

# **BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK (SAND POINT FIRST NATION) 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW**



## **MESSAGE FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL**

**NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2018**

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

It is our pleasure to present to you our annual “Year in Review” Newsletter. From the purchase of 292 South Court Street office building, to the continuing exciting developments on BNA’s Title Case, 2018 was certainly a busy and fulfilling year. However, if 2018 can be defined by one word, that word would be “preparation”. Preparation for 2019, where, for the first time in decades, and certainly since the displacement, BNA members will have an opportunity to build their own home on the land, or look at renting a unit in one of BNA’s new Band-owned duplexes that it will commence construction on next Spring. We encourage the members to watch for the housing mail-out which will be arriving before Christmas.

This preparation is also shown through our on-reserve infrastructure work. This fall, BNA re-surveyed its Phase 1 Housing sub-division, ensuring there was 12 large lots of equal size surveyed for the first lottery. We also conducted a drill program to ensure potable water is available, cleared the brush out of several of the lots, and put up street lights on the tops of the hydro poles. At the Sawmill site, BNA broke ground on its new temporary Health Clinic, which had the dual benefit of also providing water and septic for the Sawmill Operation. And yes, we finally have signage on Hwy 11 showing our reserve boundaries!

On the Economic Development front, while we were unable to secure the funding required for the necessary Sawmill equipment, we are now submitting a large application to FedNor in order to get the mill to the place it needs to be to maximize employment, generate revenues, and produce treated lumber for the homes at Sand Point. BNA has continued its work in forestry, mining, and other regional developments.

BNA’s Family Well Being and new “EarlyOn” centre have continued to flourish with programming for families and youth. The partnerships that have developed from this centre is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff working out of the Van Norman building. And our cultural programming continues to grow, with language lessons, regalia making, and other traditional activities being offered to our members.



On a personal note from the staff, it has been a pleasure working for a Chief who is as dedicated to this First Nation and works as hard for its members as Joe does. The Chief’s hard work and determination sets an example to the staff, who want to work even harder in order to fulfill the vision of the BNA leadership. We thank the Chief for his continued leadership, and hope that he enjoys his very well-deserved time off over the holidays.

2019 is setting up to be the most important and ambitious year this First Nation yet. We hope you join us in making it as memorable for you and your family as it will be for us.

Miigwetch, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
- Chief Joe Ladouceur, Councillor Katie Borysewicz, and Councillor Lillian Calder

# BNA GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

At the end of 2017 Bill S-3 received Royal Assent. This bill is supposed to end all gender inequities in the Indian Act. Basically, this means that if your mother, grandmother, or great grandmother lost their Indian Status due to a marriage to a non-status person, you are entitled to registration under the Indian Act. Descendants of Bill C-31 and Bill C-3 Indian Registrants can now apply for Indian Registration.

Descendants of persons that lost Indian Status due to enfranchisement are also entitled.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek could gain as many as 150 new members through this new entitlement. If you are not sure if this new entitlement applies to your children, you can contact Tracy at the Band Office. She has been busy this year helping with the new registrations.

Lastly if you have the older style pink laminate status card, Tracy can renew these cards for you, just contact her to make an appointment. This year Tracy has started issuing these cards to Members of other bands for a fee as the only other place in Thunder Bay that issues these type of status cards is Matawa and they will only issue to the members of the First Nations affiliated with Matawa.

Tracy also received funding this year to help members of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek with preparing a Last Will and Testament. A Lawyer from Carrell and Partners will do a presentation at the meeting on December 15, 2018. Hand outs have been prepared that include a template for a person to prepare their own Will. Information on Estates and Power of Attorney's will also be included in the Hand Out. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like one of these information packages, you can contact Tracy at the Band Office. 623-2724 ext. 211 or [tgibson@bnafn.ca](mailto:tgibson@bnafn.ca).



## BNA CULTURAL COORDINATOR



Boozhoo, Audrey ndishnikaaz. As most of you are aware I am the Cultural Coordinator for BNA. I have been in this position for quite some time and I am still learning about our Heritage and Traditions. I wish that I would have been taught throughout my life because there is so much to learn.

The Regalia dress in the left picture is made by me, and am very proud of it. A lot of hard work goes into making these dresses and mine is just a simple dress. BNA held a class on Regalia dress making, which was very fun, and the joy it brought to all who were there to learn how to make traditional dresses was overwhelming. BNA is also running an Ojibwe Language Class which is held every Monday. Out of these classes, the students have developed decks of cards, C.D's and an activity book which are all in Ojibwe, and translated into English. I am very proud to preserve the language and I will say it is not easy, but I will get it. I love and enjoy my position and want to know more. Every day is a learning experience about our Heritage and Traditions.

Miigwetch — Audrey Mandula, Cultural Coordinator



# BNA FAMILY WELL BEING PROGRAM

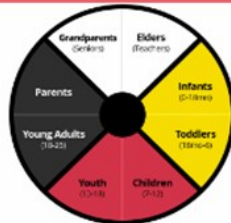
## FAMILY WELL BEING PROGRAM



Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation



**Program Vision:**  
To create a safe space for families that promotes connection to culture, healing and well being in all areas of the life cycle.



## Programs:

- Monthly Seniors/Elders group
- BNA Youth Group
- Family Nights
- Teddy Bear Picnic
- Father's Day at Franklin Park
- Mother's Day Paint Night
- Healing with Mother Earth
- Youth Cultural Camps
- Back to School BBQ at KOA
- Gleaning Trip
- Kindermusik
- Elders and Youth Feast
- Story and Tea Time
- Family Drop In
- FASD Powwow
- Ziigwan Community Kitchen
- Ojibway Language Classes
- Little Mukwas Race
- Water colour with Elder G.Martin
- Community Crafts
- Drumming
- EarlyON programming



I just want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn how to make moccasins last year. I finally finished them! ❤️ the kids are already learning how to bead their own now!!! Love passing down traditions.



My drum bag that I made .. and my drum actually fits soooooo happy!!



Today was fun so glad we came out an supper was amazing 😊's

## FAMILY WELL BEING AT A GLANCE...

Over the year our program has continued to grow. We have provided nourishment, positive activities and direct support to participants. Of those over 50 percent were children under the age of 12. Our staff works tirelessly to provide outreach and direct services and resources for families. Our vision is to have a healthy violence free community and we believe this is best supported through relevant culturally based programs that keep families connected. We strive to provide a safe space where people can feel a strong sense of belonging and meaningful connection to others. Each and every program is designed to fit the needs of a broad range of ages and abilities. From weekly programming for the entire family to monthly senior/elders programs there is always something positive happening at the centre.

We had people participate 1129 times from April 01- Sept. 30/18



## MIIGWETCH TO BNA, OUR PARTICIPANTS AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO MCCSS FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT!





# BNA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN 2018

BNA Health and Social Services is committed to provide unique services focusing on the provision of culturally sensitive and appropriate levels of care. From a clinical perspective, accomplishments are recognized through the use of the integrated care pathway which creates an individualized treatment plan for each client. The plan is designed to treat their whole person physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Throughout 2018, Health and Social Services has embraced the opportunities to actively participate in programming with Cultural, Economic Development, infrastructure Development and the Family Well Being Programs. In collaboration with the Cultural Program, workshops and Seminars on Gender Based Violence Prevention Strategies, anti-Human Trafficking and Ending Violence against Indigenous Women were presented.



The fourth annual “Friendship Gathering” witnessed over 100+ guests from First Nation communities and the general public attend the feast.

Cultural, Family Well Being and Health worked in unison to present the Aboriginal Day and 2 Community Birthday parties.



The therapeutic horseback riding for children and youth helped participants gained a sense of freedom and independence besides learning new skills.

# BNA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN 2018 Cont.



BNA has broken ground and is starting to construct a new temporary health care clinic in the community. The clinic will offer patient assessment and referral, health promotion, consultation and other basic health related services within the scope of expertise of personnel and visiting professionals. The location of it will be in the area near the entrance to Sand Point, adjacent to the sawmill.

The building will be approximately 1000 square feet in area and will contain:

- Reception/waiting area;
- Assessment room;
- Exam room;
- Two washrooms;
- Staff apartment (1 bedroom); and,
- Mechanical room

This Clinic, which was originally offered in the Sawmill building, which was available to the community members throughout the summer months.

Funders encouraged BNA to pursue the development of a “Health Clinic” in the community. Thus the “Health Clinic” was approved and is taking priority to being built by 2019. The IDC Program worked collaboratively to secure proper layout of the well, septic tank and the clinic.

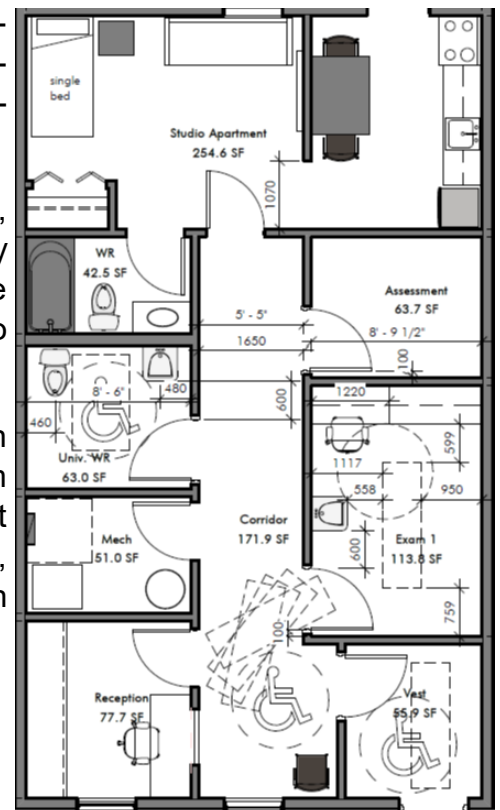
With significantly reduced access to health care professionals and facilities, there is an apparent need for an increased level and appropriate type of services to help those who suffer from mental health issues and are addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. Over the past decade, there have continued to be increased health emergencies within First Nation Communities, and as such, varied service options and a continuum of care for addiction treatment continues to be vital to enable full recovery. Treatment Centres are an important part of this continuum of care.

With treatment being difficult to access for many First Nation people, BNA First Nation has presented an idea for the “Circle of Four” Family Indigenous Mental Health and Addictions Treatment Health Centre to be built on BNA land. Phase one and the business plan are completed to date.

Community program involvement has increased with the implementation of the Home and Community Care service enhancements ranging from community support services, homemaking services, personal support services, and professional services such as, home visits, foot care, chronic disease management, health education and referrals.

Warmest Regards,

Edna Hodgkinson, RN





# BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## THE PAPASAY SAWMILL IN 2018

September 2018 was the 1-year anniversary of the opening of the Papasay Sawmill. As with all start-up businesses, it has been a challenging year, but we continue to operate and fulfill orders for customers throughout the region. As we still are without the all-important “value-added” production line, the limit of our operation is in the rough-cut, air-dried market.

*Employees:* From the beginning, Art Gladu has been the Sawmill

Manager for the mill, and has been doing an incredible job maneuvering through the complexities of running an operation like this. Arts duties have ranged from managing employees and dealing with the harvesters and customers, to grading the road and fixing equipment as it breaks down.

BNA continues to have 2 workers at the mill, but had a change in the Spring of 2018. Currently, Papasay employs BNA member Lewis Johnson, and BZA member Adam Hardy. As the Sawmill grows, there will be a requirement for more workers at the site. Interested BNA members should speak with Art Gladu about opportunities at the Sawmill, and email resumes to [artgladu@bnafn.ca](mailto:artgladu@bnafn.ca). Please remember that

due to the location of the facility, drivers licences are a must!

*Customers:* The range of customers for Sawmill products has been significant, but have included: Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. for signage on the forest; Wayne Howarth who purchased BNA cedar to kiln-dry and up-sell it; AV Terrace Bay and Resolute for a multiple of requirements; and individual home-owners who have heard about the Sawmill via word of mouth, and needed an order. Papasay is looking at future opportunities with the Long Lac Sawmill and Resolute, which would keep the Sawmill operating for many months.

*Maximizing productivity and increasing efficiencies:* In order for Papasay to be able to produce the larger orders for Resolute, there is a need to increase the productivity of the operation. The current Woodmizer Sawmill equipment line has been working well, but limited in its capabilities. This past spring, we installed 3-phase power into the facility, allowing us to utilize the LT-50 electric saw and the edger. Now, there is a need to push through a new garage door in the building in order to have a smoothly move the logs from outside onto the equipment line.



**papasay**  
management corp.

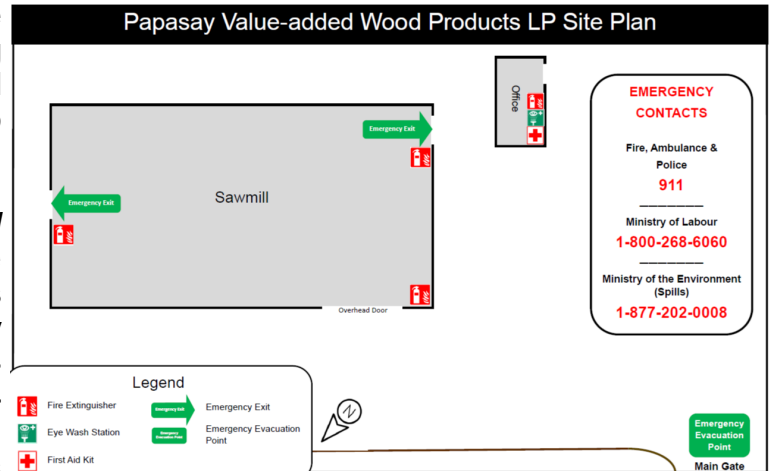


# BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont)

## THE PAPASAY SAWMILL GOING FORWARD

Papasay envisions a future Sawmill that is capable of employing more of BNA's members, while being able to supply the community with value-added lumber, and growing its outside market in order to derive more revenues from the operation.

*Lumber for the homes and buildings of Sand Point?:* In order for Papasay to be able to provide lumber for homes and buildings, what is required is a dry kiln chamber and a planer-moulder. Papasay would need to be able to stamp the lumber, ensuring that it is heat treated for use in structural buildings. Papasay is well aware of the tight timelines in place for acquiring this equipment, and that BNA is planning on commencing its development in the spring. The issue, as always, come down to money.



*New equipment line?:* As part of BNA's recent proposals to INAC, and now to FedNor, the new Sawmill equipment line is at the top of the list of importance. We require the following equipment:

- ◆ Planer/Moulder
- ◆ Dry Kiln Chamber
- ◆ Baker Sawmill Line
- ◆ Conveyors for Logs
- ◆ End Trimmer
- ◆ Waste Covering Tents
- ◆ Loader



In order for Papasay to be able to expand and grow its production line, it requires new, more sophisticated sawing equipment, and it requires a high-end "value-added" line. These pieces will help us grow our market, and ensure we are in a position to meet any contract that is offered to us. Ideally, Papasay would have two lines - one in which we were pumping out board feet, and another in which value-added products are produced, and sold for a higher values.

*Sawmill Building Readiness:* Unfortunately, the Sawmill is still in a place in which a lack of insulation in the building has meant a cold and uncomfortable workplace for Art and the guys during the wintertime. Likewise, we lack a heating source which can warm the facility. Thanks to the assistance of Resolute, the Sawmill now has 2 Herman-Nelson diesel heaters which assists in keeping the Sawmill at least bearable.

The well and septic that is being installed will ensure that the workers have proper bathroom facilities in the Sawmill, and that they do not have to use porta-potties.

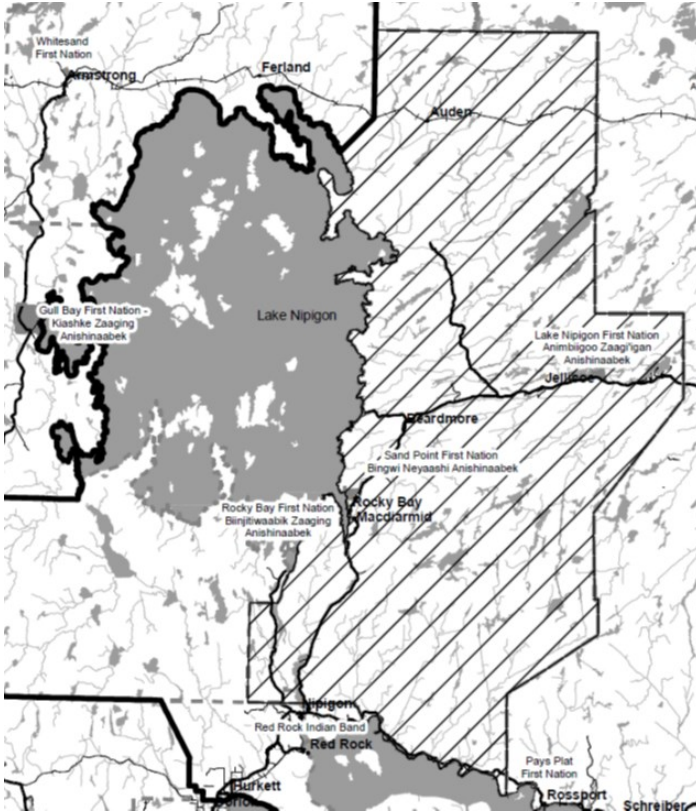
As with the Sawmill equipment, Papasay has continued to rely on government funding in order to bring the Sawmill facility to where it needs to be both on the infrastructure and equipment fronts. Papasay and BNA will continue to work together to apply for this funding, and to ensure that public funders assist the First Nation in its economic endeavours. We will not give up.





# BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont)

## THE LAKE NIPIGON FOREST



BNA continued to receive benefits off of the Lake Nipigon Forest throughout the 2018 year. Papasay is in the middle of its 3rd year of its Wood Supply agreement with AV Terrace Bay, and the First Nation's relationship with Resolute Forest Products continued to grow. Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. continues to run smoothly with its current management structure in place.

Four Nations Forestry, the entity created by BNA, BZA, AZA and RRIB's economic development corporations, also continues to grow as a company. Through Four Nations, the communities have a vehicle to take on silviculture activities on the Lake Nipigon forest, including brush cutting, tree planting, cone collection, and other activities that would normally be outsourced to non-Indigenous silviculture companies. It can also procure products that are required for the management of the forest - for example, signage for forest access roads, or decking for bridges that are required throughout the forest - to the Papasay Sawmill, which may normally go to simply the lowest bidder. This ensures that the 4 First Nation owners benefit directly from both employment and procurement on the Lake Nipigon Forest.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING: THE CARIBOU ISSUE

In early 2018, BNA aligned with other First Nations and Municipalities in fighting new Species at Risk legislation that was being pursued by both the Provincial and Federal governments. As a result of this action, the forest industry was provided a 2-year exemption from these new directives. BNA, however, will not stay silent.

The caribou agenda is being driven by environmentalists out of Toronto and, even worse, the United States. It calls for the management of forest which would allow for caribou to "return" to areas that they apparently can no longer survive in due to landscape activities. BNA's position on this matter is simple: there are no caribou around BNA, and more importantly, forests ought to be managed for *moose*, not for caribou.



And, also important is the fact that BNA is now and active participant in the forestry sector. We manage the Lake Nipigon Forest with our neighbouring First Nations. We have an operating Sawmill that employs our members, and will hopefully be in a position soon to produce lumber for the homes that will soon be constructed on BNA's reserve land. The absolute last thing that our First Nation needs is for unnecessary and burdensome regulations to be implemented that could have a negative effect on the community's businesses. This position is not related to any disdain for caribou, by any means. However, BNA should not be effectively penalized for entering into a sector in a forest that has been heavily logged for decades. It is now BNA's turn for economic development and growth, and we won't back down.



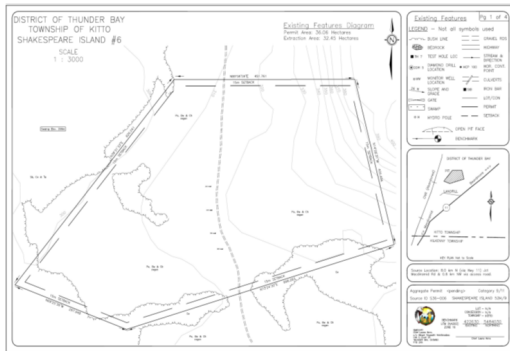
# BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont)

## PAPASAY AGGREGATE PIT

The Aggregate Pit that is permitted to Papasay just north of BNA has, unfortunately, continued to remain unopened. It was the goal of the First Nation to work with Indigenous Services Canada to open this site, however, it did not materialize as hoped.

Therefore, BNA/Papasay is now looking at a partnership with Steve Ward Contracting. Steve Ward has been working with Papasay already through its forestry operations, and there is a desire to extend that to the aggregate site. The goal is for the site to be opened - blasted, crushed and stockpiled into different sizes - and then for the community to utilize the material on its reserve roads. BNA would then have aggregate material for its many ventures:

road maintenance, expanding the Industrial Park, or looking at new ventures along Hwy 11. And, it is expected that aggregate can be sold to the new GGM mine site once it is fully permitted and ready to go.

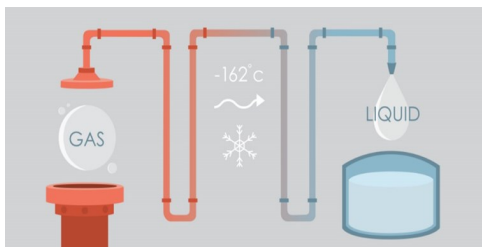


## NIPIGON LNG PROJECT

Nipigon LNG is a newly proposed "liquefied natural gas" project located near Polly Lake, just north of Lake Helen. This past September, the Chiefs of BNA, BZA and RRIB signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NLNG regarding their new site, and the involvement of the First Nations. It was agreed that due to their proximity, RRIB would be the lead on many of the environmental assessment aspects of the Project, but that BNA and BZA would be involved every step of the way.

If the Project were to proceed, the LNG Plant would tap into the TransCanada pipeline adjacent to Hwy 11, liquefy the gas, and then transport it to the north shore communities along Lake Superior. The liquefied gas would then be re-"gasified", and then piped throughout the municipalities.

The First Nation communities are not yet at the stage where they are formulating a long-term agreement with this company. The First Nation will weigh its options and consult with their respective memberships prior to making any long-term decisions on the Project.



## THE END OF WAWASUM

After several years of studies and exploration, Wawasum Group - the 50/50 partnership between BNA and AZA regarding the production of pellets - will be closing its doors and ending its work. This decision did not come lightly, but rather as a result of due diligence on the part of Wawasum. A decision was made to engage with Donna Bain Smith, an accountant and consultant in Thunder Bay, in order to have her review the Wawasum Business Plan developed by our previous consulting partners.

The result was not good. The decline in the price of pellets, mixed with serious concerns regarding transportation and site location, meant that the Project was deemed to be uneconomical. As it is always the goal to ensure that BNA is financially stable for the next generation, investing in a risky endeavour was out of the question for the 2 First Nations, who are both developing from scratch and need every penny that they have.

The result has been having Wawasum's General Manager, Joe Hanlon, wrap up the Project. This has meant dealing with funders to ensure that the two communities are not straddled with any outstanding Project costs. This has also meant working with the MNRF on releasing BNA and AZA from the wood supply directive from 2011. This secured 113,000 cubic metres of hardwood for Wawasum for the purpose of developing a hardwood Pellet Plant at a cost to the two communities. BNA and AZA will therefore work with MNRF in order to try and have the security returned to the communities. There has yet to be a Project that utilized hardwood as per the Provincial directive, so Wawasum is not alone.



BNA members should be proud of how this Project was handled, and that their financial stability remains the top priority of BNA's Chief, Council and Staff.

# BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont)

## GREENSTONE TRANSMISSION MINING AND EXPLORATION

BNA, along with its 7 First Nation neighbours and partners on the proposed 230kV Greenstone Transmission Line (BZA, AZA, RRIB, Whitesand, LL#58, Ginoogaming and Aroland) had taken a hiatus of sorts following a lack of provincial support for Line. However, 2018 saw the re-grouping of the partnership. In June, the Greenstone Transmission Group, along with Supercom from the East-West Tie and Watay Power from the North of Dryden Line, joined forces to hold a large First Nation transmission conference in June. This received significant media attention, and re-generated outside interest in the Greenstone Line.

Following the election of the new Conservative Government, the Greenstone Transmission Group decided to apply to the IESO's Partnership Program for funding to develop a partnership with a transmitter and make our case to the new government. Interest has also been shown by some northern Matawa First Nations regarding joining our group. This would add significant strength to the partnership, as it would include the argument about bringing this power up to the proposed Ring of Fire development. The interest recently shown by Premier Ford on this Project adds to the necessity of including these communities.



Exploration Projects near and around BNA have continued. These companies are mostly looking for Lithium, and include Rock Tech Lithium, Ultra Lithium, Infinite Lithium, Bold Ventures, and other smaller companies. BNA, in partnership with BZA and AZA First Nations, have met with the majority of these proponents. Some of these conversations are moving into the MOU phase, and then on to Exploration Agreements. Important items for BNA include care for the environment, employment for members, revenue generation and procurement for the Papasay Sawmill.

In the case of Greenstone Gold Mines in Geraldton, this Project would be a regional game-changer, and would allow for many of BNA's projects and initiatives to move forward as they would then be considered economically feasible.

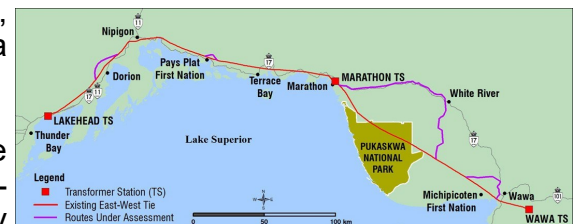
The Nokiwin Tribal Council has taken the lead regarding coordinating the mining file for BNA.



## EAST-WEST TIE VS. LAKE SUPERIOR LINK

The 2018 year was one of uncertainty for the proposed Thunder Bay-Wawa 230 kV Transmission Line. While the Line has been given a priority designation line by the provincial government, a higher than expected cost increase by Nextbridge led to the entrance of Hydro One into the process. Now, there are 2 competing proposals to build the line. The only major differences, however, in routing is around the areas of Dorion and Pukaskwa National Park.

The important factor for BNA is that one entity or the other be granted the necessary approvals to move ahead with the construction of this line. There are significant opportunities for the Papasay Sawmill for this Project, and members of BNA have proceeded through AETS for training for related trades. BNA has consultation agreements in place with both Nextbridge and Hydro One for this proposed line, and does not favour one proponent over another. The position of BNA's Chief and Council has been that this Project traverses the traditional territories of 6 routes First Nations from Fort William to Michipicoten and it ought to be up to these communities to make the decisions related to this T-Line.





# BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (cont)

## BNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

BNA is currently involved in so many Economic Development-related Projects, initiatives and partnerships, it can become difficult to keep up! What is needed at this point in our development is a strategic plan to guide the community's priorities, and base them in the values of the First Nation. Plus, Strategic Plans are now being demanded by government funders in order to ensure that funding only goes to initiatives prioritized in these plans. As part of this process, BNA will carry-out the following:

- Work with our consultants, gck, on the development and completion of this BNA Strategic Plan;
- Consult with the membership on the Plan, both through community meetings (December 15th), or through Elder and Youth Focus Groups that are being carried out by Family Well-Being;
- Encourage members to complete the BNA Economic Development Plan Survey. Members should contact Louise at the BNA office for a survey, or so that she can send you the link to complete it, or attend the December 15th community meeting. Please complete it soon! A draw will take place for a tablet for those that complete the survey!



It is the hope of the BNA leadership that a solid plan that guides the community's future developments will assist in prioritizing community initiatives, and ensure that the First Nation only considers economic development projects that fit with the overall vision and direction of Sand Point and its members.

## PURCHASE OF 292 S. COURT

After years of renting the 146 S. Court Street office, which did not come close to meeting the office requirements of the First Nation, the Chief and Council of BNA decided to purchase the former Nokiiwin Offices at 292 S. Court Street. The building was significantly larger in space, with a large Boardroom capable of hosting large meetings in comfort. The addition of a large promethean smartboard thanks to funding from AETS has increased the First Nation's sophistication when it comes to hosting meetings. Also, it was only located a block south of the last location, ensuring ease for members used to going to the last location. But most importantly, it meant that the First Nation now had a significant asset, a building located in the City of Thunder Bay,



## BNA HOSTS AETS AGM

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS) has continued to support BNA members in their training needs. This past year saw BNA members receive support in a number of training areas, and saw graduates in programs, including carpentry. Next year will see a series of training programs through the Skills and Partnership Funding, including sawmill training, mechanized harvesting, and drivers licence training, among others. Members who are interested in taking some of this training should speak with Jordan in the BNA office.

This past August, BNA hosted AETS and the 9 First Nations that make up the organization, for its annual AGM. It was the first time BNA has hosted the AGM since it joined the organization. All 9 First Nations had representation at the event. Kudos was provided by all attendees for the location, food, and general organization of the event. The great weather assisted in making the AGM a true success.



# BNA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## LAKE NIPIGON FIRST NATION COLLECTIVE (LNFNC)

This past summer, BNA and its neighbouring First Nations around Lake Nipigon (AZA, BZA, RRIB, KZA and Whitesand), learned about several large American houseboats operating charters on Lake Nipigon. Advertisements from the operations bragged about how many fish were coming out of Ombabika Bay, encouraging more tourists to flock to Lake Nipigon. Zero consultation had taken place between the MNRF and any of the Lake Nipigon First Nations regarding this matter. And the Indigenous commercial fishermen on Lake Nipigon wondered by their quotas were being limited, yet foreign tourists were able to take thousands of fish out of the Lake? The situation demanded action from the Lake Nipigon Chiefs.

However, despite the unfortunate situation, the result was both encouraging and inspiring. The Lake Nipigon First Nations convened an emergency meeting in Lake Helen regarding the houseboat matter. The result was a media release and declaration of unity, and a demand that the houseboats leave Lake Nipigon. The boats eventually came off the Lake, and the conversation amongst the 6 First Nations turned to co-management - and eventual full management and control - of Lake Nipigon. During a follow-up meeting in Gull Bay this past September, a technical working group was struck and the communities began collectively working on the necessary documentation. This will be a long and difficult process, but with collective determination amongst the



the “Lake Nipigon First Nation Collective”, there is no reason why we cannot succeed.

## SAND POINT RESERVE SIGNS

BNA’s Chief and Council worked with the MTO to have its reserve signs installed along Hwy 11. The sign shown below is now located at both the north and south end of the reserve boundary along the Hwy, letting the general public know that they are traveling through BNA land. Signs indicating “Copper Thunderbird” Road are also located at both the north and south ends of the road entrance.

This signage is critical for BNA. It ensures that outside industry, especially mining and exploration companies, know that there is in fact a First Nation located in proximity to their work that demands consultation and accommodation. We are letting the world know who we are, and where we are located.



## BNA SOLID WASTE

The Municipality of Greenstone has commenced discussions with the First Nations, including BNA, to develop a strategy around waste management and to ultimately determine a location for future landfill sites in the region. Options for recycling are also being explored, and support is being provided by Nokiiwin Tribal Council.

BNA has also applied for funding to complete the studies required for a waste transfer station at Sand Point. This transfer station would be a central collection point where waste is dropped off, recycling and hazardous materials are separated, and then collected and transported off-reserve.

BNA will ensure that its members are able to dispose of their garbage when living at Sand Point.





# BNA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (cont)

## THE BNA TITLE CASE

On several occasions throughout 2018, BNA has presented on the details regarding its Title Case to the membership of the community. This is an extremely confidential process that the First Nation is involved with, and BNA and its neighbours have been forced to exercise higher-than-normal levels of discretion related to where we are at in the process, and the way forward. There are concerns related to the media and general public learning about this process, which would be to the detriment of the First Nation and any future potential settlements.

Having said that, this process directly involves the BNA membership, and is related to the next seven generations. Therefore, BNA's Chief is always happy to discuss this case in greater detail with members who are interested. Likewise, in order to better engage with the membership on matters like the BNA Title Case, Chief and Council now include teleconferencing at Membership Meetings so that members who are unable to attend in person can still participate over the phone. We trust that the membership understands the situation, and we will continue to regularly provide you with updates.



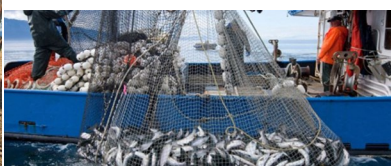
## TRAPPING AND FISHING

As part of BNA's cultural reclamation, the community is pursuing traditional activities that have been denied to it due to its displacement:

**Commercial Fishing Licence:** Currently, all licences and quotas on Lake Nipigon's indigenous fishery are taken up by other First Nations and Metis. BNA is actively pursuing a licence of its own in order to allow members the opportunity to practice this pastime. The Chief will continue to make its case to the MNR and neighbouring First Nations as to why the community deserves a licence of its own.

**Trapline:** BNA does not have any members with traplines. However, the Chief has been working with the MNR on obtaining a trapline once one becomes available near the community. Trapping is a lot of work, and trappers must work their lines every year. There are trapping courses available for members who are interested in obtaining their licences. These

are a requirement from the Ministry prior to getting a trapline.



## INAC-BNA RELATIONSHIP

This past Spring, BNA's leadership held a meeting with high-level ISC (INAC) officials in Toronto. There was a desire from government to work with the community on a 'pilot project' which would see the development "economic engines" (the Sawmill and Aggregate Pit) to put members to work and develop the First Nation. The First Nation then submitted a major funding proposal laying out a plan for its development. Hopes were high internally that finally, the federal government would step up to assist.

However, the results were disappointing, and we are in the process of re-grouping and trying new funding avenues. There is a strong feeling that based on the history of BNA, ISC needs to be at the table for our development in the spirit of reconciliation. However, there is an equal feeling that if the government won't get on board with our plans, then the community ought to move ahead, stop wasting time, and just do it ourselves.



 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

# BNA LANDS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## BNA HOME OWNERSHIP AND RENTALS

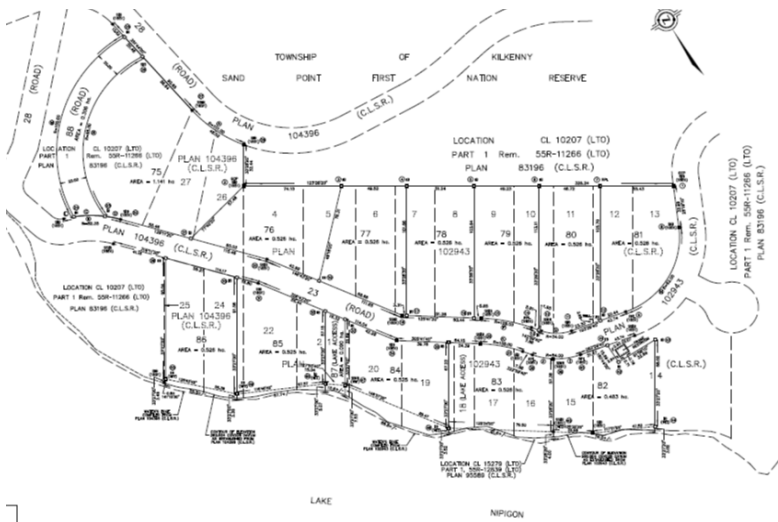
BNA has been working hard developing a framework and policies for both home ownership and rental housing at Sand Point. BNA has now reached at a point where these options will be opened up to Members next year. This is very exciting and represents the first opportunity in decades for the members of BNA to move back, and live in permanent housing on their land.

There will an opportunity next year for members who wish to build their own house to do so. There will also be band housing constructed next year which members will have an opportunity to apply for. The band home construction will start around May next year. Currently one two-bedroom and one three-bedroom duplex are scheduled to be constructed next year, however, this number may double.

Every member will have the same chance to move back to Sand Point. Information regarding home ownership and rentals will be mailed out on December 14, 2018.



## RE-SURVEYING OF PHASE ONE HOUSING SUB-DIVISION



In 2018, and with the support of the First Nation Market Housing Fund, BNA proceeded with the re-surveying of its Phase 1 Housing zone. The new survey has each lot averaging an approximate size of 0.5 hectares each, with 5 lake-front lots, and 7 lots on the other side of the road. The survey also re-designed the exit road at the north-end of the lots, which now will curve around to connect with the existing road to the cultural grounds and cemeteries. This will ensure that BNA residents will have an alternative exit in the extreme case of a natural disaster or emergency. This road still needs to be pushed through and developed.

## WATER STUDIES IN PHASE ONE HOUSING

Prior to moving forward with the development of housing at BNA, it was critical for the community to fully understand the availability of potable water within the Phase 1 Housing Lots. Therefore, with funding from the First Nation Market Housing Fund, BNA worked with Neegan Burnside to commence the drilling of 3 wells located in strategic locations within the zone. Prior to the drilling, they also provided designs for the wells and septic fields for each lot, ensuring that they would be drilled and placed in the proper locations in order to avoid cross-contamination.

Ensuring that the lots remained as treed as possible was a goal of Chief and Council. Therefore, the location of the well drill holes were based on the ease of getting into the lot, as there was no interest in removing several trees for this exercise. However, the Chief asked the workers to stay on for an additional few weeks this fall to clear the brush from as many lots as possible prior to the weather changing. Therefore, many of the lots are cleared enough where you can now see Lake Nipigon.





# BNA LANDS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont)

## BNA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ensuring environmental sustainability for today and future generations is a key value when considering on-reserve development options. Keeping with the spirit of this idea, BNA has received funding to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). This plan will involve the identification of both on-reserve environmental concerns, and outside environmental concerns which could impact the reserve. The funding requires that BNA partner with another eligible First Nation. Therefore, BNA has partnered with LL#58 due to their proximity and similar geographic location, and because they also have a Land Code.

BNA and Long Lake #58 (LL#58) plan to collaborate closely with the preparation of their EMPs. BNA and LL#58 FNs share a number of environmental threats which include:

- Landfill Impacts;
- Sewage Discharge and Wastewater Management;
- Impacts to Drinking Water Quality;
- Contamination from Fuel Storage Tanks;
- Lack of Biophysical Knowledge;
- Contaminated Sites;
- Lack of Emergency Response Plans;
- Unsustainable Resource Management;
- Bioaccumulation and Water Turbidity;
- Lack of Environmental Capacity of Staff; and,
- Threatened Traditional Environmental Knowledge



Community consultation will be extensive, and will include interviews, surveys, meetings and site visits. There will be more information about this important initiative and the way forward in the New Year.

## GREENHOUSE + GARDEN

Food security needs are an important subject for First Nations, who want to supply local and culturally appropriate food to their members in the most environmentally sustainable way possible. BNA is applying for a Greenhouse Project, which will focus on building capacity, developing skills and providing economic opportunities. BNA plans to use the funding to construct an all season greenhouse, prepare an outdoor community garden and train band members on how to grow their own local and culturally appropriate food. BNA plans to use the wood waste from the Sawmill to heat the greenhouse during the winter months. This will allow waste to be utilized, reducing the Sawmill's environmental impact. This idea is based on a circular economy model which is an alternative to traditional linear economies (make, use, dispose) in which waste from one economic activity is used as a material input for a different economic activity. BNA plans to investigate the growing of the four traditional medicines (Cedar, Sage, Sweet Grass, and Tobacco) in the greenhouse and garden.



## BNA BIRCH WINE

BNA has applied for funding to purchase and use equipment to properly gather and make wine from birch sap. This project will also involve training and employing BNA members to complete tasks required during the collection of birch sap, sap fermentation, bottling, labeling and selling the finished product. The fermentation, aging and bottling will be completed at the Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA) in a fully licensed and certified industrial kitchen. If approved, BNA would sell the wine through the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) on-line retail store. This project will complement the Sawmill by contributing to on-reserve employment opportunities, creating a sustainable cycle of economic activity and contributing to growth.



# BNA LANDS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (cont)

## WELL AND SEPTIC FOR SAWMILL

The additional benefit of pursuing the Health Clinic at the Sawmill location is that it means the operation will have a well and septic field installed for its use. Currently, the BNA Sawmill workers are utilizing a porta-potty at the site, and this is certainly not enjoyable during the winter months. The well has been drilled, and will service both the clinic and the Sawmill. Likewise, the septic field is being installed, which will service both facilities. The poles will also be installed, ensuring that power is brought to the clinic, and a light will be installed at the entrance of the Industrial Park. All logs have been moved to the southern part of Lot A in order to ensure a safe passage for those members utilizing the clinic. No logging trucks will be permitted near the clinic, and we will section off the area where the piping is being installed in order to protect it from cracking.



## BNA GOVT OFFICE

BNA has received funding and is starting a Phase Two Feasibility Study for the Multi-Purpose Facility and Government Office. This will be the design brief phase which will support the successful completion of detailed designs for a new government office and Elder and Youth Centre on-reserve with the objective of:

- ◆ Creating a sense of belonging for the BNA community members;
- ◆ Meeting the needs of the community members through the provision programming, such as social, cultural and recreational services;
- ◆ Create an economic development initiative where it will earn rental income from other organizations;
- ◆ Develop a gathering and meeting space for business and administration and community members; and,
- ◆ Build a facility that represents BNA First Nation and its people; a facility that represents the diligence and patience that the community has had in renewing their community.

The BNA Multi-purpose Facility and Government Office will include five key components:

- ◆ Meeting spaces and offices;
- ◆ Cultural and gathering spaces
- ◆ Office space for other organizations
- ◆ Program offices
- ◆ Recreation centre

