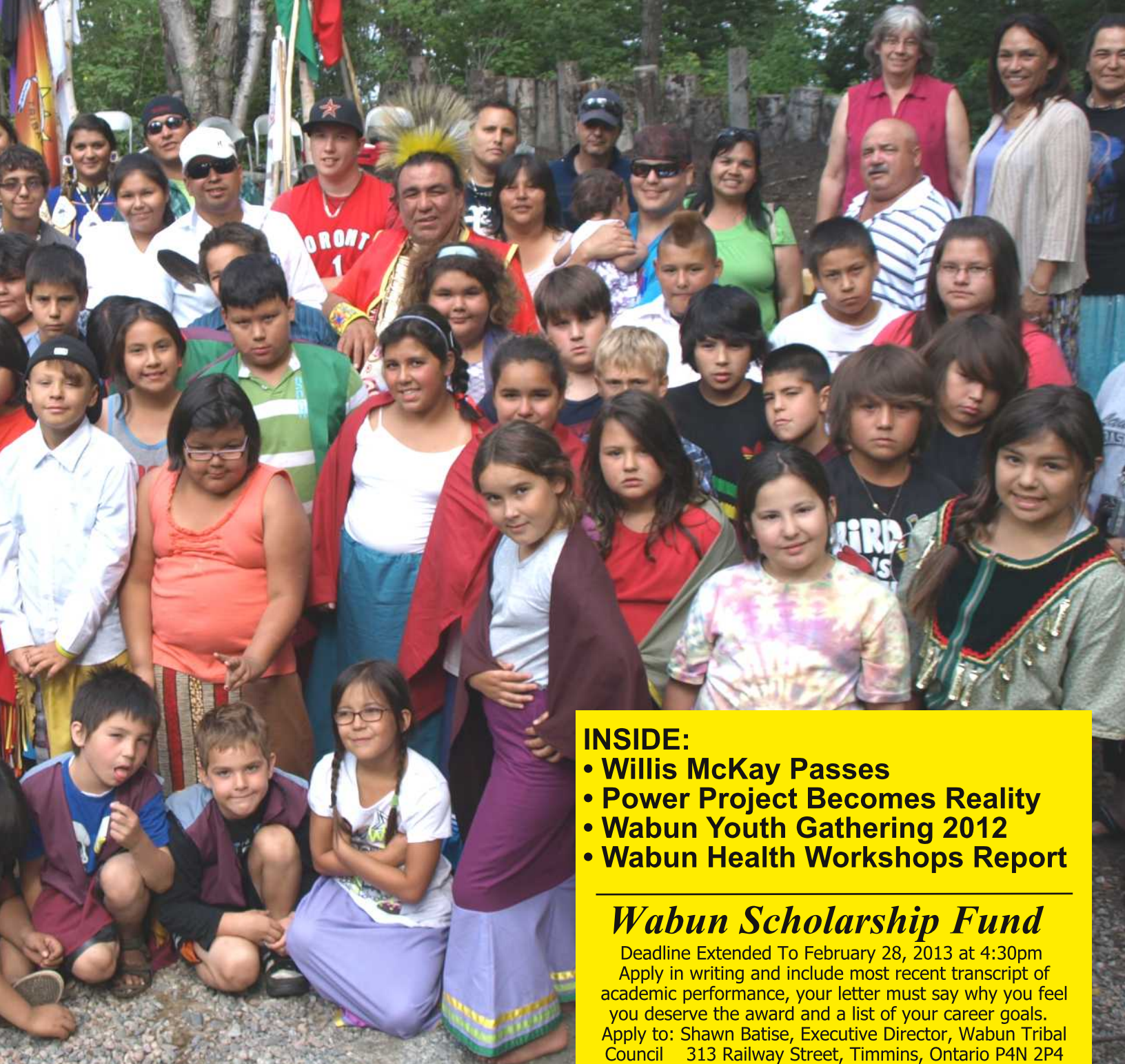


WABUN

Volume Thirteen Issue One

Sun



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Wabun Scholarship Fund

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REFLECTIONS



**Shawn
Batise**
Executive
Director

Right now more than ever before we find ourselves in the midst of much turmoil. First Nation people have historically been disenfranchised and it is only in the last few decades that we see an evolution of our people to the point where we have representative governance through many organizations. Education, government support and encouragement for the large part and pure perseverance has resulted in strong First Nation organizations such as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN), tribal councils like our own and a host of other agencies. I am acquainted with the leadership and staff of many of these organizations and I am proud to see so many dedicated, intelligent and strong Native people working for us right across this country.

On September fourth of last year that all changed in my mind with the receipt of an email out of the blue announcing that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) Minister John Duncan was either reducing the core funding of all regional and national Aboriginal organizations by 10 per cent, or implementing a \$500,000 ceiling on their funding. The reduction in core funding will be as high as 80 per cent for some organizations as in the case of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) where the current core funding of \$2.6 million will be capped at \$500,000.

Reductions in program funding will start in 2013-2014, while the 10 per cent reduction in core funding takes affect in 2014-2015. Also as part of the announcement, tribal councils across Canada will see funding for First Nation advisory services cut over the next two years. Band advisory services in the areas of economic development, financial management, community planning, technical services and band governance, currently performed by

tribal councils, will be eliminated in 2014-2015.

The impact will be felt by all First Nation organizations across Canada in particular most severely with the AFN, NAN, Chiefs of Ontario and major Native tribal councils. I see this as something nefarious in the Conservative government's cuts that look to be strategically trickling down over several years. It seems like it's a broader strategy on weakening First Nations capacity on dealing with things like environmental assessments and negotiating with resource development companies as well as government.

I think it's a direct attack on First Nations governance and capacity institutions as these cuts will hinder our development on many levels and adversely affect First Nations people across Canada. Band advisory services in the areas of economic development, financial management, community planning, technical services and band governance, currently performed by tribal councils, will be eliminated in 2014-2015. That will result in a very serious situation for many First Nations country wide. It will mean that Tribal Councils will be limited in their capacity to provide services such as water treatment, community infrastructure, and research, analysis and direction in regards to legislation and regulations coming from the Federal and Provincial governments.

Our First Nation organizations have developed a wealth of expertise in dealing with governments and most of their work revolves around highly technical, legislative and First Nation governance issues. Our First Nation Chiefs and councils have all they can do to deal with the day to day operations of their communities so they rely on their Tribal Councils to handle those tasks they do not have resources or capacity to engage. Due to these cuts, life for our people on the whole will be negatively impacted.

I am so disappointed and confused about this direction the Federal government has chosen and it comes with complete surprise. A few years ago I had been invited to sit on a regional tribal council policy review group and the government seemed to making efforts to work with our First Nation organizations but that initiative more or less merely disappeared. I have come to the conclusion that the Conservative government has produced

a well thought out and direct attack on First Nations and our governance institutions. To make matters even worse they also pushed through omnibus Bills C45 and C38 that contained changes to over 90 Federal Laws. Some include changes that affect the Fisheries Act. Currently, resource developers have to receive authorization under the Act when their projects damage lakes, rivers or other fish habitat and they must specify the corrective action they will take if there is any harm. Under the new changes the developers will no longer be responsible for repairing the environment and habitat damage they cause. These changes also apply to the Navigable Waters Protection Act as it will be amended to reduce its scope to less than one per cent of Canadian waters, this new law restricts federal oversight to the three oceans that border Canada and only a mere 97 lakes and 62 rivers which is a far cry from the thousands of waterways that were protected to this point.

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This will affect First Nations considering that our traditional territories stand to be at the greatest risk of environmental exploitation because the law is designed to provide for quick development access to resource extraction industries of which most occur on Native land. Bill C-38 replaced the current Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with new legislation which decreases the opportunity for First Nations' involvement in Environmental Assessments as well as ending environmental assessments for minor projects, referred to as screenings.

In addition the National Energy

Board Act - changes limit the ability to challenge decisions of the Federal Cabinet with regards to project approvals. Other changes that will affect the omnibus bills are Canada Grain Act, the Canada Revenue Agency, the Indian Act and Public Sector pensions. All of this was done without any consultation with First Nations.

I find it very easy to arrive at the conclusion that the Conservative government had a direct attack on First Nations in mind as a strategy to weaken us on many levels and reduce our ability to represent and assist our people. As you see we as First Nation people are making our voices heard and hopefully some meaningful negotiations and communication will be tabled in upcoming meetings with the Federal government. We will have to stand together as First Nation people across the land to make sure our voices are heard and in a peaceful and respectful way to ensure that we have the support of the Canadian public.

Wabun Tribal Council and our representative six First Nations are in a more positive situation in comparison to so many other councils and organizations across the country. Our Chiefs have been very forward thinking, progressive and determined to become more self sufficient over the years. I am very proud to say that we have managed Wabun Tribal Council and Wabun Health extremely well over the years. We have not grown beyond our means and have maintained a small but efficient staff. As a result, the core funding cuts will have a minimal impact on us. Hopefully the Federal government can be stopped from proceeding with their attack on First Nations and we can open up communications and get back to the table for some meaningful dialogue and a more trusting and supportive relationship.

HONOURING WILLIS MCKAY

I was very sad to hear of the passing of Willis McKay recently. I got to know Willis well through his dedication to work in his home community Mattagami First Nation. Willis made many valuable contributions to his First Nation in serving as Chief, on council, a director of Wabun and in his volunteer participation. He was an intelligent, sensitive and dynamic force for Mattagami First Nation. I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and the members of Mattagami First Nation.

HEALTH MATTERS

There are a lot of things we are learning with the developing Idle No More movement. One of the most important realizations is the fact that this Canada wide non violent protest movement was started by young First Nation women. They have risen to give a voice to First Nation people and they have been joined by many young First Nations people. This movement has also been joined by elders and people of all ages and faiths.

Much of the First Nation leadership has been supportive of this new wave of protest and all cultures and races raising their voices in peaceful protest. The young organizers have developed Idle No More out of a frustration in seeing little progress in making things better for Aboriginals all across this country. We might not agree with everything they are saying or doing but we should certainly be aware of the fact that this is the first time that I know of in Canadian history that a grass roots First Nation movement has arisen in this country. The young Native organizers deserve our respect as it takes a lot of skill, knowledge and strength to launch such a movement.

There is no doubt in my mind that these young people are the result of much work by many First Nation leaders, educators and resource people who have been striving for the past few decades to provide support, encouragement, healing and opportunities to our youth. It is good to see the respect for our Native traditions and culture being given by the participants in the Idle No More movement.

As I have watched all of this unfold I realize that we are on the right track in focusing our attention on educating and empowering our youth. I understand more clearly that our programs devoted to youth such as the Wabun Youth Gathering and various regular workshops addressing current issues will have positive results. We already see the changes in our First Nations where our young people have been able to access knowledge of our Native traditions and culture through Wabun elders and the various facilitators we bring in to pass on teachings. I have had a lot of positive feedback from our First Nations who see their young people feeling better about themselves. We are taking the time and finding the funding to provide the Wabun youth with the skills, teachings and resources they need to know where they came from and who they are as First Nation people.

I am not saying everything is perfect at this point but there is progress and we are moving along in a timely fashion. The more we encourage our youth and the more we provide them in terms of our traditions and culture the more we see them grow stronger,

**Jean
Lemieux**
Health
Director



develop solid identities as well as self esteem. Our Wabun Chiefs have directed us with the vision in reaching out to and assisting our youth for many years now and it is paying off. Many thanks to our elders who spend time with Wabun youth and pass down the knowledge of our ancestors. Things have changed so much from the time when I was a youngster and I see that the social fabric that makes up our First Nations is becoming healthy again. There is a real relationship being built between the elders and our Wabun Youth and I have seen that trust and understanding develop over the years with our gatherings.

As you might notice in the story about our Wabun Youth Gathering in this issue of Wabun Sun we held our first mini pow wow for the younger group ages 8 to 13. I can tell you that many of our First Nation members, parents, chaperones and facilitators were weeping tears of happiness as they watched the little ones come into the grand entry of the sacred ground they had assisted in creating and constructing. It was a magical time with our elders pitching in to work long hours to help the young ones to produce their own pow wow regalia. The youth stuck by our traditional teacher as he instructed them in a hands on workshop on how to create and prepare the Pow Wow grounds.

I have so much hope for the next generation as they find their way with the assistance of so many and it comes at a time when our First Nations are becoming more healthy, more organized and entering into a new time of opportunities in employment, health care and education. I am of course sad that as First Nation people we still have to fight for justice in terms of making life better for our people. It makes me sad also to see too many of our people still slipping through the cracks and living in substandard housing as well as dealing with insecurity and alcohol and drug addictions. However, I am also reminded that our young First Nation people are rising above all the heavy challenges and doing their best to make life better for all First Nations and in fact all Canadians. It took Idle No More to give me that hope.

FN Ownership Key To Power Project Success

This winter Wabun Tribal Council will be celebrating with Chapleau Ojibwe and Brunswick House First Nations as they embark further down the road to self sufficiency with the development of the first in a series of power projects. After 10 years of development the first in the series of four run of the river power projects known as Big Beaver Falls will be commissioned.

The run of the river power projects are the result of a partnership between the two First Nations and HydroMega. Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Adviser for Wabun coordinated the project in working with all the key stakeholders including Brunswick House and Chapleau Ojibwe, the Ministry Of Natural Resources, provincial and government representation as well as Hydromega.



**Chief Andrew
Neshawabin,
Brunswick
House FN**

"I want to thank Jason Batise and Wabun Tribal Council for all their hard work in making this historic project a reality. Our people will benefit long into the future through income generated through these power projects," said Chief Andrew Neshawabin, Brunswick House First Nation.

Chief Anita Stephens, Chapleau Ojibwe expressed her gratitude for all of the efforts made by the Wabun Team, the Wabun Chiefs and the councils and members of her First Nation.

"I give thanks to the community for their input and encouraging us to proceed with negotiations with all the parties concerned so that we could end up with power projects that we will actually have an ownership in. That will help us move to self sufficiency and assist us with finances that we can use for housing, infrastructure and economic development in Chapleau Ojibwe," explained Chief Stephens.

She pointed out that Hydromega deserves to be celebrated as a private corporation that took the opportunity to become involved with the Wabun First Nations and proceeded to develop the power projects in a sound and respectful manner.



**Chief Anita
Stephens,
Chapleau
Ojibwe FN**

"Hydromega has proven that good things happen when First Nations are consulted with and given the opportunity to partner in major resource developments. I have seen too many situations in the past where First Nations have been ignored while wealthy and prominent resource development corporations produced huge projects on our lands but little or nothing was shared with our people. This development with Hydromega comes at a time when First Nations frustration has erupted into the Idle No More movement and I think our timing is very good to prove to Canadians that there are ways to do business on First Nation lands that benefits everyone," said Chief Stephens.

Jason Batise pointed out that Big Beaver Falls will be the first to be commissioned and then three more five megawatt run of the river power projects will be developed. They include Camp Three Rapids, Old Woman Falls and White Otter Falls. The \$130 million dollar plus initiative will produce power projects that Chapleau Ojibwe and Brunswick House First Nations have an ownership in. These types of power projects have long lives and guaranteed incomes with power being sold for many years to come.

"Once Big Beaver Falls is commissioned in the near future then we will see all the equipment moved up river and work started on Camp Three Rapids with the hope that it will be commissioned by August of 2013. The best thing about these hydro developments is that both First Nations have a significant ownership and they can purchase further interest as the project evolves," said Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council Executive Director, Shawn Batise explained that the council's staff participated in all of the developmental work in making sure the hydro development moved along to completion.

"We did not have to hire high paid consultants to manage this major initiative as our own staff did a very capable job in putting together all of the expertise needed in assisting our First Nations in partnering on such an enormous, highly technical and

beneficial resource development project. Jason has been spearheading this project for Wabun for almost a decade now and the good news is that it will lead to income for the two First Nations concerned for many years to come," said Shawn Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council's involvement in this power project is seen as the first Aboriginal partnership in hydro development where the First Nations have a substantial ownership as compared to similar projects in the past where resource developers focused on compensation for impact.



**Jason
Batise,
Economic
Development /
Technical
Services
Advisor**

"Wabun Tribal Council has no share in the ownership of these hydro projects as all of the ownership benefits negotiated go directly to both First Nations involved with Hydromega. We did our job in terms of negotiating and facilitating this project and our reward is in the satisfaction that the members of Chapleau Ojibwe and Brunswick House First Nations will be earning income from the results of our efforts for decades," said Jason Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council along with Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation and Brunswick House First Nation signed an Agreement in Principle with Hydromega, February 15, 2007 to develop major power projects.

This partnership was the culmination of many years of development and negotiations among the two First Nations, Wabun Tribal Council, Hydromega and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Wabun Tribal Council has had a prominent role in the development of this partnership. The council worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources in the creation of a Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy with the foresight that potential development would take place on Wabun First Nation territories. The new policy which was established in 2004 by the provincial government includes a requirement for potential waterpower developers to contact First Nations whenever development will affect First Nation territories. The council also worked with its two member First Nations to



establish a partnership with Hydromega on the development of waterpower projects on the Kapuskasing River.

As part of a Memorandum Of Understanding that was signed by the two First Nations and Hydromega, the communities were provided the opportunity to increase ownership as their investment in the project grows.

These waterpower projects are part of the provincial government's Waterpower Site Release Strategy administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). In September 2005, the MNR announced that Hydromega, an independent waterpower producer based in Quebec, had been awarded the opportunity to pursue the required approvals to construct and operate waterpower facilities on the Kapuskasing River. Wabun Tribal Council had been working on developing this project for some time. In February 2005, the Council began actively working with the two First Nations and Hydromega to start the process of developing these projects in a partnership.

Wabun Tribal Council has been involved in identifying opportunities for resource development strategies for several years. The Council began working with the province on the Waterpower Release Strategy in 2002 on invitation by the provincial government to take part in a new Waterpower Policy. As part of this working relationship, Jason Batise joined the Waterpower Policy Advisory Group as an Aboriginal Representative. The Advisory Group was created to develop the new Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy that in turn would be used as a guideline to facilitate the release of new waterpower sites for development.

Wabun actively took part with other First Nations in the creation of the new policy. The policy was established on three key points that had to be met before any potential development could go ahead. One of the key points was for developers to address Aboriginal Economic Development. The two other key points were to provide new power sources for Ontario and to provide sustainable economic development. The new policy which was established in the fall of 2004 requires that any potential waterpower developer must contact First

Nations whenever development will affect First Nation territories.

Wabun First Nation leadership has been very strong and supportive in all the developments that have taken place on Kapuskasing River Waterpower Projects.

"I have to commend our leadership for all the support and guidance they have given all of us who have worked on the Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy and the Kapuskasing River project. Our Chiefs are eager to develop projects for their First Nations where self-sufficiency becomes a reality through ownership in partnership or full," said Jason Batise.

Hydromega is a power developer that has been involved in many water power projects and in wind power generation. The company, based in Montreal Quebec has two decades of experience in building and maintaining small-scale waterpower projects of different designs. Hydromega

employs engineers, project managers and support staff dedicated to the building, operating and ownership of small-scale power producing sites.

Run of the river waterpower facilities means that there will be no large dam or reservoir which cause large-scale environment damage. A spillway will be incorporated in the design which will allow water to pass through a turbine or allow any excess to flow over.

Once the waterpower facilities are in full operation, power will be diverted to the Ontario power grid which will then be distributed to the immediate area. The power will be directly purchased by the Ontario Power Authority which will become the main customer.

Julie Cyr Featured



Julie Cyr,
Administrative
Assistant

Julie Cyr is the Administrative Assistant for the Wabun Tribal Council office. She is responsible for the office front desk and is the first point of contact for visitors at the door or on the phone. Her responsibilities also include assisting staff with administrative duties and office organization.

"I really enjoy working with our Wabun communities and our First Nation members. It has been very rewarding for me to be able to help our First Nation members by being part of an organization such as Wabun," said Cyr.

She has been involved with Wabun Tribal Council for several years and

held the position of Health Clerk. Before coming to Wabun, she worked in the hospitality and retail industry in Timmins. Cyr has also been involved with The Focus Centre, a professional photo development studio for the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa.

She enjoys her work at Wabun and in being able to connect and work with First Nation members as they come to the office.

"Through part of my life, I spent time away from the north and from my Aboriginal background but I always wanted to maintain my association to my First Nation roots. I think that it is important for all of us to stay connected and to work towards creating a healthier, stronger community for all our First Nations," said Cyr.

She is also a volunteer and has started a community choir group in Timmins for teenagers and youth.

Cyr and her partner Peter Lawryniw have two children Mariah, 13 and nine year old Brandon. In her spare time, she enjoys the outdoors and horseback riding with her family and friends in Connaught near Timmins.



Mini Pow Wow And Traditional Teachings

The sixth annual Wabun Youth Gathering held at the Eco Centre Lodge in Elk Lake featured a mini Pow Wow, traditional teachings and workshops with an Aboriginal focus. Eighty-five Wabun youth attended the event which ran from July 16 to 27 and was sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council Health Services.

The event was divided into two parts. The first week from July 16 to 20 was held for junior youth aged from eight to 12 and the second week from July 23 to 27 was for senior youth aged 13 to 18. The first week of events featured facilitators Wayne McKenzie of Temiskaming First Nation and Dana Cosgrove of Mattagami First Nation. McKenzie, a traditional teacher and dancer, instructed the male youth on preparations and ceremonies concerning Pow Wows and dance. Cosgrove provided presentations for female youth in traditional dances, teachings and songs.

The end of first week was celebrated with a mini Pow Wow on July 19

developed by the youth.

The senior week featured a series of workshops by Maria Trevizo, an internationally renowned Aboriginal speaker who has worked with many Aboriginal communities and organizations in the United States, Canada and Mexico. She is a certified Psychiatric Technician and certified Substance Abuse Counsellor. As a traditional singer and facilitator, her work is focused on providing support and guidance to youth, women and the two-spirit community through traditional knowledge and cultural ceremonies.

"I really think the Wabun Tribal Council is doing a great service to their young people with this gathering. It has been a pleasure to work the Wabun youth and to be part of such a positive process," said Trevizo.

Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services explained that the annual event has grown over the years through the support of Wabun Chiefs, Elders,

community members and most importantly, the young people.

"It felt so powerful to see our youth coming into the grand entry of the Pow Wow and I know a lot of people got very emotional. My generation did not have the opportunities that our Wabun youth have today in learning the teachings and culture of our people. We also really appreciate the support of Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and Home Depot of Timmins," said Lemieux.

Many Wabun youth have been attending the annual gathering for years and some like Samuel Kloetstra-Naveau, of Mattagami First Nation, have taken over chaperone roles to assist and guide younger participants.

"I have been coming here for years now and it has really made a difference in my life. I have learned about my Native traditions and culture and that will help me in the future," said senior youth, Kloetstra-Naveau.





Featured At Wabun Youth Gathering 2012

Two traditional drum groups assisted with the Pow Wow including the Iron Stone Drummers of Temiskaming First Nation and the Big Bear Claw Singers of Brunswick House First Nation.

Elder Vina Hendrix, Matachewan FN, led the group in opening and closing prayers and she was instrumental in assisting everyone with traditional and cultural knowledge.

"I always like to attend this annual event because it is an opportunity for our youth to learn so much. I want to thank all of our chaperones who assisted with days of sewing to make sure that our young people had their regalia ready for their traditional dancing," commented Elder Hendrix.

Elder, Councillor and past Chief of Mattagami First Nation, Morris Naveau was on hand to provide cultural teachings and story telling to youth as well as also conducting opening and closing prayers.

"As a survivor of the residential school

system, it is a very moving event for me to see our young people learning about their culture and being proud as Aboriginal people," said Elder Naveau.

Chief Marcia Martel-Brown, Beaverhouse First Nation was on hand to assist as chaperone and provide daily traditional morning songs. Chief Alex (Sonny) Batisse of Matachewan FN also visited to show his support for the gathering. Wabun First Nation Councillors attending the event were Charmaine Saunders, Brunswick House; Jennifer Constant, Mattagami; Lionel Boucher, Matachewan and Deputy Chief Theresa Lafrenier, Beaverhouse. Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) was represented at the event by Stephen Kudaka, Oshkaatisak Coordinator.

Mike Archer, Community Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services has been coordinating the event for the past six years.

"A lot of our Chiefs could not attend the

event this year due to the election for National Chief in meetings in Toronto. However, we had a good turnout of Councillors who represented their communities. More and more our efforts are involving passing on the traditional teachings and culture to our young people and over the years I have seen a lot of positive changes as a result," said Archer.

The Wabun Youth Gathering came out of the vision and guidance of the late Elder Thomas Saunders, Brunswick House FN, who wanted to see the Wabun communities coming together in one gathering. Wabun Tribal Council is a regional territorial organization which represents the six First Nation communities of Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan and Mattagami in Northeastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

**For more pictures go to:
www.wabunyouthgathering.com**



Wabun Mourns The Passing Of Willis McKay

Willis McKay, a First Nation leader and advocate for his community, passed away on January 19, 2013 at the Timmins and District Hospital at the age of 62. Funeral services were held in at the Mattagami First Nation community complex on January 23, 2013.

Current Chief Walter Naveau was saddened by the sudden news of McKay's passing. Naveau explained that the two had been good friends since high school and their families had become close over the years.

"Willis was a very well liked and respected individual in our community. He was generous with his time and in sharing his knowledge and experience. He had a gentle and passive nature to him. He made people feel at ease and it felt good to be in his company. That is how we all remember him, as a kind person and good spirit," said Chief Naveau.

He explained that his family named McKay as the godfather to their son Tyler.

McKay held the title of Chief and Councillor for several terms at different times over the past 20 years. McKay was the previous Chief to current Chief Naveau. In addition, McKay also held positions in local leadership and took part in major developments for the First Nation.

"Willis set up a legacy for our community and for me to follow. When I became Chief, I felt that I was merely taking the reigns from leaders like Willis before me and I was stepping into their footsteps to move forward with all their hard work for our people," explained Chief Naveau.

McKay was a long time leader for his community who was involved in numerous developments with his First Nation. He started working for the First Nation in the late 1970s and through the 1980s, in local administration as a Membership Clerk, Band Administrator / Manager and as one of the first Welfare Administrator for the community.

Over the years, he was involved in many local activities and events in the community. He volunteered his time to work with local fund raising committees and events that took place in Mattagami FN.

In an interview in 2006, he commented on his volunteering.

"I enjoy working with our community. I think that it is important to have our people participate in local development so that we make things better for our future generations," said McKay.

In the past 20 years he had worked directly and indirectly with Chief and Council to develop more opportunities in the areas of education, employment and economic development. During his time as Chief, he led the community to secure agreements with government agencies such as the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CHMC) to build new housing



CURRENT CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU (LEFT) MEETING WITH PAST CHIEF WILLIS MCKAY DURING THE 100 YEAR COMMEMORATION OF THE TREATY 9 SIGNING IN 2006

units and rehabilitate existing homes in the community. He assisted in developing the Mitika Anookewin Logging Company, which was a partnership with Domtar and Tembec. He was also involved in long term opportunities for the community such as the signing of a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Ontario Power Generation for the future development of Hydroelectric production in a partnership venture.

Although McKay had held the prestigious position of Chief and had been part of the leadership of Mattagami First Nation community members remember a man that was open, humorous and very down to earth.

Chief Naveau expressed his sadness at the loss of his friend Willis who was also such an important First Nation leader and advocate.

"It was good for community to have known as kind a person as Willis. We honour his memory by remembering all those things he did for our people as a leader. We can also honour his memory by following his vision of unity for our people. We will not forget this proud leader," said Chief Naveau.

Chief Naveau expressed his condolences to the McKay family.

"Willis taught us that we have to accept one another no matter our differences to support each other and it is with this memory that we want to let his family know that we are there for them. Our prayers are for Willis and his family during this sad and difficult time," said Chief Naveau.

McKay, an Ojibwe First Nation person, lived most of his life in Mattagami FN. His father Simeon McKay, had a Cree background and his late mother, Doris Luke McKay, was an Ojibwe First Nation



PAST CHIEF WILLIS MCKAY HOLDING THE NAN FLAG DURING THE TREATY 9 COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATTAGAMI FN IN 2006.

person. He enjoyed taking time to pursue traditional activities such as fishing and hunting at a wilderness camp in one of the community's traditional trapping areas.

He was the loving son of Simeon McKay. Dear brother of Marilyn Gaudreau, (Gerard), Pauline McKay, Carol McKay Naveau (Robert), Patsy McKay (Kim) and Lindsey McKay (Morris). He is survived by 3 step- brothers, 1 step-sister, numerous nieces, nephews and godchildren and predeceased by his mother Doris Luke McKay, and his brothers Calvin and Clarence.

Remembrance donations can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association. Online donations and condolences can be made at www.lessardstephens.com

Julie McKay Becomes Wabun Health Director Assistant



Julie McKay,
Assistant
Health Director

Julie McKay is the new Assistant Health Director, Non-Insured Health Benefits / Accreditation Coordinator for Wabun Health Services. She started her new position on June 25, 2012. The position was previously held by Peggy Claveau, who has accepted a position as Health Care Promoter with Misiway Milope-mahtesewin Community Health Centre in Timmins.

McKay will assist Jean Lemieux, Health Director in day to day operations of the Wabun Health organization.

"This is an exciting learning process for me. I have been with Wabun Health for a long time and I am happy to be working for our Wabun communities in a new capacity. The most important goal for me is to ensure that we maintain a positive working relationship with our clients. Our first priority is always the Wabun members," said McKay.

She is responsible for managing the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Patient Transportation program portfolio and she will work closely with the Wabun Health Clerk and the Non-Wabun Health Clerk to deliver this program to First Nation members.

She will also be working with Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director and Health Staff in coordinating an accreditation process with Accreditation Canada. Currently, Wabun Health staff are preparing for a final survey by Accreditation Canada that will be conducted in September 2013. The survey will examine the governance process, human resources, client and staff safety and review policies and procedures within the organization. Accreditation Canada provides different levels of accreditation depending on the overall score of an organization in meeting certain criteria. Wabun Health staff will be informed on their accreditation level once the survey in September is completed.

Accreditation Canada is a not-for-profit, independent organization accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care. The

organization provides national and international health care organizations with an external peer review process to assess and improve the services they provide to their patients and clients.

"It is important for us at Wabun Health to provide the best possible level of services and program delivery to our Wabun members. The recognition we receive in accreditation also helps us become more accountable to our government partners and other service organizations we work with on a regular basis," said McKay.

She has been with Wabun Tribal Council for many years and has been employed in several positions. McKay was Health Clerk from 2000 to 2006. In 2010, she took on the role of Wabun Employment and Training Coordinator. She also held the position of Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) Coordinator concerning the Lake Shore Gold mining project and Wabun First Nations.

In 2006, she took a leave from work to start a family. In April 2009, she gave birth to a daughter she named Audrey after her friend and coworker, Audrey Allaire, past Executive Assistant at the Wabun office. Sadly although Audrey passed on in November 2010 she did have a brief opportunity to meet baby Audrey.

FOND FAREWELL TO PEGGY CLAVEAU



Peggy Claveau,
Misiway
Milopemahtesewin
Community
Health Centre

Peggy Claveau, who had been with Wabun Health for 17 years, noted that although she was very sad to be leaving all of her friends and co workers at Wabun she was also excited about the new challenges and opportunities opening up with the move to Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre in Timmins.

"This past year in 2012 was such a big year for myself and my family. I graduated from Ryerson University with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Public Administration and Governance. As a matter of fact it was a family trend that

year as my oldest daughter Brittany graduated from high school and entered into Northern College for health care education. Also, my twin daughters Taylor and Jasmine finished grade school and started secondary school. So, this move although so sad for me, came at a time of great change in my life and it makes sense," said Claveau.

She attributes much of her

***"Peggy has always
dedicated herself to her
position and the
betterment of our
Wabun members,"
Jean Lemieux***

confidence and knowledge garnered over the years to her experiences at Wabun Tribal Council and in particular with Wabun Health. Claveau also pointed out that she would not be far away from her Wabun coworkers who she considers as extended family.

"I have been here for so many years and in that time I have developed great lasting friendships. It really has been a growing process for me and I want to take the opportunity to thank all of our Wabun Chiefs and staff for giving me the chance to be part of the many successes that have happened for our Wabun First Nations over the years. I worked hard and Wabun assisted me in education support and training but the most important thing was that the people here believed in me and provided a rich experience that I can use for the rest of my life," said Claveau.

She explained that her work as a Health Care Promoter at Misiway would put her in touch often with Wabun Health staff and Wabun First Nation members. She added that she would also be supportive of her replacement at Wabun and available for consultation.

"Peggy has been such a wonderful person to work with and has always dedicated herself to her position and the betterment of our Wabun First Nation members. She will be a great asset to Misiway and we intend to get together often to touch base. Peggy is very dear to us all and although it will be hard to fill her shoes we believe that this change has given a new opportunity to Julie McKay, a bright young woman who has been part of our Wabun family, to take over her responsibilities," said Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

Non-Wabun Health Clerk Position Changes



Betty Naveau,
Non-Wabun
Health Clerk

Betty Naveau has taken on the duties of Non-Wabun Health Clerk, while Amy McKay is taking a leave of absence from this position. Naveau started training in December and officially started her new posting on January 7, 2013.

The Non-Wabun Health Clerk is responsible for working with First Nation clients who are not a member of a Wabun community. This assistance includes helping clients with medical appointments out of town or assisting them with the reimbursement process from the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program.

"I want to thank Wabun Tribal Council for bringing me into this position. I am really enjoying my time here. I like working directly with people and this is a great opportunity for me to help First Nation members on a personal basis. It is very rewarding for me as I get to advocate for services on their behalf," said Naveau.

There is also a Wabun Health Clerk position that provides the same assistance

for Wabun First Nation members only. Currently, Marge Miller is the Wabun Health Clerk.

Naveau previously held the position of Family Healing Coordinator, with Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) at the organization's sub office in Timmins. She worked in this position for four years and was involved directly with individuals to provide skills development in empowerment and capacity building.

"I enjoyed my work with NAN and in assisting our community directly. It allowed me to develop the skills I need to work with individuals and learn about the issues that affect our First Nation members. This position also gave me an opportunity to meet people throughout the NAN territory which has made my new position at Wabun much easier because I have worked with individuals from many of these communities before," said Naveau.

She commented that the Non-Wabun Health Clerk position is a support position for those First Nation people who live in urban centres in northern Ontario to access health services.

Naveau has also worked as a Community Health Worker, for Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre in Timmins. She was responsible for assisting families adjust to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder through educational programs based on traditional values. She also held the position of Community Intervention / Prevention



Amy McKay,
Non-Wabun
Health Clerk
(currently on
leave)

Worker as part of the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) program. Her work experience also includes a position with the Anishinabek Educational Institute and Cambrian College to assist Aboriginal students prepare for the workforce.

She has graduated as a Scholar Student from the Native Community Healing and Wellness program at Cambrian College which was affiliated with the Anishinabek Educational Institute. Naveau credits this program for providing her with valuable skills and knowledge that she has been able to apply to her work in Native health and social service organizations.

She is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Mattagami First Nation. She lives with her partner Gilbert Roy and their children Johnathan, Kory and Leiland and twins Nakita and Dakota. In her spare time, Naveau enjoys reading, meditation and taking part in traditional arts including creating birch bark crafts, painting and bead work.

Kim Naveau Serving Wabun Communities



Kim Naveau,
Wabun
Employment &
Training
Coordinator

Kim Naveau took on the role of Wabun Employment and Training Coordinator in July 2012. She is responsible for managing the delivery of employment and training funds to the Wabun First Nation communities of Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan, Mattagami and in addition Wahgoshig First Nation.

She works directly with the Wabun communities in coordinating training and employment programs. Her duties include processing all applications and administering key financial activities.

"I enjoy working directly with our clients in the Wabun area to help them

find the training programs or employment opportunities that they are looking for. My work involves counselling and referring individuals to the appropriate programs they need to get started in a career," said Naveau.

She visits the First Nations to work with administrative staff to develop community based projects. As Wabun Employment and Training Coordinator, she also works with Chiefs and Councils to monitor the progress of existing training and employment programs for clients and community based projects.

Naveau also works with Nancy Beaulieu, Mamo-Nuskomitowin Steering Committee (MNSC), Program Coordinator to manage and coordinate employment and training programs in the Wabun area. Mamo-Nuskomitowin, which represents the tribal councils of Wabun and Mushkegowuk Council, is actually an agreement holder for the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).

In addition, Naveau is also is

involved directly with a variety of organizations regarding employment and training initiatives including: Education Authorities, Ontario Works, Human Resources Canada and other Native organizations and agencies. She is also involved in numerous committees and boards including: Youth Entrepreneurship Program with the Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund (NADE), the Timmins and District Aboriginal Partnership with the Timmins Economic Development Corporation, Aboriginal Council on Education with Northern College in Timmins and Detour Gold Mine Steering Committee with Mushkegowuk Council.

Naveau is a member of Mattagami First Nation. Before working at Wabun, she was the First Nation Student Success Program Coordinator for her community. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Naveau lives with her partner Denis Legault, her four children Megan-Adams, Brandon, Amanda and Jacob and two step children Tiffany and Jeffrey.

Diane Tookenay Brings Wealth Of Experience To Wabun Tribal Council



**Diane Tookenay,
Mineral Development
Advisor**

Diane Tookenay is the new Mineral Development Adviser for Wabun Tribal Council. In her new position, she will be based at the Wabun office in Timmins to assist Wabun member First Nations in lands and resources issues and projects, primarily dealing with mineral exploration. Tookenay brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from her many years of working in First Nation organizations and agencies in numerous positions from the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) area over the past 20 years.

Over the past decade, Wabun Tribal Council led by the Chiefs of the Wabun communities has taken a lead role in taking the initiative on many resource development projects for its member First Nations. The new Mineral Development Adviser position was created to support and enhance the ability of Wabun communities to take part in existing and future resource development projects within Wabun First Nation territory.

"One of my main responsibilities is to monitor and keep our Wabun Chiefs informed on current and potential resource development projects happening on our traditional territories," said Tookenay.

Court decisions over the past few years and the new mining act now require companies to consult with First Nations when it comes to resource development on traditional territories. The duty to consult also requires First Nations to respond in a timely manner. This has meant an increased work load for First Nations and Tribal Councils to stay informed on current projects being planned or happening on their traditional territories.

Tookenay is familiar with the consultation process as her previous position was Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) Coordinator for Matachewan First Nation where she worked closely with First Nation leadership in implementing their agreement with AuRico Gold,

concerning the Young Davidson mine. As Mineral Development Adviser, she is in regular contact with the leadership of Wabun and its member communities. In addition, she conducts site visits to project development locations.

"My main priority is to ensure that with any project, our communities are consulted and engaged in any development. We want to make sure that our First Nations are aware of all the development that is happening on their traditional territories," said Tookenay.

All of the member First Nations of Wabun Tribal Council currently manage several IBAs and Exploration Agreements. Tookenay explained that Exploration Agreements are an important system for First Nations to stay informed on a major exploration project.

"These types of agreements are a way for our First Nations to communicate their concerns with a resource developer. It also lets our leaders know and understand what can be expected of the project and the level of activity," said Tookenay.

***"My identity
and beliefs are
closely tied to
my Native
heritage,"
Diane
Tookenay***

Over most of her life, Tookenay has developed a strong connection to her traditional past and her culture. She regularly takes part in traditional events and gatherings. In recent years, she has performed as a traditional singer and drummer with a female drum group from the Timmins Native Friendship Centre.

"My identity and beliefs are closely tied to my Native heritage. I enjoy taking my energy to support our Native support groups and traditional people as it keeps me rooted to my culture," said Tookenay.

She grew up in Long Lac and Wawa, Ontario where she gained her early education. She started her post secondary education in Thunder Bay with Confederation College where she completed programs in Business

Administration, Native Band Management and Indian Economic Development. Later on, she also achieved a Bachelor of Administration Degree from Lakehead University and in 2003, a Joint Masters of Public Administration with the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.

Since the early 1990s, she has held several positions in administration, business and economic development with Aboriginal organizations including the Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association, Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund, Windigo First Nation and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. During her University Masters program she was involved with government organizations including the Office of the Auditor General and Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

"I am happy to say that my involvement in Native organizations has taken me to over two thirds of the NAN territory in northern Ontario. This has given me a good understanding of the issues that affect our Native communities," said Tookenay.

She is a member of Brunswick House First Nation, although she grew up in Long Lac #58 First Nation with her family. Her mother Victoria Tookenay was part of the Brunswick House First Nation where her extended family had originally lived. Diane Tookenay's grandparents Abraham and Charlotte Tookenay lived for many years in Mount Batton and where they had built a log home for their family in the community. Back then, the Tookenay family mainly led a traditional nomadic lifestyle but they also followed job opportunities with the forestry industry in the north. Regular employment with the forestry business led them to settle in Long Lac.

Diane Tookenay explained that many people from Brunswick House First Nation maintained a connection with her family in Long Lac. As a child, she said that Elder Thomas Saunders was part of her upbringing.

"I was fortunate to maintain a connection with some of our Elders from Brunswick House when I was young and later on in my professional career, where I met and represented them in meetings and gatherings," said Tookenay.

She enjoys taking time to meet and spend time with family and friends, especially to see her mother Victoria who now lives in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario.

Workshops Contribute To Positive Change



Mike Archer,
Regional
Crisis
Coordinator

Wabun Health Services hosts a series of events over the course of the year to assist and support First Nation members through educational workshops and gatherings. These workshops are designed to provide educational sessions in a variety of topics to encourage healthier lifestyles for individuals of all ages.

Wabun Health provides these gatherings and workshops on a regular basis as part of an ongoing and holistic approach to helping First Nation members. Separate programs and events are designed for youth, adults, Elders and group sessions that include all age groups.

"These workshops were created from a holistic approach to helping our Wabun First Nations. We incorporate all age groups from youth, to adults and Elders. Each workshop is part of a whole program to help our people and to give them the tools they need to lead healthier lives with their families and communities," said Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator.

Wabun Health Services has hosted regular annual workshops for the past seven years. Archer explained that this regular interval of workshops and gatherings serves to support community members on an ongoing basis.

"The changes we have seen through our members of all age groups has been dramatic over the past seven years. We have watched young children break out of the shyness to become active participants. We've watched young teenagers progress to become part of the adult mens and womens workshops," said Archer.

He explained that he maintains regular contact with workshop participants in their communities. One of the goals of these events is provide a consistent source of contact, support and encouragement through the year.

"Each workshop allows for small changes and over time these changes can add up to a lot of positive developments for

an individual, a family or a community. One of the mottos I have always followed is 'let the body come and the mind will follow'. For some people, just being at these workshops is enough of a change as many windows of knowledge with skill sets open up to them. These may be small steps but at least we are moving forward together," said Archer.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WELLNESS WORKSHOP

In October 2012, Wabun Health hosted its annual Men's and Women's Workshop in Timmins. The three day workshop was led by facilitator Billy Rogers, a prominent First Nation wellness trainer and speaker. Rogers is a long time favourite facilitator who has conducted many Wabun Health workshops and has worked with Wabun members in a variety of educational gatherings over the years. Eighteen Wabun members took part in the coeducational October event that mixed male and female participants in a series of workshops on the topic of relationships.

"This was a workshop designed to explore the different types of relationships we have in our lives. This includes our relationship with ourselves, our children, our spouses and the community in general. This was also the first time we brought the women and men together where in the past we usually separated them into two groups for specific workshops. It was a successful event and everyone enjoyed themselves," said Archer.

He added that some of the individuals were first time participants to the Wabun series of workshops. Archer commented that everyone was very receptive to the this learning experience and that they were looking forward to future planned workshops and gatherings.

ANGER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

On November 28, 29 and 30, 2012, Wabun Health hosted an Anger Management workshop facilitated by Archer. Ten participants from Wabun First Nations took part in the three day workshop held in Timmins. The workshop was provided for adults 19 years of age and older.

"This is another branch of support and assistance we provide to our Wabun members. The learning that is provided

and the support everyone gives to each other in picking up various life skills results in another set of tools that our participants can use to lead a healthier life with their family and their community," said Archer.

The workshop allowed participants to work together in examining the underlying causes of their anger from different perspectives and people learned how to deal with these issues. Participants were also encouraged to learn and use a variety of communication and problem solving skills.

"This is the type of workshop that has been requested by community members over they years. It is also a workshop that our Wabun youth have asked for so we are hoping to apply this same kind of training to our young people," said Archer.

Archer is grateful to the Wabun Chiefs and First Nation leadership for the opportunity to bring valuable teaching workshops to Wabun First Nation members.

"We don't expect miracles from a single workshop we host. We are in this healing journey for the long term. We stay in contact with our Wabun members who take these workshops and there is aftercare as well since many of these participants are also clients in other Wabun Health care programs," explained Archer.



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