QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Chimanido Giizis (Great Spirit Moon)



Aanii kina wiya!

As we welcome the new year, take a moment to reflect on the final months of 2025. From fall initiatives to winter celebrations, October through December brought meaningful moments, exciting progress, and plenty of reasons to feel proud.

Check out some highlights from October - December 2025!

IN THIS ISSUE

Education

Mino Bimaadiziwin

Lands & Environment

Health and Community Wellness

Planning and Infrastructure

Social Services

Community Resource & Development

Halloween at the Band Office

Indigenous Veterans Day

12 Days of Christmas

EZHWEBAK

(WHAT'S HAPPENING)

EDUCATION

New Staff

Waasakwa Children's Centre Manager

In October, we welcomed Amanda Rose as the Waasakwa Children's Centre Manager! Amanda can be reached at waasakwaELC.manager@wlfn.com.

Student Support Worker - In School

In November, we welcomed Myriah Iserhoff as the Student Support Worker - In School! Myriah can be reached at Education.Inschool2@wlfn.com.

Our Education Programmer continued to provide strong support to the community and students through meaningful programming initiatives, including:

- Halloween Haunted House
- PD Day programming
- Snack and Homework Club
- School Lunch Market
- Collaborative 12 Days of Christmas activities



The Post-Secondary and Secondary Workers coordinated a college and university fair at the Community Centre, providing an opportunity for secondary students on and off reserve to explore post-secondary pathways.

The Education Services Manager with the support of the Education Committee was able to fund all eligible post-secondary applicants for the Winter 2026 term!

Waasakwa Children's Centre

Information Session

The Waasakwa Children's Centre held two information sessions on Thursday, December 4, 2025. These sessions were for parents and caregivers of children ages 18 months to 6 years who are Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Band Members residing on-reserve.



For enrollment packages or more information, please contact Amanda Rose at WaasakwaELC.manager@wlfn.com.

MINO BIMAADIZIWIN

The whole department visited Cantley, QC from November 29 to December 7, 2025, where they completed the Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA) and Wilderness First Responder (WFR) training.

This training will allow the department to take Debendaagziwaad out on more advanced outdoor activities, including overnight camping trips.





The Oshkaabewis has continued with Big Drum Night. It is now located at the Kendaasi Gamik (Library).

Big Drum Night will be adding in a once a month social event with food and other activities. Check out the Weekly Flyer for upcoming dates!

For more information, please contact Brandon Petahtegoose at oshkaabewis@wlfn.com.

New Traditional Healers, Mike Clark and Leanne Hennessy, have been brought in to provide coverage while Keith Smith is dealing with a serious medical issue.

For more information, please contact anishinabe.aadziwin.manager@wlfn.com.



LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT



The Annual Harvest took place from October 1-3, 2025! This area was situated at Bay Lake Road Mile Marker 28 (Camp 28) in the Benny area. There was a total of **six moose harvested** and approximately 80 people signed up to attend along with our Mining Proponents Vale, Glencore, and KGHM.

On October 22, 2025, the Annual Harvest Distribution Day was held at the Lands & Environment office. Band members had the opportunity to receive a grocery bag of moose meat, each thoughtfully prepared with ground meat, steaks, and a roast. To support Elders in the community, deliveries were also made directly to their homes. In total, **102 grocery bags** were shared with community members, helping ensure access to traditional foods.

Micro-Hatchery - Brook Trout

Over the past year, we worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources Sudbury District Team, who delivered about 3,000 fish eggs to our office. On December 9, 2025, a portion was shared with the Youth Centre micro-hatchery. After the eggs hatched on December 28, the hatchlings were released at Blackwater Lake on December 30, supporting local stewardship and fisheries enhancement.

Land Guardians:

The Senior and Junior Land Guardians conducted territory patrols across the Atikameksheng Reserve (Round Lake, Panache Lake, Whitefish Lake), Long Lake, Old Cartier Lake Rd., and the Nepawasi Lake area. Illegal dump sites were found in Old Cartier and Nepawasi and reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources for follow-up.



They also completed site-specific monitoring at the Capre (VALE), Nickle Lake (KGHM), and Fostung exploration areas, as well as the Hydro One Project (ceremony at the Mond Lake archaeology site), OPG Coniston and Stinson Project, and the Iron Mask Project.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

New Staff

Wellness Coordinator - Addictions

In November, we welcomed Authom Beland as the Wellness Coordinator - Addictions! Authom can be reached at addictions.coordinator@WLFN.com.



Adult Bowling during November had a total of **10** Debendaagziwaad over the age of 18 attend the program!

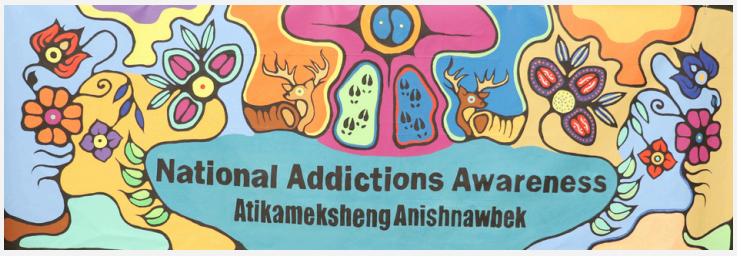
Make sure to check out the Weekly Flyer for upcoming Adult Bowling dates!

Diner's Club welcomed an impressive average of

349

guests per month this past quarter!





National Addictions Awareness Week (NAAW) took place from November 16 - 22, 2025. A total of **92** participants joined in the activities during NAAW.

Activities during NAAW that Debendaagziwaad could participate in included:

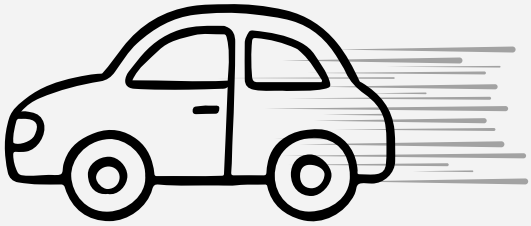
- Ribbon Skirt & Shirt Making
- Community Awareness Walk
- Drum Making
- Lived-Experience Guest Speaker
- Angels of Hope Presentation
- On-Site Testing & Naloxone Training





The Adult Day and Diner's Club program hosted their Annual Home & Community Care Christmas Dinner with a total of **78 in attendance**!





During this quarter, transportation services for the Adult Day Program were used by **74** individuals on Mondays and **70** individuals on Wednesdays.

In November, The Outreach Workers hosted three lunches at the Atikameksheng Community Hub, with a total attendance of **33** participants. Make sure to check out the Weekly Flyer to see upcoming Hub Lunches and dates!

Outreach Workers distributed harm reduction supplies through in-reach services at the Atikameksheng Hub and through outreach in public spaces. A total of **351** items were distributed through in-reach, while **329** items were distributed through outreach.

8

Transports to the Community Food Support Program!

Want to learn more about the services offered by the Outreach Workers?

Contact Shannon Wiersema or Heather Gagnon at outreach.worker@wlfn.com or Outreach.worker2@wlfn.com.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children, in collaboration with the Family Violence Prevention Worker, hosted weekly Trivia Nights during the month of October. A total of **90** debendaagziwaad attended!



Contact family.violenceprevention@wlfn.com if you're interested in more Trivia Nights!

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

New Staff

Housing Maintenance Lead

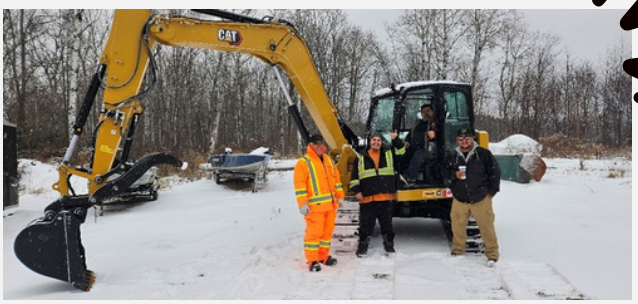
In October, we welcomed Cody Saikkonen as the Housing Maintenance Lead! Cody can be reached at housing.maintenance.lead@wlfn.com.

The Public Works team has added a brand-new 308 excavator to the fleet! They also financed an F-550 dump truck to meet the needs of the roads crew.

By investing in our own machinery, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek is taking important steps toward reducing rental costs, boosting efficiency, and empowering our community to complete projects right here at home.

This investment represents progress, self-reliance, and continued dedication to improving the infrastructure that supports all Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.







Funding has been secured from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to advance the Landfill Closure and Waste Transfer Station Project. This initiative responds directly to the recommendations outlined in the Waste Management Plan and will significantly improve waste handling in the community.

The Housing Team and Planning and Infrastructure continue to collaborate on the renovation of five housing units within the community. In addition, both teams are working with the Social Services Department on Social Housing projects and supports.

SOCIAL SERVICES

New Staff

Community Food Support Worker

In October, we welcomed Joanne Shawbonquit as the Community Food Support Worker! Joanne can be reached at Community.foodsupport@wlfn.com.

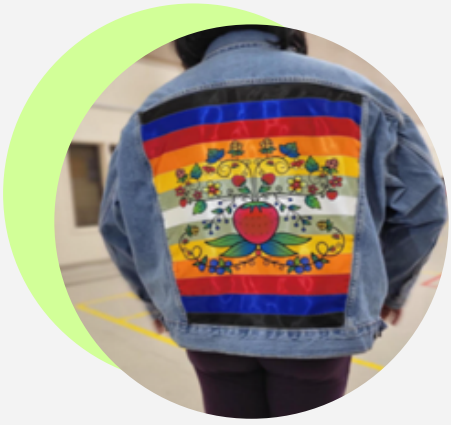
The Child & Youth Workers partnered with the Lands & Environment Department to ensure all youth attending the Annual Harvest had hunting gear. This year, Atikameksheng youth harvested a moose!





The Family Well-Being Worker hosted many workshops such as:

- Paddle to Heal the Spirit
- Puppet Master Storytelling
- Karios Blanket Exercise Program
- Family Drop-In: Santa & Gift Giving

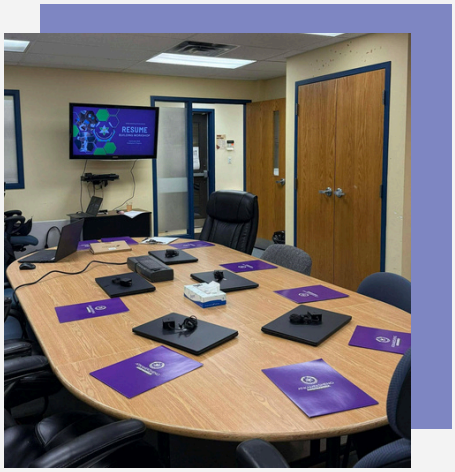


The Family Support Worker hosted many workshops such as:

- Ribbon Jean Jacket
- Wood Burning
- Gauntlet Mitts
- Heat Transfer Hats
- Mukluk Workshop
- Regalia Workshop
- Finish your Project Night

COMMUNITY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

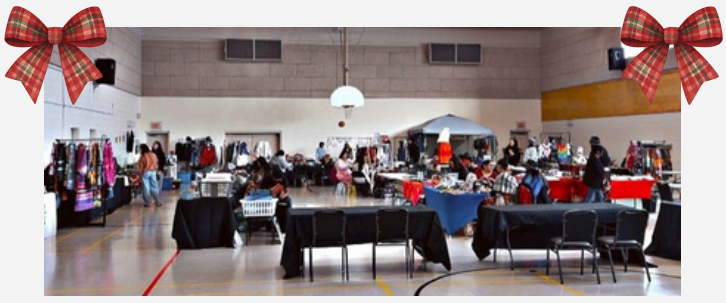
The Community Skills Development Program hosted a two-day **“Preparing for Success” workshop series.** Day one featured Resume & Cover Letter Writing. Five laptops were purchased to support members during workshops and for in-office use. Day two was co-hosted with Atikameksheng Anishnawbek's Human Resources Department where the focus was on Interview Preparation.



Missed the workshop and would like to see more? Contact communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com for more information.

The Economic Development Committee conducted a selection process for new members following the receipt of letters of interest. Three members were elected and approved by Gimaa and Council during the Band Council Meeting on December 9, 2025.

- **Paula Naponse**
- **Melissa Levesque**
- **Katrina Petahtegoose**



The Nishmas Holiday Market was held on November 29, 2025, as a one-day Indigenous Artisan market presented by the Community Skills Development Program and Whippoorwill Cafe Arts and Culture.

The event showcased **34** local Indigenous artists and entrepreneurs offering handcrafted goods, artwork, beadwork, and cultural creations. The market was very well attended, with **over 300 visitors** throughout the day!

This successful event served as a steppingstone to establishing regular seasonal markets. These markets aim to strengthen Atikameksheng’s presence as a cultural destination, create ongoing economic opportunities for artists and small businesses, and provide meaningful community gathering spaces. Planning is currently underway for a Spring Market in early April 2026.

The Community Skills Development Coordinator continues to distribute weekly **Employment & Training** email updates to registered subscribers. Members receive timely access to training and employment opportunities shared by partners such as the City of Greater Sudbury, Vale, Glencore, and The North Shore Tribal Council.

Additional information shared includes upcoming training and workshops, employment events, and guidance on accessing available training dollars.

Contact communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com or scan the QR code to sign up today!



Funding for Employment & Training

Members of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek continue to have access to the Naadmaadwiiuk Employment & Training Program delivered through Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council. This program supports Indigenous individuals in developing skills and securing meaningful employment.

Available supports 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

Members interested in learning more or beginning an application are encouraged to contact the Community Skills Development Coordinator, Tasheena Recollet, at communityskills.coordinator@wlfn.com. You can also visit the **Community & Resource Development Office at 112 Lakeshore Road!**

On November 6, 2025, the Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) Coordinator hosted a KGHM IBA information session at the Community Centre to provide members with an overview of the IBA and how Debendaagziwaad may benefit. A total of **62** participants attended.



The session included an open discussion period where members raised questions, shared concerns, and provided recommendations.
Members expressed interest in being actively involved in the development of the IBA Implementation Plan. In response, the IBA Coordinators will be coordinating engagement sessions and surveys to ensure member input on how the implementation plan is developed and communicated. For more information, please contact IBAC2@wlfn.com.



The Mineral Development Advisor coordinated and completed a site visit with the Land Guardians on November 17, 2025, at Fostung.

Upcoming!!

Don't forget to check out the Weekly Flyer for upcoming training opportunities, information sessions, workshops, and more from the Community & Resource Development Department!





HALLOWEEN AT THE BAND OFFICE

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Halloween Fun!

This Halloween, the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program brought festive excitement to the Band Office as **25** little ones aged 0–6 enjoyed a special trick-or-treat adventure! The children had a wonderful time knocking on staff office doors and collecting healthy sweet treats, filling the building with laughter and smiles. It was a heartwarming celebration that brought our community together and created lasting memories for families.

Staff Show Their Halloween Spirit!

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek staff went all out this Halloween, dressing up in fun and creative costumes to celebrate the spooky season! Their festive spirit brought smiles to everyone in the office and added an extra dose of excitement to the day.



INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

On November 10th, we honoured Indigenous Veterans whose courage and sacrifice continue to inspire us. Lest we forget.







12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

This December, we hosted 12 incredible days of programming for Atikameksheng Families, Children, and Youth and what a celebration it was! A total of 422 Debendaagziwaad came out to enjoy the festivities. The 12 Days of Christmas celebrations started with a festive Community Christmas Parade and Social! The event was a wonderful success, featuring an incredible lineup of 18 beautifully decorated floats that brought holiday cheer to everyone in attendance. Thank you to all participants and community members who helped make this kickoff event so special!











