

BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK (SAND POINT FIRST NATION) 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JOE LADOUCEUR

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2017



Greetings and Merry Christmas to all members of Sand Point First Nation!

Since the BNA election this past January, BNA's Chief, Council and Staff has been working extremely hard on behalf of the community membership. I was elected on a mandate of change and aggressively moving the First Nation forward. That is exactly what I have done, and what we as Council will continue to do in the following years to come.

One of the biggest issues that is brought to my attention by the membership is around the issue of housing, and when members will be able to move back to their community. I am happy to announce that BNA has re-engaged with the First Nation Market Housing Fund. The Housing Committee has been actively

meeting and going over the policies, and we will soon have our Housing Policies ready for community approval. We are also going to re-vamp our Capital Planning Study from 2012, prepare a feasibility study for a potential business development center off of Hwy 11, and have a professional engineer ensure that all 20 lots will be able to have individual wells for water use. I know that there are BNA members who are ready—right now—to move to the reserve. We hope to facilitate that dream within our four-year term.

The 2017 year was exciting on other community development fronts as well. After months of fighting, BNA now has an on-reserve mailing address, allowing us to close our office in Fort William First Nation, and begin establishing a presence on Sand Point's land. I also opened a "Government Office" in the location of the former training center, moved the sleeping bunks up toward the first 20 lots, and purchased a grader in order to be able to maintain our reserve roads year-round. BNA has also established communication on-reserve for cell and internet use. This is critical for the safety of all of our workers.

After years of planning and indecision, I directed the newly-formed Papasay Board to move forward with the opening of BNA's value-added Sawmill. And I am proud to say that this past September, the facility opened its doors, employing originally 2, and now 3 BNA members at the site. Our forestry deals have continued to generate jobs and income for the community, and finally, the Namewaminikan Hydro Project began generating revenue for BNA and its neighbours. We continue to forge ahead with multiple projects and partnerships that I hope will continue to generate employment and generate revenue.

Our Health Programs continue to assist our members and ensure that they have the assistance that they require. This has expanded into food security programs, and workshops on topics of importance to our members. I have directed staff to continue to expand cultural programs in order to provide healing and cultural reclamation for our members. These include language classes, our Powwow, and incorporating prayer and smudging into our community meetings whenever possible. And BNA is preparing for an influx in our membership once the Trudeau government moves forward with its bill for S3 members, which is expected very soon.

It seems as though so much has been accomplished this past year it is hard to keep track. However, this was just our start. In 2018, I expect to continue to aggressively move forward with on reserve developments, expanding the Sawmill, putting on first-class health programming for our membership, and, hopefully, moving forward with our housing. I will continue to hold the provincial and federal governments accountable for their past wrongs, and to ensure that we have the resources required to develop our First Nation. It will continue to be a struggle, but I will not stop fighting for our members and for our community. Again, I wish you and your families all a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

BNA GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

This past year has been a busy one. The BNA Membership Code was ratified on November 19th, 2016,



From left to right: Councillor Katie Borysewicz; Chief Joe Ladouceur; Councillor Lillian Calder

which was followed by the Election of the new Chief and Council on January 21st, 2017. As most BNA members already know, Joe Ladouceur was elected Chief for his first term, Katie Borysewicz was elected Councillor for her first term and Lillian Calder was re-elected Councillor for a second term.

This past summer BNA was able to obtain funding to hire 3 students and 2 workers to work at the BNA land. All employees hired were BNA members or a child of a BNA member. The summer employees were responsible for painting, cleaning, maintaining the buildings on the reserve as well as grass and brush cutting and removal of any fallen trees. They did a great job keeping our land maintained and looking great. Miigwetch to Lindsey Gladu, Drayden McAdam- Hardy, Dakota Legarde, Allen Bishop and John McGuire for a job well done.

Through the successful completion of the training at INAC in 2016, I am now authorized to renew or replace Certificate of Indian Status cards (not the secure cards). In order to generate additional revenue, the new Chief and Council recently decided to open this service up to other First Nation persons for a fee, but still keeping this service free for BNA members. Previously, people were travelling to Red Rock Indian Band to have this service done, and pay a fee. The INAC office on Fort William First Nation will only issue Secure Certificate of Indian Status cards and they take 6 to 8 weeks to receive by mail. If you have a Secure Card, you must have INAC renew or replace your card, but if any BNA members need to renew or replace a lost Certificate of Indian Status card, they can call the office to set up an appointment.

Chief and Council worked very hard this past year to obtain a mailing address for our reserve land. Once the mailing address was obtained, BNA was able to open our Government Office on our own land and close the office on Fort William First Nation that BNA was paying monthly rent for. As a First Nation we are required to have an office and mailing address on reserve land, which will open up more opportunities for funding. The address for the office on BNA land is: 1 Copper Thunderbird Road, Sandpoint FN, ON, P0T 2B0. A mail box has been erected on the land and mail will be picked up year-round. Another huge step forward for our First Nation.

Other new and exciting news includes the passing of Bill S-3. This bill is in relation to gender equality for women and will once again modify the Indian Act. This means that all children of BNA Members that received their Indian Registration under Bill C-3 (that came into effect in 2011), are now eligible for Indian Registration. We are just waiting for the government to figure out how they are going to handle the registration process. I will keep everyone informed on the Bill's progress. If your child or children are affected by the passing of this new bill, they will be required to have their long form birth certificate for the registration process. You might want to apply for the long form birth certificate now as they could take up to 8 weeks to receive. Then all that needs to be done is fill out the registration forms once the government makes them available. If you have any question regarding this new Bill, or if you want to know if your children will qualify for Indian registration, call Tracy at the BNA office: 807-623-2424.



I (Tracy Gibson – Governance Coordinator) wish all BNA Members and BNA staff and Very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018.

BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE OPENING OF THE PAPASAY VALUE-ADDED SAWMILL



Papasay Value-Added Wood Products Employee Wilfred Potan Demonstrates Use of Equipment for members prior to AGM in August

The Sawmill has long been a Project in the making for successive BNA administrations. Finally, in September of 2017, we began sawing at the facility. This is a huge milestone for our First Nation.

Opening the facility was not an easy process. The following occurred prior to September:

- ◆ Several applications were submitted to public funders in order to deal with shortfalls in the operation. We were approved for 2: Papasay secured funding for equipment purchase and installation, Health and Safety Policy development, staff training and the development of a high-quality website; and BNA secured funding for the first year's salary of the Sawmill Manager. These Project last until March 31st.
- ◆ Papasay Value-Added Wood Products LP - the entity running the Sawmill - hired its Sawmill Manager, Art Gladu, and then its Sawyer, Wilfred Potan. PVAWP has since hired its 3rd employee for the site, Lewis Johnson. That means that all 3 of PVAWP's employees at the Sawmill are BNA members.
- ◆ PVAWP was able to secure 2 in-kind loads of eastern white cedar from AV Terrace Bay. This provided the workers with the opportunity to practice sawing, as well as secure various small contracts for wood products on the forest through Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc., and for Wayne Howarth.
- ◆ The Papasay Board was re-structured, with new Board members being appointed from Chief and Council. The Board is currently comprised of 6 individuals: Guy Gladu (President), Lawrence Ishkwe-gaa, Paul Sequin, Joe LeClair, Jordan Hatton and Gord Wickham.

- ◆ PVAWP was able to get its insurance in place in early September, as well as its H&S Policies, allowing for the facility to begin operations at the Sawmill site.

With the recent hiring of the 3rd employee, Art will be able to dedicate more of his time to ensuring the continued growth of the market, as well as dealing with wood supply and employee matters. Art is also responsible to moving the snow from the facility with the newly-acquired grader. This will allow the year-round operation of the Sawmill facility, and ensure that wood can be delivered and products can be picked up from the site. Currently, all employees are residing on-reserve during the weeks.



BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONT)

THE PVAWP SAWMILL'S EXCITING ROAD AHEAD



Resolute VP Mike Martel with Art and Wilfred at the Papasay Sawmill.

While the start of the Sawmill was an exciting and momentous occasion for the community, there is a long, but exciting, road ahead.

Sawmill Infrastructure: In order to have a true, year-round operation, we require significant infrastructure work, including:

- ♦ 3-phase power - currently, we are using our gas-powered LD40 for our operations. Once we have 3-phase power installed, we will be able to utilize our electric saw, edger, and kiln, all of which will launch us into the value-added market for our products.
- ♦ Insulation of interior of building - the Sawmill building needs to be insulated in order to keep in any heat produced at the facility.
- ♦ Heating source - we are looking at a high-efficiency wood stove as a potential heating solution, as well as a way to eliminate waste.
- ♦ Kiln Chamber - We are looking at ways to build a kiln chamber for an affordable price, in order to be able to dry our lumber on-site. 3-phase power will allow us to start this process.

Wood Supply: We are developing our relationship with the harvesters on the forest. We

have just received our two loads of poplar on the ground which will provide us with the opportunity for the next contract, and we will be getting another load of SPF soon.

Market: With the hiring of the 3rd worker, our Sawmill Manager will now be able to spend more time on the development of a stable and profitable market for our products. The cutting of green, air-dried lumber is great for the interim, as it is giving our employees work and practice on the machines. However, the true value in the market comes with planed/moulded and kiln-dried products, where real profits can be realized. Currently, we have been cutting signage for Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. renewal activities, and will soon be undertaking a large contract that is being facilitated by Peterson's Lumber in Thunder Bay.

Community Development: With the housing development soon to be on the horizon, the Papasay Sawmill is getting ready to provide the wood products necessary for its members as they build. Likewise, community infrastructure like the Government Office, Sawmill Office/washrooms, Circle of 4 Health Clinic, and business development zone will all require lumber that our Sawmill can cut and provide for a reasonable cost, while saving on the transportation. It is with tremendous pride that the BNA employees are able to assist BNA's development into the future.

Future Employment: The Papasay Board is proud of the fact that its first 3 employees of the Sawmill are all from the BNA membership. One of these employees, Wilfred Potan, also participated in the Sawmill Training program in 2015, and is able to assist Art and Lewis with their cutting, while Art came to the Sawmill from Longlac Forest Products, bringing with him significant supervisory skills. We look forward to carefully and thoughtfully continuing with the Sawmill's growth, which will ensure that more BNA members will also have an opportunity for employment at the facility. Interested members should send resumes to artgladu@papasay.ca.



BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONT)

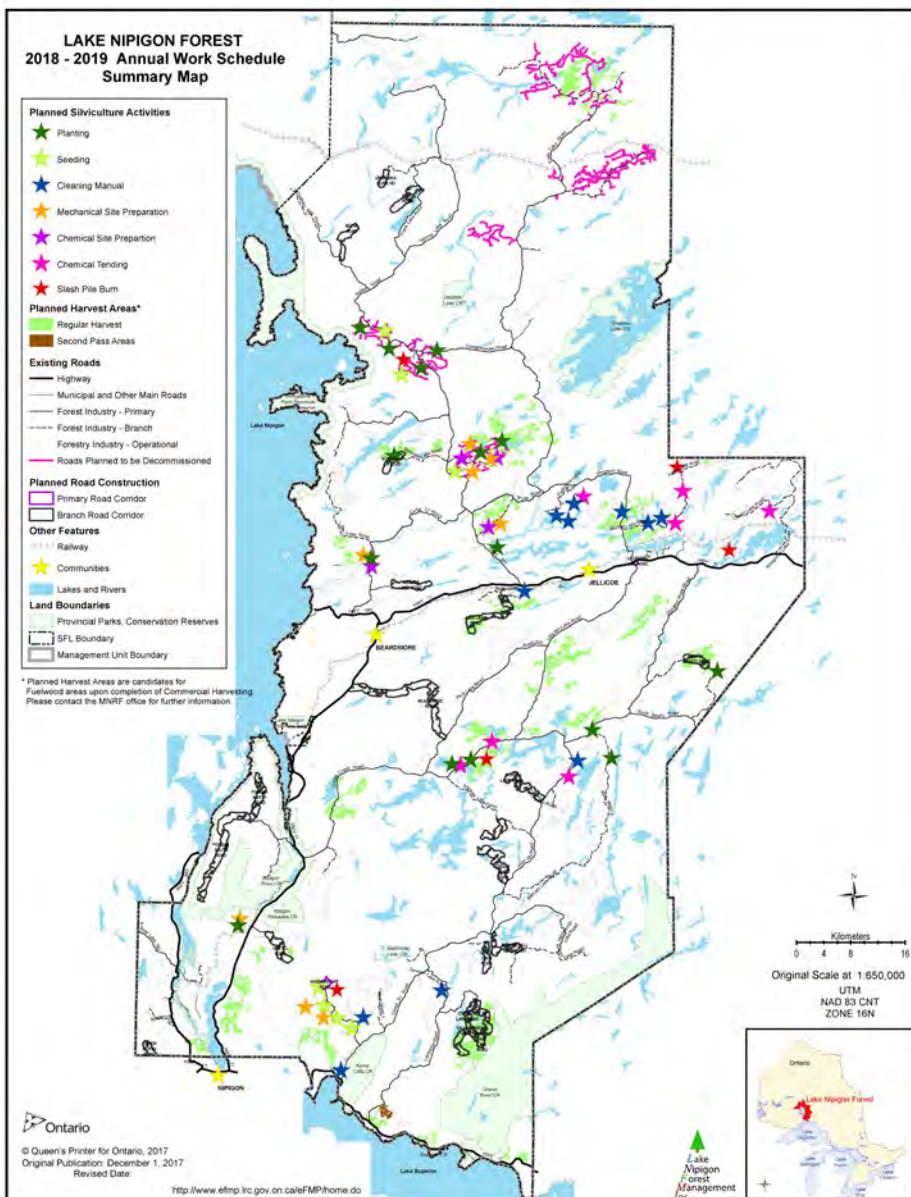
PAPASAY FORESTRY: LAKE NIPIGON FOREST MANAGEMENT

In 2017, Papasay's forestry operations continued to generate significant revenues, which have become pivotal for the start-up phase of the Sawmill. Through its 5-year wood supply arrangement, Papasay, and AZA and BZA's Trusts have developed a partnership with AV Terrace Bay, in which they can cut on our licence, but in return must cover compliance matters and pay forest management fees.

With LNFMI now stable and profitable, the Board followed the recommendations of the forestry studies completed by gck Consulting in 2015 and 2016 and formed a new company, "4 Nations Forestry". This company was to take on whatever forest renewal activities possible, as they could be procured directly from LNFMI. Some of these include brushing, cone collection, site prep, and next year, backpack spraying. This new company has employed members of the 4 First Nations, and despite the fact that it had to invest heavily in start up equipment, labour costs and other expenses associated with a new business of this sort, 4 Nations nevertheless is looking like it will show a small profit for its first year. BNA members who are interested in employment with this company, or as a tree planter, should email Scot Rubin at srubin@hmeenterprises.ca.



LNFMI 2018-19 ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE



The April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019 Annual Work Schedule for the Lake Nipigon Forest has been prepared by LNFMI. Some details are as follows:

- ◆ Chemical Site Prep: 308.21 ha
- ◆ Mechanical Site Prep: 700.00 ha
- ◆ Back Pack Spray: 158.66 ha - In 2017-18, there was no herbicide spray program on the Lake Nipigon Forest. The next year of the AWS will have a small program, but it will be localized through the use of back packs, rather than aerial spraying. It will also provide employment opportunities for members. Thanks to the work of the Spray Committee developed with representation from multiple First Nations, all spraying will be eliminated from the Lake Nipigon Forest by 2036.
- ◆ Air Blast (Skidder): 152.72 ha
- ◆ Manual Tend: 192.18 ha
- ◆ Tree Plant: 1,850,000 seedlings
- ◆ One small slash pile burn

Members who would like to provide feedback on the proposed work schedule may do so by contacting Jordan Hatton (jhatton@bnafn.ca) or Scot Rubin (email above). A large-scale map can also be found in the BNA office, and members can make an appointment with Jordan Hatton, Director of Economic Development to view the map at anytime.

BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONT)

PAPASAY BEE-CLEAN



In September 2015, Papasay and Bee-Clean Building Maintenance signed their partnership agreement. Our new company, "Papasay Bee-Clean", was ready to bid on facilities maintenance jobs across Ontario. The benefits to Papasay included: 1. Employment for BNA members wherever they reside across the country; 2. a gross percentage of every contract that is received by the partnership. However, the two years since the formation of our partnership have been difficult. Most frustrating has been OPG, which, despite their apparent desire to improve their Aboriginal procurement, have yet to entertain Papasay Bee-Clean with even an opportunity to bid on a contract. Having said that however, the new year is looking promising with several entities, including Resolute and TransCanada, showing a real willingness to work with our partnership. If we can secure some major contracts, the revenues will assist Papasay as it continues to grow.

PAPASAY HEAVY EQUIPMENT

This year, there were some changes with respect to Papasay's heavy equipment fleet. They include:

- In order to maintain the Sawmill yard year-round, as well as the road to the trailers where the employees are currently residing, Papasay purchased a used grader that is in excellent shape.
- The excavator was sold as part of the deal for the grader. It was having significant engine troubles.
- The old grader that had been sitting in the Sawmill yard was sold and recently moved from the site.
- Papasay is now working with a low-cost mechanic in order to ensure that all of our equipment - the new grader, the dozer, and the backhoe - are kept in good, working condition.

Art Gladu, our Sawmill Manager, has been trained on the equipment, and is doing regular maintenance.



BNA AND AZA: WAWASUM PELLET PROJECT

Wawasum Group LP has continued with its exploratory work in regards to a potential pellet plant development on BNA's reserve land. The 50/50 AZA/BNA partnership has been successful with achieving funding for our studies over the last several years. At the beginning of 2017, Wawasum decided to carry out a thorough review of its studies completed to date by Great Northern Bio-Energy. The resulting report stated that the large, 60,000 ton/year pellet plant for the export-related model was in fact not feasible. Instead, it recommended a marketing study which looked at the local pellet market in a radius from the BNA site that would make this project feasible. We are also looking at how the province's new on-reserve wood and pellet stove programs could be utilized to provide incentives for communities to switch. The study is being carried out by Donna Bain-Smith Consulting, and is being coordinated by our Wawasum General Manager, Joe Hanlon. The Wawasum Board of Directors - comprised of Chief Joe Ladouceur and Jordan Hatton from BNA, and Chief Theresa Nelson and Joe Donio from AZA - meets monthly in order to go over the progress of our work. We are expecting the final marketing study to be completed by Springtime, and we will make a final decision on the direction of our Project at that time.

Wawasum was also the entity utilized to hold the profits generated by the 3 First Nations - BNA, AZA and BZA - through the construction phase of the Namewaminikan Hydroelectric Project. In fact, the money required for the purchase of Papasay's new grader came from these very profits, ensuring that no costs were incurred on the First Nation. Wawasum is a shining example of what communities are able to accomplish when they work together toward common goals, and when small differences are put aside in order to achieve great things.



BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONT)

THE NAMEWAMINIKAN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

The Namewaminikan Hydroelectric Project was first brought to the attention of the BNA membership over 10 years ago. It involved the construction of 2 sites on the Namewaminikan (Sturgeon) River north of BNA, each approximately 5 MW in size. Finally, after years of difficult negotiations between the 3 First Nations - BNA, AZA and BZA - and Groupe Axor from Quebec, and agreement on the Project was reached. Delays in provincial permitting pushed the start date of the Project back to May of 2015. The 3 First Nations formed partnerships with construction contractors (Trifecta) and hydro line construction companies (Gridlink) in order to ensure employment opportunities for members of the 3 First Nations, as well as revenue generation through the contracts. The communities were also able to negotiate the funding of a Manager from Axor - Joe Hanlon - who ensured that both Axor and the companies followed through with their commitments throughout the duration of the construction phase. Following the completion of the dams, one member from each First Nation - Robbie Deans was BNA's member - were hired and trained in order to operate the facility. These members will have employment on this Project as long as it is in operation.



Starting this fall, the revenues from this Project began flowing to the 3 First Nations. BNA will receive quarterly payments from the revenue generated from the Namewaminikan facilities going forward, and will be able to utilize these revenues for the continual development of BNA's reserve lands. And this Project will not be the last. We will continue to ensure that BNA receives employment and contracting opportunities, as well as revenue generation, resulting from Projects that occur within BNA's traditional territory.

GREENSTONE TRANSMISSION

In June 2016, the Chiefs of BNA and 7 other First Nations signed an MOU agreeing to work together on the development of a new 230 kV transmission line on the east side of Lake Nipigon. This would replace the current A4L line, which is prone to frequent brown and black-outs. A larger group was put together by the Ministry of Energy, which included our First Nations. Unfortunately, after a year of work and studying of the issue, this past summer the MOE announced the completion of the process, with no movement on the new transmission option, citing unacceptable costs to Ontario rate-payers. Without this new line, Greenstone Gold Mines will be forced to self-generate through the use of Natural gas for its proposed Hardrock Project. This solution does nothing to help solve the reliability of the A4L, and for the future development of BNA's reserve land. BNA and the First Nation working group is planning on meeting Minister Thibeault on this Project over the coming weeks.



EAST-WEST TIE LINE

Unlike the Greenstone Transmission Project, the East-West Tie Project has an Order-in-Council making it a priority project. The new 230 kV line would run parallel to the existing line - with the exception of Pakaskwa National Park, where it must avoid the Park all together - from Thunder Bay to Wawa. While BNA is not on the route of this Project, it is considered a proximate community to the site, and does have a consultation agreement with Nextbridge, the company developing the line. BNA members will have opportunities for training and employment on this Project, however first opportunities will go to members of the 6 First Nations along the route.

Following a substantial increase in costs associated with this line, the Ministry of Energy is conducting a needs assessment for this Project. The approaching Provincial election may also play a role on whether or not this Project moves ahead, and at what pace.



BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CONT)

ANISHINABEK EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

BNA continues to work closely with the staff of AETS in order to bring excellent training services to our members. With its yearly allocation, BNA is able to provide a robust summer worker program for students and youth maintaining BNA's reserve lands, as well as provide start-up assistance for members gearing up for employment, among many other benefits. However, it is AETS' success in obtaining external funding that has really ramped up the number of training programs that AETS can offer to the 9 First Nations. This year saw the conclusion of another Construction Craft program, and we will be moving forward on another Personal Support Worker (PSW) course in the new year (see poster to the left).



PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER Training Program Begins February 20th 2018

AETS is pleased to offer a 21 week compressed Personal Support Worker Training Program in partnership with Confederation College.

APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 19TH 2018

ANISHINABEK EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES
CONFEDERATION COLLEGE

PROGRAM PROVIDES:	PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">MealsAccommodations (if required)TuitionBooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ontario Secondary School Diploma or Successful completion of the Mature Student Test or Successful completion of the General Education Development Test (GED)Criminal Record Check-Vulnerable SectorUp to date Immunization Record

We deliver employment and training programs & services to the following 9 First Nations:
• Anishnawbe Zaaging Anishinabek • Bingswaabik Zaaging Anishinabek • Bingswaabik Zaaging Anishinabek
• Kaskike Zaaging Anishinabek • Michipicoten First Nation • Singsingang Hishinabeg • Pigea First Nation
• Pic Mobert First Nation • Red Rock Indian Band

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANISHINABEK EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES
Mandy Price
Proposal & Partnership Development Officer
mandy.price@aets.org

277 Park Ave. Thunder Bay, ON
Tel: (807) 346-0307
Toll Free: (866) 870-2387

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MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

NOKIIWIN

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

Nokiiwin Tribal Council is coordinating an Entrepreneurship Workshop in Thunder Bay on **January 23, 2018** in partnership with AZA & BNA. Are you interested in started your own business? There will be presentations on financing options for your business, 101 Business Planning, how to repair your credit history and is being an entrepreneur right for you? The workshop will be held at **Anishnawbe-Mushkiki from 9:00am – 4:00pm**. Lunch will be provided. To register please contact Tara Ingram at (807) 474-4230 Ext. 4235 or via email at edo@nokiiwin.com

AETS continues to provide excellent services for members, preparing them for employment. BNA commends the staff of AETS for their continued hard work on behalf of the First Nations students from its member communities.

MINING IN BNA'S TERRITORY

BNA's traditional territory encompasses a significant part of the "Greenstone Belt", which is rich in mineral development potential. BNA is regularly sent information regarding new claims and permit applications throughout its territory. Currently, there are 2 companies that are doing significant work:

GREENSTONE GOLD MINES



Greenstone Gold Mines: GGM's Hardrock Project in Geraldton has submitted its Environmental Assessment (EA) to the provincial and federal governments. BNA and BZA had a joint review of certain aspects of the EA, including fisheries, cumulative impacts, and socio-economic impacts.

Rock Tech Lithium: Rock Tech carried out some limited exploration programs this past year. BNA, BZA and AZA members received employment opportunities. BNA and its neighbouring First Nations must now form an exploration agreement with Rock Tech, which would spell out future FN opportunities.

RESOLUTE OPPORTUNITIES



BNA has been working closely with Resolute Forest Products in the development of its Sawmill, and on other opportunities. Here are some of the different ways Resolute has been supporting our First Nation and its members:

Employment: Resolute has told BNA to send in any resumes from members interested in employment at their facilities. Interested members should send their resumes to jhatton@bnafn.ca, and I will forward them on to Resolute.

Papasay Sawmill: Resolute's VP Mike Martel has said they would be willing to assist BNA through training and shadowing of employees, selling of oversized logs, and possible equipment acquisition for the Sawmill.

Papasay Bee-Clean: Resolute has implemented an Aboriginal Procurement Policy, which we hope will assist Papasay Bee-Clean in receiving a contract for cleaning in the new year.

BNA DEALS WITH GOVERNMENT

MNRF SPECIES AT RISK

BNA has been vocally opposed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF's) unilateral imposition of proposed new regulations related to Species at Risk in Ontario. If they were to go into effect, the cutting restrictions on the Lake Nipigon Forest would be so dramatic, it would devastate Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc., 4 Nations Forestry, the Papasay Sawmill, and all of the associated employment and revenue generation from these operations. Also, the desire to increase the caribou population has a direct negative impact on the moose population due to how differently they are managed. The diet of BNA members and its neighbours include moose, not caribou. The MNRF have yet to adequately consult with the BNA membership on this matter, and we will continue to impose their approach to this important issue.



MTO SIGNAGE FOR BNA

BNA has been in contact with the Ministry of Transportation regarding two issues of importance to the community:

Signage - BNA would like MTO signage at both ends of its reserve boundary on Hwy 11. Much like AZA's signage at Partridge Lake, we would like it to say "Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)" on the north and south ends of the reserve. We would also like signage identifying the entrance to Copper Thunderbird Road, which is the main entrance to the reserve.

BNA Business Zone Entrance: BNA is looking at developing a business zone just to the north of the reserve road entrance, off of Hwy 11. This may demand new entrance/exit points off of the Hwy, which will need to be negotiated with MTO. We have a meeting prior to the holidays to discuss.



MNRF MACDIARMID DUMP

This year, BNA received correspondence from MNRF Nipigon District regarding their intention to close the Macdiarmid Landfill site which is used seasonally by BNA members, and year-round by BZA. BNA has stated that it is not interested in taking over the site, as there are too many environmental liabilities associated with it.

Recently, meetings were held between BNA, BZA, the Municipality of Greenstone and INAC regarding another off-reserve solution to the solid waste issue. A study will soon be initiated which will look at the feasibility of the various options. However, BNA will ensure that its members are able to dispose of their



garbage when they are camping on the land, and will work out a long-term solution to this matter by working with BZA and our partners in government.

MNDM LEGACY TAILINGS

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines have been consulting with BNA, BZA and AZA regarding the Northern Empire Mine Closure Plan. The issue of historic tailings has been raised by the 3 First Nations, and the impact that past mining projects has on the current state of water contamination in the rivers leading to Lake Nipigon. With the assistance of Nokiiwin's Mining Development Coordinator, BNA has submitted joint comments to the Ministry regarding the higher-than-normal levels of arsenic in some portions of the Blackwater River. However, the Northern Empire site is only one of numerous historic tailings sites littered throughout the Beardmore region. Before Christmas, BNA and



its neighbouring communities will be meeting with MNDM to ask what the Ministry plans to do with respect to the clean-up of these historic sites.

BNA DEALS WITH GOVERNMENT

BNA HOSTS MIRR MINISTER DAVID ZIMMER



One of the most important roles of Chief and Council is to advocate for the members of Bingwi Neyaashi. In April of this year, BNA hosted David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) at the reserve lands. MIRR is a critical Ministry which provides funding to Ontario First Nations through the New Relationship Fund, as well as other programs. For example, BNA was successful this year in funding the Sawmill Manager's position until March 31st, 2018 through MIRR's Indigenous Economic Development Fund. Therefore, ensuring that a strong, working relationship is in place between BNA and the Ministry is of the utmost importance.

On April 19th, Minister Zimmer, the Assistant Deputy Minister and key staff met with Chief Joe Ladouceur, Council and staff at the Sawmill site following a meeting with BZA. We then provided a lunch at the Government Office, and spoke with the Minister about the struggles of developing a community from scratch, and what resources MIRR could bring to the table to assist with our goals. We then showed the Minister and his staff the community zones of development, and our plans for housing. Minister Zimmer and his staff were grateful for the hospitality, and we were assured that they would be there to assist BNA in its developments.

BNA MEETS MINISTER HAJDU

BNA's Chief and Council have also tried to forge a strong working relationship with Patty Hajdu, the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay Superior North and Federal Minister for Employment, Workforce Development and Labour. This past summer, BNA invited Minister Hajdu and her staff to our offices on Court street to discuss BNA's developments and other matters on the federal scene. The staff questioned her on issues related to Bill S3 and its timing in the federal parliament, as well as the SPF announcements related to AETS. Patty assured Chief and Council that her office would be there to assist us in any way possible. We appreciated Patty's offer to assist.



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INAC-BNA RELATIONSHIP

Chief and Council recently hosted the main funding agents that work on the BNA file. Jeannine Wapi-oke, Kristy Kakapetum and Treena Gibson from the local INAC offices came to meet BNA's Council and Staff in early November. We presented our community's developments and requirements for on-reserve infrastructure. This generally included a need to improve the main roads within the community, the need to bring in 3-phase power from the highway into the reserve, the need for lot servicing for the phase 1 housing lots, the need to construct a suitable government office and other community buildings on reserve, and the need to ensure that the entire reserve land based is serviced for cell and internet. It was a very productive meeting, and we were assured that INAC was there to support our developments as we continue to build Sand Point.



Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

BNA LANDS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THE WATERFRONT RESTORATION PROJECT



Near the end of summer 2017, BNA designed and installed a new multi-faceted dock that will meet the ecotourism and recreational needs of BNA members and the greater regional population. The Waterfront Restoration Project provides economic incentives for conserving and enhancing BNA's regional environment through eco-tourism, as well as traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and commercial fishing. BNA members will be given the opportunity to use the new dock as a means of revisiting traditional ways of life on the water that are not available to them now due to poor road access. The Waterfront Restoration Project will also provide youth with a recreational

access point to Lake Nipigon, and to learn and instill the ways of our Elders. This project will also directly influence increased employment opportunities for BNA members and will influence the building of environmental, cultural awareness and respect.

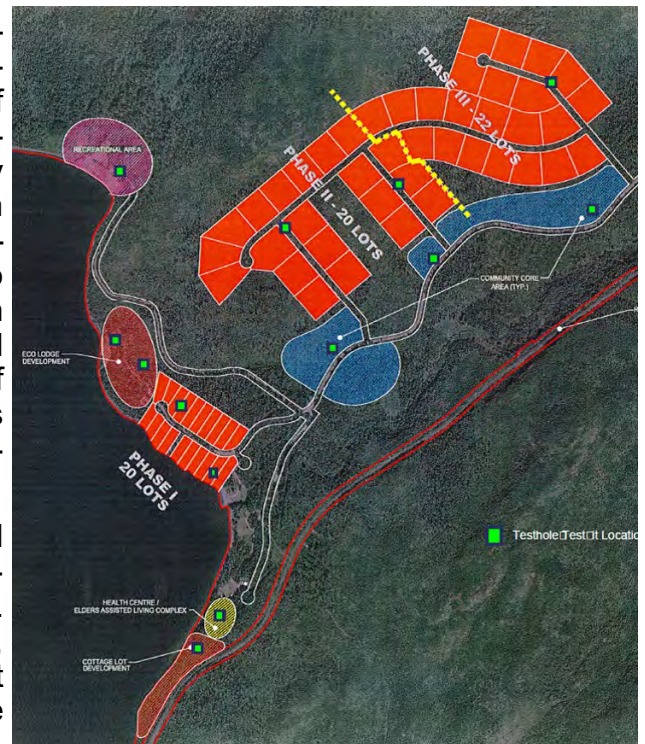
The newly built dock system was in use and introduced to the community at BNA's 2017 AGM.



BNA GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING PROJECT

BNA is proud to announce that we are working on a large-scale project that, once fully completed, will lead to an on-reserve Government Office Building. The overall objective of the BNA Government Office Project is to create a multi-purpose Government Office and Elder/Youth Community Center on the BNA reserve lands. The Project will strengthen community engagement to improve the First Nation's Governance, promote and improve social and cultural services to members who reside in the Beardmore region (and soon Sand Point), and improve the enforcement of Land Laws and by-laws on BNA's reserve lands. Once in its final stage of completion, the BNA Government Office Project will serve as a symbol of community resilience and strength moving forward.

The BNA Government Office Project, which will incorporate a community center for youth and Elders, will have many social and cultural benefits for the BNA community membership. The Youth and Elder Center will promote youth ownership, mentorship, community connectedness, and allow for efficient and effective coordination of events.



The BNA Government Office Project will also promote community connectedness by creating an area where members of the community from many diverse family backgrounds can come together for community events to share stories, network, and create positive working relationships that will move the First Nation forward in the future.

BNA LANDS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont)

BNA COMING HOME PROJECT (HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT)

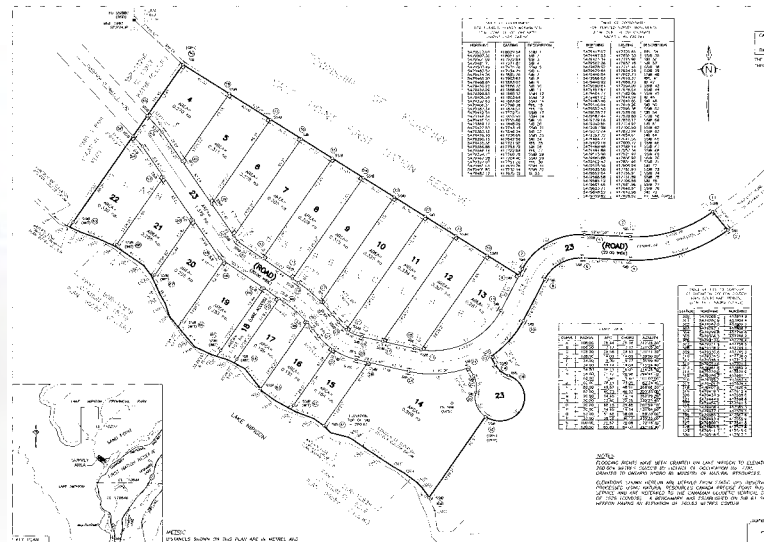
BNA's Chief, Council and staff strongly believe that the Coming Home: The BNA Needs Assessment Project represents a viable opportunity to allow the BNA membership to finally have their say regarding their return to their original lands. The Coming Home: BNA Needs Assessment Project has the potential to provide Chief and Council with a clear understanding of the number of BNA members who will be returning to live on-reserve. This Project has also allowed the BNA Housing Plan to reflect the needs and desires of the BNA membership in regards to housing. This Project involved the development of a needs assessment survey with respect to housing for the BNA membership, the gathering of information from the BNA membership regarding their housing needs, and a presentation on the findings to Chief, Council, staff, and the membership. The results of the Coming Home: BNA Needs Assessment Study were presented at the June 10th 2017 Community meeting held at the Victoria Inn, in Thunder Bay. With the successful completion of the Coming Home: BNA Needs Assessment Study, Chief, Council and staff have a more comprehensive understanding of the Community based needs in regards to housing, and will incorporate the results in all future housing related projects.



Thank you for taking part in the BNA Housing Survey, it was very much appreciated as community engagement is a vital part of the housing process.

BNA HOUSING COMMITTEE

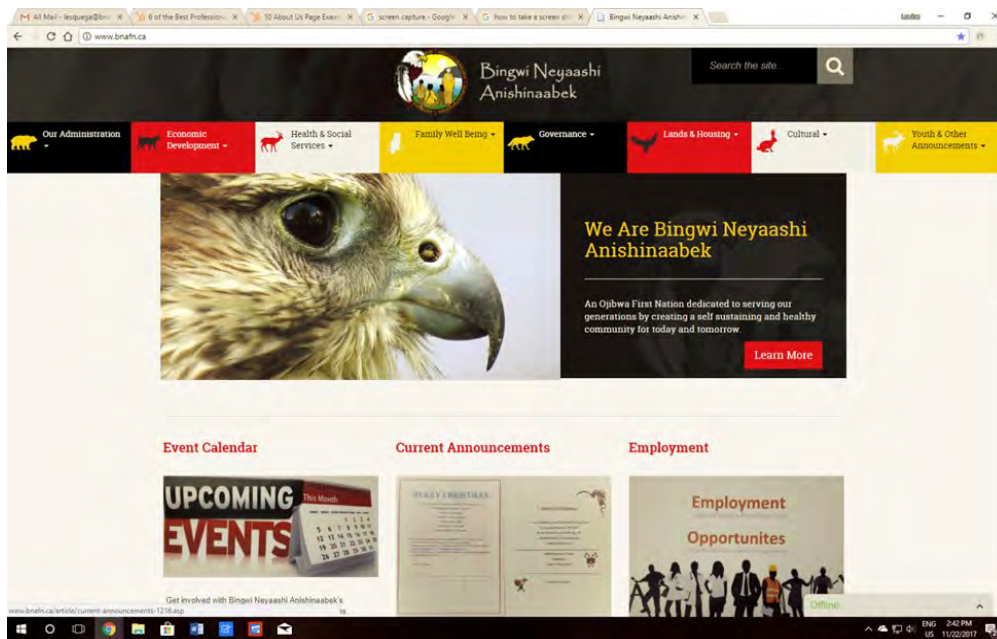
BNA is proud to announce the newly established Housing Committee. The Five newly appointed Housing Committee members are; Elder Iris Dow, Elder Sonny McGuire, Ryan Gladu, Krystle Leat-Seguín, and Jade Gilbert. Every attempt was made to assure that there was an active and rigorous recruitment process conducted from among the Members in regard to potential participation on the Committee. The goal of this committee will be to bring options to the community, complete with all information necessary, to allow the community to develop and complete, efficient, and sustainable Housing Policy. The Housing Committee is working directly with Chief, Council, key staff, the First Nation Market Fund Corporation, and key consultants, to develop a comprehensive housing policy. The draft housing policy will be presented to the community in early 2018!



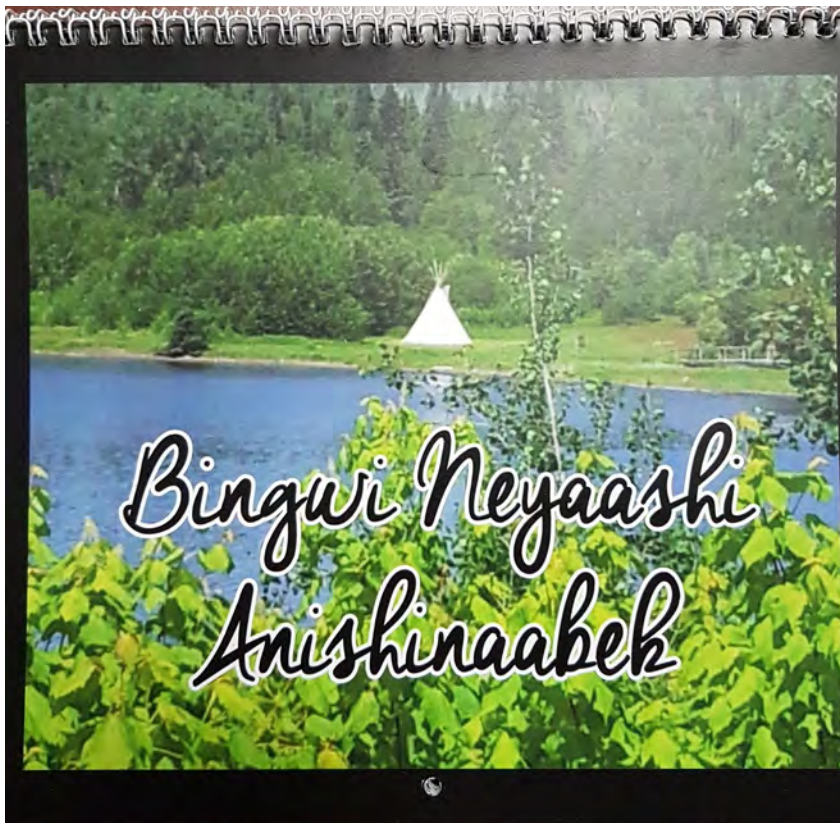
THE BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK WEBSITE

Boozhoo akinna aweya ni wiji anishinawbeg.....Hey you, come and check me out, my address is www.bnafn.ca. I've been around for a few years and recently there has been some re-modelling to this space. I invite all members to come and check it out and feel free to reach out to Louise by phone at 1-877-623-2724 or email at lesquega@bnafn.ca to have your say. This website is a place where Chief & Council & it's administration will be posting its most recent updates, news and events to the membership. If you have updates, news, photos, other engagements or announcements that you'd like to share with your fellow community members, by all means, this is your website. Let me help you spread the word.

All suggestions are welcome! 😊



BINGWI NEYAASHI CULTURAL COORDINATOR



Boozhoo, I am the Cultural Coordinator for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek. My name is Audrey Mandula and have been working this position for quite some time. Over the years I feel that we have brought back many of our culture and traditions, but we have a long way to go. On this journey, we have an Ojibway Language Class running on Monday nights and we are going to produce a book. The book will contain 12 pictures of animals for people to color with the words in Ojibway. Thirteen word puzzles will also be Ojibway. This book will be produced in March of 2018, and all members will receive one. We have also bought 2 canoes for the land for our members to use. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek members have also recently made drums, birch baskets and dream catchers. In the New Year, I hope to have a regalia class, another drum making class, and star blankets. I look forward to the New Year and to continue bringing our traditions and culture back with our members.

Miigwetch - Audrey Mandula

BNA FAMILY WELL BEING PROGRAM

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Family Well Being Program

215 Van Norman St. 2nd Floor

Family Nights

EVERY TUESDAY FROM 5-8

- FUN ACTIVITIES
- FOOD :)
- Parent Supervision required.

Nobody's Perfect Parent Program

For parent's of children 0-5 yrs.

Parents will receive resources certificates for participation.

Every Wednesday starting Feb 7th for 6 weeks from 10-2 pm

Register if interested :)



Youth Nights 😊

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 5-8

Come hang out and have some fun! For ages 12-24

Contact Lindsey for more info
344-3055 or 623-2724

Beaded Earrings-Just bead it!

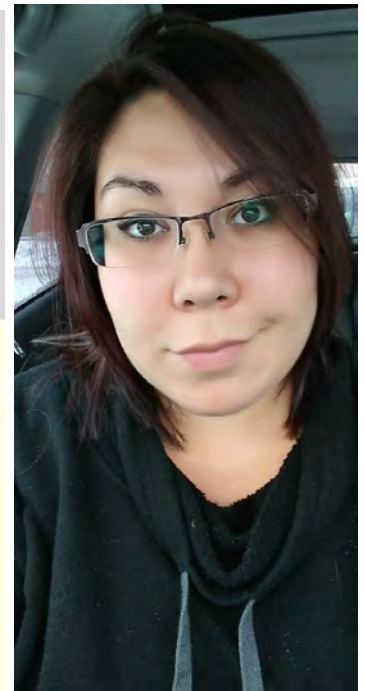
Have you ever wanted to learn how to make beaded earrings? Join us for a 3 sessions. All materials, refreshments and lunch provided.

January 18,19 10-3 p.m



Sleigh Ride Gammondale Farm

- January 20th 2:30-5:30
- Enjoy spending time at the farm and the cozy Log House with modern kitchen and bathroom.
- Horse-drawn sleigh rides around the fields at the foot of Candy Mountain.
- Unlimited hot drinks of hot chocolate, coffee and tea.
- Visit the farm animals: goats, sheep, rabbits, draft horses and hens.
- Play in the barn and the farmyard.
- Transportation, food and refreshments provided.
- Register if interested



Boozhoo!

My name is Lindsey Gladu, and I am the new Child and Youth Worker in the Family Well Being Program. I am currently enrolled in the Native Child Family Services program at the College. I am excited to be working with our younger generation, they are our future. I hope to bring in some fun activities to our youth nights, encouraging our youth to be creative and just have fun!! Looking forward to meeting you all. Miigwech and Happy Holidays,

Lindsey Gladu

BNA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES 2017

The Health and Social Services Department has built its delivery of services to reflect the Indigenous Wellness Framework focusing on physical, spiritual, emotional and mental health wellness of each individual, family, and community. In addition to overseeing the Health Portfolio, Councillor Katie Borysewicz is always there to help out in all aspects of services and programming.

An outline of the Continuum of Care is one that starts with an assessment, (intake) plan, implementation, evaluation, referral, discharge and aftercare using best practices.

As part of the daily agenda, non-treatment visits are recorded on the log sheet under the following:

<i>Home visits</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Medical Referrals</i>
<i>Well Child</i>	<i>Well woman</i>	<i>Well man</i>
<i>Pre-natal referrals</i>	<i>Post-natal referrals</i>	<i>Mental Health referrals</i>
<i>Chronic Disease referrals</i>	<i>Health Education</i>	<i>Medications</i>
<i>School visits</i>	<i>Phone calls</i>	<i>Administration/chart entry</i>



Community activities / participation are recorded through registration at each event that occurs. Any member's referral/request for assistance is forwarded to Chief and Council for review and approval.

This year, the need to address chronic disease management with self-management and a way to a healthier living has become a goal of the Department in respect to heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, depression, asthma, bronchitis, high blood pressure and mental health. Blood pressure monitors, glucometers with strips and needles were given to individual community members in need. Exercise and physical activity for everybody was supported through many programs starting with the March Break Canada Games Complex one week event for the 8 children who attended.



The annual Friendship Gathering saw 100+ community and other First Nation members attend at the Prince Arthur Hotel for a feast and drumming with dancers.

12 community members attended Drum making and blessing of the drum ceremony thus connecting with culture and tradition.

The Garden Therapy was initiated at BNA land site and 3 families took part in growing their own gardens. Each garden area was rototilled and all tools, plants and seeds were supplied for each garden. The outcome of this activity provided a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction for the members when the gardens were harvested.

BNA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES 2017 (cont)

In collaboration with the Family Well Being Program, a Youth Pottery Workshop was offered. 9 community members were guided through the various stages of the pottery process from start to finish including wedging, throwing, shaping and attaching.... all done with clay!



Father's Day and Aboriginal Day Celebrations are best remembered for the canoeing classes at Boulevard Lake under the proactive planning of the department with the Cultural Coordinator. Of course father's day gifts were given to the fathers and certificates were given to the canoeists. The Bar-B-Que followed where the staff ended up as Chief cooks and bottle washers.

Great strides were made with the introduction to managing well balanced, healthy diets.

8 families receiving Healthy Babies/Healthy Children services were provided with slow cookers and recipe books as a means to introduce numerous meals with little ingredients that provide a substantial meal.

In June, 2017, at a specific time the Food Pantry was made assessable to those community members requiring food items on an emergency basis. It continues to support 14 community members monthly.



The Health and Cultural Departments presented a 2 day Conference at the Airline Hotel entitled "stitching the Generations together". The intent was to bridge the generational gap by having Elders share their traditions, cultural teachings and stories with the Youth. Mentoring, herbal medicine teachings and the "Blanket Exercise" were the among the main topics for discussion.

BNA has embarked on a special presentation for First Nations and the public. On March 22, 2018 the Kaha:wi Dancers from southern Ontario will present traditional storytelling, through music and dance how the Bear Clan came to be known as the keeper of the Medicines. Tickets are on sale at the Community Auditorium. Community members may approach BNA Chief and Council for tickets.

Special thanks for your continual participation and communication see you in the New Year!

Many thanks,

Edna Hodgkinson R.N.