

BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK Newsletter

WINTER ISSUE
2022



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A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL.

Greetings to all Sand Point members! We would like to take this opportunity to wish all members at BNA a wonderful Christmas, and hope that you enjoy the holidays with your family, friends and loved ones.

BNA is thrilled to end off 2022 with positive news for the community in our developments down at the land, and with our Family Well-Being department in Thunder Bay. The news of our Sawmill funding announcement with Minister Hajdu on October 13th was certainly welcome news as we continue to develop our First Nation's main industry on the land. We are looking to our membership for workers at the mill, and any interested members should send your resume to Sawmill Manager Art Gladu, at agladu@bnafn.ca.



We are continuing to rapidly develop our land base. We have cleared both Lots B and C of the industrial park and have chipped the unusable debris. Our new Sawmill Office Building is nearing completion near the Sawmill, and the day-to-day of the Sawmill's administration will be completed at this building. We have received the design for our Phase 4 transmission line and will be commencing work with Pro-Gen on this line over the coming winter. Our community Greenspace is coming along well, despite the challenges faced by the project over the past few months. Our Trail Restoration Project is nearing completion, with the trail up to Copper Thunderbird lookout having been cleared and a boardwalk being constructed where required. Papasay has completed its purchase of Big Virgin Island. And we are proud to announce the installation of our first electric car charging station near the clinic, making BNA one of the few places along Hwy 11 to offer this charging service to electric car drivers.

| A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF & COUNCIL

Our new 3 homes in Phase 1 Housing are continuing at a solid pace, with our newest member residents being able to move into their homes in the new year. We will have additional openings for both duplex housing and single-family-dwellings going out to the membership for year-round residency at BNA. Interested members are encouraged to apply once the package is received, and the Housing Committee will rate the new applications. The lottery for these lots will be mailed out soon. Also, work is being done to prepare for the opening of the 6 'build-your-own-home' lots at the southwest corner of the reserve, along with waterfront near the maintenance garage (known as "Phase 4" of our Housing). BNA will be providing well and septic service to these lots, and will be sending the lottery for these new homes soon.

Our Family Well-Being department is continuing their excellent work, offering programming to our members and commencing renovations at the Grandview School. Recently, the department held its successful Halloween event at its property, with the entire main house decorated for the members in attendance. We continue to support FWB as they prepare the new School for future programming for our membership.

Finally, we would like to welcome the new staff members to BNA, and thank those departing staff for their commitment to our First Nation's development. We are a small First Nation that continuously strives to do big things. This requires incredible dedication of our leadership and staff to continue forward with this important work for our community, and not stopping in our plans to develop Sand Point. We thank you, the members, for your continued support of our mission.

Miigwetch, and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and their families.

- Chief & Council



A MESSAGE FROM FINANCE.

Greetings BNA members!

It has been an incredibly busy few months as we have been catching up from the aftermath of the Covid lockdowns. The 2022 fiscal year audited financial statements are in the final review stage and we are expecting a "clean" audit opinion from our external auditors, MNP. Our priorities have shifted to preparing for the 2023 year-end and upcoming 2023/2024 budgets. BNA is in a great financial position, and we are excited to be part of the continued strength and growth of the economic development of the First Nation.



We continue to work and develop our relationship with the First Nation's Financial Management Board ("FN FMB"). As we work to achieve the next level of financial performance certification and to keep our preferred status with Indigenous Services Canada ("ISC"), we are required and are working towards ensuring various policies and procedures are in place as well as demonstrating that we are living by these policies.

In November, we were invited to participate in the "Fundamentals of Financial Reporting" workshop that was hosted jointly by the FN FMB and Capacity Connect. We learned how these organizations are supporting First Nation governments in the building strong and resilient communities by assisting with development of sound finance and administrative governance practices.

We have been working closely with FN FMB to build on and refine our Finance Policy, Information Management Policy, and our Human Resources Policy. With the assistance of FN FMB, we are learning how to further strengthen our policies and procedures to further strengthen our growth as a First Nation. Our newly established Finance and Audit Committee has also begun regular meetings.

As we look ahead to the spring this is an exciting time for the First Nation as it continues to grow and prosper. The finance team at BNA is working hard to assist in building a strong and resilient community and ensuring its future economic and financial success.

We hope we have more opportunities to connect in person in the New Year. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a New Year blessed with peace, happiness, and good health.

The Finance Team

GOVERNANCE.

Boozhoo, everyone. It's been a great summer. We had 4 youth come and work out at the land this past summer. These young students have maintained the grounds in and around the business, residential, camping and beach areas.

We had some of these youths were using hand powered tools and equipment for the first time, as well as youth who were more skilled. We hope to have more youth come out next summer and learn new skills and make new friends. These young people are the keepers of our land.



Blake Esquega, BNA's youth

As the Governance Coordinator, I am here to assist you in renewing your old red and pink card just call me or email to make an appointment, if you are a BNA member, there is no cost. If you need to renew your Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS), I can assist you through this renewal process (I prefer you to call the nearest ISC office to make an in-person appointment - this is the most secure, surest way). You can also renew your SCIS on your own, by filling out the application, (need a guarantor - anyone with a SCIS card can be the guarantor for you). Second, download the SCIS Photo App by scanning the QR code to submit your photo. Lastly, submit your complete application by mail.



For more information on how to renew your secure status card and to access the application, please scan the QR code to the left with your mobile device or visit canada.ca/indian-status-card.

Still have questions? Please contact the Public Enquirers Contact Centre by phone at [1-800-567-9604](tel:1-800-567-9604) or by email at infopubs@sac-isc.gc.ca.

OTHER NEWS.

I am working on some exciting projects that I hope to share with in the next newsletter, for now, I am sifting through our Membership Code, making sure it is kosher, we want this code to align with today's standards. In the meantime, if there is anything I can assist you with, please feel free to reach out to me by email at: lesquega@bnafn.ca or phone at [807\) 623-2724 ext 203](tel:807-623-2724).

Miigwetch,
Louise

PAPASAY SAWMILL FEDNOR GRANT.



Chief Paul Gladu, Minister Patty Hajdu, Councillor Tracy Gibson

“Economic development is such a key ingredient in the reconciliation work that the country must do.”

- Minister Patty Hadju

On October 13th, FedNor Minister Patty Hajdu attended an event at the Papasay Sawmill to announce that we have received **\$1.7 million** dollars for the expansion of the Facility. This follows the support from Natural Resources Canada for this expansion. This includes the purchase of a new Saw line and value-added equipment, the modification of the existing Sawmill building and expansion of our Kiln Chamber, and all additional engineering and other supports to ensure the project is a success. This wonderful news means that our First Nation will continue to have a 100% BNA-owned employer for our members, and lumber provider for the rebuilding of our community.

The expansion of the BNA Sawmill has been an ongoing project for the last several years, basically since the commencement of operations in 2017. It will mean a quadrupling of our rough lumber production, meaning that the facility will be able to supply the mines and large transmission projects throughout the region.



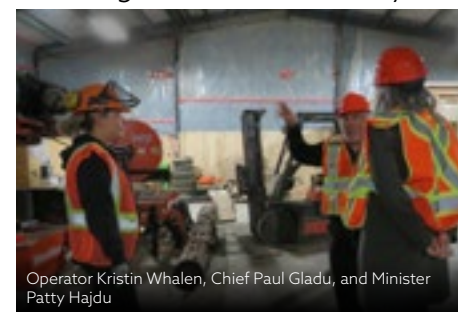
Elder Marcel Donio

But more importantly, the entrance into the value-added sector will mean the production of structural lumber for the development of our homes and community buildings, supplying our neighbouring communities and regions with building lumber, and the

potential entrance of additional value-added products into the marketplace.

And with the wood residue from the operation being chipped and utilized in our biomass system, a truly circular economy is forming. Other additional developments: we are nearing the completion of our Office Building in Lot A of the Sawmill yard, and we have our front-end loader to unload logging trucks operating at the facility.

BNA and Papasay would like to thank FedNor and NRCan for their tremendous support of our Sawmill operation, and our exciting plans for the future. Miigwetch!



Operator Kristin Whalen, Chief Paul Gladu, and Minister Patty Hajdu

CORDA.

Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement is a grant BNA has been awarded several times over the last 10 years. For 2022 the goal was greater access to the wilderness areas of the reserve. The trail to Thunderbird Lookout was in serious need of a clean-up. In the time of the Provincial Park, it was a hiking trail but over the years had been neglected and had sections had become densely overgrown.

First Nookiiwin organized a litter clean-up to remove garbage. The trail was then brushed by BNA grounds crews and several boardwalks were installed to make for easier crossing of creeks and other wet areas. For the boardwalks pine off BNA land was milled by the Papasay sawmill. Major clearing, removal of hazard trees and construction of the boardwalks was done by New Leaf Forestry which is partially owned by Papasay.

The grant also included chainsaws and brush saws to assist in clearing the trails. This equipment can continue to be used to maintain not only the trail but other areas of the land base. It is the hope that community member now has the confidence to take the hike to see BNA from a new height. In addition to hiking there is the opportunity to gather traditional foods and medical plants.



View from the top of Thunderbird Lookout Trail, Fall 2022



One of several boardwalks

POLICING.



The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) provided funding to support consultation on the needed of policing for Sand Point. A committee of BNA members involved in the field of enforcement has been engaged in discussions with Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on the unique and specific concerns of the community. The first meeting was in July 2022, a further follow-up where the conversation will be continued is scheduled for December. Reports including key policy areas, legislative options and recommendations will be submitted to AFN, Public Safety Canada and Chiefs of Ontario.

UNDRIP.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

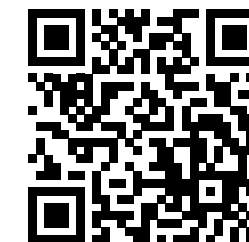
In May of 2022 BNA was approved by Justice Canada to receive funding to review and comment on UNDRIP. The goals of this consultation are to create an actable plan to achieve the objectives of the declaration. An international policy does not have teeth without the federal laws so part of this process is also looking at how the federal laws can be consistent with the declaration for positive change to the lives of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

UNDRIP is unique in that it addresses many facets of life where there are injustices for Indigenous peoples around the world. Education, employment, government, and environmental concerns are all included in the document. The strength in this policy is that it can be interpreted in different ways to best aid those affected by it. How the policy can best serve Indigenous Peoples is why consultation is taking place.

Some BNA members may remember the presentation done by and lively question session which followed at the 2022 Unity Gathering hosted by Nookiiwin last September. By BNA engaging in these larger conversations about policies improves BNA image as experts of their own lands and the ability to work with industry and government. There will also be a submission to Justice Canada on the engagement and implementation of UNDRIP in Canada. Many of the comments given to this discussion highlighted the need for more Indigenous voices and member on committees as well as greater consultation on matter which affect First Nations peoples on their lands

You can access the survey by scanning the Qr code, or clicking the link below. All entrants will be put in a draw to win a \$100 VISA gift card.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BNAUNDRIP



**ENTER TO
WIN
\$100 GIFT
CARD**

REGIONAL BIOMASS: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LAKE NIPIGON FOREST.



As presented to BNA members at our June community meeting on the land, Papasay is working with its fellow Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (LNFMI) Board members from AZA, BZA and RRIB trusts and ec dev corps in order to bring a biomass project to life on the heart of the Lake Nipigon Forest. This project would involve the construction of a plant and wood yard and utilize both brush piles and underutilized species for the conversion into clean, natural gas. This could then be sent into the pipeline or utilized by regional mining companies to lower the emissions of their operations.



The four First Nations signed a Letter of Intent with REN Energy on the project, but is exploring all options to bring this project to fruition. We are hoping for provincial support for this Project, as the problem of underutilized wood species on the forest is not a new one. Finding a home for brush piles – previously ordered to be burned, emitting significant carbon in the process – will be welcome news to the government, environmentalists, and to forestry companies and industry alike. If we are able to proceed with this project, the revenues back to communities, employment opportunities for our members, and spin-off business benefits cannot be overstated. We look forward to continuing to look at the feasibility and possible locations for this project over the coming months, and will continue to update the memberships of the First Nations as we learn more information.

INFRASTRUCTURE.

Hello from BNA's Community Energy Coordinator, Aysha McNally. Since the last community newsletter, BNA has further progressed in the variety of energy projects for the community. Below I will be giving brief summaries of the different energy projects such as BNA's Transmission Line projects, Bioheat Study, and the BNA Electric Vehicle Pilot Project.

TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS

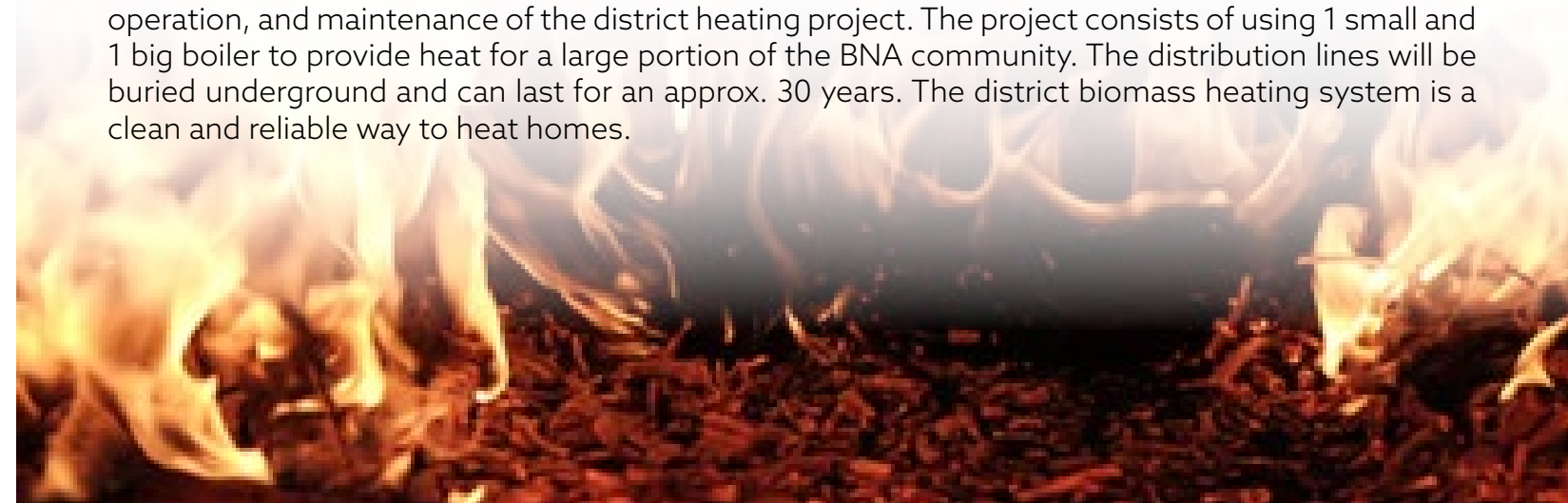
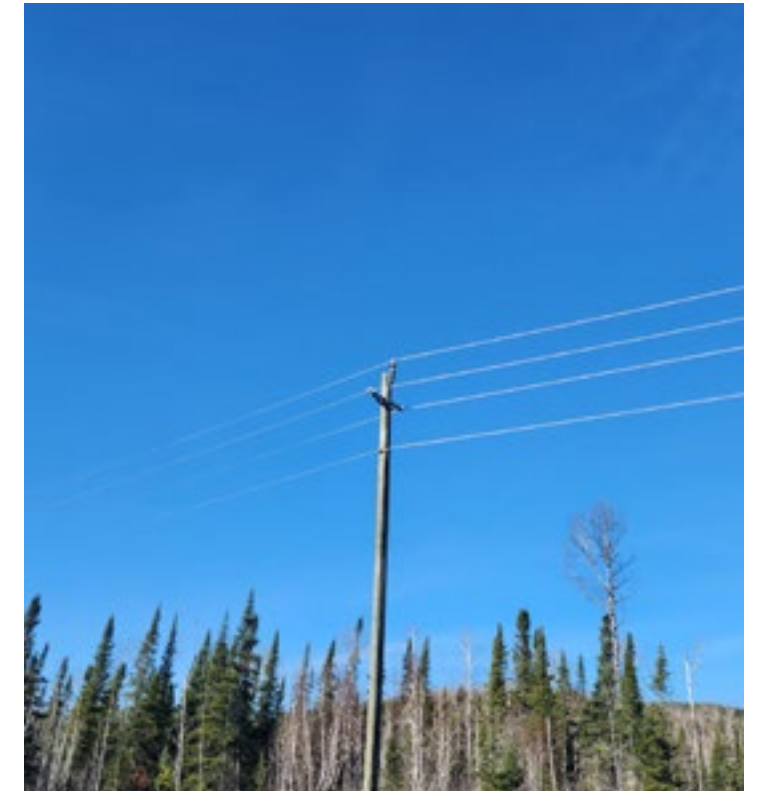
BNA has been continuing to work with Pro Gen Inc (PGI) and Hydro One Networks Inc for the below areas to bring electricity into the community. The transmission projects are soon to be complete or have been completed.

- ☑ Copper Thunderbird Road and into the community
- ☑ Phase 1 Housing Loop
- ☑ Middle Beach

The next area that we will bring transmission line through is the Phase 4 Subdivision. BNA has just received the design from Hydro One and will be starting as soon as possible on the construction portion of the project.

BIOHEAT STUDY

BNA has been working with Northern Community Solutions (NCS) and TBT Engineering for a Business Study for a District Biomass project for the community. The Business Study has been completed, BNA will now be working on a proposal to secure funding for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the district heating project. The project consists of using 1 small and 1 big boiler to provide heat for a large portion of the BNA community. The distribution lines will be buried underground and can last for an approx. 30 years. The district biomass heating system is a clean and reliable way to heat homes.



BNA ELECTRIC VEHICLE

BNA has begun its pilot electric vehicle project. The IESO has provided funding through the Indigenous Energy Program (IEP). This funding has given BNA the opportunity to install solar powered lithium battery charging stations located at the BNA Health Centre. The variety of electric vehicles that will be used during this project are a ride on lawn mower, 2 trikes, 2 boat motors, and 3 golf carts. BNA is working with NCS during this project. We will commence testing and the solar panels will be fully operational by the middle of November 2022.



BNA LANDS COMMITTEE: LAND CODE RE-RATIFICATION.



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BNA GREENSPACE UPDATE.

The BNA Greenspace Project has had some challenges. The one quote received from our RFP for the Project was 4 times over the budget of the funding received. Therefore, the scope was changed, several previous items were removed, and we had to proceed by subbing out the Project duties ourselves, with the support of our partners, TBT Engineering. Tom Rentz Contracting was hired to complete all civil work, including trenching for the electrical work, burying of new outhouse tank, and other requirements for the project. Akawe was hired to complete the electrical work on the project. And Got Wood/Castle Building, our contractor for the houses on the land, were hired to complete the privy, pergola, and other construction items.



As we approach wintertime, this Project is certainly on a tight schedule. However, we have been lucky weather-wise, meaning a longer construction season for the project. The main parts of the project are being completed, and we will have a beautiful area ready to be used by the BNA membership by next Spring. This project is another example of a sustainable, green initiative that will beautify the community's communal areas

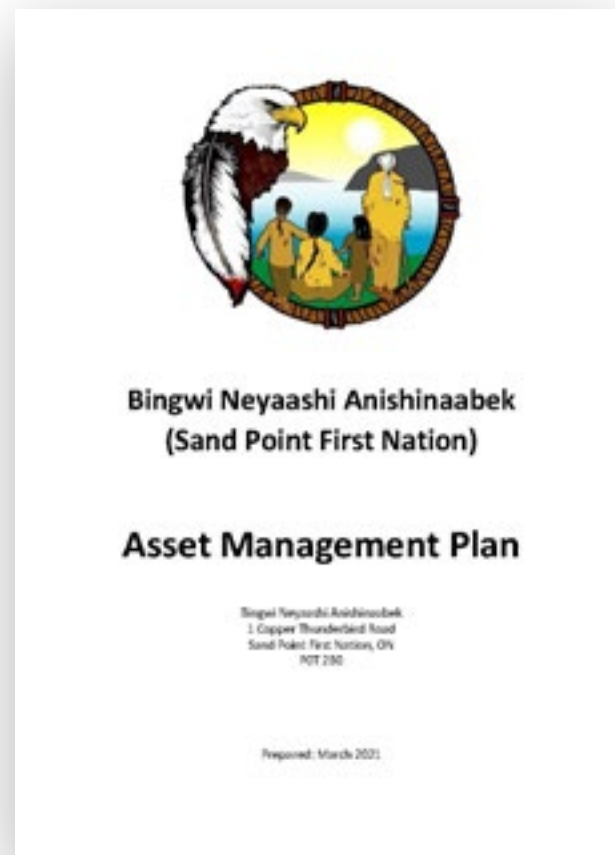


ASSET MANAGEMENT.

The community of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek is a diverse community with a deep-rooted history. Members and visitors connect to our community through the use of programs and services offered by the leadership. To deliver those services, the community must own, operate, and maintain a wide range of assets.

BNA has completed a phase 2 asset management plan in 2021 to be a reference guide for understanding what asset management is and why asset management principals are essential to BNA's stability. The final report will provide a framework for the next stage of asset management for the community. Currently, we are reviewing all assets in the community to better identify the short-term and long-term needs of community assets. This project is funded under ISC and is expected to be completed towards the end of 2022.

Assets are valuable, long-lasting, and a require investment. They can be found delivering services throughout our community, whether drinking clean water, transportation, hiking trails, or driving on plowed roadways, assets are used everyday to maintain and deliver a high quality of life to our members. To support the delivery of services, the community is developing a long-term plan and integrated approach to managing these assets. The asset management plan will be used as a support document when making strategic and financial decisions, helps to reduce overall risk to our services, and promotes sustainability.

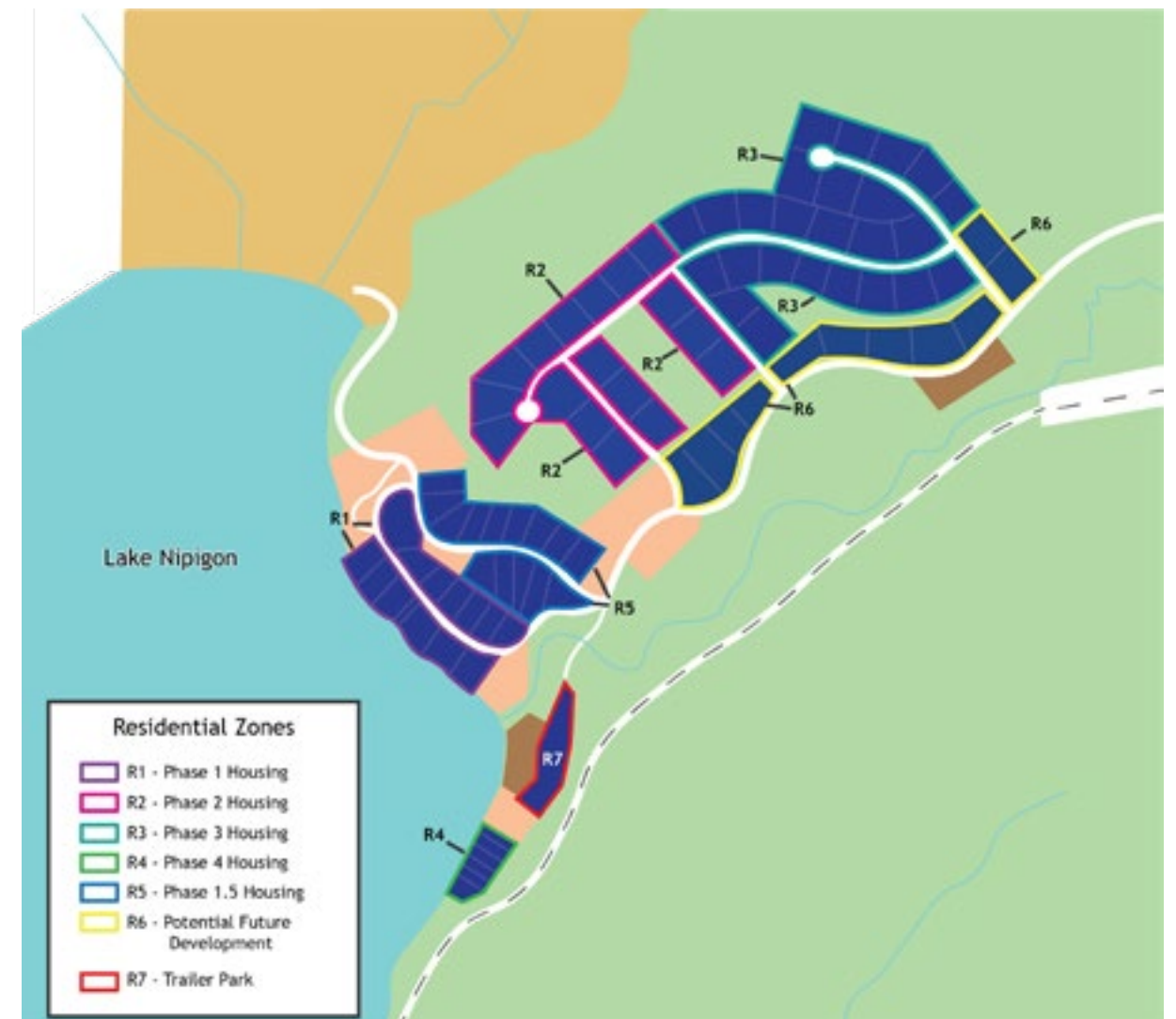


LOT DEVELOPMENT.

BNA submitted an Expression of Interest this year to the First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plan for the development of 20 lots in our community. We received formal approval and funding to move forward with the lot development plan. Utilizing the work completed on the Comprehensive Capital Planning Study, we have identified the next 20 lots for development.

The lot development will provide 5-7 years of residential construction for new homes on our land. The construction of these lots will commence in the spring of 2023, with construction of residential units also beginning in the spring of 2023 on some of the lots. The lot development will include water, septic, driveways, culverts, ditching, site clearing and power. The first phase of the lot development plan will be for R1 - Phase 1 Housing and R4 - Phase 4 Housing to meet future community housing needs.

This opportunity will provide members with the opportunity to apply for housing on the land over the next several years as we will have the capacity to develop residential dwellings on the lots that have been developed for future residential use.



BNA Proposed Lot Development Plan

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT 2022.

BNA has been growing tremendously over the past few years with their housing program and an average of three (3) residential dwellings being constructed each year. In the past four years BNA has secured funding and constructed six (6) single family dwelling and two (2) duplexes for transitional homes while members wait for completion of CMHC homes. This year we will be completing the construction of three (3) additional single-family dwellings for BNA members. These homes are constructed by Gotwood Building Supplies and designed by Tomlinson Drafting Service with project management done by TBT Engineering to ensure a successful construction season and quality unit has its own independent septic field and a water supply which has been shown through water testing to have good groundwater quality.



BNA was recognized for their housing construction and initiatives in a 2020 recognition award video by Canadian Housing & Renewal Association. This short film showcases the challenges we face as a displaced community and our achievements with our housing program. Earlier this year, Indigenous Service Canada had requested our permission to showcase the video on the ISC website and share our stories with other First Nations throughout Canada. The video is available for viewing on YouTube and we encourage all members to checkout and share our successes stories.

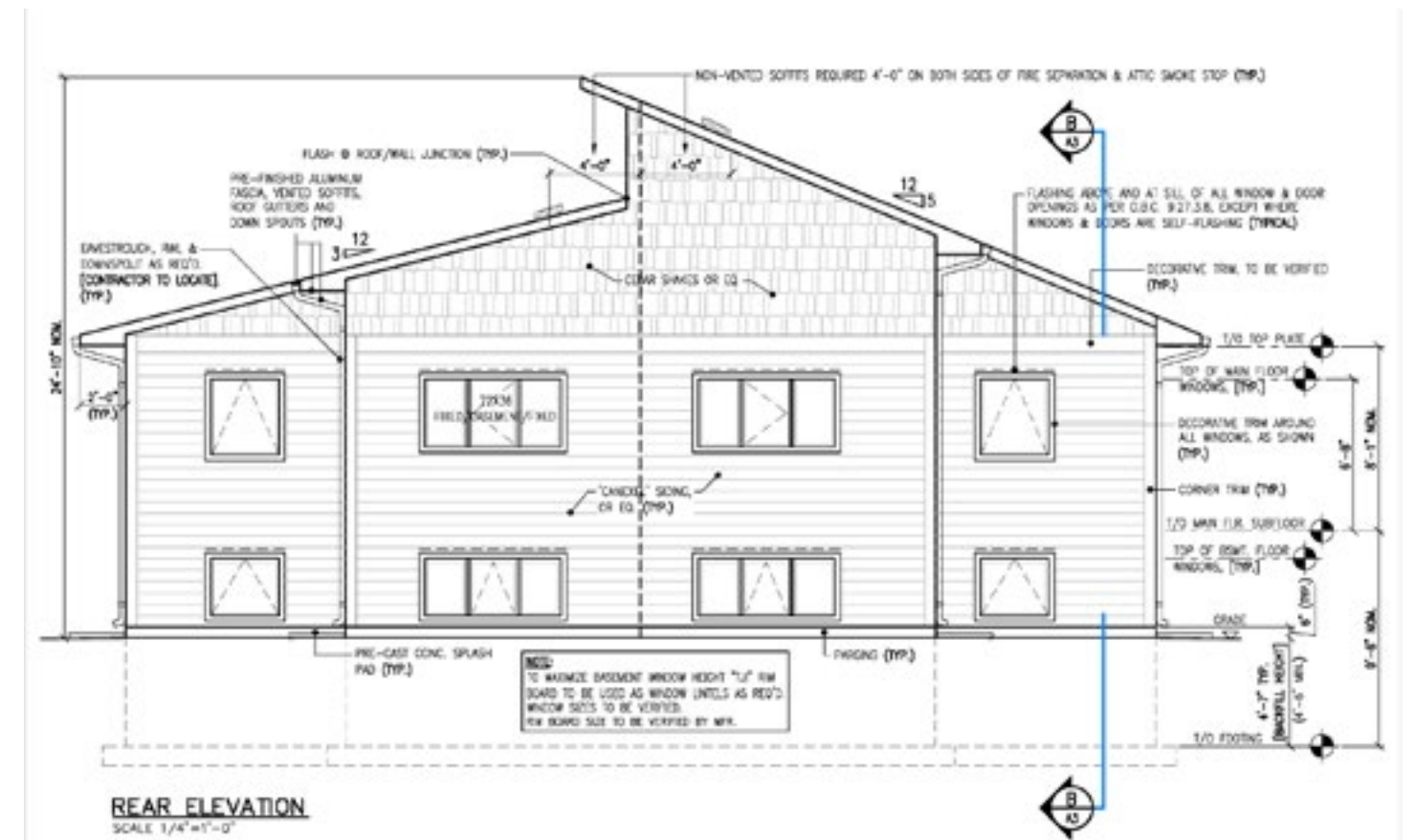


Click to play youtube video

LOOKING FORWARD: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT 2023.

This year, BNA has secured an additional four (4) residential dwellings for construction in the summer of 2023 through CMHC. We are currently in the preliminary planning stages and working on developing the lots to accommodate the new builds. The units will be single family dwellings and will be constructed in phase 1 of the community plan. These units will have water supplied by wells which we have already verified to have good quality groundwater. As well, they will have a septic field which will be installed in an appropriate location.

This year BNA submitted an expression of interest to the First Nation Infrastructure Investment Plan for the construction of two (2), four plex units that will be band owned for transitional housing and short-term accommodations. The proposed construction is anticipated to add eight (8) additional single-bedroom dwellings in the community. Currently, our application is under review and awaiting formal approval to proceed with construction in the summer of 2023.



BNA & THE MINING SECTOR.

BNA continues to work hard to form positive relationships with the mining and exploration companies operating in the region.

With Rock Tech Lithium, BNA continues to work with the company as they proceed with their studies. We have also formed a partnership with our neighbouring First Nations, BZA and RRIB, and the First Nation Major Projects Coalition, and have commenced the negotiations around an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) for the Project. This will undoubtedly be a long negotiation process but is a necessary part of the development of mining in the region. First Nations must assert their sovereignty and ensure that benefits from the mine are accrued by both BNA and its members. We expect to welcome Rock Tech at our next community meeting to present new information for the community.

BNA also has a signed Exploration Agreement with BZA, RRIB and Imagine Lithium, and the company presented on its project at the First Nation's community meeting at the Prince Arthur on September 17th. BNA, BZA and RRIB are also working with Ultra Lithium on the finalization of an Exploration Agreement with that company, as well as with BZA, AZA and Laurion Mineral Development on an Agreement.

BNA has no issues with developments, and see it as a positive for the region, for the employment of our members, and for wealth generation and the re-building of our First Nation. However, this development must be done environmentally responsibly, and must involve the First Nations from day one.



|BNA & THE MINING SECTOR

ASINIIKA MINING AND CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT



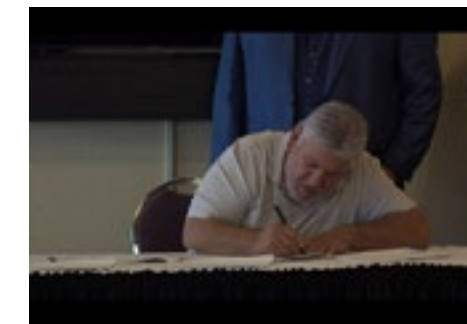
On October 27th, 2022, an official signing was held between Asiniikaa Mining and Construction alongside our communities involved in 3-Nations Recourses: Red Rock Indian Band, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, and Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek.

In the agreement, Asiniikaa Mining and Construction affirmed that, it will continue to honour and recognize the sovereign rights over the lands and resources within these territories, while also honour and establishing a long-term relationship to maintain respect for the territory and collective economic, financial and social benefits.

As a community, we always strive to ensure our members and our land with thrive when we make agreements such as this. We also want to ensure that we as a community are heavily involved in the process of the mine development to be able to benefit from this growth in the economy.

Chief Paul Gladu has high

optimism for the benefits of the partnership with the communities close to us: RRIB and BZA.



For the full article on this signing, please click the link below.

[SNnewswatch.com](https://www.snnewswatch.com)

“It’s a long time coming in our area. We are just [80 kilometres] up north of Greenstone. We’ve always known living in that area, that there’s always been prospecting in finding good materials like gold and lithium, that was known since the 1950’s and at that time it was an awesome find. So, they just continued in the other drilled holes and less became more. Hopefully we can expand on that and help the economy and developing and being supportive of electric vehicles. It’s awesome and a win-win situation for everyone”

- Chief Paul Gladu

KAYAKS.

Summer of 2022 BNA was the recipient of the Indigenous Reliance Fund. The fund aims to promote the long-term recovery of First Nation communities after the Covid-19 pandemic. With the grant money we were able to purchase 4 kayaks and 2 paddle boards for community use. The boats and all equipment will be stored in the new Green Space. Consideration was given to how the greatest number people can enjoy the activity. Stable beginner kayaks were chosen and the sit on top design allows for a variety of abilities and bodies to enjoy getting out on the water. Double kayaks that can accommodate 2 adults and a child will allow families to be active together. A trailer and structure to protect the kayaks were also purchased with all required equipment. Information will be posted with the kayaks.



Safety kits must be taken with the boats and life jackets must be carried for every person on board. There were also a variety of sizes of life jackets purchased so children as small as 20lbs can play on the water. It is recommended for everyone to always wear them. Life jackets for Life Act (2021) mandates that children under 12 must wear a life jacket and a **fine of up to \$200** can be given if not obeyed.

ONSHORE PIPELINE.

Consultation was requested by the Canadian Energy Regulator regarding the onshore pipeline regulations. A detailed review was completed by BNA environmental staff. The first phase was finished in April 2022 which included comments by former BNA staff Brian Petrie on how the discussion paper "Onshore Pipeline Regulation" affects BNA. Further stages of consultation are planned but have not been released for review at this time.

If you have any input to these policy decisions, I welcome a conversation about your thoughts. jhubbard@bnafn.ca.

TRANSPORT CANADA.

In collaboration with TBT Engineering BNA will be reviewing the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA) and Wrecked, Abandoned Hazardous Vessels Act (WAHVA). The waterways are a central part of BNA's identity as much historically as they are today. Lake Nipigon and the surrounding water bodies have a critical function for cultural activities. As the waterways are so important to members BNA is engaging with the Canadian government to give input on regulations which affect the traditional territory of BNA.

Goals of this project include increasing the capacity of BNA participation and collaboration in policy discussions. Building the relationship between Transport Canada and BNA is also an aim as BNA is situational along multiple forms of transportation routes. The funding provided will also allow BNA to gather information about traditional values and concerns about the potential of adverse affects due to policy changes.

BioPower
A Sustainable Energy Company

FREE Woodyard Training Opportunity

Accommodations, meal per diems and travel expenses

- Obtain your common core certificate
- Learn about woodyard management best practices
- Understand fibre measurement & quality
- Advance your heavy equipment safety and training.

All are welcome to our 4 day hands-on training opportunity in Atikokan, ON.
If interested, please contact your communities band office.

WASTE MANAGEMENT.

In summer of 2022 the city of Thunder Bay made massive changes in what materials were eligible for recycling. The changes mean that BNA is able to recycle more items as GFL brings the recycling to the Thunder Bay depots. Those on the land have been given new recycling bins for home use from a grant done by Nokiiwin. BNA residents can now recycle glass, plastic (#1-7), cans and paper products. Handouts were given to residents but if there are any further questions the ["Thunder Bay Green Guide"](#) is a great resource for what specific items can and cannot go into recycling programs. Note this is an older version #1-7 CAN be recycled not only #1-2 as it stated in this guide.



Scan QR Code for Thunder Bay Green Guide

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There have also been new programs implemented in the BNA office to better reduce waste such as the battery recycling program, writing utensils and the k-cup recycling.

In collaboration with TBT engineering a waste transfer station is being designed on BNA lands, this will allow for sorting of garbage and recycling before it is brought to Thunder Bay. Currently the geotechnical research is being reviewed to ensure that there are not negative environmental impacts from the site. BNA is also exploring waste reduction initiatives such as composting and a reuse/ upcycling program. Any input on how BNA can effectively manage its waste would be valued.

Please contact Jessica Hubbard, Land Use Planner (jhubbard@bna.ca) for more information or to suggest waste programs.



WASTE TRANSFER STATION.



BNA has completed the Geotechnical Investigation into a waste transfer station for the disposal and transfer of community waste. The study was carried out by TBT Engineering and identified a potential location for the waste transfer facility which will be used as a supporting document for the next stage of the project.

The next phase in the project is to submit a Minor Capital Application to Indigenous Services Canada for the design stage of the project. The design for the waste transfer station will be prepared by TBT Engineering. Once a design concept has been developed, reviewed and approved by BNA, we would then proceed to submit a minor capital application for the construction of a waste transfer facility through Indigenous Services Canada.

The waste transfer station will be a temporary holding facility where waste goes to be sorted and then sent to a landfill or recycling facility. This sorting process allows waste disposal and recycling to be handled more efficiently and is an important part of our commitment to environmental stewardship. The waste transfer facility is a critical infrastructure component for BNA and how waste is managed in the community as the community expands its infrastructure and residential population.





IMPORTANT COMMUNITY WARNING!

(October 19, 2022)

Increase in overdoses from bad drugs

There is evidence of a lethally harmful opioid being distributed at the street level, causing an increase in overdoses requiring several doses of Naloxone to reverse.

“Royal Blue Dope” (Fent) has recently appeared on the market and is quickly becoming popular right now. Please be aware that it is extremely strong and toxic.

Ensure you take precautions to reduce your risk of overdose. People who use drugs can reduce the risk of harm from fentanyl and other opioids by:

- Using drugs in the presence of others or arranging for someone to check in on them.
- Trying a small amount before using their usual amount.
- Calling 911 if someone develops signs of opioid toxicity.
- If using in a group, avoiding using drugs at the same time.
- Encourage individuals who use drugs no to use alone
- Encourage those who plan to use alone to download the Lifeguard Digital Health App
- If in Thunder Bay, using the supervised consumption service (Path 252) open daily from 10am to 6pm @Norwest Community Health Centres
- Carry a Naloxone kit

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE:

Impaired breathing; loss of consciousness; inability to talk; blue fingernails or lips; or loud snoring or gurgling.

CALL 911

if your high feels unusual or you suspect someone is overdosing.

Get the Lifeguard Digital Health App



Where to get a FREE Naloxone kit



ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit



Anishinabek Family Care

FAMILY WELL-BEING.

Greetings,

As always, I hope this finds you well, enjoying the weather and finding time for self care as you are all so important! The summer and fall season have passed so quickly. In just a short while we will be preparing for the Christmas season! It has been wonderful as always seeing so many members coming out to enjoy their new Family Well-being site and participating and actively volunteering in a variety of ways.

We have been expanding our Family services and we are excited to announce new team members. Please see their introductions within this newsletter. With the expansion of new workers joining our team we know this will help to benefit our community tremendously.

Renovations are still going on, and we are working towards finalizing the scope of work for the Grandview school property. As you can imagine this is a very important space for our community and we are always interested in suggestions/feedback from the membership. We are actively recruiting participants as well for our Family Centre steering committee. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, please contact cborysewicz@bnafn.ca.

Finally, we do recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact BNA families, youth, and individuals, if you are struggling and not sure where to turn, please feel free to reach our staff and we will do our best to support you in any way we can. We also encourage you to find time to take good care of yourself and each other.

Sincerely,

Camille Borysewicz

Director of Social Services



| FAMILY WELL-BEING

Hello!! Can you believe how fast the summer flew by? It was full of beautiful weather, great programs/ events and a lot of memories made with some wonderful people. We kicked off the summer with our School's Out Bash held out at the Grandview property. We had Epic Cones, Fun-tastic Castles, DJ Sugarman Barstow on the turntables and our HUGE slip and slide in the backyard. It was a great day and the best way to start off the summer. Over the summer months we had programming for everyone. Our Child and Youth Workers partnered up with Drew, our Community Well-Being Coordinator for a few traditional crafting workshops, and our 3rd Annual Youth Camp. We had a great turnout for Youth Camp this year, we had 11 youth participate!! We look forward to hosting next summer, and hope to see some new faces. We also had our 2nd Annual Family Camp in August; we had a total of 13 families!! We crafted, we camped, we fished, we ate and we made memories that will last a life time. Watching everyone connect to the land and building new friendships is something that will forever warm my heart. I hope to see you all come out again next year and hopefully we get some new families signing up as well.

Family Well-Being also participated in Nokiiwin's Unity Gathering at FWFN this August. Our BNA Hand Drum Group helped with opening and closing ceremonies, our Family Services team went and provided a medicine pouch workshop and members participated throughout the week. It was an awesome week filled with a lot of great workshops and activities. Looking back on the summer we had a lot of great times together, new connections were created, new friendships bloomed and a lot of memories were made. We can't wait to do it all again next summer!!

Miigwetch and stay deadly,

Lindsey Gladu, Family Well-Being Manager



Boozhoo

My name is Ashley Stevenson, I am a member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek and have been employed here since May 2021. Many of you may already know me from my Finance and Admin position with the Family Well-being Center. I am excited to announce I have recently moved into the Program Support Worker position; with my new role I will be able to meet and form relationships with the members and expand my skill sets by participating in the various programs. I am also eager to assist the members with anything within my scope and to be a part of the growth in my community. Feel free to connect with me anytime via email or phone.

Miigwetch,
Ashley Stevenson
Program Support Worker

807-344-3055
astevenson@bnafn.ca

| FAMILY WELL-BEING

CHILD AND YOUTH UPDATE.

Hello from Jill and Liz! Hope everyone enjoyed their summer!! It was way to short for us but was truly an awesome one! Over the past few months, we have had some amazing opportunities for your young people to be involved in! Our Junior's group had some great programming over the past few months! We went bowling, had a paint night, did virtual reality, and Science North came and did a 3-day summer camp at Grandview!!! We also learned how to make medicine pouches with Drew! Our Youth Group also had some great opportunities!! We kicked off the summer with an open house! All the youth invited got to bring a friend and explore/show off our new Grandview site! We played yard games, had burgers, and spent time getting to know each other. In July we held Youth Camp out on The Land!! We spent three days and two nights camping. We spent our days swimming with our giant unicorn Sally, went on a Fishing Charter on Lake Nipigon, fishing and swimming off the boat, we hiked through an old train tunnel, spent our evenings playing campfire games, and had fireworks all while enjoying each others company and eating way too much food. In July we went to Old Fort William for the day and August we spent our last program outside in the sunshine checking out the new Water park at Boulevard Lake!! It was truly a great summer. Honestly, we can't wait till next year!!!!



We hope you keep encouraging your Juniors and Youth to keep coming out! We love the relationships and memories being made! Youth Council is continuing to come together on a regular basis. It is allowing our Youth to have a voice over important decisions being made for the BNA community, as well as decision being made on The Land!! They have been busy attending meetings with BNA Lawyers to understand the Land Proposal, and some of the upcoming development happening on The Land! Last month they spent time with an Elder and were given the opportunity to learn about the role of an Elder and also about THEIR importance/role in BNA's future! We truly have an amazing group of young people within the BNA community, and you should all be so proud. Please continue to check out our Facebook and Instagram Pages for upcoming programming and events! We look forward to seeing you!

Miigwetch,
Liz and Jill

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING.

Looking back over these last few months I guess you can say it's been very busy, but a fun, and engaging time for the program. Community Well-Being partnered with Family Well-Being, Youth Coordinator, Jordan's Principle, Health, and EarlyOn on a number of community events and activities.

JUNE 2022

Drum Social on June 9, 2022 – The big drum as well as hand drums were made available to community members. Youth sat at the big drum to learn songs and gain knowledge in the teachings that go with the big drum.

Community Mtg June 18, 2022 – Participated in the community meeting with setup and also shared an opening and closing song.

Indigenous Day Powwow June 19, 2022 - was initially scheduled for this day but canceled due to inclement weather. Would be rescheduled for a later date.

Schools Out Summer Bash on June 28, 2022 – Participated in the setup and tear down of the event as well as engaged with community members attending the event.

JULY 2022

Community Crafting occurred on the 5th and 26th this month. Community members attended and learned a new craft like making a rattle or dreamcatcher.

Drum Social held on July 19, 2022. Community members attended and sang on hand drums. Provided a venue where they could get together to practice and socialize.

AUGUST 2022

Drum Social held on the 9th of this month. Young boys attended and sang and learned how to drum.

Family Camp was held on August 23-25, 2022. Family Camp was the main event this month and took place out on the land. Community members got to experience camping out in tents. Arts and crafts. Fishing out on a charter. Fire works to close out the camp on the final night.

Future events coming include: Hide Tanning, Drum nights, craft nights, as well as Naming Ceremony, to name a few. Community Well-Being continues to look forward to engaging with community members on a regular basis. See you in the coming months and keep an eye on our community Facebook page for upcoming events.

- **Andrew Nahwegahbow**



EARLYON.

Boozhoo,

The BNA EarlyON Centre is an early learning centre for families with children 0 to 6 years of age. We are a unique centre here at BNA as we use a holistic approach to land base learning and incorporate the Indigenous culture, language, and traditional teachings into our daily activities. We continued our partnerships with the Family Well-Being Centre, ONWA, TBIFC and Frontier College and provided a variety of programs for our families at our Grandview site. Regalia Making, Kid's Night, Story time, Exploring the Outdoors, and other activities were planned and well attended. We went to various beaches and splash pads in August. This gave our families an opportunity to explore outside the city and see places where they have never been before. We will be transitioning back to our Van Norman site and new programming will start Mid to Late November.

**Miigwetch
Karen and Tina**



JORDANS PRINCIPLE.



Aanii!! It's been very rewarding to process Jordan's Principle applications over the past several months. Multiple families have been helped by Jordan's Principle to cover needs such as braces, surgeries, bedroom furniture, appliances, infant supplies (formula etc) and more. Upon approval of government, Jordan's Principle covers families/caregivers with children aged 0-17 that have any needs (spiritual, physical, mental and/or emotional).



Visiting Old Fort William with the Youth is such a fun memory, touring the park, visiting the animal, axe throwing to singing alongside the historical performers in the welcoming ceremony (for those who were there with us will forever remember singing the "oui! Oui! Oui! Non, non, non! LOL) The Nokiiwin Unity Gathering was especially touching as I joined the BNA Drum Group, and my daughter Megan joined as well! FWB hosted a craft table where community members from all over participated.



I have also been part of various FWB programming. Community crafting has been a blast, thank you to all those who took part in Cricut shenanigans, it was fun to learn alongside you all! For those who took part in the beading, I hope you all are continuing with it, I was very impressed by the quick learners!

Family Camp at The Land was truly a week to remember! It was amazing to connect with the families that joined us, from fishing to swimming, smores to pizza, crafts to fireworks, it was a blast!

I always look forward to activities we have planned in the coming months. Please check the FWB calendar on our Facebook page for upcoming programs and pop-ups.



If you have any questions, or would like to get a Jordan's Principle application started for your child, I encourage you to send me an email or give me a call. I can be reached at (807) 344-3055 ext. 230, jnavigator@bnafn.ca.

**Take care,
Miigwetch,
Katie**



SCOOP OF THE SUMMER: A warm look back.

Tashia Smith-Ennis, RN

Well summer was a doozy with warm sunny days and fun summer gatherings with friends and family!



The Adult Wellness program kicked things off with a Barbeque Bingo bash in June which had everyone dabbing their hearts out! We kept things light and airy for the rest of the summer with many casual get together with members for Community Crafting and Wellness Wednesdays filled with creative ideas, projects and discussions. The sky wasn't the limit for all the gorgeous artistic creations that abounded our daytime sessions. What talent we have!



The 55+ Program played our cards right with a fun game night and tasty dinner in June and then shuffled into some relaxing evenings of Community Connection which brought all ages in for a family BBQ and bond building.



We ended our summer with assisting in the wild & wonderous BNA Family Camp at the Land. It was a truly amazing experience sharing, caring, healing and celebrating with our families while we were able to enjoy and connect to the beautiful outdoors!

Health & Wellness Education and Supports

Health also provided some important education and supportive connections with regards to Mental Health awareness and therapies, as well as education details related to Tick identification & safety, and Heat, Sun & Hydration self-monitoring and care.



We also continue to provide ongoing supports and information to keep us all on the up and up on COVID 19 health related safety & self-care recommendation & updates, PPE, and vaccination availability



**Rocket Hubs
& Laptop
Loans
Available**

**Application
Deadline:
December
14, 2023**

Elder's Beginners & Intermediate Computer Literacy Program Classes start January 2023!

for inquiries or to apply, contact:
Sheryl Singleton, Project Officer via email (sheryl.singleton@aets.org)
or visit aets.org/nhsp2023

Anishinabek Employment and Training Services, in partnership with Thunder Bay Literacy Group and New Horizons for Seniors Program is pleased to offer Computer/Technology Certificate Training for Elder's aged 55+

Weekly Training on Thursdays and Fridays

Week 1: Online Meeting Tools 7 Digital Health/News Skills

Week 2: Emails, Messaging & Podcasts

Week 3: Website Basics & Online Navigation

Week 4: Social Media & Special Projects Intro

Week 5: Online Forms & Working with Digital Files

Week 6: Online Skills & Computer Files



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WELCOMING NEW STAFF.

We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome on many new staff members to the BNA family since our last newsletter was published. As we continue to push towards more economic development, we can continue to expand our team, and further prosper as a community.

Family Representative

Boozhoo,

My name is Shaeanne Flewelling and I am very excited to join BNA as the Family Representative. I have lived in Thunder Bay my whole life. I enjoy spending lots of my time outside doing outdoor activities. I have a strong passion for advocacy, and I bring critical knowledge of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act. I have several years experience within the social services field.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to work for Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek and I look forward to meeting/ building meaningful connections. Please feel free to contact me at: sflewelling@bnafn.ca.

Miigwetch,

Shaeanne Flewelling

Child & Family Advocate

Boozhoo,

My name is Natalia Benincasa and I and the new Child & Family Advocate of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation.

I was born and raised in Thunder Bay, ON all throughout my life. Given both my strong Italian and Indigenous roots, Thunder Bay will always be home to me. I am a Band Member of Little Grand Rapids. My connection to my Indigenous heritage was lost up until my early adult hood and emerging career within the Social Services field. I am eager to expand my knowledge of cultural practices, traditions and beliefs throughout teachings and programing while working within and amongst the community members of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation.

As mentioned above, I have been working in the Social Services field for several years now with a strong primary focus on First Nation children, youth, and their families. A passion of mine is ensuring the voices and rights of First Nation individuals is both heard and respected. I would like to thank Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation for this new career opportunity; I look forward to building long lasting working relationships with community members.

Chi-Miigwetch,

Natalia Benincasa

807-630-4899

nbenincasa@bnafn.ca

Finance Director

Sandra Roshan joins us as our new Finance Director. Alongside our finance team, she works diligently to ensure all accounting and finance functions are met. She brings strong organizational and stress management skills, allowing our team to work together effectively.

We enjoy Sandra’s bubbly personality and ability to always have a positive attitude in the office. Please welcome her to our team!



Manager of Infrastructure and Housing

We would like to introduce you to our new Manager of Infrastructure and Housing. Travis Duncan has accepted the role of Manager of Infrastructure and Housing at Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek in July of this year. Travis Duncan is a member of Muskrat Dam First Nation and has over 20 years of experience working in various sectors of the technical, construction and First Nation industry for our region. After spending almost a decade working with various engineering, project management and consulting firms, Travis wants to bring the experience and knowledge to First Nation organizations. With academic training is in field of engineering technology, Travis holds an advanced diploma as a Civil Engineering Technologist. Travis will carry the responsibility of creating capacity development for the community infrastructure and housing needs.

Thank you for joining me in welcoming Travis to the team!.

“I am very excited to be a part of the BNA team. My goal is to provide the highest level of service to the community members of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek. I look forward to working with BNA members and sharing success stories of our collective achievements.”

- Travis Duncan

Communication Coordinator

Boozhoo!

I am Jake Alfieri and I am excited to say I am the new Communication Coordinator for BNA. After a few months here, I can say I am very happy to be welcomed into such a kind community and workplace.

As of April of 2022, I graduated from Interactive Media Development through Confederation College. The program teaches us a variety of skills including UI/UX design, web development, graphic design, photography, 3D modeling, app development, videography, video editing, and more within the digital media space. After also working for Confederation College in the Paterson Library Department as their Multi-Media Specialist, I was able to learn social media marketing and event management. I bring graphic design and web development experience through a contract position of 6 months with Rent Panda. I also recently helped redesign a Thunder Bay non-profit businesses website called Friends of Grain Elevators and continue to volunteer for them.

Overall, I bring a lot of varying skills to this new position and am happy to see what I can bring to BNA, as well as what BNA can teach me as I emerge into my career. Some of the projects I have been working on include the re-design and launch of the new website with ACO, designing and coordinating the newsletter, starting an e-newsletter, maintaining the Facebook, designing posters, assisting in mail-outs, the CCP, and more projects to come. I have been fortunate to be able to visit the land twice and take some photos of the beautiful community. I look forward to continuing my work here going forward.

Miigwetch!



THE CCP.

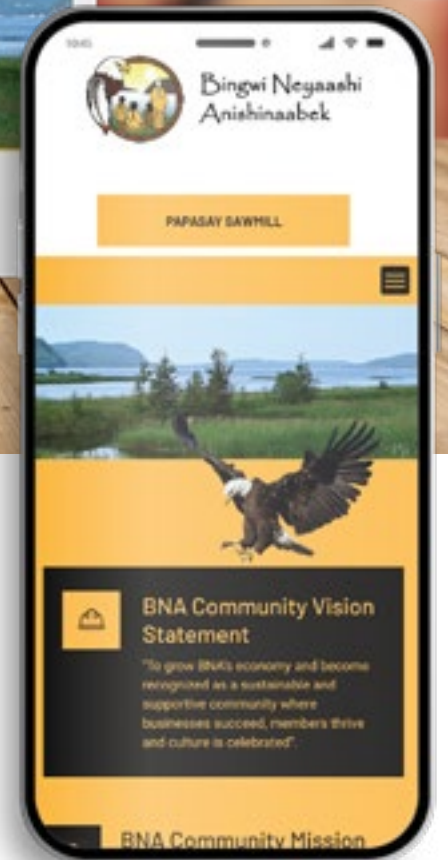
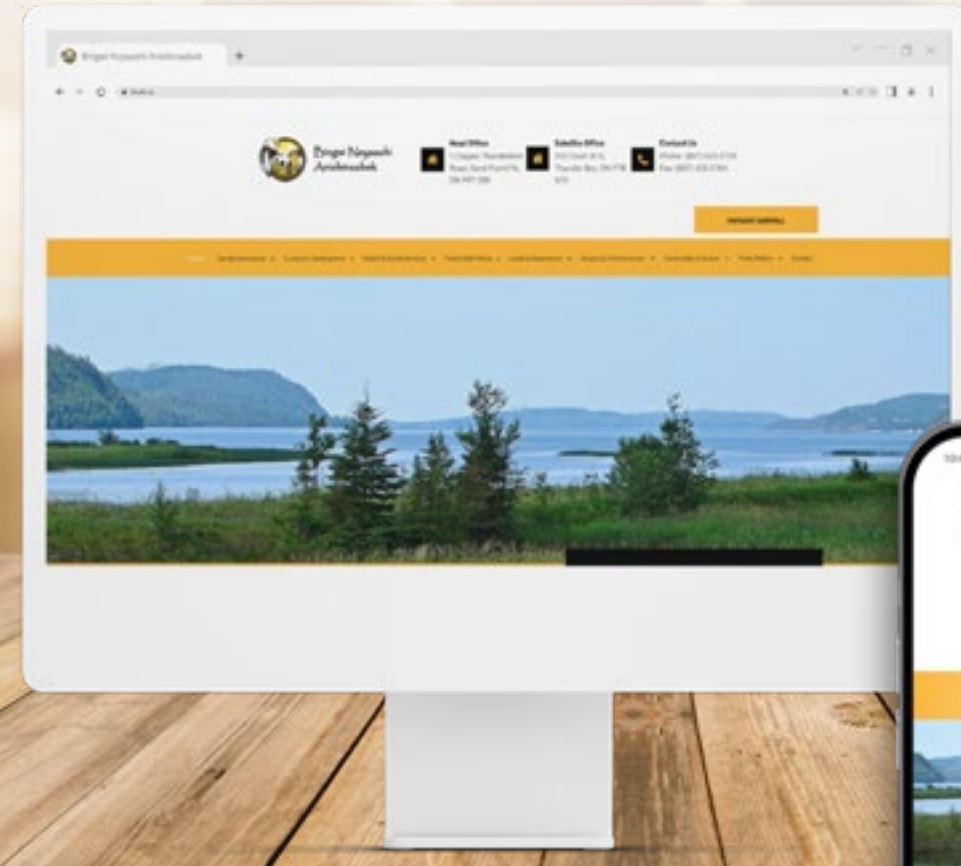
Our new Communications Coordinator is working with Nokiiwin Tribal Council's CCP Advisor, Lisa Haessler, to edit, share, and finalize our CCP. Over the next few months, you can expect to see Jake and Lisa at community events and meetings sharing the framework of our draft plan and asking for your input. With Jake's skills in graphic design, we are excited to create some visually engaging and highly sharable summaries of the plan to make it more accessible to all of our members.

The previous communications coordinator and the CCP working committee have put together a very thorough plan and our next step is to bring it to you, our community members. To do this, we are now working on creating complementary presentation materials and graphics to help explain and elevate the work already completed. We are aiming to have the finalized version of the plan ready to launch to the community in March of 2023. We will keep you posted on our progress. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to Jake at: jalfieri@bnafn.ca.

*CCP stands for Comprehensive Community Plan which is a high-level, broad-scope plan driven by the community members and their values, long-term goals and shared vision for the future of their First Nation. A CCP provides importance direction and context to other shorter-term work plans and projects, and helps bring the whole community together.



NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH...



In coordination with ACO, BNA has been working on launching a new website. We wanted to move towards a more accessible and modern website that would attract to all generations. We had a lot of information on our previous website that was outdated, so we had to work towards updating content to ensure it was up to date for our members to get the latest information.

After months of work with many team members, we have been able to create a website we are happy to showcase to our members! Please go to bnafn.ca to see the new look of the website.

If you have any concerns regarding accessibility on the website, please contact Jake at jalfieri@bnafn.ca to put in a ticket and he will fix the issue when possible.

www.bnafn.ca



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[WWW. WWW.BNAFN.CA](http://WWW.BNAFN.CA)