QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Binaakwii Giizis/Falling Leaves Moon



Aanii kina wiya!

As summer turns to fall, the past few months were filled with exciting events, new achievements, and memorable moments across our community. From special visits and standout performances to continued growth and collaboration, there's been no shortage of reasons to celebrate.

Check out some highlights from July - September 2025!

IN THIS ISSUE

Operations

Education

Mino Bimaadiziwin

Lands & Environment

Health and Community Wellness

Planning and Infrastructure

Social Services

Community Resource & Development

Annual Jiingtamok

Debendaagziwaad Days

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

EZHIWEBAK

(WHAT'S HAPPENING)

OPERATIONS

New Staff

Events Coordinator

In July, we welcomed Jason Smallboy as the Events Coordinator! Jason can be reached at events.coordinator@wlfn.com.

EDUCATION

New Staff

Education Support Worker - Post Secondary

In July, we welcomed Keenan Lachance as the Education Support Worker - Post Secondary! Keenan can be reached at education.postsec2@wlfn.com.

Education Support Worker - Secondary

In September, we welcomed Tiffani Bouchard as the Education Support Worker - Secondary! Tiffani can be reached at education.Secondary@wlfn.com.



Best Attendance Award

Darius Nebenionquit-Lavallee won the Best Attendance Award for the 2024-2025 School Year!! Way to go Darius!



Back to School Week

The Education Department held their Annual Back to School Week, which focuses on providing support to students returning back to school in the fall. The Education Department distributes gift cards, school supplies, as well as hosts a Service Fair, a Bus Readiness Program, and a BBQ.





Education Banquet

The Education Department, in collaboration with the Atikameksheng Trust, planned and coordinated the 2025 Education Banquet. This was a night to celebrate the accomplishments of our Atikameksheng students.

Formation of a Book Club

The Librarian is gearing up to start a community Book club and regular board game nights hosted at the Kendaasii-Gamik (library). Keep an eye out in the Weekly Flyer for more information!





Archives Working Group

The Librarian has been continuing work with the Archive Working Group to collaborate and create a place for community to have access to valuable information on the history of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

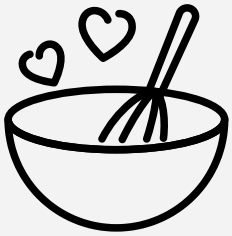
Waasakwa Children's Centre

Family & Community Outings

- Collaborated with the Healthy Babies Healthy Children & Community Physical Activity Programs for a berry-picking trip to Leisure Farms.
- Partnered with the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program for a trip to the Kupp Centre.
- Supported and co-hosted the Bike/Quad Parade for children during Debendaagziwaad Days.
- Coordinated a family trip to DJ Hancock Splash Pad.
- Hosted a family trip to Science North for hands-on exploration.
- Early Years worker hosted a community trip to Santa's Village and collaborated with several departments. 153 people attended!

Nutrition Support

The Waasakwa Cook prepared and served daily lunches for more than **50 children, youth, and staff** who were attending both the Early Years Land-Based Camp and Summer Program.



Speech & Languages Services

The Waasakwa Staff hosted Speech & Language classes each Monday from July-September, supporting coordination with a Speech & Language Pathologist for **seven children** across schools, daycares, and on-site at Waasakwa.

Land-Based Programming

The Early Years Worker hosted weekly child-caregiver program at Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Sacred Grounds (four hours each), with age-appropriate programming for children 0-6.





MINO BIMAADIZIWIN

New Staff

Oshkaabewis Kwe

In July, we welcomed Kelyn Best as the Oshkaabewis Kwe! Kelyn can be reached at oshkaabewis.kwe@wlfn.com.

Anishnaabe Aadiziwin Manager

In September, we welcomed David Trudeau as the Anishnaabe Aadiziwin Manager! David can be reached at anishinabe.aadziwin.manager@wlfn.com.



The Oshkaabewis has been hosting Fireside Teachings! You can join the Oshkaabewis at the Teaching Lodge by the Community Centre to listen to the Seven Grandfather teachings, chat, and spend time at the fire!

For more information contact oshkaabewis@wlfn.com.

Mino Bimaadiziwin has been hosting Food Fundraisers where all proceeds raised goes towards the 2026 Annual Jiingtamok!

So far they have hosted three Food Fundraisers selling Three Sister's Soup, Corn Soup, and Fish!

Keep an eye out in the Weekly Flyer for the next Food Sale!



LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT

New Staff

Lands Management Technician

In September, we welcomed Kevin Roy as the Lands Management Technician! Kevin can be reached at lands.tech@wlfn.com.

Lands Registry Clerk

In September, we welcomed Dana Condratto as the Lands Registry Clerk! Dana can be reached at lands.clerk@wlfn.com.

Guardians

The Senior and Junior Land Guardians completed territory patrols on Kilarney Road area, Onaping Lake Area (south shore), Atikameksheng Anishnawbek lands and Lakes (Panache Lake, Round Lake, Makada Lake, Whitefish Lake). Patrol on Makada Lake resulted in no trespassing signs being placed on the Makada Lake shoreline and completed follow-up monitoring.



Species at Risk

The species at risk crew made it through another turtle nesting season with outstanding success! A total of **515 eggs** (painted turtle and snapping turtle) were excavated from nine different locations within Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. Eggs were incubated and cared for at the Lands and Environment office for roughly **two months**, filling all three of our incubators! **435 of the 515 eggs** successfully hatched. Hatchlings were released in the wetlands closest to their nesting site shortly after hatching. In early September, the annual turtle release was held at Halfway Culvert, with nearly **50 people** showing up to the event.





Three nights of bat netting were completed in July. Two nights were at wetlands along trails off Blackwater Road (Y-Swamp and Bass Lake Trail), and one night of netting was held as a Public Event at the Public Works garage. Approximately **15 individuals** attended the Public Bat Night, and our bat expert, Derek Morningstar, shared information on bat species during the event.

In total, **11 bats** were captured (Silver-haired bats, Little brown myotis, and Big brown bats), of which eight were tagged with radio-telemetry equipment. Tracking was done with radio-telemetry antennas for two to three weeks after netting to identify important roosting habitats.

Forest Fire Activities

Over the past summer, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek experienced **four forest fires**, all of which were reported through our Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) in coordination with Sudbury Fire Management Headquarters. These fires were identified and reported by both community members and aircraft flying over Atikameksheng Anishnawbek territory.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Fire Rangers responded quickly and worked diligently to extinguish all fires within Atikameksheng's land boundaries.



We are grateful for the continued vigilance of our community members and the swift action of the MNR Fire Rangers in helping to keep our lands and people safe.

CALL 310-FIRE (3473) TO REPORT A FIRE

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

New Staff

Family Violence Prevention Worker

In July, we welcomed Samantha Owl as the Family Violence Prevention Worker! She can be reached at Family.violenceprevention@wlfn.com.

Community Wellness Program Worker

In September, we welcomed Jenny-Lee Roussel Quachegan as the Community Wellness Program Worker! Jenny-Lee can be reached at communitywellness.worker@wlfn.com.

During this quarter, the Community Physical Activities Programmer (CPAP) organized many high-participated events such as:

- Traditional Harvesting of Strawberries – **71 participants**
- Family Dance and BBQ – **101 participants**
- Santa's Village – **131 participants**
- Splash n Go Water Park – **29 participants**

Indigenous Rookie Leauge

The CPAP raised **$11,000** for the Atikameksheng Jays Care Baseball Teams! Game nights had an average of 34 players! It was a great season for the Junior and Senior Atikameksheng Jays!



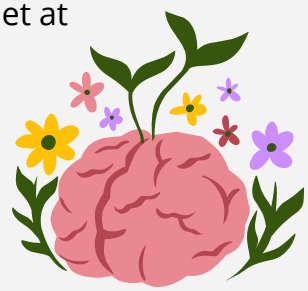


Healthy Babies Healthy Children

Welcome Baby Baskets were delivered to five families! **The Home Visiting Care Program is growing,** if you are pregnant or have a baby, please contact the Heathy Babies Healthy Children Worker (HBHC), Yvonne, to book an appointment for a home visit! For more information, contact Yvonne at **healthybabies.children@wlfn.com.**

Mental Health

Increased Mental health services are available through Maamwesying. A worker will be at the Band Office **five days a week**. For appointments, please contact Kimberly Recollet at **kim.recollet@nminieyaa.ca.**



Adult Day Programming

- Sweet Swirls Outing – 6 participants
- IMAX Outing – 11 participants
- Value Village – 7 participants
- Cineplex Outing – 36 participants
- Cooking & Baking – 26 participants
- Arts and Crafts – 7 participants

Diner's Club

Diner's Club is currently fundraising for a Seniors Trip to Banff, AB!

So far they have raised a total of **$12,039.00!**

For more information, please contact Debbie Soucy-Paterson at dinersclub.cook@wlfn.com.



Outreach Workers

The Outreach Workers continue to have bi-weekly lunches located at the Atikameksheng Community Hub at 66 Elm Street, Sudbury, ON.

Check out the Weekly Flyer for upcoming dates!

The Outreach Workers have been seeking donations for Fall/Winter outer wear, winter boots, duffel bags, blankets, old cell phones, and more!
Contact the outreach workers for more information!

Shannon Wiersema: outreach.worker@wlfn.com
Heather Gagnon: outreach.worker2@wlfn.com



PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Septic Systems Project

In April 2025, the Project Team met with ICIP officials to review the Scope of Work and identify priorities for the limited remaining budget. A total of **28 septic systems** across the community were assessed in late September 2025 to determine whether they required repairs or full replacement.

The Project Team is now preparing a report of the 28 Septic inspections to be presented to leadership, with Phase 2 of the upgrades to focus on systems posing the greatest health and safety concerns. This targeted approach ensures the most urgent needs are addressed first, while making the best use of the available funding.

Waasakwa Children's Centre Renovations

The Waasakwa Early Learning Centre has undergone a major transformation to meet building code standards and secure the licensing required to operate a daycare —an urgent community priority.



In September, the playground was completed with CRCS Recreation installing new equipment and M&G Fencing completing the perimeter.



Water

The Water Distribution Operator has been quite busy monitoring and testing water samples on a daily/weekly basis. He inputs the work into a water Maintenance program and thus allows it to notify him about some of the various tasks that is needed to be completed the distribution system.



Summer Students



Public Works had five summer students join their crew. The students were assigned many tasks that involved cutting brushes and grass at various locations. Their main objective was to get Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Sacred Grounds ready for the Annual Jiingtamok on July 26th and 27th. They helped cut grass, clean up the beaches, and roadside cutting at the entrance. They also helped cut brushes at the Solar Park. These students were a hard-working bunch and finished their placement on August 18, miigwetch summer students!

Aggregates Project

Public Works Crew started the aggregates project such as culvert replacements and ditching at various locations. An 8-ton excavator was rented to support the work.



A new culvert and ditching was completed 1.4 km from the Dump Road as well as various ditching along Whitefish Lake Road up to Chidaki Hill.



During the months of August and September, two trucks hauled and spread A gravel at various locations on the community roads, **55 loads totalling 643.58 tonnes** were placed and spread. The Atikameksheng grader was then used to finish the final grading.

Smelt Creek Replacement

In September, the crew initiated a big culvert removal at Smelt Creek. The old steel culvert needed to be replaced as concerns were raised about holes developing around the culvert during rainstorms. We hired Bruce Tait construction to assist us with replacing this culvert.



SOCIAL SERVICES

New Staff

Child and Youth Worker

In July, we welcomed Jasmine Wabegijig as the Child and Youth Worker! Jasmine can be reached at childyouth.worker2@wlfn.com.

Anti Guns and Gangs Youth Prevention Worker

In September, we welcomed Katelyn Corbiere as the Anti Guns and Gangs Youth Prevention Worker! Katelyn can be reached at ggprevention@wlfn.com.

Child and Youth Wellbeing Worker

In September, we welcomed back Darlene Ackerland as the Child & Youth Wellbeing Worker! Darlene can be reached at childyouth.wellbeing1@wlfn.com.

The Zero Tolerance Band Council Resolution was passed by Gimaa and Council to address drug trafficking, drug-related crimes, and human trafficking in the community. In addition, the State of Emergency Declaration was expanded to include Child Welfare, with continued planning and cross-departmental coordination.

Child & Youth Services

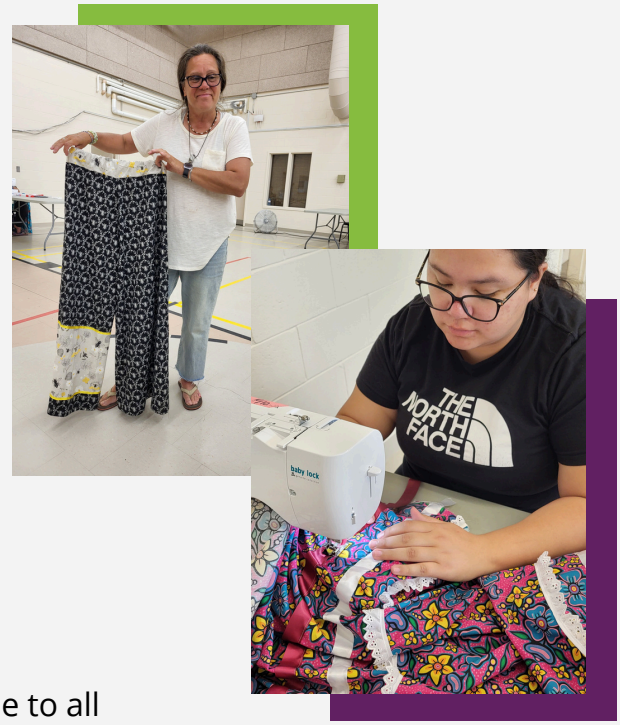
The summer started off with Summer Programming for children ages 7-12 years old! An average of 24 + children attended Summer Programming each day.



Summer Programming activities included Pow Wow Dancing/ Regalia Work, STEM Activities, and many more cultural, science, and land-based activities

Family Support Program

Family Support Workers work with families on a voluntary basis. Workers continue to collaborate with the Family Advocacy Team, as well as, with other internal and external agencies to address the issues that place children at risk. Family Support Workers provide direct support & services to families so that they are living a positive and healthy life-style.



Programming highlights include:

- Leather Purse Workshop: 16 participants
- Ribbon Pants Workshop: 14 participants
- Finish your Project Night: 14 participants
- Quill Workshop: 18 participants
- Sweet Grass Workshop: 8 participants
- Moss Bag Workshop: 12 participants
- Beaded Sunglasses: 7 participants

Community Food Support Program

The Community Food Support Program is available to all Debendaagziwaad living on and off reserve.
The Community Food Support Trailer is located beside the Community Centre. Contact community.foodsupport@wlfn.com for more information!



Highlights:

- August 15, 2025 - 14 clients
- August 21, 2025 - 15 clients
- August 22, 2025 - 6 clients
- August 29, 2025 -17 clients
- September 5, 2025 -11 clients
- September 12, 2025 -16 clients
- September 16, 2025 -8 clients
- September 19, 2025 -15 clients
- September 26, 2025 - 13 clients

COMMUNITY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The second quarter of 2025-2026 has proven to be historic for the Community Resource Development Department, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Gimaa and Council and our Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Negotiation Team as we culminated 15 years of negotiations when we **signed the Impact Benefit Agreement with FNX KGHM on September 6, 2025.**



Funding for Employment & Training

Members of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek continue to have access to the Naadmaadwiiuk Employment & Training Program under Mamaweswen, NSTC. This program is designed to help Indigenous people improve skills and secure employment. Supports available include:

- Employment-Related and Career Development Assistance and Outreach
- Employment Supports and Start-Up Assistance
- Job Creation Partnerships
- Job Opportunities/Targeted Wage Subsidy
- Mobility Assistance
- Self-Employment Assistance
- Skills Enhancement, Pre-Apprenticeship, and Apprenticeship
- Youth Work Experience



To learn more or begin an application, please reach out to the Community Skills Development Coordinator, Tasheena Recollet, at **communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com** or visit the Community & Resource Development office at **112 Lakeshore Road.**

ANNUAL TRADITIONAL GATHERING

On July 26 & 27, 2025, the 37th Annual Traditional Gathering, Jiingtamok, was held! Chi miigwetch to everyone who came out and made the weekend successful! We are excited for next year!



Shoutout to KGHM for sponsoring our 37th Annual Jiingtamok!

KGHM

Head Youth Dancers
Bronson Naponse
Kendra Nebenionquit

Head Elder
Julie Pegahmagabow

Head Dancers
Rob Spade
Celeste Pedri-Spade



Emcee
Gordan Sands



Host Drum
War Paint

Co Host Drum
Highridge

DEBENDAAGZIWAAD DAYS

Debendaagziwaad Days is a time for us to gather and bring members home for our Traditional Gathering, Jiingtamok! This year's Debendaagziwaad Days took place on July 21 - 25, 2025 where lots of laughs and fun occurred!

MONDAY

To start off Debendaagziwaad Days, a Recognition Gala was held to honour and celebrate seven Debendaagziwaad who exhibit the Seven Grandfather Teachings, one outstanding youth, one dedicated staff member, a Milestone Achievement, and two incredible lifetime achievement recipients for their lasting contributions to the Education Department.

We enjoyed a beautiful acoustic performance and lovely keynote speech from Thea May who made the evening truly special. Jen Recollet provided an amazing meal and we had a fantastic emcee, Shawn McLaren, who kept the night flowing with heart and humour!



- Tim Saikkonen received the Staff Recognition Award
- Alicia Jo Elliott received the Youth Recognition Award
- Shannon Agowissa received the Respect Award
- Julie Ozawagosh received the Honesty Award
- Derek Blankley received the Wisdom Award
- Larry Kewais received the Truth Award
- Kayla Condotta received the Love Award
- Junior Nootchtai received the Humility Award
- Kianna Bailey received the Courage Award
- Gert Nootchtai and Marry Elliot received the Lifetime Achievement: Contributions to the Atikameksheng Education Award
- Thea May received a Milestone Achievement Award

TUESDAY



On July 22, 2025, Debendaagziwaad had the opportunity to take part in a variety of fun and meaningful activities. Highlights include a colorful Bike Decorating session that led into a lively parade through the community, a creative afternoon of painting Kindness Snake Rocks to spread positivity, and a scenic hike to Pigeon Mountain where participants enjoyed the fresh air and beautiful views.





Northland Wrestling made an exciting return for the second year in a row, delivering another round of intense matches and unforgettable entertainment. The crowd was especially fired up to cheer on our very own AJ Jones, who stepped into the ring and showed off some serious skill. It was a night to remember!











WEDNESDAY



July 23, 2025, was Political Engagement Day where meaningful conversations and community connection occurred. The Political Team hosted an Elder's Engagement session to explore the formation of a potential Elder's Council, fostering dialogue around leadership and wisdom. In the afternoon, youth gathered for an engaging session focused on the development of a potential Youth Council, sharing ideas and visions for the future.



The evening continued with a delicious dinner, followed by an inspiring keynote address from special guest Scott McLeod, Lake Huron Regional Chief. The day concluded on a high note with a lively game of Atikameksheng Trivia, bringing everyone together for fun and laughter.

THURSDAY

Although the weather led to the cancellation of all planned community activities, including the Home Game for the Atikameksheng Jr. and Sr. Indigenous Rookie League, spirits stayed high at the Community Centre! Families gathered for a lively dance party with DJ Sound Freqz spinning the tunes. A delicious BBQ was also served, with all proceeds going to support the Atik Blue Jays Indigenous Rookie League. Miigwetch to everyone who came out and made the best of a rainy day!

Big Miigwetch to Councillor Darrell!
Although he couldn't take a turn in the dunk tank this year, Councillor Darrell generously donated $200 to support the Atik Blue Jays Indigenous Rookie League. He also contributed his honourarium from our Annual Jiingtamok. Chi-miigwetch for his continued support of our community!



Thursday, July 24, 2025, was the 3rd Annual Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Golf Tournament!

Although the weather had other plans and the tournament was cut short, the day was still filled with laughter, unforgettable memories, and friendly competition.

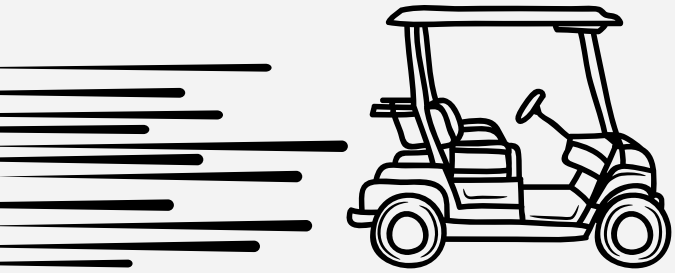
We extend a heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors for making this event possible: Miller Thomson, Bob's Smoke Shop, S.Burnett & Associates Limited, Maurice Law, JDass, KGHM, Technica Mining, Hydro One, CNTS, Suslop, Colliers Project Leaders, Greater Sudbury Police Services, Interfor, Ethier Sand and Gravel, Bird Heavy Civil Ltd., and our Hole-in-One sponsor, Laurentian Chrysler. Also a big thank you to Lively Golf Course for hosting the tournament for the third year in a row!

Together, we raised a total of **$83,000!**













FRIDAY

Chi-miigwetch to everyone who donated towards the Loonie Auction and who came out to participate!

TOGETHER, WE RAISED JUST OVER $8,000!













NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

September 30th is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a time to honour the Survivors of residential schools, their families, and the children who never made it home. This day serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for reflection, education, and meaningful action toward reconciliation. Debendaagziwaad, wore orange, walked through the community, and took time to listen and learn. Let us remember, not just today but everyday, every child matters.







Orange t-shirts where handed out to Debendaagziwaad to wear. The design for this year's shirt was created by Debendaagziwaad **Grace Migwans**.

