



BNA

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

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(f) 807-623-2764

SUMMER
NEWSLETTER

2010

CHIEF AND COUNCIL MESSAGE:

Land Update:

We are very excited to inform the membership that Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is no longer a landless community! After negotiating with the Federal and Provincial Governments since 1991, we have been advised that on April 22, 2010, Privy Council approved the Order in Council submission, which recommended that the lands be set aside as reserve. The approval of this Order in Council grants the lands reserve status.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Implementation Committee that has met monthly with Council to discuss the progress being made on our behalf with both levels of Government.

Chief and Council would also like to express our sincerest thanks to our membership for remaining patient, understanding and supportive when setbacks occurred. We understand that at times it seemed we would never achieve what we've achieved and that there always seem to be another barrier to overcome. Thankfully, through your support and the tireless efforts of all involved, we have a place to come home to. We look forward to continuing to plan for the eventual re-vitalization of our Community and encourage participation from our membership.

WELCOME HOME!!!

"Coming Home" Celebration:

In our last newsletter, we reported the dates of the "Coming Home" celebration would take place on August 20th & 21st, however, due to scheduling conflicts, the official dates of the celebration are **August 13th and 14th, 2010**. Invitations are currently being sent out. Band members will receive their invitation beginning the last week of May.

As this is such a significant event for us, we are prepared to contribute some dollars to bring our membership to this gathering. We will be sending out more information in June, including a registration form which will allow us to better prepare for travel and accommodations for membership.

If there are any band members that feel that they can contribute any services for the Celebration, please contact someone from Council to discuss further.

Work at the park:

As we are having the Coming Home Celebration this August, there is much work that needs to be done at the Reserve. Please read further in this newsletter issue for more information and employment opportunities for summer work at Bingwi Neyaashi.

Health Director:

We are very excited to announce that Cora-Lee McGuire will be joining the Bingwi Neyaashi Team commencing on May 25, 2010. She is a very admirable and strong Anishinaabek woman and we believe that she will prove to be a great asset to us all. Please read on in the newsletter to read her bio.

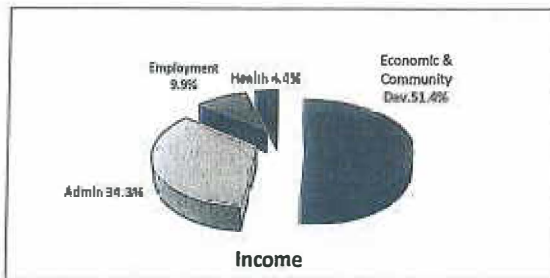
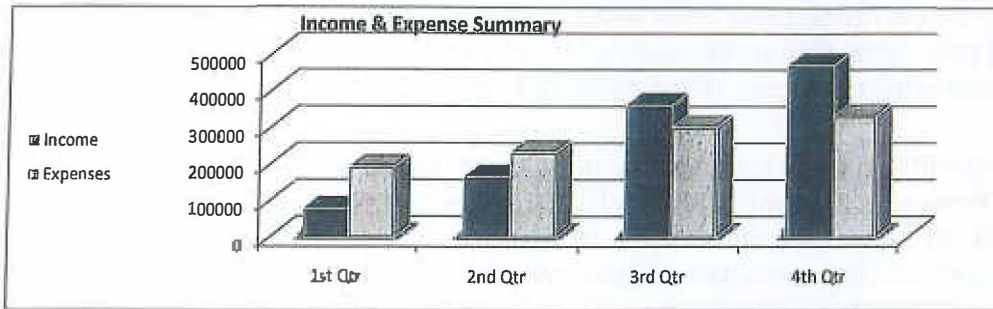
FINANCE

Note from the Finance Desk

The charts and tables below provide a visual of draft financial information at year end. We are currently engaged in our annual audit with BDO Dunwoody with the expectation for timely submission to Indian and Northern Affairs, et al. It has been a great and very busy year with a lot of positive change and development. On another note, I had the opportunity to attend a presentation with Gale Vax-Oxlade last week and I felt that sharing her rules may help you all in some way.

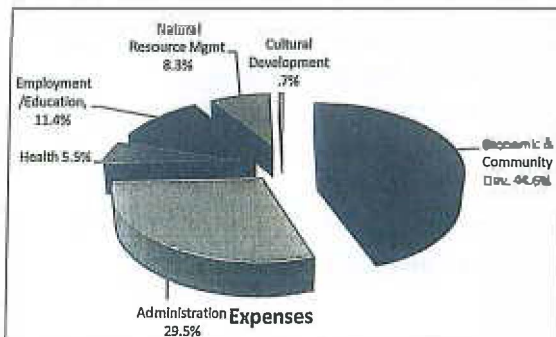
- #1 - Don't spend more than you make.
- #2 - Save something.
- #3 - Pay down your debt.
- #4 - Plan your spending.

Kelly Banning
Finance Director



Income
April 2009 thru March 2010

Economic & Community Dev.	51.40%
Administration	34.30%
Employment	9.90%
Health	4.40%
Total Income	\$1,080,661.49



Expenses
April 2009 thru March 2010

Economic/Community Dev.	44.60%
Administration	29.50%
Health	5.50%
Employment/Education	11.40%
Natural Resource Mgmt	8.30%
Cultural Development	0.70%
Total Expenses	\$1,062,363.04

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Canadian Delegation Trade Mission to China in May - Canbio

JP Gladu, Senior Advisor, has been invited by the Canadian BioEnergy Association to join a Canadian Delegation to meet with the Chinese Government and Chinese Investors. The impetus for the invitation is the pending Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Pellet Plant and Cogeneration facilities in addition to JP being on the CanBio Board.

The Chinese government has a funded program, to promote Chinese companies to form partnerships and invest in renewable energy technologies and projects offshore, and many Chinese companies are flush with cash. Canada has many bioenergy project opportunities from small to large, and many require financing. In addition, Canada is recognized as a safe place to do business.

To promote partnerships, CANBIO has planned the mission to China, both to promote Canadian biofuel technologies in China, and to look for financing partners for Canadian bioenergy projects. CANBIO has the cooperation of the Trade Commissioner Service in Beijing, which will be coordinating logistics in China.

Initially, introductions by Canadian and Australian governments on doing business in these countries, corporate incentives, taxation etc, will be held followed by presentations by Canadian and Australian companies and associations outlining project opportunities, such as large bio-refineries, pellet plants, biofuel plants, biofuel technologies, heat and power plants, plantations etc. Tuesday evening a networking reception is planned at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. Wednesday would see a continuation of company presentations in the morning. In the afternoon we plan business-to-business meetings between Chinese entrepreneurs and Canadian and Australian companies, which may carry over to day 3. On day 3 the delegation will plan meetings between Australian and Canadian companies to discuss prospective business partnerships.

Ministry of Northern Development Mines and Forestry - Growth Plan

The Ontario government has been promoting a Northern Growth Plan over the past few months, to northern communities. As part of their engagement process, they held a series of First Nation meetings. One of these meetings was held at the Fort William First Nation's office.

The growth plan is being developed under the Places to Grow Act, a provincial legislation, with the goal to enable a coordinated approach to growth planning across Ontario. A significant piece to the plan is the Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy by identifying regional challenges and potential solutions.

JP Gladu participated at this meeting and gave a presentation to the First Nations and government agencies. A few points of his discussion:

(Continued)

- First Nation capacity varies in each region across Ontario
- Concept of Partnerships vary between large corporations and First Nations
- History of spotted long-term success and many start-ups not 'making it'

Some of his recommendations were:

- Micro loan Guarantee Programs
- Training and Capacity : Stumpage Charges
 - First Nations to lead training and capacity where possible (knowledge sharing across province)
- First Nation Management Companies
- On-Ramps need to be provided into future for First Nations not ready to participate now

It is expected that the First Nations in Ontario will continue to be engaged to ensure our issues are listened to.

Cedar Processing Facility

The council, lead by JP, continues to seek project financing. The overall cost of the project is over \$3 Million. Interest for financially supporting the project has come from Fednor, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, Aboriginal Business Canada and two major banks.

It remains the goal to obtain funding as soon as possible in order to begin a 22 week construction phase starting later this summer. The ultimate goal is to begin initial testing runs in early 2011.

Ontario Power Generation and the Five Lake Nipigon First Nations

Negotiations between the LNFN group and OPG have been initiated. A legal team from Winnipeg with significant experience in negotiating for First Nations on hydro projects has been hired as part of the negotiating team.

The chiefs and technicians recently spent two days with the legal advisor fine tuning an Agreement In Principle (AIP) which will be submitted to OPG for review. The AIP will set the foundation for negotiations over the next year.

Hydro One

The Lake Nipigon Chiefs and Technicians have communicated to Hydro One (HONE) their aspiration for a meaningful partnership, the need for education, training and business development for their members. Unfortunately to date, there has been little response from HONE with regards to our requests.

Continued...

Biomass Information Session



The Senior Advisor had presented to the community the opportunity in a biofuel economy; more specifically pellet plant and co-generation plant facilities. We are happy to report the business plan is in the Ministry of Northern Development Mines and Forestry evaluation queue along with our business plan for additional cedar resources.

If successful, our joint biofuel project with Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek will see over 60 full time jobs at the facilities along with 20 full time jobs at the cedar mill. When you think of it, it is more jobs than we have members who are looking for meaningful work.

It has always been the vision of the Chief and Council to create meaningful long-term employment for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek members. We are striving to meet this vision.

We expect to hear in the early fall whether or not our business plan was successful. The next challenges are to find access to both Markets and Financial resources to fund the \$20 + Million dollar project. See Chinese Trade Mission article for information on one potential stream for financing of biofuel project.



COMMUNITY



CULTURE

Native Culture on Color:

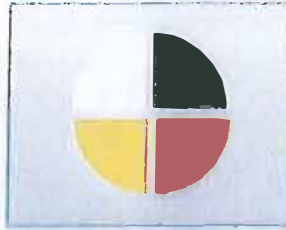
The colors all have specific mean whether you were making a Jingle Dress, Traditional Wedding Dress or other Traditional outfits or other gear. A traditional Native person would notice the color you chose and know the full meaning of what you are trying to say without words. Traditionally, we would seek the advice of our Elders' to tell us what color they opted for you. They would tell us why they decided on that certain color and the representation of the choice for that occasion. The advice we were given to us by our Elder's was straightforward and varied.

RED -The most powerful of all the colors. Grandfather Sun and the Ancestors, when they are called in ceremony are attracted to the color red. Red revitalizes, stimulates and harmonizes all body systems. Red is the warming element of sunlight and when it casts its light upon seeds, new growth and energy is the result. For a seed to grow into a life-form be it human, plant or animal, requires courage and an enthusiasm to be other than what it is.

YELLOW (GOLD) - Yellow is a physical and mental stimulant. It is the color of honor, loyalty, happiness and prosperity. When Grandfather Sun shines its light on seeds, and new growth, new-life is inspired to grow and be happy and warm.

BLUE - Introspection, great hope and inspiration and spiritual energy. Seeds tell you to listen to your inner self, and the inner be afraid to grow and change. No is proper and timely for your

GREEN - Green is the symbol of eternal life, because all things Earth grow from seeds. Feel the softly upon Mother Earth, for she come from a seed directly from the Creator.



messages being given to you, not to one knows better than yourself what personal evolution.

Mother Earth and the hope for that the Creator made on Mother ground underneath you and walk is telling you of your value as you

ORANGE - Has an enlivening effect on the emotions. It gives you strength and endurance. If you have been given seeds, then you know that your own inner strength was born from a seed. Seeds grow into strong entities, so listen and believe in your own inner strength.

PINK - The color of creativity, and Grandmother Moon. Woman's creativity comes directly from her womb, where seeds are planted to bring new life to Mother Earth. From woman's creativity comes forgiveness, compassion, love, and dreams, and dreams are where the future lives. It is a freeness of love without jealousy.

SILVER:Symbol of innocence, faith, purity, joy and glory. White has the protection of heaven.

SEEDS: *South on the medicine wheel, these have potential for the future; rebirth; renewal, spring, winds of change.*

CEDAR: *South on the medicine wheel and healer of the physical body.*

SAGE: *West on the medicine wheel. This helps stabilize emotions, and create beautiful dreams and visions.*

FEATHERS: *East on the Medicine wheel. Feathers represent a message for the good things in life, wisdom and knowledge. Flying free with creative thought is a privilege.*

STONES: *West on the Medicine Wheel. Stones are the keepers of your inner knowledge and that of the living world while looking for your own truth.*

SWEETGRASS: *It sits in the north where the white bear sings about kindness, fairness and equality.*

MEMBERSHIP CODE/SURVEY WINNERS

I have had the pleasure of working on the beginning stages of developing a Membership Code for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek with Audrey Gilbeau and the Nokiwiin Tribal Council. A focus group was held at the Prince Arthur on February 20th, 2010 and we were thrilled with the turnout and participation of all who attended. They brought forth some great ideas as to the direction and areas that need work. A survey was also sent out to the Membership asking specific questions on membership. 37 people responded and winners were drawn from the surveys that were returned. Congratulations to Terry Clarke, Noella Clarke, and Christine Koronkiewicz as the winners of a \$75.00 gift card each for participating in the survey. We have received a lot of valuable feedback and information so far and hope that we receive the funding to continue with this endeavor. We have applied for new dollars this fiscal year from Indian and Northern Affairs to continue this process with input from the membership.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - E-SPIRIT - ABDF, ABC ETC.

Entrepreneurship opportunities are available through several resources. The Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) may now be able to assist many more Aboriginal entrepreneurs and communities with support for Business Development under new provisions of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) Aboriginal Business Canada programming. To learn more about this programming, or to contact the office nearest you, please visit www.ainc-inan.gc/aec-abc or call 1-800-622-6232 (1-800 O- Canada)(INAC, 2010)

Starting a business? The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) has an online guide that can help. It provides an overview of the process from A to Z and includes as many links as possible to online tools and useful sites – many of them free (My Project, 2010). Please visit www.bdc.ca for more valuable links and information to help in starting or growing your business. The BDC website offers a variety of online tools for more than just entrepreneurial endeavours; you can utilize this site for your own personal finance help and tips for everyday money matters.

Anyone aged 18 – 34 years old can access more valuable resources by checking out the Superior North Community Future Development Corporation's website at www.sncfdc.com

WEBSITE

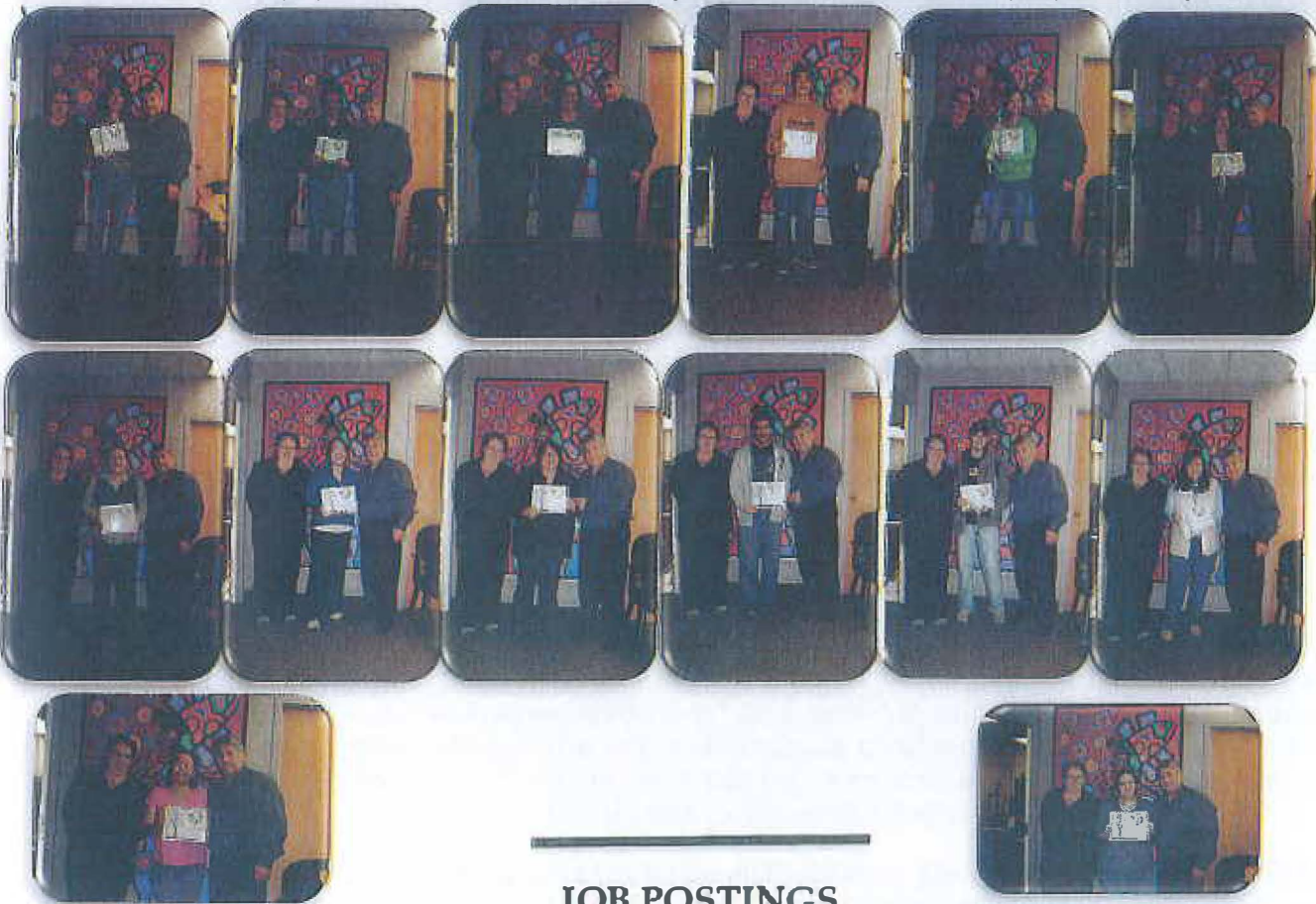
All staff has received training on how to navigate the new website and we are currently working on the content for it before it goes live online for all to see. It will be a great new communication tool for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek staff and membership. We will have an area where you can put in your email address to automatically receive Newsletters as they come out.

The address will be www.bingwineyaashi.com.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2 ~ WEEK WORKSHOP

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise facilitated a fantastic Entrepreneurship Workshop that was held in the boardroom of the BNA office over 4 evenings in March. All of our participants showed great enthusiasm in sharing ideas and asking lots of questions during the workshop. It was great to have a few staff and members. Congratulations to all who received a Certificate of Completion: Lucia Desmoulin, Lewis Johnson, April Head, Joe Spade, Debby Michon, Margaret Grimard, Ebony Gladu, John Johnson, James Johnson, Louise Esquega, Grace Dow, Laura Aims, Kelly Banning and Rhonda Prystanski.

The Entrepreneurship Workshop was full of valuable information and resources to utilize for anyone to access. If you would you like a package of information that was presented at the workshop, please contact Rhonda Prystanski and one will be prepared for you.



JOB POSTINGS

For all Job Postings: Please call (623-2724), email (rprystanski@shawbiz.ca) or come see Rhonda Prystanski at the office for any current job listings in your field. Our Job Board can be reviewed at anytime during office hours, it is located in the waiting area and, upon request, will photocopy any opportunity you may be interested in.

Youth and Students who are returning to school in the fall may be eligible for a wage subsidy for summer employment. If you have an interested employer or would like help in finding an employer willing to hire you for the summer through AHRDA's wage subsidy program, please contact Rhonda (contact information noted above) for details.

Summer Employment: Anyone interested in summer employment, please contact me at the office with your current resume and the type of employment you would prefer so I can try to best match you up with the available employment opportunities and your qualifications and interests.

DO YOU HAVE A



The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek has been successful in obtaining funding for the purchase of a grader to maintain our community roads through the Canadian Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA) program being operated through the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI).

As you are all aware, the single dirt road access into the community has deteriorated over the years to the point where safety and dependability are now questionable. Our plan is to utilize the funding that we will receive from CORDA to purchase a grader to maintain the road and also place two to three community members to work to clear brush and deadfall from road edges.

The initial project was to repair the road into our community, however, other spin-off opportunities such as grading crown land forest roads through the Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. is an additional benefit that will allow for long-term economic viability to the community and long-term employment opportunities for our membership.

The Chief and Council are looking to our membership to purchase this piece of equipment rather than hire outside contractors. If any of our members have a grader for sale, we ask that you forward a letter to the Band Office with details of the grader. Please include the following information, a recent photograph of the grader, year, make, model, and asking price no later than May 25, 2010.

NATIVE LANGUAGE COURSE

A proposal has been developed and submitted to the Sweetgrass First Nations Language Council to run a Native Language Course for the members of BNA. The course, if funded, will start in September 2010 and will run through the winter to March 2011. The course instructor will be William Esquega and classes will be held at the BNA Administration offices located at 146 S. Court Street.

To ensure that the class size is not too large and each student will receive an appropriate level of instruction, we will be restricting the class size to ten (10) students. During the course, the participants will be encouraged to take part in conversations with the instructor and each other.

The ability to carry on a basic conversation will be a strong indicator of the success of the program.

Once we get word on the funding for this course we will send out an update and a request for members interested in taking the course.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP - JOB OPPORTUNITY

In preparation for our Land Creation Ceremony on August 13 & 14, 2010, we are hiring a number of our community members to clean-up the site. The clean-up for the site will be headed up by an on-site foreman, who will be selected through an interview process. Any community member that would like to apply for this position is requested to submit a letter of interest along with a current resume no later than May 25, 2010 by 12:00 PM.

The foreman will be responsible for:

- scheduling the work of three - 3 man crews from May 31 to August 6, 2010
- site safety & security
- equipment and materials ordering
- and other duties as requested by the Chief and Council

The work that will be done includes:

- Cleaning up the brush and dead trees at the entrance to the community and along the road into the community
- Clean-up at each of the camp sites
- Landscaping
- Repair the foot bridge
- Repairs to the existing facilities

We are requesting that any of the community members that want to work on this project to send a letter along with a current resume to the BNA Band Office no later than May 25, 2010 by 12:00 PM.

As there will be a significant amount of work that requires the use of chain saws and other power tools we are requesting that the workers have past experience, a chainsaw certificate and first aid training.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek will look to its membership to fulfil this position; however, if a qualified candidate cannot be found within our community we will look to an Aboriginal person outside of our community and finally open to general public if a suitable Aboriginal person cannot be found. Timing is critical, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek will be accepting all applications, but will prioritize as mentioned above in order to ensure the best person for the job is hired.

Please forward your resume and letter of interest to:

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

Attn: Chief and Council

146 S. Court Street

Thunder Bay, Ontario

P7B 2X6

Fax: 807-623-2764

Email – bnas@mail.com

Deadline: Monday May 25, 2010 by 12:00 p.m



The word 'PARO' is Latin for "I Am Ready". The PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise has helped thousands of women across Northern Ontario to start, grow or build new business opportunities.

We are a not-for-profit and grassroots organization that remains focused on addressing the many unique challenges facing women as entrepreneurs and primary family caregivers. Since our launch in 1995, we have continued to diversify the range and reach of our programs and services to meet the changing socio-economic environments of our communities and the growing needs and aspirations of women in Northern Ontario.

At PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise, we seek to empower women within their communities, strengthen small business and promote community economic development (CED) through integrated and women-centered program delivery. From training and business coaching, to networking events and peer lending circles, all of our innovative programs and services are designed to increase the self-sufficiency and success of women, families and communities in the North.

PARO has helped over 1200 women all across Northern Ontario as of 1995. PARO has helped many women become strong, independent, successful business owners. PARO Centre offers many programs, workshops, seminars and support groups to help you get started or guide you through the process of starting your own business now or later.

Workshop Every Wednesday's from 11:00 to 12:00pm (Time may change, depending on length of workshop.)

Contact Us

For more information about our programs and services, contact us today:

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise

110 - 105 May St. North

Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3N9

Tel: (807) 625-0328

Toll-Free: 1-800-584-0252

Fax: (807) 625-0317

Email: info@paro.ca

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30am - 4:30pm

Visit our web site for direct email addresses: WWW.PARO.CA

Policy Review Committee Update:

The Policy Review Committee has met on numerous occasions to review and provide input into our First Nation's policies and procedures as well as developing a Terms of Reference, Code of Ethics and an Organizational Chart. Due to the committee's hard work and dedication we have completed draft personnel and financial policies and procedures as well as corporate governance policies relating to information technology, files/records, privacy and the Annual General Meeting. All the policies are currently under final review, minor amendments and final approval from our Chief and Council.

Bingwi Neyaashi Health Department ~ For Your Health

Greetings to all Members! What a 'Beautiful Spring Season' this is!



Good Food Box and Nutrition

The next Good Food Box home visit for the AHBHC participants will be on May 20th and the following will be on June 22nd. The Good Food Box deliveries are always on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

BNA Health Workshops

The BNA Health Workshops are held each Wednesday from 1:00-4:30 PM. The majority of the workshops are held in the BNA boardroom so for seating space it would be appreciated if you contact this health office in advance if you are planning to attend. On Wednesday, June 2nd there is a Moss Bag workshop being held at the Union of Ontario Thunder Bay facility, located on FWFN reserve. Linda Banning will be facilitating. It is very labour intense and will take a full day. The workshop will start at 9:00am sharp! To sign up, please call the BNA office ASAP. There is a maximum of 7 participants.

Recent BNA Health Workshops

The last 3 months were very busy. The participants had a chance to experience many great teaching as we took in the sites of Thunder Bay and surrounding area: Thunder Bay Museum, The Founder's Museum and Pioneer Village, Kakabeka Falls, Old Fort William, Mount McKay, Chippewa Park and Vanderwee's. Some pictures have been included. Also information on HST was discussed. For more information on the new HST tax, go to: What is HST?

<http://www.gov.on.ca/tax/hst/whatis/hst.html>

Committee

As most of you know, the BNA Health is connected with the Aboriginal Working Committee for Children ages 0-6. The committee works as a team, doing cost sharing activities with the connecting agencies year round. The next event will be to celebrate Father's Day and is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16. A sub-committee meeting is in the works with more information to follow.

Health Fair

The next Fort William First Nation Health Fair is being held on June 28th, 2010 at the FWFN community hall. At last year's event there was a great turnout and we are looking forward to another successful event. BNA will once again be setting up a booth. Come out and support this good cause of health and wellness sharing.

New Horizon for Seniors Project

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek continues to work with the Elder Advisory Committee on the New Horizon for Seniors Project. An update will be sent out to the supporting agencies, within the next two weeks, to jointly support the Committee in a working group. Next meeting is slated for June.

Funders

The Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Health Department objective is to provide advocacy and referral to the membership, serve as a link by connecting individuals with resources, to generate and maintain professional helping relationships, and to promote healthy living lifestyle choices through prevention and awareness.

Funding is provided by the following: Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy, Union of Ontario Indians. Initiatives: Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Federal Family Violence, HIV/AIDS, MOH-LTC Diabetes Education, Community Wellness and Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Strategy.

FOR INFORMATION ON HEALTH RELATED ISSUES PLEASE CONTACT THE HEALTH OFFICE AT 1-877-623-2724 OR EMAIL TO: gtpodolchuk@hotmail.com

Take care and stay healthy.
Sincerely,
Grace Dow



HIV/AIDS 2010 Conference

On June 11-13th, The Strawberry Moon Annual HIV/AIDS Conference is being held in North Bay, Ontario this year. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is looking for two delegates to represent BNA. If you are interested please call the office asap. This training is going to be a great opportunity to learn some new fresh ideas to bring back and share with our community. This 3 day event is sponsored by the Union of Ontario Indians.

Regards, Grace



WELCOME
CORA-LEE!

We have recently hired Cora-Lee McGuire-Cyrette B.A. from Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek as the Director of our Health Department. She has completed an undergraduate degree in *Bachelor of the Arts*, with a double major concentration in *Indigenous Learning* and *Sociology* from Lakehead University. Her previous experience includes the positions of: Program Director, Health Policy Analyst, Human Resources Director as well as an Interim Executive Director.

She was the lead manager for the Ontario Native Women's Association programs including implementing the Community Wellness Worker Program, where she implemented youth programming, client assistance and led many violence prevention initiatives. She has trained and mentored many volunteers, clients and staff within the health and social services sector. Under her portfolio is the lead manager of the Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women which led to the Strategic Framework of the Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women in Ontario. As well as addressing Hate Crimes in Aboriginal Communities through the Empowerment Through Research and Education project.

Further experience includes program and policy development, culturally appropriate counseling, thorough knowledge of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement, extensive research knowledge and experience with qualitative and quantitative research methods, the ability to create new initiatives/programs, development of program materials, management of an afterschool program for youth, successful financial management, and extensive knowledge and experience working with nonprofit organizations and the Aboriginal community, cultures and traditions.

She has a proven track record with the volunteer sector by donating and volunteering for the local Shelter House, Children's Aid Society, Aboriginal Employment Resource Committee, Aboriginal Management Council at Lakehead University, Aboriginal Recruitment Coordination Office, Take Back the Night Campaign, Urban Aboriginal Strategy, Aboriginal Interagency Council, Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards, Niigaantige Career Fair, and the coordination and implementation of three family Christmas dinners for families living in poverty. As well as fundraising for many initiatives such as a GED program for Aboriginal people, assisting Cancer patients and youth geared initiatives.

Please join us in welcoming Cora-Lee to Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek!

HOUSING

Technical Advisor, Paul Seguin, and Councillor Grace Dow will be meeting to develop a plan to move ahead with the development of a Housing Committee in the very near future. Although we have already received a number of letters from our membership expressing an interest in sitting on the Housing Committee, we are once again asking the membership for expressions of interest before we go through and make a decision of who will comprise the committee.

Please send your expression of interest in letter form to us indicating why you wish to be on the housing committee and also indicate what experience you have in either the housing industry or committee member no later than **May 31, 2010 by 12:00 PM.**

The main function of the Housing Committee will be to oversee the development of the actual Ten Year Housing Plan, roles and responsibilities, and determine what mechanism(s) are needed to ensure a final plan (strategy) is in place that addresses the current and future housing requirements of the First Nation.

On another note, the Chief and Council had meet with Deborah Taylor, Executive Director of the First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) to discuss their programs and how they may be able to assist BNA in the development of a Housing Strategy and access to funding to move our housing programs ahead without the need to rely solely on funding from INAC.

The FNMHF was developed to facilitate and broaden the range of housing options for residents of First Nations communities so that they may have the same housing choices and opportunities as people in non First Nation Communities.

The Fund will build on the work of the Assembly of First Nations and the successes of innovative communities in order to bring more "market-based housing" to First Nations in a manner that respects reserve lands that are communally owned.

There are a number of unique barriers to the existence of home ownership and rental housing markets on-reserve. These barriers are related to factors such as the unique land tenure regime on-reserve, the remote location of many on-reserve communities and limited access to private financing in the form of mortgages or housing loans.

One of the main impediments to market-based housing is a lack of access to financing for housing on-reserve because of the *Indian Act* provisions which limit seizure of property on-reserve to a First Nation community or its members. As a result mortgage security is not available.

The new Fund will establish a Credit Enhancement Facility. This will help individuals living on-reserve and on settlement lands where appropriate, to obtain loans, where their First Nation meets certain criteria, such as a demonstrated ability to manage their finances, loans and housing.

As these discussions are further developed, the Housing Committee will make every effort to get this information out to our membership.



POSITIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, FOR KIDS, CITY OF THUNDER BAY

P.R.O Kids is a service of the City of Thunder Bay Recreation & Culture Division. P.R.O. Kids matches youth and children in need with community-based recreational activities. P.R.O. Kids has received support from organizations and businesses who have donated spaces in their sport, art, cultural and recreation programs.

CONTACT COORDINATOR:

email: prokids@thunderbay.ca



P.R.O. Kids Coordinator
Recreation & Culture Division,
Victoriaville Civic Centre
111 Syndicate Avenue South,
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S4,
Fax (807) 625-1444
Telephone (807) 625-3212
Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Eastern Standard Time



COMMUNITY CAPITAL PLANNING STUDY

INAC has once again turned down our request for funding to complete the Community Capital Planning Study (CPS). A CPS is the first step in development activities of BNA, and without funding from INAC to assist us to complete this study we are at a standstill and cannot move ahead with this project at the present time.

Late last year we had sent a request to INAC requesting funding to complete the CPS. We had received their response indicating that INAC did not have funds available at that time to complete a CPS. We were told that our request would be sent up to the Capital Facilities and Maintenance Sub-Committee (CFMSC) that would be meeting on April 20, 2010. We contacted INAC on April 22, 2010 to see if our request had been reviewed and they indicated that even though we are in a new fiscal year, INAC indicated that once again, "there is no funding available to fund a study".

As expected our frustrations in dealing with INAC on this most important issue is mounting. The Chief and Council are in discussions with the Union of Ontario Indians to see what our next steps can be in moving this issue ahead. The Chief has been scheduled to attend a Round-Table Discussion with Minister of Indians Affairs to convey our frustrations to him personally and to push our agenda forward.

www.dcfund.ca



DREAMCATCHERS IS A REGISTERED CANADIAN CHARITY

The Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation is a nationally recognized philanthropic organization. Since 2004, the Foundation has continued to provide life-changing opportunities to Aboriginal People through the provision of financial grants. We have granted thousands of dollars to those in need right across the country. In a short period of time, we have made a huge impact in the lives of our applicants and in turn their communities. Today, we are one of Canada's leading charitable Aboriginal Foundations dedicated to providing talented, passionate and energetic youth and individuals the support they need today, to become tomorrow's community leaders. The Dreamcatcher Foundation addresses situations that are unique to the First Nations community and provides financial assistance to eligible applicants in the areas of: organized sports and recreation, education, health support, arts and culture.

The Foundation also provides grants to community involvement projects that have a lasting and positive impact on their members. Grants are awarded to those in need. Our mission is to build healthy and vibrant Aboriginal communities by developing youth as future community leaders. We will contribute to eligible applicants in the areas of arts and culture, education support, health support, sports and recreation. A goal of developing youth as future community leaders' picture is worth a thousand words and we invite you to see a few photos of how the Dreamcatcher Foundation has had a positive impact in people's lives.

Who Or What We Will Fund

Individual performers, theatre groups, dance troupes, drum groups, attendance at established arts and cultural institutions. Special Events (i.e. championships, competitions, pow wows, dance performances), art shows language programs and activities (not including salaries).

Who Or What We Will Not Fund

Individual dance regalia, individual attendance at conferences, workshops & seminars, band councils, O's, tribal councils, for profit businesses, government agencies, activities involving alcohol, third party applications will not be accepted. This list is not all encompassing and the final decision rests with the Board of Directors.

The Foundation also provides grants to community involvement projects that have a lasting and positive impact on their members. Grants are awarded to those in need.

If you require any help, Louise Esquega would be more than happy to assist any band members fill out the application.




YOUTH INTERNSHIP

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

Who is eligible? Unemployed or underemployed youth (under the age of 30) who have graduated with a degree or diploma from a post secondary institution within the last three years, are legally entitled to work in Canada, and are not previously employed under a FedNor Youth Internship funding Agreement, or other Federal or Provincial Internship with pay for a period of six months or more. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek members shall have first priority. If a successful member is not identified, member affiliates, other First Nations and general public will be eligible in this priority sequence.

Candidates must have reliable transportation.

Job Duties:

- Being the key liaison between our program/project leaders, Chief and Council, and the membership;
- Integrally involved in the development of a comprehensive community planning process which will be inclusive of developing a model-house program;
- Updating the First Nation profile and skills inventory;
- Updating the Economic Development Strategy;
- Activities including partnerships in hydro development, tourism, value added forestry, wind energy development and the commercial side development;
- Assist the members in the development of business initiatives by providing technical support, resource information, business development tools and referrals to agencies providing financial support for business initiatives;
- Developing communication and statistical tools to assist Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek in measuring its success and enhancing decision-making processes;
- Assisting with community presentations;
- Ensuring communication between the membership and consultants during the Community Planning phase;
- Performing INAC EDO responsibilities; and
- Exploring various funding sources and proposal writing.

Salary: This full-time position is partially funded by FedNor's Youth Internship Program.

Qualified applicants must possess leadership qualities and great organizational skills. Strong verbal and written communication skills are essential for this position. Must possess strong problem solving abilities and also possess excellent time management skills. Having an understanding of Microsoft Office software such as Microsoft Excel and Word is an asset. The ideal candidate will have a degree or diploma in Business, Economics, Marketing or a related field. Applicants must include current resume.

Deadline for applications is **May 31, 2010 by 12:00PM**. Please mail or fax applications to:

Youth Intern Position
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
146 South Court Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 2X6

We thank all applicants in advance; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Little Jackfish Hydroelectric Development Project

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's RDA Open House, was held at Victoria Inn, on March 27th, 2010. Our attendance count was remarkable with a head count of 60 people. Our OPG and RDA guests stated that it was the best turnout of all community meetings. I would like to thank you all for your participation and genuine interest in the project. I would also like to thank our guests: Resource Development Advisors; Sam Sobush from Red Rock Indian Band and Mike Esquega from Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek: Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Bruce Caldwell and Tana-Leigh Harty: 2190565 Ontario Inc.'s (DevCo) Resource Development Coordinator, John Fullerton and last but not least, I would like to thank our elder, Mr. William Gibson, for his opening prayer. Miigwitch Bill! During our information session there were several mini gift certificate draws, which are always a hit. Congratulations go out to, Margaret Grimard, our grand prize winner of a new lap-top computer.

Sam Sobush presented an update on the education, training, financial, and employment opportunities. Mike Esquega presented a power point of pictures and information exhibiting the artifacts discovered on the Little Jackfish River 2009 Environmental Assessment fieldtrip. OPG's Bruce Caldwell and Tana-Leigh Harty gave a power point presentation titled, "Why Have a Public Safety Program".

Evaluation forms were provided to members, with 31 forms completed. Our objective is to improve future information sessions with member's input and participation.

PLEASE NOTE that I am seeking elders who may be interested in an interview. We are preparing to document and mark out our traditional territories.

Education and Training update

For the past several months, the Devco has developed and structured a workforce strategy plan title "Nigaani Gikinoomaagaawin", meaning "Learning for the Future". This workforce plan has been sent to various funding agencies, the Ministry of Environment and Infrastructure, INAC, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (New Relationship Fund), and OPG. OPG endorses our plan and has provided us with a letter of support to each of these agencies. Our plan timelines, pending funding, are:

June/July 2010 intake assessment, summer pre-GED,

Sept 2010 - Feb 2011 term one GED/ACE,

March - August 2011 training, certificate accreditation (chainsaw, first aid, safe food handling

and security training...),

Sept 2011 - Feb 2012 term two GED/ACE

PLEASE NOTE that we are looking for a band member for the 2010 season field work associated with the Little Jackfish Project. The successful candidate will be working for HATCH Engineering, along with four other employees, each representing their respective Bands. The forecast for this project to start is mid-May to early June.



Continued...

Committee Update

I currently am Bingwi Neyaashi's rep with the **Lake Nipigon Forest Management Plan**. There are two Open House information sessions scheduled this month: Tuesday, May 25th from 3pm - 8pm in Nipigon and: Monday, May 31st from 3pm - 8pm in Thunder Bay. Information provided will pertain to forestry issues, i.e.; harvest blocks, protecting caribou, migration patterns, moose corridors, bush roads(linking, decommissioning, etc.), operational prescription for areas of concern(rivers, lakes, animal habitat, etc.) Most of all, how will the Forest Management Plan protect our "native values" should harvest occur in our traditional territories. Band members are welcome to come out and participate. We encourage you to voice your concerns.

I also sit the committee for the Nipigon River System Water Management Plan (WMP.) This is the result of the cooperation and contribution of a large number of individuals. This planning process involved the proponents, the regulator, and the public, working together to identify issues, develop options, and select operating regimes that balance the benefits to users of the river system.

Recently the WMP Planning Team has been dealing with two scenarios: no development on the Little Jackfish River (LJR) and the possibility of two power generating stations being constructed on the LJR. The WMP Planning Team also deals with a variety of issues such as, high/low water levels on Lake Nipigon, flow rate by rivers, effects (fish-spawning beds, erosion, river banks, shoreline exposure, etc.),as well as First Nation's and public concerns.

The next LJR information session is potentially set for late-June to mid-July 2010. More information will be forward when the date is confirmed.

In closing, if you have any questions or concern about the Little Jackfish Hydroelectric Development Project, Lake Nipigon Forest Management Plan (LNFMP) or Water Management Plan (WMP) you can contact me directly at Bingwi Neyaashi.

Michael Lesperance, Resource Development Advisor
 Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
 146 S. Court St. Thunder Bay ON
 Office 623-2724
 Cell 621-0698



FYI

Dilico - Anishinaabek Family Care Foster Care

Dilico is looking for foster parents. Learn how you can help a child and family in your community by becoming a foster parent. We offer a range of programs and services for the life journey of all First Nations peoples. Whether you need help as an individual, a family, or a community, our programs respond to your immediate and long-term needs. We work with you to promote wellness, prevent illness and trauma, and provide diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

Bus tickets and Parking passes

Just a reminder to our students that Chief and Council have decided to provide financial assistance to post-secondary students in regards to bus passes and parking permits. The student must be a Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek band member and must be a full-time student. Please contact the band office to obtain a band request form if you wish to receive assistance.

SEVEN GENERATIONS EDUCATION INSTITUTE - www.7generations.org

If you are interested in enrolling in a University or a College program, please contact Seven Generations. Included in this newsletter is a brochure that gives a brief overview of what is offered. Apply to Seven Generations at 807-622-1711 or visit them at 409 George Street, Thunder Bay, P7E 5Y9.

Participation for Draws

Please give us your comment on the following: Band members who live out of town: Participating in band meeting Prize Draws by mailing in your entry form before the band meeting date. They must be over the age of 18 and a band member.

What do you think? Drop us a line

CLE Tickets

If you are interested in receiving financial assistance for CLE tickets this year, please contact Louise at the band office. We would like to offer this opportunity to all band members with small children

2010 Graduates

Chief and Council would like to take this opportunity to congratulate three band members who have recently graduated from Confederation College; **Camille Borysewicz, Debby Michon and Katie Borysewicz**. They are to be commended for hard work and determination that they have shown and we hope they will continue in their endeavors and become strong role models for our community members.

Newsletters via email

As some of you may already know, we would like to start sending our quarterly newsletters out to band members through email. We believe that this will be more efficient, practical, cost effective, and not to mention, save on paper. In order to begin receiving your newsletter via email, please feel free to call me at the office or email me with your email addresses. ~Louise

Laptop for Student

As the new school year begins, Chief and Council have decided to purchase a laptop for one band member. This will be done every year. We have decided to do this because we believe in our students who are determined to better themselves and hope that this will be an incentive to continue with their education. The student must be registered as a full-time student and must be registered with an accredited College or University.

Any interested band member who wishes to receive this laptop, please send in a letter to the Band Office. The letter should include: your name, address, phone number, band number, and briefly why you should be picked above other band members.

Chief and Council will examine letters to determine which band member will receive this laptop based on need. Delivery of the laptop will be the responsibility of the chosen band member.

Deadline for letters is **August 20, 2010 by 12:00PM**. Please mail or fax letters to:

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
146 Court Street South
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 2X6
Fax - 807-623-2764
Email - lairns@gmail.com

