15,978 acres (6,466 hectares) in size.

The People

The people of Nipissing First Nation, known as the Nipissings, are of Ojibway and Algonquin

descent and have lived in the area of Lake Nipissing since time immemorial. Archaeological studies indicate that the lake and its environs have been continuously occupied for at least 9,600 years.

Today, NFN has a total registered population of 2,716 citizens, with 881 citizens residing on-reserve and 1,835 citizens residing off-reserve in communities throughout Canada, the United States and Great Britain. These population figures do not include non-status spouses and children, or individuals who reside on land leased from NFN in the communities of Beaucage and Jocko Point.

The Future

NFN prides itself on being a progressive nation that emphasizes fairness, accountability, balance, and consideration of future generations in all decision making.

Thanks to a clear vision and years of hard work led by successive Councils and carried out by citizens and staff, we are fortunate to have a solid foundation for decision-making and community development.

To learn more about Nipissing First Nation, please call 705-753-2050, visit us online at www.nfn.ca, or connect with us on social media (Facebook & Twitter).

Governance & Services

Governance

Nipissing First Nation is governed by a Chief, a Deputy Chief, and six (6) Councillors and follows a three-year election cycle.

Our workforce totals 125 full-time employees, which grows to nearly 200 when we include seasonal contracts and student workers.

Programs & Services

We are proud to provide extensive programs and services for our community, including:

- Culture & Heritage
- Economic Development
- Education
- Employment & Training
- Facilities & Infrastructure
- Health Services - including a comprehensive Community Health Program, Traditional Healing and the Right Path Counselling and Prevention Services
- Housing (on reserve rental and ownership programs)
- Land Management
- Natural Resources

- Social Services – including a Food Bank, Native Child Welfare Program, Ontario Works office, Ojibway Women's Lodge and True Self – Debwewendizwin Employment & Training Program
- Public Works & Roads
- Recycling & Waste Diversion
- Water & Waste Water Treatment

We are undertaking the next steps on our nation-building path by making the critical community investments that will ensure a well-balanced, healthy, politically and economically independent, culturally strong and self-governing nation.





Nation Accomplishments

In 2013, Nipissing voted to accept an offer of \$124 million from government negotiators as a land claim settlement that reflected the validity of Nipissing's research 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 occurred in 2014, but the majority of the funds were placed in trust to maximize the benefit to current and future nation citizens.

The trust is designed to benefit the current generation by allowing Nipissing to use interest revenues to invest in community, social and

economic development initiatives, while also preserving the wealth for future generations. Some of our major milestones and projects include:

Governance

- Land Code (2003)
- Fisheries Law (2005)
- Strategic Plan (2008)
- Gichi-Naaknigewin - Constitution (2013)
- Boundary Land Claim Settlement (2013)
- Financial Administration Law (2013)
- Financial Management Systems Certification (2016)
- IPAC Gold award for leadership & innovation in natural resource management (2017)
- Host of All Ontario Chiefs Conference (2018)

Education

- NFN voted "Yes to AES" in 2016
- Enacted NFN Education Law in 2018
- New service agreements with provincial school boards
- Enhanced daycare programming and infusion of language & culture
- Successful bid to house Kinooaadziwin Education Body Head Office on NFN

Infrastructure

- Natural Gas services installed in most communities between 2014 and 2017
- Administration building expanded in 2017 to centralize staff/services
- New outdoor rink / sportsplex facility in Garden Village completed in 2017
- Construction of new daycare and multi-use community building planned for Duchesnay in 2018

Doing Business with Nipissing First Nation

Small business and self-employment account for a large part of NFN's economy. We have 40 small businesses run by nation citizens on-reserve, and an additional eight companies who lease land and/or space to operate companies that are not First Nation-owned, but that generate employment for our citizens and region.

Nipissing also leverages local, provincial and federal partnerships in ways that support our Chi-Naaknigewin (Big Law or Constitution). This is evidenced in NFN's investments in renewable energy projects, small business development, sustainable resource development, the construction of a commercial/ light industrial business park, and a commitment to continually exploring innovative projects and partnerships to benefit the nation now and in the long term, such as a planned greenhouse development.

We increasingly borrow from ourselves (as opposed to traditional banks) so that interest is paid back to the trust and ultimately gets redistributed to

citizens in the future from the profits generated by the projects we invest in. This has allowed

us to enhance quality of life and benefits for our citizens living both on and off reserve.



Local Attractions & Annual Events

NFN hosts several special events throughout the year, including cultural ceremonies, teachings and celebrations, as well as educational and recreational programming for all ages. Our Annual Pow Wow on Labour Day weekend is by far our largest event, with close to 5,000 visitors each year.

There are also many local attractions and special events in our neighbouring communities of North Bay and West Nipissing. Contact us to learn more about exploring all that the Nipissing region has to offer!





Nipissing First Nation

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Nipissing First Nation Administration



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