QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Nmebin Giizis (Sucker Moon/April)



Aanii kina wiya!

As we transition from Nmebin Giizis (Sucker Moon/April) to Waabigonii Giizis (Flower Blooming Moon/May) we hope everyone enjoys the spring season, the period of renewal and rebirth, that we are gifted with each year.

Catch up a little on what we've accomplished between January - March 2025!

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(WHAT'S HAPPENING)

EDUCATION

The Post-Secondary Support Program identified **18** successful applicants for the Spring/Summer 2025 term.

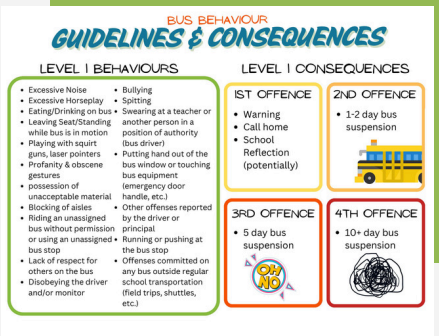


Audrey Petahtegoose and her book "The Boy Who Was Scared of Deer".

The Education Department continues to host P.D. Day activities. They facilitated a **"Write Your Own Story"** at the Atikameksheng Kendaasii-Gamik (Library). This activity gave students the chance to create books for the Kendaasii-Gamik. The Education Staff also assisted with March Break activities, which included a baking day and a self-care day. This past January, the Education Department, in collaboration with other departments, took students on a trip to Horseshoe Valley Resort.

The Education Staff continues to host the School Lunch Market monthly, and the Snack & Homework Club on a weekly basis. For more information, please contact **Stacey** at education.Programmer@wlfn.com.

The Education Programmer has created **bus safety posters,** in collaboration with St. James, to promote safe bus riding protocols. The posters can be found on our website on the Education Page! https://atikamekshenganishnawbek.ca/program/education-program/



MINO BIMAADIZIWIN

Winter Stories with Art Petahtegoose

The Mino Bimaadiziwin department hosted Aadizooke "Winter Stories" with Art Petahtegoose which entailed a series of **10 sessions!**



Schools in the surrounding area visited Sacred Grounds with the Anishinaabe Aadziwin Worker, David, to learn more about the process for boiling maple syrup!





The Anishinaabe Aadziwin Worker also hosted a Winter Moose Hunt where one moose was harvested! The Anishinaabe Aadziwin Worker also organized a Trapping Course where **nine** participants attended, ranging from **youth to Elders**!

There are now **three** team members who have their **Wilderness First Aid** and carry the additional knowledge to be able to respond to any outdoor related injuries.

Mino Bimaadziwin connected with three Elders for guidance and support for the February 22, 2025 RHT Community Engagement Sessions, which took place in Sudbury, Toronto, and Ottawa.



LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT

NEW

The Lands and Housing Department is now called the Lands and Environment Department! Housing is now under the Planning and Infrastructure Department!

New Staff

Junior Land Guardian

In January, we welcomed Kelsey-Lyn Roy as the Junior Land Guardian! She can be reached at juniorland.guardian@wlfn.com.

Emergency Management Coordinator

In February, we welcomed Jeff Petahtegoose as the Emergency Management Coordinator! He can be reached at emergencyresponse@wlfn.com.

Our Lands Registry Clerk has been working hard ensuring that all of our lease notices have been processed for the new 2025 fiscal year. All of the letters have been finalized and mailed out with payment information to all leases.



Lands and Environment were able to secure **1,500** Lake Trout eggs from Rolly Frappier, owner of Micro-Hatcheries Inc. Once the eggs hatched, they were released in Black Lake. Sudbury Game and Fish donated a 2 Bell Jar system to R.H. Murray Public School, where Lands and Environment, along with our Senior and Junior Land Guardians, helped with their egg release. About **3,000** Lake Trout fry's (newly hatched) were released in Panache Lake. Grades 2 & 6 took part in the release and R.H. Murray were grateful that we could assist with the process.





The Land guardians completed Traditional Knowledge (TK) monitoring with community elders and land users by accompanying them while out trapping for small mammals as well as participating in the maple sap harvesting process. The guardians also completed several patrols throughout our ancestral lands. Areas that were visited include, Worthington Road/Spanish River Road, Kakagami Lake area, Matagamasi Lake area, Wahnapitae Lake area, Panache Lake area, Nepewassi Lake area, Trout Lake area, and Atikameksheng Reserve Lands.

If community members are interested in participating in TK Monitoring, please reach out to our team by email.

Albert Brideau, Senior Land Guardian: **Seniorland.guardian@wlfn.com**
Kelsey Roy, Junior Land Guardian: **Juniorland.guardian@wlfn.com**





AFSAR Aquatic:

Deepwater Sculpin surveys were conducted at Lake Panache over the winter months. No fish were captured.

- Applications were made to the Invasive Species Action Centre to continue work on eliminating the invasive species, Japanese Knotweed, from our lands. The application was **approved!**
- An application was submitted to the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, to investigate the presence of **Western Chorus Frogs** on Atikameksheng lands. The application was **approved**!

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS



Back row, left to right: Lisa Groulx, Joanne Bendick, Angele Chartrand, Becky Gonawabi, Tina Pahpeguish.
Middle row, left to right: Kelly Nootchtai, Sherri Assinewe, Heather Nootchtai, Josephine Onwuegbuzie, Natashia Lingenfelter, Carolyn Joly.
Front row, left to right: Abbe Thompson, Amanda Wabegijig-Jourdain, Miranda Green, Yvonne Desmarais, Lori Sikala.

Missing: Autohm Beland, Shannon Wiersema, Lindsay Fraser, Debbie Soucy, Kashina Manitowabi, Marina McComber, Xena Frig, Darlene Geauvreau.

New Staff

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Worker

In January, we welcomed Yvonne Desmarais as the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Worker! She can be reached at healthybabies.children@wlfn.com.

Mental Health - Wellness Coordinator

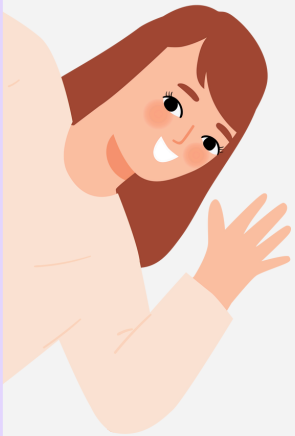
In February, we welcomed Josephine Onwuegbuzie as the Mental Health - Wellness Coordinator! She can be reached at mentalhealth.coordinator@wlfn.com.

Diner's Club Cook Assistant

In February, we welcomed Kashina Manitowabi as the Diner's Club Cook Assistant! She can be reached at dinersclub.helper@wlfn.com.

Community Outreach Manager

In March, we welcomed Angele Chartrand has the Community Outreach Manager! She can be reached at communityoutreach.manager@wlfn.com.





The Primary Care Team purchased a new vehicle to administer lower limb preservation and home visiting services to Debendaagziwaad!

The Circle of Care team assisted other programmers to celebrate International Women's Day by providing **50 Self-Care** Gift Bags to Debendaagziwaad!





A **Nutritional Scavenger Hunt** was held where **36** Debendaagziwaad participated and submitted their answers on what nutrition means to them! Each participant received a small gift.

During the March Break, the Community Physical Activities Programmer took **29** children and youth to **Urban Air**!





The Community Physical Activities Programmer had **six** kids attend the **Preschool Swimming Lessons** during this quarter!

Although the Community Centre has been closed for renovations, The Diner's Club Cook and Assistant **cook weekly** for **65 people** to pick up. The Community Centre will be reopened for May, so join us for **Diner's Club on May 7**, 2025!



The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Worker attended the **KUPP Centre** twice, where a total of **26** Debendaagziwaad attended!



traditional
INDIGENOUS PARENTING

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Worker hosted a two-day **Indigenous Parenting Program** facilitated by **Joey-Lynn Wabie** from Wolf Lake First Nation. A total of **three** parents attended and gained their certificates. Participants learned about the history of Indigenous parenting, emotions/communications through the drum, importance of land, language, culture, and traditions, and more!

Family Violence Prevention Worker

The Family Violence Prevention Worker hosted another **Lure Making workshop** where **seven** Debendaagziwaad attended!

Addictions Coordinator

The Addictions Coordinator supported **15** new clients with treatment supports, **2** individuals in accessing detox, and completed **56** one-on-one brief counselling sessions with clients who are living with the challenges associated with the overuse/misuse of substances.

Outreach Worker

The Outreach Worker continued to put together Harm reduction Kits. If you would like a kit, please reach out to communityoutreach.manager@wlfn.com.

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NEW

The Housing Department is now located under Planning and Infrastructure! Planning and Infrastructure will be attending the Monthly Housing Committee meetings and will report to Gimaa and Council on an on-going basis.

New Staff

Planning and Infrastructure Clerk

In February, we welcomed Nicole Cadieux as the Planning and Infrastructure Clerk! She can be reached at planning-infra.clerk@wlfn.com.

Community Centre Renovations

The Project Team is actively identifying efficiencies, working after-hours and weekends to complete the project as soon as possible. Bookings can commence on **May 6, 2025**.



Waasakwa Children's Centre Renovations

In January 2025 the contract for the renovations at the Waasakwa Children's Centre was awarded to Second Nature Builders Inc.





Some work completed so far includes;

- the daycare kitchen appliances have been delivered, marked out, and ready for installation,
- a window of the office room wall leading to the lobby has been completed,
- the floor trim and vinyl are to be replaced in the preschool room.

SOCIAL SERVICES

New Staff!

Child & Youth Well-being Worker

In February, we welcomed Tyra Lee Vincent as the Child & Youth Well-being Worker! She can be reached at childyouth.worker1@wlfn.com.

Band Representative

In February, we welcomed Santana Nebenionoquit as a Band Representative! She can be reached at band.rep4@wlfn.com.



The Children and Youth Workers program highlights:

- Weekly Supervised Outdoor Rink/Club House was visited by an average of **4+** children & youth per afternoon/evening.
- Weekly Hand Drumming Social had an average of **13+** attendees per session.
- Youth 12+ Tubing Event collaboration at Horseshoe Valley brought in **14+** attendees.
- Weekly Children's Drop-In's at Waasakwa Children's Centre brought in **6+** attendees per session.
- Brunch and Beading days brought in **5+** attendees per session.

Some of the programming hosted by the Family Support Workers include,

- Regular Sewing Nights
- Lanyard Beading Nights
- Faux Feather Workshop
- Dreamcatcher Workshop







Family Support Workers continue to provide support & services to families. In addition to community prevention programming, the Family Support Workers and the Family Well-Being worker provides direct supports to families in home and as needed in collaboration with the Family Advocacy Team, through the Circle of Care service delivery process. This includes collaborating with Health Community outreach program as supports.

Community Food Support Program

During this quarter, there were approximately **49** families which accessed the Community Food Support Program. Collectively, a total of **84** visits since January, plus **11** families who requested and received Emergency Food Support.

There are a couple of volunteers in the community who have helped with shopping, taking inventory, and stocking the shelves for the Community Food Support Program. They are a great need for this program and much appreciated in their efforts!

Interested in volunteer hours? We are looking for volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons! Contact the Community Food Support Worker, Lauren, at **community.foodsupport@wlfn.com.**



Evan Abel, Volunteer

COMMUNITY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

New Staff

Community Skills Development Manager

In March, we welcomed Tiana Wabegijig-Jourdain as the Community Skills Development Manager! She can be reached at cdm@wlfn.com.

Community Skills Development Coordinator

In March, we welcomed Tasheena Recollet as the Community Skills Development Coordinator! She can be reached at communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com.

The Employment & Training email list was re-established. A flyer inviting members to sign up for exclusive access to job openings, training programs, workshops, and career resources was shared. Weekly emails were sent to this list, with members actively engaging by either requesting more information or assistance with job applications.



Want to sign up? Email communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com.

The Tobacco Quota Allocation for 2025-2026 has been successfully distributed to **seven** approved retailers.

Join us for **two career-boosting events** at the Community Centre!

- **Resume & Cover Letter Workshop:** June 9, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. If you do not have a laptop, we will have a few laptops available to use.
- **Job Fair:** June 10, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com.





The Community Skills Development Coordinator and Economic Development Intern hosted a **Heavy Equipment Apprenticeship & Training Information Session** in partnership with the Local 793 International Union of Operating Engineers, Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario (OETIO), and Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS). The event, held both in-person and online, attracted **15 attendees**.

These information sessions are part of our efforts to prepare members for potential employment opportunities in the upcoming Hydro One Northeast Power Line Project.

Keep an eye out for future training and information sessions by viewing the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Weekly Flyer!

Summary and Status of Relationship and Benefit Agreements (Active)

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek works diligently to assert its sovereignty and maintain our rights with respect to any industrial activities on our lands. This is an update on the current Relationship and Benefit Agreements in our community.

Victoria Mine Project Proponent KGHM/FNX

We are happy to say that negotiations with KGHM/FNX are nearing completion. The lawyers are finalizing wording of the Primary Impact Benefit agreement, and the negotiation team are aiming to have a recommendation copy for Gimaa and Council by May 2025.

Vale

Negotiations with Vale to complete an Impact Benefit agreement have ramped up. The negotiation teams for AA and Vale have completed workplan and negotiation schedules. Companies like KGHM and Magna Mining are companies that mine in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek territory but rely on a third party like Vale to process their ore.

Glencore

The Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Negotiation team is opening dialogue with Glencore to create an Impact Benefit agreement to address their mining on Atikameksheng Anishnawbek territory. The experience gained from negotiations with Vale and KGHM has been invaluable in expediting this process.

WINTER CARNIVAL

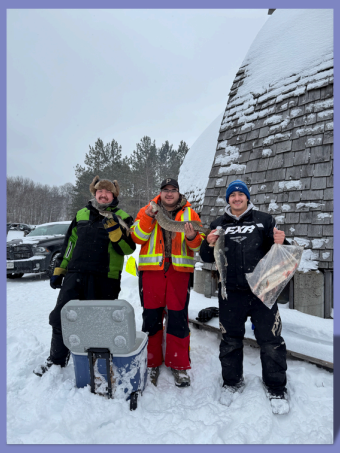
Due to renovations at the Community Centre, this year's Winter Carnival was held at Sacred Grounds on February 9, 2025, with activities available such as Water Boiling Contest, Ring Toss, Hay Rides, and Sliding. The main event was an Ice Fishing Derby where Debendaagziwaad could fish at Round Lake, Fly Lake, Black Lake, Whitefish Lake, and Simon Lake!

The winners of the Ice Fishing Derby were Brenden Pahpeguish for **Longest Pickerel**, Adam Nootchtai for **Longest Pike**, and Dennis Wabegijig Jr. for **Longest Mystery Fish**.















WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Did you know about the Atikameksheng App?

The Atikameksheng Anishnawbek App notifies Debendaagziwaad, staff, and the public of important information about news, events, programming, documents, and more. Make sure to turn on your notifications so you don't miss an alert! To view everything that gets uploaded to the app, register for an account! Download the app today in the App Store or Google Play!

For more information or support, contact communications@wlfn.com.





This year's Annual Jiingtamok is occurring on July 26 & 27, 2025 with the theme **Remembering Our Ancestors.**

Chi miigwetch to everyone who submitted for the Annual Jiingtamok Logo Contest! The winner for this year's logo is AJ Elliott!

