



Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek



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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL

Hello to all BNA members!

While we certainly hope that you are all enjoying the great weather that we have been having this summer, most importantly, we hope that you and your families are safe and healthy. The Covid-19 Pandemic has certainly had a profound effect on all of our lives, and this includes the BNA family. Chief and Council have answered this crisis by ensuring all members received some financial assistance, and that we would continue communicating regularly with the membership to ensure we respond effectively to all of your concerns. With respect to the administration, over the past few months, our Satellite Office on Court Street and Family Well-Being Office on VanNorman have been closed due to the pandemic, and all staff have been working remotely. However, we have continued to operate with full-steam-ahead with respect to all of our developments on the land, of course ensuring we are doing so safely. With the absence of further regional outbreaks, BNA staff will be returning to the office following the September long weekend. We will be working hard in the meantime to ensure all protocols and supplies are in place.

Most excitingly, we are thrilled to report that all 4 rental units on the land have been filled by BNA members who have decided to return home, and assist in the re-development of our great community. This is important, as it validates the very hard work that has gone into the many projects being undertaken in order to provide for this opportunity for members to move back, and ensures that they will continue to do so well into the future. As many of you know, BNA is in the process of constructing 3 new individual rent-to-own homes along the waterfront in the Phase 1 Housing Area. As with the duplexes, they are being built with the highest quality and standards. And thanks to assistance from Natural Resources Canada, these new homes will include compatibility with a future biomass district heating system, allowing the First Nation to eventually utilize its wood waste from our Sawmill operation to lower costs for members

which, as we have demonstrated with the Sawmill Biomass Project, can work very well and efficiently. Chief and Council will mail out the process for these new homes to the BNA membership once construction is complete in the new year due to the delays caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Along with the exciting developments on the housing front, we are looking at food security issues, and pursuing the development of a greenhouse and raised garden beds near the creek, as well as embarking on an ambitious legacy project related to the cultural area of the community. BNA is also in the process of completing its nearly 6km roads project, which is ensuring a safe and stable Copper Thunderbird Road for members residing, camping and visiting BNA. We will soon be embarking on the completion of Lot A of the Industrial Park, as the current space is quickly shrinking due to the sheer number of projects and activities occurring in the current area available. And we are nearing the completion of our hydro and fibre optics design, which will allow us to move forward with the 3-phase power project from the Sawmill into the Phase 1 Housing Area. Also, we will be having a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 8th for the BNA Health Centre, with Minister Hajdu herself coming to BNA for the unveiling!

BNA is also continuing to pursue public funding opportunities to enhance its Sawmill operations based on the community's recently completed Business Plan. Applications are being written to major funders in order to see our new sawline and value-added line come to fruition, which would both grow job opportunities and revenues for the community. In the meantime, we are pursuing off-reserve business arrangements with mining and natural gas companies operating in BNA's territory, and working with our First Nation neighbours – and growing our relationships – in the process.

Despite Covid-19's devastating impacts as they relate to community engagement, meetings, and events, BNA leadership and staff are working to find ways to communicate and engage through other means. This means more newsletters, more information on our website and Facebook page, and more virtual meetings. Our Health, Family Well-Being and EarlyOn teams have been hard at work ensuring our members remain connected, and we have continued to designate Tracy Gibson as the point-person for member questions and concerns. Tracy can be reached at tgibson@bnafn.ca.

As Chief and Council, we are so proud of the advancements that we have made with respect to the developments at BNA, and through the enhanced means of communication that we have put in place in the midst of this pandemic. We can only do this with your help and support. And we cannot thank you enough for your continued patience and understanding as we work through these unprecedented times.

Miigwetch everyone!

Chief and Council



GOVERNANCE

During the COVID-19 Pandemic office closure, I worked very diligently on Governance initiatives. The first important issue that I researched was in reference to the BNA Matrimonial Real Property Law. I spent several weeks researching MRP Laws in other First Nations in order to find a way to legally allow a spouse/common law partner that is not a BNA Member to remain in their matrimonial home should the BNA Member spouse pass away, if they choose to do so. I will be working with Jessica Hubbard, BNA's new Land Use Planner, to take the necessary steps to re-ratify the MRP Law through consultation and a vote of the BNA Membership. We will move forward with this process early in the New Year.

The second Governance initiative that took me several months to complete was the drafting of an "Environmental Protection Law" for BNA. These laws are in draft form, and have to be looked at by a legal team to ensure they are sound and ready to go. The next step would again be consultation with the Members, and finally approval through the BNA Land Code. While working from home during the Pandemic, I also took training to be able to enter BNA's Land Interests, Leases, Codes, Laws and Bylaws into Indigenous Services Canada Land Registry. I am now set up with a log in and password to the system.



I have taken on a couple new tasks since the last Newsletter. I am now the Educational point-person for BNA, ensuring that the community has options in place for when school-aged children move to the reserve and I am assisting Helene and Angie with Finances. I was also the contact person for BNA Members during the COVID-19 office closure, and did connect with many Members during this time in order to answer their questions and concerns. Should you wish to contact me, Tracy Gibson, with a question or concern, my email address is:
tgibson@bnafn.ca

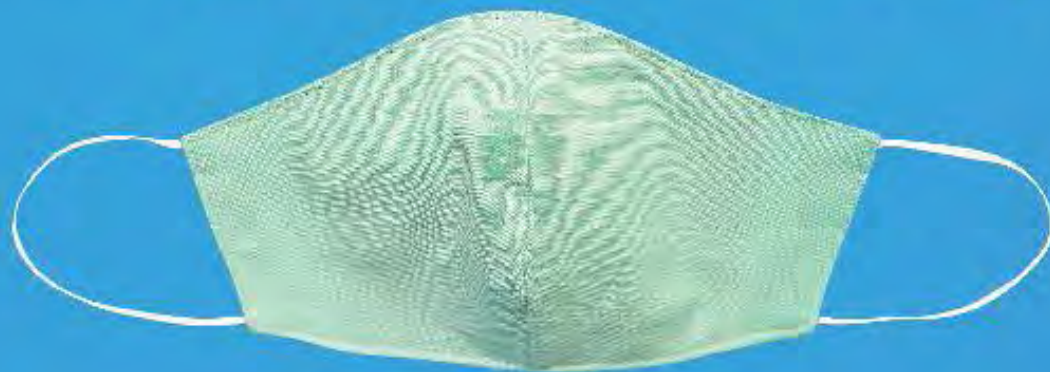


HEALTH

Boozhoo! These past five months have been quite challenging, as we have all been coping with restrictions due to COVID-19. Hope you all were able to relax for a bit and enjoy the beautiful summer weather. As fall approaches, it is important to remain diligent with proper hand washing, wearing a mask or face covering, and social distancing, as the virus that causes COVID-19 may be making a comeback this fall. Stay up to date with the latest local information and recommendations at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit COVID-19 page found at www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus. Another approach to stay informed is to download the free Canada COVID-19 app and COVID Alert app onto your cell phone, these apps will provide information. If you are feeling socially isolated and this has impacted your mental health negatively, please reach out and speak to a health professional or take advantage of all the online supports available. For culturally sensitive counselling for indigenous people check out <https://www.hopeforwellness.ca> and another great site designed for indigenous women can be found at <https://www.talk4healing.com>. Many other helpful services are also available by phone to support your wellbeing.

In preparation to head back to the BNA office, many necessary safety measures have been implemented to protect members, visitors and staff. Upon arriving to the office everyone must apply hand sanitizer, a mask, and socially distance. Reception will provide a screening tool for COVID-19; the questionnaire must be filled out in its entirety. As per the Thunder Bay District Health Unit mandate, when entering any indoor public space, it is mandatory to wear a mask or face covering. Please see the picture on the next page for the proper use of a mask.

If you wear a mask to protect others
it's important to use it properly:



1

Clean your hands before and after putting on the mask **AS WELL AS** before and after taking off the mask. That's 4 times.



2

Make sure the mask fits snugly over your nose and under your chin. Don't touch the mask while wearing. Take it off using the ear straps/elastics.



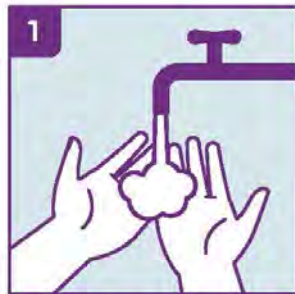
3

Replace when it becomes damp. If washable, put directly into wash with hot soapy water. If you are not at home keep in a plastic bag until you can. Clean your hands again.

The number one defense against COVID-19 is proper handwashing. Below is the correct way to reduce the transmission of germs.

Wash Your Hands

Stop the Spread of Germs!



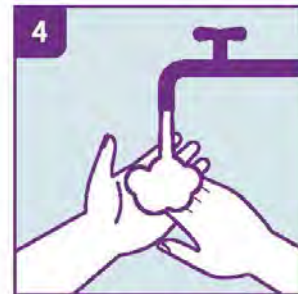
Wet hands.



Apply soap. Lather for 20 seconds.



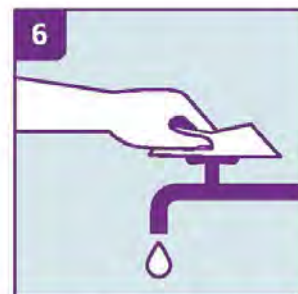
Rub between fingers, back of hands, fingertips, under nails.



Rinse well under running water.



Dry hands well with paper towel.



Turn taps off with paper towel, if available.

Visit [TBDHU.COM/StopGerms](https://www.tbdhu.com/StopGerms) for more information and printable resources.

If you are planning on having or attending any large gatherings this season, gathering sizes change according to the Ontario government recommendations. This information can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-stages#section-3> it is also recommended by the Ontario government to create a safe social circle of up to 10 friends and family who can interact without physical distancing. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/create-social-circle-during-covid-19>

This fall, immunizations will be in greater demand, plan to book an appointment with the Health Unit or your family health care provider. With schools re-opening, important decisions need to be made in terms of availability of childcare centres and your children's possible return to school/daycare. In-person attendance is voluntary for both elementary and secondary students for the 2020-2021 school year to ensure parents can make decisions that work for their children and family. School boards will offer remote learning for all students who choose this option. Find up to date information at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-reopening-schools> Practicing proper hand washing techniques with children at home, discussing social distancing and to how wear a mask properly will benefit them greatly during these challenging times. A few noteworthy items to be aware of this September are World Alzheimer's month, and World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th, 2020.

We must all adjust to the "new normal" way of operating and socializing, in doing so, we will be doing our part to keep each other safe and healthy during these uncertain and unprecedented times. Miigwetch!



BNA HEALTH CENTRE OPENING AND CCP EVENT - TUES SEPT 8TH

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is excited to host Canada's Minister of Health, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, for a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of BNA's new Health Centre. This will be part of a full day event including a tour of the community's many recent developments, with lunch and dinner served to all who attend.

Following lunch on the 8th, the BNA membership is invited for an afternoon of updates and Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) interactive discussions. The event will be captured on video and will be shared to the community via the BNA website, with viewing available online for members of our community who may not be able to attend in person. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has taken on many new and exciting projects and this event on September 8th will be opportunity for us to share news of these successes.

Please note: All necessary precautions will be taken to ensure the health and safety of all in attendance. For any information about this exciting day, please contact Robin Ranger, BNA's Comprehensive Community Planner, at rranger@bnafn.ca.



**We will take precautions to
gather safely**

BNA HEALTH CENTRE

BNA's Health Centre building was completed in 2019. This summer, a septic system is being constructed which will service both the Health Centre and the Sawmill. To provide safe water to both sites, they are being hooked-up to the existing well on-site. Site landscaping and parking will also be completed this year.

All of these improvements will make the Health Centre fully capable of operating for the membership. This will benefit BNA members, BNA partners and people throughout the region without medical services. The BNA Health Centre is a critical piece of community infrastructure which will help members who have moved back to the community.



BNA FAMILY WELL-BEING

Boozhoo dear community members,

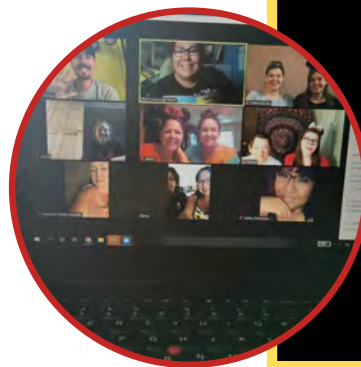
We hope you are all staying healthy and safe during these trying times. Family Well-Being has been busy and working hard to keep our community connected to one another. We have also been working on our traditional crafting skills. Beading, sewing, singing, and drumming have been just a few of the areas we have been focusing on behind the scenes. We look forward to the day when we can reopen the centre and put on workshops to share these skills with you. These past few months sure have been challenging but have also brought new beginnings for the Family Well-Being team. In June the Family Well-Being and EarlyON team went to the Marina to celebrate National Indigenous People's Day. Orville Councillor was our host for the event, Karen and Lindsey did a few teachings and of course we had some drumming and singing happening. We had quite a few members join in virtually through our Family Well-Being Facebook page. Miigwetch to everyone who participated in our National Indigenous Day event.



A promotional graphic for "THE OC SHOW". On the left, a man in a dark suit and tie is speaking into a microphone. On the right, the text "THE OC SHOW" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below that, it says "WITH YOUR HOST ORVILLE COUNCILLOR". At the bottom left, it says "EVERY WEDNESDAY @7PM ON THE FAMILY WELL BEING". The entire graphic has a red border.

July was a busy month for Family Well-Being. We introduced VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING! Each Thursday evening, we hosted an event for our families via Zoom from 6:30pm-8pm. The night started off with some live entertainment from our very own Orville Councillor, The OC Show. It has been great to see everyone again, smiling and laughing. A few events that FWB has hosted were Disney Trivia, Bingo Night, Paint Night, Family Movie Night and Virtual Kitchen. Family Well-Being and EarlyON also partnered up during the months of June and July to put on our Healthy Living/Medicine Wheel activities. Every week Tuesday-Friday we posted a positive healthy living activity that focused around the Medicine Wheel. We had a great turn out for participation during these activities and enjoyed seeing and reading everyone's posts. In August we introduced The Seven Grandfather Teachings. Each week we create activities surrounding each one of the Grandfather Teachings. Miigwetch to everyone who participated in these weekly activities. Keep an eye on the BNA Family Well-Being Facebook page for upcoming events. You can contact Camille Borysewicz or Lindsey Gladu if you have any questions or would like to sign up for any upcoming programs. We sure miss seeing you all at the centre. Stay safe and healthy!

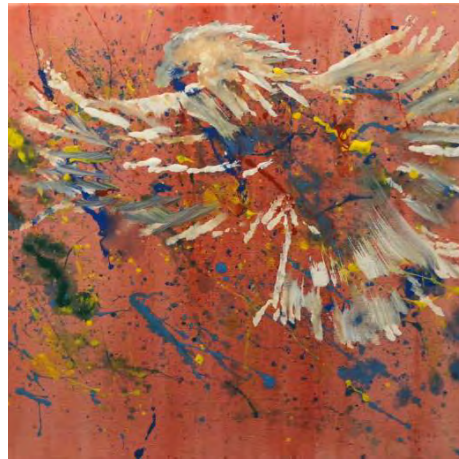
Miigwetch



EARLYON CENTRE

Boozhoo!

Over the last few months, we've been busy working from home. Planning activities, crafts, and workshops for when we re-open and can invite families back to the centre. We've also been doing online programming through Facebook. Starting the week off with a morning smudge and updating families on the weeks activities to encourage participation and interaction. Messy Monday activities are posted by Jill and are fun, messy and spark a sense of curiosity. Drumming and language with Orville continue to be held Tuesday and Thursday's at Waverly Park and Spirit Garden. Healthy Living and Wellness activities inspired by the Medicine Wheel were shared by the staff of BNA and our EarlyOn team each week. Our next series is the 7 Grandfather Teachings and the activities and teachings we share will focus on them.



Jill has been working on her traditional skills of beading and making moccasins for the children to wear while at the EarlyON Centre. Karen has made an adult pair as well. Jill and Karen have both made drumsticks and Karen has made dancing sticks with the BNA name for the children to share. These skills will be used to help put workshops on for the families and BNA members. We look forward to reopening in the near future and being together once again!



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

VALUE-ADDED SAWMILL EXPANSION

As previously reported to the membership, the Sawmill requires a significant equipment expansion in order to take advantage of the large-scale orders being made for the large regional transmission projects. Currently – despite all the best efforts by the Sawmill workers – it is not possible for the existing equipment line to meet these large orders. Therefore, with our newly completed Business Plan in hand, we have been working with public funders to make a case for investing in our operation. A large application was recently submitted to FedNor for assistance, and applications will be submitted to other provincial and federal funders that can make our Plan a reality.

Our goal is two-fold: We will begin with a new sawline, which will allow us to meet the large orders described above, and require new workers for the operation; and we will move into value-added lumber production so we will be prepared when the large regional projects eventually come to an end. This will allow Papasay to make the lumber for the continued development of BNA's on-reserve infrastructure, sell to neighbouring communities for their housing needs, and develop new markets for new products that only a niche value-added Sawmill is capable of producing.

However, while we continue to seek out the funding required for this important expansion, the Sawmill continues to produce orders for clients throughout the region. The Project is now in place, ensuring that the workers will have a warm place to work this winter. A washroom is being constructed inside the facility, which will soon be hooked up to the new well and septic system that is supplying both the Sawmill and new Health Centre. And we have continued to develop relationships with industry and harvesters to ensure a stable wood supply.

At the helm of this operation is Sawmill Manager Art Gladu. If you have any questions at all regarding the Sawmill operation, Art can be reached at artgladu@papasay.ca.



ART GLADU UPDATE

With all of the new housing being built in our community, our members that are camping on our land helped out by moving their campers to two different locations. Chief and Council provided 11 camping spots with 30 amp service up at the open area at Old Farlinger. The remaining campers moved up to the area around the BNA Maintenance Building.



Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, procedures were put in place by BNA's housing contractor so that the construction of our new single-family-dwellings were still able to move forward. Covid related signage was placed at each housing lot, and an extra washroom facility was also added specifically for use by the contractor and his workers. Our community washroom is also being kept clean by our BNA members, and our members on the land are also stepping up to help keep things clean during this Pandemic. Great job everyone!



During the past few months, BNA's roads have been getting some much needed TLC. Our community roads are being widened to 8 meters, and ditching is also being done. Several culverts have been damaged or just worn out through time, and are now being replaced. This work is making our roads more drivable and safe.



BNA DUPLEXES

BNA is proud to report to the membership that the duplexes which were constructed last year are now all being rented, and are fully occupied by BNA members and their families. This summer, a number of minor activities took place to finish off these homes, including landscaping, putting the sheds in place and fixing normal minor new home issues.

BNA is committed to making sure that these completed homes and their associated septic fields are properly maintained. This will preserve the First Nations investment in these critical assets, and ensure that they are in place well into the future for the membership. These duplexes are allowing BNA to re-build and re-establish its community, and provide its members with an opportunity to move back to the land base.



SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING CONSTRUCTION

With the duplexes now fully-occupied, BNA is keeping this positive housing momentum going in 2020 through the construction of three (3) additional CMHC-funded single-family homes. The construction of these units began in the spring, with their occupancy being possible next spring. The construction is being completed by Castle Building, project managed by TBT Engineering, and incorporates as much PVAWP pit material and Sawmill lumber as possible in their construction and landscaping.

These homes will each have three bedrooms, and are all being construction on large half- hectare lots on the shoreline of beautiful Lake Nipigon. Each has a large deck facing the lake. The units will have water supplied by wells which have been installed into the aquifer. Testing has been conducted, and we have verified good quality groundwater. They will also have a septic field which will be installed in an appropriate location.

These homes will be administered as rent-to-own housing. This will give members an opportunity to own their own home at a very reasonable price. The process is currently being developed, and will be undertaken in a way that is fair and transparent to the entire membership. Once finalized, the process for these new units will be mailed out to every BNA member.



BNA ROADS AND LOT A EXPANSION

This year, BNA is completing its approximately 6km roads project with its partner, Steve Ward Contracting. Work is continuing on ditching, culvert replacing, road widening, and the rising of the road base itself. We are excited that costs have been drastically reduced through the utilization of the Papasay Pit, which has aggregate that can be mixed to form a Granular B standard for the road work. This project is being completed this summer.

The BNA Roads Project is a critical infrastructure project for the safety of the BNA membership. It has removed dangerous corners, and widened the road to avoid future accidents with the additional travel with members now residing year-round on the land. And with so many large-scale projects occurring at BNA, having a solid road which will hold heavy machinery, housing supplies, and lumber trucks is important for the continued development of the community.

Along with the Roads Project, BNA has received funding from ISC to expand Lot A of its Industrial Park. BNA and Papasay have numerous projects occurring in its Industrial Park: an operating Sawmill, lumber inventory, whole logs, a biomass boiler and chipping system, bunks and heavy equipment, a Medical Clinic, and soon, a store. We require an expansion of the Park to ensure that we have the room to continue our various operations, and to move forward with new ones in the future. We hope to proceed with this project this fall.



ENERGY

COMMUNITY ENERGY COORDINATOR

Happy August everybody! It is Ayshaliisa McNally here, and I am the Community Energy Coordinator with Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) First Nation. I am a certified Community Energy Champion, Fire Smart Champion and the climate change point person for BNA. As BNA's Community Energy Coordinator, it is part of my job to look for sustainable energy project opportunities for BNA such as solar panels/ solar farm projects and other sustainable project possibilities. Some of the projects I have been working on thus far are writing proposals for economic development and sustainable projects, and working with BNA team members to ensure projects are energy efficient and sustainable.

As we move further into the summer months of 2020, I have been working with Hydro One and Bell Canada to investigate the 3 Phase Transmission Line project with fiber optics, which would bring both power and communications into the community. Other projects include the installation of solar panels in lot A of the industrial Park, continuing to learn from conferences, webinars, and community members through community engagement sessions either in person or online. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, energy audits for BNA community members will be postponed until further notice.



I have also been working with project team members for the Community Energy Plan project, and we would like to hear from you about your energy preferences for the BNA community. There is a community energy survey included in this mail-out, and also posted on the BNA website and BNA's Facebook page. If you would like, you can fill it out and send it by mail to the satellite office address, or scan a copy of the survey and send it by email to my email address; amcnally@bnafn.ca.

Also, if you have any questions about the community energy survey feel free to contact me either by my email address above or on my cell (807) 707-4667. Just a reminder, those who fill out and complete the energy survey will be entered into a draw to win a prize.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and hope to hear about your opinions in the community energy survey!



BNA 3-PHASE HYDRO PROJECT

The BNA Chief has been working closely with ISC in order to secure the necessary funding required for the expansion of 3-phase power into the community. Currently, BNA has 3-phase power at its Sawmill. The goal of this Project is to bring this power down the newly-constructed Copper Thunderbird Road, into the Phase 1 Housing Area. This would provide the necessary power supply for BNA’s continual development, and lessen our reliance on the single-phase power line currently servicing the Area from BZA.

In order for this to occur, we require an official “design” from Hydro One which provides engineering design and costing for this Project. This is in progress, and is also involving Bell, which will provide us with a design and costing for fibre optics on the poles into the community. Once we have these costs, we will be able to work with ISC for the necessary funding that is required to initiate this development.

Please note, however, that while this is a critical project, it will not solve all of BNA’s power woes. BNA, along with Macdiarmid and BZA, Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac, etc., are all serviced by a very weak (and ancient) 115 kV power line. Therefore, even with the 3-phase power, we are not immune from regional brown-outs and black-outs that frequent the region due to the inadequacy of this line. Therefore, BNA is looking into options for back-up generators for all residents and BNA buildings to ensure we can weather any future outages that will most certainly occur on the main line along the Highway.



BNA BIOMASS PROJECT

BNA is happy to report that our biomass system is now installed, commissioned and fully operational at the Sawmill in the BNA Industrial Park. In utilizing wood waste to heat the facility in the winter time, we are making working conditions much better for the Sawmill workers, while also reducing greenhouse gases through the displacement of diesel. The system will also reduce cost for the overall operation.

Going forward, BNA will look at creating a larger fuel supply of wood chips which can be used for community development, as well as sold to neighbouring communities in the region. This will provide additional revenues for BNA, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the region.

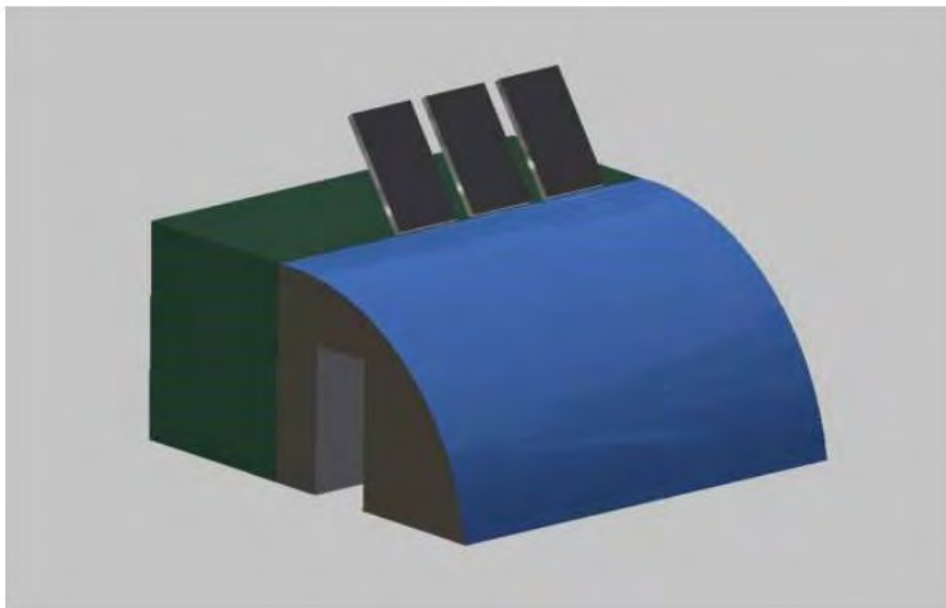
The BNA Biomass Project is now moving to the next phase – ensuring that future homes and community buildings will be compatible with a community biomass district heating system. The three homes currently being constructed will have an electric boiler for heat, and the necessary piping so that when a critical mass is reached, we will be able to heat the homes via a communal system fed by woodchips. This is an incredibly exciting development, and is launching BNA into the world of renewable community energy.



BNA GREENHOUSE PROJECT

Despite some predictable delays due to COVID-19, the greenhouse project has gone forward, and will be completed this year. Work has been going on behind the scenes, with the greenhouse consultant building the facility off-site to ensure that everything is working properly before transport to BNA. Once this is completed, the greenhouse will be disassembled, brought to BNA and then re-assembled on-site. The project will also have raised garden beds for other growing opportunities.

At BNA, preparation work has included finding a suitable location, checking that there are no services buried under the proposed location and marking the area. As a result of this process, the greenhouse will be located in the cleared area behind the Government Office, where the creek meets Lake Nipigon. The greenhouse will be installed this fall, and be available for use by the membership starting next year. This exciting Project will provide enhanced food security for BNA members living and camping on the land.



ASSET CONDITION REPORTING SYSTEM

BNA has been working with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to ensure that it has all of its assets properly listed in ISC's Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS). This means that critical funding which is needed to maintain infrastructure at Sand Point will soon be provided to the community. The infrastructure assets at BNA will be inspected and catalogued by an independent consulting company who will submit a report to ISC. Once this is accepted, BNA will begin receiving infrastructure maintenance funding which is long overdue. This will allow BNA's infrastructure at Sand Point to be properly maintained into the future.



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Hi everybody,

Much has happened since our last newsletter. The pandemic has certainly changed all our lives. Since mid-March, we have been working remotely due to the pandemic. Our main office, Family Well Being and EarlyOn Centre have all been temporarily closed. But all that will change on September 9th, when we return to the office and re-open for business. The province recently entered Stage 3 of the framework for re-opening. All our offices except for our EarlyOn Centre will re-open. Our main office will also be open to members, but only for those who have pre-booked an appointment. If you want to visit our office, please book an appointment in advance with Audrey at Reception at 623-2724. Please note that enhanced health and safety protocols will apply.

In the last month, I was able to visit the land. It was exciting to see all of the progress that is being made on the land. My first stop was a visit to the Sawmill, which is managed by Art Gladu. Art took me on a tour of both the Sawmill facility, as well as the biomass operation where wood waste is used for heat production, which is very impressive. The Sawmill is an economic driver for the First Nation, and it will be exciting to see it grow and expand in the years to come. I was also able to tour the new homes that are being built on the land. It is truly a historic time as members move back to the land to live in these homes. One of the things I am most excited about is the building of a greenhouse on the land. We had an opportunity to tour the site where the greenhouse will be built and talk about all the plans for the members to gather at this site.

On the staffing front, we recently hired Glenda Stratton, BNA's new "Human Resources Coordinator & Executive Assistant", and now "Pandemic Planner". She has been very busy working on our "return to office" framework and health and safety protocols to help ensure that we comply with all the health and safety guidelines as we re-open our offices. We have also hired Jessica Hubbard, BNA's new "Land Use Planner", who comes to us with a wealth of expertise. Please check out both Glenda and Jessica's articles in this newsletter where they introduce themselves.

The pandemic has changed the way we do business. Our Finance team has been busy over the last few months handling all of the things that we would normally handle physically in the office, but are now handling online, including our financial transactions. Tracy Gibson, our Governance Coordinator, has been a big help in assisting the Finance Team.

In June, a second payment of \$200 was sent out to each of our members aged 18 years of age and older to help alleviate some of the financial hardship that has arisen due to the COVID-19 crisis. If you have not already done so, please forward your direct deposit information to Tracy Gibson (tgibson@bnafn.ca), as it assists BNA with these sorts of emergency payments.

Please continue to check out the BNA website and Facebook pages to stay informed of any developments with all that is still happening at our Family Well Being and EarlyOn Centres, as well as all of our developments occurring on the land. Please stay safe and well, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Angie Maltese
Director of
Finance & Operations



HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

GLENDA STRATTON

Hello BNA Members!

I was hired with BNA in June and I am very happy to be part of the BNA Team. In this position, I am fortunate to be working alongside the dedicated and hard-working people at BNA. Previously to studying Human Resources, I had a career as an exploration and mining development Geologist for companies in various parts of Canada (NWT, Newfoundland & Labrador, northern Ontario), which I enjoyed for over many years. I decided to change my career after being inspired by others who have changed careers later in life. This has been a challenge, but I have enjoyed the learning. In my spare time I like to get outside in all four seasons to bike and hike on the Sleeping Giant, and all the beautiful trails along the shores of Lake Superior. Thanks, and wishing everyone to stay well during this time!

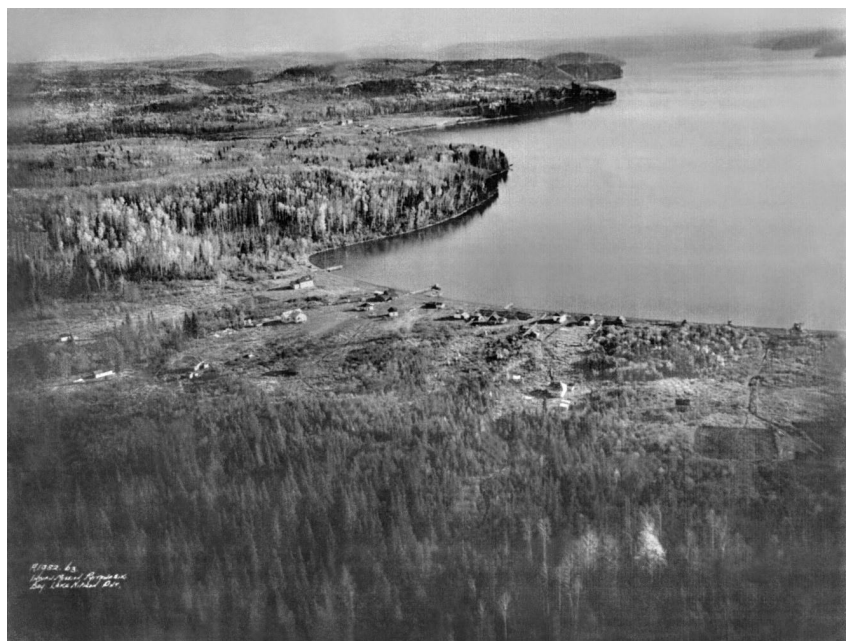


COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has an active CCP Program. Over the last few months, community planning has taken on some great projects. For one, now that we have members of the community living in houses on the land, CCP is working diligently with Canada Post to ensure that each home and building has an actual and valid mailing address. We are trying to get to the point where members will be able to have their BNA home address on their documentation.

Comprehensive Community Planning is intended to provide the community with the means to reconcile issues from our past through effectively planning today to ensure we get to where the community intends to go tomorrow. CCP has taken on an ambitious Lands Legacy Project, where we will work with specialized mapping technicians to locate our ancestors and family members buried in the community but outside of the Catholic cemetery. We are proud to have this historic project supported by the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre.

CCP is excited to connect with the community and share more about BNA's advancements and achievements during the upcoming community event planned for September 8th. Will see everyone then!



BNA MATRIMONIAL REAL PROPERTY LAW

A top priority for Chief and Council is to continue moving forward to make BNA's land a place for BNA members and their families to confidently call home. The BNA Land Code, while in need of updating, does allow independence for BNA to democratically make operational changes to its lands to better suit the unique needs of the membership. Due to the history of BNA's displacement and geographically dispersed membership, most marriages and domestic partnerships are between a BNA member and a non-member. Because of this key distinction, we are proceeding to re-ratifying the BNA Material Real Property (MRP) law by changing section 5.20 concerning non-members.

Currently, the MPR law states that in the case of a home occupied by a couple who consist of a member and non-member, the non-member must leave the home six months after the death of their member spouse. However, if approved by the membership, the changes would allow the spouse (or recognized domestic partner) of a BNA member to remain in their marital home after the death of their member spouse until they pass away, or choose to leave.

The proposed changes to the MRP Law will encourage members to move back to the community as it provides assurance that their non-member spouse or partner are protected, and can remain in their home long-term after the member in question has passed. By removing the barrier of forced removal from one's home, it increases housing security and the natural inclusion of non-member partners into the community.

BNA would not be the first community with a Land Code to make the decision to change its MRP laws, so there are many examples to look to across the country. The BNA lands staff are working closely with BNA's legal team and the Lands Advisory Board to ensure these changes to the BNA MRP Laws are enforceable and practical for the membership of BNA and their partners.

We are in the process of making draft changes, and will soon be embarking on the committee and community engagement process when it is safe to do so. We expect to move forward with the re-ratification of our new MRP Laws early in the new year.

Any questions or comments about the MRP can be directed to either Jessica Hubbard (jhubbard@bnafn.ca) or Tracy Gibson (tgibson@bnafn.ca).



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The BNA Land Code, ratified in 2014, gives the First Nation the opportunity to make its own decisions about its own reserve lands. Having a Land Code means that BNA is exempt from many sections of the Indian Act which refer to land management and planning. A cornerstone of the Land Code is not only the freedom to make choices about the management of the land, but also the responsibility to act in such a way that the land will be in the same condition or better for future generations. BNA must still meet all federal environmental laws at a minimum. Having an Environmental Management Plan helps ensure that compliance with regulations is followed, protecting BNA from future environmental liabilities. As a way of managing these responsibilities, the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) guides choices which will affect the environment to align with BNA's values long-term.

The EMP was created with assistance from DST Consulting Engineers in July 2019. As BNA now has a plan in place, 'Year One' milestones are being implemented. Significant developments in the process of the EMP include creating a climate change monitoring station on the land to record local weather patterns. This data can then be used to understand the changes to BNA's climate long-term. The lands staff are also developing an Environmental Protection Law so the measures put in place in BNA's EMP can be upheld in times of non-compliance.

The lands team received funding for increased staffing in the form of a Land Use Planner hired this July. As well, BNA will be receiving ongoing technical and financial support from the First Nations Land Management Resource Center as we move forward with the implementation of our Plans.

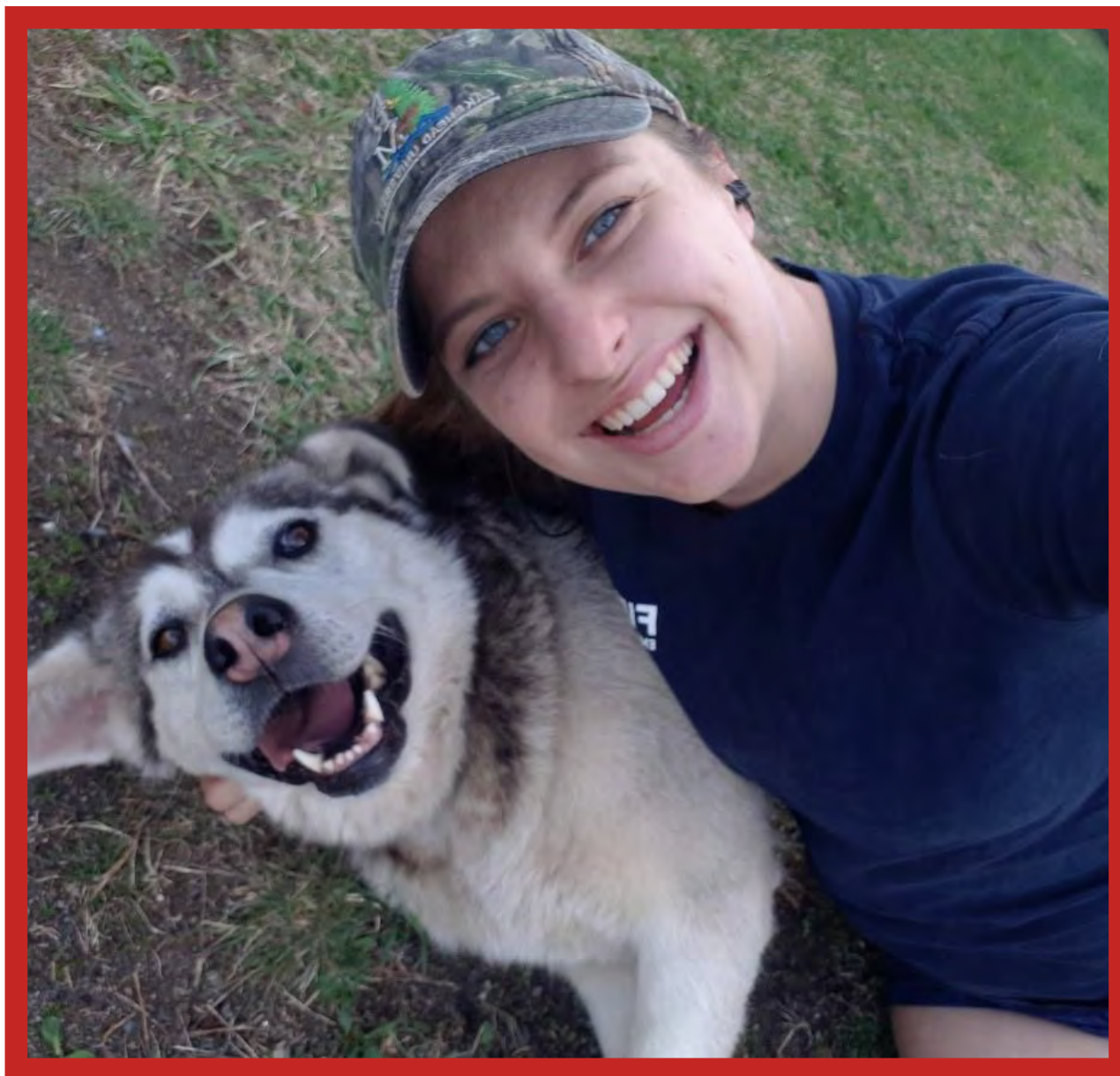


BNA LAND USE PLANNER: JESSICA HUBBARD

After several weeks with BNA I am settling into my position as Land Use Planner and am excited to work with such a diverse and knowledgeable group of professionals. I have been passionate about nature and sustainability from a young age and was lucky to live on the shore of Lake Scugog where I could explore and watch the patterns of the seasons. After high school I moved 1,400km to Thunder Bay to attend Lakehead University. After starting in biology, I saw the forestry students returning to campus with muddy boots and big smiles and knew that I had to leave the sterile lab and transfer to that program. During school I took a variety of subjects mostly in the sciences, but also in business, political science, and geography. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Management with a specialization in Land Use Planning in 2016.

Before this position with BNA, I was the forestry advisor for the Metis Nation of Ontario where I handled consultation with various regional committees and technical guidance for 35 forest units. I worked as a fireranger for a few seasons flying across Canada to fight wildfires with my crew. In my spare time I have volunteered as a rural firefighter and first responder. A few seasons between school years were spent under the midnight sun doing biodiversity work with the University of Alberta in northern Alberta. Briefly I was employed in the western oil fields to apply vegetation management principle and combat the increase of destructive invasive species. With a mixed background of fieldwork, applied science, policy and industry work I look forward to being able to use all these different experiences to create a Land Use Plan that fits BNA's unique needs.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time exploring NW Ontario by canoe, foot, and skis. I am also transiting my homestead to be increasing self-sufficient and eventually off the grid. In the photo below is one of my 2 adopted huskies.



LAND USE PLAN

For a community to operate successfully, there must be proper planning for how the land will be utilized. The tool for this thoughtful process is the Land Use Plan (LUP). The LUP is a guiding document for both how the land will be conserved, as well as sustainability developed. The Plan will contain all aspects of developments on the land, including residential, commercial, and recreational, ensuring that various services will be in place for community members moving to the land.

The importance of the LUP is that it gives a broad-scale design to how the community will expand consistently and sustainably. It legitimizes the goals and values which BNA stands for, and supports turning them into enforceable laws. The overarching framework that the LUP provides gives a broad structure to all development which will have an impact on the land, and ensures that developments – which are expected to take place at an increasing rate over the next decade – are done in a way that is consistent from project to project, with clear guidelines and expectations.

The LUP is slated to be completed by March 31, 2022, after rigorous community engagement and participation. Of course, with current COVID-19 regulations, community meetings may look different than they did previously. But we will continue to communicate progress on this project and seek input from members. As the LUP is a long-term plan, there are stipulations for re-assessing its effectiveness, and assurance that we will have the ability to make changes to reflect the current needs of BNA members and the local environment. The lands staff welcomes any input on matters of the LUP. Questions or comments can be directed to Jessica Hubbard, our new Land Use Planner, at jhubbard@bnafn.ca.

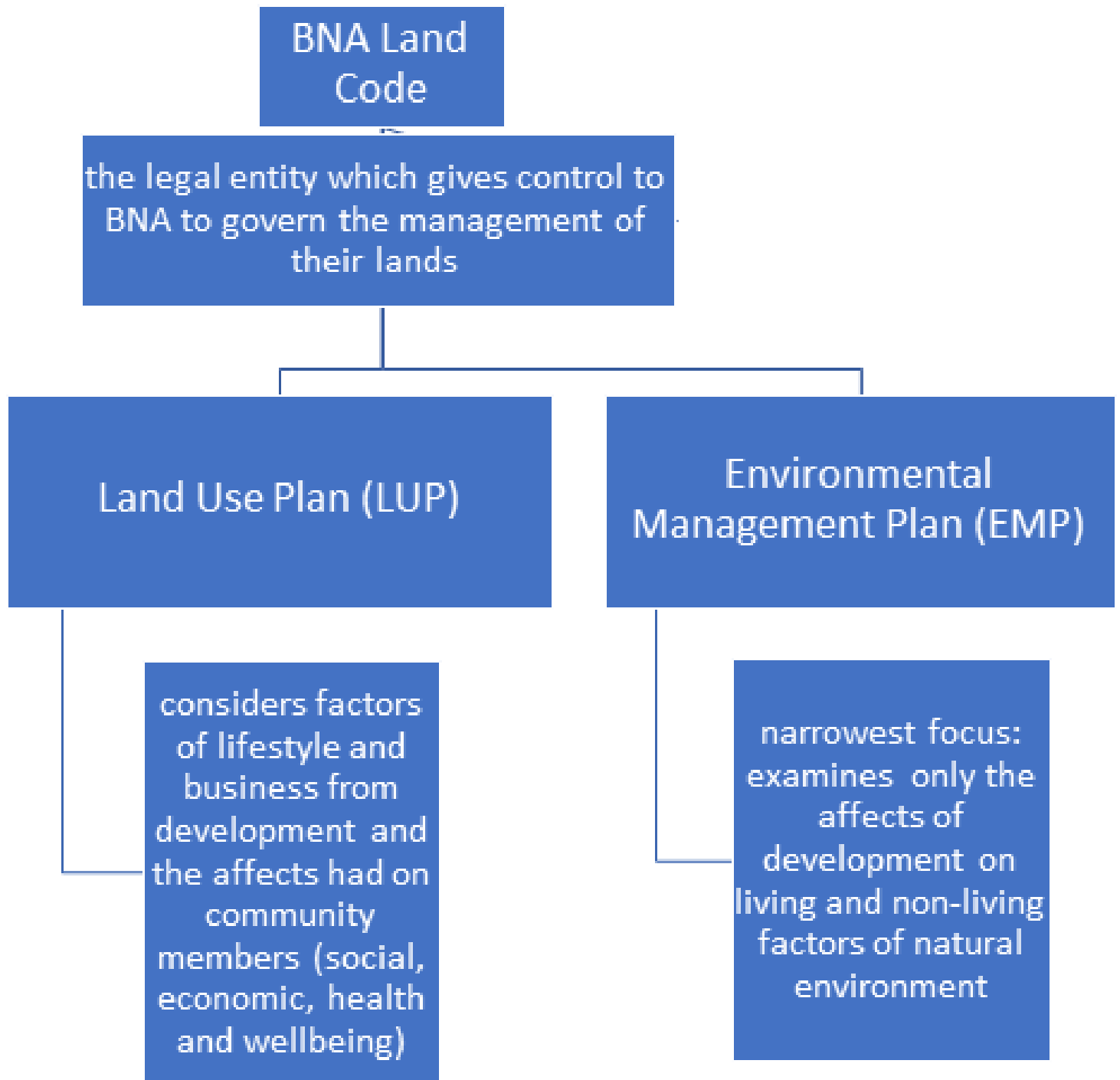


Figure 1: Current regulations and policies to support BNA land use. Range of factors and complexity decreases as the list goes downward.



BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK
JOB POSTING – HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE WORKER (HCCW)
Full-Time Position – Thunder Bay

POSITION SUMMARY

As part of the BNA Health department, the HCCW reports to the **Director of Social Services**, with overall accountability to Chief and Council. The HCCW will collaborate with internal and external partners in the planning and implementation of a variety of community activities to promote physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness.

EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE

- Experience: Nursing: 1 year (Required)
- Education: Secondary School (Required)
- License: RPN or RN (Required)
- Experience working with First Nation communities (Preferred)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Act in the capacity of the primary case manager of Home and Community Care services

- Act in the capacity of the primary case manager of Home and Community Care services to the members of BNA with emphasis on the elderly and disabled.
- Coordinate the delivery of a continuum of long-term care services and home & community care to support individuals and their families in resolving issues related to the aged and disabled.
- Match client needs for personal, homemaking and maintenance services.
- Provide demographic, health status, statistical, and program information according to policy or as directed.

Research, develop, deliver and evaluate programs

- Monitor programs and services to ensure they meet stated goals
- Build and/or strengthen bridges between traditional and mainstream approaches to wellness.
- Develop long range plans, programs and strategies as well as policies, guidelines, standards and reporting systems
- Monitor programs and services to ensure they meet stated goals

Administer programs

- Prepare and distribute program information and opportunities
- Identify potential funding sources and prepare proposals and funding applications. Ensure that funding agreement and regulatory requirements are being met.
- Plan, implement and monitor program budgets
- Coordinate purchasing and program delivery. Develop long range plans, programs and strategies

SKILLS

- Demonstrate knowledge of the broad spectrum of health and health care support systems; must understand the issues, concerns of First Nation Inuit Health, Indigenous Health Wellness Strategy as well as the trends, directions and models of delivery and governance that affect health.
- Excellent communication, computer, relationship building, conceptual and leadership skills.
- Ability to provide thorough, well composed reports on specific issues within time limits.
- Initiative and ability to complete tasks with a minimum of guidance and supervision, and to manage competing demands in a team setting.
- Willing and able to travel as required.
- Must have valid class 'G' Ontario Driver's License
- Criminal Reference check and Vulnerable Sector Search is required

Salary Range: \$45-50,000 dependent upon education and/or experience, Excellent Benefits Package!

To pursue this opportunity, please submit a cover letter and resume to gstratton@bnafn.ca

Position will remain posted until filled, Miigwetch to all those who apply. Only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



SUMMER 2020



NEWSLETTER