

**BEAR FAX**

DECEMBER 2010



[www.missanabiecree.com](http://www.missanabiecree.com)

**Missanabie Cree First Nation**

**Christmas Greetings!**



**Chief and Council and Staff  
Missanabie Cree First Nation**



## Μεσσαγε φρομ τηε Χηιεφ

Wachay, All my Relations,

I would like to start off by wishing all the very best of the holiday season, and I am looking forward to the Christmas break to spend time with family and re-group. Since our elections in August it seems the days are flying by.

On November 9, 2010, the Land Transfer Advisory Committee met with Ontario's negotiators as well as Pam Simpson, INAC Lands Negotiator, to discuss issues raised by one of our members regarding the level of testing performed by the consultant hired to do the Environmental Site Assessment of the transfer lands. The concern was Ontario's indemnification of any liability if contaminants were to be found after the lands had been transferred to the Missanabie Cree.

The member who has a background in Environmental Assessments questioned why there was no soil or sediment samples taken from the following areas:

- 1) old dump north of transfer lands, where there could be a potential of contaminants leaching through the ground water into the area;
- 2) Stover Creek and McKee's Creek which feed into 57 Bay. Stover Creek originates just south of the old Renabie mine site and could potentially be an issue with contaminants in the sediments of the creek beds;

- 3) logging mill site on Crooked Lake, potential to have contaminants from fuel spills, the storage of material on site etc.

We do not expect that there are contaminants within these areas, however, we feel due diligence is required to ensure we are not assuming an environmental liability; the province would be liable for any potential clean up. Ontario will be meeting with Canada to discuss funding for the supplementary testing which we expect will be conducted in the spring of 2011. A letter has been sent to Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Center requesting their technical support in identifying potential contaminants within the areas identified. We will also ask MERC to observe the company hired to do the additional testing.

I am pleased to announce the ratification of our Land Transfer Agreement. Voting closed November 15, 2010. Ballots were counted November 16, 2010. Of the 309 voting age members, 113 returned their ballots, 5 ballots were rejected, 104 were in favor of the agreement while 4 voted against. Of the ballots returned, an overwhelming number were in favor of the agreement. The agreement and accompanying BCR were signed and delivered to the office of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs on Monday, November 29, 2010.



## Events/Gatherings:

**National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women** December 6, 2010

**Human Rights Day** December 10, 2010

**AFN Chiefs Special Assembly**

December 14-16, 2010 Ottawa, ON  
[www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)

**United Nations Climate Change Conference COP16**

November 29 - December 10, 2010 Cancun, Mexico  
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

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I would have hoped for more participation from our members, however the clear majority of ballots cast were in favor of the accepting the transfer of the lands. I've recently seen a poster which states **"The world is run by those who show up."** If we do not make an effort to participate in the process, we are left to accept the outcome.

Work on Phase 1 of the Keekanaw Multi-purpose Facility is wrapping up and should be complete within the next couple of weeks. I met with Deputy Minister Sterling of Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs last week to discuss our proposal for additional infrastructure capital to support phase 2 of the project. We also have a meeting scheduled December 2, 2010 with a representative from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. regarding another proposal to provide additional funding for phase 2 of the project. The proposals submitted are valued at \$1,000,000.00 and should be sufficient to complete the building. Though initial discussions have been positive, there is a risk we may not receive all required funding so we may have to develop another strategy to complete the building, more on this in the New Year.

The initial review of the Rama policy has been completed by staff, identifying redundant articles which no longer apply to our current circumstance. I will propose to Council to establish a committee to develop additional guide lines on the disbursement of the Rama funds; which may take into consideration the number of times a member can seek assistance, maximum amounts members may

receive, setting an annual budget, perhaps 10% of funds received through Rama the previous year. The committee may be comprised of Elder's, members of Council, staff members, adult MCFN members as well as individuals from outside our First Nation who have an understanding of our culture and values, who may also have back grounds in health or social services. The moratorium on member requests will continue into the New Year with the exception of medical emergencies or crisis.

As we wind down for the upcoming holiday season, it provides an opportunity to contemplate the work we will need to do in the coming months leading up to next year's Gathering. Initial discussions have been around strategic planning at a community level, providing an opportunity for our people to have meaningful input into the development of land use policies, by-laws for the transfer lands, as well as set a strategic frame work for Council to follow. If you are interested in assisting in the development of our community, it would be good to ensure you attend next year's Gathering, August 13 to 20, 2011.

In closing, I would again like to extend Season's Greetings to all, and hope for a prosperous and healthy New Year.

In the spirit of community,  
Kim Rainville



## Μεσσαγες φρομ Χουνχιλ



### Season's Greetings! Wachay! Boozhoo!

I am extremely excited to be part of the Missanabie Cree Chief and Council and I will try to best meet the needs of the community to the best of my abilities. This has truly been an amazing life experience for me and I look forward to having the time to speak and meet with each of you individually.

Meeting with each of you will also help me with a community perspective of Missanabie Cree's needs. Our home is sacred and thank you to each of you this festive season for welcoming me back, Chi-Meegwetch!

Please feel free to drop me an email at [erobinson@missanabiecree.com](mailto:erobinson@missanabiecree.com), especially for those in the Toronto area.

I would like to get together with those of you in the Greater Toronto Area for a small gathering in the New Year 2011, so please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,  
Eddy Robinson  
Missanabie Cree Band Councilor



### Wahchay,

First, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that all went well in 2010 and continues to go well in 2011.

I have been in the office working on several projects pertaining to mining research, land use planning and Manitou Mountain Protection Plan. Also these projects have taken me to Timmins, Thunder Bay and Toronto. Fortunately, all of these trips are covered by separate organizations and not by MCFN.

I have attended all Chief and Council meetings and have been both honoured and humbled by being part of our governance. Although we may not agree on everything there is a sense of respect and openness around the Chief and Council table that helps to make decisions that are both representative of the membership and built on trust and honesty.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who have reached out to me to help with understanding the process of our governance. There are those who have helped me as a councilor by



*Chief Kim Rainville and Councilor Jason Gauthier travel for Manitou Mountain Research work*

engaging in meaningful conversation. This has given me both perspective and context to be the best councilor I can be. I humbly acknowledge each of those individuals for their input and wisdom.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding any of my duties at [jgauthier@missanabiecree.com](mailto:jgauthier@missanabiecree.com)

Jason Gauthier



### Wachay,

Time for another report. I would like to congratulate all those that took the time to send in their ballots for the ratification of our land transfer. As you will know by now, we have voted to accept the transfer of 15 sq miles of land to our First Nation and will now be moving on to the next stage which is the implementation of the transfer. We will be looking forward to the official signing in the very near future. This marks a significant time in the history of Missanabie Cree as it has been 104 years since we first asked for land. I'm sure our ancestors are beaming with joy.

Since October I have attended Chief and Council meetings, mostly by teleconference and have been helping move our First Nation forward. I also attended a breakfast in Sudbury put on by RBC at which the former Grand Chief of the AFN Phil Fontaine was the guest speaker. He spoke about how important it was for companies to talk to First Nations when planning development in their territories and how it would be beneficial for them to hire

them.

I also attended the Northeast Superior Chiefs Forum workshop in Chapleau. I attended the Chief and Council orientation session. I will be attending a governance workshop being held in Thunder Bay the week of December 9,10, and 11.

At this time I would like to congratulate our former chief Glenn Nolan on becoming a grandfather and at the same time congratulate his son, Peta and his wife on the birth of their son.

On behalf of my wife Cynthia, my sons Craig and Neal and their families I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous festive season. Please remember if you choose to celebrate with some of the bubbly stuff that it would be wise not to get behind the wheel of your car or to ride with anyone else that might do likewise. I look forward to hearing that everyone got through the season in a safe and healthy way

Again Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to ALL  
Roy Gideon



### Wachaye, MCFN Family and Friends:

It is with great pride and joy that we announce that the land transfer agreement has been successfully ratified by an overwhelming majority of the members who voted. It has been a long time coming and a true test of the incredible patience and determination of our First Nation. I say Chi Miigwetch to everyone that has contributed in making our vision a reality. Finally, the Missanabie Cree has a land base in which to build our community, our legacy and a common place for our future generations to call home. Congratulations Missanabie Cree!

In the coming months, Ontario and MCFN will be working on a joint media release and newsletter to inform the membership and the general public of the land transfer particulars. Ontario will also begin the tendering process to contract a surveying company to conduct a survey of the land which should begin in the early spring.

In response to stated environmental concerns by membership at the information session held this August, we have requested the services of the Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Center to assist us in the monitoring and review of the supplementary testing to be carried out by both Ontario and Canada. Audrey Bateson and I will continue to oversee the implementation process and report back to membership on the progress of the land transfer with both Ontario and Canada as we seek out reserve designation for this parcel of land.



Phase 1 of the Keekanaw Multi-purpose Facility has been completed.

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### Multi-Purpose Facility

Now the planning begins for the community celebration at next year's Gathering, which should be an exciting time for everyone. We anticipate that the next Gathering will be bigger than ever as we have big reasons to celebrate. At the same time, we also hope to be conducting the opening ceremony for the Keekanaw Centre which we anticipate being completed next summer, if all goes as planned.

Construction has been full speed ahead under the skilful management of our project manager, Gerry Lesage who has also been successful in securing financing from a variety of sources to bring this building to completion. I would like to personally acknowledge the good work of our project manager who has managed to steer us in the right direction while at the same time, bringing Phase 1 of the project to completion **under budget!** Good work Gerry!

At the end of the day, a great deal of work and effort has



Front doors have been installed in the Keekanaw Multi-Purpose Facility. The MCFN logo has been etched into the windows.

gone into this project to bring it back on course and I am happy to say we are on track and looking forward to the many activities and events that we will be able to offer in the very near future.

### Missanabie Cree Development Corporation (MCDC)

The MCDC Board of Directors gathered on December 4<sup>th</sup>, in Sault Ste. Marie to conduct an orientation session that covered all facets of the development corporation (governance, operations, ownership) During the course of the session, the board appointed its executive members to hold the following positions for the next three years:

- Jutta Horn – President
- Jason Gauthier – Vice President
- Shirley Horn – Treasurer

Gladys Hawkins – Secretary

I would like to congratulate the board on their appointments and look forward to working with everyone over the next three years. At the same time I would like to thank those who have served on the previous board for all their hard work and dedication to the corporation and ultimately our First Nation. Chi Meegwetch!

Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and  
A Happy New Year!  
Jutta Horn



*Office wing of the Keekawnaw Multi-Purpose Facility.  
Interior work will commence in the spring of 2011.*

## Χηριστιας Γρεετινγς



Greetings members, family and friends,

This time of year brings a flurry of activities for First Nation's organizations. Staff dinners, community Christmas dinners and Elders' Tea are planned and the Christmas tree is put up and decorated. We finally retired our second hand Christmas decorations and purchased new ones. I believe everyone in the office and visitors had a hand in decorating the office tree. Thanks to all for helping.

The week of December 6 – 9, 2010, Louise Campbell, Gladys Hawkins and I will be attending a meeting with Mushkegowuk Council & First Nation, Senior Management "Generating Solutions for Change" in Timmins, Ontario. Basically the meeting is to provide a forum for the

managers to review and discuss Tribal Council's collective concerns/issues, mandate, operations and services. It will also provide the managers with an increased understanding on changes to the reporting structures of both INAC and Health Canada. John Kim Bell (Founder – Aboriginal Achievement Awards) will be a key note speaker. I am looking forward to attending this meeting and will provide a report to Chief and Council, Staff & membership in January's BearFax.

Just a reminder to all: the office will close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and will reopen January 3, 2011.

Enjoy your Christmas Break,  
Lori



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS WISH  
TO THE FAMILIES OF  
MISSANABIE CREE  
FIRST NATION**

Merry Christmas to the Chief, Council, and especially the staff with whom I have enjoyed working these past few years. From day one, you have made me feel welcome.

I will never forget all the kindnesses, large and small, and the laughs, and stories. Miigwech. You guys are great!

Elizabeth Angeconeb  
MCFN Communications Officer



I would like to wish  
all my Family and Friends  
and my Grandchildren  
a Very Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year.  
June Markie

I would like to wish my Sister Jackie  
a Happy Birthday  
And enjoy your 65<sup>th</sup> yr. Pension.  
Love, Sis June

I would like to wish my son, Stacey  
who was born on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day  
**A HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
And a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Love you, Son  
Love, Mom

# Γρεετινγσ φρομ τηε Ελδερσθ Χουνχιλ



## MCFN ELDERS' COUNCIL

(photo courtesy of Archie Nolan)

### From left to right:

Jackie Fletcher, Audrey Bateson, June Markie, Diane Astle, D'Arcy Fletcher, Shirley Horn, Ted Ouellet, Frances Luther, Louise Campbell, Stanley Fletcher, Archie Nolan.

Inset: Cathy Clement



## Μερρη Χηριστμασ

During this festive season, the Elders' Council would like to send our warmest greetings to the families of the Missanabie Cree First Nation.

We hope that everyone has a safe and joyous holiday and that all may enjoy the good things that come with spending time with your family, the food, the stories, the laughter and love.

The Elders' Council is committed to supporting the vision of the Missanabie Cree First Nation, and will be working on projects and initiatives that will benefit the community, honour our ancestors and their endeavours, and build a lasting future for our children, and grandchildren.

On behalf of all members of the Missanabie Cree Elders' Council, we send you our best wishes for this holiday season.

Louise Campbell, Chairperson

June Markie, Secretary

To the MCFN Chief and Council:

The Missanabie Cree Elder's Council wishes to send out to you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We want to thank you for all of your hard work you are doing on behalf of our Missanabie Cree First Nation and striving to keep us united and in the forefront. Thank you for your support and please feel free to send any requests our way.

Meegwetch egomaga gee sag ee din misaway. (Thank you and love to all of us).

Jackie Fletcher  
Ganigmud Palaysheesh Esquaow  
Elder Council Liaison

Elders' Council Meeting  
February 25, 2011, at 1:30 pm  
MCFN Band Office, Sault Ste. Marie  
All are welcome

# MCFN Membership

## Ted Ouellet - Registration Administrator

174B Hwy 17East  
 Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1  
 Phone: (705) 254-2702 Fax: (705) 254-3292  
 Email: touellet@missanabiecree.com  
 Toll-free: 1-800-319-3001

If your name appears on the Birthday Greetings page incorrectly, please contact Ted Ouellet.

The following is a list of band members for whom we do not have a current mailing address:

Dorothy Bain (Bignucolo)	Cynthia Nemeth
Lyle Copeland	Craig Pelletier
Jason Fletcher	Natalie Pelletier
Steven D'arcy Fletcher	Daniel Rocheleau
Kaleb Jeffries	Iana Ruth
William Jeffries	Jayson Ruth
Jeremy MacDonald	Theresa Ruth
Julianne K.V. Macumber	Victoria May St. Amand (Fletcher)
Allan McDonald	Catherine Wesley
Michael McDonald	Juliana Holly Wesley
Richard Donald McLeod	Michael Wesley

Our **MISSING ADDRESS LIST** fluctuates as members move around and do not send in their new address. When a monthly newsletter is returned by the Post Office, the member's name will be deleted from the mailing list, until I/we receive their new address.

**PLEASE NOTE: I CANNOT RECEIVE ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FROM ANYONE ELSE; ONLY FROM THE PERSON INVOLVED**, the reason being, anyone can call in and report an address change without their knowledge. Please use the change of address form below and mail or fax it to Missanabie Cree First Nation or call or email Ted Ouellet at the address noted above.

**Members, please keep your address up-to-date, by filling out the change of address form below so you don't miss out on pertinent information regarding band business.**

Names of deceased members are not removed from the band voter's list unless the information is provided to Indian Affairs. Anyone with funeral information (i.e. name of funeral home/location), date of death, a death certificate, or anyone who can be contacted for this information, please call or leave a message with Ted Ouellet at the MCFN Band Office.

Miigwech.



## MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM - - For Band Members

SURNAME	
First Name and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Name	
ALIAS/BAND #	
DATE RECEIVED	
NEW ADDRESS	
CITY/PROVINCE	
POSTAL CODE	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	
TELEPHONE #	
SIGNATURE	

**SECURE CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS****Information Update:**

October 20, 2010

Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada  
[www.inac.gc.ca](http://www.inac.gc.ca)Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada  
[www.ainc.gc.ca](http://www.ainc.gc.ca)

SECURE CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS APPLICATION INTAKE  
STARTING OCTOBER 18, 2010 AND WILL CONTINUE IN A PHASED APPROACH  
WITH TREATY 7 FIRST NATIONS, INAC REGIONAL OFFICE IN CALGARY AND  
FOUR SERVICE CANADA LOCATIONS

SCIS application intake will begin on October 18th, 2010, at INAC's regional office in Calgary and the Blood Tribe of the Treaty 7 First Nations.

Implementation will progress in a phased approach within Treaty 7 (Siksika, Stoney, Piikani and Tsuu T'ina) and will also include four Service Canada locations (**Calgary South, Lethbridge, Canmore and Red Deer**). Information on the exact dates of when the remaining First Nations in Treaty 7 and Service Canada will accept SCIS applications will be made available through this website.

We urge individuals regardless of where you live, to start gathering the documentation which will be required to apply. Please visit the application information section of our website ([www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/api-eng.asp](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/api-eng.asp)) for this detailed information.

The national application process is still being developed. As the details are finalized, more information will be made available through INAC's website.

**BORDER CROSSING:**

INAC has been advised that for a reasonable transition period the United States Department of Homeland Security will continue to accept the current Indian Status Card as a valid document when visiting the US via land and water ports of entry. The Government of Canada cautions individuals that the period and extent of this flexibility is entirely at the discretion of U.S. officials, and reminds travelers that when entering the U.S. via air, a valid passport or NEXUS card is required.

More information is available at Secure Certificate of Indian Status FAQ's at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/faq-eng.asp](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/faq-eng.asp)

If you urgently require documentation for visiting the United States, please contact Passport Canada at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/faq-eng.asp](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/faq-eng.asp) or Toll free: 1-800-567-6868.

For information on documentation requirements for visiting the United States, please visit the Border Crossing information section: [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/bdc-eng.asp](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/bdc-eng.asp)

If you need more information, please contact the Registration Administrator, Ted Ouellet at 705-254-2702. Ext. 228 or by email at [toulet@missanabiecree.com](mailto:toulet@missanabiecree.com)



## News Items

### CANADA ENDORSES DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

November 12, 2010 - The federal government has endorsed a United Nations declaration that recognizes global human rights standards for indigenous populations, reversing its initial opposition to the document.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), a non-binding document, recognizes indigenous people's basic human rights and rights to self-determination, language, equality and land, among other rights.

Canada was one of four countries, along with Australia, New Zealand and the U.S., to vote against the declaration when it was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007. Australia and New Zealand have since reversed their stance, and the U.S. has said it will review its position.

At the time the declaration was passed, the Harper government had expressed concerns about its wording on provisions addressing land and natural resources, saying it was overly broad and could lead to the reopening of previously settled land claims.

In its March speech from the throne, the government indicated it wanted to "take steps to endorse this aspirational document in a manner fully consistent with Canada's Constitution and laws."

But on Friday, the government released a statement saying it has formally endorsed the declaration. On the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada website, it stated that: "after careful and thoughtful consideration, Canada has concluded that it is better to endorse the UNDRIP while explaining its concerns, rather than simply rejecting the overall document.

"Although the UNDRIP does not reflect customary international law or change Canadian laws, Canada believes that the UNDRIP has the potential to contribute positively to the promotion and respect of the rights of indigenous peoples around the world."

In a statement, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo praised Canada's endorsement of the document as a positive development.

"Today marks an important shift in our relationship, and now, the real work begins," he said. "Now is our time to work together towards a new era of fairness and justice for First Nations and a stronger Canada for all Canadians, guided by the Declaration's core principles of respect, partnership and reconciliation."

[www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2010/11/12/indigenous-declaration.html?ref=rss](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2010/11/12/indigenous-declaration.html?ref=rss)

### NAN CALLS ON GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS SUPPORT FOR NWAC

November 22, 2010 THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Executive Council together with the NAN Women's Council is calling on the Government of Canada to re-establish its support for the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) in their effort to ensure that missing and murdered Aboriginal women is a national priority.

"Article Fifteen of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples mentions combating prejudice and eliminating discrimination while promoting tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. "Now that the Federal Government has decided to endorse the Declaration, it's up to them to fulfill their obliga-

tions by ensuring that the issue of murdered and missing Aboriginal women is not pushed aside and is one of their top main concerns."

The call comes following a recent decision by the Government of Canada to deny the renewal of funding for the NWAC Sisters in Spirit initiative which began in 2005 to bring awareness and address the large number of cases of murdered and missing Aboriginal women in Canada. The NAN Women's Council is in full support of the NWAC to have their funding reinstated for the Sisters in Spirit initiative.

"As First Nation women, it is important that we stand together with our Chiefs to make certain that work continues at the national level through NWAC and the Assembly of

First Nations Women's Council," said Jackie Fletcher, spokesperson for NAN Women's Council. "It is also important that proper services are available for those people who have lost their mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends through acts of violence."

NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy and other NAN membership will be participating tonight in the Ontario Native Women's Association annual 'Take Back the Night' walk in Thunder Bay, ON which brings awareness of violence against Aboriginal women.

For more information please contact Amy Harris, A/Director of Communications – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 625 4906 or (807) 252-2806 (cell) or by email [aharris@nan.on.ca](mailto:aharris@nan.on.ca).

(from [www.nan.on.ca](http://www.nan.on.ca))



# Community News and Notes



## RATIFICATION VOTE 2010

The voting period for the ratification of the Land Transfer Agreement ended at midnight on November 15, 2010.

The results of the Ratification Vote indicate that an overwhelming majority of the ballots cast were in favour of accepting the Land Transfer Agreement.

An official declaration of the results was mailed to each registered voter by the Electoral Officer for the Missanabie Cree First Nation.

The Chief and Council of the Missanabie Cree First Nation now have a mandate to proceed with the formal signing of the Agreement, and will begin the process of implementing the terms of the Agreement.

## THE NSFC CELEBRATES ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS AT 2ND ANNUAL AGM AND AWARDS GALA

This past year was the busiest yet for the Northeast Superior Forest Community (NSFC), and on October 6th at the Ecole Secondaire Catholique-Trillium in Chapleau the organization celebrated its hard work and success during their Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Mayors of Chapleau, Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Wawa, and White River were in attendance, as were the Chiefs of Chapleau Cree, Michipicoten, Missanabie, and Brunswick House First Nations. The organization also had the opportunity to share their success stories with the Federal government, as Ted VanLunen, the Director General of Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Services, attended the AGM.

During the AGM the NSFC passed motions selecting their new board of directors, appointing Manitouwadge Mayor John MacEachern as the new President, Michipicoten First Nation Chief Joe Buckle as the new Vice-President, and Chapleau Mayor Earle Freeborn as the new Secretary-Treasurer.

Also included in the evening was an awards ceremony and gala which was a joint initiative between the

NSFC and their partners at the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum (NSRCF). Both organizations presented awards to recognize the dedication of certain individuals to the Northeast Superior region. The NSFC presented the first annual Earle J Freeborn award to Chapleau Mayor Earle Freeborn, and the NSRCF presented the first annual Chief Keith 'Keeter' Corston Award to Chapleau Cree's Chief Corston. Both men were recognized for their outstanding commitment to and involvement in the Northeast Superior Region.

Chief Corston of Chapleau Cree First Nation addressed attendees of the gala, stressing the importance of continuing to build the relationship that has been fostered between the Chiefs' Forum and the Mayors' of the communities in the region. He passed on that the cross-cultural activities the partner organizations have participated in are great stepping stones towards ensuring that they are able to better understand one another in the coming years.

Mayor Earle Freeborn of Chapleau, and member of the NSFC board of directors, reinforced Chief Corston's message, saying "if there is one message I will take away from this journey, it's that there is strength in numbers. The NSFC has facilitated the joining of the Mayors' of 6 municipalities in the Northeast Superior

Region, with 6 Chiefs' of 6 First Nation Communities in the area to work towards a common vision for managing our forest resources. Tonight, the Mayors' and Chiefs' are given the opportunity to come together in celebration of the achievements we have made, and the bonds that we have created. The strength of our bond and the level of our partnership is unique across Canada, and has been a key factor in our ability to achieve success."

The NSFC thanks the Mayors and Chiefs, its funding partners, stakeholders, and the residents of the Northeast Superior Region for their continued support, and looks forward to many more successful years of innovation in the forest industry.

The NSFC is a partnership between six municipalities; Manitouwadge, White River, Hornepayne, Dubreuilville, Wawa, and Chapleau, as well as the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum which represents Chapleau Cree, Brunswick House, Michipicoten, Missanabie Cree, Pic Mobert, and Hornepayne First Nations. The NSFC is also one of 11 Forest Community sites funded by Natural Resources Canada's Forest Communities Program, and part of a network of 15 sites across the country who combine to form the Canadian Model Forest Network (CMFN).

([www.nsfc.ca/news.php?ID=54](http://www.nsfc.ca/news.php?ID=54))

# MCFN Events Calendar

		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
D E C E M B E R  2 0 1 0		<i>Kakoekakee shi kak Peesim</i> Festival Season Moon			1 Craft Class 7-9 pm	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	MCFN Community Christmas Dinner		Craft Class 7-9 pm	Healthy Snacks After 1:30		Staff Christmas Dinner		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
				Christmas Tea 				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
	Office Closed Dec.20- Dec. 31	Winter Solstice			Christmas Eve	Christmas Day 		
26	27	28	29	30	31			
					New Year's Eve			
		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
J A N U A R Y  2 0 1 1		<i>Kacha papi watakinum Peesim</i> Tree exploding (by frost) Moon						1 New Year's Day 
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		Office opens						
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
			Craft Class 7-9 pm		Healthy Snacks After 1:30			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
			Elders' Tea 1:30-3:30 pm					
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29		



# December Birthday Greetings

DECEMBER 1



**Happy Birthday!**

Dale Gideon-Krobath  
Joan Pacione  
Brandon Schofield

DECEMBER 2

**Happy Birthday!**



Robert Smith, Jr

DECEMBER 3



**Happy Birthday!**

George Ruth

DECEMBER 4



**Happy Birthday!**

Daniel Hould

DECEMBER 6



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Edward Fletcher  
Marlene Jeffries

DECEMBER 7

**Happy Birthday!**



Stephanie Guindon  
Alyssia-Breanna McDonald

DECEMBER 8

**Happy Birthday!**



Marilyn Kerbrat  
Kenneth D. Nolan

DECEMBER 10



**Happy Birthday!**

Jesse James Lee  
Carrie Nolan  
Tracee Smith

DECEMBER 11

**Happy Birthday!**



Lara Marie Fletcher

DECEMBER 12

**Happy Birthday!**



Jackie Fletcher  
Irwin Gideon

DECEMBER 13

**Happy Birthday!**



Jason Gauthier

DECEMBER 16

**Happy Birthday!**



Ryan Astle

DECEMBER 18

**Happy Birthday!**



Henry Kooses  
Leslie K. Nolan  
Maurice Lafontaine

DECEMBER 19

**Happy Birthday!**



Holly Wesley

DECEMBER 20

**Happy Birthday!**



Theresa Ruth

DECEMBER 21

**Happy Birthday!**



Carmella Laforte

DECEMBER 24

**Happy Birthday!**



Diane Nolan-Astle  
Alethea Pezzo

DECEMBER 26

**Happy Birthday!**



Codey Hardman

DECEMBER 28

**Happy Birthday!**



Sylvio Montgomery

DECEMBER 29

**Happy Birthday!**



Karen Nolan  
Natalie Pelletier  
Charles Sheshequin



# Χονχερνινγ της Εαρτη

## ENVIRONMENT CANADA TO REVIEW MONITORING IN THE OIL SANDS

September 30, 2010 - Canada's Environment Minister has struck up an independent panel of leading scientists to review environmental monitoring in the oil sands – rejecting an offer from the Alberta government for a joint federal-provincial panel.

The wide-reaching review, which will be done in a swift 60 days at the request of Minister Jim Prentice, will likely focus on the often-criticized, industry-led Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program (RAMP).

Recommendations of the panel, made up of a chairwoman and five highly respected independent academics, will be released publicly. The announcement came two weeks after Mr. Prentice, an avid fly fisherman, was “disgusted” by images of deformed fish pulled from the Athabasca River, which runs through Alberta's oil sands.

“I want to get to the bottom of this quickly, and I want five of Canada's leading scientists to provide me with their advice on whether the monitoring system that we're using is good enough,” Mr. Prentice said.

Mr. Prentice is acting alone. Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner said the announcement was “surprising,” as he was hoping to help set up a joint panel.

The ministers now appear set to battle over who is in charge of environmental oversight of the oil sands. “We are the lead jurisdiction,” Mr. Renner said, but Mr. Prentice has flatly insisted that water management is a federal responsibility. Mr. Renner conceded the federal review “will probably lead to some sort of revision in the way we do our monitoring in the region.”

The panel comes a month after the release of a study by University of Alberta biologist David Schindler, who found the Athabasca River had elevated levels of poisonous elements such as mercury and lead. Dr. Schindler dismisses the Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program as inadequate, and approved of the federal panel. “The technical people on the panel are very strong,” he said in an e-mail.

Fred Kuzmic, a onetime RAMP steering committee leader and now its spokesman, said the agency will cooperate unreservedly with the panel, and is open to suggestions.

The panel will help “reassure not only Canadians, but the international community that we have the highest possible environmental standards,” Mr. Prentice said.

*Edited article from  
www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/  
ottawa-to-scrutinize-environmental-  
monitoring-of-oil-sands/article1736644/*

## CONSERVATIVE SENATORS KILL CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

In response to the defeat of the Climate Change Accountability Act (Bill C-311) in the Senate, Graham Saul, Executive Director of **Climate Action Network Canada** said the following:

“Stephen Harper has done what he always promised never to do: use unelected officials to counter the will of Parliament and the Canadian public. The Climate Change Accountability Act had won the support of a majority of Members of Parliament, not once but twice, at a time when the majority of Canadians are demanding stronger action on climate change in Canada.

Despite this, government Senators voted the bill down before even taking the time to debate or consider it. This both irresponsible

and unprecedented. This reckless approach to climate change must stop. Global warming is an urgent problem that requires urgent solutions. As we head into the UN climate talks in Cancun later this month, it is unacceptable that Canada's only climate change legislation has been defeated after years of majority support from our elected members of parliament and their constituents.”

Climate Action Network Canada is a nation-wide coalition of more than 75 environmental, faith, development, labour, aboriginal, health, and youth organizations committed to making action on climate change by Canada a reality.

[www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2010/release/index.php?WEBYEP\\_DI=65](http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2010/release/index.php?WEBYEP_DI=65)



Indigenous Environmental Network  
Red Road Cancun  
[www.RedRoadCancun.com](http://www.RedRoadCancun.com)

The Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), in collaboration with Global Justice Ecology Project, Abya Yala Nexus and Earth Cycles will be producing a website to cover the International Climate Change Conference (COP 16) in Cancun, Mexico. Daily video/audio shows will air noon to 1pm CST, Monday November 29, through Friday, Dec. 10, 2010 and will be re-broadcast at 5 p.m.

The website will include press releases, contact lists, blogging and multimedia content produced by many prominent environmental justice organizers from North America.

In addition to a continual live audio and video stream (in English), IEN's media team will be producing a daily one-hour video/radio program, hosted by Casey Camp Horinek and Dallas Goldtooth.

# Χρονόγειο της Γαης

"At Christmas, all roads lead home."

- Marjorie Holmes

*Grandad's Prayers of the Earth.*

"Rocks pray, too," said Grandad.

"Pebbles and boulders  
and old weathered hills.

They are still  
and silent,  
and those are two  
important ways  
to pray."

- Douglas Wood

**O CHILDREN**

**OF THE FOREST FREE**

**O SONS OF MANITOU**

**THE HOLY CHILD**

**OF EARTH**

**AND HEAVEN**

**IS BORN TODAY**

**FOR YOU**

-HURON CAROL

**BE MINDFUL!**

Protect mother earth  
from greed and violence. Build humbly,  
plant trees, grow flowers and clothe her  
with dignity. Respect all her creatures. Honour her  
natural laws and the universe which cradles her.  
Above all, heartily worship the Source of All that is.

This world needs secret heroes! Be brave, speak the truth,  
heal the sick, make peace. Be strong, serve patiently, love  
generously, live simply. Enjoy fellowship, eat and drink modestly,  
celebrate the festivals. Breathe deeply, sing and make music,  
walk often, cycle and recycle. Be thrifty, give good measure.  
Let your work be your prayer.

Put on the whole armour of light! Unearth the beauty in  
everything. Inhale the Spirit of Goodness. Kindle kindness,  
especially toward yourself, embracing the sweet  
silence of your own soul. Fear nothing. Accept  
what you are and while you have breath,

**GIVE THANKS!**

John Rogers

Christmas waves  
a magic wand  
over this world  
and behold,  
everything is softer  
and more beautiful.  
- Norman Vincent Peale

It is  
a sacred house  
that I  
have come to.

It is  
a sacred house  
that I  
have come to.  
Holaghei.

Now I have come  
to the House of the Earth  
-Navaho song

May the spirit of Christmas

bring you peace,

The gladness of Christmas

give you hope,

The warmth of Christmas

grant you love.

~Author Unknown

Happy Christmas (War is Over)

And so this is Christmas  
I hope you have fun  
The near and the dear ones  
The old and the young  
A very merry Christmas  
And a happy New Year  
Let's hope it's a good one  
Without any fear

-John Lennon

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## VISION STATEMENT OF THE MISSANABIE CREE

We are the Anishnabe of the Missanabie Cree First Nation whose vision is to have a united and self-governing body that will determine our destiny guided by the seven laws.

We have a vision of a leadership that is open, honest, trustworthy; a leadership with conviction, accessible to the people; a leadership that is progressive yet respectful of our traditions, values and beliefs; a leadership with confidence, always watchful and assertive in protecting and preserving the treaty and aboriginal rights of our people; a leadership that is directed by our people and with exclusive accountability to our people and our people alone.

We have a vision of our community re-established on the traditional lands that were once the homeland of our ancestors where institutions of our government, economy and education can once again thrive.

We have a vision of a people where individuals and families can stand strong and find healing through tradition and spirituality; individuals and families who are loving and compassionate.

We have a vision of a people who are bi-cultural and bi-lingual; a people who can walk in both worlds contributing to our well-being, the well-being of our brother and sister First Nations; contributing and competing globally.

We have a vision of a Nation of people who respect the dignity of all; a people who find balance through equality of all ages, male and female alike.

We have a vision of people who respect the environment, harvesting and reaping the resources of the land in a sustainable manner as responsible stewards for the use of future generations.

We are the Anishnabe of the Missanabie Cree First Nation whose vision it is to regain and restore our rightful place and through the strength of our people, never again be denied our place in society.

### MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

174B HWY #17 East  
Garden River, ON  
P6A 6Z1

SATELLITE OFFICE:  
559 Queen St. E (Downtown)  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON  
P6A 2A3

Phone: 705-254-2702  
Toll Free: 1-800-319-3001  
Fax: 705-254-3292

[www.missanabiecree.com](http://www.missanabiecree.com)

### MCFN Chief & Council + Staff

Chief Kim Rainville **ex. 236**  
Deputy Chief Bobbi Fletcher-Decorte **ex. 504**  
Councillor Jason Gauthier **ex. 235**  
Councillor Roy Gideon **ex. 505**  
Councillor Jutta Horn **ex. 227**  
Councillor Edward Robinson **ex. 506**  
**A/Band Administrator** Lori Rainville **ex 222**  
**Reception** June Markie **ex 221**  
**Bookkeeper** Louise Campbell **ex. 224**  
**Program Development** Lesley Gagnon **ex. 226**  
**Administrative Assistant** Gladys Hawkins **ex. 231**  
**Registration Administrator** Ted Ouellet **ex. 228**  
**Negotiations Coordinator** Jutta Horn **ex. 227**  
**Communications** Elizabeth Angeconeb **ex. 230**

[krainville@missanabiecree.com](mailto:krainville@missanabiecree.com)  
[bfletcher-decorte@missanabiecree.com](mailto:bfletcher-decorte@missanabiecree.com)  
[jgauthier@missanabiecree.com](mailto:jgauthier@missanabiecree.com)  
[rgideon@missanabiecree.com](mailto:rgideon@missanabiecree.com)  
[jhorn@missanabiecree.com](mailto:jhorn@missanabiecree.com)  
[erobinson@missanabiecree.com](mailto:erobinson@missanabiecree.com)  
[lrainville@missanabiecree.com](mailto:lrainville@missanabiecree.com)  
[jmarkie@missanabiecree.com](mailto:jmarkie@missanabiecree.com)  
[lcampbell@missanabiecree.com](mailto:lcampbell@missanabiecree.com)  
[lgagnon@missanabiecree.com](mailto:lgagnon@missanabiecree.com)  
[ghawkins@missanabiecree.com](mailto:ghawkins@missanabiecree.com)  
[touellet@missanabiecree.com](mailto:touellet@missanabiecree.com)  
[jhorn@missanabiecree.com](mailto:jhorn@missanabiecree.com)  
[eangeconeb@missanabiecree.com](mailto:eangeconeb@missanabiecree.com)