

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

SANDPOINT FIRST NATION



BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK

HEAD OFFICE

1 Copper Thunderbird Road,
Sand Point FN, ON, P0T 2B0

SATELLITE OFFICE

292 South Court St.,
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6C6

CONTACT INFO

Phone: (807) 623-2724
Fax: (807) 623-2764
Toll Free: 1-877-623-2724



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Year End Message To Our Members	1
Director of Finance and Operations	3
Update Family Well-Being	5
Update Earlyon Centre	6
BNA Family Band Rep	7
BNA Community Development Update	8
Housing	9
Lot A Construction and The Opening of the Papasay Quarry	9
Food Security	9
BNA Biomass Project	10
BNA Energy	10
BNA Land Use and Environmental Management Plans	11
Health Centre	12
Court Street and Van Norman Street Office Renovations	13
CCP Update	14
Membership Update	15
Governance	15



A YEAR END MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS



The last four years has been monumental for our First Nation, with so many firsts for the community we are progressing at such a steady pace. When I first made the decision to run as your Chief back in 2016, I came in with a vision to build homes in our community and put our First Nation on the map; to develop and foster a connection to our Land, and to move BNA forward. Our Elders and community members have been through too much, with the traumatic displacement of the last century, to not deliver results for them.

Firstly, since I was elected Chief, our First Nation is better connected with one another. Through the opening of the Family Well-Being and EarlyOn Centres, BNA was able to offer cultural programming for our Elders, Families and Youth, bringing people together in order to re-connect the bonds of community.

Our EarlyOn centre has become a model in the region, as we opened our doors to all families with children age 0-6. Every year we have held multiple community meetings to inform you of our many projects and developments, held powwows, celebrations on the land, and other events to bring the community together. And while the Covid pandemic this past year has limited our ability to hold our traditional meetings and events, we have ramped-up our newsletters, kept our website up-to-date, connected on Facebook, and provided virtual programming, all in order to continue to keep everyone informed and engaged.

Secondly, our First Nation needed to change the way it was operating. We have built healthy relationships with Government and Industry partners in the past four years, which provides BNA with a strong foundation of financial stability. BNA moved forward with the purchase of its satellite office on Court Street – rather than renting space month-to-month. The purchase of the Family Well-Being building on Van Norman followed.

These purchases meant that the BNA membership now owns two major buildings in the heart of the city, which will only increase in value over the coming years. In fact, through financial discipline and hard work, BNA has grown five-fold over the last 4 years, with assets, equipment, and now Financial Certification to be able to borrow for future large-scale community developments.

Thirdly, I vowed to move forward with the development of the community. We put our First Nation on the map by getting an on-reserve mailing address. We opened the Sawmill in 2017, hiring members and fulfilling orders for clients throughout the region. We completed a large-scale project that saw nearly 6 km of clearing, ditching and re-surfacing of the main Copper Thunderbird Road. BNA expanded its Industrial Park to make room for new developments, while taking the opportunity to open the Papasay Quarry north of the community. We built a new Health Centre, which will open its doors for next Spring. We completed work on our new community greenhouse in order to ensure future food security for members. And we installed a biomass heating system in our Sawmill to utilize our wood waste and heat the building for our workers, making BNA a leader for clean energy among northern First Nation communities.



Finally – and most critical of all – it was time to re-build our First Nation, and have members live on the land year-round. The days of talking about this has finally come to an end. In 2019, we moved forward with the building of 2 duplexes in our Phase One Housing Area, providing members and their families with rental units. This past June, all 4 units were rented by BNA members, meaning that for the first time since so many of our family members were kicked off of their land so many years ago, BNA can proudly say that we now have an Elder, members and their families living at Sand Point. We are in the process of completing the building of 3 more individual 3-bedroom homes in lots along the waterfront. While Covid is delaying their completion, we expect them to be finished late Spring. These developments are being built with the proper expertise, financial management and of course, strict attention to building standards.

BNA received a Housing Award in 2019 for our accomplishments in providing beautiful and quality-built homes on our land for our community members.

My plan is to carry on with the vision of building a beautiful, environmentally sustainable, financially sound, and culturally vibrant First Nation community in the heart of the shores of Lake Nipigon. Going forward, I intend to continue building more homes, bringing in power and communications, building a community store, expanding the Sawmill and starting new businesses, bringing new biomass district-heating to the community, building a Band Office and Roundhouse, and continue to build on the momentum that our First Nation has made over the last four years. Our Family Well-Being and EarlyOn Centres will expand with more programming and services and be a Health and Social Service central hub for our members and their families. I want to hear from you on this vision, and hope that you will continue to support the direction that our community is taking. I am proud to be the Chief of such a strong and supportive membership as we continue the hard work of developing our community for the next Seven Generations.

Miigwetch, please stay safe, and let us take care of each other during these difficult times.

Chief Joe Ladouceur

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Hi everybody

On September 8, all our offices reopened shortly after the province entered Stage 3 of the framework for reopening. At that time, our main office also reopened to our members. However, all of that changed recently as the District of Thunder Bay announced a significant spike in the number of COVID cases, and indicated that our region has moved into the “yellow” zone. As a result, the majority of our employees are now working remotely, and our offices are closed to members and visitors in order to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. While you cannot visit our offices in person, please note that you can still connect “virtually” with a member of our team by contacting Audrey Mandula, our Receptionist, at the following email address: amandula@bnafn.ca she can then direct you to the appropriate person.

Over the past few months, we have been working very hard, and proud to announce that we were successful in achieving, a “Financial Performance Certificate” with the First Nations Financial Management Board (“FNFMB”). This certificate is only awarded to those First Nations that have a proven track record of strong financial performance, as well as sound financial administration laws and protocols in place. This certifies that the financial performance of BNA complies with the high financial performance standards established by the FNFMB. We are one of only a small number of First Nations across Canada that have achieved this level of financial standing to date. We are very excited to be recognized in this way. This is a testament to BNA’s strong financial performance over the past five years. One of the advantages of this certification is that it has enabled us to gain access to the First Nations Financial Authority (“FNFA”), which will become very important as we grow and expand over the next few years. It has also enabled us to achieve a preferred standing with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), one of our main funders.

This pandemic continues to significantly impact our lives and cause much uncertainty. As we head into Christmas and the New Year, we are in the middle of the 2nd wave of the pandemic, which is proving to be much worse than the 1st wave. This will be a very different Christmas for all of us. Every year, BNA holds a Christmas Party for our members, including meals for those in attendance, and gifts are provided for the children. However, the pandemic has prevented us from holding the Christmas Party this year. Also, Chief and Council recognize that many of you are still struggling financially, despite the government programs that are available both federally and provincially to support you. For that reason, we have decided to issue a special cheque of **\$800.00** to each member aged 18 years of age and over to help ease some of the financial strain that you are facing as a result of the pandemic as we head into Christmas. ***A cheque has been enclosed with this newsletter.***

Please note that this special cheque has been primarily financed by our *own-source revenues*, as opposed to government funding which has strict guidelines around use. Please use this special cheque in whatever manner you so decide to help ease the burden of COVID-19 for you and your family around the Christmas season. Previously, we had issued cheques of \$300.00 and \$200.00 in April and June 2020, respectively. This special cheque of \$800.00 brings the total financial support provided to date for each of our members aged 18 years and older to \$1,300.00, a strong commitment from Chief and Council to support you during these difficult times.

We have also been very busy over the past several months recruiting and filling several positions. Last month, **Tashia Smith-Ennis** joined us as our new **Home & Community Care Worker (HCCW)**. Tashia is a Registered Nurse (RN) with over 18 years of experience working in different branches of the health care system, including hospital nursing, home care nursing and management. Once our renovations are complete, Tashia will relocate to our Van Norman office so that she is closer to the social services team. In the Spring, Tashia will also begin travelling to the land regularly to provide health care support to our members who reside at Sand Point.

One of the other positions we recently filled was for the Family (Band) Representative position, which is responsible for coordinating, developing, and administering the BNA Child and Family Advocacy program. I am very pleased to share that **Glenda Takalo** has joined us as the **BNA Family Representative**. Glenda Takalo comes to us with over 20 years of experience in working in a First Nation governed organization, knowledge of First Nations in the Robinson Superior Treaty area and thirteen years of management and supervision experience. Glenda has spent the past 20 years working at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care in progressively more senior roles, including most recently as a Manager and Trainer.

We also recently hired **Ryan Giles** as our **Child & Youth Worker**. Ryan has worked with the Ontario Advocacy Office for Children and Youth doing child rights-based work in the north. This project was called “Feathers of Hope”, which is a youth-led initiative that came up with real recommendations made by Indigenous youth, for Indigenous youth. It is impressive that someone as young as Ryan has already made such a huge difference in our community.

On behalf of everyone at BNA, we would like to wish you and your family a Christmas and New Year that is blessed with peace, happiness, and hope. Please continue to stay safe and well during the pandemic, and practice all public health safety measures. The actions we take today will help us tomorrow. Please continue to check out our website and Facebook pages to stay informed of any future developments.

Angie Maltese
Director of Finance & Operations



UPDATE FAMILY WELL-BEING

The Family Well Being Centre has been busy with LOTS of new programming. Monday evenings we have Youth Nights, Tuesday is our Walking Group/Snowshoe Group, and every Thursday evening we have our Virtual Family Nights. Our Virtual Family Nights have been a huge success, we have done crafts, boardgame night, pumpkin carving at Halloween and even our Virtual Kitchen once a month.

All our programs are now via ZOOM and our members have done a great job adjusting to this change. As much as we miss having you all up here at the centre, it has been great to see everyone. A few other new programs we have started at Family Well Being is our Adult Wellness Nights and our 55+ Nights! Our new Home and Community Care Worker Tashia Smith- Ennis is hosting the Adult Wellness and Senior Nights. Miigwetch to everyone who has come out to participate in our programming, we always look forward to feedback or ideas for upcoming programs. Also, a special thanks to Carl Gibson for helping to deliver resources to members that sign up for programs. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of us here at The Family Well Being Centre or follow us on Facebook, BNA Family Well Being Centre.

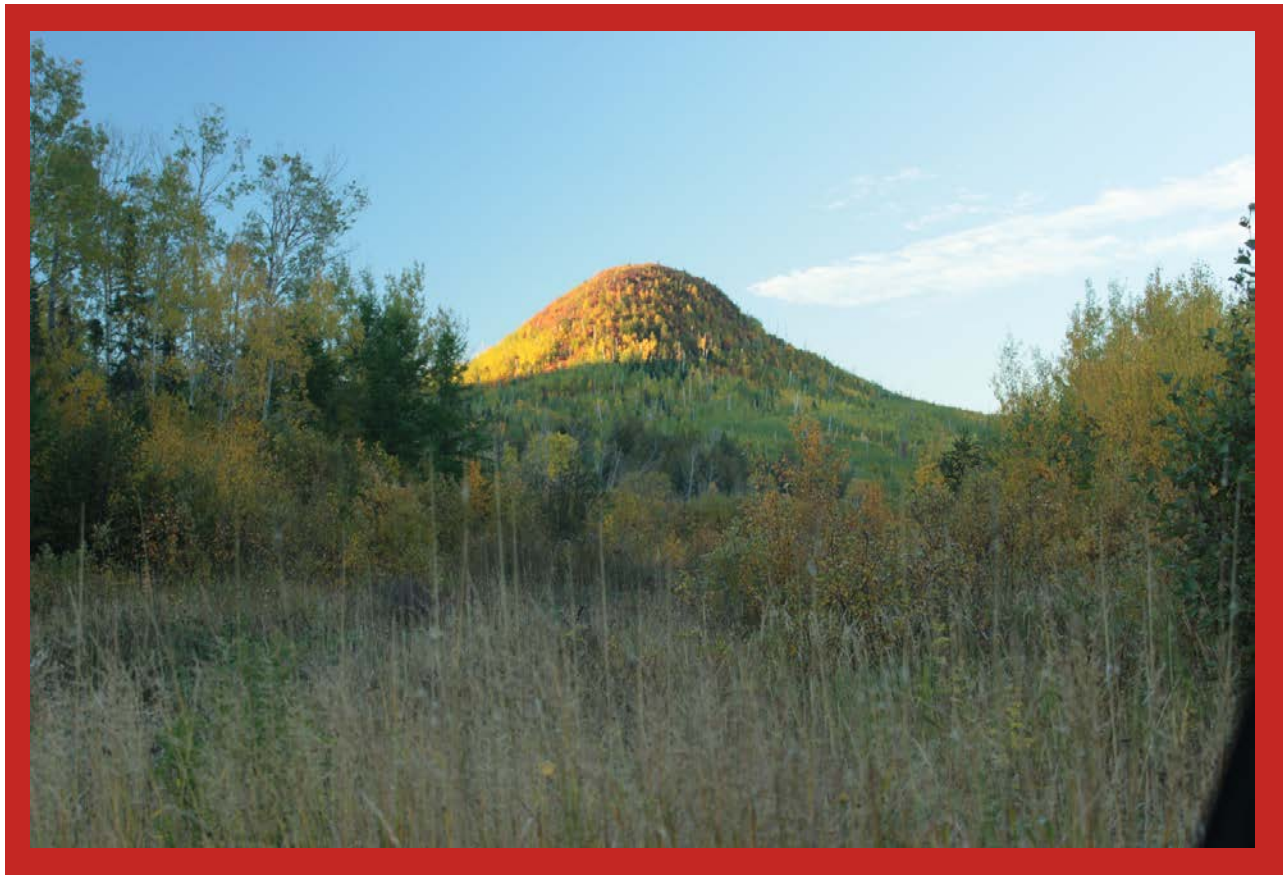


Miigwetch - Camille Borysewicz

UPDATE EARLYON CENTRE

Here at the EarlyON Centre we have been busy with interactive learning, a new way to reach out to our families via zoom, Facebook, and emails. In November we partnered with ONWA, Frontier College and the Family Well-being Centre to provide fun activities and stories. We started our baby bundles which included, belly button pouches, tye bracelets, dream catchers, baby bush wraps and moss bags. We had Elders come visit and sharing their knowledge with us. We started story time which included a book and crafts for families. We continue to encourage families to participate in our programs by providing supplies with contactless delivery. They are really enjoying this way of learning. We've reached families across turtle island and abroad by providing online programming. We will continue to create partnerships with other agencies to give our families the best possible programs as requested.

Meegwetch - Karen



BNA FAMILY BAND REP

Boozhoo,

My name is Glenda Takalo, I am excited to join BNA as the Family Representative. I look forward to coordinating, developing and administering the Child and Family Advocacy Program in collaboration with Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek.



I have lived most of my life in the district of Thunder Bay on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe. I am aware of my position of privilege and identity as a white settler with roots to the Mi'kmaq people. My ancestors immigrated from Europe to Newfoundland in the late 1700's. They settled on the land entering marriages with Mi'kmaq women through their connection in the fur trade. Our family is now exploring and learning more about our mixed ancestry. Growing up in this area I have a greater connectivity to the Anishinaabe people and culture. I am here to learn, listen, understand and respect the traditions, values and culture of this community.

I bring to this role professional knowledge to ensure the rights of children and family are respected through advocacy. I have 20 years of experience in child protection, working in various capacities. I have extensive knowledge of child welfare legislation, standards, tools, systems and Customary Care. It is imperative that children, youth and families are not only included in planning but are engaged in a collaborative process to ensure the best interest of children and families are being met.

I have a passion for strength-based practice, prevention, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, anti-oppressive and trauma informed practice. I look forward to meeting with Membership to build rapport and create collaborative strategies to move forward together. Please feel free to contact me at gtakalo@bnafn.ca

Miigwetch - Glenda Takalo

BNA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

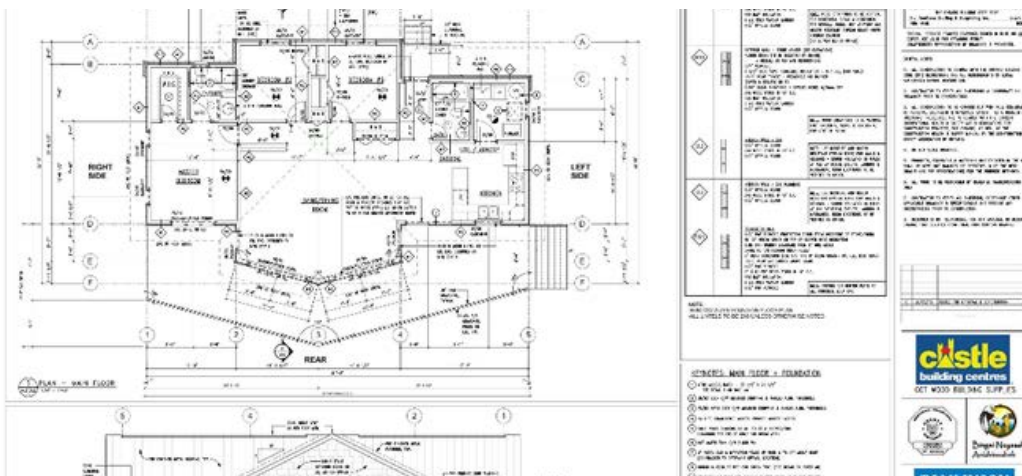
Hello BNA members! Our staff hopes that you are keeping safe during this pandemic. Despite the many restrictions that Covid has placed on our work, we have continued to develop the community, and working on projects that are building on the long-term vision of the BNA leadership. Below is an update on some of our many Projects we are pursuing. If you have any questions about any of the matters below, please do not hesitate to contact us at the BNA office. We are always happy to hear your input and ideas!

- Jordan Hatton, Director of Economic Development (jhatton@bnafn.ca)



HOUSING

BNA completed the construction of its 2 duplex units in the fall of 2019. And since June of this year, all four of these units have been rented out to BNA members living in the community year-round. This past Spring, BNA began construction on three new single-family dwellings. The construction of these units are going well in spite of COVID-19 disruptions to the supply chain, and should be ready for occupancy by the Spring of 2021. These homes each have wells drilled in high quality aquifers, and each have a septic field. These new units further increase the number of Band-owned homes in the community, further helping to re-establish the First Nation. The attached picture shows the floorplan for the new homes. BNA is looking at building additional housing beginning in the spring of 2021. We will continue to provide options for our members looking to re-locate to BNA.



LOT A CONSTRUCTION AND THE OPENING OF THE PAPASAY QUARRY



Following the completion of the BNA roads project, we immediately began work on our next major development, the opening of the south and east ends of Lot A. BNA is working with Teranorth on this Project, which is also including the re-surfacing of the first 450 metres of Copper Thunderbird Road. As an addition to this project, BNA is working with Teranorth and Gilbertson in order to crush both Granular A and Granular B, and stockpile the material in the Papasay Quarry for future community use. This material will be placed on the BNA road to complete the re-surfacing in the new year, after it has had a chance to settle following the work that was completed this year

FOOD SECURITY

2020 was a momentous year for BNA in terms of food security. Our First Nation secured funding from the Local Food Infrastructure Fund for the construction of a greenhouse in the community. This greenhouse consists of a 8 x 12 ft. insulated structure with an independent energy and control system, and a 12 x 20 ft. covered greenhouse area. It will have water storage, lighting and a cooling system. Next year it will be available for use by the membership, allowing them to grow their own vegetables. BNA will partner with both Roots to Harvest and Collective Future Consulting in order to provide training and capacity building for members residing on the land. BNA is actively working with funders in order to further develop BNA's food production capacity. Exciting things are on the horizon for BNA's food security.



BNA BIOMASS PROJECT

BNA is nearing completion of its Biomass Project in its Sawmill, which involves implementing biomass heating using wood waste in order to displace the Herman Nelson diesel heaters previously utilized. A stationary wood chipper has just recently been installed. As an addition to this Project, the three new homes currently being built will have biomass compatible heating systems incorporated into their construction. BNA's future homes will also have this compatibility, and the existing duplexes will be retrofitted to have biomass compatible heating systems.



This is being done with the end goal of installing a wood chip district heating system to supply heat to the Phase One Housing Area, thereby reducing the home heating costs for members, and reducing BNA's environmental footprint in the process. BNA has also gone forward with the purchase of a mobile chipper unit. This will both increase BNA's capability to access and process renewable fuel sources and be another useful piece of equipment at the Land. This project would not be possible without funding from Natural Resources Canada, whom BNA hopes to work with on future projects.

BNA ENERGY

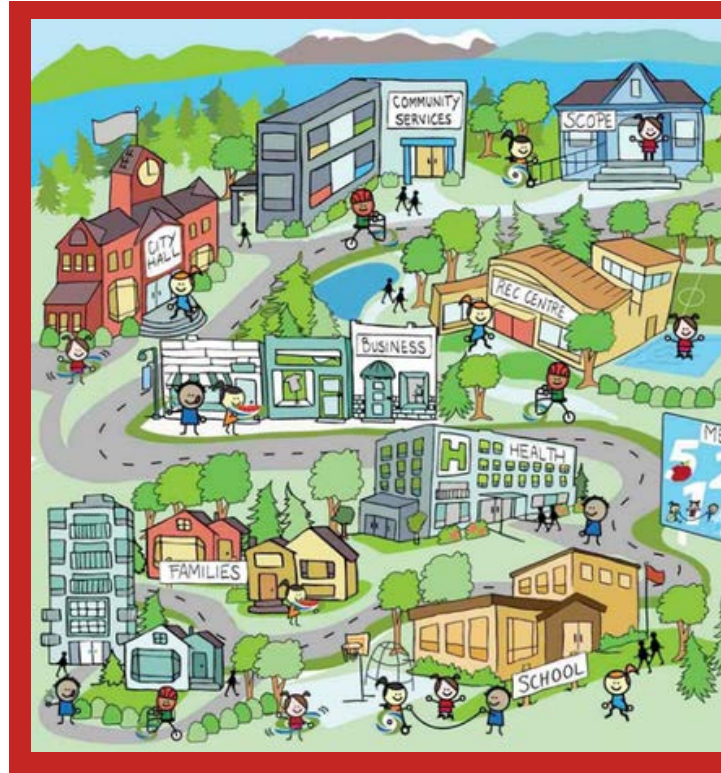
BNA is awaiting the final design from Hydro One which will provide the cost for the electrification of the new Phase 1 Housing Area. This Project involves bringing 3-phase power from the Sawmill, and down Copper Thunderbird Road into the subdivision. Once we receive this costing, BNA will work with Indigenous Services Canada to ensure the funding is in place to make this Project a reality for 2021. BNA's Community Energy Champion is continuing to work on projects for the community such as the completion of the BNA Community Energy Plan. Aysha would like to thank all community members who completed the Community Energy Surveys for BNA's Community Energy Plan. It is greatly appreciated!



BNA LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

BNA has the unique situation of being able to design its own community as it sees fit. The Land Use Plan (LUP) will encompass all lands in the First Nation, including all structures and facilities and how they function to support the needs of BNA's membership. The final LUP is planned to be approved by the Chief and Council by March 31, 2022, and will be passed a law through the new BNA Land Code. In the new year, the Chief will be appointing a committee of members in order to provide input into the LUP's development.

BNA is also proceeding with the development of its Environmental Protection Law (EPL). The EPL is especially important as it creates enforceable regulations to protect BNA lands from possible contamination. It will also be passed through the BNA Land Code following its development. In this mail-out, you will find a survey asking several questions to guide what you would like to see from the BNA Land Use Plan and Environmental Protection Law as it is developed.





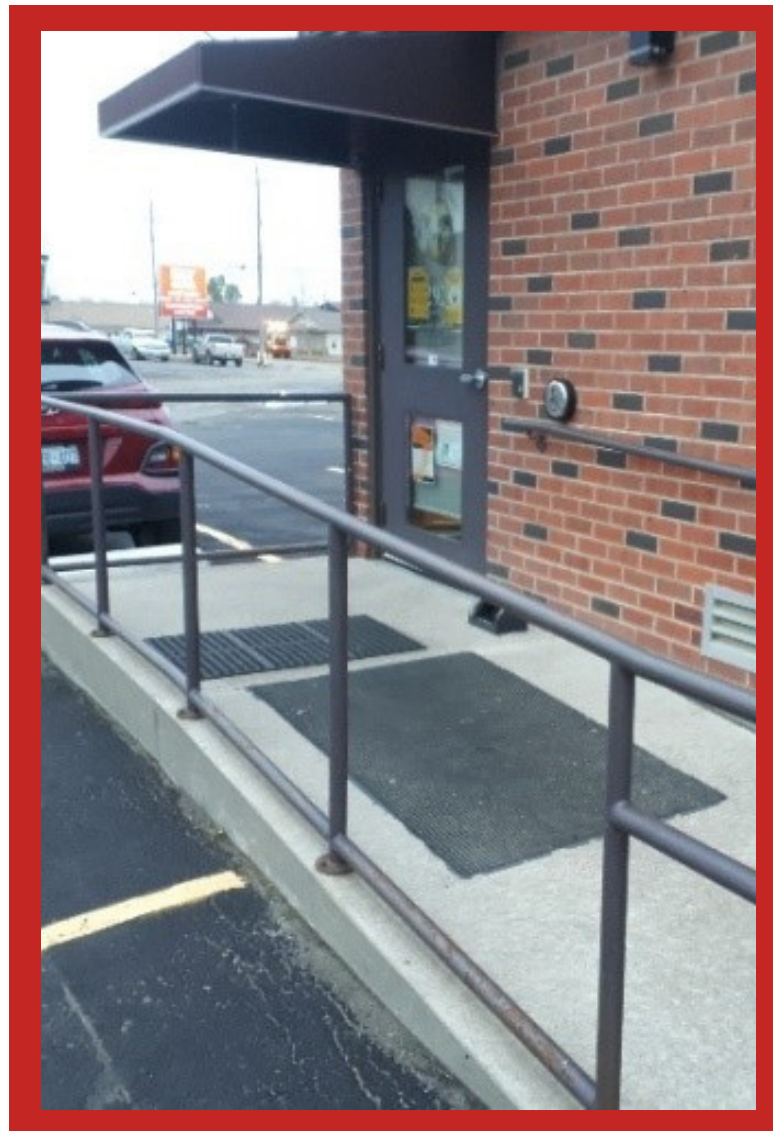
BNA HEALTH CENTRE

September 8th, 2020 was a historic day for BNA, as Canada's Minister of Health, the Hon. Patty Hajdu, joined our Chief and Council and community members at a ribbon cutting ceremony on the land to commemorate the grand opening of the BNA Health Centre. This included a speech from Elders Annette Ladouceur and Marcel Donio, and tours of the new Health Centre. This new Centre will offer patient assessment and referral, health promotion consultations, and other health-related services to members of BNA living on and off-reserve, as well as to residents of other First Nations in the vicinity. The Health Centre has a septic system and is hooked up to a drilled groundwater well, and is hooked up to power. Funding for the construction of this Health Centre was provided by Indigenous Services Canada.



COURT STREET AND VAN NORMAN STREET OFFICE RENOVATIONS

Several renovations and improvements have taken place at 292 South Court Street Office, including painting the parking space lines, providing new accessibility parking signage, fixing ramp access, installing an awning outside, opening up the front office space, installing an accessible administrative assistant desk, and putting up Plexiglas. These improvements were made to improve accessibility, create a more comfortable office waiting room and provide safeguards to protect both employees and the membership during the COVID-19 pandemic. BNA has also been working on improving the facilities at the Family Well-Being Centre at 215 Van Norman. In 2020, with Indigenous Services Canada funding, BNA went forward with the large task of completely renovating the first floor. These infrastructure improvements will allow for an expansion of the EarlyOn Centre, and the establishment of Child and Family Advocacy services.





COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING (CCP) UPDATE

BNA is continuing to work on its CCP, which will be completed by March 2022. Eight areas of CCP are being studied through this process: History and Culture, Lands, Finance and Administration, Economic Development, Health and Community Well-Being, Infrastructure and Energy, Housing, and Traditional Territory. A CCP committee will be launched in the new year, hopefully when the Covid crisis subsides. BNA is also carrying out a Legacy Project in its Cultural Area. There are areas of interest on BNA's land which could include historic burial sites of community members who may have been buried outside of the two cemeteries. On October 8th, 2020, Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) went to the land with a videographer and technicians from CE Strategies in a data gathering exercise. A drone was flown over these areas of interest, gathering high resolution imagery for further review and analysis. Please visit our website at www.bnafn.ca to see video updates of this event. Even though Covid-19 has affected how we can gather together, CCP will be reaching out through our website and our Facebook page (join if you haven't already!) to keep you informed and involved as we move into the winter season and the new year.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

On December 27, 2017, Bill S-3 went into effect, ending sex-based inequities in the Indian Act. Since that date, the BNA membership has experienced a growth spurt. To date, we have approximately 40 new members that have been registered with the First Nation, with many more still waiting on their registration to be processed. It is currently taking 2 plus years for the registrations under Bill S-3 to be processed. If you have any questions regarding Indian registration or the issuance of Status Cards, you can email them to tgibson@bnafn.ca

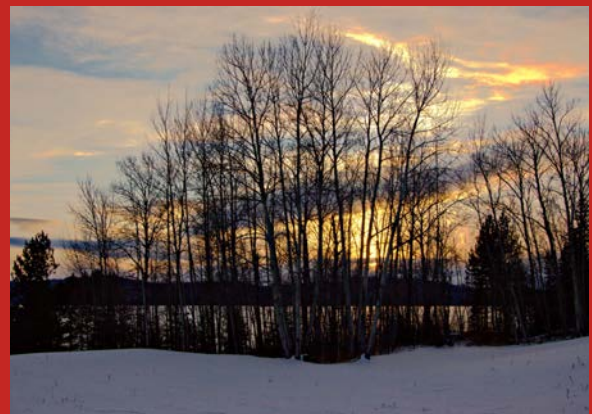
Currently all Indigenous Services Offices in Ontario are only seeing people by appointment due to the Pandemic. If you need the phone number of an office near you, you can contact me. I have a list of all offices and phone numbers for the offices in Ontario.



GOVERNANCE: ELECTION 2021

Time flies! The 4-year term for the current Chief and Council is quickly coming to an end, and an Election will be held on January 23rd, 2021. Ballot packages will be mailed to all BNA Members aged 18 and over by mid December, provided we have your current address on file. You will have the option of voting by mail-in ballot, or by voting in-person. Voting will take place at the Prince Arthur Hotel, on January 23, 2021 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm., and strict COVID protocols will be in place. Masks will be mandatory, and a sanitizing station will be set up at the door.

The counting of the votes and the results will be streamlined live starting at 8:00 pm when the polls close. Due to COVID and gathering size restrictions, we encourage you to stay home and watch the results as they are streaming. Security will be on hand limiting the number of people entering the room.



WINTER



2020

HEAD OFFICE

1 Copper Thunderbird Road,
Sand Point FN, ON, P0T 2B0

SATELLITE OFFICE

292 South Court St.,
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6C6

CONTACT INFO

Phone: (807) 623-2724
Fax: (807) 623-2764
Toll Free: 1-877-623-2724