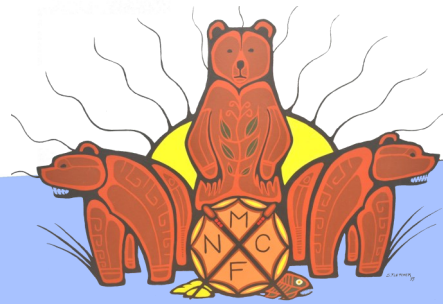


Bear Fax

Mee kisi Peesim
Eagle Moon
March 2016



www.missanabiecreefn.com

Missanabie Cree First Nation

**"The last fling of winter is over ...
The earth, the soil itself, has a dreaming quality about it.**

**It is warm now to the touch;
it has come alive;**

**it hides secrets that in a moment,
in a little while, it will tell."**

- Donald Culross Peattie

Events/Gatherings:

7th Annual Youth Symposium

March 19-20, 2016 Akwesasne, ON
<http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/node/1315>

World Water Day March 22

Water Docs International Film Festival

March 22-26, 2016 Toronto, ON
<https://www.facebook.com/WaterDocs>

Indigenous Public Safety and Policing Forum

March 30, 2015 Regina, SK
<http://www.afn.ca/en>

Naomi Klein in Winnipeg

April 8, 2016 Winnipeg, MB
<http://nationtalk.ca/event/naomi-klein-in-winnipeg-2>

Inside this Issue:

- P. 2-3 Messages from Chief & Council
- P. 3 From the desk of:
- P. 4 Community News and Notes
- P. 5-8 Elders Speak
- P. 8-9 Governance Project
- P. 10 Birthday Greetings
- P. 11 Community Events Calendar
- P. 12-15 News Items
- P. 16-17 Opportunities for Youth
- P. 18 Opportunities for Volunteers
- P. 19-21 Employment Opportunities
- P. 22 MCFN Membership
- P. 23 Contact Information
- P. 24 MCFN Vision Statement
- Attachment: Gathering Application



**MCFN ANNUAL GATHERING 2016
August 13-20, 2016**

Messages from Chief & Council

Watchey,

Working towards a common goal and meeting our challenges head on is what the vision of Chief and Council has been over the last couple of years.

The TLE (Treaty Land Entitlement) court case is going well, the Judge heard all of our evidence and will be taking some time to make a decision. It was not explained how long that will take. Thank you to the elders who attended the proceedings. We got funding from Maurice Law for them to attend.

Some council members also attended the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada conference and got a chance to explore the industry. It was both informative and worthwhile. We got funding from MNM to attend.

We have had to deal with the consequences of decisions that have been made from the last administration. The

To all my family, extended family, friends and acquaintances of Missanabie Cree First Nation:

As the experts, Joan Holmes, Jean-Phillippe Chartrand and Alexander von Gernet went through Commissioner's Scott and Steward's diaries. They travelled to the numerous native settlements where they recorded payments from the pay list they were provided. After all the payments were made (the \$4.00 allotment) they feasted, raised the flag and signed the treaty papers. At that time Missanabie was not included in the signing of the treaty. But, there was a pay list for the natives in the village of Missanabie. The experts, using maps, letters and documents, went into details of Missanabie Cree history and its place in Treaty 9. The next couple of days were on this subject.

The final closing statements for Missanabie Cree, Ontar-

money we receive to run the office and pay for essential service have been significantly decreased due the expenses that we are paying to Castle Building Center.

We will be in a better position with the growth of our new joint venture partnerships. We are looking also at running a passenger train service between Sault Ste. Marie and Hearst. The service is fully subsidized and a low risk venture. We have the proper partners to make this work and I feel that this is an amazing opportunity for our community. We have little monetary investment with unlimited potential.

Some of the joint venture partnerships have agreed and transferred funds to Missanabie Cree First Nation to support our students. This came from a request from Chief and Council to recognize the acute needs of our First Nation.

Thank you,
Chief Jason Gauthier

io and the Feds will be taking place March 7th, 8th and 9th, 2016.

The week of March 6th to March 10th I will also be attending the (PDAC) Prospector and Developers Association of Canada.

On a short note I attended all Chief and Council meetings in the month of February

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended and participated in my Uncle Ted Nolan's funeral. It was sad occasion but, his spirit was with us.

I would like to wish my sons Ken and Neil a very Happy Birthday and many more to come.

Chi-Miigwetch
Councilor Les Nolan aka Red Bear.

The Education Working Group was reconvened last month. A teleconference was held with myself, Cathy Clement, and Deb Clement. There was a recap of the 2 initiatives to materialize, a potential student bursary, and youth workshop/conference idea. Commitment to a work plan was made, and Neil Ewing has agreed to participate as well. Additionally, I requested Elders Council for ideas regarding what they envision for a MCFN bursary award. I look forward to their input. It is hoped to have stabilized funding, outside the post-secondary program dollars, to achieve an annual award. One idea is to have a donation account under a charitable number so tax receipts can be issued. Until then, we can move forward on establishing the parame-

ters and criteria for an award. In regards to youth workshop, we are looking at focusing on student supports for school, and administration will look for potential funding. If any member wishes to contribute, please send us an email.

Missanabie Cree had heavy hearts last month with the passing of Ted Nolan and my auntie Chris Wesley. Before their spirit journey to meet again with their spouses, they touched the lives of many, and left great memories to those around them. They will be missed, but not forgotten.

Victoria Pezzo, MCFN Deputy Chief

From the desk of:

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION OFFICER

ANNUAL GATHERING 2016

Space is limited; application form is attached to this newsletter. More information will be posted in future newsletters.

ELECTION DAY IS AUGUST 18, 2016. [Do we have your address?](#)

POST-SECONDARY UPDATE:

Application packages for 2016 to 2017 Academic Year will be posted on website: [DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2016.](#)

Current forms on website will be accepted as amended by applicant.

All students are encouraged to apply for scholarships, bursaries and student loans as funding is limited.

Government of Canada web search tool has more than 700 bursaries: <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1351185180120/1351685455328>

Ongoing post-secondary students: please plan to have a summer job.

Regards,

Deb Clement,

Gathering Coordinator

Post Secondary Education Officer

Community News and Notes



Happy Birthday, Abigail
March 11
Love, Mooshum

Happy Birthday



to my cousin
Carol Nolan
June Markie



Robert Pine at age 10

To my Grandson, Robert Pine
Happy 19th Birthday, Robert
March 10
Love you, NAN

-Can't believe how fast the years have gone.



I want to wish my great grandson Jayce
a Happy Belated Birthday.
Hugs and kisses.
It was on Feb. 22, 2016.
Nannie Fletcher

My son Jeff Fletcher received this service award from his company Orkin. He also received a pin and a \$25.00 gift certificate for Home Depot. I am very proud of him.

Jackie Fletcher



03/04/2016 02:45



03/04/2016 02:43

Elders Speak

The next Elders Council Meeting is May 19th 2016 @ 6 pm. sharp.

Any Elders that want to join the Elders Council...

Please call me or email: lrwlyk@missanabiecree.com

PH: 1-705-929-4464

Miigwech, Laura-Lee Rawlyk, Elders Liaison



Reprinted by request from January 2016 Bear Fax:

Hail to Proper Procedures:

I have continually noticed again that, consistency and continuity must be practiced to have proper communications between all parties involved. This however has to be practiced and reinforced and to make everyone in our community understand that changes are inevitable. The Elder's Council has been working very hard to set procedures and protocols in place.

The proper procedure is that anything that concerns the Elders is to be forwarded to the Elders' Liaison (Laura-

Lee Rawlyk).

Any conferences, workshops, lectures, etc., will go through the Band Manager (Cathy Clement) and she will forward it to the Elders' Liaison. Cathy Clement can be reached at the MCFN Band Office. 705-254-2702 or toll free 1-800-319-3001.

Miigwech,

Elders' Liaison

Laura-Lee Rawlyk (Aush Kii Ish Kwayo)

Email: lrwlyk@missanabiecree.com

A word of caution from Jackie Fletcher:

GAS TOPPING:

"By topping your fuel tank off, it can either overwhelm your evaporative system and break something or cause a hazardous leak by the excess pressure in the system," says Ed Nemphos, owner of Brentwood Automotive in Baltimore, who adds gas needs extra room to expand in the tank.

Overfilling the gas tank can cause liquid gas to enter the charcoal canister, or carbon filter, which is designed only for vapor. Gas in the system can affect your car's performance by causing it to run poorly, and damage the engine, he says.

"When we overfill the tank, it sends all of the excessive fuel to the evaporation/charcoal canister and kills the life of that canister," Carruso says.

Replacing a charcoal canister can cost anywhere from \$200 up to \$1,500

Gas stations come with a vapor recovery system that — once the gas tank is full — will feed gas vapors and gasoline from the pump back into the station's tank to prevent vapors from escaping into the environment.

So any excess gas pumped into you tank that you've already paid for can end up being drawn back into the gas station's storage tanks.

This process can also cause damage to the station's vapor recovery system and cause it not to work. If you damage your car's vapor recovery system, it won't be able to effectively do its job of protecting people from harmful vapors.

<http://www.angieslist.com/articles/car-myth-or-fact-should-you-top-your-gas-tank.htm>

Elders Speak

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT PAGE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: is meeting the needs of today without compromising the needs of tomorrow.

The Elders' Council is collecting data from our community in developing the "NEEDS" for sustainable life.

Examples:

1. An elder may need a walker or a cane to improve their walking ability.
2. Someone coming out of hospital and is not capable of doing some light housekeeping or making some meals.

These are just a few.

This is an Assessment to see if there is a great need in our community.

Please fill out the form below and send it back to the Band Office.

Attention : Elders' Liaison (Laura-Lee Rawlyk) or Email: lrwlyk@missanabiecree.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your "needs": _____

Elders Speak

Society Has Labeled Us

Feb.29th 2016

RACISM

I will tell you how a racist society has stereotyped us Indians as drunks, drug addicts, homeless, living on social assistance or welfare, wagon burners, Indian givers, lazy, criminals, etc. I think you get what I am saying!

There are many forms of racism, which leads me to my own personal battle of racism and the long lasting effects of a 24/7 struggle while growing up.

When I was four and a half years of age and my mother and father divorced. My Mother being white, baptized Catholic, attended a Catholic school, and she was raised by strict rules. My Mother also lost her Mother, at the age of twelve. A year after that she lost her father.

My father being Cree, born in a house in Missanabie, raised in Missanabie till he was nine years old and he and his brothers and sisters were stolen from their parent and placed in Shingwauk Residential School to be assimilated. When he came out of Shingwauk he was fifteen. A few years after that he married, divorced and I never seen my father again until I was thirty-eight but, my Kokum kept in touch and always managed to come and see my sister and I every summer and stayed a week with my mother. I looked forward to seeing her. She radiated happiness and a great sense of wellbeing. Her laughter was exuberating! I loved her, and she is with me, even now!

Now that I have given you some background information, I can continue my story. So at the age of four and a half I was taken and raised by my mother. So strike one, you come from a split home and you are unfamiliar with the new surroundings and feeling, I imagine, out of place. Strike two, you are a half breed, not knowing what that meant at that age? And strike three,



is that you are a female, and I never knew what equality meant till I started working.

When I was seven years old, I remembered the bullying all throughout my school years. At school you were belittled and ridiculed and called names for the way you looked and dressed. Long skirts, brown stockings and garter belts to hold your brown stockings up. This would be considered old fashioned. It would've been in style if it was 1940, but it was 1963. Because of the way you looked and dressed you had no friends growing up and I became an introvert. I kept to myself and hoped no one would notice me and I did nothing to draw attention to myself. As I entered high school it was pretty much the same. I was quiet, kept to myself, I would not participate in any activities, sports, or any functions or fund raisers at school. I would say that the ridicule and the teasing has toned down. I think that the dynamics and different people in different classes made going to school more bearable.

Growing up around my house with only a few neighborhood kids, racism did not have any meaning there. A few of kids would get together and go skating, sliding, snow ball fights, fort building, tag foot ball, dodge ball, baseball, hockey etc. Having so little of neighborhood kids and they were mostly boys, and french speaking, except for one boy, that lived on the corner, and his name was Brian.

Little did I know, at that time, the boy on the corner would be my future husband. Now celebrating our forty-three years of marriage, four children, and three grandchildren, life is good.

Now I look back on the people that bullied, and teased me and when I see them today, I have no animosity towards them. I ask how are they? How many children do you have? Carry on a conversation and do some reminiscing.

I think because of all the teasing, bullying, ridiculing that I endured growing up, has made me a strong, independent, thriving, women. I think in my heart, I know that those kids think back of what they did, and a sense of

sorriness fills their being. You can not waste your time dwelling on the past and you must learn to forgive, and that is when you find peace and happiness.

Because society paints an Indian as having black hair, brown eyes, racism does not only exists among the population of people, racism also exists among our First Nation people. Because I was born with blonde hair and blue eyes, light skin. I am still a proud Cree Women and I bleed red, just like everyone else. How does one measure Indian in your blood?

Aush Kii Ish Kwayo

Laura-Lee Fletcher Rawlyk

Earth Women

TAX EXEMPT DISCRIMINATION

I went to a well-known sporting goods store, I won't mention any names, to purchase Ammunition & Shoes. When it came time to pay, the cashier refused to Tax Exempt my purchase, due to the fact that the items were male shoes and ammunition even though I had my fire-arm licence.

She stated that you people should know the rules. Well I told her a little piece of my mind.

If I am Tax Exempt for a bed mattress, only Indians can sleep in my bed?

If I am Tax Exempt for fuel, only Indians can drive my vehicle?

If I am Tax Exempt for ammunition, only Indians can eat my moose?

Sadly I had to tell her that she was a RACIST PERSON that DISCRIMINATES AGAINST OUR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS.

Now if I was such in the Wrong: Why did she put through my TAX EXEMPT???

" GO FIGURE "

Signed a little story from an Elder : -)

Governance Project

The Challenge of Developing Policy - The Story of the MCFN Governance Coordinating Committee

The Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC) has been in existence since 2011. The work of the GCC is guided by the MCFN Governance Strategic Plan. The GCC would like the MCFN community to become more aware of the work of the committee, and how the committee works together as a group. The GCC meets in person 3-4 times per year. At other times, the committee members meet in teleconference with the Project Coordinator.

Our Story : Part 1 - A Day in the Life follows on page 9.

Part One - A Day in the life of a GCC member attending a face-to-face meeting in Sault Ste. Marie.

The group begins to straggle in around nine o'clock in the morning. The Project Coordinator (PC) has already prepared snacks and coffee for the morning break. She has also set up her laptop and connected it to the smart TV in the MCFN Boardroom.

The morning always begins with a prayer and a smudging ceremony. The prayer and the smudging ceremony helps to prepare our minds and hearts for the work ahead, and calls on the Creator and the spirits of our ancestors for help.

The PC has been officially designated the chair of the meeting, and it is her job to make sure the group stays on track with the agenda, and sometimes this is not an easy thing to do. But she perseveres.

The PC prepares the agenda and does the minutes from the last meeting. These are distributed to the committee members along with the latest draft and other documents for discussion. At this particular meeting, a report on the communications survey was included.

The GCC starts off with a review of the Chief and Council policy. This is draft #18. This means that on 18 different occasions the GCC has come together to discuss this particular policy. The GCC works on several policies at once, and they are all in different stages of development. The GCC has recently decided that the committee will not use the word approval when they believe that they have completed a final draft. That word will be left to Chief and Council. What the committee will do from now on is to 'agree in principle' that a policy is finished.

But to get to the point where a policy is finally agreed to in principle takes some doing. The GCC spends most of the day reviewing the Chief and Council policy line by line and section by section. This is the final review, as the GCC hopes to have an agreement in principle at the end of the day. The policy is pruned, and shortened in the interests of clarity. Redundant phrases are deleted or moved to different sections. This is the easy part. The

hard part is developing processes that are fair and transparent. The Committee talks at some length about the process of what to do if there is a breach in the Code of Conduct that is outlined in the Chief and Council policy. The GCC finally agrees on what they think is a fair process. All the changes are made by the PC to the document on the spot. The GCC is able to see the changes being made by looking at the document on screen on the TV.

There are four members on this committee, and not one has missed a face-to-face meeting, and members rarely miss a teleconference. Every decision regarding the wording from each section of the draft policy and any recommendations are always made by consensus. Things are talked through until all agree. If there is no consensus, we let it go until next time. The PC takes note of all decisions, and no changes to a policy document are made unless all agree.


But in between all this serious talk, we have time to visit, and, like most Anishinaabeg, we joke and tell stories about our families. It is a way of bonding, and building a relationship of trust. We like to eat, too, and the PC makes sure there are plenty of good things to eat while we are working. At the end of the day, we have a sharing circle, to talk about the project, any concerns we may have, and to let each other know that we value the work that we do together.

The work of the GCC is not lightly undertaken, we work hard at what we do. We meet for a day and a half to discuss policy. We discuss wording, we discuss meaning, we discuss impact. It is tough. There are challenges, and difficulties that we, as community members, are aware of. Some of those difficulties will be explained in Part Two.

But for now, we wanted to give you an idea about how our committee operates, how we do things, and how we get things done. But we never did get to review that communications survey report. Ah well, we will, next time.

April Birthday Greetings

APRIL 2



Happy Birthday!

Neil Everett Ewing


APRIL 3



Happy Birthday!

Lauren Harris


APRIL 4



Happy Birthday!

Murray David Fletcher
Cory MacDonald


APRIL 5



Happy Birthday!

Earl Edward Quinn


APRIL 6



Happy Birthday!

Dorothy Bain
Amanda Copeland


APRIL 9



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Amanda Lynn Lalonde
Kenneth George Bain

APRIL 11



Happy Birthday

Mark Joseph Golden


APRIL 13



Happy Birthday!

Lorraine Ouellet-Wilson
Kassandra Rainville


APRIL 15



Happy Birthday!

Colin Douglas Harris

APRIL 16



Happy Birthday!

Patrick Bergeron
Kaleb Jeffries
Brooke Phillips
Luka Starcevic


APRIL 17



Happy Birthday!

Cheryle Helen Kaplun
Trica-Lynn Louttit


APRIL 21



Happy Birthday

Joan Karen Tangie


APRIL 22



Happy Birthday!

David-John Fletcher
Bonnie Gideon
Dominick Macumber
Dakota Nolan

APRIL 24



Happy Birthday!

Stephen D'Arcy Fletcher

APRIL 25



Happy Birthday!

Jo Ann Pezzo


APRIL 26



Happy Birthday

Lori Lynne Jeffries
Frances Luther


APRIL 27



Happy Birthday!

Judy Gloria Shaddock


APRIL 28



Happy Birthday!

Jackson Fletcher-Decorte
April Wesley

APRIL 29



Happy Birthday

Natasha Lynn Jeffries

APRIL 30




Happy Birthday!

Kathie Jean Gray

MCFN Events Calendar


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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 International Women's Day	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight Saving begins	14	15 Meeting for Parents Snacks and Family Activities 6:30 pm Band Office	16 Elders Tea Noon Band Office	17 Healthy Snacks After 1:30pm Band Office	18	19
20 Spring begins	21	22	23	24	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31	Mee Kisi Peesim Eagle Moon	

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Niska Peesim Goose Moon		For updates and more information, please check our website and Facebook page, or call the Band Office.		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Elders Tea Noon Band Office	14 Healthy Snacks After 1:30pm Band Office	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Kids Craft Class 7-9 pm Band Office	22 Earth Day	23
24	25	26	27	28 Family Seed Starting Day 7 pm Echo Bay	29	30

News Items

CANADA DISCRIMINATES AGAINST CHILDREN ON RESERVES, TRIBUNAL RULES

The federal government discriminates against First Nation children on reserves by failing to provide the same level of child welfare services that exist elsewhere, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has ruled.

Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations and Family Caring Society, along with the Assembly of First Nations, filed a complaint against Ottawa with the Canadian Human Rights Commission in February 2007.

They argued the support the federal government provides for child welfare on reserves is much lower than the support provincial governments give to children off reserves – even though on-reserve needs are greater. Less funding for family support means more children end up in the child welfare system, they said.

The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal agreed, according to a decision published Tuesday morning that says the federal government's funding model and management of its First Nations child and family services "resulted in denials of services and created various adverse impacts for many First Nations children and families living on reserves."

'Why did we have to bring the government of Canada to court to get them to treat First Nation children fairly?' - Cindy Blackstock, First Nations and Family Caring Society

The decision says the government must "cease the discriminatory practice and take measures to redress and prevent it." It calls for the redesign of the child welfare system and its funding model, urging the use of experts to ensure First Nations are given culturally appropriate services.

The decision also compares on-reserve child welfare to the residential schools system, where "the fate and future of many First Nations children is still being determined by the government." It recommends increasing funding and support to allow First Nations to deliver their own child welfare.

(For the complete story, please visit: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/canada-discriminates-against-children-on-reserves-tribunal-rules-1.3419480>. A copy of the judgement can also be accessed from this website.)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mushkegowuk Council Releases Findings from "The People's Inquiry Into Our Pandemic. States: "Nobody Wants to Die. They Want the Pain to Stop."

January 20th, 2016, Thunder Bay, ON- Mushkegowuk Council is calling on all levels of Government, First Nations, community members, and agencies, to implement recommendations identified in a report titled: ***"The People's Inquiry Into Our Suicide Pandemic."*** Today, at the Nishnawbe AskiNation Winter Chiefs Assembly, the Mushkegowuk Council, that represents seven First Nations, presented the report. This follows two years of public hearings and the documentation of personal stories and identifying possible solutions to address the suicide pandemic crippling the region.

Between the years of 2009 and 2011, the people of Mushkegowuk experienced one of the most difficult situations they have ever faced. Suicide was taking hold of First Nation communities and taking the lives of many. It was estimated that over 600 children and youth thought about or tried to take their own life, more tragically many committed suicide. In response, a state of emergency was declared, and following numerous failed attempts for governmental support, Mushkegowuk made the decision to take full control and responsibility of the situation by designing their own process for a public inquiry.

Says Mushkegowuk Council, Grand Chief, Jonathan Solomon; “The Mushkegowuk were forced to take the situation into our own hands; we didn’t want to see any more of our family members and children die. The people sourced their own funding to conduct the inquiry and started an in-depth review of ourselves, by ourselves.”

Four commissioners were selected and led the hearings held in the communities of Moosonee, Moose Factory, Missanabie Cree, Taykwa Tagamou, Fort Albany, Attawpiskat, Kashechewan, and Chapleau Cree. 283 people attended the public hearings, with 77 stories collected from community members.

“Traditionally our people share what we’ve learned through experience or what has been passed down to us through stories; continues Chief Solomon. “The people’s stories have shown us that our communities are determined to stop this suicide pandemic. After listening and being guided by the people, we offer this plan to help protect the Omushkegowuk.”

“Our People’s Stories” from the People’s Inquiry, have identified 16 key issues as follows:

1. Indian Residential Schools
2. Sexual Abuse
3. Substance Abuse
4. Parenting Skills
5. Identity and Culture
6. Lateral Violence
7. Communication
8. Resources and Funding
9. Bullying
10. Mental Health
11. Gay or Two- Spirited Community
12. Family Violence
13. Housing
14. Education
15. Health
16. Unresolved Grief

To support each issue, recommendations are cited in the report at a leadership, community and individual level. Says Lead Commissioner Mike Metatawabin; “As these issues were identified and derived from our people and our people’s stories, the commissioners feel that it is important that the communities, leadership, and community members be accountable for implementing each of the recommendations and solutions. Suicide is something that our people never really had to deal with in the past, but it is a challenge that we will rise to. This inquiry heard about hope, optimism and faith. Where we go from here, is up to each one of us.”

The Mushkegowuk Council also launched an on-line portal at peoplesinquiry.com that houses the report and its supporting documents including the heartfelt and personal stories from the people. Mushkegowuk Council encourages the NAN Chiefs to take the reports back to their own communities and share the findings. “Let’s continue to encourage dialogue about suicide; although it isn’t an easy topic, it is one we must address or people will continue to take their own life;” says Chief Solomon.

“Our people don’t want to die, they want the pain to stop, and we must help them.”

The state of emergency declared by the Mushkegowuk Council in regards to the suicide pandemic remains in effect.

-30-

Media Contact:

Amanda Bay

T- (807) 767-4443 Ext 223

E- amanda@firedogpr.com



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday February 24, 2016 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST NATION LEADERS DECLARE HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

TORONTO, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and representatives of the Sioux Lookout Area Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) have declared a Health and Public Health Emergency for First Nations in the Sioux Lookout region and across NAN territory.

“The chronic failure of the health care system for First Nations in the Sioux Look region and across NAN territory has left our communities in a state of crisis. Children are dying and lives are at risk. The fact that many First Nations still lack access to even the most basic health services is nothing short of a national tragedy,” said NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. “The many urgent and long-standing health issues that plague our communities are well-documented and the time for action is now. We are calling on all levels of government to commit to a plan of action to begin to address this crisis.”

The Health and Public Health Emergency was declared to address urgent and long-standing health issues caused by the inequality of health and health care services. Supported by Chiefs, First Nation and public health officials, the Grand Chief and First Nation leaders from the Sioux Lookout region issued a declaration calling for immediate, intermediate and long-term action strategies and are calling on the governments of Ontario and Canada to take immediate action to address this crisis, including:

1. Meet with Health Ministers to commence an investment and intervention plan, on an urgent basis.
2. Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to provide detailed plans and timelines indicating how First Nations communities will be provided with safe, clean and reliable drinking water.
3. Health Canada to provide detailed plans and timelines on how they will follow all the recommendations in the Auditor General’s Spring 2015 Report.

“Since returning home recently to represent my people I see a wide discrepancy of health services compared to those available in urban centres. I have my supplementary health card and I cannot access common services such as chiropractic care, dental services, registered dietician services or an optometrist in my home community. I don’t have a physician and can only access those services when I travel to Thunder Bay,” said

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Chief James Cutfeet, a member of the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) Chiefs Committee on Health.

A scathing report by the Auditor General of Canada in 2015 confirmed the continued failure of Health Canada to address the needs of First Nations when it comes to access to and the delivery of health care services in remote First Nations.

“Health care was to remain on the same level or better upon amalgamating the hospitals in Sioux lookout. We now have state-of-the-art facilities at the hospital and hostel but people still have to wait for health services and the level of health care continues to deteriorate,” said John Cutfeet, chair of the SLFNHA Board of Directors. “When will we see the commitment for improved health services?”

“Ontario has one of the best health care systems in the world, but that health care system stops at the reserve boundary. We’re going to be fighting so that from now on our children who live on the reserve will enjoy the same level of health care enjoyed by all children in Ontario,” said James Morris, SLFNHA Executive Director.

“The lack of mental health and developmental services for children and youth has never been acceptable,” said Solomon Mamakwa, Health Director with the Shibogama Health Authority and SLFNHA board member. “The health system provided to First Nations is an atrocious mess, which has led to the health crisis we are facing today. We are not even allowed to access all mainstream health services and supports. This has led to the loss of many of our people, including children. This type of system is not tolerated or acceptable in mainstream society. Why are we expected to accept this as Indigenous peoples?”

Two four-year-olds from NAN First Nations passed away in 2014 from Rheumatic Fever, an infection stemming from strep throat, a relatively minor ailment that any child in an urban area could easily be treated with antibiotics. Tragically, neither child received adequate medical attention in time.

The dire straits of the status quo health care in our First Nations is unacceptable. NAN and SLFNHA are calling on our Treaty partners, the governments of Canada and Ontario, to commit to a multilateral government-to-government to address these urgent issues and the long standing inequality of health and health care services.



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) represents 49 First Nation communities in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5 – an area covering two thirds of the province of Ontario in Canada.



Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) serves 33 First Nation communities in the Sioux Lookout region in Ontario, Canada.

(The declaration can be accessed on the NAN website at: <http://www.nan.on.ca/upload/documents/comms-2016-02-24declaration-health-emerg.pdf>)

Opportunities for Youth



The Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA) was established in 1977 as the first global education centre on Vancouver Island, in order to promote greater intercultural understanding and awareness of global issues. For more information: www.videa.ca

Hello,

I am thrilled to contact you regarding a unique international opportunity for Aboriginal young people (ages 18-35). VIDEA is currently offering ten international Aboriginal Youth Internships beginning in August 2016. Interns will spend four months working overseas in either Uganda or Zambia developing a deeper understanding of global issues as well as gaining valuable skills for future workplaces.

Jobs include the following positions in Uganda:

- Agriculture Outreach Worker
- Children's Care Home Creative Assistant
- Children's Care Home Recreation Assistant
- Craft Outreach Worker
- Community Recreation Assistant

As well as the following positions in Zambia:

- Community Development Assistant
- Fundraising Assistant
- Info & Communications Assistant
- Youth Program Officer
- Youth Education Assistant

These internships are a fantastic opportunity for young Aboriginal women and men to embrace new opportunities and experiences. We hope that you will pass along information regarding these internships to any young people you may know who could benefit from an international work placement as well as offering assistance and support throughout the application process.

I have attached each of the ten job descriptions as well as the application form. You can also access all of these documents as well as some additional information on our website here <http://videa.ca/get-involved/opportunities/>. Applications are due Wednesday, April 20th. However, applications received before the deadline will receive priority consideration so please apply early when possible.

Please take a look and feel free to be in touch if you have any questions at all. Please share widely!

Take care,

Lukash Zalubniak, V00759390

[1\(778\)-321-6706](tel:17783216706)

l.zalubniak@gmail.com

University of Victoria, Undergraduate of Sociology

Opportunities for Youth



Tickets go on sale March 1st, 2016!

To buy tickets online: <http://www.olishow.com/events/>

Outside Looking In's 9th Annual Performance

Three ways to enjoy OLI!

LOCATION: Sony Centre for the Performing Arts (corner of Front and Yonge, downtown Toronto ON)

DATE: Wednesday May 18, 2016

#1 Outside Looking In's 9th Annual

VIP Reception & Performance

TIME: 5:30 PM (Reception) 8:00PM (Theatre Performance)

ATTIRE: Business/Semi-Formal

As a VIP guest, you will enjoy a special reception where you will have the opportunity to win prizes, enter raffle draws, partake in our BIGGEST AND BEST silent auction to date, indulge in a light dinner with dessert, in addition to receiving a thank you gift bag from Outside Looking In and Sponsors.

#2 Outside Looking In Performance-only Tickets

Price: \$20/each

DOORS OPEN: 7:30pm

SHOW TIME: 8:00pm

Ticket price includes performance only.

#3 FREE MATINEE SHOW (for schools and youth groups only! Show begins at 12:00pm Wednesday, May 18th, 2016

Show start: 12 noon (you must arrive by 11:30am to be promptly seated)

Location: Sony Centre for the Performing Arts (1 Front St East, Toronto ON)

This is an excellent opportunity for school groups to learn more about Indigenous youth and their journey to the stage in Toronto. Teachers can use this great experience to enhance and support elementary and secondary curriculum.

Youth only (ages 5 - 25) (Groups must be accompanied by a chaperone.)

Opportunities

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO HELP OUR ELDERS/YOUTH

We are looking for interested volunteers wishing to give their time and energy to help our Elders of our First Nation who are becoming incapable of doing certain daily tasks. We are also looking for volunteers to help our Youth.

Volunteers are needed to help with workshops so our youth can gain our knowledge and experience in areas such as:

- finances/budgeting,
- job finding skills,
- meal planning,
- resume building,
- income tax preparation,
- hunting and fishing,
- how to identify plants and trees.



These are just a few suggestions. We are sure you have your area of expertise that we can rely on.

Our Chief and Council are concerned that we cannot access available funding to help our Elders who are in need, and our youth who require our knowledge; they have requested the need for volunteers in our First Nation to help.

We need volunteers for a Youth Coordinator and a Health Coordinator.

Please step up to the plate and help our youth and elders. Many of the workshops can be held during our Gathering when we have all our members together.

If you are interested in helping our First Nation, please submit your letter and/or resume as soon as possible to June Markie:

By email: jmarkie@missanabiecree.com
 By fax: 705-254-3292
 By mail: 174B HWY 17B
 Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1



Miigwech!

Opportunities

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



POSITION: Mining Strategy Coordinator
LOCATION: Missanabie Cree First Nation
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
DURATION: Present to March 31, 2017
SALARY: To be determined depending on experience and qualifications
CLOSING DATE: Friday, March 18, 2016 at 4:00 pm

SUMMARY OF POSITION:

Northeast Superior Regional Development Corporation is looking to hire a Mining Strategy Coordinator who will lead discussions and learning opportunities on all aspects of the mining cycle will developing the common interests and concerns between the Regional Development Corporation, Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and the mining industry.

Under the supervision of Regional Development Corporation's General Manager, the incumbent will support and coordinate the work of the Regional Development Corporation and its member First Nations.

The Mining Strategy Coordinator will:

- Organize and coordinate meetings
- Research and prepare position papers
- Distribute materials to be discussed by NSRCF (Northshore Superior Regional Chief's Forum)
- Provide analysis and recommendations on topics identified by the NSRCF
- Support co-chairs with developing agendas and briefing materials
- Facilitate discussions and/or committees of the NSRCF as directed by co-chairs
- Report on all meetings and distribute to members
- Coordinate development and implementation of a data/information portal
- Prepare funding proposals as required and as approved by the Band Manager
- Organize training and networking opportunities for NSRCF

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Remain current with the mineral development industry and the Ontario Mining Act
- Research information, analyze data and prepare reports requested by the Regional Development Corporation.
- Travel to member First Nations as requested

Opportunities

- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with the Regional Development Corporation First Nations and Communities
- Work with staff on Mining related policies and procedures and on the development and implementation of a data/information portal
- Provide analysis and support to the NSRCF on mining related topics
- Coordinate Regional Development Corporation responses to communications regarding mining from industry and government
- Develop network of key industry and government personnel

QUALIFICATIONS:

- **College Diploma or University Degree in Geology, Environmental Studies, Mining and Exploration or related field and/or related work experience**
- Knowledge of the Ontario Mining Act and Mining Cycle and knowledge of the potential impacts that proposed activities may have on First Nations and Aboriginal or Treaty rights
- Technical knowledge and expertise with regard to mineral exploration methods, terminology, etc.
- Ability to research information, analyze data and produce summaries
- Good writing skills - for documentation, processing and report writing
- Knowledge and skill using computer hardware, software and printers
- Organizational and problem solving skills, as well as attention to detail
- Willingness to travel to NSRCF First Nations
- Knowledge of the culture of First Nations, along with an understanding of their aspirations, socio-economic needs, stewardship values, and history
- Strong communication, presentation and facilitation skills
- Valid (class G) Ontario driver's licence
- Familiarity with ESRI GIS software and GPS units is an asset
- Ability to work as part of a team, and communicate effectively with a diversity of people including First Nation staff and members

Please submit a resume with three (3) employer references to:

Cathy Clement

Band Manager

174B Hwy 17B

Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1

Email: cclement@missanabiecree.com

Marked "CONFIDENTIAL"

**A COPY OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
BY CONTACTING CATHY CLEMENT**

Opportunities

Re: MCFN Annual Gathering - August 13 - 20, 2016



Caterer Needed



For more information, contact:

Deb Clement, Gathering Coordinator

Email: dclement@missanabiecree.com

Or call the Band Office at 705-254-2702

Accepting applications and proposals effective March 28, 2016.



WEQUEDONG LODGE OF THUNDER BAY PAYROLL AND BENEFITS OFFICER

Wequedong Lodge is a charitable not for profit organization that operates a 110 bed hostel for Aboriginal patients accessing medical care in Thunder Bay.

Wequedong Lodge is currently recruiting for a Payroll and Benefits Officer who will be primarily responsible for preparing the biweekly payroll for 100+ employees (the majority of which are union members), administering the employee benefits programs and for processing the related government remittances, returns, benefits contributions and other deductions.

Wequedong Lodge can offer a rewarding work experience in a pleasant work environment – salary is negotiable commensurate with education and experience and we provide a comprehensive pension and benefit plan.

The complete job description for this position is available at www.weqlodge.org

Interested candidates may apply in person, by mail or fax by 4:30 pm **Friday, March 18, 2016.**

Your application should include your cover letter and resume and may be submitted in confidence to:

Wequedong Lodge of Thunder Bay Attn: Human Resources Manager
656 City Road, Box 17

MCFN Membership

Our mailing list for the Bear Fax newsletter is being revised so that only one newsletter is sent to one address, and is part of an effort to reduce costs. However, if you wish to receive your own personal copy of Bear Fax, and you are part of another household, please send me a request and I will add your name to the mailing list.

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 9 am to 5 pm.

Indian Status Card renewals will now be accepted from non-band members. A fee will be charged up-front for this service. Notices will be forwarded to local native organizations.

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.

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.

Names of deceased members are not removed from the band voter's list unless the information is provided to Aboriginal 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., Ted Ouellet



MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM -- For Band Members

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

CONTACT AND OTHER INFORMATION

MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

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

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

Phone: 705-254-2702
Toll Free: 1-800-319-3001
Fax: 705-254-3292
www.missanabiecreefn.com

MCFN Chief & Council

Jason Gauthier, Chief, ex. 231
jgauthier@missanabiecree.com

Councilor Cory McLeod
cmcleod@missanabiecree.com

Laura Lee Rawlyk, Elder Liaison
lrawlyk@missanabiecree.com

Victoria Pezzo, Deputy Chief, ex.504
vpezzo@missanabiecree.com

Councilor Les Nolan
lnolan@missanabiecree.com

Neil Ewing, Youth Representative
newing@missanabiecree.com

Councilor Bobbi Fletcher-Decorte
bfletcher-decorte@missanabiecree.com

Councilor Isabell Souliere, ex. 505
isouliere@missanabiecree.com

MCFN Staff

Band Manager Cathy Clement **ex. 222**

cclement@missanabiecree.com

Bookkeeper Louise Campbell **ex. 224**

lcampbell@missanabiecree.com

Reception June Markie **ex. 221**

jmarkie@missanabiecree.com

Program Development Lesley Gagnon **ex. 226**

lgagnon@missanabiecree.com

Administrative Assistant Shereena Campbell **ex. 235**

scampbell@missanabiecree.com

Registration Administrator Ted Ouellet **ex. 228**

touellet@missanabiecree.com

Post-Secondary Officer Deb Clement **ex. 227**

dclement@missanabiecree.com

Governance Coordinator Elizabeth Angeconeb **ex. 230**

eangeconeb@missanabiecree.com

ELDERS COUNCIL

Diane Astle	Shirley Horn
Audrey Bateson	Fran Luther
Margaret Bergeron	Cheryl Macumber
Kathy Beaudry	Archie Nolan
Cathy Clement	Carol Nolan
Deborah Ewing	Marion Nolan
Broderick Fletcher	Ted Nolan
Darcy Fletcher	Jo Ann Pezzo
Jackie Fletcher	Laura-Lee Rawlyk (Chair)
Gloria Harris	Faye Wesley
Gladys Hawkins	

GOVERNANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (GCC)

Kyle Bateson	Jackie Fletcher
Debbie Ewing	Terri Lou Fletcher

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING STEERING COMMITTEE (CCPSC)

Neil Ewing (Youth Representative)	Broderick (BG) Fletcher
Glad Fletcher-Hawkins	Shirley Horn
Jackie Fletcher	JoAnn Pezzo
Terri Lou Fletcher	

MCDC BOARD

Cathy Clement	Gloria Harris	Carol Nolan
Dave Easton	Shirley Horn	Marion Nolan
BG Fletcher	Cheryl Macumber	JoAnn Pezzo

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.

September 20, 1998