



Wabun Sun

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Liberty Mines Signs IBA With Three Wabun First Nations

Wabun First Nations made history with the signing of an agreement with Liberty Mines Incorporated on April 15. The three First Nations of Matachewan, Mattagami and Wahgoshig signed an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) concerning the continued development of Liberty Mines, mining projects in the Shaw Dome mining area southeast of Timmins. This is the first IBA signed by First Nations with a resource based company in the Timmins area. IBA documents that have been signed to date in Ontario have been between remote northern First Nations and mining companies developing new projects in more isolated parts of the province.

The three Wabun First Nation Chiefs on hand for the event at the Wabun Tribal Council office complex in Timmins included Chief Dave Babin, Wahgoshig First Nation; Chief Elenore Hendrix, Matachewan First Nation and Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami First Nation.

"We can't rely on government support, so we must work towards finding alternatives for our communities. We need to find ways to better the lives of our people. This agreement is making that happen and it gives us the hope and incentive to move our people ahead" said



THREE WABUN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES AND LIBERTY MINES SIGNED AN IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENT (IBA) IN TIMMINS, APRIL 15. SIGNATORIES AND DELEGATES ON HAND WERE SITTING FROM L-R: CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION; CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION; CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION AND GARY NASH, PRESIDENT AND CEO, LIBERTY MINES INC. STANDING FROM L-R WERE: MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION COUNCILLORS JAMES NAVEAU, GERALD LUKE AND JENNIFER CONSTANT; CHRIS MCKAY, RESOURCE LIAISON, MATTAGAMI FN; SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND GERRY STINSON, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER, REDSTONE MINESITE, LIBERTY MINES.

Chief Babin.

Chief Hendrix pointed out that it took a lot of hard work by a negotiating team to put the IBA together.

"We are thankful to our negotiating team for pulling this agreement together and advocating on behalf of our people. This agreement will be good for our First Nation and our members as it will bring benefits now and for future generations," said Chief Hendrix.

Chief Naveau commented on the fact that the Wabun communities and Liberty Mines managed to form a

good working relationship in comparison to a situation in the Northwestern part of the province where the leadership of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and a mining company, Platinex had entered into a confrontation. This has resulted in the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug leadership being held in contempt of court for which they were jailed. The First Nation leaders were incarcerated in March and in the end served two months of a six month sentence for contempt of a court decision favoring the mining compa-

ny.

"I am very happy but I am also sad to realize that our fellow Chiefs and leaders of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug were incarcerated for doing the same thing that our First Nation leadership is

doing. Their voice has put them in prison and it is this realization that makes the signing of this IBA an even more significant moment for our people" said Chief Naveau.

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Matachewan FN Signs MOU With Northgate Minerals

A proactive approach by Northgate Minerals Corporation has resulted in a cooperative relationship with Matachewan First Nation concerning the development of the Young Davidson mine. A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony was held in Matachewan First Nation on Tuesday March 25 and it included signatories from the First Nation, Wabun Tribal Council and Northgate Minerals.

As a testimony to a new trend in resource development involving First Nation lands, Northgate Minerals made a decision early on in their Young Davidson mining venture to consult with and involve Matachewan First Nation.

The MOU sets the agenda for conducting negotiations for an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) which will include such topics as employment, training, business opportunities and financials.

"Northgate's corporate goal is to find, develop and operate mines in an environmentally responsible and socially sustainable fashion, while providing economic benefits to the surrounding community and an appropriate rate of return to Northgate's shareholders. Right from the start of the Young Davidson Project, a major part of our efforts has been focused on the development of a special relationship with the Matachewan First Nation. Today's signing of an MOU represents

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MUTUAL BENEFITS IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WILL RESULT WITH THE SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND NORTHGATE MINERALS CORPORATION. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX OF MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND CHRIS ROCKINGHAM, VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION, NORTHGATE MINERALS.

Matachewan First Nation Moves Ahead With MOU Signing

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the next step in the development of that relationship as the Young-Davidson project moves toward becoming an operating and profitable mine," said Chris Rockingham, Vice President, Business Development and Exploration, Northgate Minerals.

Matachewan First Nation Chief Elenore Hendrix and her First Nation Council have been involved with the developments at the Young Davidson mine for more than a decade.

"We are very happy with the positive and progressive initiatives taken by Northgate Minerals in involving and negotiating with our First Nation. For so many years our people have been overlooked in resource developments that have taken place on our traditional lands, so it really is reassuring to be closely involved with Northgate's development nearby," said Chief Hendrix.

Wabun Tribal Council Executive Director Shawn Batise, who is also a member of Matachewan First Nation, has been actively involved in the negotiations between the First Nation and Northgate Minerals. Wabun Tribal Council is a regional territorial organization that represents Matachewan First Nation and six other First Nation communities in northeastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

"This is a new age in terms of opportunities for First Nations and we are resolved to make the most of it. At the same time we

are also committed to working with our partners to ensure that the utmost is done in terms of environmental, safety and benefit issues. This kind of promise brings hope to our First Nations and in the long term our members will incur benefits far into the future," said Batise.

Representatives involved in establishing the MOU and in continuing negotiations include: Chief Hendrix, Councillor Darren Landry, Matachewan First Nation; Shawn Batise, Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor, Wabun Tribal Council; Chris Rockingham and Andrew Cormier, Manager of Project Engineering, Northgate Minerals Corporation.

The Young-Davidson mine site, which is located 6 kilometers south of the First Nation, is a well established gold mine site that was first developed in the early 1930s. Two mining companies operated mining projects until the 1950s, which generated a combined total of over a million ounces of gold and processed almost 10 million tonnes of ore. After this early boom was over, there was sporadic exploration and some small scale mining in the area. In the mid 1990s, one of the old mine sites was re-evaluated by Royal Oak Mines in a major redevelopment project. Unfortunately, Royal Oak Mines was not able to successfully complete development.

Throughout most of the history of mining in the



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE AND PARTICIPATING IN THE OFFICIAL SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND NORTHGATE MINERALS ARE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: COUNCILLOR ALFRED BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION; ANDREW CORMIER, MANAGER OF PROJECT ENGINEERING, NORTHGATE MINERALS; COUNCILLOR DARREN LANDRY, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION; JASON BATISE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND COUNCILLOR LIONEL BOUCHER, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION.

Matachewan area, First Nation people who lived and subsisted in these areas were not recognized as

inhabitants of the land. The Matachewan First Nation is located near the town of

land area of the First Nation people encompasses a larger

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Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



As the original protectors and keepers of the land, in general most First Nations welcome, encourage and support careful and responsible development of any of our natural resources on or near our traditional lands. With an increase in all types of recent natural resource development projects on and near Wabun traditional lands, our First Nations are being confronted with dealing with the private sector and governments as participants in these ventures. Now, mind you, this is a relatively new reality for First Nations as for the most part Native people were not involved with resource development on our lands in any way for the past 100 years.

I don't want to go into a lengthy history to detail just how unfairly we were treated as mines, forestry producers and hydro electric projects situated themselves, developed local resources on and near our lands and provided us with no benefits whatsoever. As a matter of fact in most cases First Nation people were explicitly left out of the loop. While all of these developments affected our way of life and our ability to survive off the land we were not even allowed the dignity of any inclusion in these initiatives from the point of employment

or any type of economic benefit. In countless cases we lived as First Nation peoples right here in the heart of progressive Northern Ontario in third world like conditions while everyone around us prospered with access to the best in material, housing, education and health care. Happily I am living in the generation that is witnessing a change in the racist and colonial mind sets to thinking that is more sensible and just when it comes to developing natural resources on our lands.

Court decisions have ruled that First Nations must be consulted in terms of any such developments on our lands and Wabun Tribal Council and our communities are more than prepared to become active participants with initiatives involving natural resources. We have a strategy in terms of identifying and participating with natural resource development on our lands. You would think that most parties would realize that our position as First Nation leaders is to represent our community members as best we can in making sure that any developments on our lands involve our participation and provide us with benefits. The sad reality is that we are being lobbied and pressured by some non Native community municipal councillors to abandon our strategy of participation and inclusion in regards to initiatives on our lands. We welcome support, encouragement and practical input from our non Native friends and neighbours but we resent meddling in our affairs that question our ability to determine which projects we should become involved in. Those

days are gone. We have our own expertise and competent leadership that is more than capable of making decisions as to the development of natural resources on our traditional lands. We also have no intention of supporting initiatives that are not environmentally sound and of course these projects must provide our First Nations with a fair share in terms of economic benefit.

We at Wabun are not interested in becoming willing participants in every project that comes our way. If the initiatives are done with respect for the land and provide Wabun First Nations with meaningful participation and a worthwhile financial benefit then we are willing to come to the table. Thankfully, resource based companies for the most part recognize that we can be good partners in any developments that take place on our lands. However, there are still pockets of outdated ways of thinking that creates controversy, conflict and in some cases the cancellation of viable developments. When it comes right down to it nobody holds the high road in any of these development negotiations. We all want the best we can get for our people whether they be Wabun First Nation members or corporate stockholders. In all cases there is sufficient wealth generated by these initiatives to ensure that we are all getting a fair share. That might be a hard new reality for some who have had their way with resource development in Northern Ontario but if you think about it in an objective way in the long run it just makes for better business and a more healthy process all the way around.



LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN ESTABLISHING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THEIR COMMUNITY AND NORTHGATE MINERALS. HERE WE SEE NEGOTIATION TEAM MEMBERS SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL AND A MEMBER OF MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION; COUNCILLOR ALFRED BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND CHRIS ROCKINGHAM, VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION, NORTHGATE MINERALS.

The Future Looks Bright for Matachewan FN And Northgate Minerals

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area where historic traditional activities such as trapping, fishing and hunting were practiced. Most of the early mining activity in the area took place without the participation of First Nation people or recognition of traditional territory or previous treaty agreements.

In the late 1990s during the redevelopment of the Young Davidson mine site, the First Nation started discussions and meetings with the mining company involved at the time. A working agreement was established that provided some recognition of the First Nation. However, any arrangement with the mining company stalled when Royal Oak Mines stopped the mining redevelopment project.

In November 2005, Northgate Minerals acquired the Young Davidson property, a mining site that encompasses 11,000 acres that is situated over the site of two past producing mines. The company actually began consulta-

tions with Matachewan First Nation before acquiring the new property. Previous draft agreements regarding the Young Davidson property and Matachewan First Nation were updated and redeveloped to establish a better working relationship. During this process Northgate Minerals hired Gail Wincikaby, a local community member as Partnership Coordinator to work with both the company and Matachewan First Nation.

In addition, both parties saw the need to have a dedicated staff person work directly for the First Nation in ongoing relations and communications concerning the development of the mine. Northgate Minerals made agreements with the First Nation to fund the position of a mining consultant that would be independent of the company and report solely to Chief and Council. Dorothy Larkman was then hired as a Mining Consultant by the community to focus solely on the ongoing communications

and relations with Northgate Minerals concerning the development of the Young Davidson mine.

"As we move forward with our permitting processes we recognized that we were incurring significant financial and staff resource demands on the First Nation community. We were essentially imposing these needs on them, so there needed to be a way to offset this workload. This is why we created an arrangement to hire Dorothy to take on these added tasks for the First Nation," said Rockingham.

Since the hiring of a Mining Consultant for Matachewan FN, the company and the First Nation managed to move ahead with discussions on the creation of a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) and start negotiations on an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA). The addition of dedicated administration staff to focus on this cooperative relationship has allowed both parties to develop a more up to date agreement that will be benefi-



MCTV NEWS WAS ON HAND TO PROVIDE REGIONAL TELEVISION COVERAGE OF A MAJOR FIRST NATION EVENT CONCERNING THE SIGNING OF AN **MOU** BETWEEN **NORTHGATE MINERALS** AND **MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION**. HERE WE SEE **SHAWN BATISE**, (LEFT) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL** BEING INTERVIEWED FOR THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS BY **DAVE MCGOWAN**, (RIGHT) **MCTV REGIONAL REPORTER**. **XAVIER KATAQUAPIT** HANDLED PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE EVENT.

cial for the First Nation and the company. As part of the process of creating more meaningful agreements in mining resource development, Northgate Minerals sponsored three members of the Matachewan FN to attend an annual conference held by the Canadian Aboriginal Mining Association, which was held in Vancouver in the fall of 2007.

In early 2006, the company began exploration of the property and conducted drilling activities. During this early phase a small group of diamond drillers were employed while the company prepared for development. By mid summer of 2006, the exploratory activity had grown to include over 15 employees and this number included the hiring of members of the Matchewan First Nation. In addition, in a show of support of the First Nation, Northgate Minerals was a sponsor of the Treaty #9 Centennial Anniversary Commemoration Ceremonies held in June

2006.

The Young Davidson mine is presently in what is known as an advanced exploration and engineering stage. Currently, the company is working on a prefeasibility study for future development with a planned start-up date of 2010 and a projected ten year or longer mine life. The fully operational mine is expected to have a target annual output of 150,000 to 200,000 ounces of gold minerals per year.

Northgate Minerals is a mining company focused on projects and operations in gold and copper minerals. The company's operations are based mostly in North America with its main assets at the Kemess mine in north-central British Columbia, the Young-Davidson property in Northeastern Ontario and more recently its acquisition of Perseverance Corporation Ltd. in Australia. Northgate Minerals is currently developing its existing properties as well as acquiring, developing and exploring new opportunities.



THE NEGOTIATING TEAM DEVELOPING THE **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)** AND ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN **MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION** AND **NORTHGATE MINERALS** ARE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: **COUNCILLOR DARREN LANDRY**, **MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION**; **CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX**, **MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION**; **CHRIS ROCKINGHAM**, **VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION, NORTHGATE MINERALS**; **ANDREW CORMIER**, **MANAGER OF PROJECT ENGINEERING, NORTHGATE MINERALS CORPORATION** AND **JASON BATISE**, **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR, FOR WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL**. **SHAWN BATISE**, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL** IS ALSO PART OF THE TEAM.

Matachewan FN To Host Traditional And Cultural Teaching Camp

Matachewan First Nation is preparing to host an annual Traditional And Cultural Teaching Camp, for youth in the community. The event is tentatively being set for August. For more information participants are asked to call for details.

"This is an annual gathering for our youth in the community. It is an event that allows us to bring our families and youth together once a year as our members are spread out in nearby cities and towns. The event is also an opportu-

nity for some fun and recreational activity for our youth while at the same time giving our Elders an opportunity to pass on some of our traditional knowledge and cultural teachings," said Pam Cormier, Economic Development Officer (EDO) for Matachewan First Nation.

Cormier is organizing the event with assistance from Edna Hansen, Family Support Worker and other volunteers from the community.

All events and workshops for the week long event are

being provided for youth from the ages of 6 to 18. Youth who want to participate in any or all of the workshops can register for any of the events and workshops. The camp will be held at the Matachewan Community Complex and it will feature workshops by local Elders and visiting presenters. Elders Marie Boucher and Vina Landry are two traditional people from the community that will take part in facilitating workshops on traditional teachings for youth.

"We will be including local Elders and traditional people from our community to share their knowledge about teachings including the medicine wheel, spiritual healing and language. Our Elders will also guide participating youth on nature walks to provide story telling and lessons on the importance of protecting Mother Earth," said Cormier.

A Wilderness Survival Training workshop will also be organized to be facilitated by Bill Laurel, an independent entrepreneur and retired pro-

fessional from the Ministry of Natural Resources who specializes in teaching this type of training. This workshop is being made available for older youth from the ages of 14 to 18.

Matachewan First Nation members who would like to take part in the Traditional And Cultural Teaching Camp can receive more information by contacting Pam Cormier, Economic Development Officer (EDO) at the Matachewan First Nation office at 705-565-2230 at extension 239.

Mattagami, Matachewan And Wahgoshig Working Together

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From the company's perspective Gary Nash, President and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Mines explained that his company has worked hard at establishing a good relationship with area First Nations.

"We have worked diligently to establish a good working relationship with the First Nations, to understand the culture and tradi-

tional rights and to arrive at a fair accommodation from the impact against their traditional rights from the giving up of crown land for mining. In return, the three communities provide potential business services to Liberty Mines, employees and support for our many projects as we continue to expand in the Shaw Dome area" said Nash.

Shawn Batise, Executive

Director, Wabun Tribal Council, who headed the negotiating team has hope for the future.

"This IBA gave our three First Nations what they believed was a fair deal that offers a balance of social, cultural, environmental interests for their membership. Our hope is that this is only the beginning. Both industry and our First Nations are well aware of the mineral

wealth within our territories. We are finally becoming active participants in Ontario's resource based economy and makers' of our own destiny. The Liberty IBA has started us down a road to prosperity and a sharing of the natural resources that Treaty #9 promised so many years ago," said Batise.

The IBA now provides an outline to address First Nation traditional rights as they relate to exploration, development and mining operations on Liberty Mines, properties in the Shaw Dome mining area. The agreement provides for job

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DISCUSSING THE IBA SIGNING BETWEEN LIBERTY AND THREE WABUN FIRST NATIONS ARE IBA NEGOTIATIONS REPRESENTATIVES FROM L-R: SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; CHRIS MCKAY, RESOURCE LIAISON, MATTAGAMI FN AND GERRY STINSON, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER, REDSTONE MINESITE, LIBERTY MINES



AN IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENT (IBA) WILL PROVIDE BENEFITS TO THREE WABUN FIRST NATIONS AND LIBERTY MINES INC. AS THE COMPANY'S MINING PROJECTS CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT. HERE WE SEE CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, (LEFT) MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION DISCUSSING THE IBA SIGNING WITH GARY NASH, PRESIDENT AND CEO, LIBERTY MINES INC.

Wabun Youth Gathering Coming To Brunswick House First Nation

Brunswick House First Nation will be hosting the second annual Wabun Youth Workshop which will be held in the community during the week of August 12 to 15. Event organizers have titled the event with the theme (E)One Day Of Learning Is One Day Of Growth, and the four day gathering will center on educational and recreational activities for Wabun youth from the ages of 9 to 16.

"We are expecting a good turnout of youth from all of our communities to attend this year's event. This is the second annual event of this type to be run in our First Nations and after last year's success in Mattagami First Nation we are even better prepared to make this an enjoyable event for our youth," said Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator and Chair of the Youth Workshop Event Committee in Brunswick House FN.

The first annual Wabun Youth Workshop took place in Mattagami First Nation in August 2007. Organizers at the first event had planned for up to 30 youth to participate but were met with an overwhelming participation of

over 60 youth from all of Wabun's communities including chaperones and visitors.

"We are looking to hosting about 30 to 40 youth this year but we are prepared for larger numbers if the turnout is as successful as last year's. We are better organized this year as our committee has taken the experience from our first event to help our volunteers prepare for another major gathering for our youth," said Archer.

He heads the committee along with co-Chair Margaret Quakegesic and other volunteer members including: Douglas Redbreast, Beverly Perreault, Jennifer Wesley, Frances Wesley, Chris Venedam, Elenore Redbreast, Marjorie Tangie, Bonnie Saunders and Irene Redbreast.

The event will be headlined by workshops for youth facilitated by D.J. Eagle Bear, Vanas, an Odawa First Nation person, who is a motivational speaker from the United States. His presentations will center on talking to youth about the importance of education and in how to build their self esteem. Youth will also be able to take part in other education-

al workshops that will be centered on traditional teachings. A special education session will be provided by Mimi Tremblay, of Wahgoshig First Nation on an introduction to traditional trapping. Other workshops will include drum making, traditional arts and crafts, Native arts, outdoor native cooking and basic traditional skills of living on the land. Local and visiting Elders will also be present to provide traditional teachings and story telling for youth. Recreational activities will also be organized. Organizers are planning on activities including softball, horseshoe throwing and swimming at nearby Bordon Lake.

All youth will be arriving from all of Wabun's member communities along with chaperones and visitors. They will stay at the Brunswick House First Nation Community Hall where all activities and events will be centered around.

The event is being sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council and it is being hosted by Brunswick House First Nation which has made its facilities available to organizers.

D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas

is a motivational and inspirational speaker and author. He is originally from Muskegon, Michigan in the United States and he is of Odawa Indian and Dutch ancestry. Vanas grew up in a travelling military family in the United States where they spent time in South and North Dakota and most of his early life in Biloxi, Mississippi. In addition to his training and involvement in the US Air Force, he was active in his cultural roots and in the process earned the Native name of Mato Wambli (Eagle Bear). In 1999, he established Native Discovery under the motto 'to build the warriors of tomorrow ... today', where he provides motivational programs and seminars using traditional warrior concepts and wisdom to inspire others to become successful in school and at work. In addition, he promotes and advocates Aboriginal education and issues through his membership and involvement in several major national and international Native and non-Native organizations. As an author, he wrote "The Tiny Warrior: A Path To Personal Discovery And Achievement" and as well he is a writer for the monthly newsletter Firelight and

he continues to write for the national Native newspaper 'News From Indian Country'.

"We were happy to announce the fact that our second annual Wabun Youth Gathering would be held in Brunswick House First Nation. The community is looking forward to hosting this major Wabun event that will bring our youth together for educational workshops and an opportunity to have some fun with others from our member First Nations. This is also an opportunity for us to celebrate our traditional and cultural roots with our youth and help them become healthy and proud members of their communities," said Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

Wabun members who are interested in attending the event can find out more information by contacting either Jean Lemieux, Health Director or Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator at the Wabun Tribal Council in Timmins at Ph. 705-268-9066. First Nation participants should note that the event is being planned for youth from the ages of 9 to 16.

Historic IBA With Wabun First Nations And Liberty Mines

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training, employment, scholarships, business relationships and financial participation in community development projects. It also streamlines the exploration of the company's properties and the permitting of economic deposits through direct consultation and input from the three First Nations.

The formal cooperation between the mining company and the three First Nations now gives Liberty Mines the opportunity to go forward with its developments in the Shaw Dome mining area. Nash explained that this cooperation will create the basis of a working relationship where the communities can become business partners in the mining projects as the company continues development as well as opportunities for community members to take part in employment.

As a result of the working relationship between Liberty and Mattagami First Nation, the company has

purchased products being sold by a local Native environmentally safe cleansers company, Lords & Partners.

The signing of the IBA is the culmination of two years of negotiations between Liberty Mines and the three Wabun First Nations. In May 2006, each of the three communities began separate negotiations processes with Liberty Mines concerning mining development and exploration of its properties in the Shaw Dome mining area, southeast of Timmins. This land area also comprises the traditional territory of the three First Nations of Matachewan, located near the town of Matachewan west of Kirkland Lake; Wahgoshig near the town of Matheson, east of Timmins and Mattagami, near the town of Gogama, south of Timmins. To make the process more efficient, the three communities who are all part of Wabun Tribal Council, a regional organization that represents seven

First Nations in Northeastern Ontario, decided to come together as a group to negotiate with the mining company.

In June 2007, the three communities signed onto an accord to agree to work together in negotiating with Liberty Mines. A committee was created from the accord with the three communities to head negotiations with assistance, resources and support from Wabun Tribal Council.

These three First Nations then went ahead to develop a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), a document to address First Nation traditional rights, offer support to the company in its continued development in the Shaw Dome mining area and set the framework for the discussions and negotiations process to create an IBA. In September 2007, the First Nations and Liberty Mines signed the MOU which started the process of negotiating an IBA.

Liberty Mines is a producer of nickel and the company is focused on the exploration, development and production

of nickel, copper, cobalt and platinum group metals from its properties in the Shaw Dome mining area.

The negotiation team for Wabun was headed by Batise along with Chris McKay, Resource Liaison, Mattagami FN; Maurice Kistabish, Program Manager, Wahgoshig FN and Jason Batise, Economic Development & Technical Services

Advisor, Wabun Tribal Council. The negotiation team for Liberty Mines was headed by Nash along with Gerry Stinson, Environmental Manager, Redstone Mine Site, Liberty Mines. Delegates at the signing event included Mattagami FN Councillors Jennifer Constant, Gerald Luke, James Naveau.



REPORTING ON THE IBA SIGNING WAS PROVIDED BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEWS MEDIA INCLUDING MCTV DURING THEIR REGULAR SIX O'CLOCK EVENING NEWS PROGRAM. HERE WE SEE DAVE MCGOWAN, (LEFT) MCTV REGIONAL REPORTER INTERVIEWING CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, (RIGHT) MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION. XAVIER KATAQUAPIT HANDLED PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE EVENT.

Wabun Announces Scholarship Winners

The Wabun Scholarship Fund, which is produced annually by the Wabun Tribal Council, is proud to announce the most recent recipients of these financial awards. The main sponsorship of the fund is provided by Wabun Tribal Council with support from Tweed & Hickory, Mattagami Construction, Northgate Minerals and Wabun Health Services.

This year's recipients include Darryl Ray of Flying Post First Nation who won the Tweed & Hickory award; Randi Ray also of Flying Post First Nation as the Mattagami Construction award winner; Jeff Berube again of Flying Post First Nation and the winner of the Northgate Minerals award. James McKay of Mattagami First Nation won a Northgate Minerals award and Deanna Hyde also of Mattagami First Nation was awarded the Wabun Health Services scholarship.

"I would like to congratulate all of our scholarship award winners and I wish them success with all of their career goals. I also want to give thanks to our sponsors who help to make these schol-

arships available to our Wabun students," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

Anyone interested in applying for the 2009 Wabun Scholarship Fund should do so before January 15, 2009. The scholarship application is open to any Wabun Tribal Council First Nation student as long as he or she is enrolled in a post secondary school.

The applicant must send a letter to the attention of: Scholarship Fund, Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council, 313 Railway Street, Timmins Ontario P4N 2P4. The letter should detail a little about why the applicant feels he or she deserves this scholarship and indicate what program he or she is attending. Preference will be given to those in programs relating to telecommunications, health, engineering and business. The applicant must also include a proof of academic performance or a recent transcript.



WABUN CHIEFS SIGNED AN IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENT (IBA) AFTER MUCH NEGOTIATION WITH LIBERTY MINES INC. ON APRIL 15 IN TIMMINS. FROM L-R ARE: CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION; CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION; CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION AND GARY NASH, PRESIDENT AND CEO, LIBERTY MINES INC.

2008 Community Crisis Team Featured



A CRISIS TEAM TRAINING EVENT WAS HELD IN TIMMINS DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 3 TO 7, 2008. THE TRAINING EVENT BROUGHT TOGETHER CRISIS TEAM MEMBERS FROM EACH WABUN COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE UP TO DATE TRAINING ON SUICIDE INTERVENTION, CRISIS RESPONSE AND DEBRIEFING STRATEGIES. COMMUNITY CRISIS TEAM MEMBERS AT THE TRAINING EVENT INCLUDED (L-R BACK ROW): TOM WABIE, ALFRED BATISE, MIKE DALEY, JAMES REDBREAST, JAMES DELUCE, GEORGE SACKANEY, JAMES NAVEAU (IN FRONT OF GEORGE SACKANEY), MARTIN MILLEN, MIKE ARCHER, REGIONAL CRISIS COORDINATOR; PAUL CARRICK FACILITATOR (IN FRONT OF MIKE ARCHER) AND JAMES WESLEY. SEATED IN FRONT (L-R) ARE: APRIL BAULNE, ELAINE DALEY, MARGARET QUAKEGESIC, MARY BATISE, FRED WABIE, GERRI ANDRESS AND SEATED IN FRONT ON THE FLOOR IS TERESA LAFFRENIER.

Ninth Annual Walleye Fishing Tournament Held At Mattagami First Nation

Mattagami First Nation hosted the Ninth Annual Live Release Walleye Tournament on June 7 and 8. The annual event is recognized as the largest of six tournaments that make up the Northern Ontario Professional Walleye Trail. The fundraising event, which is organized by the Mattagami First Nation Recreation Committee, is a major tournament with a \$10,000 top prize and other prizes amounting to \$7,000. A raffle event for participants was also held for a 12 foot Prince Craft fishing boat that was donated by the company for the tournament.

"We were very happy with the turnout at this year's event. There were a great number of registered teams. This tournament has turned into a major event for our community as it is the one of the largest fishing competitions in Northern Ontario and it draws many people to our First Nation every year. We are proud to have been able to bring this event to our community for so many years and we are looking forward to hosting a bigger tournament next year to celebrate our tenth year," said Jennifer Constant, Mattagami First Nation Councillor and Mattagami First Nation Recreation Committee volunteer member.

She works as a committee member along with volunteers including: Juanita Luke, Janet McKay, Cindy McKay, Joanne Naveau, Myra McKay and Deanna Heyde.

"Our event is known as one of the best organized tournaments since we use our local facilities to make all our participants comfortable. Everyone enjoyed

being able to come together at the community complex to weigh in their daily totals, socialize with other participants, take part in the raffle and meet our tournament sponsors," said Constant.

The open event brought together 103 teams with each team consisting of two people per boat. Participants fished on Mattagami Lake over two days and attended regular gatherings for refreshments, other events and announcements at the Mattagami First Nation Community Complex. The top prize of \$10,000 was awarded to the team of Craig Salmonson and Tory Garneau, second place prize of \$3,000 and third place prize of \$1,000 was tied and they were equally given to the teams of Roch Bouchard / Jim Patry and Mike Free / Mike Daoust. The fourth place prize of \$800 was won by Jamie Robinson / Terry Bernath; fifth place prize of \$700 went to Yves Boissonneault / Tim Caron; sixth place prize of \$600 to Russel Smith / Dean Bliss; seventh place prize of \$500 to Brian Waugh / Rob Trahan and eighth place prize of \$400 to Dave Stiles / Ron Drapeau.

Event organizers thanked all the sponsors that provided their support for the event. Sponsors for the Ninth Annual Mattagami First Nation Live Release Walleye Tournament included: Cecchetto & Sons, Wabun Tribal Council, BMO Harris Private Banking, Minakwa Lodge, RONA and Timberland Ford.

"We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support of this major event in our community. We are also grateful to our many local volunteers who made this possible and to the fishermen and supporters for coming out to visit our First Nation," said Constant.

The event is set up as a fundraiser to support the activities organized by the Recreation Committee for youth during the year. The majority of funds go towards supporting activities for First Nation youth on and off reserve. Constant explained that part of the funding also goes towards compassionate support to help community members who want to travel

with relatives who are receiving medical treatment in other cities and towns.

The Mattagami First Nation Recreation Committee organizes regular fundraising activities during the year including monthly bingos that awards a grand prize of \$10,000 and other prizes amounting to over \$14,000. In addition, the committee is also getting ready for the community's annual Mattagami First Nation Slow Pitch Tournament which will be held during the weekend of August 22 to 24.

The Northern Ontario

Ginger Nadon Moves To Band Manager Position

Wahgoshig First Nation administration has gone through some changes in staffing to accommodate long time employees with new challenges and opportunities to better serve the community.

Ginger Nadon, a local member who has worked as Community Health Representative for the past seven years, has moved to the position of Band Manager. She started her new position on April 16 and she takes over from Madeline Chokomolin who recently took on the new position of Health Policy Analyst for Wabun Health Services. Nadon's position of CHR will be taken over by Wahgoshig First Nation member, Betty Singer.

"I am looking forward to my new position as Band Manager and I am eager to learn more about the programs and projects that our leadership is involved in. This is a challenging position and I am happy to be working for my community in this capacity," said Nadon.

In her new position, she will be responsible for overseeing all programs provided by the First Nation including securing and maintaining funding through regular reporting and monitoring. In addition, her duties will be directed by Chief and Council to ensure that all programs and projects by the First Nation are per-

forming as planned. Nadon will also be working with First Nation administration and local leadership to coordinate local elections for Chief and Council which will be held in November.

She is currently in an introductory phase in her work and she is being involved in all the programs and projects that the First Nation operates.

"This position is a lot different and busier than my last one as it involves all aspects of the community. I am becoming accustomed to my new work and the support and assistance from the administrative staff and our leadership is very helpful," said Nadon.

Wahgoshig First Nation has developed into a sizeable community over the past few years and its membership continues to grow. Nadon explained that their members are looking forward to future developments and to making their community grow further.

"One of my goals in this new position is to help our people access more housing and I want to do more to bring members living outside the community home. I am also hopeful that as we continue our development, we can make a healthier community for our future generations," said Nadon.

She also mentioned that she is grateful to her partner Christopher



DEANNA HEYDE, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

ed from each competition to determine the annual award of Angler Of The Year, at the end of each fishing season.

Sackaney for helping her to adjust to her new work in the community. Sackaney has sat as Band Councillor for the past three years.

"Chris helps me a lot and I am fortunate to have someone at home who is able to understand and assist me with this new challenge. He gives me a lot of feedback and support in everything I do," said Nadon.

They have a son Keith Sackaney, 10 and a daughter Amy Sackaney, 11.

In her previous posting, Nadon began her work as Community Health Representative in 2001 in a placement position for two years while the previous employee took a leave from work. After two years, she took on the position full time. During this transition period she completed a year long distance education program with the Native Education and Training College in North Bay to acquire her Community Health Representative Diploma. As a CHR, Nadon was responsible for coordinating the home and community care program, meals on wheels and the medical transportation for community members who needed to access medical services. She also worked closely with the local Community Health Nurse and she organized and coordinated any health related workshops and educational events for local members.

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JENNIFER CONSTANT, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION COUNCILLOR AND MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION RECREATION COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER MEMBER

Madeline Chokomolin Joins Wabun Health As Health Policy Analyst

Madeline Chokomolin has taken on the newly created position of Health Policy Analyst for Wabun Health Services. She started on June 2 and she will be based at the Wabun Tribal Council office in Timmins.

Chokomolin will be involved in two key areas of the Wabun Health Services organization. She will be responsible for reviewing and updating Community Crisis Plans and emergency response plans specifically dealing with influenza pandemics. She will also be revising the accreditation process for staff members.

In terms of developing the Community Crisis plans and emergency response plans, currently there are regional pandemic plans in place provided by other Native and non-Native health service providers at the federal and provincial levels as well as through regional and municipal organizations. These plans however, tend to address certain general aspects of an emergency in order deal with a regional crisis without including the effects on individuals or families in these situations. Chokomolin will assist in the development of new pandemic plans to complement existing plans with the goal of including the health and social needs of First Nation individuals and their families.

"We are basically planning on developing a pandemic plan with a holistic approach. This will be done with the feedback and guidance of our First Nation communities. We are look-

ing at a holistic approach because when emergencies occur, regional organizations tend to react to situations in a broad and wide ranging approach without considering how an emergency affects individuals and families," said Chokomolin.

The pandemic planning will also include the creation of policies that will identify the roles and responsibilities of each individual that is part of the health care team. This will include establishing support plans, how and when to transport patients outside of a community and how to communicate and connect with external health and emergency organizations during a crisis event.

"This planning will also include how we can ensure the health and safety of our health care team during an emergency. This is necessary because the crisis care teams will be the ones to implement a pandemic plan if it ever needs to be initiated. They will play a role in working with individuals and organizations from all levels during an emergency and they will also be important in ensuring that community members are informed, that health services are provided and that individuals and families are given the counselling and emotional support to deal with an emergency situation," said Chokomolin.

She added that as part of this planning, a process will also be created to help in establishing when emergencies occur and in what degree. This will include the existing established

process used by other health care organizations that identify three levels of an influenza pandemic. These three crisis levels include the least severe level where there are minor cases that can be contained and maintained, a medium level where there are many hospitalizations and patients suffering from complications and then the most severe level which causes multiple fatalities.

Chokomolin added that this planning is meant to include, inform and reassure community members that planning for a crisis event will be in place for their health and safety.

"We will be developing an approach that will be all inclusive to all our members and our health care team. This will include professionals from the top that will coordinate regional plans and down to individual community members and families that have to cope with any situation that may arise. When we talk about crisis planning, it is a bit scary for some people but our approach will be to include and inform community members so that they can understand what we are doing and what will take place if an emergency event should happen," said Chokomolin.

As the new Health Policy Analyst, Chokomolin will also be responsible for assisting Wabun Health Services in revising the organization's accreditation process. In this capacity, she will work with the organization to review all of Wabun Health Services,



MADELINE CHOKOMOLIN, A MEMBER OF WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION, HAS STARTED HER NEW POSITION AS HEALTH POLICY ANALYST FOR WABUN HEALTH SERVICES AT THEIR TIMMINS OFFICE.

current policies and procedures and determine how all members of the health care team are working with each other, clients and with other outside organizations and agencies.

"We will work with each member of the Wabun organization to go through all the policies and procedures and see what can be changed or included into the current method of service delivery," said Chokomolin.

She is looking forward to meeting and working with everyone at the Wabun main office and the other members of the health care team in each of the Wabun communities.

"I have been to some of our Wabun First Nations in the past but there are a few I have not visited yet and I am looking forward to making my visits to these places. The staff here has been very welcoming and helpful in making me feel comfortable in my new role here," said Chokomolin.

Prior to starting her work at Wabun, she was involved in the social service field for many years. In 2001, she worked in Kingston where she was involved in assisting Aboriginal inmates at the Kingston Penitentiary and with Native people in the city to advocate for social service and housing issues.

She was part of a Three City Antiracism Committee in 2002/03 as a board member associated with the Timmins Native Friendship Centre. Chokomolin is a graduate of Northern College where she completed a Social Service Worker Program and a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor Program. During her studies, she volunteered with the Good Samaritan Inn in

South Porcupine to complement her studies in the social services field. She also received certification in Community Social and Economic Development from Algoma University in 2007.

"My education is still ongoing and I am still taking part in additional studies to add to my skills and experience. I believe education is important for everyone at any age. Other than my work, learning more along the way is one of my goals in life," said Chokomolin.

Chokomolin also was employed as the Ontario Works Administrator for Wahgoshig First Nation for three and a half years. She then moved on to the position of Band Manager for Wahgoshig First Nation for a short period before moving to her current position at Wabun Health Services.

She is a member of Wahgoshig First Nation and she is a single mother with five children. Her oldest son, Sky Chokomolin, recently started work at the St Andrews Mine near Wahgoshig. She has two teenagers Evelyn, 19 and Winter, 18 and two younger children Wolfgang 12 and Taryn 11.

"This new position will help us to create a more efficient and well structured organization to ensure that we are able to meet our goals at Wabun Health Services. The work that Madeline does will also allow our staff members an opportunity to continually self evaluate which will ensure that quality services will be provided to our community members," said Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

Wabun Health Congratulates Ginger Nadon

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One of the most significant tasks that Nadon recalls during her time as CHR was in advocating and speaking for local community members in dealing with medical services.

"I enjoy working with people especially when it comes to my home community. It was very satisfying to help people when it came time to deal with medical services and to accommodate them in all their needs. My job as CHR was made easier by the assistance of the extended Health Care team in our community and the Wabun Health office.

This is a great team of dedicated people we have working for our communities," said Nadon.

She is a member of Wahgoshig First Nation and she is an active volunteer in her community. She has sat as a member of a local events planning committee and currently she is participating in a moose hunting committee which is involved in traditional pursuits on First Nation lands.

Jean Lemieux, Health Director for Wabun Health Services explained that Wahgoshig First Nation will benefit from the years of experience that Nadon has

accumulated from her work as CHR.

"We are happy to see Ginger taking on the challenges of her new position as Band Manager. She has worked for many years as part of the Wabun Health Services team and we will miss her as she brought a lot of experience and knowledge to her work in Wahgoshig. We are also happy to see Betty Singer taking on the role of CHR and we look forward to working with her in providing health care services to the community," said Lemieux.

Brunswick House First Nation Member Studying Medicine



DORIS MITCHELL, A MEMBER OF BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION, IS ATTENDING THE NORTHERN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO PURSUE A MEDICAL CAREER.

Doris Lynn Mitchell, a member of Brunswick House First Nation, is working hard at preparing for her future in a career as a Medical Doctor through the Northern Ontario School Of Medicine. This September, she will be entering into her third year of the four year program in Sudbury.

"I really enjoy the challenge of my studies. Every aspect of my education is valuable and rewarding as I progress through the program. I am interested in family medicine and specifically towards working with Elders in the community," said Mitchell.

In her third year of the Medical Doctor program, Mitchell will be attending a Comprehensive Community Clerkship where students have the opportunity to gain experience in a medical facility away from the campus in a community in Northern Ontario. She will be taking her Clerkship in Timmins where she will gain valuable experience and training in an active medical environment.

She is looking forward to her training in Timmins and in setting goals for her future medical career.

"I am moving to Timmins soon to start my third year of training in what is known as a Clerkship year. In the short term, I plan to finish my medical studies in 2010 and then go ahead with a residency program in family medicine. Hopefully, my long term goals are to return to my home community to work as a family doctor," said Mitchell.

She explained that training for a career in medicine can start from a young age when an individual is still in high school. Mitchell provided some guidance on what young students can do to prepare themselves for a medical career.

"Preparation begins in high school and medical schools now prefer people who are interested in their communities, who are well rounded and have a variety of interests. Students can add to their background and experience by participating in sports, student government and above all be able to study hard. It is important to set your goals high and

work hard to achieve them," said Mitchell.

She also added that working towards a profession in medicine is not only targeted to younger students who are starting out in their education. Mature students are also capable of taking on training to become professionals in the medical field.

"For individuals who are attending post secondary studies, it is helpful to learn about the core sciences but these are not the only areas that one should focus on. Social science and arts programs help to add to your experience and they show that you have diverse interests. Remember that there is no time limit or age limit on learning and it is never too late to go back to school if that is something you really want to do," said Mitchell.

She is grateful to Brunswick House First Nation and to other supporters in her post secondary education. In 2007, she received bursaries for her education from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the Town of Chapleau.

"I am fortunate to have complete support from my First Nation community. This has helped me through all my post secondary efforts. I would not be where I am today without the support of my First Nation. Medical school is terribly expensive and I appreciate any and all support that I have been given. I am extremely grateful for everything that has been done for me and I hope to give back to my community once I have completed my education," said Mitchell.

At 36 years of age, Mitchell grew up in Chapleau, Ontario. She is a member of Brunswick House First Nation, a Native community that has some of its membership residing in nearby Chapleau.

She started her medical training in 1989, when she attended two years in a Registered Nurse Diploma Program at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. From 1999 to 2005 she took a part time distance education program to achieve a Registered Nurse Degree from Laurentian University. She started attending the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in 2006. During all of this training she received the full support of her First Nation to help her complete this post secondary education.

Her first position in a hospital, after her training as a nurse, involved employment as a Registered Nurse at the Chapleau General Hospital from 1991 to 1994. She then moved to a position as a Registered Nurse and Clinical

Coordinator in Timmins with the Misiway Milopemahatesewin Community Health Centre from 1994 to 2006.

Throughout her health services career and training in education institutions, Mitchell has been involved in representing an Aboriginal perspective in the medical field. Although she is very busy with her current education to become a Medical Doctor somehow she still finds time to sit on the Aboriginal Reference Group for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine as a student representative. In the past, she sat on the Board of Directors of the Victorian Order of Nurses in Timmins for several years and she was also a member of the Board Of Directors at the Timmins and District Hospital for a short period.

Her training and career aspirations have taken her away from home for long periods but she is content in knowing that her family has always been very supportive and encouraging of her career and education goals.

"I would like to thank my entire family for being so supportive during the past two years. Every word of encouragement helps me work through the daily job of being a conscientious learner," said Mitchell.

The Northern Ontario School Of Medicine Medical Doctor program is four years in length and provides graduates with a Medical Doctor (MD) degree on par with all other Canadian medical schools. The program is able to meet the same standards as other medical schools in North America with the added benefit of training individuals in the special

needs and requirements of working in rural towns and remote Native communities in Northern Ontario.

Jean Lemieux, Health Director for Wabun Health Services sees the education that Mitchell is getting as a hopeful sign for the future for First Nation health services in Northern Ontario.

"I encourage Native youth to look towards a career in medicine. We will need individuals from our communities to take on the positions of nurses and doctors so that we can be better able to advocate for our First Nations and our people. We are proud to have Doris Mitchell as someone working hard towards a medical career. She is leading the way for other young students and acting as a role model for our youth to encourage others to follow the same path," said Lemieux.

HEALTH MATTERS

by Jean Lemieux, Health Director



As you may have noticed in recent issues of Wabun Sun there is much activity with Wabun Health and with our tribal council and First Nations in general. All kinds of resource developments are happening in and around our First Nation lands and we are taking advantage of exciting new partnerships that are creating economic and employment opportunities for our community members. In terms of Wabun Health I can assure that from our viewpoint there is a great demand for health professionals of all types and all levels. I am pointing all of this out to encourage our young people to stay in school so that they can attain the qualifications and skills that are required for the many employment opportunities that are opening up for us.

I recall being a teenager and finishing High School. This is not an easy time in anyone's life as there is gen-

erally some confusion and adaptation to what the world has to offer and what it demands. I suggest that our Wabun young people start considering what career paths they want to take and to seek out professionals already working in these areas to find out all about a particular type of work. You can also meet with your guidance counselors at school, elders in your community, your First Nation leaders and you can attend any career days or similar events to gain more information about different careers.

From a health perspective I can assure our young people that there are great opportunities for careers in the medical field at all levels. The demand for doctors, nurses and other health professionals is huge. The more First Nation health professionals we see enter the workplace the better opportunity we have as a people to improve care for our First Nations. This also provides us with the chance to advocate for the use of traditional medicine in our communities. It makes me very happy to see our young people move into key health positions in our First Nations.

I commend all the good people at the Northern School

of Medicine in Sudbury for providing First Nation people a local and accessible program where they study medicine and graduate to practicing health care. We have two Wabun First Nation members currently studying in this program. Mary Lee Boissoneau of Mattagami First Nation and Doris Mitchell of Brunswick House First Nation are both taking advantage of studying at the Northern School of Medicine. These women are moving ahead in a positive manner in a field that is so crucial to First Nation health and development. They are true role models.

In particular I like the fact that the school actually has a very hands-on program that provides students with job shadowing experience in First Nation communities. This will ensure the best possible education as it relates to the needs and issues involved in providing health care to our First Nations. It doesn't get any better than that.



Wabun Sun

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