QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Miin Giizis (Blueberry Moon/July)



Aanii kina wiya!

As we enter the second half of the year, we're excited to share the latest updates, achievements, and insights from the past quarter, April - June. From new initiatives and project milestones to upcoming events and team highlights, this issue offers a snapshot of how we're growing and evolving.

However you're spending the summer months, we hope that everyone has an oppourtunity to rest, relax, and try something new!

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EZHWEBAK

(WHAT'S HAPPENING)

OPERATIONS

New Staff

Chief Executive Officer

In May, we welcomed Lorraine Naponse as the Chief Executive Officer. Lorraine can be reached at ceo@wlfn.com.

Health and Safety Coordinator

In May, we welcomed Tara Fitchie as the Health and Safety Coordinator! Tara can be reached at healthsafety.coordinator@wlfn.com.

IT Coordinator

In May, we welcomed Joel Catterall as the IT Coordinator!

Executive Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer (EA to the CAO)

In June, we welcomed Hope Tyson as the EA to the CAO! Hope can be reached at execasst.cao@wlfn.com.

POLITICAL

New Staff

Political Operations Manager

In May, we welcomed Jean-Gilles Pelletier as the Political Operations Manager! Jean-Gilles can be reached at politicaloperations.manager@wlfn.com.

Executive Assistant to Council

In June, we welcomed Crystal Burton as the Executive Assistant to Council! Crystal can be reached at execasst.council@wlfn.com.

Need assistance accessing the Members Portal? Contact **Shawn McLaren**, Public Relations Coordinator, at public.relations@wlfn.com



EDUCATION

New Staff

Post Secondary Worker

In May, we welcomed back Ashley Buzzell from Maternity leave! Ashley can be reached at Education.PostSec@wlfn.com.

Education Support Worker - Special Education

In June, we welcomed Katelyn Corbiere as the Education Support Worker - Special Education! Katelyn can be reached at education.speced2@wlfn.com.

Education Support Worker - In School

In June, we welcomed Brendan Assiniwe as the Education Support Worker - In School! Brendan can be reached at education.inschool3@wlfn.com

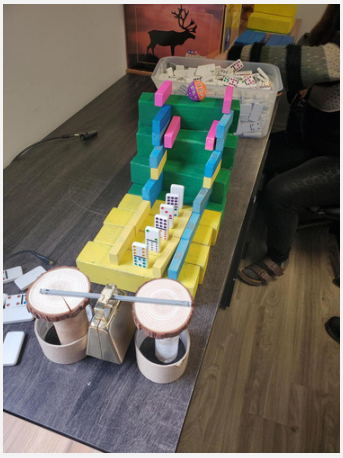


The Post-Secondary Support Program identified **58** successful applicants for the Fall 2025 term.

The Education Department continues to host P.D. Day Activities. On June 6, 2025, in collaboration with other departments, a **"Mad Science Day"** was facilitated at the Atikameksheng Kendaasii-Gamik (Library). Let's Talk Science from Cambrian College led four Mad Science workshops for children to enjoy!

- Gravity exercise including eggs,
- buoyancy exercise with student-made boats,
- an engineering challenge to make bridges that could hold weight,
- and chaining simple machines together to create a dynamic, complex machine to ring a bell!

A total of **20** children attended!! Let's Talk Science will return twice during the Kids Summer Program this year!







The Librarian has been working on developing a new and revitalized space in the Kendaasii-Gamik. The Librarian has been sorting and cataloguing books and engaging with community members. The library will be a warm and welcoming space for community members to utilize and enjoy.



The Kendaasii-Gamik computers have been upgraded and are ready for Debendaagziwaad to use!

Waasakwa Children's Centre

New Staff

Early Childhood Educator

In June, we welcomed Bonita Nebenionquit as the Early Childhood Educator. Bonita can be reached at ece1@wlfn.com.

Early Childhood Educator

In June, we welcomed Mavis Vachon as the Early Childhood Educator. She can be reached at ece2@wlfn.com.

Early Childhood Educator

In June, we welcomed Taylor Ross as the Early Childhood Educator. Taylor can be reached at ece3@wlfn.com.

Early Years Educator

In June, we welcomed Amanda Rose as the Early Years Educator. Amanda can be reached at earlyyears.educator@wlfn.com.

Early Years Assistant

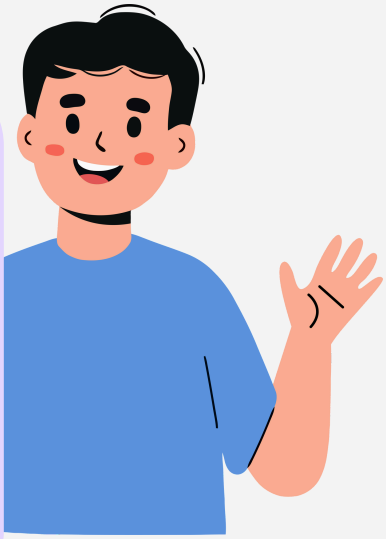
In June, we welcomed Aiyanna Gonawabi as the Early Years Assistant. Aiyanna can be reached at earlyyears.assistant@wlfn.com.

Waasakwa Cook

In June, we welcomed Lauren Abel as the Waasakwa Cook. Lauren can be reached at waasakwa.cook@wlfn.com.



MINO BIMAADIZIWIN



New Staff

Anishinaabe Aadziwin Worker

In May, we welcomed Brain Saikkonen as the Anishinaabe Aadziwin Worker! Brian can be reached at anishinabe.aadziwin.worker1@wlfn.com

Anishinaabe Aadziwin Worker

In June, we welcomed Danielle Shawana as the Anishinaabe Aadziwin Worker! Danielle can be reached at anishinabe.aadziwin.worker3@wlfn.com.



The Oshkaabewis continued with regular programming including Big Drum evenings.

Check out the Weekly Flyer for upcoming dates!

The Anishinaabe Aadziwin Team have been busy at Sacred Grounds with rejuvenating the area with the Planning and Infrastructure Department.

The Anishnaabemowin Helper continues to do weekly Language classes in the community on Wednesday evenings. For more information, please contact anishnaabemowin.helper@wlfn.com





Arial shot from June 2025.

LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT



The **Micro-Hatchery Walleye Restocking project** took place with the assistance from Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Lisa O'Connor, Fish Production Biologist. We were able to obtain **350,000 Walleye eggs** which helped with the stocking of both bell jars located in the Lands Department and the Waasakwa Children's Centre.



The Senior and Junior Lands Guardians (The Guardians) assisted with collecting Walleye eggs for our two Micro-hatcheries. Hatched walleye was released in Little Lake (attached to Round Lake).

The Guardians completed territory patrols on Portelance Road area (North River, Wahnapitae) and Skead Area (South, Wahnapitae). They also completed site specific monitoring at McMillian exploration site (Espanola/fox lake road area), Nelson Lake exploration site, Capri Exploration site, and Coleman Mine Exploration site.



Forest Fire Activities

Up to date there have been three reports of forest fires in Atikameksheng in the past month. These fires were reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and a team was deployed to assist. One of the fires resulted in an area of two hectares, while the other covered an area of one hectare. The third fire resulted from an improper distinguishing of a pit fire. Our Emergency Management Coordinator was also contacted and worked along with both the MNR and local fire department. Lands staff also provided additional assistance with the monitoring of all three sites to ensure they were completely extinguished with no further activity resulting from the aftereffects.

The Lands Department has begun planning for the **Annual Harvest Gathering.** Confirmed 'tentative' dates are set for **October 1 – October 3, 2025.**

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

New Staff

Outreach Worker

In May, we welcomed Shannon Wiersema as the Outreach worker! She can be reached at outreach.worker@wlfn.com.

Outreach Worker

In May, we welcomed Heather Gagnon as the Outreach worker! She can be reached at outreach.worker2@wlfn.com.



Another season of the Indigenous Rookie League has begun! The Junior and Senior Atikameksheng Jays had their Home Opener on Thursday, June 26, 2025!

The Community Physical Activities Programmer, Kelly Nootchtai, has been fundraising for the Indigenous Rookie League! They have raised a total of **$7,479!** They are looking to raise a total of $16,000.

Community Physical Activities Programmer (CPAP), Family Well-Being Worker, and the Mental Health Coordinator currently hosts **Ju Jitsu for ages 4 - 11 years old** with instructor Mark Bryson. For more information, please contact Shelly Laronde at familywellbeing@wlfn.com





The Whitefish Lions Club donated **$1,000** to Elder Programming!

Diner's Club started back at the Community Centre this quarter! During the month of May a total of 80 people joined us back in person!

Sudbury Rocks Marathon Preparation evening walks had **36** people join!

The Sudbury Rocks Marathon took place on May 25 with a total of **24** participates!

16 Debendaagziwaad did the **5 km Walk/Run**
3 Debendaagziwaad did the **10 km Walk/Run**
4 Debendaagziwaad did the **5 km Family walk/run**

Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) medical students had a successful placement! They were in the community from April 28 - May 23, 2025 for their four week Integrated Community Experience! They attended programming with the Healthy Babies Healthy Children worker such as Rattle Making, Ribbon Wear, Drum making, and Red Dress Pins!

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Highlights

- 11 participants for Tie Blanket Workshop
- 5 participants for Tie Pillow Workshop
- 6 participants for Story Time

Collaboration Highlights

- 57 Debendaagziwaad participated in the Mother's Day Collaboration with CPAP, Adult Day Programmer, and the Mental Health Worker
- 21 Debendaagziwaad participated in the Father's Day Golf that was collaborated with CPAP and the Mental Health Coordinator



The Outreach Team hosts Community Lunches at the Atikameksheng Hub! In May, they had **seven** people attend. Be sure to check out the Weekly Flyer for the next Community Lunches.

The Hub is located at 66 Elm Street in Sudbury!

The Mental Heath Coordinator, in collaboration with the Oshkaabewis, hosts a Grief Support Group every third Thursday of the month.

The Grief Support Group is a safe and compassionate space to share, listen, and support one another through the journey of grief and healing. For more information, please contact Josephine at mentalhealth.coordinator@wlfn.com.



PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Tree Clearing phase of the Bypass Road Project is now complete, paving the way for the future construction of a 1.1 km roadway through areas of Boreal Forest and wetlands.

The Project Team is actively advancing the construction design in preparation for the next stage of development. Road construction is expected to begin in early **summer 2025**, contingent on favorable weather conditions, and **continue into 2026.**

We greatly appreciate the community's ongoing support and patience as we work toward delivering this vital transportation corridor.

New Staff

Custodian

In May, we welcomed Amber Abel and Sabastain Edwards as our Custodians!

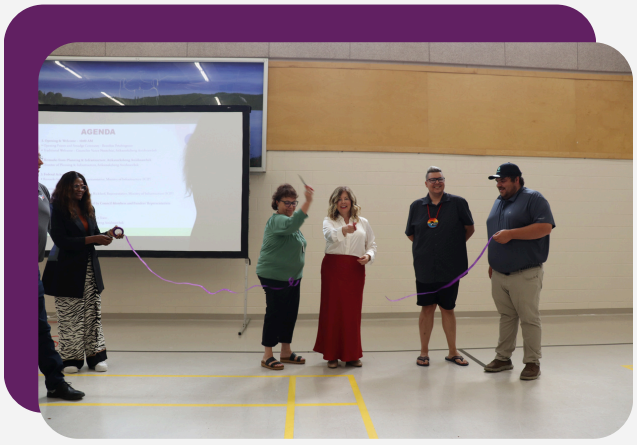




We are thrilled to announce that the Community Centre renovations are officially complete! As of May 6, 2025, the Community Centre has been open and actively taking bookings.

The Grand Re-Opening of the Community Centre took place on June 30, with approximately **30** people in attendance **including Viviane Lapointe,** Member of Parliament for Sudbury**.**

Lorraine Naponse, Chief Executive Officer of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, and Viviane Lapointe cut the ribbon together in officially opening the Community Centre!



SOCIAL SERVICES

New Staff

Family Well-Being Worker

In April, we welcomed Shelly Laronde as the Family Well-Being worker! She can be reached at familywellbeing@wlfn.com.

Summer Kick Off BBQ



The Family Advocacy Team, in partnership with Nogdawindamin, hosted a Summer Kick Off BBQ on June 7! This event welcomed over **150** Debendaagziwaad.

Highlights included:

- Bouncy houses and face painting for children.
- Food, treats, and refreshments.
- Informational booths from Atikameksheng programs and services.
- Eight themed prize bundles donated by various departments, promoting summer family fun!

The Child and Youth Workers, and Child and Youth Well-Being Worker held weekly programs, including the following highlights:

- Weekly Children's Centre Drop-in Nights are visited by an average of 15+ children.
- Weekly Youth Centre Drop-in Nights visited by 11+ youth.
- Weekly Hand Drumming Social with an average of 20+ attendees/session.
- Family Easter Kits had **203** family sign-ups.
- Monthly Family Board Game Nights with an average of 9+ attendees/session.
- The Safe Boating Course held in May had **13** children/youth and **two** adults, and the second course in June had **eight** children/youth and **two** adults attending.
- Leather Fringe Bag Workshop included **five** adults and **nine** children and youth.

Be sure to view the Weekly Flyer for upcoming workshops and programs for children and youth!



The Family Support Workers continue to provide support & services to families. They also provide programing to community. This quarter they hosted 23 different programming such as;

- Loom Beading Barrettes
- Quilt Making
- Leather Pouch Making
- Men Ribbon Shirt Making
- Rattle Making
- Drum Making
- Jiingle Dress Making
- Fur Hoop Workshop
- Beaded Hair Ties
- Beaded Earrings
- T-Dress and Grass Dancer Workshop
- Sewing Night
- Finish your Sewing Projects
- Finish your Beading Projects



Community Food Support Program

In May, there was a total of **82 registered** households/families with the Community Food Support Program!

Highlights from this quarter include:

April:
Total number of Trailer Visits: **22** families
Total Number of Emergency Food Support Requests: **Five** families
Total Households Assisted: **27** Families

May:
Total number of Trailer Visits: **43** families
Total Number of Emergency Food Support Requests: **Two** families
Total Households Assisted: **45** families



June:
Total Number of Trailer Visits: **30**
Total Number of Emergency Food Support Requests: **One**
Total Number of Households Assisted: **31**

COMMUNITY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Community Skills Development Manager (CSDM) and Community Skills Development Coordinator (CSDC) worked collaboratively to deliver a successful two-day Job Fair. The event began with a Resume & Cover Letter Workshop facilitated in partnership with Naadmaadwiiuk Employment & Training (Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council).

The Job Fair took place on June 10th at the Community Centre, drawing in a record of **46** employer booths - up from the usual 10 -15 in past years. Enhanced outreach included radio promotions on HOT 93.5 and MooseFM, along with poster distribution at Indigenous Student Centre's across local post-secondary schools.

Participants had a chance to win exciting prizes, including a Yeti 15 Hard Cooler and a JBL Flip 6 Bluetooth Speaker. Both participant and employer feedback were overwhelmingly positive!







Chi Miigwetch / thank you so much to everyone who came out to view the Job Fair and to all of the organizations who set up a booth! We can't wait for the next one! For more information please contact Tasheena at communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com.

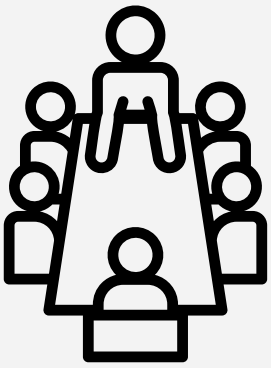
This year's Summer Student Employment Program had **31 students** start with Atikameksheng on June 30! They will end their summer employment on August 22!

Their first week entailed;

- A meet and greet with the Community Resource and Development Department and Summer Student Supervisors
- Health and Safety Training with the Health & Safety Coordinator, Tara Fitchie
- Human Resources onboarding
- First Aid & CPR Training, delivered in partnership with Niigaaniin Services



The Economic Development Committee reconvened on June 24 after a two-year hiatus. A Call-Out for new members was posted in the Weekly Flyer on our Facebook, Instagram, and app. We had received **eight** letters of interest. The areas of focus this fiscal year include developing a Business Licensing Law and Signage Policy, and updating the Filming Guidelines Policy, Summer Student Policy, and Tobacco Policy.



The Community Resource Development Team had Dalton McFarlane join their team as a consultant in April!

This quarter we welcomed two new AANT members **Carla Petahtegoose** and **Victoria Petahtegoose** who round out our negotiations team with Kathleen Naponse, Kevin Greer, Robert Naponse, and council representatives Vance Nootchtai and AANT Chair Monica Homer!

The Community Resource & Development Department now have their **own office**! They will be located at 112 Lakeshore Dr!

Keep an eye out in the Weekly Flyer for the grand opening and barbeque for staff and Debendaagziwaad to visit and learn more about the department!!





EARTH DAY



Earth Day was on April 22, 2025! Staff took the morning to clean up garbage and recyclables around the community!

Miigwetch to Debendaagziwaad who participated in Earth Day and submitted photos cleaning up around their location to be entered into the prize draw!!! **22** Debendaagziwaad submitted photos of them cleaning up around their area!













